

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Masculinity and femininity are classified as gender identities that are used to identify men and women in the social construction of society. The general public known masculinity as a trait that supposed to be has by men and only men and femininity as a trait that supposed to be has by women and only women. In fact, masculinity is not always identical with man and feminine is not always identically with woman. Whitehead and Barrett (2001: 15-16) explain that “Masculinities are those behaviours, languages and practices, existing in specific cultural and organisational locations, which are commonly associated with men, thus culturally defined as not feminine.” In her book *Female Masculinity*, Halberstam (1998: 241) states that “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.”

Based on the theories, masculinity and femininity are traits which are constructed by the society, not traits based on sex. Masculine and feminine quality are constructed throughout an individual life. The experience, event, and people influence in life can affect the quality that an individual need in life. Then later, the more dominant will shape the identity. Thus, each individual should have two qualities, femininity and masculinity, to balance and to fill the gap for living a life.

This is the reason why woman also needs masculinity in their life, so she can have the spirit of leadership and independency.

Female masculinity can be found in many literary works, including the novel *Crazy Rich Asians*. *Crazy Rich Asians* is a 2013 romantic comedy novel written by Kevin Kwan to introduce a contemporary Asia to a North American audience. The novel tells about Rachel Chu, a New York University's economic professor, invited by her boyfriend, Nicholas Young, to attend his best friend's wedding and meet his family in Singapore. Upon her arrival, Rachel Chu will face prejudice from his family, friends, and upper class in Singapore. It is because her boyfriend actually comes from one of the most respected and wealthiest families in Singapore. Added with his mother disapproval of her as her son choice of partner, Rachel have to fight alone in the foreign land and make quick judgement to overcome the problem.

Rachel Chu is portrayed as an independent, intelligent, and unyielding woman. Raised in America as a Chinese immigrant made Rachel Chu grow with American mindset which differs with traditional Chinese mindset. The open-minded Rachel Chu meets Eleanor Young, Nicholas Young's mother, a woman who is forced by her husband's family tradition to give up her life. She has to change her way of life to conceal her weakness and to make her son's life comfortable. Based on those explanations, this study would like to show the portrayal of masculine quality on female characters in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*.

1.2. Statement of the Problem

The statement of problem in this study focuses on the portrayal of masculine quality on female characters in *Crazy Rich Asians*. The writer creates the research questions as follows:

1. What are the types of masculine quality on female characters in the novel?
2. How are masculine quality on the female characters portrayed in the novel?

1.3. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are to analyze what become the research main problem in this study. There are as follows:

1. To know the types of masculine quality on female characters in the novel.
2. To know the portrayal of masculine quality on female characters in the novel.

1.4. Scope of the Study

A scope is used to direct to research on the subject matter specifically. This study focus on the portrayal of masculine quality on female characters in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*, which consist of the female character's power, the female character's courage, the female character's heroism, the female character's leadership.

1.5. Significance of the Study

The significance of this study is to develop awareness that masculine quality is not decided by sex, rather by an individual. To have a masculine quality on female and lacking a feminine quality on female is normal, as human need balance to face the environment they are in. Theoretically, this research is useful for the readers to understand the main problem in novel *Crazy Rich Asians* as a source of knowledge and to enrich the researches in literature, especially to make a study about masculine quality on female character. Practically, this research is to guarante spesific laning to the researcher and to provide the knowledge about masculine quality to other people who studies about novel and literature.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. Gender

According to World Health Organization (2023: para. 1), “Gender refers to the characteristics of women, men, girls and boys that are socially constructed. This includes norms, behaviours and roles associated with being a woman, man, girl or boy, as well as relationships with each other. As a social construct, gender varies from society to society and can change over time.” Butler (1990: 34) explains that gender cannot be defined by the physical characteristics of a man or woman; instead, it is expressed through an individual's performance of gender. When gender behaves as it should, gender is performative. This means that gender is depend on the subject experience and influence, and does not always depend on the subject who should have the gender role itself.

