

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

In this chapter, the writer discusses two important points that help her to understand the series and answer the study problems. Those two important points are film analysis elements and feminist criticism theories. The film analysis elements theories consist of the theory of film, character, and characterization. Then, the feminist criticism theories consist of the theory of sex, gender, traditional gender roles, and patriarchy. Furthermore, the writer provides two earlier studies related to this study to assist her in elaborating her analysis and making it more effective.

#### **2.1 Film Analysis Elements**

In this section, a further explanation of film, character, and characterization is provided below.

##### **2.1.1. Film**

As previously mentioned, aside from being a medium for entertainment, a film is also often used to present societal issues to the audience. Based on Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.), “Film refers to a collection of moving images that are typically broadcast on television or in a theater and tell a story”. According to Arnheim (2003, p. 8), “Film is similar to literature, painting, and music in that it is used to produce an artistic result”. According to Kolker (2000, from Passage, 2019), “It is difficult to define what film is because it has become a part of most people's lives”. He considers that film is produced to be enjoyed by the audiences. Even

though he believes that film could be considered an art form because it is text similar to other forms of art, the film is also distinct in some ways. Kolker (2002, from Passage, 2019), also adds that “A text is an understandable structure of meanings made up of complex related events in a context”. Furthermore, he states that the distinctions between text in a film and text in other art are based on their physical (photographic images), narrative (audiences’ experiences that are gained by watching a film), economic, and cultural characteristics (production, distribution, and consumption).

### **2.1.2. Character**

According to Bennet and Royle (2010, p. 60), “Characters are the life of literature that arouse our curiosity, fascination, affection, dislike, admiration, and condemnation”. Abrams and Harpham (2011, p. 46) states “Characters are people who appear in a narrative prose, novel, or fil, and are interpreted by the readers or audience as having moral qualities and certain tendencies, which are expressed in what they say and do”. To interact with other characters, a character always employs communication tools. The dialogue between the characters could serve as a conduit for their actions and thoughts. How they communicate with other characters could shape how they feel and be described as where they come from and their relationship with the characters with whom they converse.

Moreover, Pope (2005, p. 133) suggests that “Major character and minor character are the types of character in literary works”. A major character is an important figure at the center of the story’s action or theme. It is the one who is highlighted to tell the story and appears in almost every scene, either as a subject

or an object. It refers to a protagonist who conflicts with the antagonist. The protagonist is the character with whom the audience generally sympathize. In contrast, the antagonist is the character or force that the protagonist is up against and might be the source of the story's conflict. On the other hand, a minor character is a figure who serves as a foil to the major character and is unlikely to be employed as a perspective character. It also refers to a two-dimensional stereotype or a flat character. The minor character is all the other characters in the story who are less important. Pope (2005, p. 135) continues, "The appearances of a minor character in literary works would be brief and infrequent, but that does not mean they could not shine whenever they are in the spotlight".

### **2.1.3. Characterization**

According to Baldick (2004, p. 37), "Characterization is the depiction of people or other living things in literary works". It shapes the characters and creates a distinct image from the audience's point of view. The character's characterization in a story could be revealed directly or indirectly. The author demonstrates characterization through the narrator, another character, or the character himself or herself. Charters (2011, p. 58) suggests that "Direct characterization could also be revealed by providing other external details in the story, such as names or other commentaries". On the other hand, Burroway (2000, p. 54) adds that "Indirect characterization is demonstrated by speech, thoughts, action, and appearance".

## **2.2 Feminist Criticism Theories**

In this section, a further explanation of sex, gender, traditional gender roles, and patriarchy is provided below.

### **2.2.1. Sex and Gender**

Sex and gender are two different things. According to Newman (2018), “Sex and gender terms have used synonymously, but their meanings are completely different”. Based on the European Institute of Gender Equality (n.d.), “Sex refers to the biological and physiological characteristics that distinguish humans as female or male”. At birth, a human’s sex is typically assigned based the psychological characteristics such as genitalia and chromosome composition. Salem (2014, p. 33-34) suggests, “Female is distinguished genetically by having two X chromosomes, whereas the male has an X and a Y chromosome. Sex also could be deduced from either primary or secondary sexual characteristics”. The primary sexual characteristics distinguishing one human being from another are their reproductive organs. The female is the one who has a vagina, ovaries, and uterus, whereas the male is the one who has a penis, testes, and scrotum. Secondary sexual characteristics, on the other hand, are the superficial sex differences that occur during puberty, such as breast development and hip broadening for females, as well as facial hair and voice deepening for males.

