

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Iron Jawed Angels is American movie directed by Katja von Garnier. *Iron Jawed Angels* is a drama movie about women suffrage. It was released on February 15, 2004 by HBO film and January 16, 2004 (Sundance Film Festival). It is produced in two pieces of VCD in the duration of 125 minutes playtime. *Iron Jawed Angels* is produced by Len Amato, Lydia Dean Pilcher, Robin Forman, and Paula Weinstein. The movie script is written by Sally Robinson, Eugenia Bostwick- Singer, Raymond Singer, and Jennifer Friedes.

Katja von Garnier is a German film director. She was born on December 15, 1966 in Weisbaden. She lived in Los Angeles with her husband Markus Goller as a director and her son Merlin. She studied history of art, German philology, Theory of Drama and Film at the Johann Wolfgang Goethe University in Frankfurt from 1985 to 1989. In 1989, she directed the first movie with title *Tagtrauma*. In 1991, the second film that she directed *Lautlos* movie. In 1993, she directed *Abgeschminkt!* and she received Bavarian Film Awards as Best New Director. In 1997, she directed two movies there are *Denk ich a Deutschland - Kix?* and *Bandits*. The next movies were *Iron Jawed Angels* in 2004, *Blood and Chocolate* in 2007. Katja von Garnier was famous in November 1997 when she unexpectedly hit the world wide tabloid headlines by showing herself in

public holding hands with Hollywood star and girls' idol Brad Pitt at the German premiere of his film *Seven years in Tibet*. Nonetheless she moved from Germany to Los Angeles in the summer of 1998. In February 1999, she made another trip to Germany. In Berlin, she was one of the jury members at the 49th Berlinale, the International Film Festival in Berlin. A further renowned jury member is the legendary architect and designer of James Bond films of the sixties and seventies, the German-English Ken Adam.

Iron Jawed Angels is produced based on true story. This movie tells about struggle of women in America to get vote right in government. The settings of places of the movie are Philadelphia, Washington D.C, Tennessee, New York and USA. The stars are Hillary Swank as Alice Paul, Frances O' Connor as Lucy Burns, Angelica Huston as Carrie Chapman Catt, Molly Parker and Emily Leighton, Julia Ormond as Inez Mulholland, Laura Fraser as Doris Steven, Brooke Smith as Mabel Vernon, Vera Farmiga as Ruza Wenclawska, and Patrick Demsey as Ben Weissman.

The movie starts with two young women activist Paul and Lucy Burn who are to change women condition in the twentieth century. After they finished the study in England, then they returned to America for realizing their aims in struggle for women vote right. Around twentieth century, women in America did not have full of citizen right in the government as

men's. So, the women's did not have election right in general election. This situation has big effect on women life.

Philadelphia in 1912, Alice Paul and Lucy Burn met with Carrie Chapman Catt and Anna Howard Shaw of NAWSA (National American Woman Suffrage Association, formed in 1890 by Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton). In the meeting, Alice Paul and Lucy Burn presented their purpose that they wanted to press for a constitutional amendment for women to have the right to vote, but the older women preferred a state by state approach. So, Alice Paul permitted to take over NAWSA Washington, D.C. committee. Alice Paul and Lucy Burn had a plan to create their aims by making a parade to promote women's suffrage and recruiting a team of volunteers, including Alice's college friend Mabel Vernon, Polish factory worker Ruza Wenclawska and social worker Doris Stevens.

After they got permit of NASWA, they also got office to coordinate this events. While Alice Paul was searching donation for the parade event, she convinced labor lawyer Inez Mulholland to serve as a figurehead for the parade and met a Washington newspaper political cartoonist, Ben Weissman. Finally, they became partner.

The day of parade was coming. In the same day, the President Woodrow Wilson returned to Washington. The parade at cross town was not successful because the parade turned into a riot, with hecklers attacking the suffragettes. After some days, Alice Paul and Lucy Burn got

a problem. They were interrogated by NASWA committee. Because the pressure from NASWA, Alice Paul and Lucy Burn leave the organization to form the National Woman's Party (NWP), which opposes any candidate against the proposed constitutional amendment. The NWP disrupts President Wilson's speech to Congress with a protest.

Public opinion was against the suffragettes when Burn and friends held the direct protesting in front of White House. They were arrested on the trumped up of "obstructing traffic" even though their picket line was on the sidewalk. Refusing to pay a fine for a crime but they did not commit, the women were imprisoned for sixty days in an Occoquan, Virginia women's prison. Insisting that they were political prisoners, in solidarity and defiance, the other suffragettes assume Burns' painful posture.

