# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents six points related to this study. It consists of context of the study, focus of the study, the purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of the key terms.

## A. Background of Study

In social life, of course, humans need each other. Therefore, a process of social interaction occurs in society. Social interaction is a social relationship between individuals, between groups and also between individuals and groups. In social interactions, human actions or behavior definitely occur which are called social actions. According to Max Weber (1975), social actions are the actions of an individual that can influence other individuals which are a manifestation of that individual's thinking (Pujianti, 2018). One way of social interaction occur is through communication. Individual conduct communication employing a language or language is utilized to make a significant communcation among human creators (Nurhayati & Fitriana, 2018).

According to Elly Setiadi (2011), Communication is an interaction process that occurs between two or more people to convey messages or interpretations by each party (Gani & Marizal, 2023). Humans use language as a tool to communicate. Language can be applied in two ways, namely spoken or written. Spoken language is quite informal, colloquial and may be unstructured (because

it is often spontaneous). Furthermore, spoken language mostly takes place in the form of dialogue with other speakers. In contrast, written language is generally more structured, formal, impersonal, and lengthy. Moreover, these usually take the form of monologues rather than dialogues (R Thomson, E & Meek, 2000). A language usually contains stories and opinions in the form of discourse.

According to Djajasudarma, discourse is the most complete and largest language unit of sentences or clauses with continuous high coherence and cohesion, capable of having a real beginning and end, and conveyed orally and in writing. Cohesion is the harmony between the elements in the discourse, while coherence is the cohesiveness of the discourse so that it is communicative and contains one idea (Ramadhan & Herman, 2021). According to Eriyanto (2009), discourse analysis is a technique of using language to describe something by linking its ideology. Discourse analysis is used to identify and study ideologies in the media. Critical discourse analysis also explains (1) sources of dominance and inequality in society which take the form of criticism of linguistics. (2) Critical discourse analysis also explains sociological and cultural developments with the aim of explaining the linguistic dimensions of social and cultural phenomena and the process of modern change (Erawati et al., 2022).

Foucault describes discourse as a collection of thoughts, concepts, and images that contribute to the formation of cultural concepts. Discourse is built on common beliefs that characterize conversations among members of a

particular group or at a particular moment in history. In this situation, the term "discourse" no longer refers to formal linguistic aspects, but to institutionalized patterns of knowledge that are present in disciplinary structures and function through relations of knowledge and power (Kurniawan & Zubaidah, 2023). He argued that by making individuals subjects and organizing those who have knowledge. Then this knowledge will produce power. This knowledge is formed by episteme (a person's perspective on something), which is shared by everyone in their time. In every research he conducted, Michel Foucault introduced the methods of genealogy of power and archeology of knowledge. The archaeological method of knowledge focuses more on the characteristics or distinctiveness contained in a particular discursive (discourse), while the genealogical method of power focuses more on the relationships that occur or arise during the process of the emergence of these characteristics or distinctiveness (Nafila, 2021).

Norman Fairclough's discourse analysis can be used to analyze speech or text on a small or large scale. This discourse analysis focuses on how texts are created, how texts are spread, and socio-economic aspects of culture. From micro to macro, discussions are discussed thoroughly. Fairclough argues that critical discourse analysis refers to the use of language that mobilizes social groups to fight for and promote their own ideologies. This concept argues that discussion can produce unequal power relations between social classes, men and women, and majority and minority groups, where these differences are demonstrated in social practice (Erawati et al., 2022). One form of discourse is

film. Film is a complete form of discourse because it contains elements of spoken and written language.

Another model of discourse analysis used by the researcher in this research is the Sara Mills model. Sara Mills's critical discourse analysis highlights how texts in news, books, images or photos depict women. With an emphasis on the discourse surrounding feminism, including how women are portrayed in literature, Sara Mills has written extensively on discourse theory about it (Indriani & Wenerda, 2024). Sara Mills created a model known as the feminist perspective. Sara Mills' critical discourse analysis model concentrates on how women are reported in the media and how they are portrayed there. The reader's position and the subject-object relationship are also taken into consideration by Sara Mills' model. The subject is the storyteller whose role is to tell the story and the object is the figure being told. The reader's position is related to the reader's reference to the text with pronouns, such as you and so on (Agung & Suroso, 2023). Objects that can be studied using this model are not only books or news but films can also be analyzed using this model.

