

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Research

Sleeping with the Enemy is one of the most popular epic drama movies that are surely such miracles. The screenplay of this film is adapted from the novel with the same title written by Nancy Price. Nancy Price is an American Novelist. She was born 3 February 1880 in Sioux Falls, South Dakota and raised in Detroit. She is famous for her *Sleeping with the Enemy* (1991). Before becoming into a novelist, she writes poems.

She writes many novels. Some of them are *A Natural Death*, *An Accomplished Woman* (1979), *Sleeping with the Enemy*(1987), *Night Woman* (1992), *Bonfire's Daughter* (1997), *Snake in the Balck berries* (2001), and *Two Liars and Bride* (2003). Her novels appears in England, and in translation in Sweden, Denmark, Iceland, Norway, France, Germany, Japan, South America, Korea, Poland, the Netherlands, Spain, Italy, Russia, Finland, Portugal, Slovakia, Hungary, and Israel.

Nancy tries something new when she creates sixteen pen-and-ink illustrations, the dust cover and end papers for the American publication of *No One Knows*. She works half the year in Iowa, the other half near Orlando, Florida. She cannot believe that a housewife in Cedar Falls, Iowa in her poems and her short stories appears in magazines, newspapers and books. Her novels become best sellers, and have been translated into fifteen foreign languages.

A Twentieth Century Fox film starring Julia Roberts was made of her novel *Sleeping with the Enemy*.

Ruben was born 1951 in Briarcliff, New York, USA. He works as Director, Producer, Screenwriter and he also graduated from University of Michigan, theater and film and Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, BA. He makes his feature directorial debut at the ripe age of 24 with the bleak psychodrama "*The Sister in Law*" (1975).

Ruben also ever directs many films, there are *The Sister in law*(1974), *The PomPom Girls* (1976), *Joyride* (1977), *Our Winning Season*(1978), *Gorp*(1980), *Dreamscape*(1984), *The Stepfather*(1987), *True Believer*(1989), *Sleeping with the Enemy*(1991), *The Good Son*(1993), *Money Train*(1995), *Return to Paradise*(1998), *The Forgotten*(2004).

Sleeping with the Enemy is a movie about the struggle of Laura to get her freedom in her life. Laura who is played by Julia Roberts in this movie is about a battered wife stalked by her abusive husband. Laura Burney lives in Cape Cotton, home near sea. She lives with her husband, Martin that is played by Patrick Bergin. Laura is an obedient wife. However, her marriage is not all that it seems. Her possessive and abusive husband, Martin, is a controlling man who one day interprets her interaction with a neighbor at their beach home as flirting and strikes her in the face and kicks her as she lies helplessly cry on the floor. Laura sees her way out by planning and faking her own death at sea in a storm off Cape Cotton near the couple's luxurious ocean view home. Martin attends her funeral when her body is not found.

In flashback, Laura swims to save herself. She returns home secretly. She takes some cloths and money that have hidden away in preparation, disguises her and leaves home after flushing her wedding ring down the toilet. Laura plans to move to Cedar Falls, Iowa. On the way, she meets with a woman. She talks to her in the bus. She has told her husband that her mother is died, and pretends to attend the funeral, but secretly she has moved her to a nursing home in Iowa. She rents a modest home and adopts the name Sara Waters. One day, she picks apples from a neighbor's garden and is caught by the owner, Ben Woodward (Kevin Anderson), who teases her about stealing them. After a poor beginning, Ben asks Laura having dinner in Ben's home. In that time, he tells many kinds. He tells that he teaches drama at the local college, but Laura tells him nothing about her.

When Martin is in his office, he gets a call from Laura's friend. She asks about Laura's condition. That time, he tells that Laura is dead because of sink in the sea when they are sailing. Laura's friend does not believe that. She says that Laura is the best student in YWCA, a swimming course. Hearing about that, Martin is mad and throws the phone down. Arriving home, he throws things down and hurts his hand. He goes to toilet and finds Laura's ring in Waters closet.

Next day, he goes to nursing home to see Laura's mother. He meets the head of nursing home where Laura's mother is taken. In that place he gets information that Laura's mother is not dead and she is moved from that place

six months ago. Then, Martin rents a detective to search where Laura is. That man traces Laura's mother in the new nursing home in Iowa.

Knowing that information, he comes to visit Laura's mother. When he comes there, he camouflages as a police to get information about Laura. He visits the blind woman, Chloe Williams (Elizabeth Lawrence), without revealing his identity. Meanwhile Laura and Ben have a falling out when he discovers that her real name is not Sara. They make up with a date at the college. Laura rejects a pass from Ben, and tearfully begs him to leave. The next day she confesses that she is on the run from an abusive husband. Martin and Laura, who is in disguise as a man, show up at the nursing home at the same time, but they do not see one another. Posing as a policeman warning Chloe about the dangerous Martin Burney, he learns from her that her daughter is seeing a college drama teacher in nearby Cedar Falls. Martin is about to mother her with a pillow, when a nurse arrives and unknowingly thwarts him.