When Paul and Mrs. Leighton joined the picket line, they were attacked by mob, and subsequently imprisoned themselves. Thrown into solitary confinement for breaking a window for fresh air, Paul went on a hunger strike. She parried counsel, placed in a straitjacket and taken to the psychopathic ward. The doctor told President Wilson that Paul showed no signs of mania or delusion, and she returned to the prison's general population, where she led the suffragettes on a hunger strike.

Catt tries to get President Wilson replayed his years of loyalty by finally support the suffrage amendment, but he refuses. When, Senator Leighton visited his wife in a prison, his wife slipped Paul's note into his pocket, describing in detail their mistreatment. Word of the force feeding

leaked out, and public opinion shifted in favor of the suffragettes, now known as the *Iron Jawed Angels*. Then, the Paul's note was published on newspapers. Catt is seized the moment to press President Wilson into supporting the suffrage amendment, and the women were released from prison as he came out in its favor in a Congressional speech.

In the end for this story by 1920, 35 states had ratified the amendment, but one more state was needed. Tennessee became that state when a recalcitrant legislator casted the deciding votes after receiving a telegram from his mother. On August 26, 1920, the Susan B. Anthony Amendment became law, and 20 million American women won the vote right. Finally, the women got same right with a man in the government.

The responses of *Iron Jawed Angel* movie are very various. The responses of this movie are positive and negative responses. The positive response given by Eric Henninger (2005):

“History in and of itself is a powerful thing. The representation of it through film can be even more powerful. Very few people will seek out a source that will present the fact objectively and unbiased. What is presented on screen will be accepted with no questions or follow-up; resulting in an unbalanced view....”

Other positive response are also found in Rotten Tomatoes (2010), as delivered by Rob Blackwelder “A stunning true story unfortunately tarted up for modern audiences, infused with modern informalities, fictional romances and wildly incongruous post-feminist empowerment pop.” And one more positive response is from the viewer, as delivered by Richard Roeper “*Iron Jawed Angels* is an important history lesson told in a fresh and blazing fashion.” There are so many other positive responses from the

audients about *Iron Jawed Angels* movie. *Iron Jawed Angels* is not box office but it has some awards and nomination such as Winner of the 2004 Golden Globe Award for Best Actress in a Supporting Role (Series, Mini-Series or Television Movie), Anjelica Huston from the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, Outstanding Casting For A Miniseries, Movie or A Special (nominated), Outstanding Cinematography For A Miniseries or Movie (nominated), Outstanding Costume For A Miniseries, Movie or A special (nominated), Outstanding Supporting Actress In A Miniseries or A Movie Angelica Huston, Outstanding Writing For A Miniseries, Movie or A Dramatic Special (nominated).

There are at least four interesting sides of *Iron Jawed Angels* that makes this movie interesting to be analyzed. First reason, this movie tells a true story about women's life in American at twentieth century. This true story has startling parallels to today, as the young activists struggle with issues such as the challenges of protesting a popular President during War time and the perennial balancing act between love and career. Two women that active to get woman vote right in governments, they are Alice Paul and Lucy Burn. The film shows how these activists broke from the mainstream women's rights movement and created a more radical wing, during to pushing the boundaries of political protest to secure women's voting rights in 1920. Breathing life into the relationships between Paul, Burns and others, the movie makes the women feel like complete characters instead of one dimensional figure from a distant past.

The second aspect is the casting. The actors or actress in *Iron Jawed Angels* can give good performance. Hilary Swank as Alice Paul the major character in *Iron Jawed Angels* is wonderful. She is great to act Alice Paul as a smart woman, hard word, totally in her work, highly educated, brilliant in political strategy to get her dreams and smart in political lobs to her purpose. Lucy Burn is also amazing. She gives Alice Paul spirit when she lost the spirit in her struggle. Inez Miholland is a beautiful woman and smart lawyer. She is a symbol of women heroes in the parade. She looks the woman on white horse with wings in her backbone. It is a sweet scene in this movie. Ben Weissman is a man that loves Alice Paul. He is give spirit of Alice Paul. He helps to publish Alice Paul article on a newspaper.

The third interesting aspect of this movie is the *mise-en-scene*. The *mise-en-scene* has some aspects. There are set dressing, properties, costumes, make up, lighting, figurative expression and movement. For the example are costumes; the costumes that are used of the character is adapted from twentieth century. The prop is also adapted from twentieth century period such as the building, type machine, telephone, desk, transportation, etc. Then makeup is perfect. Further, cinematography by Robbie Greenberg is successful to make this movie like as original event at the time, twentieth century when the event happens.

