CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statement of problems, purposes of the study, scope and limitation, significance of the study, and also the definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of the Study

In this modern era, literature has been growing quickly. We cannot run from the technology that influences our mind and our life. Nowadays, literature outputs are not only prose, poetry and drama but as a result of modernization and technology development, people create films or movies by recording events and showing them to the public. People can get many benefits and valuable things from film. People can learn many things from film, learning how to struggle to get success, for instance. Film not only gives education or knowledge but also entertainment.

Scorsese (2002: 394) stated that films are part of our artistic heritage- some say that film is history. Movies made at a certain time, even minors ones, document the way of thinking and speaking, the behavior and the style of people’s life of that society and the popular music, clothes, and language of that time. On the other sides, film show how people live in the certain places, how people think and act to certain things in social life, and film shows the real life of the society although sometimes the story is fiction.

Film is human expression that is reflecting the human thinking, act, behavior, lifestyle, and anything related to human kind which becomes a story with all the meaning inside it. Since film is a part of story, it means that film is meant to be learnt
from what happened to the past. Therefore, the future life will be much better by taking the lesson and message shown by the film itself. Film is also media of communication and education which represents the situation and condition of human life.

There are many kinds of human life discussion such as healthy, economics, security, corruption, poverty, fundamental right, feminism, prosperity, educational, political and etc. In Indonesia feminism has a lack attention from our government. According to Hammet (1997: 36), feminists view the concept of ideology as a means of gender representation that is socially constructed. Feminist means that a women or gender perspective is a variety social phenomenon. Women’s movement on particular event or phenomena social in the world, like a movement to react some social issues by doing demonstrating or complaining to the government about the problem. As women it is look weird if they do some action more than women mostly. According to Humm (1998, in Silviah 2006), feminism incorporates diverse ideas which share three major perceptions, namely: gender is a social construction which oppresses women more than men, patriarchy (dominance of men) shapes this construction and women experiential knowledge is a basis for a future non sexist society. By this point above, there are many pressures that women accept from any side of human life. They oppresses to men business, ask to do some activity that actually it is not allowed do by women.

Feminism is a topic that becomes popular among all of women in the world; they talk and promote this action for every woman in the world. In talking about feminism it cannot be separated from gender bias. According to Fakih (2008) gender
is differentiation between men and women characteristics based on a social and
culture scheme and bias is inequality or discrimination which is happened because of
the gender differences. So, gender bias is the bias of role, status of women and men
such as stereotype, subordinated, marginal, burden, and violence (Fakih, 2008).
Gender discrimination between male and female actually lead the society to the
stigma that women are described weak, weepy, dependent and mindless yet men are
always considered as powerful, strong and wise in many aspects. So, feminism cannot
be separated from gender bias that become the major factor existence of feminism

The film entitled “Mona Lisa Smile” by Mike Newell is chosen as the object
study for some reasons. First, this film tells about an energetic and beautiful life style
American people in the beginning of 1953. Second, this film is interesting to be
analyzed from gender bias point of view that causes lack of feminism awareness it
can be seen almost entire the act shows lack of gender awareness and the effort of
main character to do feminism awareness. Third, the power and spirit of main
character to promote feminism on this film is very good. This research focused on
feminism awareness and effort found in the film. It includes the character of
Khaterine Watson as the main character.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Based on the background of the study above, this research has statement of
problems as follows:

1. What was the kind of Khaterine Watson’s feminism awareness found on Mike
Newell’s film “Mona Lisa Smile”? 
2. How did Khaterine Watson do feminism awareness on Mike Newell’s film “Mona Lisa Smile”?

3. What were the impacts of Khaterine Watson’s feminism awareness on Mike Newell’s film “Mona Lisa Smile” to the people around her?

1.3 The Purpose of Study

The purposes of this research are stated as follows:

1. To identify what was the kind of Khaterine Watson’s feminism awareness found on Mike Newell’s film “Mona Lisa Smile”.

2. To find how Khaterine Watson did feminism awareness on Mike Newell’s film “Mona Lisa Smile”.

3. To elaborate what were the impacts of Khaterine Watson’s feminism awareness on Mike Newell’s film “Mona Lisa Smile” to the people around her.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The results of the study are expected to give contributions for the teachers and students of English Department. First, by reading the result of this study, the readers can know and improve their knowledge about feminism in literature. Second, this research can be used as a reference to the next researchers who are interested in analyzing film especially related to feminism.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research is about feminism awareness in “Mona Lisa Smile” by Mike Newell. It limits only on the kinds of Khaterine Watson’s way to do feminism as well as the impact of people around her.
1.6 The Definition of Key Terms

The aim of giving the definition of key term is to help readers understand key words employed in this research, as follows:

1. **An analysis** is a descriptive about element that has purpose to comprehend the relationship between one element and others in supporting the meaning of literary work. (Sudjiman in Puji Lestari 2011)

2. **Feminism** is incorporates diverse ideas which share three major perceptions, namely: gender is a social construction which oppresses women more than men, patriarchy (dominance of men) shapes this construction and women experiential knowledge is a basis for a future non sexist society. By this point above, there are many pressure that women accept from any side of human life (Humm,1998: 194)

3. **Awareness** is social activity, in that we take cues from those around us which can influence our awareness and lead to a greater shared awareness. (Heath et al, 2002 in Wiyatami 2006)

So, feminism awareness of concept feminism that women position is lower than men position and causes many biases in every side of women activity.

4. **Mona Lisa Smile** is the title of a film by Mike Newell which is an object of the study.

5. **Mike Newell** is the direct of the film “Mona Lisa Smile”

6. **Khaterine Watson** is the main character in “Mona Lisa Smile” a film being discussed.