

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background**

The suffragette movement in Great Britain was a movement carried out by British women in the late 19th and early 20th centuries fighting for their rights in elections. Because at that time, general elections could only be followed by men. Women did not have the right to vote, women can not nominate herself in politics, this inequality was very clear at that time. Men dominate the realm of life, such as in the family, society, politics, to the economy. In life, men have more authority over women, children and property. Indirectly, this kind of thinking places the position of women below men. This view causes the absence of gender equality between men and women, women are considered as creatures with levels below men who are considered as the main power holders and dominate in the role of political leadership, moral authority, social rights and property control. Women are considered not to have the calm temperament or balance of mind to make judgments in political matters. If women are allowed to vote, it is a disadvantage in the social structure. Women have been represented by their fathers, brothers and husbands. Once the voting rights are granted to women, they will then ask for the right to become members of parliament, cabinet ministers, judges.

Gender equality is a view that all people must receive equal treatment and there is no discrimination in their gender identity. The purpose of this gender equality is for everyone to get fair treatment in the community but not only in the workplace, in the political, economic, and related fields of certain policies so that they get access to equal employment, equal treatment, and wages the equivalent.

The issue of gender equality was raised in a film written by Abi Morgan and directed by Sarah Gavron. They consider this struggle is a very big struggle for women, because their struggle is not easy, they must fight against the patriarchal system that is inherent they must fight in voicing their rights as women in which they assume that they have the same rights as men . This issue is very important to be raised so that women out there are aware and willing to fight for their rights. Sarah Gavron herself is very interested in stories about women, and her mother is a person involved in politics. He saw that much of the political world was dominated by men. Therefore he felt there had to be a change.

This film tells the true story of women warriors who demanded to get the right to vote but did not also get a response because it was ignored by the ruling government. in England. The film is set in England in 1912, when at that time a movement called "Suffragette" emerged, the purpose of this movement was to demand equality between men and women in voting at that time only men who can participate in voting. The director, Sarah Gavron said that the purpose he created this film was to create a film work by raising the issue of representative feminism in describing the issue of gender equality in the present and the past.

Although the main character in this film is only a fictional character, but some of the events told in Suffragette are a historical fact of the women's movement in England, including the figure of Emily Pankhurst who is the mastermind or leader of the Suffragette movement. This feminism is based on gender differences where women are often treated differently and are seen as inferior to men. Feminism is an understanding of the struggle of the women's movement in achieving gender equality. This understanding is intended so that women can be seen as equal, and can make women better and fairer.

Historical fiction film played by Carey Mulligan as Maud Watts, tells about Maud's life as a laundryman. at his workplace, she often saw acts of sexual harassment committed by her superiors to her other female coworkers. and there she worked with a heavy portion of work but with very little wages. This injustice is very pronounced because the difference between men's and women's wages is very significant, men are paid more and with less work, while women are paid less but with more work. Maud is close to his colleague, Violet Miller, who often collides with her boss, and it was from Violet that Maud became acquainted with the Suffragette movement. Then from there Maud knew people who were active in the women's movement, and other women activists. and at one point, Maud had to give a statement before MPs to replace Violet, and because of that Maud was then included in the list of women activists who had to be secured.

The incident in parliament caused a riot between the participants of the action and the police, and this resulted in a number of female katifis who were later arrested, including Maud. after the arrest of Maud, she had to be intimidated by her husband and at the place where she worked she was given a warning not to participate in the movement. although Maud was under such great pressure, he always received motivation from his comrades namely Violet and Edith, they wanted Maud to continue his struggle and not give up. However, the situation became increasingly pressing Maud, her husband did not allow Maud

to meet his son and forbade Maud to return home. in these circumstances, fortunately Maud still had a fellow soldier who helped him and brought Maud to stay in the church.

Sarah Gavron managed to make this film a touching historical drama. The dialogue used in this film may seem simple, but it can describe the conditions about the character of each player, and easy to understand. Visually, you can see the picture attached to each character. The cast was considered successful and performed very well playing a female activist who also received personal pressure and problems. although the main character in this film is only a fictional character, but some of the events told in this film are historical facts of the women's movement in England.

### **B. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and the background of the study, the researcher formulated the research questions as follows:

1. How is the feminist movement reflected in the film Suffragette?
2. How is the struggle of Maud Watts reflected in the film Suffragette viewed from feminist approach?
3. How is the value of the film reflected in the current era?

### **C. Objectives Of The Study**

Depend on the statement above about this article. The purpose of this study, such as :

1. To identify the reflection of feminist movement on Suffragette movie.
2. To analyze the struggles of a Maud Watts reflected in the Suffragette movie viewed from feminist approach.
3. To identify the values reflected in Suffragette movie in today's era.