The fourth interesting side of *Iron Jawed Angels* is sociology that is reflected in this movie especially about the gender equal between women and men in political view or government policy. The sociology life of

women in this movie can give inspiration, that the women have same right as the citizen not as a chattel.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Iron Jawed Angel* movie by using sociological approach. So the writer constructs the title **GENDER EQUALITY IN KATJA VON GARNIER IRON JAWED ANGELS (2004): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

In this study, the researcher presents the previous study dealing with the movie entitled *Iron Jawed Angels* by Katja von Garnier. There is one study conducted by Nurchayati, a student in Muhammadiyah University 2010. Her research entitled “Struggle For Women’s Political Right In Katja Von Garniers’s *Iron Jawed Angels* Movie” focus as on feminist criticism study about how the women struggle for women’s political right. Her research tells about the struggle Paul and Burn to get vote right in government. The position is women in a government and political aspect.

For the second analysis is “Iron Jawed Angels” by Rev. Dr. David C. Fisher in Plymouth Church of the Pilgrims (2008). In this essay, he focused on the political aspect especially the policy of the government to women. He connected the moral value in *Iron Jawed Angels* with religion. And also, he analyzed whether women struggle had to get vote right in the government.

Those studies are useful for the writer as a guide to analyze *Iron Jawed Angels* movie. Although the research’s object is similar with both

researchers, there are several differences. The writer plans to develop this research by analyzing the gender equality and using a sociological approach.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the research background above, the problem of the study is how gender equality is reflected in Katja von Garnier's *Iron Jawed Angels*.

D. Limitation of the Study

To make it easy for the writer to conduct the study, she gives limitation of the problem on the gender equality problem in *Iron Jawed Angels* using a sociology approach.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie, such as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, theme *mise-en-scene*, cinematography, sound, and editing.
2. To analyze gender equal in *Iron Jawed Angels* movie based on a sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

It gives contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary study in Katja von Garniers's *Iron Jawed Angels*. It is expected to give useful information about the movie analyzed by the sociology approach.

2. Practical Benefit

This study is expected to help the writer get deeper understanding about the movie and how to use literary theory in analyzing the movie.

G. Research Method

In this research the writer tries to describe the research method used in this research beginning from type of research, data and source of data, technique of collecting data, and technique of analyzing data. So, in conducting the research, the writer will observe the behavior of gender equal in *Iron Jawed Angels* in order to get the data for the analysis.

1. Type of the Research

The type of research conducted by the writer is in the dominant of descriptive qualitative method. Moleong (1983:3) states that "Qualitative research is a type of research that has descriptive data in the forms of written or oral from observing people or behavior."

2. Type of the Data and the Data Source

a. Type of the Data

There are two type of data; Text and Image. Text data in this research is movie manuscript, which consists of words, phrases and sentences. Image data in this research is image capturing of an action in the movie which is related to the research.

b. Data Source

In doing this study, the researcher uses two sources of data; there are primary data, which will be taken from Katja von Garniers's *Iron Jawed Angel*, and secondary data, which are taken from other sources, related to the primary data, such as author's biography, books and website related of sociology approach and many other data related this research.

3. Technique of the Data Collection

The data collection will be in form of library research. There will be some techniques of data collection as follows:

a. Note taking, including the several step:

- 1) Watching and learning the movie repeatedly and carefully.
- 2) Taking notes of the influence information in both primary and secondary data.
- 3) Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.
- 4) Selecting particular parts of the script considered important and relevant for analysis.

b. Image-Capturing

4. Technique of the Data Analysis

Technique of data analysis in this study is using the descriptive analysis by using a sociology approach.

H. Paper Organization

This paper consists of six chapters. The first chapter is Introduction, which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, research limitation, and objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory consisting of the notion of sociology, major principles of sociology of literature, structural elements literary and theoretical application. The third chapter is the social background of America in the year of twenty-first century; it deals with social, economical, educational, religious, political, science and technological aspects. The fourth chapter is the structural analysis. The researcher describes the structural elements of the movie Katja von Garniers's *Iron Jawed Angels* and discussion. The fifth chapter presents the sociology analysis and discussion related to the problem of the movie. Finally, the sixth chapter is the last one, integrating the overall discussion, and bringing it to the conclusion of the study and also the suggestion of the researcher.