

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Nowadays the development of technology, the environment and many aspects of life is growing rapidly. people's mindset is growing following the developments around them, people start to have an open perspective. thus, making them critical of the phenomena around them. feminism is one of the movements that differentiates the way of acting, thinking, and living in society. one of the branches of the feminism movement is liberal feminism. (PUSPITASARI, 2016)

Feminism is one of the issues in literature which is an interesting topic to discuss, feminism is about the inequality between men and women and fighting for women's rights, becoming more independent women, and getting the same rights. However, among feminism theories this research focuses on liberal feminism, liberal feminism is a movement that discusses individual freedom. In liberal feminism women's freedom focuses on the equality of men. In the perspective of liberal feminism, men and women must have the same opportunities, as women's education is entitled to the same education as men. as said by Wendell and Hooks,

*Liberal feminism's clearest political commitments: to the promotion of women's greater recognition and self-value as individuals, to equality of opportunity, to the promotion of equal education for girls and boy, to endingsex prejudice and de facto discrimination, to equality of legal rights, and the use of education as a major tool of social reform (Wendell,Hooks 2012).*(Paper et al., 2021)

Liberal feminism emphasizes the right of women to get the freedom of life, before the women's feminism movement was only seen as the second gender when society was still using a patriarchal system, after the feminism movement in the nineteenth era when society was still using the patriarchal system, women were rarely superior, but nowadays many superior Women, get it easier to express what they want, they have the same opportunity and they already have individual autonomy. Although not all women get this opportunity, discrimination still exists. Similarities between men and women can be found and reflected in literary works whose liberal feminism perspective is the character of The Meg in the film directed by Jon Turteltaub.

Liberal feminism which can be called the first current feminism of liberal feminism focuses on achieving gender equality through political and legal reforms in the framework of liberal democracy. Liberal feminism is more individualistic about justice than other branches of feminism, liberal feminism is a tradition from history that grew out of liberalism. Giddens (2021) defines liberal theory as "a feminist theory which believes that gender inequality is created by reducing women's and girls' access to civil rights and the allocation of social resources such as education and employment" this situation can move the balance between genders(Bimer & Alemeneh, 2018)

The director of the film, Jon Turteltaub directed the film from a screenplay written by Dean Georgaris, Jon Hoeber, and Erich Hoeber, based on the best-selling New York Times by Steve Alten. "The Meg was completed in China and New Zealand. This film is a collaboration between Warner Bros with Beijing Digital Impression (BDI) Films, Inc.," Warner Bros. wrote on the official website.

The film is directed by Jon Turteltaub based on the cover of meg: A Novel of Deep terror by Steve Altre. The film is a best-selling 530.2 million dollars. Walt Disney Studios initially granted the film rights to books in the 1990s but spent several years on this. In 2016 and 2017 began filming in New Zealand and Sanya, China, ended in 2017, on August 10, 2018, in RealD 3D. box office success by making more than 530 million dollars worldwide and receiving diverse opinions from critics, with some describing it as entertaining and others calling it "not good or bad enough" to be fun.

This study used the movie entiteled "The Meg" as a object of the study because successfully combines elements of horror and humor into a unified whole. The story in this film can inspire people who watch this film about a compact film with a team, helping each other, solving mutual problems and most importantly about equality between men and women where women have the same position, equal opportunities. By watching this film, women can also be independent and can express their abilities. Liberal feminism aspects are values that can be seen and analyzed through this literary work because female characters have strong roles and positions in films. A liberal perspective can be found on "The Meg" through one of the female lead, Suyin.

Moreover, the researcher is interested in the role of Suyin as a female scientist in this film. She proves to everyone that she can finish the project even though many people doubt her ability. Suyin as a strong woman catches the interest of the researcher who wants to focus on feminism theory. Suyin's father also plays an amazing role in supporting her daughter, making her stronger. the researcher thinks that this is also

interesting because the relationship of Suyin and her father is one of the factors that she can be a strong intelligent woman. Therefore, the researcher choose “The Struggle of Women Scientist to Fight Megaladon Represented in Meg Movie (2018) : Liberal Feminism Approach” as the title of the paper.

## **B. Problem Statement**

Based on the previous topic, this topic focuses on the liberal feminism approach on Suyin as the main character of the movie “ The Meg” by Jon Turteltaub. several problem statements can be formulated as follows.

1. What are the indicators of liberal feminism in the meg movie?
2. How is feminism portrayed in the meg movie?
3. Why does the film director of meg movie choose to address liberal feminism?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study are as follow:

1. To identify the indicators of liberal feminism in the movie
2. To describe how liberal feminism is depicted in the movie
3. To reveal the reason why liberal feminism is specifically addressed in the movie.

## **D. Significances of the Study**

1. Theoretical Significances

The study contributes to the body of knowledge, especially literary study on libral faminism.

2. Practical study

This researcher enriches the writer's understanding of the science of liberal feminism, in particular about gender equality in character Suyin in the movie "The Meg”