

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of The Study

The issue of gender is one of the most spotted problems that have been happening in society nowadays, it has a big impact on generations after generations. Women have always been stereotyped in terms of the things they are insecure about, and gender stereotypes are one of the most reachable cognitive forms of people depending on when they are interpreting people's behavior. Gender stereotypes are one of the most reachable cognitive forms of people depending on when they are interpreting people's behavior. It is clear that many standards, such as body image, intelligence, beauty, and so on, should be met by women. In contrast to men, even though they do not have a good body image they they are still given dignity and honor by society. As a result, men are seen as more dominant, reliable, and superior. Men, according to Tyson (2015, p.86), are given more advantages in life compared to women, which tends to give men complete power over women, making women appear powerless, this leads to a stereotype called sexism.

Gender bias or prejudice are frequently causing sexist attitudes, or a state that oversees social roles based on gender stereotypes (Basow 1992, p.2). It has always been an issue that concerns many women all over the world. According to Puri (2011 , p.4), the bias of one gender is not only an individual point of view but

is also constructed into societal cultures. The concept of sexism is a result of patriarchal ideology. It is a society's conservative thought about how they give predominance to the masculine rather than the feminine in almost all aspect of life, such as community, household, and labor market. The concept of patriarchal ideology preserves the judgment that men are superior to women (L.Tyson 2014, p.85). For instance, the condition of women, who are being told to lower their expectations of their ability, such as, women should stay at home and not be smarter than men, is usually directed by their family (parents) and teachers into the regulation of male domination. The role of females in their professions is also underestimated by societies in which women are expected to do something for men, to be keepers for men, and they tend to take care of everyone before themselves.

The concept of sexism has happened in various ways, such as; job discrimination, domestic violence, sexual harassment, and anti-feminism to limit women's rights. In adult life, gender inequalities develop during adolescence it is generated the gap between men and women is more visible during their adult life. Although gender issue and society are interrelated with each other, most of us are not aware of gender issue, namely, sexism. The most notable features of the concept of sexism is the power difference between the oppressor group and the oppressed group. The oppressor group consists of men who seem to hold a lot of power. Meanwhile, the oppressed group will be women, because women seem to have no power as men do.

There are sexist attitudes in our everyday lives as well as in movies, songs, lyrics, etc. A study by Yundah Ismi Choirunnisak (2020) shows that sexism is one of the important parts of Louise O'Neill's *Only Ever Yours* novel. The focus of the study was on how the main characters in the book, the Eves, showed their internalized sexism. It demonstrated how society perceives sexism directed toward women, which is an issue that affects men and women equally. In the study, concepts regarding internalized sexism were taken from the works of Steve Bearman, Neill Korobov, and Avril Thorne. In another movie, *On the Basis of Sex* (2018), in which sexism is the main issue, is similar to *Misbehavior* movie. Conversely, the movie's heroine, who is also a woman, gets support from a lot of people, including her family.

The object of this research is a British comedy movie about feminist objection in opposition to the Miss World contest in the 1970s era entitled *Misbehaviour*, which was released in 2020. This movie was directed by Philippa Lowthorpe and written by Rebecca Frayn and Gaby Chiappe. In short, this movie tells a story about a female main character named Sally, who is clever and determined to study. Sally is loved by her family but is baffled by her sexist coworker, which leads her to join a women's liberation movement. The main character of this movie is played by Keira Knightley as Sally Alexander. *Misbehavior* shows the representation of sexist practices towards women. It could be seen through a scene where Bob Hope, who is a popular MC (emcee) during that time, gives negative comments to the contestants of Miss World, and it becomes a scandal in the movie itself. It does not stop there. There are a lot of

sexist comments and attitudes towards Sally and other female characters in the movie.

According to *womensgrid.org.uk* (2020) in the United Kingdom (UK), gender inequality is still spreading and concerning most girls there. A survey of the UK for the State of Girls' Rights report said that girls often feel unsafe in public, especially those who are living in both urban and rural areas because of street harassment. In the UK, girls are facing inequality in the classroom in which there are gender-based subject choices that makes them holding back from the careers they want to pursue, where they are also being depreciated. It shows a patriarchal side of society, in which men are given privileges that encourage traditional gender roles. It can be argued that women are always negatively linked to their academics and positively linked to traditional goals, for instance; getting married. These kinds of generalizations contribute to the formation of assumptions and beliefs regarding women.

