

CHAPTER III

DISSCUSION AND INTERPRETATION

In this chapter, the writer will discuss about the external conflicts faced by “Mulan” to see her struggle to get the equality. In this analysis, the writer will divide it into two parts. The first part is describing Mulan’s external conflicts, the second part is analysing Mulan’s struggle to get the equality.

1. Mulan’s external conflict

Mulan lived in the ancient China that traditionally marriage was the major important for a woman because by getting married they could bring family honor. The woman who wanted to getting married must meet the matchmaker as their marriage arranger. To meet the matchmaker they must show their attitude to prove that they were ready to be marry and be a good wife such calm, polite, kind, and obidient. But Mulan did not follow the rules as the woman that would be married, she dishonored her tradition by broke the tradition rules. After that, the biggest mistake that Mulan did was replacing her father in the army. She knew that the tradition rules banned it then she changed herself become a man. Therefore, the conflict happened which Mulan had conflict with the other person and society because they had different thought or belief that arguing something based on their own perspective as based on the theory, the external conflict happened because of disagreement between one another caused by different point, goal, idea, thought, point of view, or belief.

a. Mulan had different thought with the society about women's attitude or behavior to be a bride

According to the society thought and the rules, to be a good wife a woman should act politely, calmly, obedient because for them the manner of women was really important to please their future in laws by serving them with good attitude, but in this case Mulan did not do it, she act as herself. She did not act calm or poised as the rules. Then, the conflict happened when Mulan went to the matchmaker and act as herself, she broke the rules. Then the matchmaker disgraced her.

Matchmaker : Recite the Final Admonition

Mulan : Mmm-hmm-hmm... *(pulls out a paper fan and spits Crickee our)*

Matchmaker : Well?

Mulan : Fulfill your duties, calmly and... *(glances down at the crib notes written on her arm, which are smeared slightly)* Respectively. Um, reflect before you... snack. Act!

This shall bring you honor and glory.

Matchmaker : This way. Now pour the tea. To please your future in-laws, you must demonstrate a sense of dignity *(she rubs her hand over her mouth, and the ink rubs off with a squeak)* and refinement.

You must also be poised. *[Mulan, staring at the Matchmaker, pours the tea but misses the cup, then regains her composure and quickly fills the teacup.]*

The quotation above shows that the society thought that a woman should act calmly and obediently. To fulfill their duties as a good wife they must demonstrate the sense of dignity like serve the husband and future in-law such; prepare the food on the table as the quote above pour the tea is one of the duties that women should do, also refinement like speak calmly to respect their future husband and future in-laws but the fact Mulan did not follow those rules and she broke it. It can be seen from the following quotation:

Mulan : Um, pardon me...

Matchmaker : and silent!

Mulan : could I just take that back? One moment ... (she grabs for the cup)

The Matchmaker fights for the teacup, and they both fall back, the tea spilling all over the Matchmaker.

Crickee hops down her dress.

Matchmaker : Why, you clumsy! ... Oh! Ah! Woo! (she trips over the fire-pot, spilling the coals and then sitting on them, the bottom of her dress smoking. Mulan desperately fans the burned spot, and it burts into flames.

The matchmaker runs around screaming.)

Matchmaker : Put it out! Put it out! PUT IT OUT! (*Mulan throws tea over her, putting out*

the fire. Embarrassed, she hands the teapot to the Matchmaker and quickly walks toward

Fa Li and Granny Fa.)

Matchmaker : (*furious*) You are a DISGRACE! You may look like a bride, but you will NEVER bring your family honor!

From the quotation above, we can see that when Mulan tried to speak but the matchmaker got angry with her because according to the tradition women did not allow to speak without permission. The matchmaker more angry to her because of her attitude that did not obey the rules, she was not act poise or kind even she spilled the tea over the matchmaker and made the matchmaker burned. Then the matchmaker disgraced her because she failed to fullfil her duties as a bride. It proved by serving the matchmaker she failed so how she could serve her future husband and future in laws. Therefore the matchmaker disgraced her that she failed at all that she may look like a bride but she would never bring honor for her family because of her actions that disobidient to her tradition rules.

b. Mulan had different opinion with her Father about men's duty to join the war

Mulan's society believe that women was a darkness or evil (*Yin*) so women were regarded to stay at home. Besides, men must join the army to go to war to serve the country because men's duty was to protect the country and family. At that time, Mulan's country got attacked by the Huns so the imperial came to every village to announced that the men in a family must join the army to fight for their country, China. In Mulan's family, her father was

the only men in their family then her father was chosen to be joined. In this part, Mulan had conflict with her father because they had different opinion about the duty of men to join the war. It occurred when the council of imperial came and announced that her father must join the army. Then, the conflict happened because her father wanted to join the army but Mulan did not agree. It can be seen below:

At Dinner...