2.2. Types of Gender

According to Sandra Bem in Zuhro (2018: 125), gender often refers to the social process of categorizing persons and social actions based on sexed identities. In Davis (2017), Sandara Bem assessed the types of gender are masculinity, feimininity, androgyny and undifferentiated.

2.2.1. Masculinity

Masculinity is always associated with the idea of men with a tough personality, body, and mind along with a dominant disposition in life. According to Zuhro (2018: 127), the concept of masculinity refers to the different elements of

masculinity, including male behavior, culture, and way of life. Peter Lehman (2001: 7-24) notes some important elements that connected with masculinity, there are:

2.2.1.1. Power

According to Cambridge Dictionary (2023), "Power is the ability or right to control people and events, or to influence the way people act or think in important ways." Foucault (1998: 63) states his idea that instead of viewing power as being distributed and widespread, it is perceived as being exercised by individuals or organizations through 'episodic' or 'sovereign' acts of dominance or coercion.

2.2.1.2. Courage

According to Cambridge Dictionary (2023), "Courage is the ability to control fear and to be willing to deal with something that is dangerous, difficult, or unpleasant." Beard (2019: para 2) believes that courage means understanding your fears and handling them effectively. Thus, courage means the ability to deal and eliminated physical and mental fear.

2.2.1.3. Heroism

According to Staats in Cherry (2020: para 4), compassion and empathy for others are important factors that influence heroic behavior. She continues to point out that heroic tendencies also have substantially higher empathy levels. In the other hand, Wulandari (2019: 3) states that when someone has merit for both him and others, the public labels him as a hero. Therefore, a hero must possess certain traits, like courage and a desire to aid others in need.

2.2.1.4. Leadership

According to Cambridge Dictionary (2023), “Leadership is the quality or ability that makes a person a leader, or the position of being a leader.” Northouse in Xayyapheth (2013: 1-2) underlines that intelligence, fluency, self-confidence, emotional intelligence, height, energy and sociability are among the qualities or traits that make up leadership. According to Lehman in Wulandari (2019: 3) it is a capability to organize, persuade, and lead others to accomplish the same objectives as the leader's commands. This kind of leadership contains camaraderie, trust, respect, and cordial ties between leaders and followers. Based on the theories, leadership is an intelligent, confident, and sociable individual that can influence others to achieve the same goals as the leader's commands.

2.2.2. Femininity

According to Hofstede in Zuhro (2018: 128), femininity stands for a society in which social gender roles overlap, men and women are expected to be modest, tender, and concerned with the quality of life. Montenegro (2019: 1) states that the foreground of true femininity is sensitivity. Emotional perseverance as the background. In this way, it is a complement to true masculinity, which has sensitivity as its foundation and emotional perseverance as its defining quality. Thus, it can be concluded that femininity is an individual with a tender personality and mind along with a supporting disposition in life.

2.2.3. Androgyny and Undifferentiated

According to Sandra Bem in Prasetyo (2016: 15), androgyny is a woman or a man that possesses high femininity and high masculinity in themselves. While undifferentiated is someone with low femininity and masculinity. Many cases of

androgyny were found to exist between men and women and were also referred to as genderless.

2.3. Gender Identity and Gender Expression

According to World Health Organization (2023: para. 3), gender identity refers to a person's innate, deeply felt internal and individual experience of gender. This experience may or may not match the person's physiology or assigned sex at birth. Wulandari (2019:6) indicates that the impact of social influences activities lead to the formation of gender identity. Abrams and Ferguson (2022: para 2) state that gender expression is how you express your gender identity. Many do this through clothing, behavior, gestures, and anything else that people associate with gender. Your gender expression may reflect what society expects of you, or it may contradict it. Based on the theories, a woman with a dominant masculine identity might express her gender identity through behavior, such as having a commanding personalities as in the elements of masculinity, power and leadership.