The object of this study is a British comedy film entitled *Misbehaviour* that was released in the year 2020. *Misbehaviour* is a story about the feminist movement that formed in the 1970s to protest the Miss World competition and was set in that era. Philippa Lowthorpe was the one in charge of the film's direction, and Rebecca Frayn and Gaby Chiappe were the ones who wrote the script. In brief, the plot of this film revolves around an intelligent and self-motivated student named Sally, who plays the role of the film's main female character. Her family loves Sally, but she is frustrated by the society's sexist behavior, which prompts her to become involved in a movement for women's

liberation. The lead role of Keira Knightley's Sally Alexander in this film belongs to Keira Knightley. There is a scene in *Misbehavior* that depicts the representation of sexist practices toward women. It can be seen through a scene in which Bob Hope, who was a popular MC (emcee) during that time, gives negative and sexist comments to the contestants of Miss World, and it becomes scandalous in the movie itself. In addition, the sexist practices continues until it reaches that point. Sally and the other female characters in the movie are being objected to numerous sexist comments and attitudes throughout the film. *Misbehaviour* (2020) is chosen as the object of the study because the movie's content is related to women's daily living conditions worldwide, in which women are often stuck in the position of getting sexist comments and attitudes. Britain is one of the countries that still practice this sexist attitude, as evidenced by looking at the history, in which the ruler was primarily men, and it could be understood that the position of men was higher than women. It leads to an impact on the entire society's ideology, which makes it male-dominated until now (Xiang Xu 2008, p.101).

The movie *Misbehaviour* (2020) illustrates a story where all of the types of internalized sexism are included in the movie itself, and the female characters are not getting any recognition or support from the environment, whereas they need to do it with their power to achieve their goals to be heard by people. Meanwhile, another movie titled *On the Basis of Sex* (2018) is similar to *Misbehaviour* movie in which holds sexism as the main issue, yet the main character is a woman who gets support from many people, including her family, even though, at first she is being degraded by people, the movie does not include all of the types of

internalized sexism. There is no competition between women, yet the main character is supported by most women. The study focused on analyzing the internalized sexism types that are undergone by the female characters of *Misbehaviour* (2020). The main theory used to get a deep analysis is the feminism theory by Steve Bearman, Neill Korobov, and Avril Thorne's about internalized sexism.

1.2. Statements of Problems

In order to analyze the sexist attitudes towards female characters in the *Misbehaviour* (2020) movie, the writer states the problem as:

1. How do the Internalized Sexism experienced among women characters?

1.3. Object of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems, it is possible to understand that the purpose of this study is to investigate whether or not sexist attitudes are present in the movie *Misbehaviour* based on the dialogues of the characters, *mise-en-scene*, and other elements to strengthen the evidence using Internalized Sexism of both the male and female characters. The female characters experience these attitudes.

1.4. Significance of the Study

Because only a small number of studies are discussing internalized sexism, the author of this piece believes that the topic of internalized sexism can be greatly beneficial to the field of cultural studies. People in society are not well informed about internalized sexism, in which they tend to give sexist attitudes

unconsciously and are unaware that they are one of the oppressed members who give sexist behavior towards women based on internalized sexism, which leads to problems. Students who are interested in conducting research that is analogous to this one may gain a fresh perspective as a result of this study, which, with any luck, will bring more attention to the problem of internalized sexism in today's culture.

1.5. Definitions of Key Terms

For the purpose to elude misunderstanding and misinterpretation, these are the explanation of the key terms:

Sexism : Sexism is a structured unfair treatment of girls and women by men and by society as a whole (Bearman, Korobov, and Thorne 2009, p.11).

Feminism : Feminism is a general theory that focuses on women's experiences about rights and equality. It is a movement that aims to end sexism, sexist repression, and sexist utilization (Hooks 2000, p.1).

Gender Inequality : Gender inequality is a social relation of a structured organization in a society like capitalist classification and race in apartheid in Africa and India. (Naila Kabeer 1999, p.17)