Mulan pours the tea, then sets her cup down with a bang.

Mulan : You shouldn't have to go!

Fa Li : Mulan!

Mulan : There are plenty of young men to fight for China!

Fa Zhou : It is an honor to protect my country and my family.

Mulan : so you'll die for honor.

Fa Zhou : I will die for doing what's right.

Mulan : But if you ...

Fa Zhou : I know my place. It is time you learned yours.

From the quotation above shows that there were a disagreement between Mulan and her father. Mulan did not want to let her father joined the army because her father was old enough. According to Mulan there were lots of young men that could fight for China because at that time her father was old enough so it was impossible to let her father join the army but her father insisted to join the army. According to their traditions, the place of men were in the war then her father keep holding the tradition rules that the duty of a man was to protecting his family and country and by joined the army the man had fulfilled his duty. As her father said that the place of men were in the war even he would die in the end but for him its an honor to die for his country and family.

Then, in that night Mulan thought that she would never let her father go and join the army, she suddenly decided to replace her father. Mulan walked into the family temple and

lighted a stick, placing it in a hanging statue of a small dragon. She ran into her parents room, took the scroll and left her hair comb. She took her father sword, cut her hair short and put on her father's armor. She went out to the stable, she amounted Khan (her horse) and set off for the army. She changed herself became a man because only men can join the army.

c. Mulan had different belief with the society about traditional law that women can not join the war

Based on Mulan's traditional law, a woman could not join the war because it was not their job. Staying at home and being a housekeeper was the job for women while men must join the army to serve their country but for Mulan everyone can join the army. In this case Mulan got a conflict. It occurred when Mulan wounded because she was hitted by the Hun. The armies brought her to the tent and gave to the doctor, they were waiting outside then the doctor emerged from their tent and said something to captain Shang. Shang came inside the tent and stared at Mulan and recognizing her as a woman.

Mulan : I can explain!

Chi Fu : So it's true!

Mulan : Shang!

Chi Fu : *(yankin Mulan out of the tent and pulling her hair out of a bun)* I knew there was something wrong with you! A woman! Treacherous snake!

Mulan : My name is Mulan. I did it to save my father!

Chi Fu : High reason!

Mulan : I didn't mean for it to go this far!

Chi Fu : Ultimate dishonor!

Mulan : it was the only way! Please, believe me!

Chi Fu : Captain?

Shang walks over to Khan and takes out Mulan's sword.

The gang of three start to rush over to her, but Chi Fu stops them.

Chi Fu: *(to the soldiers holding Khan)* Restrain him. *(to the gang of three)* You know the law.

From the quotation above shows that they knew Mulan was a woman. Then, they got angry with her because she broke the law. As their traditions law women could not join the war because traditionally, the belief of China society at that time women was a *Yin* which mean an evil and darkness that they would bring something bad to the people around them which considered a failure and sorrow, besides, they also not as strong as men. That was why people insisted to not let the women join the war. Yet, Mulan tried to make a self difense to got a chance that the only one reason she did this was to safe her father but no one want to believe her. They only knew that Mulan destroyed the rules so it was ultimate dishonored the traditions then she must got the consiquenced that she must be killed.

d. Mulan had different thought with the society about the existence of women

The existance of women was not as important as men. As their tradition rule, women almost had no chance to speak in a public which to express their opinion, feeling, or belief. Women only could speak if they got the permission from men. In this situation, the conflict between Mulan and Lee Shang was about different thought of the Huns. Shang knew that the Huns were die but Mulan saw the Huns were still alive and she came to Shang to inform him but he did not believe her. It happened when the soldiers back to the imperial city and announced that the Huns were die. It can be seen through the quotation below:

Mulan comes riding up beside Shang

Mulan : Shang!

