

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A.1 Background of the Research

The term power has been used in a large area that is usually referenced to the institution, and class structure. In a large institution such as a state, power is sometimes used to repress, or control a massive population, a community, or even norms. According to Barnett & Duvall (2005), the production of power may give advantages, because it can organize and also to constitute the nature of social interaction which can shape society and determine their fate. That means if a leader of a state gains power or gets stronger, then it will be beneficial to dominate or influence a large population and even other countries. The German sociologist, Max Weber (1922) says that, "Power is the ability to exercise one's will over others". It is like the relationship between leaders and their members, which is to control the people beneath them.

In global historical events, the direct effect of a power dominance of a country (or its alliances) in some cases often has set a way for other resistances to attack them. The causes of these conflicts also can lead to the fall of one hegemon and the rise of another and so on (Kegley & Blanton, 2010). In a Foucault perspective, there will be no power relations if only one person has complete control over social interaction, and the process will devolve into unilateral coercion and violence. For example,

when the arises of Great Britain's history power in the 19th century—before World War I (The Great War) started—Great Britain was the strongest country on earth in dominating world politics (Badsey, 2016). British countries took control over a large number of empires that stretched from the Mediterranean to Southeast Asia (Ferguson, 2004). Then, it makes the emergence of another country such as Germany, that makes a big challenge to the British predominant in the Global position and status over the European continent. This also was a serious threat later on that caused a great catastrophic issue leading to the 'Great War' also known as 'World War I' (Brown, Louis, & Low, 2001).

However, Foucault stated in contrast to Max Weber, that power does not have an ownership, because it comes from anybody. Power can not be taken of a certain people, community, or group. Power also is not a tool to dominate a class based on economic conditions (Foucault, 1982). Power can be seen positively, it appears through human daily life, which is an essential part of human life. Humans are naturally connected through relationships, they are tied to social and interpersonal. There are numerous forms of human relations, including sexual ties, friendships, professional relationships, family interactions, etc. Each connection has unique traits. The explanation of power relations will further be explained in Chapter II.

The modern era of political British history began with Margaret Thatcher. At the first Thatcher career was in 1959 and elected to the House of Commons in Parliament until 1970. She was elected on May 4, 1979, reigning in 18 years of her Conservative governance. At the age of 53, Margaret Thatcher became the first woman of a major Western democracy and was officially elected as a British Prime Minister (Beckett, 2006). Thatcher ruled in Great Britain and became the longest woman Prime Minister in British (History of the UK government, (n.d)) and was also known as the most highly controversial politician in British history in the 20th century (Campbell, 2011). The Soviet media, Red Star on Jan. 24, 1976, stated through a mouthpiece for the Soviet army, Krasnaya Zvezda, stereotyped her as the 'Iron Lady' after responding to her speech that accused the Soviet Union of seeking world domination (Fisher, 2013).

★ This study is aimed at analyzing how the power relations of the characters are represented in *Iron Lady* movie. Baldick (2001) defines 'characters' as actors in either fiction or drama. The characters can be understood as actors who have moral qualities and tendencies expressed in their speech and actions. Characters are shown in a drama or narrative work and whom the reader understands to possess particular moral traits and inclinations based on their actions and speech (Abrams, 1981). This research explores how the power relations among characters interacted with Margaret Thatcher as the main character in the movie *Iron Lady* using Michel Foucault's framework. The research also applied on

sociological approach that helps the researcher to understand the human interaction or historical background that appears in the movie.

The biographical movie of Iron Lady is titled the same as it is called *Iron Lady*. Based on IMDb (2023), the movie was released on January 13, 2012, in the United States and was directed by Phyllida Lloyd and written by Abi Morgan. Overall, the movie is a concise and smart tribute to Britain's all-time great Prime Minister, unusually covering Thatcher's life by making her a test of time throughout the film. In this movie. Her decision to run for Prime Minister just to keep the conservative party's principles aligned demonstrates her zeal for leadership. The case study of the Falkland Islands and their retake by Britain demonstrates her status-saving and distinctive nature. The economic catastrophe caused by the Great Depression in Britain provides her with mementos of her legacy. To upgrade the country's middle class by creating jobs in small-scale industries is based on her father's idea of owning two grocery stores. Thatcher's support for poll taxes shows her as a brutal administrator.

A.2 Problems of the Research

Following the background research, this research is focused on the following question:

1. What kind of power relations are represented among the characters as can be seen through the interaction between Margaret Thatcher and other characters in *Iron Lady* movies?
2. What are the impacts of power relations on the characters and plot of the *Iron Lady* movie?

A.3 Objective of the Research

Based on the problem research, the focus of the research objectives is formulated as follows: the researcher reveals the kind of power relations of the character's interaction between the characters and Margaret Thatcher in the movie *Iron Lady* based on the power relations of Michel Foucault's theory.

A.4 Significances of the Research

There are two significances of the research that are emphasized in this study.

Theoretically, as follows background research mentioned, this research is to describe the kind of power relations of Michel Foucault that are expected to contribute to academic literature. Moreover, the researcher hopes to give a new positive contribution and information to development theory in literature, especially in the study of Foucault's Power Relation.

Practically, this research aims to help readers understand the hegemony of power relations in society and how it is represented in the movies, considering the values contained within them. It also explores the inherent elements of power in both culture and fiction.

A.5 Limitation of the Research

Regarding the Problems of the Research, this research only focuses on the kind of power relations of the characters related to Margaret Thatcher to describe power relations and the impact of power relations.

A.6 Definition of Key Terms

To avoid misconceptions, the words that are used in this research is defined as follows:

Power: the ability of a person or group to influence another person or group (The Britannica Dictionary, 2024) based on authority, charisma, physical strength, etc.

Power Relation: the idea proposed by Michel Foucault. Power is not concentrated in a single subject or institution, but rather pervades all social relationships. Power relations are relationships between certain actors interested in different power levels. In power relations, there is an element of the strength of social relations.