CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Gender is an interesting social issue which has been discussed by many researchers for decades. It is one of fundamental way in which society is organized based on their expectation about how male and female has to be. In society there are differentiation between male and female. Both of gender has to fulfill the expectation of society, especially for women, they have to feminine by perform in femininity in their daily life. In the matter of women role in society, women are expected to be the subordinated one. Basically, based on the biological aspect, women's body construction is indeed weaker than men, therefore women looked inferior to men. But there are many things which can be the factor of women subordination. As Jia says in an essay, "the place of women in society is influenced by such factors as political situation, economic environment, national, and cultural traditions" (318).

The concept of gender is basically constructed socially by the member of society. The concept of gender is different from sex. "Sex is considered a fact-one is born with either male or female genitalia. Gender is considered a social construction" (Geetha, as qtd. in Ray 1). Blackstone says in her essay that the concept of gender is created by society socially, and it relies upon the biological aspect that men and women bring from their birth (335). Her statement is based

on Ann Oakley's view, the first scientist who distinct between the concept of sex and gender. According to Oakley, "gender parallels the biological division of sex into male and female, but it involves the division and social valuation of masculinity and femininity" (qtd. in Blackstone 335). Society is the one who determine how male has to be and how female has to be.

This issue of gender has been undergone since many centuries ago and existed in any kind of society, for example in China. In the ancient time, around in the past 5000 years, Chinese women are very subordinated, and their social status is very low (Jia 318). The issue about patriarchy exists in Chinesse society due to the Confucianism thought which tend to put men as superior, and women as inferior. Confucianism placed conservative rules on women with the Three Obedience and Four Virtues. Gao says:

> The Three Obedience requires women to obey the father before the marriage, obey the husband after the marriage, and obey the first son after the death of husband. The Four Virtues are morality, proper speech, modest manner, and diligent work (116).

Confucianism teaches women to have some feminine virtues, so they can nurture their family well.

Although women are expected to be feminine and perform femininity in society, but it doesn't mean that woman cannot perform masculinity. The fact is that many people are born as woman, but they behave like a man, and also man who behave like a woman. Although society has their own expectations for both genders, but either man or women themselves may choose whether to be

feminine or masculine. Femininity and masculinity is only the expectation of society, so it is possible for women to perform masculinity. It is possible to a man to have feminine figures, and the contrary, female is also possible to have masculine figures (Burke and Stats, as qtd. in Sulistia 14). Christine Skelton and Becky Francis also argue that saying a female who has masculine figures is not something we should afraid. "We should not be afraid to name certain behaviors as masculine even when they are performed by girls" (Paechter 254). It means that it is possible to a woman to behave like a man. Masculinity is associated to man, but it is also possible performed by women. Judith Halberstam says in her book entitled "Female Masculinity":

> It is crucial that masculinity does not belong to men, has not produced only by men and does not properly expressed male heterosexuality… what we call 'masculinity' has also been produced by masculine women, gender deviants, and often lesbians (qtd. in Sulistia 14).

It means, although masculinity is associated to men, but it does not belong to men. Women may also perform masculinity. Women are expected to be feminine, but it doesn't mean that women cannot perform masculine behaviors. Femininity and masculinity are only the expectation of the society towards gender, but how women and men perform in their daily life is in the hands of their selves. Moreover, Drydakis, Sidiropoulou, Patnaik, Selmanovic, and Bozani suggest that it is possible for some women to develop masculine personality traits. Because basically when men and women are born, they are not born with masculinity or

femininity (Drydakis et. al 4). Masculinity and femininity is developed after their birth, masculinity and femininity is a concept into which men and women are acculturated (qtd. in 3).

In terms of gender role in China and female masculinity, *Mulan* movie has relation to these issues. *Mulan* movie is animated movie which produced by Disney in 1998. *Mulan* tells about a Chinese girl named Mulan who does not suite totally to the Chinese patriarchal society. Mulan is told to prepare to be a perfect braid, so she can marry to a man and bring honor to her family. However, her less-feminine nature which she brings in her daily life makes her difficult to be feminine girl as many people in her society think about woman. Mulan faces the patriarchal system in her society which does not give freedom to woman. Disney is known as a production house which produces many children movies with the issue of gender, especially for the princess series like *Snow White and The Seven Dwarves*, *Cinderella, Sleeping Beauty,* and so on. *Mulan* movie is part of those movies that brings the theme of gender issue especially, in *Mulan,* in the matter of Chinese women roles in the society. For that reasons, *Mulan* become the objects of this analysis.

This analysis is not the first analysis which discusses about femininities in China and Female masculinities, especially which is depicted in Mulan Movie. There is previous analysis about female femininities in China and female masculinities which performed by Mulan in *Mulan* movie. Sulistia Retno has discussed about those issues in her article untitled "Female Masculinity of Fa Mulan and Its Impact Towards Her Relationship with Male Characters in Disney

Movie *Mulan*", which published in the Journal of Litera-Kultura in 2016. Sulistia's analysis is focused on how female masculinity is depicted through Mulan in the Disney's *Mulan* Movie. The analysis also describes the influence of female masculinity to Mulan dealing with her relationship with male character in the movie. Unlike Sulistia's analysis, this analysis will only focus on the depiction of female masculinity through Mulan as a female character. This analysis also provides the description about femininities in China which is depicted in the Disney's *Mulan* Movie. This analysis aims to describe how femininities in China and female masculinities as depicted in *Mulan* movie.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the background of the study above, this study formulates the statements of the problem as follow:

a) How is the depiction of femininities in China as depicted in *Mulan* movie?

b) How does Mulan as a female character perform masculinities in *Mulan* movie?

C. Limitation of the Study

This analysis limits the problem in the analysis of femininities in China and female masculinities performed by Mulan as a female character as reflected in the Disney's *Mulan* movie.

D. Objective of the Study

Based on problem formulation, this study formulates the objective as follow:

1. To describe female femininities in China as depicted in *Mulan* movie

2. To analyze Mulan as a woman character performing female masculinities as depicted in *Mulan* movie.

E. Significance of the Study

This study is expected to be helpful in providing knowledge about femininities and female masculinities. This analysis hopefully can be useful as a reference for further research about femininities and female masculinities, especially for students of College of languages and Communication Science of Sultan Agung Islamic University who major in English Literature Program.

F. Organization of The Study

This final project is systematically organized in five chapters. Each chapter contains different matters to be discussed. Chapter one contains introduction, it consists of the Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study and Organization of the Study. Chapter two contains review of related literature which consists of the synopsis and some theories related to the study. Chapter three contains research method which consists of types of research and data organizing. The data organizing provides data collecting method, types of data, and analyzing the data. Chapter four contains findings and discussion. It deals with the data that answer problem formulation. Chapter five contains the conclusion and suggestion