Shang : Mulan!

Mulan : The Huns are alive! They're in the city!

Shang : You don't belong here, Mulan. Go home.

Mulan : Shang, I saw them in the mountains! You have to believe me!

Shang : why should I?

Mulan : why else would I come back? You said you'd trust Ping. Why is Mulan any different?

(Shang rides around her.) (to the Gang of three) Keep your eyes open. I know they're here.

From the quotation above we can see that Lee Shang did not listen and believe to Mulan because she was a woman. Remark on Mulan's statement "why else would I come back? You said you'd trust Ping. Why is Mulan any different?". Here, Mulan tried to make an equality between Ping and Mulan, if Shang ever trust Ping why he should not believe in Mulan too whereas Ping and Mulan was the same person. Shang was trust Ping because Ping was a men but when Ping became Mulan the trust of Shang has lost because Mulan was a woman. In this case, Mulan tried to show that people must respect the existance of women in society because they were a human not because their gender were different so they were not got a chance to be respected and did not get a chance to speak but Shang did not want to listen to her because she was a woman moreover she was known as a liar that dishonor their traditions.

e. Mulan had different thought with the society about woman was a worthless creature

According to the old doctriined about women and men, men were made for the higher fortune while women were made with a bad element that considered as an evil and darkness. Therefore, a man was considered as a highest virtue and greatest gift because a men could carry the family line, while women, they were much less valuable. This doctriined that marked women as a wortless creature. Thus, Mulan and society had conflict was about a different thought of women were a worthless creature in a society. This conflict occured

when the Emperor announced that the Huns were die but actually they did not. At that time, Mulan looked around for a person who believe her but nobody wanted to listen and believe her because she was a woman. It can be seen below:

Emperor : My children! Heaven smiles down upon the Middle Kingdom! While
China will sleep safely tonight, thanks to our brave warriors!

Mulan : *(to citizen)* Sir, the emperor's in danger!

Man : Huh!

Mulan : But the Huns are HERE! *(to another man)* Please, you have to help!

Man : Eh!

Mulan : *(to Mushu)* No one will listen!

Mushu : Huh? Oh, I'm sorry, did you say something?

Mulan : Mushu...

Mushu : Hey, you're a girl again, remember?

From the quotation above shows that the people did not wanted to listen to her because Mulan was a woman and most of all Mulan had known as liar because she did the biggest mistake that was disobidient the traditions, then people noticed it so they did not wanted to listen to such a liar person.

When Mulan looking for a person to believe her, then suddenly the Huns; Shan Yu and some of his armies leap from the dragon parade and seize the Emperor dragged him into the palace. Shan Yu asked the Emperor to bow to him, if he did not, he would kill him. At the outside of the palace Shang and some of the armies banged in the massive doors to the palace with a large statue, they tried to came inside into the palace but they did not succeed. Mulan knew that Shang's planned would took too long because the Emperor's life was at risk. Then, she told to the soldiers that she had a plan. Mulan asked them to dressed up as concubines. Finally, they succeed came inside into the palace, and Shang tried to defeated Shan Yu but he was failed. So, Mulan helped him and fought with Shan Yu. She ended up on the roof of the

palace cornered by the archenemy. Mulan got attacked from Shan Yu but she did not lost a trick because she used her hand-held fan to trapped Shan Yu sword. She used the sword to nail his cape to the roof and asked Mushu to delivered the large firework to hit Shan Yu. The plan was succeed. Shan Yu was flew off with the fireworks. He die.

Conflict happened when Shan Yu defeated by Mulan, she went outside the palace. Chi Fu came and wanted to kill her but all the men who were standing around Mulan protecting her but Chi Fu insisted that she was not worth to be protected.

Chi Fu : That was a deliberate attempt on my life! Where is she? Now she's done it! What a mess!

Stand aside, that creature's not worth protecting.

Shang : She's a hero!

Chi Fu : She's a woman. She'll never be worth anything!

Shang : Listen, you pompous...

From the quotation above reveals that, the thought of society was being a woman constitutes being useless and unimportant. Even women did something worth, it would be countless because they were women that should not be worth anything. They just a treacherous snake that bring any miserable in life.

