

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Talking about masculinity can not be separated from discussions about gender. Gender is different from sex (Wood 19). Gender assume a more complex concept than gender. Sex is the biological tagging, biological tools attached to the male and female sex forever, while the concept of gender is an inherent nature of men and women in the social and cultural construction. For example, it is known that women are gentle, beautiful, emotional, or motherhood (Kurnia 3). Men are considered: strong, rational, manly, mighty.

In understanding the sex and gender, according to Fasih (10), he thinks through the long process of gender socialization, so it is ultimately considered to be the provision of God, as if a biological nature that can not be changed anymore. For example, because of the construction of gender, men should be strong and aggressive, the male gender is motivated to go to the properties specified by a society.

Masculinity is very prominent in the western culture. As an example, a leader is always in the hands of men who are considered strong; man has always been the decision maker for being able to think rationally. Femininity has, historically and psychoanalytically, usually been defined as the negative

of the masculine, as something existing as 'other' and as less worthy, and reliable or completes (Frosh 89). That concept usually known as the Patriarchy. Patriarchy is thus the rule of the father over all women in the family and also over younger socially and economically subordinate males (gender & soc).

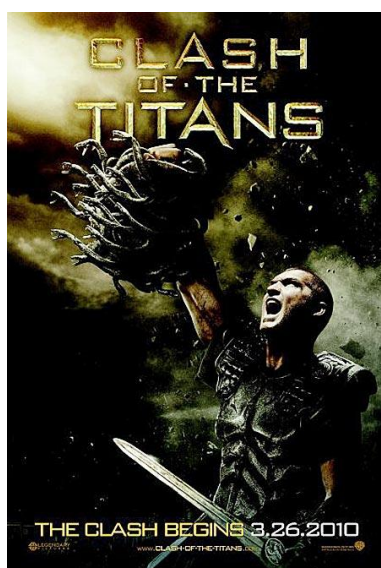
Gender has also represented into media. Magazines, newspapers and adverts all contain images of women and men, and even songs on the radio (or played in shops and cafes) might feed into, or challenge, our ideas about gender (Gauntlet 46). In the progress of gender issues more frequently to discuss feminism. If we look at journals or film, they are more likely to talk about feminism than masculinise (Feasey 1). That literature on the representation of gender in the mass media tends to focus on an examination of femininity and a woman's role in film, advertising and the magazine sector, then it will come as no surprise to find that existing research on representations of gender on television is dominated by work seeking to expose or unmask the depiction of women on the small screen (Feasey 8). Feminism is a hot topic for discussion due to take place by the movement of people who want to claim that feminism gender equality. We see media such as television shows or movies many of them lifting stories about feminism.

The film is one of the media always describe the concept of masculinity. In the many films, usually contain elements of masculinity,

especially in action films. Hollywood cinema has historically expended in the display of the male, especially as his figure on screen calls into question the stability and unity equated with 'masculinity' and epitomized in the narrative by the gaze of the male actor (Cohan 1). Masculinity in films usually aim to attract the attention of the audience in the action film because action films will highlight aspects of masculinity as a robust body shape, strong, and not easily defeated. Gauntlett, in his book entitled *Media, Gender, and Identity*, explained that if the representation of masculinity in the film is constantly changing. In 1950-1980s, films dominated by the story of a male who has always been a hero. Male always described as assertive, confident, and dominant person (Gauntlett 51). Women had important roles in many films but were far more likely than men to be shown as frightened, in need of protection and direction, and offering love and support to the male lead characters. In the 1990s, masculinity representation is changing (Gauntlett 52). The difference with some 1980s action movies may be that the male hero is today more cynical, weary, and perhaps aware that violence may not be the solution to everything. Men in Hollywood films today tend not to be the seamlessly hard-masculine heroes which we saw in the 1980s; they more often combine the toughness required of an action hero with a more sensitive, thoughtful or caring side, typically revealed at certain (often quite brief) points in the movie (Gauntlett 75). There are some studies that analyze the representation of masculinity in film. for example undergraduate thesis from

Dudy Okvantita, student from English Department Universitas Airlangga that analyzed representation of masculinity in film *The Raid*.

