

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1. Background of the Study

Today, men and women tended to be equal for their role in society. It is caused by the Feminism movement to free themselves from male and female control by the society especially for women. The first wave feminism happened during the late nineteenth century and early twentieth century, feminist concern was gaining equal right to vote in political matter as men (Dorey-Stein 2015). Patriarchal society has always been placing women so differently. Women as the inferior party if compared to men. Traditional gender role associate women with traits such as emotional (irrational), weak, nurturing and submissive while men are always associated with traits such as rational, strong, protective and decisive (Tyson 2015,81). The term between gender and sex are different. Gender is constructed in society. It does not mean exist in male or female as genetic. It is different with sex. A person is generally categorized into man and woman, that is belong to their sexes. Sex is the biological features of a person that already embedded or given (Beasley 2005). Based on this traditional gender role, women and men have different roles. This is the reason sex and gender can be defined as the behavior which is done based on normative concept related to some behaviors and activities which are suitable to the gender of the person (West and Zimmerman 1987). It is clearly shown that men and women must have certain attitudes that are in accordance with the roles that have been created by society.

Social construction towards femininity and gender masculinity cause various problems and it leads to various demands for women who are expected to be feminine and men who are expected to be masculine. For examples such as men are expected and should be outside the home, working in public places. In appearance, they have muscular body with rough look and facial hair such as beard and mustache. On the other hand, women are expected and should be in or staying at home, taking care of their homes and their children also obeying their husbands. In traditional gender roles, it is also believed that a wife has the absolute responsibility to take care of her family's needs and health (Wood 2004). So, in the traditional gender role based on the example above, the depiction of woman's position is always lower than men's position (Bressler 2007).

The situation in which men have very privileged access, though not always exclusive rights, to activities where the community provides the greatest value and training that allows a measure of control over the other is the definition of male domination. The position of women as the second sex, that means women are inferior, women do not mean anything to men and men can do anything to women. Simone de Beauvoir has established the term Second Sex, which argues that women are considered less important at the secondary level for men. De Beauvoir also believes that men define what it means to be human, including what it means to be a woman. De Beauvoir in Bressler states that because female is not male, they become Other, objects whose existence is defined and interpreted by dominant male (173).

In Indonesia, *housewifization* implies that women are considered as housewives who are not productive in breadwinning by depending their lives on their husband, and only do domestic labor (Suryajayakusuma 2011, 178). This can be seen as traditional gender practice still can be seen especially in figure of a family. This *housewifization* process leads to perception that men are considered to have masculinity traits as independent and strong, while women are considered to have femininity traits as dependent and weak. In addition, this will eventually influence the children. Later on, the children will learn since family is the first informal institution. The gender of their parents will be followed by their children. The result of learning and exploring and shaping will remain from childhood to adulthood (Beauvoir 2011, 330). Although, we knew in early 1990s woman already declared their freedom to the world, that's made people today are belief that men and woman should be equal right in society even in family. Thus, they are free to do everything that they like or whatever they want to be.

Movie as medium of communication tool, delivers messages through languages, such as images, gestures, music, object, and text or subtitle. Furthermore, evolve of masculinity and femininity often represented by the stereotype of gender role. We can take a look on how media deliver message in family scene activity. A man often to be a breadwinner or he is mostly drawn outside home. On the other hand, women are placed as the subordinated member in the patriarchal culture. Indonesian movies such as *Mika*, *Negeri Van Oranje*, *Get Married 3*, *Cinta tapi beda*, and *Pupus* has found that use gender traditional roles based on research conducted by (Amaliananda 2015). Soemandoyo (1999)

says that men are dominant than woman in deciding something while woman as the subordinate one mostly obey the men have decided rather than put a vote in some decision. In other hand, in some Indonesia movies else based on research *The Representation of Indonesia Contemporary Women in Indonesia film entitled Kapan Kawin (2015) and Air Mata Surga (2015)* which conducted by Laila Fitriingsih Sundari (2017) concluded that, “Indonesia films still depict Indonesian contemporary women which are still in unfinished dialectics. The equality manifested in the female leader in a large company is not followed by their role as a subject. Instead, the women are still in the position of being the object”. Even in western or American movies such as *Sex and The City (2008)* which is conducted by Fahad Alzahrani (2016), *The Intern (2015)* conducted by Indati Cahya Luvitha (2017), and *I Don't Know How She Does It (2011)* conducted by Sheila Paramitha (2018). That are also depicted that those film support traditional gender role. All of those movies depicted that women are the object to fulfill the desire of men. They are lower than men and inferior to men. Women should prioritize the family rather than her duty as working mother. Film and the electronic media have significantly changed the way we see the world and ourselves. Nevertheless, we all accept the abundant information which they deliver to us un massive prescriptions without questioning the given information (Monaco 2000).

Even operated by widespread media such a popular motion pictures or film, there is an international consensus stated that social representation changed in time, cultural developmental needs a change reflected (Peltea 2015). The concept

of gender has taken over the society's point of view, even in the making of a literary work, such as film, one of the products of the mass media which also plays a major role in shaping the society's view on the construction of gender. One of them is a film that has a situation focused on the role of the family, namely the film *A Quiet Place* (2018). In this movie talks about how Abbott Family as the main character, it has to apply gender role to all of family member to survive.

