

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Study

According to Rees in Zaria and Okunoye's book (2008: 2) literature is a permanent expression in words of some thoughts or feelings in ideas about life and world. It is means that literature is also related to the gender role. Because gender role is from society's perspective which is distinguish between men and women's role.

Gender role is social role which include attitude or behavior learned by a person as appropriate to their gender, determined by the prevailing cultural norms. Gender role is also one of caused that women get decimations and unfairness. For example, women should be at home to nurture and educate their children. Indirectly, women only do their job which is related to the house and domesticity. Rosemarie (2009: 273) stated that maintain relationships of domination and subordination in general and men's domination of women in particular. That statement can be the evidence that men have authority to control their family, it is because society's assume that men are dominant who have powerful to become a leader and women only be submissive who always follow men's direction. These are all evidences that women and men have different roles which are still exist until now.

Gender roles are also related to the gender stereotypes. Based on Florence and Michele (2008: 207) gender stereotypes have a familiar quality, and most people would readily recognize the list of traits commonly identified as

descriptive of women and men. For example, men show themselves as aggressive and competitive, meanwhile women show themselves as passive and cooperative. Simply, men have been seen as financial providers and women have been seen as caretaker. Another example, people have more respect for men and this factor plays an important role in women's workplace talks. Sometimes, there are women who have work achievements who do not get a position that matches their achievements because they are women. Gender stereotypes emphasize that women are emotional, submissive, illogical, passive, otherwise male emotional, dominant, logical and aggressive.

Some people still believe in women stereotypes, up until to this point. Although they think stereotypes are negative thing. The fact that some people who show the characteristic of woman stereotypes makes society even convinced about the stereotypes itself. However, it does not mean all the stereotypes about women in society are true. Welter (1966: 319) states that the attributes of True Womanhood, by which woman judged herself and was judged by her husband, her neighbors, and society could be divided into four cardinal virtues----piety, purity, submissiveness and domesticity. Cause of society still believing gender stereotypes because stereotypes become society's assumption since a long time ago which is still exist until now, as if it would be a habit and become a culture which goes on over time. Nowadays, women act against that stereotype itself. For example, women can be a financial provider, not only stay at home but also have job outside the house. It can be evidence that women's stereotypes are not true at all.

Those situations are also shown by Kevin Kwan's novel entitled *Crazy Rich Asians*. The main character and the subordinate character in this novel show that they have women stereotypes features. This novel makes the author was named as the one of Five Writers Watch on the Hollywood's Most Powerful Authors published by Hollywood Reporters in 2014. In 2018, this novel was adapted into a film with same title. This film wins a lot of awards, makes a big profit and become one of the best-selling films of the decade.

This novel tells about Rachel Chu, an economics lecturer from Chinese descent. One day her two-years-in-relationship boyfriend Nick asks her to go to Singapore to attend his best friend wedding. In Rachel imagination, they will spend their life staying in a simple house, walking around the island, and spending time with a man who might marry him. She did not know that the Nick's family is unbelievably rich. Their house was like a palace, that she would ride a private plane more often than a car. Being the girlfriend of the most desirable man in Asia his arms, Rachel seemed to be hostile to all women.

When you were invited by a girlfriend to come with him to a distant hometown in another part of the world, there must be feeling not only happy but also excited, especially with the possibility of being introduced to a big family. There is anxiety but also impatience. That is what Rachel Chu (Rachel) feels. During a relationship with Nick, Rachel did not know much about the real background of Nick's family. Only Astrid was Nick's cousin that Rachel had known. Astrid had suggested to Nick to really prepare Rachel before coming to Singapore, but Nick did not take that seriously.

The news about Nick who will come with his girlfriend even in a short time spread widely. Nick's mother Eleanor Young hired a special detective to find out Rachel's true background. Is it true that Rachel from the Chu family owns Taipei Plastics who was the strongest family in Taiwan? Or even Rachel comes from a family that is not "equal" to him, given the news Rachel was born in Mainland China.

Upon arrival Rachel in Singapore, she got a surprise after surprise. She just realized that Nick came from a family that was respected family. He is wealthy. Indeed, during this time Nick did not hide his family background, but he preferred not to discuss it with Rachel. What Rachel be well received by Nick's family? Did Nick successfully introduce Rachel to his big family?

Besides discussing about Nick and Rachel relationships, this novel also discusses Astrid's relationship with her husband who cheated and made their relationship destroyed. Most of these novels discuss the life stories of modern women (Rachel and Astrid) because the novel's author Kevin Kwan originally wanted to discuss the stereotypes of Asian characters. He wrote the story of super-rich people in Asia. Starting from the most exclusive luxury places that become their homes, such as luxury penthouses in Shanghai to various private islands owned. The life story of the jet set is told to flow just like a variety of polemics, factions, and friction in it. Besides *Crazy Rich Asians* (2013), he also made other novel works such as *China Rich Girlfriend* (2015) and *Rich People Problems* (2017), *Luck: The Essential Guide* (2008), *China Girl* (2016), *Fat Loss: a Step-By-Step Guide to Lose Fat and Stop Your Health from Yo-Yoing: Reclaim Your Health, Rebuild Your Metabolism, Burn Fat and Lose Weight* (2017), *Bearing*

with Me (2017), Namorada Podre De Rica (Vol. 2 Podres De Ricos) (2019) and many more. Other writers who make women the main character, sometimes show the characteristics of women stereotypes. Do female characters (Rachel and Astrid) in Crazy Rich Asians novels show the characteristics of women stereotypes? Researcher will prove the female characters in this novel supports or opposes women stereotypes based on the cult of womanhood theory.

The reason why the writer chooses this novel to become source of data, because this novel tells a lot about modern women which is portrayed by Rachel and Astrid. The theory is since nineteen ninetys and the writer wants to analyze through this novel, what women today still act as women stereotypes which is from society's perspective.

1.2 Research Question

This focus will be translated into one research question as follow:

1. Do Rachel and Astrid as Women act against or support the stereotypes of The Cult of True Womanhood?

1.3 Research Objective

According to the research problems, this study explores:

1. To prove whether Rachel and Astrid as Women act against or support the stereotypes of The Cult of True Womanhood.

1.4 Significance

This study is study expected to be able to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the result of the study is expected to enrich reader's knowledge about stereotypes especially about gender stereotypes. Practically, it is expected to become one of the examples of the way to analyze novel using feminism approach. To the society, it is expected that after read this study, it hopes that society will be sure that stereotypes not only about the negative thing.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study will discuss women's stereotypes which is portrayed by the main character and subordinate character in Crazy Rich Asians by Kevin Kwan. The limitations of the study are the author's narration the character utterances in this novel which are related to the statement of research problems.