On the other hand, the European Institute of Gender Equality (n.d.) presents that “Gender is the social characteristics and opportunities associated with being female and male, as well as the relationships between men and women”. Salem (2014, p. 16) states “Gender is the society’s interpretation of one’s sex’s cultural

meaning”. These socially constructed characteristics, opportunities, and relationships are learned through socialization processes. They are context and time-sensitive, as well as changeable. In each context, gender determines what is expected, allowed, and valued in a man or woman. Salem (2014, p. 78) continues, “In fact, some theories contend that we do gender”. This means that gender is a social construct that members of society interpret through the ongoing social interactions that individuals have with one another. In gender, men and women are depicted differently. Men are depicted as the ones who are strong, rational, and manly. In contrast, women are depicted as being weak, fragile, beautiful, emotional, and capable of bearing children.

### **2.2.2. Traditional Gender Roles**

Duvaux (2022) states that “Gender roles are social expectations about how men and women should act”. Based on Parenthood (n.d.), “In general, women are expected to dress feminine, be polite, accommodating, and nurturing. In contrast, men are expected to dress masculine, be strong, aggressive, and daring”. Traditional gender roles in relationships exist to divide the work required to support families and society. The idea is to make use of our natural abilities. Women, for example, are perceived as the ones who are gentler and more caring. As a result, they become the obvious choice for the role of caregiver at home. On the other hand, men are considered the ones who are stronger and more daring. This demonstrates the idea that men should take the protective role of the women around them. However, gender roles could have disastrous consequences because it does not consider individual preferences. It leads to judgment when people try to deviate from the list

of female or male gender roles to establish their way of doing things. Gender roles range from behavioral to occupational and personality differences.

In traditional gender roles, traditional husband and wife roles are typically divided between the male breadwinner and the female housewife. It believes that men should be the ones who earn money and women should be the ones who stay at home. In most marriages, women are expected to do the cooking, cleaning, and grocery shopping. It is assumed that they are naturally drawn to cooking and are therefore better suited for this role. It is based on the traditional belief that women are more skilled at most aspects of household management.

Traditional gender roles see men as the chivalrous ones. The statement “boys do not cry” is based on the idea that men are chivalrous and physically also mentally stronger than women. As a result, men are regarded as women’s protectors and caregivers. Traditional gender roles also argue about women are better suited to domestic works and men to public works. Even though many women become engineers and men become teachers nowadays, women are still paid less than men for the same jobs in many parts of the world, despite having the equal ability of knowledge.

Traditional relationship roles include behaviors as well. As a result, many families believe that men are more intelligent than women and encourage their sons to pursue higher education. Women, on the other hand, are forced to learn that they should prioritize finding a husband. Many societies believe that women should be the nurtured ones, whereas men should be the disciplined ones. Women are usually the ones who show emotion and care. Men, on the other hand, are usually the tough

ones who do the disciplined. As a result, women become the primary nurturers at home.

Traditional gender roles include the differences between men's and women's fashion as well. It is very common to see men wearing darker-colored clothing, whereas women wear bright-colored clothing. Even at work, people associate women as the ones who wear skirts and men as the ones who wearing trousers. Toys for children and how we play as children are included also in the list of traditional gender roles. Boys are expected to play with cars and build Meccano train sets, whereas girls are expected to play with dolls. It adds to the pressure that boys are tough and do not cry, whereas girls can express their emotions freely.

In traditional gender roles, women traditionally stay at home and care for the house. The term "househusband" is not commonly used, even though the proportion of men who take on this role might be increasing. Then, traditional men's roles in society include the types of hobbies that people pursue. Men, for example, go golfing or footballing, whereas women might join knitting groups or cooking classes. Last, traditional gender roles encompass personality as well. The same characteristics in men and women are described differently. Men are perceived as confident and persuasive, whereas women are perceived as bossy and pushy.

### **2.2.3. Patriarchy**

According to Walby (1990, p. 20), "Patriarchy refers to a social structure and practice in which men dominate, oppress, and exploit women". The term "social structure" is significant because it implies rejecting both biological determinism and the idea that every man is in the dominant position and every

woman is in the subordinate one. Every woman has the same rights as every man to have equal treatment and opportunity. As a result, no gender should be discriminated against and marginalized. All genders, whether male or female, deserve equal rights and positions. In a patriarchal society, men take women's rights and influence the ideas of many people who grow up in a patriarchal culture. It could be impacted further by difficult-to-change mindsets and stereotypes.