Films record the reality that grows and develops in society and then projects it onto the screen (Kaukab & Hidayah, 2020). Films can be interpreted as fragmentary representations of social life. This form of depiction can be supportive, negative, critical, or neutral regarding problems occurring in society. Apart from that, films are a mirror of life that highlights reality from a biased point of view. Social reality in films is a textual sign that contains a series of actions in real life that are motivated by social constructs and are created by

individuals. Film is a very influential medium,more than any other media, because audio and visual work together well in making the audience not bored and more easy to remember, because the format is interesting. One issue that is often a theme in films and one of the most discussed topics in the discourse on women is gender inequality. According to Subhan Zaitunah, the word woman is terminologically a human being who is respected, glorified and appreciated (Ishaya, 2016). In films, women are often framed as weak, marginalized, second class (inferior), oppressed and many other bad depictions. The use of themes about women in a film is often referred to as feminism. Matters related to women are certainly very interesting to discuss. For this reason, many film makers use women's themes to attract public interest. With society's thinking that still adheres to the idea that men have advantages over women, of course there is still a lot of work being done on making films with patriarchal ideology.

In this research, the researcher choose a film with the title is ''Little Women''. This movie is a 2019 American Little Women is a romantic drama produced by Amy Pascal, Denise Di Novi, and Robin Swicord in 2019. It was directed by Greta Gerwig, and based on the novel Little Women by Louisa May Alcott. Little Women tells the story of four sisters who live in simple ways. Meg is played by Emma Watson, Jo March is played by Saoirse Ronan, Beth is played by Eliza Scanlen, and Amy is played by Florence Pugh. Despite growing up without a father who served as a volunteer during World War II, her mother was quite liberal in looking after her four young daughters. They each have

different talents and hobbies, but their final decisions about those talents are not the same.

There are several things that distinguish this study from previous research. Asfarina Nafila, R. (2021) in her journal "Analisis Wacana Kritis Film Little Women Karya Greta Gerwig Berdasarkan Perspektif Michel Foucault" talked about critical discourse analysis of Michel Foucault's central thoughts on the relations of power and knowledge in the film Little Women by Greta Gerwig. Thesis by Qotrunnada Trisna Sri Aqilla (2015) entitled "A Study of The Main Character's Conflict and its Educational Values in "Little Women" Movie". This thesis talked about the conflict of a main character and its resolution and the educational value that can be taken in the film Little Women. At journal "Feminism Portrayed In Greta Gerwig's Movie Little Women; Analysis In Modern Era" created by Dewi and Medina (2020). This journal discussed about five types feminism in the Little Women movie directed by Greta Gerwig. Cornelia Larasati Anggraeni, S. Rouli Manalu, Triyono Lukmantoro (2023) at their journal "Representasi Perempuan Dalam Film Little Women (Studi Analisis Semiotika)" focused about how the film Little Women using John Fiske's semiotic theory to analyze female symbolization and choices through the levels of reality, representation, and ideology. The similarity between this research and previous research is related to the object studied. Meanwhile, the clear difference between this research and the previous research that has been mentioned is the analytical model used.

