

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Every human being is given the same chance to act. However, some people are constrained by the dominant gender. Any gender is also affected by standards or trends that a particular gender should follow. Sex is intended not only as a form of sexual identity, but also as a term that has evolved into the identification of gender-related attitudes and gestures. The concept of sex has certainly contributed to the genetic features of women and men. Typically, the term gender applies only to the behavioural, cultural, and emotional aspects of males and females (Chrisler 2000, 554). The existence of gender stereotypes that occur in society is something that cannot be prevented. Such stereotype determines the essence and substance of sex roles specifies the assumption that they portray not only traditional gender distinctions, but also what males and females may be in various fields of life and their behaviour. A man will often be associated with strong traits ranging from physically muscular and mentally tough. Meanwhile, women were associated with traits of sensitivity, gentleness, and nurturance. These gender traits have an impact on the formation of the nature of children and adolescents who are affected by sex-related behaviours and entities (C.L. Martin 2001, 6021). Society's demands for the norms of women and men that have been embedded since childhood encourage the existence of a dominant character of one gender and also have an impact on the existence of gender domination.

Hegemonic Masculinity is a concept that is formed according to the environment. According to (Moller 2007, 267) the dominant character of men is not formed naturally but is formed from a culture. It is a question that is disturbing and is not used as a compromise of women's rights and responsibilities, which is the hegemonic essence of masculinity frequently heard in different media and within

women. As in (Donaldson 1993, 649) once said that hegemonic masculinity seems to be a culture that praises supremacy and physical violence. Although not all men can be considered as holders of power or someone who is dominant, the environment and society's perspective on men is very encouraging. Control and hegemony of men can be personal or non-personal, direct or indirect, offensive or defensive, which is sometimes followed by crimes and victimization (Hearn 2004, 51).

According to (Connell and Messerschmidt 2005, 833) hegemonic masculinity is a concept used to examine dominant patterns perpetrated by men as well as other manifestations of offensive and defensive act towards other men and the opposite sex. An individual or group of men who can be said to be subordinate masculinity can be the target of destructive and dominating masculine traits. However, men who fall into the category of hegemonic masculinity can let go of their status and move to complicit, marginalized, or even subordinate masculinity because a stage of masculinity is flexible and not fixed. Just as there will be a hierarchy that is above and below, hegemonic masculinity has a comparator that decreases the level of masculinity which can be called counter-hegemonic. Hegemonic masculinity is often associated with heterosexual character, which depicts men who are attracted to women and think of women as objects as well as evidence that indicates and supports hegemonic masculinity. Therefore, counter-hegemonic has the opposite characteristic of hegemonic masculinity. As explained by (Donaldson 1993, 648) pleasure felt by homosexuality is a form of rebellion and an attempt to reduce the degree of masculinity because it opposes heterosexual nature. Not only does homosexual behavior reduce the degree of masculinity, but the urge to hate and disturbed by the presence of homosexuals makes homosexual an entity against masculinity (Ertan 2008, 8). Connell divides the categories of masculinity into four levels in the hierarchy structure, namely subordination, complicitly, marginalized, and hegemony where each level represents a different characteristic of masculinity. Based on Connell's theory of masculinity, this is still

a hot issue in society from then until now. This is evidenced by the existence of a film called *The Gentlemen* which was published in 2020.

The movie entitled *The Gentlemen* by Guy Ritchie is an object that will be discussed in this research. *The Gentlemen* (2020) is was released theatrically in United Kingdom on January 1, 2020. Guy Ritchie is a United Kingdom director, producer, and writer who was born in 1968. Ritchie is famous for his British gangsters and action films such as *King Arthur* (2017), *Aladdin* (2019), *The Gentlemen* (2020), and his work which is quite worldwide is *Sherlock Holmes* (2009). Most of Ritchie's works describe heroic stories that use strategic plans and muscles to achieve their goals. There is a common characteristic of every film he produces, namely the depiction of a man who is very strong and dominating as in one of his latest films, *The Gentlemen* (2020).

The Gentlemen published in 2020 starring Charlie Hunnam, Henry Golding, Hugh Grant, Michelle Dockery, and Matthew McConaughey as the leading actors. This movie tells the story of a British cannabis drug dealer who is looking to sell his business to an American billionaire in order to retire and enjoy life with his wife. But things did not go according to plan. Instead of buying the business fairly, the American billionaires named Matthew Berger, played by Jeremy Strong, chose to play dirty by dismantling one of Mickey's facilities in order to reduce the price of the business by more than half the initial price offered. The story is full of action strategies used to dominate one another. The male character in this film is the focus of this study. The depiction of actions and behavior carried out by male characters can reflect one of the four relations of masculinity, namely subordinate, complicit, marginalized, and hegemony.

