

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

People have their own independence, everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in freedom declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Furthermore, no distinction shall be made on the basis of the political, jurisdictional or international status of the country or territory to which a person belongs, whether it will be independent, trust, non-self-governing or under any other limitation of sovereignty. But, on each different country there are many kinds of rules that are formulated to arrange their life. This is to arrange human behavior supposed to act based on the right.

In protecting and holding the independence, people need to struggle a lot against anything, such as the awkward rules, rigid rules, the contras against the people or government, etc. Usually, a war of independence is a conflict occurring over a territory that has declared independence. Once the state that previously held the territory sends in military forces to assert its sovereignty or the native population clashes with the former occupier, a separatist rebellion has begun. If a new state is successfully established, the conflict is subsequently known as a war of independence. But not only territory, humans' right also one of the conflict which is also needed to be conquered.

Literary works have a close relationship with the life of human being, and the problems of life actually become an initial source of any work of art. It has generally been thought that literature reflecting author's feeling or idea is often recognized as being lived to life. The idea often applied on their specific work in a form of literary work, it can be novel, poem, drama, or movie.

Everything in this life can be taken by an author as the backgrounds or the reason to write ideas about the problem of life itself. One of the life problems that became the source of the literary works is the position of woman in a society since there are still many questions arising because of the unfair treatment toward women. In reality, women have the lower position than men, when women enter the marriage, she will have role as the wife and mother of her children. They will be hoped well for sex, having babies, cooking, and nothing else. Besides, women are discriminated against in pay, jobs, education, and welfare. Most women are financially dependent on men, and without assistance carry the burden of looking after children and caring for such and old.

But here Matt Reeves on his film entitled *Let Me in* wants to show the girl with a different point of view, where she has a special capability in a mysterious side. This girl is Abby, she is a quite and calm girl but she keeps her mysterious side to everyone. She has her own way to get close with her social life.

Let Me In is a 2010 American romantic horror film directed by Matt Reeves and starring Kodi Smit-McPhee and Chloë Grace Moretz. It is based

on the 2008 Swedish film *Let the Right One In* (*Låt den rätte komma in*), directed by Tomas Alfredson, and the novel of the same name by John Ajvide Lindqvist. It tells the story of a bullied 12-year-old boy who develops a friendship with a vampire child in Los Alamos, New Mexico in the early 1980s.

In 1983 Los Alamos, New Mexico, a police detective enters the hospital room of a disfigured man and tries to question him about a recent murder for which he is a suspect. The detective concludes by telling the suspect that he will catch whoever else he is in league with; the detective is then called to take a phone call outside the room and is told that the man's daughter is downstairs. While he is on the phone, a scream is heard, and the detective finds that the suspect has fallen out of the window to his death.

Flashback two weeks earlier, Owen is an unhappy and lonely 12-year-old boy, who is neglected by his divorcing parents, and continually harassed at school by bullies. One evening, when Owen is alone in the courtyard of his apartment complex, he is approached by Abby, a girl who has moved into the apartment next door. Abby tells Owen that they cannot be friends, but regardless, she and Owen grow closer and start communicating by Morse code through the walls of their apartments. At school, the main bully, Kenny, scars Owen with an antenna rod; when Abby finds out, she tells him to defend himself and she will help him if needed.

Abby's "father", Thomas, occasionally goes out to kill local residents to acquire blood for the vampiric Abby. During his first murder, he accidentally

spills the blood and returns home empty-handed; a furious Abby leaves, kills, and feeds on a jogger who lives in their neighborhood. One night, Thomas hides in the back of a high school student's car in order to subdue him, but the student picks up a passenger, completely altering Thomas's plans. While the driver stops at a gas station, Thomas subdues the passenger and tries to flee. He crashes the car in a nearby ditch and becomes trapped inside. Thomas douses his face with acid so that his connection to Abby will not be discovered. He is taken to the hospital; when Abby learns of this, she climbs up outside his window to see him. Thomas leans forward to offer his throat to Abby, who drinks his blood. Thomas passes out and falls to his death. The detective gradually learns of Thomas's connection to Abby.

The next day, on a school outing to a frozen pond, Kenny threatens to push Owen into an ice hole. Owen defends himself with a metal pole, splitting Kenny's ear. A body is also discovered under the ice. Later, Owen takes Abby to an abandoned area of their apartment complex, where he cuts his finger to make a blood pact with her. Abby is drawn to the blood; thirsty, she licks it up and Owen sees her vampiric form for the first time. Not wanting to attack Owen, Abby flees and instead attacks Virginia, a woman in the complex park. Owen then confronts Abby at her apartment, where she admits that she is a vampire. Owen also discovers that Thomas was not her father. Owen sees a black and white photograph of Abby and a young boy, suggesting that she met Thomas when he was Owen's age. Horrified, Owen immediately leaves. Abby tries to block his way, but eventually lets him go. Meanwhile at the hospital,

Virginia transforms into a vampire, but when a nurse draws the curtains, the daylight causes her to burst into flames, killing them both.