2.4. Gender Role and Gender Stereotype

According to Parenthood (2018: para. 1), gender roles in society refer to how we should behave in terms of our assigned sex, including how we should act, speak, dress, groom, and present ourselves. For example, women are typically expected to behave politely, accommodating, and nurturing. While men are typically expected to be powerful, combative, and brave.

Gender roles perpetuate inequality and greatly affect minorities that may not be in a position to reject these stereotypes. Selemine (2022: para 2) states that men were expected to conduct themselves professionally in environments like business

and politics. Women were expected to take responsibility for the home and family affairs while remaining at home. It becomes the norm when the majority of people agree on it. Thus, men and women who exhibit the opposite quality are deemed abnormal. There are four basic kinds of gender stereotypes (Parenthood, 2018):

1. Personality traits: Women tend to be expected to be accommodating and emotional, whereas men are typically expected to be confident and aggressive.
2. Domestic behaviors: Some people expect women to care for the children, cook, and clean the house, while men handle finances, work on the car, and do house repairs.
3. Occupations: Some people believe that teachers and nurses are women, while pilots, doctors, and engineers are men.
4. Physical appearance: Women are expected to be thin and elegant, whereas men are expected to be tall and muscular. Men and women are also expected to dress and groom in gender-specific ways, such as men wearing pants and short hairstyles and women wearing dresses and make-up.

It can be concluded that the majority of people deemed that women and men have to abide by 'the norms' to be seen as normal. Those who show a hint of opposite quality from their sex is seen as abnormal and breaking the norms.

On the other hand, Dhankar in Zuhro (2018: 133) states that woman can be both a loving mother and an ambitious executive; conversely, a man is not a "sissy" if he enjoys theater or cooking. In Marx theory, human is equal regardless gender or class. Eventhough there a still many who don't think so, the majority of modern

societies has embraced the ideas of marxism. The freedom to express has gradually toppled the idea of gender role and gender stereotype.

2.5. Gender Development

Gender is not the same as sex that has been determined at birth. Gender is formed based on the situation of the individual. Mayer and McHugh (2016: 87) explain that roles, behaviors, activities, and characteristics that society assumes belong to boys and men or girls and women are referred to as gender, which is a social construct. Katz in Stets and Burke (2000: 2) explains that beginning at birth, one's gender self-concept is formed in social situations resulting from ongoing interaction with significant others such as parents, peers, and educators. According to Little (2016: 12), gender socialization takes place through four major methods: family, education, peer groups, and mass media. Each agent reinforces gender roles by establishing and maintaining normative gender-specific behavior expectations. Secondary agents, such as religion and workplace, also contribute to exposure. Repeated exposure to these agents creates the illusion that people are acting naturally based on their gender rather than following a socially constructed role.

2.6. Female Masculinity

According to Halberstam in Wulandari (2019: 3), “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.”

Encyclopedia of Sex and Gender: Culture Society History (2023: 1) states that “the qualities that masculine women possess—confidence, assertiveness, independence, and daring—are not scientifically or biologically male attributes.

Rather, these qualities are constructed as being masculine even though they are commonly found in women.” Wulandari (2019: 3) concludes that every male and female should have those qualities (feminine and masculine qualities); it is up to them to develop those qualities in their lives. All of these characteristics—confidence, assertiveness, independence, and daring— can be linked to the social norm of masculinity.

2.7. Character

Abrams in Amrullah (2017: 10) explains that characters are people who appear in a dramatic or native work and are interpreted by the reader as having moral and dispositional qualities that are expressed in what they say in dialogue and what they do in action. According to Mandikdasmen in Zuhro (2018: 128), character is a way of thinking and acting that distinguishes each person in how they live and function in their families, communities, countries, and states. To bring a character to life, an author needs to have a thorough understanding of how people actually live. Based on the theory, character is an important element in a literary work to the plot. A well written character may give life to the entire story.