Hollywood films in the era of 2000s, particularly in 2010; there are still films that take the concept of traditional masculinity. It is proven if the traditional concept of masculinity is still in demand by Hollywood audiences. *Clash of the Titans* is a film that still raised the concept of traditional masculinity in the story, particularly masculinity in Greek mythology, which in 2010 Greek mythology-themed films are still rare. Just as in the movie *Clash of the Titans* that tells about masculinity. *Clash of the Titans* is a 2010 film which is recycled from the film 1981 film with the same title, this film tells the story of Greek mythology with Perseus as the main character. *Clash of the Titans* is directed by Louis Leterrier and Sam Worthington display as the main star.



**Figure 1.1: *Clash of the Titans* poster**

One of the film by Louis Leterrier is indeed regarded as a successful movie *Clash of the Titans* explore more about Greek mythology. According to IMDb.com, film *Clash of the Titans* generates big box office revenue, with the acquisition of 64.1 million dollars from theaters in the United States (U.S.) and Canada since it opened. The launch is in line with the estimates of revenue and 61.4 million dollars earned and created a new record for release Easter. Easter previously created record *Scary Movie 4* (40.2 million dollars) in 2006. In other countries like in Spain are recorded ticket sales of U.S. \$ 8.6 million within five days, and in the UK as much as U.S. \$ 7.8 million in the period three days in South Korea and U.S. \$ 6.8 million within four days of screenings.

The story is told that humans no longer worship the gods, even they also declared war on the gods, seeing such circumstances, Hades, the god of hell requesting permission to Zeus, god of thunder, to punish humans for humans to want to return to their prayers. Hit by a big confusion, Zeus approves the request, without knowing that there is another purpose behind the request Hades. Hades was embarking on his mission, In the city of Argos, Hades makes a deal with Cepheus, king of Argos, that he would not destroy Argos as long as her daughter, Andromeda, is sacrificed to the Kraken. Hearing this, Perseus took the opportunity to get revenge on Hades who had

destroyed his village and also the adoptive family. To kill the Kraken monster itself, requires the head of Medusa and Perseus wear Medusa's head to kill the Kraken, Perseus then was leading a group of brave warriors, Perseus heading into the forbidden world. Fighting against demons and fearsome beasts, he will only survive if he can accept his power as a god, defy his fate and create his own destiny.

In the film, the representation of masculinity is very visible in the story and character portrayal. The story takes the theme of Greek mythology is show a lot of the concepts of masculinity such as war, violence, toughness that are served in the story. One of the prominent characters in the representation of masculinity is Perseus. Perseus is the main character in this movie. Perseus described to be someone who is strong, not give up, have the authority and has an unwavering principle. In the movie *Clash of the Titans*, Perseus is told that he is a man who at first he was a figure common man who has a harmonious family until one day he had lost family in the disaster that made him a man more tough and strong. Toughness of a Perseus is seen when he lost his family, he had to face everything alone. He must survive even live alone. From the depiction it can be seen that Perseus is a strong man.

## **1.2. Statement of the Problem**

How is the masculinity of Perseus represented in *The Clash of the Titans*?

### 1.3. Objective of the Study

To explore and analyze the representation of masculinity on *perseus*.

### 1.4. Significance of the Study

The results of this study are expected to contribute to the development of science, particularly the field of cultural studies on the representation of masculinity in films.

This study will get benefit to contemporary popular literary study. The writer hopes that this study will give a better understanding about representation of masculinity on film studies particularly for English Department Student Association (EDSA) of Universitas Airlangga who are also interested in the same project.

### 1.5. Definition of Key Terms

**Masculinity:** Maleness, the properties characteristic of the male sex.

**Traditional Gender Role:** Social script that define how males and females supposed to act.

**Hegemonic Masculinity:** is a concept popularized by sociologist R.W. Connell of proposed practices that promote the dominant social position of men, and the subordinate social position of women.

**Perseus:** Demigod, son of Zeus in Greek mythology

**Clash of the Titans:** A film about Greek mythology