Martin visits college and threatens the wrong drama teacher with a gun. The man protests that he is not person that he searches, and Martin knocks him unconscious. Martin finds Laura and Ben, and clandestinely follows them to a local fair then back to her home. Laura first knows something is off when a series of seemingly random mishaps: her bath overflows, her toast burns, and the canned goods in her kitchen cupboard are lined up meticulously (one of Martin's idiosyncrasies). Then she hears the *Symphonie fantastique*, a musical piece Martin likes to make love to. She then hears Ben at the door. As she makes her way to the door, she sees Martin's reflection. He pulls a gun and

threatens to kill Ben if she does not send him away. She talks to him through the door's security chain and begs off their date, claiming to be tired. After closing the door, Martin resumes his conversation with Laura. Ben, hearing them, breaks down the door and struggles with Martin, who knocks him unconscious with the butt of his pistol. He aims the gun at Ben's head.

Laura pretends to go along with Martin's plans to return to him. However, she takes him by surprise by fighting back when she knees him in the groin. Martin drops the gun and she manages to take control of it. She fires a single shot at Martin, just missing his head. Martin, undaunted, dares her to call the police. She tells him to stop coming closer, but Martin walks forward slowly. She reaches for the phone and does so, stating, aiming the gun at Martin with her trembling hand.

Martin's face turns to horror and Laura shoots him three times in the chest before dropping the pistol. As a sobbing Laura collapses, Martin grabs her by the hair and points the gun to her face. But when he pulls the trigger, the gun only clicks, as all the cartridges are gone. Martin sags lifelessly to the floor. As Ben slowly wakes up, Laura goes to him and they embrace. The movie ends with a close up of Martin's body lying in the foreground with Laura's wedding ring inches from his hand.

There are pros and cons from the audiences who have watched *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie. Among other positive responses are as follows, *first* is from Lisa Sutter (2001), she said that she has seen this movie several times and enjoyed it more every time. It's creepy and it will keep you on the edge of

your seat. But there is very little profanity and the only actual violence is right at the end. The acting in this movie is superb and believable. If you are looking for a great thriller, with very little offensive material, this is your film. She gives rating is 3½ from 4. Second response is from Maggie (2000), she said that she enjoyed that movie. It's one of the best thrillers that she has ever seen. She has seen many, but in most cases, they wind up being very predictable and not thrilling whatsoever. However, she thought this movie was thrilling, entertaining, and Julia Roberts gives an outstanding performance.

The negative responses are as follows; *first* is from Melrod43 from USA (1999) she or he was surprised with this movie, and she or he said that this movie is bad and ridiculous. *Second* is from G-man-25 from Iowa City (1999) he said that this movie a severe disappointment, considering the talent both in front and behind the camera. While the premise is certainly serious and scary, there's no suspense here because the script telegraphs all its punches.

Sleeping with the Enemy is a major critical success. *Sleeping with the Enemy* was made in February 8, 1991. This film was taken 99 days, which is setting of place New York. The duration of this film is 108 minutes. It is released in VCD and DVD and distributed by 20th Century Fox. The score by Jerry Goldsmith won the BMI film music award 1992, and the film was nominated for the Academy Of Science Fiction, Fantasy & Horror Films Saturn Award for 1992 in four categories: Best Actress (Roberts), Saturn Award For Best Supporting Actor (Bergin), Best Horror Film and Best Music (Goldsmith). The good response from public makes *Sleeping with the Enemy*

only had \$20,000,000 for their budget, finally gain \$100,294,830 for their worldwide gross.

There are four reasons why the writer chooses *Sleeping with the Enemy*. The first is this movie is very good and interesting. This movie tells about woman's struggle to gain her freedom right from the restraints the husband who over is possessive. This movie can also be examples of the emancipation of women, where women also want to get equal rights with men.

The second is this movie is played by Julia Roberts as the main character. In this movie she played as Laura Burney or Sara Waters where she struggles in her life from her husband who is very possessive to gain her freedom. Laura Burney in this movie she has a strong character, impatient and ambitious to get her freedom right. In this movie she also loves his mother and she is also the figure of a woman who never gives up getting her freedom right.

The third is this movie gives a positive message to viewers. This movie is a movie of a woman's struggle to gain freedom. From this view, it can be seen how great the sacrifice of a woman in gaining their right to freedom.

