

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Jane Eyre movie is one of the popular drama movies in BBC program 2006. This movie is adopted from the classic Charlotte Bronte novel. *Jane Eyre* movie is such good television that is one of masterpiece movies in that time. Jane Eyre is directed by Susana White who is the most famous director in Hollywood.

In other hand, Susana White has big contribution in *Jane Eyre* movie. She is a British television director who was born on March 1973 in New York. She wins in BAFTA award for best drama serial for her work on *Jane Eyre* movie. She also directed the BBC mini-series *Jane Eyre* and gets appreciation in Emmy award for her work on the series. She has other movie likes *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie. Susanna wins widespread praise in 2005 for her direction of six episodes in that movie. *Nanny McPhee and the Big Bang* movie wins as host of international broadcast awards including the BAFTA for Best Drama Serial and the RTS Award for Best Drama Serial.

Jane Eyre is set in Victorian times and tells the story of a young woman named Jane. Her parents die when she is child and she is sent to live with her cruel aunt to live at Lowood School for girls. *Jane Eyre* movie has 4 episodes that are interesting in every scene. The first episode, tells the viewer the condition of Jane Eyre after the death of her uncle. She is left to the care of her

uncaring and cruel aunt Mrs Reed. In their house at Gateshead Hall, Jane is ill-treated by her cousins and aunt alike and never feels at home. After one of much ill-treatment she is accused of being bad blood and in an attempt to get rid of her, Jane is sent to Lowood School by her aunt Mrs Reed. Lowood School is a cold institution. In Lowood School, Jane only has a friend. Helen Burns is her friend, but Helen dies because typhus and she is left alone once again. At 19 years old, she is able to secure a position as governess to a girl at Thornfield Hall. Here Jane teaches Adele who is left with her mother and she is adopted with master of the house, Edward Rochester. Adele is also informed that the master of the house is seldom at home. One night, Jane wakes to strange noises coming from the room in Rochester's room. She follows the noise and realizes that Rochester's room is set on fire and the master in danger.

The second episode, tells the viewer occur after Jane is able to rescue Rochester just in time, she asks to Mr. Rochester who burn his room and from whom these strange sounds come from, but she never gets answer from Mr. Rochester. Instead Rochester leaves Thornfield without notice the next morning. On his return to Thornfield, he brings along some guests among whom are the beautiful Blanche Ingram and her mother Lady Ingram. In the night, Mason, the guest is injured because a mysterious woman in Thornfield. In an attempt to catch a doctor, Jane is left to take care of Mason in the North Tower. Once again she hears strange sounds from the North Tower. While

looking after Mason, Jane is startled by loud noises from the other side of the door in the North Tower.

The third episode, Jane receives a visitor from the past, Bessie. She informs her of her aunt's illness and the request to see Jane before she dies. When her aunt seems unable to recognize her, Jane asks Mrs. Reed why she always hates her niece. Mrs. Reed replies that it occurs because her husband loves Jane more than his own children. When she meets Mrs. Reed in dying, Mrs. Reed informs to Jane that she has an uncle. Her uncle requests to Mrs. Reed to take care of Jane when she is still a child. But Mrs. Reed refuses the request and tells him that Jane dies. Unlike her aunt, Jane is able to forgive Mrs. Reed on her aunt's dying bed. Away from Thornfield Hall, Jane realizes with more clarity that Thornfield has indeed become a home for her, something she never has before. However, the rumours of an upcoming marriage between Blanche Ingram and Mr Rochester immensely disturb her. In an attempt to find out about Jane's real emotions, Rochester constantly teases Jane so that she finally reveals that she loves not only Thornfield Hall but Rochester as well. As these feelings are shared by Rochester, he proposes to Jane and is accepted. Two days before the marriage Jane's wedding dress is ruined. Even her seeing a shadow of a woman in her rooms is, according to Rochester, part of her dream. Finally, Jane is told of Rochester's wife Bertha living in the North Tower. Insanity runs in Bertha's family and as a result she is locked up for the safety of herself and others. This information is revealed

by Mason who turns out to be Bertha's brother. Rochester insists that he still loves Jane and offers to live with her, but Jane leaves Thornfield in the night.

The last episode, Jane leaves Thornfield and Rochester without any hope. She succumbs and lies down on the moors to die. She is rescued by St John Rivers who takes her home and nurses her back to health with the help of his two sisters. But Jane seems lost her memories. When Jane is told by St John Rivers that she has inherited some money by her uncle and that they are also related, St John Rivers also informs Jane of his knowing of her past including Thornfield Hall. One day, St. John Rivers proposes Jane to marry him, but Jane can not come to terms with the marriage proposal by St John Rivers and the prospect to live abroad as missionaries. She begins to hear Rochester calling her name, Jane immediately knows that she belongs to Thornfield and Rochester. On her returns she finds a blind Rochester and a burnt Thornfield. Jane is told of the circumstances surrounding the fire and Rochester's blindness. He is injured while trying to rescue his wife Bertha who does not survive. Rochester recognizes Jane upon hearing her voice and is very happy to have her back. The two are married and the entire family - Rochester, Jane, Adele, St. John Rivers' sisters, and the dog Pilot - gather in the garden to have their portrait painted. Because St. John is away on his mission, he is painted on the side of the portrait.

