

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter contains the background of the study, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significances of the study, limitations of the study that have been formulated by the researcher.

#### **1.1 Background of The Study**

Women are generally synonymous with housework, taking care of children, and families, while men are placed as the owner of the highest position in a family. This can be called a patriarchal culture, but it is not uncommon to see today. Women are sometimes superior to men both in the family and society. This can be seen from not few of women who have jobs, apart from taking care of household chores, their children, and her husband. This is a bit of evidence that women today are slightly better than women in the past. It is common knowledge that women must be as written at the beginning of the sentence. Therefore feminism has come in the form of a movement to criticize and oppose women's work and traditions which are referred to in patriarchal culture. The purposed of feminism itself is actually to changed the patriarchal culture, and a way for women to get the same rights as men in the process of developing themselves, rights in the household as well as rights in work, especially in the world of politics. Unfortunately, in the 18th century, most women did not get their rights both in the family, society and politics. Usually they come from the lower middle class women. This was before the first wave of feminism began. Everyone has the right to developed, including women. In ancient life, men considered women as wives

who had to cook, took care of their homes and children. However, changes have occurred over time. For example, ancient women were forbidden to vote, but a woman named Lydia Taft became the first woman to dare to violate this rule. Women are also not allowed to socialize. They are not allowed to walk the streets alone or travel alone. Even in the case of marriage, women are often forced to accept arranged marriages by their parents. Nowadays, women may marry regardless of the demands of their parents or their environment. This is one small example of women getting their rights and freedom to choose. To achieve the position of women today, of course, not automatically happen because of the passage of time. Long before the condition of women could be like today, there were struggles for women's activists in the 18th century. The struggles for equality and the right to vote. These struggles are included at the first wave of feminism which occurred around 1848-1920 (Xue, 2015).

Within the first wave of feminism, there is a movement called the Suffragete movement. It was founded by Pankhurst, one of the women's activists in Britain. This movement focused on gaining suffrage for women, often referred to as the WSPU (Women Social Political Union). In the early years of the movement, members were involved in peace work. Campaign in forums such as trade union meetings and debate societies. However, since the government refused to give up on women's suffrage, the form of demonstrations began to look more aggressive, this was a form of rebellion because of the government's refusal. Especially in 1912. Breakings of famous shop windows in every corner of London, burning empty buildings, acid-burning golf courses. Actually their goal is to

destroyed property in the city to get the government's attention on the wishes of their group. Since they act anarchically, there is no room for them in the public sphere, their every move is monitored by the government. The activity continued until many of their members were detained because of the demonstration (Purvis, 1995).

The object used by the researcher in this research is a film that depicts the history of women's struggles in 1912. Recently, films have become one of the most popular literary work of almost every age group. Film itself can be an effective communication medium to entertain and convey messages that can influence attitudes, mindsets and become a source of additional insight for the audience. Based on the Oxford dictionary 9<sup>th</sup> edition 2015, film is a series of picture that was moving and recorded with sound that tells a story, usually film or movie shown on movie theater or television. Actually in today's era there are many good and educational films indeed, but it is undeniable that there are also many films that are less educational. The film used in this study entitled *Suffragette*, besides showing women's struggle to get their right to vote, violence is also seen in this film. The researcher conducted this research because she was interested in the history and the main characters depicted in this film. The history in this film shows the situation of women's demonstrations and rebellions in the 18th century. A group of women make the government uneasy with their actions that destroy facilities and famous buildings in the city center. The theory that researcher used in this study is Liberal Feminism theory by Beasley Chris (1999). There were still many people, especially women who do not really know about women's struggles,

this was also the pressure for researcher to did this research, introduce women's history, looked back at the current state of women's struggles in the 18s, so that women can be like today. The researcher selected this film as the one of the focused in her research because this film contains stories that portray courageous ladies who are individuals of a development to battle bad form and patriarchal culture. They made the development as a women's activist development since they accepted that ladies and men were break even with for any reason. This can be fortified by Beasley articulation approximately women's liberation, Beasley states that woman's rights is the promotion of women's rights based on a conviction within the correspondence of the genders, and in its broadest utilize the word alludes to everybody who is mindful of and looking for to end women's subordination in any way and for any reason. Within the film, Suffragette, Watts and her companions are beneath weight from their environment, being labeled as ladies who are despicable since they connect a development that battles for suffragee.

### **1.2 Problems of The Study**

Based on the background of this study above, the problem of the study are formulated as the followings:

1. How did the Suffragette movement affect the main character in the film?
2. How the main character's struggle that reflected liberal feminism?

### **1.3 Objectives of The Study**

Based on the problem, the objectives of the study are formulated as:

1. To find out how the movement affected the main character in the film.

2. To explain the main character's struggle which reflected liberal feminism.

#### **1.4 Significances of The Study**

Feminism was one of the most important things in this research. The conditions and circumstances of most ladies are exceptionally different from the conditions within the early period of feminism. Many individuals, particularly ladies and youthful individuals, don't get it how the women's activist development came to be and the starting of the women's activist development. Since the history of woman's rights has not broadly caught on by a few bunches and youthful individuals, it was a motivation for the researcher. The researcher hopes that this research can be useful for most people, such as helping to tell a little about the history of feminism in the 1800s and matters relating to feminism in the 1800s. This is certainly useful for students of literature, making this research as one of the references for their study related to feminism and the film *Suffragette* for other writers in the future. The researcher also hopes this study can be one of a historical learning sources for wider community, because *The Suffragette* itself is one of the objects in the forms of film from many histories of feminism in the past.

#### **1.5 Limitation of The Study**

In this study, the limitation of the study is the characters in this film. There are so many characters involved in the film, entitled *Suffragette* (2015), but only a few have anything to do with the main character and storyline in this film. Among them are, Maud Watts as the main character, her two friends named Violet Miller and Edith Ellyn. Miller and Edith, especially Miller, keep trying to bring Watts to

fight together against injustice. There is also Mrs. Pankhurst who became the leader of the Suffragette movement. The last thing that the researcher focused was the theory used by the researcher. The researcher used the liberal feminism theory by Beasley (1999) which he wrote in a book entitled What Is Feminism.