"Critical Discourse Analysis Sara Mils in The Online News Text About The Sinking of Ships at Indonesian Waters" created by Syarifa Rafiqa (2019) discussed about how women (in this case Minister Susi) are portrayed in news articles concerning ship sinkings in Indonesian seas. Corri Prestita Ishaya (2016) with her thesis "Analisis Wacana Sara Mills dalam Film Dokumenter Battle for Sevastopol" focused about the way women are depicted from a subject-object perspective and the position of the reader or viewer in the film Battle of Sevastopol. At journal "Analisis Wacana Sara Mills dalam Film Serendipity" written by Yudhawirawan and Nurussa'adah (2023). They talked about the depiction of the position of bullying towards women and how the position of the reader or viewer depicts it in the film Serindipity. Erantika and Asnawi (2021) in their journal "Analisis Wacana Kritis Model Sara Mills dalam Novel Sunyi Di Dada Sumirah Karya Artie Ahmad" talked about types, meaning and role of "pantang larang" used by the Peranap Malay population in Peranap District, Indragiri Hulu Regency. The similarity between this research and previous research is the use of analytical methods with the same model and the difference between this research and previous research lies in the research object studied.

Based on these various phenomena, the researcher decided to conduct critical discourse analysis research using the Sara Mills model because this film depicts how women are faced with choices in their lives, are considered bad and do not receive justice. Milss looks at the position of the characters in terms of social factors. The researcher wants to know about the hidden meanings that are

conveyed in this film, for this reason the researcher chose this research. The researcher conducted research with the title "**Discourse Analysis Using The Sara Mills Model in Greta Gerwig's Film "Little Women"**".

## B. Statement of Research Problems

In this research, the researcher focus on the discussions related to critical discourse analysis using the Sara Mills model on the main character named Josephine March in the Little Women film by Greta Gerwig.

This discourse model looks at how this film depicts the problems faced by women which is the subject of Mills' discussion. In Mills' analytical discourse theory, there is a model; (1) Subject-object position and (2) Writer position in the film Little Women by Greta Gerwig.

Formulation of Research Problem Based on the background of the study, the researcher could identify the following research problems:

1. What is the subject-object position and the viewer's position in potraying the character Josephine March in the Little Women Film by Greta Gerwig about feminism?
2. What is patriarchal ideology in the film Little Women?

## C. The Purpose of the Study

Based on the problem formulation above, the objectives of this research is:

1. Describe, analyze, identify and conclude about the subject-object position and the viewer's position in potraying the character Josephine March in the Little Women Film by Greta Gerwig about feminism.

2. To know the patriarchal ideology in the film Little Women.

## D. Significance of the Study

1. This research is expected to contribute to improvement knowledge related to English education department students, especially in analyzing films. Through watching films, the audience easily understand the problems that also occur in their lives and what solutions should be taken so that people no longer live in a patriarchal culture.

2. It is hoped that this research be able to provide more in-depth knowledge to society regarding women's issues and gender injustice and the researcher hope that after understanding it, cases experienced by women and cases of gender injustice could be reduced and a harmonious society could be created that respects each other.

3. The researcher hopes that this research can enrich the collection of literary studies in UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung Library. She also hopes this research encourages English students UIN Sayyid Ali Rahmatullah Tulungagung major to study or analyze literary works in depth and realize that literature is also important in human life.

## E. Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is limited to the study or analysis of the film entitle "Little Women". While the limitation of the study is the Jo March' conflict about patriarchal culture in "Little Women" film.

## F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Discourse analysis

   Discourse analysis is a study that examines or analyzes language used naturally, both in written and spoken form. Discourse can be in oral and written form which is referred to as text in discourse. Oral discourse is in the form of utterances in the form of spoken spoken texts.

2. Patriarchy

   Patriarchy comes from a Greek word meaning "rule by fathers" and describes a system of social organisation in which the most influential societal roles are reserved for men, whilst women are excluded from achieving parity with men. This exclusion is achieved by restricting women's social, educational, medical or other rights and imposing restrictive social or moral norms.

3. Subject-Object Position

   How events can be seen, from whose eyes the events are seen. Who is positioned as the storyteller (subject) and who is the object of what is being told? Does each actor and social group have the opportunity to present themselves, their ideas or their presence and ideas displayed by other groups or people.

4. Reader or Viewer Position

How the reader or viewer's position emerges and plays a role in the discourse. How the reader or viewer places themselves in the discourse is displayed. To the group where the reader or viewer places themselves.