In this study, the researcher intends to find out the depiction of four relations of masculinity namely subordination masculinity, complicit masculinity, marginalized masculinity, and hegemonic masculinity that has the possibility of existence in each male main character in the film. This study is worth analyzing because it portrays the four relations of masculinity and describes the characteristics

of masculinity associated with violence and crime. Following the acquisition of a description of the nature of hegemonic masculinity as shown by certain characters, the researcher will examine if the hegemonic masculinity attitude that is manifested has a beneficial or harmful impact on the environment. The reason why the researcher is interested in using *The Gentlemen* (2020) as the object is because the characters which affirms the hierarchy of masculinity have significantly influenced their behaviour, thoughts, and action. Furthermore, the reason why the issue of masculinity is worth analyzing because this issue still occurs from then until now where this is evidenced by the existence of discrimination, wage inequality, and racism between dominant masculinities towards women and among groups of men.

The study regarding the movie *The Gentlemen* (2020) has not been found. The researcher considered this study to be a new study. Not to mention that the use of hegemonic masculinity in films is rarely found. However, there have been several prior studies that are relevant to the current study entitled “The Cowboy Scientist Saves the Planet: Hegemonic Masculinity in Cli-Fi Films” written by Sam Kendrick and Joane Nagel (Kendrick and Nagel 2020), “BLOOD, SPERM, AND TEARS IN EXTREME CINEMA: A phenomenological study in hegemonic masculinity through Gaspar Noé’s *Love* from a psychoanalytic perspective” written by Zara Luna Hjelm (Hjelm 2020), and “Hegemonic Masculinity Aspects in C.S Lewis’ *The Lion the Witch and The Wardrobe*” written by Nur Laili Agustina (Agustina 2018). These studies use the theory of gender relations with the same issue but different focus. The issue that is brought up is how the hegemonic masculinity that men do to women is formed in the objects they use. The nature of domination carried out by hegemonic masculinity against women will have differences with the nature of domination over men which is rarely analyzed by users of the concept of hegemonic masculinity. Therefore, this study is important to do because it provides a new perception of the nature of hegemonic masculinity aimed at the same gender, namely men.

1.2 Statements of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the statements of the problem are developed as follow:

1. How is hegemonic masculinity pictured by the characters in Guy Ritchie's *The Gentlemen*?
2. Is there any difference between hegemonic masculinity conducted by Chinese-American masculinity, American-masculinity, and British masculinity?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The aim of this study is to analyse the issue of hegemonic masculinity that occurred. Based on the statements of the problem, the objectives of the study are:

1. To reveal how hegemonic masculinity is depicted in the film.
2. To describe the potential differences and similarities between hegemonic masculinity act conducted by Chinese-American masculine, American Masculinity, and British masculinity.

1.4 Significance of the Study

By this research, the concept of hegemonic masculinity will be examined, and the subject of male dominance will be explored in more depth, since this is still a topic of controversy in the contemporary day. Women figures have less significant role in this investigation because it concentrates on the dominance of hegemonic masculinity over males without the involvement of women, who are both possibly considered as the object of dominance and the reward of the act of dominance. It may assist in depicting hegemonic masculinity outside of the established preconceptions without the need for involvement from the female figure as an object of dominance. Furthermore, this research will examine the relationship

between masculinity and acts that are representative of hegemonic masculinity, which will have an influence on character development and behaviors that symbolize hegemonic masculinity. By using the concept of hegemonic masculinity, this research hopes to serve as a precedent for future English literature students at Universitas Airlangga who will apply the same theory or concerns that are not significantly different from the one in this research.

1.5 Definitions of Key Terms

Hegemonic Masculinities : The cultural interactive by group of male asserts and maintains the dominance in social life via culture, organizations and manipulation towards female or another male (R. Connell 2005, 77).

Domination : A method of exerting control over persons or groups that are deemed subservient, whether or not violence is used (Brown 1993, 659).

Subordinate Masculinity : Men who do not possess or contradict the characteristics of hegemonic masculinity, classified as dominating entities, and become objects of dominance on an equal basis with feminine (R. Connell 2005, 78).

Marginalized Masculinity : Discrimination of a group at the hands of a dominant group as a result of racial and social class distinctions (R. Connell 2005, 80)

Complicit Masculinity : Type of masculine who participate in activities carried out by the dominant group but do not have the ability or willingness to enter hegemonic masculinity (Swain 2006, 344)