Abby visits one night while Owen's mother is away. Owen opens the door for her and she tells him he needs to invite her in. He asks her why, so she enters without an invitation, which causes her to bleed heavily until he verbally acquiesces. The next morning, the detective finds Abby asleep in the bathtub, but Owen startles her, allowing Abby to grab him from behind. Abby kills the detective and feeds off him. Later, she leaves in a taxi.

During an evening gym class, Kenny, his older brother Jimmy, and their friends start a fire outside to distract authorities and clear out the swimming pool. Jimmy tells Owen that if he can hold his breath underwater for 3 minutes, he will cut Owen's cheek; if Owen cannot, he will poke out one of Owen's eyes. As Owen is held underwater, chaos ensues as Abby slaughters the four bullies. Abby and Owen then make their escape. Later, Owen travels on a train with Abby in a trunk beside him. They tap out brief messages to each other in Morse code as the film ends.

Based on the above story, the researcher is interested in analyzing the film *Let Me In* because, first the film is an adult romance movie which is arranged in a horror movie. The second, the film shows the power of a girl who wants to have a loyal friend. The third, the film is based on the 2008 Swedish film *Let the Right One In* (*Låt den rätte komma in*), directed by Tomas Alfredson, and the novel of the same name by John Ajvide Lindqvist and the last reason is

because the film *Let Me In* is a genre-busting triumph, not just a horror film, but the best American horror film in the last 20 years.

So, the analysis of *Let Me In* movie is INDEPENDENCE OF ABBY REFLECTED IN *LET ME IN* MOVIE 2010 BY MATT REEVES: A FEMINIST APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

The study on Matt Reeves' *Let Me In* has not already been conducted in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. It is the first study on this film especially on dramatic horror movie. But there are reviews from the film practitioners where they review the film based on the set of the film. The film is relocated from an icy burb outside Stockholm to equally chilly Los Alamos, N.M., "Let Me In" poses an alternative to the overplayed coming-of-age genre, offering teenage misfit Owen (Kodi Smit-McPhee) a chance to avoid growing up -- which, in contrast to other vampire stories, doesn't involve being bitten or becoming a vampire himself. Instead, John Ajvide Lindqvist's novel championed by many as a thinking man's "Twilight" suggests an arrangement in which a young girl, suspended forever at age 12, seeks devoted caretakers who accompany her as she moves from city to city, feeding on human blood (Debruge. 2010)

The present study focuses on the struggle of Abby's life in socialization based on feminist approach.

C. Problem of the Study

The main problem of the study is “how the independence of Abby reflected in *Let Me In* movie 2010 by Matt Reeves based on a feminist perspective?”

D. Limitation of the Study

There are many theories about feminism. To limit the subject matter and to avoid complexity in this research, the writer focuses her discussion on theory of feminism, based on feminist perspective. To intensify the analysis, the focus of analysis was on the main characters in the film. Other characters are also included as far as they have contribution to the research.

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 *Let Me In* movie based on the feminist perspective.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

To enrich the literary study, particular among the students of UMS

2. Practical Benefit

To develop the body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on Matt Reeves' *Let Me In*

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study.

In analyzing Matt Reeves' *Let Me In*, the researcher uses qualitative research. The method which is called as naturalistic research, is used to analyze the natural object, (Affifudin & Saebani, 2009: 57). Descriptive qualitative research is the research employing the method of collecting, describing, classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion, which refers to research based on qualitative data taken from the movie *Let Me In* directed by Matt Reeves.

2. Type of Data and Data Sources.

The data will be classified into two categories, primary data and secondary data. The primary data will be taken from movie it self "*Let Me In*" movie by Matt Reeves, while the secondary data are taken from the other data, which have relation with the research, the underlying theory (feminism perspective) and other materials concern, to the analysis.

3. Data-collecting Method and Technique.

The method will be used by the researcher for collecting the data is library research, the techniques are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie more than just one, until the researcher gets the message offered from the movie and gets an adequate information or data to be analyzed
- b. Reading some other resources related to the movie and the theory
- c. Taking notes for the important parts both in primary and secondary sources in data cards. The note can be book or computer.
- d. Classifying the data into categories and develop them into a good unit.

4. Data- analyzing Technique.

In this research the technique that will be used to analyze the data is descriptive analysis technique. The writer will describe the structural elements of the movie with feminism approach. The collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through feminism perspective in this case by showing the showing the problems faced by the major character Abby on her life to get a loyal friend in a form of good best friends! Then drawing conclusion based on the analysis.

H. Paper Organization

This paper organization consists of six chapters. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of background, problem statement, literature review, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, limitation of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter two is underlying theory. The third chapter is social historical background of the United States at the late 21thcentury. The fourth chapter deals with the structural analysis. The fifth

chapter presents the feminist analysis, and chapter six is conclusion and suggestion