Patriarchal culture fosters the belief that women exist solely to serve as secondary figures to men. The emergence of this patriarchal culture impacts women's limited work in the domestic sphere and work following men's wishes. Furthermore, patriarchal culture leads to the assumption that women's domestic roles do not need to be valued and considered. The male stereotype forced to work in the public sphere to earn money gives rise to this idea in a patriarchal society. Even though women work in the house all day, they are not considered to be working with men because the definition of work is when someone does something to earn money. This insight leads to the idea that men are the holders of family control and even society because a family cannot prosper without them. Based on the fundamental concept of patriarchal society, Walby (1990, p. 178) states "There are two distinctive forms of patriarchy that exist in the social world, which are private form patriarchy and public form patriarchy".

The private form of patriarchy discusses women's oppression, which is concentrated in the domestic sphere. Walby (1990, p. 178) argues that "In the private form of patriarchy, men are the ones who hold a disproportionate amount of power and authority". She also claims that domestic production is the primary

source of women's subordination under the private form of patriarchy. Women are frequently perceived as the subordinate ones in the private of patriarchy, which is characterized by men's decisions to limit women's participation in the public sphere and control them only at home. According to this, it could be concluded that a patriarchal society begins with a family. The early socialization of these patriarchal principles could happen between husbands and wives as well as between parents and their children.

On the other hand, the public form of patriarchy places more emphasis on the dominance of men in the public sphere. A patriarchal culture that shapes societal perceptions starts to permeate the public sphere, where male dominance extends beyond the confines of the household. Walby (1990, p. 178) states, "Patriarchy is primarily based in the public sphere like the workplace and state". The patriarchal culture develops first within the house and then spreads into society. When talking about the public sphere, it goes without saying that each worker, the state, and even the employment itself are all closely related. Women occupy a position below men in a patriarchal society. In patriarchal culture, women are greatly influenced by the belief that men predominately rule and have the greatest authority. Women's subordination occurs frequently under the private form of patriarchy, which is characterized by men's decisions to limit women's participation in the public sphere and to control them to only stay at home. However, in the case of the public form of patriarchy, the patriarchal system contributes more to women's subjugation in the public sphere and harms several acts of discrimination against women. In other

words, they provide women a platform to realize their potential, but men still be the ones who hold the power.

### **2.3 Earlier Studies**

The writer has read a lot of sources, including journal articles and thesis reports, and discovered that there are two gender roles in film studies that are similar to this study. The writer also did not find any study that used the *Dickinson* series as the object of its study, therefore the writer is the first person who conducted a study using this series. Below are the earlier studies that the writer used as the references for this study.

First, the writer reviewed a thesis entitled *Challenging Gender Roles Within Patriarchal Society as Reflected Through Josey Aimes in North Country Film*, written by Pratita in 2018. In her thesis, she employed the theories of patriarchy, gender roles, gendered space, and liberal feminism. This study answered three questions. First, it revealed that Josey had two distinct gender roles. These roles were woman roles, which placed her in the domestic sphere and a gendered job system, causing her to be treated unequally. Second, it revealed that Josey worked in a beauty salon and a mine to support her family. These were seen as the means and reasons she challenged the gender roles system. Finally, it revealed how patriarchal society reacted to Josey's decision. She experienced sexual discrimination and harassment from male miners, both physically and mentally. She also faced gender discrimination and female subordination because of the patriarchal society's response to protect their space.

Second, the writer reviewed a journal article, *A Depiction of Gender Role in the Movie of Incredibles 2 (2018)*, written by Fahira, Trisnawati, and Taufiqurrohman (2020). In this journal article, they employed gender roles by Judith Butler and cinematography theory to examine how gender is a performance and to discover how gender roles change over time. Butler's theory of performativity is used to demonstrate that the depiction of gender roles in films differs slightly from social construction. This study's findings revealed that Butler's concept of performativity refers to an act of performance that an individual repeats, as described in the *Incredibles 2* when Bob and Helen reverse their gender roles and share the same responsibilities in the family. Bob is previously shown as the family's breadwinner and main earner, whereas Helen is a full-time stay-at-home mother who cares for the children and the house. Since they no longer hold traditional gender roles, the film depicts how they begin to swap gender-assigned tasks. As a result, the gender roles are highlighted, with Bob as the househusband and caretaker of the family and Helen as a working woman.

After reviewing those two earlier studies, the writer discovered that her study differs from those two studies that have been mentioned. First, the primary data source for this study differs from those two earlier studies. The primary data source for this study was a series entitled *Dickinson* season one, whereas the first study used a film entitled *North Country* as the primary data source and the second study used a film entitled *Incredible 2* as the primary data source. Another difference is that the two earlier studies mentioned did not analyze how the gender roles of the female main character depict patriarchy, whereas this study analyzed

the patriarchal depiction caused by the gender roles experienced by Emily Dickinson, the female main character of the series.