

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter contains five sub-chapters that explain the background of the study, research question, the objective of the study, scope, and limitation, and the last is the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of Study

In our life, freedom of life is ruled by society. It makes someone can not get their life as they want, especially in traditional institutions. Traditional institutions uphold their ancestor's rules. It might be hard for a modern human to live in that way. In literary works, many examples tell about how humans must live by traditional rules. For example, in literature, there are manuscripts from the old era that Nowadays, every human, every gender and sex, is interested in literary works, especially in reading a book, novel, poem, short story, and various equipment.

Literature is one of the tools for understanding the issues that happen in the social environment. Many problems arise because there are some different views in the social environment. Examples of problems that appear in society are gender and sex. These fields tell about how people give their critics and opinions about gender and sex that contain many understandings based on the experts. Gender and sex cover cultures, politics, education, and human rights.

Telling about gender and sex is not far from some problems. In society, women are still considered a human who must obey all the rules. The rules make women unable to find their freedom, identities, and rights. In the past, women could not be against these conditions because of traditions, social structures, and beliefs. It is why women are considered weak and should be in the house doing domestic work such as cooking, washing clothes, and taking care of children. These reasons can be the effect why women can't speak about their rights and their freedom

In this era, women realize that they are also humans who have a right to speak,

choose, and do anything that is not ruled by their ancestor's rules. When women started to understand the problems and issues that pressure their freedom, they began to ask for and struggle for it. This happens because of many reasons or factors. Such as education, economics, politics, and traditions, and also starting to understand the human rights of genders. In politics, literary works rise when the women have already given their voice to speak, but anyone with the power to control the rule never heard it. Because of that, literary works are one way to speak up the gender problems.

Literature is a word that will always pose some problems not posed by words. Literature is dealing with human experience but without mentioning it specifically (Meyer, 2019). Literature is one way to deliver critics, protest, and fury. Literature consists of novels, prose, poem, drama, etc. This kind of literature comprises works that describe what the content is about.

Inside the literary works or literature, some issues and problems aim to tell the readers what happens with the writers. Issues and problems are followed by the theory that can make readers easy to read it. The theory in literature is based on human experience in the era where the issues or problems first appeared. Examples of the theories are marxism, feminism, liberalism, post-modernism, etc. Studying is important because the issues or problems might be related nowadays.

The issues that appeared in this thesis are about women's empowerment, gender, identities, and also feminism. This issue arose in some books that can be analyzed with the theories above. One of the book titles is *The Women Warrior* by Maxine Hong Kingston, who brings the feminism theory, gender issues, and identities into her book. *The women warrior* is a memoir that retells the myth of Mulan, guided by a bird (Sanders, 2018). One of the backgrounds is about feminism, which appears in Mulan's character in one of the stories titled *White Tigers*. It is one of the stories in *The Women Warrior: A Memoir of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* book that contains women's issues in China, and it is related until now. Women's issues are universal problems that have never been solved until now and still appear. This issue makes the author, Maxine Hong Kingston, who has the same problem decide to write about the issues in her literary

works.

Maxine Hong Kingston wrote a memoir, *The Women Warrior: Memories of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*, which contains 5 stories. One of them is *white tigers*, which is told about the myth of a china woman who dreams of becoming a soldier with her swords. Kingston is a Chinese-American writer interested in feminism and women's issues. Kingston discusses feminism, gender, identities, women empowerment, and ethnicity in her memoir. She is also criticized for the racism that the Chinese usually encounter. Based on it, Maxine Hong Kingston received some awards for her contributions to literature, including her memoir, *The Women Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*. This memoir can inform readers about what happened in Asia culture that still makes women the second gender and can not give their opinions in daily life.

The book memoirs, became the source of this thesis to analyze based on the stereotype and feminism theory. Maxine Hong Kingston combines them into one book because the five stories is brings the problem that has been analyze in this thesis. Maxine Hong Kingston writes 5 stories and combines them into one book that discusses women's problems in Asia, especially in China. The title of the stories is *No Name Women, White Tigers, Shaman, At The Western Palace, and a Song For A Barbarian Ride Peep*, compiled based on Kingston's experiences in the West about stereotypes of china people. The stereotypes include women's oppression and forced labour in domestic areas.

One of the most problem that appear in this analysis is about discrimination. The discrimination is one of the problem that cause the effect the social situation and how the stereotype potrayed in Maxine's books. Kingston brings discrimination because of perceived incompetence based on gender stereotypes (what women presumably are) (Glick, 2001). In feminism, gender discrimination is one of the many problems in stereotypes and feminism because it happens continuously. It can not stop if women still become the second sex and stop trying to take place in any fields.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the explanations of the background of the study above, the focus of this thesis can be formulated into the following question:

1. What are women stereotypes portrayed in the Maxine Hong Kingston book *The Woman Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*?
2. What are the effects of women stereotypes in society situation in Maxine Hong Kingston's book?

1.3 The objective of the Study

As in the research questions, the objective of the study can be concluded:

1. To explain the women stereotypes portrayed in the Maxine Hong Kingston book *The Women Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*
2. To explain the women stereotypes affect the social situation in Maxime Hong Kingston's book *The Women Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts*

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The analysis of this study is focused on a book containing gender, women stereotypes, feminism, and liberal feminism. The title of this novel is *The Women Warrior: Memoirs of a Girlhood Among Ghosts* by Maxine Hong, which analyzes the feminism approach by Naomi Wolf. This analysis focuses on the portrayal of women stereotypes and the effect on the societies that appear in Kingston's book. Using feminism based on Naomi Wolf, this analysis explains the perspectives about women's stereotypes in the social environment in the novel. The limitation is that the book contains 5 stories; *No Name Women*, *White Tigers*, *Shaman*, *At The Western Palace*, and *A Song For A Barbarian Ride Peep*, which tells about women's stereotypes and social perspectives and analyzes them using feminism through Naomi Wolf.

1.5 Significances of the Study

The writer of this study hopes that this study has a good influence on the reader theoretically and practically.

Theoretically, The aim of analyzing this study is to understand how women stereotypes exist in the memoir book about Chinese culture and liberal feminism.

Practically, this study will lead us to understand how the character reveals stereotypes in the novel and how the impact of these stereotypes on the society in the book. Moreover, this analysis can become the reference for the next writer who takes the same concerns as this study that analyze women's stereotypes or issues through liberal feminism in literary work and help the colleges to find the other problems in the same cases. Hopefully, this research can help students or teachers to analyze the same issue.