Britain has three structure classes generally. It calls as the urban social hierarchy when Industrial Revolution occurs. First is the Aristocracy. It is the upper stratum of the society. The second class is the middle class. The third

class is the working class. They consist of high- skill, semiskill and unskill people. According to Perkin in *Origins of Modern English Society* (1969: 176), Middle classes constituted a new class society in the era of Industrial Revolution. Great Britain may have predominantly open- class type in the nineteenth century. Middle class was formed by the people from the lower rank which has enough education and better profession, therefore they could raise their life into a better condition. As the industrial revolution grows larger, middle classes succeeded in industry, trade and commerce and also technology (Perkin, 1969: 176). In the early 19th century, middle class women require to become obedient, secret and bend. Married women they are absolutely subordinate to their husbands.

The movie which is analyzed here more or less shows a portrayal of a British Middle class woman. From the earliest time until a modern era with its modern way of thinking, women always become an interesting topic. To get a job women are more difficult than man. They work for a living, for married women and they work for their family. They do all any household chores, get pregnant and nurse their children without any complaints.

There are three reasons why the writer is interested in analyzing this movie. First, the movie tells about conflict value. The conflicting begins since Jane was born in her family. She is a child who is not expected, because her father married with middle class woman. It makes Reed's family hates her. In the 19th century a man from among the upper class never married to the lower ranks. The conflicts never end until she meets Mr. Rochester.

Second, this is a realistic and historical movie. In this movie Jane tells about her life in real portrayal middle class woman in 19th century and her conflict in this family. Middle class woman position in 19th century is like a dog in the house, she keeps the house, cooking and she can not marry with an upper class man. In this movie, Jane Eyre falls in love with Mr. Rochester who is from an upper class. It makes conflict for Jane Eyre with many people. She depresses with society's opinion about her. In fact, she falls in love with Mr. Rochester and Mr. Rochester also loves Jane.

Finally, Susana White's *Jane Eyre* movie reveals women emancipation especially in education and profession, which is showed through the hard working life of Jane Eyre. She tries hard to study by reading many books which she finds in the library of her aunt, even though she has not been sent to school yet. It finally becomes very useful when she is sent to school. She could be the leader of her friends, because she is smart enough. The audience can also learn and understand how important education is, especially for women.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Jane Eyre* movie by using a feminist approach. So the writer constructs the title **A PORTRAYAL OF BRITISH MIDDLE CLASS WOMEN IN THE 19th CENTURY IN SUSANA WHITE'S *JANE EYRE* MOVIE (2006): A FEMINIST APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

There are several studies which are conducted on *Jane Eyre* movie and it is different from previous on Jane Eyre. The first researcher who analyzed this movie was Atika Ambarsari, Gunadarma University in 2007, entitled “Moral Value in *Jane Eyre Movie*”. She analyzed moral value in Jane Eyre such as sacrifice, hope, honesty, faithful, and heroism. Her thesis also analyzed how hard the struggle of Jane Eyre’s life, her bravery, her strength, and her sacrifices.

Another researcher is Ratna Falasifa (2008) with the thesis entitled “The Psychological Factors in the Development of Jane Eyre as Protagonist Character in the *Jane Eyre Movie*”. Her thesis analyzed the psychological factors which influence on family, friends and environment in the development of protagonist character and the protagonist’s behavior in her environment.

The difference between the writer and the previous study is perspective. Ratna Falasifa and Atika Ambarsari use individual psychological approach and the writer uses feminist approach. In this research, the writer analyzes *Jane Eyre* movie based on feminist approach that focuses on a portrayal of British middle class women in the 19th century.

C. Problem Statement

Considering the phenomenon, the researcher formulates the problem statement in this study as “How is portrayal of British middle class women in the 19th century reflected in *Susana White’s Jane Eyre Movie (2006)*”.

D. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study is on the analysis of British middle class women in the 19th century in *Susana White's Jane Eyre Movie* (2006) based on a feminist perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the research are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie in terms of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on the feminist perspective.

F. The Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To give additional information to literature researcher dealing with *Susana White's Jane Eyre Movie* (2006).

2. Practical benefit

To give deeper understand about the concept of the movie especially from the feminist aspect.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Research

The research on this movie belongs to qualitative research because it does not need statistic to explore the fact. Qualitative research does not include calculation enumeration.

2. Object of the study

The object of the study is JANE EYRE movie directed by Susana White (2006).

3. Type of the Data and the Data Source

There are two kinds of data namely primary and secondary data. First, the primary data are taken from the next of the movie such as dialogues, character action, and whole narration, which are relevant to the object of analysis. Second, the secondary data includes the references of some books and internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of collecting data are:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly and learning on *Jane Eyre movie* and secondary data from internet.
- b. Taking note of the important part in primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several parts based on classification.
- d. Analyzing the data of the research based on Mandell's theory of Feminist.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzed data.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The researcher uses two kinds of technique in analyzing the data. The first step in analyzing data of this research is trying to clarify to obtain data

by selecting the necessary ones. The second step is analyzing data based on feminist theory.

H. Research Paper Organization

To give clear understanding of the contents of this study, the writer has appointed the presentation of the study. The presentation of this study consists of six chapters. Chapter I deals with introduction covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II deals with underlying theory containing the description of the theory of feminism. Chapter III deals with a portrayal of British women middle class in the twentieth century. Chapter IV deals with structural analysis containing the structural elements of the movie and discussion. Chapter V presents feminist analysis. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.