This movie directed by John Krasinski. In short, this movie we see a family that have to survive in bad situation. Krasinski also plays the Lee Abbott, his real-life wife Emily Blunt plays the mother (Evelyn Abbott). Millicent Simmonds, Noah Jupe, and Cade Woodward play as their three children. In addition, this movie is produced in 2018 when the representation of gender is normally wants to be equal between man and woman since 2000s. The story of the movie centered in over three months after 2020, we can see a role in those each character as a father, a mother and children are trying to survive in terrifying situation, it called post-apocalyptic. This movie may be represented as the ideal family in post-apocalyptic situation to survive. With almost no dialogue, "A Quiet Place" relies a great deal on visual storytelling. The researcher used this movie because the movie itself also became best ranking in United States Box office in the first week after beat "Ready Player One Movie" (2018). In Indonesia, this movie was released on April 3<sup>rd</sup> 2018 and it is shown in many cinemas (IMDb 2019). It is a popular movie according to Internet Movie Database. It records, *A Quiet Place* has won many awards and nominations. There are 34 wins and 106 nominations until January 2020 (IMDb 2020).

This movie is interesting to be analyzed because it represents the application of gender role in different context which is in post-apocalyptic situation. This movie also different from the other film which has a lot of characters on it. Again, they are only four main characters as explained before as a father, mother, and 2 children, without any other else related to them. such as friends, girlfriends or boyfriends, and etc. except, there is one person in the middle of the story as unknown old guy. Thus, the writer chose to discuss more about the main character and it will be easily focused on them to see how is gender roles in the family in that post-apocalyptic situation is applied and what the consideration of the role division. Lee and Evelyn as a parent of their children must face the problem which is limited human existences. Abbott Family as the main object that will be interested to be analyzed in this study. The researcher concerns on a film that is centered only on that family members as a main character especially husband and wife. This can be used as an object to analyze the theory of traditional gender role, second sex and sexual differences.

There are some journal articles discussing the issue of gender between a man and a woman. The first related study is a journal article written by Fahad Alzahrani in 2016. The title of Alzahrani's work is *The Portrayal of Women and Gender Roles in Film*. In that work Alazahrani focused on how particular themes in movies can be interpreted and how these movies influence how people view themselves in terms of their gender. Alzahrani analyzed on the television show Sex and the City based on the book. The result in her work shows that Gender representation in media influences how people perceive gender issues since some

specific gender roles uplift and strengthen the images of men. (Alhazrani 2016, 534).

The second is the portrayal of gender role in *The Intern* film: Analysis on the character Jules Ostin's role as a Working Mother by Indati Cahya Luvitha (2017). In this study analyzed about the position of working mother Jules Ostin who live in patriarchal society and face the same problem which is gender issues. The result in her work shows that no matter what women cannot live without man figure, even it is an independent woman. (Luvitha 2017, 41).

The last is study conducted by Sheila Paramita. This study is also analyzing the gender issue about discrimination and stereotype that happen to a working mother character in movie entitled *I Don't Know How She Does It* (2011). in that study shows that a working mother is still discriminate by the subordination which cause by patriarchy values on traditional gender roles and placed the working mother character lower than male characters due to the double burden that she has. (Paramita 2018, 56)

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

The background of the study leads us to more specific issue of men and women roles in the family. To make it becomes a more focus analysis, the researcher formulates the statement of the problem as follows;

- How is the portrayal of gender roles in Lee and Evelyn in *A Quiet Place* (2018)?
- What is the reason of the role division in husband and wife in the film?

### **1.3. Objective of the Study**

Related to the question above, the objective of the study is to acknowledge how they deal with the situation by applying gender role division in Lee and Evelyn in Abbott Family in *A Quiet Place* (2018). This study also would like to figure out the basis reason or the consideration of role division in post-apocalyptic situation.

### **1.4. Significance of the Study**

The researcher expects to help the further researcher and give broader insight especially for those who conduct a study using gender theory, second sex and sexual differences to analyze how the gender roles and its reason are applied in the movie. The findings of this research will give the benefits of the society considering the values of the movie in propagating issue related to the role in family members that must be underlining the context. In addition, it may take a part to reduce the traditional stereotypes about gender role in the family nowadays which have different problem like in the film. Therefore, it can be wise to apply role division in the family based on context to solve the problem.

### **1.5. Definition of Key Terms**

- Traditional gender role: according to Amy Blackstone roles stated that women are more nurturing than men. However, men should be the heads of their households by providing financially for the family and making important family decisions (2003).
- Second sex: a theory which perceives women as less essential and in the secondary level to men (Beauvoir 2003).

- Feminism: a concern with issues affecting women, a concern to advance women's interests (Delmar 1986)
- Gender Stereotyping: it consists a belief about the psychological traits and characteristics possessed by women and men and all activities deemed appropriate or appropriate to be undertaken by them (Brannon 2005)
- Sexual differentiation: the process by which male or female characteristic develop (Hines 2010)