CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Feminism is a socio-political movement whose objective is equality of rights, status, and power of men and women (The Cambridge Encyclopedia). This movement appears because there are so many contradictions about equality between women and men in the society, which women are considering as a weak human and treating as the second class with almost have no rights while comparing to men, they have a huge opportunity to show their superiority in society. Then, in the nineteenth century the first wave of feminism showed the struggle which principally concerned with equalities. However, women wanted their existence to be accepted like men.

The first wave had given women a chance to criticize and fight for their rights. Nowadays, literary work is one of the media that can be used to share their thought and criticism. As Likumahuwa states that literary works convey of facts and ideas, hence, people can use it to criticize and share their ideas (2001:1). Novel, poetry, song, short story, and film could be the media to share the idea and criticism. The fact is literary works give a big influence on human being life. It does not only entertain people but also educate and inspire because it gives some values of life that can be learned, such as morality, social, culture.

Recently, there are many of films discussing about feminism issue. One of those is Mulan, an animation film produced by Walt Disney picture. The film conveys about feminism issue dealing with Chinese women’s conflict to get equality to men. The script of this film would be used as an object of this research which written by Ach Ketchem and Mulan as the main character would be analysed by look at her external conflicts. Mulan lived in the ancient China tradition which in such of a society that the institution of marriage was
of major importance (Latourette 1962:568). A woman only could bring honor for her family was getting married and birth a son. Traditionally, the manner of chinese women was important to please their husband and family which they must act calmly, politely, poise, obedient and kind. Women were regarded as much less important and valuable than men so the place of women were at home which prepared themselves to be a good wife for her husband and work as a housekeeper. While comparing to men, they had such a huge opportunity to do so many things like go to war, get high education, and can making his own decision. Generally, women were subordinate to men which they must obeyed men in their whole life. From the traditions, women must fulfilled their duties to bring their family honor by getting married but in this story Mulan did not follow the traditions and broke it. She failed to fulfill her duties to be a bride, she was also did not act calmly, obedient, kind as the women chinese should be, evenmore, she changed herself became a man and join the army which strictly prohibited by the law. Then the conflict happened. Yet, Mulan proved her capability outside of her traditions and laws that women also can bring her family honor in other way not only by getting married and she showed that women was not weak as people think.

It is interesting to analyse how Mulan fights for her rights in order to get equality that portrayed in this script. This research focus on the struggle of Mulan to get equality. Thus, there are two problems that will be discuss. First, what the external conflict faced by Mulan are and second, how does Mulan’s struggle to get the equality through her external conflicts. Those problems will be discussed using liberal feminism criticism because this criticism argues about men and women rights and the social structures which maintain their differences. Hopefully, this study will be useful to give lessons to all women, so they can understand, share, and support each other in order to get the equality.