Then, Shang tried to defend Mulan. Meanwhile, the emperor came outside and wanted to talked to Mulan. The emperor told Mulan's mistakes that she had done this far but then the Emperor praise her and gave a big thank because she had saved China.

Emperor : That is enough!

Shang : Your Majesty, I can explain! (*The emperor raises a hand and the gang of three move to the side, revealing Mulan.*)

Emperor : I've heard a great deal about you, Fa Mulan. You stole your father's armor, ran away from home, impersonated a soldier, deceived your commanding officer, dishonored the Chinese Army, destroyed my palace! And yo have saved us all. (*He bows to her, and row by row, every*

person in the imperial City bows to her.)

Mushu : our little baby is all grown up and saving China! ...

In this quotation shows that Mulan proves to the all China that women were also worth creature that can do anything. They also could bring honor for their family in their own way not depended on just being marriage. She proved that women were worth to be worthy and most of all Mulan brought up the new value of her tradition the possibility for a woman to became a warrior and bring honor for her family in the different way that was be a hero for herself, her family and her country.

2. Mulan's struggle to get the equality

From the analysis of external conflicts above it shows how Mulan struggle to get the equality and below are the analysis :

- a. Mulan's struggle to get equality seen from her conflict with society. They had different thought about women's attitude or behavior to be a good bride. Society thought that Chinese women must act calmly, obedient, loyal, poise but Mulan did not act like all the rules, she was act for being herself. Then, she disgraced from the matchmaker that she would never bring honor for her family. In this conflict, Mulan wanted for being herself but the society wanted her to behave as the rules. It showed that woman were oppresed by society which society did not gave a chance to a woman to be herself. Then, Mulan's struggle appeared caused by this oppression which she's struggle to get a liberation. Liberate to do anything.

Women must have the same rights as men such as rights to be free; free to talk, free to choose for themselves, free to be independent.

- b. Mulan's struggle to get equality seen from her conflict with her father. They had different opinions about men's duty to join the war. In this case, Mulan did not agree with her father's opinion that her father would join the army and go to war. According to Mulan, her father was old enough to join the war. Then, she decided to replace her father in the army. Through this conflict, Mulan wanted to get a chance to prove that women also have the capability to join the war not only men because they are human beings that can do anything.
- c. The struggle of Mulan was also seen through her conflict with the society about traditional law that women cannot join the war. The belief of society about the place a woman was in the house not in the war. It showed by the society's belief that women were weak and useless which if a woman joined the war she was not capable of doing the training and all the war stuffs well. Then a woman was not allowed to join the war but Mulan was joining the war and did the training well. In this conflict, Mulan showed her struggle to get the trust from the society that she can do anything. She proved that a woman was not weak as people think which women could be a tough and strong soldier not only for being a soldier but in every subject in the society.
- d. Conflict that Mulan has with Lee Shang was because of different thoughts about the Huns. It showed that Mulan's struggle to get a chance to speak in public. In this situation, Shang thought that the Huns were dead but Mulan thought that the Huns were still alive because she saw them in the mountain. Mulan came to Shang to inform that the Huns were alive but Shang did not believe her because she was a woman. According to their tradition a woman was not allowed to speak in a

public, then Mulan struggle to get the rights to speak, to express her opinion, idea, or thought. In this problem, it showed that Mulan struggle to get a chance to speak in a public. Women must have rights to speak. They should have a chance to speak in expressing their thought or feeling not as women but as human being and also to make people respect their existence.

- e. Conflict between Mulan and the society because of different thought about woman was a worthless creature. The society thought that women position were in the second place because they were worthless and useless. Therefore, in this conflict Mulan struggle to showed to the society that women's position was not in the second place. They must in the same position with men, it proved with she was brave to fight with Shan Yu. With her bravery and intelligence she won the battle and killed Shan Yu. It proved that women were also strong and smart as men. They were worth creatures. Then, women were also worth to be worthy.

From the analysis above, it proves that Mulan is a liberation women. She successes to show that the liberal feminims goal is achieved which she proved that women also has the capability to do things that men do then it is true said that women and men are equal as the liberal feminism argues that women and men are equal so they must have the same rights; rights to speak, rights to choose, rights to be free, and rights to be liberty to live their life. Mulan proved that the goal of liberal feminism achieved which their goal is to get equal legal, political, and social rights for all women in the universe.