

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

People have different ideas and personalities, and no people in this world are the same. Differences can be seen among the people around us. Kneevi, Kula, & Duspara (2009) said “stereotypes exist everywhere, whether on a small or large scale, in the United States and abroad, in Asia and Europe, and every continent. All stereotypes they label; some are still valid, and others are being eliminated as it develops.” As we know stereotypes exist everywhere some of them already change and some of that still valid until now. In the way of thinking expounded by Lippmann (1889), “one way to think of a stereotype is as a cognitive strategy or process that our mind employs to simplify the intricate onslaught of information it is exposed to. From this point of view, a stereotype can be understood as a mode of understanding that functions through the process of categorizing individuals into groups. A stereotype can be viewed as either a negative or positive way of understanding something, depending on how one chooses to view it.

Farangs are the most common and prominent visitors from space in Thailand, a various term that can refer to foreigners, Westerners, or "white" people; like any term derived from a broad racial category Negro, Oriental has their uses but ultimately defies precise definition. The writer sees the image of *Farang* to be an exciting thing discussed from the perspective of Thai women and vice versa; many influences of social status and race from countries between East and West can cause a stereotype. Because every country has its own history, cultural differences contribute to the formation of stereotypes and attitudes of individuals. In Thailand, Foreigners are occasionally referred to as *Farangs*, particularly if they have white skin. Non-Indonesian nationals are called *Bule* in Indonesia, while Javanese nationals are called *Londo*. In Thailand, the term *Farang* is most commonly used to refer to people who have white skin. In the past, the general public despised the term "*Farang*" and was considered a prejudice to ridicule some white people.

Additionally, as we already know Thailand is one of beautiful countries in Asia with lot of visitors because of the tourism, friendly people, and also the uniquenesses of the culture.

Sully (2022) stated, Thailand has not been subjected to official colonization by any European nation. Even though Britain and France wanted to control the country, they could not. Still, it is essential to remember that Thailand should have avoided bad things. There were significant changes in politics and culture during the period we discussed.

The writer chose to analysed the novel *Private Dancer* because the novel has Asian elements and is relevant to the current situation; the issues of this novel are pretty interesting to explore. A story that has yet to be analysed by many previous researchers makes the writer curious to analysed the novel further. Stephen Leather's *Private Dancer* novel, is a portrayal relationship that develops between a European and a Thai bargirl and how both parties have hidden agendas. Pete, a 37-year-old British travel journalist, enters a go-go bar in Bangkok's infamous red-light district Nana Plaza in the 1990s. Joy, a 21-year-old girl from Isaan, the poorest region of Thailand, danced naked on stage. Pete fell instantly in love with Joy. 1996 was commemorated in Thailand as "The Year of the Rat," which refers to the animal that is a traditional astrological sign in China. A young man called Pete works as a travel writer in Bangkok when he stumbles into a go-go club by mistake and finds up meeting the woman, he will spend the rest of his life with there. After this, Pete learns that his private dancer is not all he claims to be and that rather than being the lady of his dreams, Joy is his nightmare. Pete also learns that Joy has been using him for her gain.

The writer chooses the topic, Stereotypical Portrayal of *Farang* men and Thai women, because the writer sees a side with stereotypical elements in the two main characters, which are pretty interesting to analyse. These characters, a *Farang* man and a Thai woman from different cultural and racial backgrounds, deal with their own different views and stereotypes.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

1. How is prostitution portrayed in Leather's Private Dancer?
2. How does sex, money, and power influence the relation between *Farang* men & Thai women in in Leather's Private Dancer?
3. What messages can be taken from stereotypical portrayal between farang men and thai women as portrayed in in Leather's Private Dancer?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

1. To find out how is prostitution portrayed in Leather's Private Dancer
2. To find out sex, power, and money influence the relation between *Farang* men & Thai women in Leather's Private Dancer
3. To find out the messages can be taken from stereotypical portrayal between farang men and thai women as portrayed in in Leather's Private Dancer

1.4 Significance of Study

This research can help other researchers and students know more about stereotypical portrayal, especially of *Farang* men as Western and Thai women as Asian women. On top of that, the theme that the writer explains more focus on stereotypes can help the readers become more interested in analyzing the novel or stereotypes in different phenomena. The writer also hopes this research can raise awareness about not viewing Western men as superior and Eastern women as inferior but to be more equal.

1.5 Methodology Study

This study uses a qualitative method with a descriptive approach. The research was conducted by observing data sources, analyzing data from novel excerpts, and discussing the results. Research conducted by researchers is to find solutions to stereotype problems between two parties: western men and Eastern women. The data source used by the writer in this study was the 2005 novel *Private Dancer* by Stephen Leathers. The writer's steps in this research were to read the novel, several

books, articles, and journals. After that, the writer will analyze the source of the data from the novel *Private Dancer* (2005) by using the theories of gender stereotypes.

1.6 Scope and Limitation of the Study

The focus of this study is to analyze stereotypes problem of the characters in the novel as Thai women: Joy and Sunan. *Farang* men are Pete, Big Ron, Prof. Bruno, Nigel, and Jimmy. In order to analyze, the writer more focuses on the two sides of the story: *Farang* men and Thai women about stereotypes.

1.7 Status of the Study

This script's writer has checked that no student in the Faculty of Letters & Languages of Universitas Kristen Indonesia ever did a *skripsi* about the Stereotypical Portrayal of *Farang* men and Thai women. Also, there was only one. An analysis of Death, Love, and Betrayal in Thailand as described in the novel *Private Dancer* by Simandan (2010).

1.8 Organization of the Study

This *skripsi* starts by introducing the main topics, which are stereotypes in general, *Farang* men, and Thailand never being colonized by Europeans; it also describes how the characters portrayed in the novel are based on the synopsis and how they are related.

The first chapter of this *skripsi* presents the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, the study's significance, the study's scope and limitation, and the study's status.

The second chapter of this *skripsi* presents a review of selected literature related to the problems for the analysis

The third chapter of this *skripsi* presents the findings and discussions. This chapter presents answers to the statement of problems, proven by selected quotes from the novel.

The fourth chapter of this *skripsi* presents the conclusion above all the analysis from the statement of the problem, as well as suggestions for future research regarding the novel *Private Dancer* by Stephen Leathers, or stereotypical and orientalism study in general.

