

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of Final Report

Traditionally, the society encourages men's trait for being dominant, powerful, and assertive while women's trait is expected only for being nurtured, emotional, and spoiled. This issue is represented in many children's folk tales. More remarkably, many clichés of those folk tales maintain how the heroine waits for her encounter with the prince charming who will save her or make her life better. It is simply like a famous story about Cinderella by the Brothers Grimm or even like an animated movie with the same title by Walt Disney which also popular among children. Cinderella story is about a good-hearted girl named Cinderella who is treated badly by her stepmother and step-sisters. She surely has a happy ending after being saved by a prince and married to him. This kind of princess would make the children think that a girl should be obedient and passive so that someone can help her. Moreover, it is also about happiness gained from relying on other people or the opposite of self-independence.

As social beings, certainly since childhood someone will be affected by the culture in which they lived as a form of learning the world. It can be related to the self-motivation of individuals that has been formed by the views of the surrounding community. Besides, culture itself is a valuable thing for Indonesian. One of the forms of culture can be seen in the folk tale. More importantly, Dewi

(2019) explained that the Indonesian folk tales like *Bohong Merinang* from North Sumatra were proof of patriarchal practice for a long time. One study also described the Calon Arang's story by Pramodya Ananta Toer that expressed the women's inferiorities toward the community perspectives for their status with men in working and marriage issues (Edwar et al., 2017). From these stories, psychological issues regarding the mindset and personality of women are internally formed to become unmotivated on independence issues. On top of that, there is a book of lyrical prose titled "*Calon Arang: Kisah Perempuan Korban Patriarki*" ("Calon Arang: Tale of a Female Victim of Patriarchy") by Toety Heraty in 2000 as a creation based on rooted feminism problem in this modern era (Sarahtika, 2018). Furthermore, folk tales are also taught in the school which means students have been already educated to have a mindset about boys more superior to girls since childhood for masculine domination.

Patriarchy is a way of thinking about the lesser values and roles of women (Facio, 2013). In a patriarchal culture, women face stigma about themselves who are seen as weak or unimportant compared to the figure of a man. Other things include the parents' perspective for having sons further enhanced the family status. The parents and their children are part of the society of a nation with typical culture. A nation is surely classified with patriarchal culture if there is an asymmetrical relation between men and women (Omara, 2004). This view of cultural aspects is related to what people believe and accept as an identity they have which is followed by the results of the community's lifestyle. Additionally, the educational aspect cannot be separated from its relation to the culture of the

nation, such as the issue of patriarchy. It is reflected the female students' beliefs about it is okay to be dependent because the social supports them to be like that.

Colette Dowling first mentioned Cinderella Complex in her best-seller book in 1981, "The Cinderella Complex: Women's Hidden Fear of Independence" from her experiences. She chose to use 'Cinderella' to portray this concept through reasoning fear of independence in women. It should be noted that this Cinderella Complex Syndrome is not a disorder (Makarim, 2020). It is a syndrome that means a conceptual opinion with characteristic emotions and behaviors from the factual phenomenon. Whereas, this issue could explain the diagnosed disorder towards women.

Being Independent is the central point for female students to be the women they are meant to be. However, so many problems accrued toward students and their social circumstances like when they try to decide for continuing their studies in college or not. Ibtisam (2016) explained several reasons behind this matter. First, the doubts about women may have a good career but eventually end up being just housewives. This is reinforced by the existence of some circles who think that in the context of marriage, the wife has to leave her job and only rely on the husband's income. Women become helpless when society already holds such views about the inequality of career expectations. World Economic Forum in 2013 also mentioned about 86% of men participate in the world of work compared to only 53% of women and men earn an average of US \$ 6,903 and the women only earn US \$ 2,985 (Aruan, 2019). Second, parents worry about their daughter's safety. Female students sometimes will commute to campus for their

needs as the subject of duties but they may lose track of time. This can be one example of why parents doubt their daughter to take care of herself. On the other hand, overprotective parents will tend to control their children which can make their children feel insecure about just doing what they want. Third, parents are more concerned with the cost of education only for their sons. This basically returns to the issue of patriarchal culture so that boys are expected to have an impressive education and career because they will become breadwinners. Fourth, the thoughts about life will be better by finding a man to marry. The outcome of this perspective is as seen in the case of getting married at an early age. More notably, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA, 2011) explained that Indonesia is included in the list of countries ranked 37th of the percentage of women aged 20-24 in 2000-2010 who had married by age 18 in countries, and the second-highest in the ASEAN region after Cambodia.

It is common for female students in their 20s to be asked questions such as ‘do they already have a partner or not?’ and ‘when will they get married?’ by people. The questions are accompanied by questions about work but for families, questions about marriage are a topic that is often asked. Widianingsih & Moordiningsih (2015) emphasized the future orientation of Javanese parents for their daughters are more expected to be a nurse, midwife, and teacher. They also expect agreeable civil servants to become sons-in-law. In addition, Aruan (2019) described there is only one woman out of five legislators, senior officials, and managers. It simply creates fewer options for the female students who are effected

by decisions considered by people around them. Fewer opportunities mean fewer rights of independence for them.

The positive psychology paradigm underlines the importance of individual rights to decide their own steps in life without any pressure from the circles (Widianingsih & Moordiningsih, 2015). However, the Cinderella Complex phenomenon is experienced consciously or unconsciously by all women with a varying degree of tendency. It means that the female students have had this syndrome since culture required her to have a fear of being independent. They may prefer to be spoiled by anyone or hide behind their passive character. The passivity condition in the process of studying is like fear of being wrong, fear of being considered smart, and fear of being lonely without help or without being accompanied by someone such as a boyfriend (Saputri, 2013). These uncompetitive ways of thinking can become obstacles for female students in the future to achieve self-actualization.

Because of those reasons, the writer chose the following title “The Impact of Cinderella Complex Syndrome on Female Students’ Motivation in Studying” as the title of her Final Report.

1.2. Objectives of Final Report

This Final Report has two objectives. First, it is intended to gain an understanding of why Cinderella Complex Syndrome becomes a phenomenon on women, generally in the society’s perspective. Second, it is to describe how this syndrome affects the motivation of the female students, particularly in studying.

1.3. Significances of Final Report

This Final Report has two significances. First, it is expected that this Final Report can become a reference to contribute the mindset of society in looking at psychological concept toward women, especially for female students' issue related to the culture and values adopted by the community. Second, it is practically expected that this Final Report can make female students accept themselves more by encouraging them to be more courageous and independent for maintaining their positive mental health.