The last is *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie is one of epic drama romance movies. This movie tells about woman's struggle to gain her freedom, this movie also includes a romance movie. Other than the movie tells about struggle of woman's this movie has also tells about love romance story between Sara Waters and Ben Woodward as her boyfriend in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie by using Feminist theory, so the writer constructs the title **WOMAN'S RIGHTS TO GET FREEDOM IN JOSEPH RUBEN'S *SLEEPING WITH THE ENEMY* MOVIE (1991): A FEMINIST APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

The first study about *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie is conducted by Intan Febrianti, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2007) entitled "*Women Oppression in Sleeping with the Enemy movie: A Liberal Feminist Approach*". In this paper the study shows the relationship between the movie and the social phenomena in America. In *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie, Joseph Ruben describes woman's oppression in the early of twenty century as a way to describe women condition in America strongly dominant in subordinate place. The movie also views that women must be brave to face the risk, in order to reach their right. Therefore, women should have brave mentality to support their purposes toward freedom.

The second writer is conducted by Yoga Mahardika, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta (2009) entitled "*Oppression Against Women In Joseph Ruben's Sleeping with the Enemy movie: A Feminist Perspective*". In this research the conclusion of the study depicts the oppression against women in *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie which is presented by Joseph Ruben as his response to Americans society in the late of 20th Fox century. He shows the lack of woman's position, role, rights, and participation caused by oppression.

He uses this movie as a wakeup call for people who concern to this Americans society latent thread so they will be more aware and make movements against it.

The third writer is conducted by Nindi Mariatus Sholikah (2010) entitled *Rising From Being Inferior In Joseph Ruben's Sleeping With The Enemy (1991): An Individual Psychological Perspective*. In her research she shows the phenomenon of a wife who has inferiority feelings to her husband. In her research she also shows that woman has no authority to order the equipment with men in the house.

The fourth writer is conducted by Verna Brown University of South Africa. Her research is *The Mythic Elements in the Film Sleeping with the Enemy*. Taking the Polyphemus myth as structural spine, she focuses on the “one-eyed” obsessive point of view of Martin Burney, which is captured by the camera, his cruel ogrelike behaviour and the necessity for escape by his victim, Laura. In addition she surmise that Julia Roberts, the star of the film, instinctively chooses what Northrop Frye calls “myths of deliverance” as vehicles for her protean acting talents.

The difference study between this research and the previous ones are about the *problem* of the study. In this study, the writer focuses on Woman's Right to get freedom in the *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie with feminist approach.

C. Problem Statement

The problem statement in this research is “How is woman’s right to get freedom reflected in Joseph Ruben’s *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie?”

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer focuses on the analysis of the Laura’s right to get freedom in *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie is directed by Joseph Ruben’s, screenwriting “Laura Burney” as the major characters by using feminist approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

Based on the problem that has been stated above, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on the structural elements
2. To analyzes the movie based on the feminist approach

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is expected to give contribution on development of knowledge, particularly the literary, structural elements and feminist approach on *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie.

2. Practical Benefit

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another Universities who have interest with literary study on the movie from Feminist Approach.

G. Research Method

The writer will describe the methods that are used in this research. There are five elements to support in this research method they are:

1. Type of the Study

In this research, the researcher uses descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is a research which employs the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie. This movie is directed by Joseph Ruben and publishing by 20th Century Fox 1991. It is analyzed by using feminist approach.

3. Type of the Data and the Data Sources

The type of this data is in the form of a script movie entitled *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie directed by Joseph Ruben. The researcher divides the data source into two categories: primary data source and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source of the study is *Sleeping with the Enemy* movie directed by Joseph Ruben and written publishing by 20th Century Fox and the script writer by Nancy Price.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data source consists of other data related to the research such as movie script, internet and other relevant information.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The methods of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie several times and determining the character that will be analyzed.
- b. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data and information required.
- c. Making notes of important parts in both primary data and secondary data.
- d. Classifying the data into categories.
- e. Drawing conclusion to get the last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The method employed in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. In which the data are collected, described and then analyzed. It concerns with the relationship between the movie and the feminist theory to show how the woman's right to get freedom is reflected in the story.

H. Research Paper Organization

The writer makes an organization of this paper in order to make an easy understanding. There are six chapters in this research paper.

Chapter I is introduction it includes the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, the objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and paper organization. **Chapter II** is underlying theory. It deals with the elements and theoretical application. **Chapter III**

deals with the social background of the twenty century. **Chapter IV** is the analysis the movie. It includes narrative and technical element. **Chapter V** is feminism analysis deal in with the problems in the movie. **Chapter VI** contains conclusion and suggestion.