CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discuss the basic of this research including background of study, some terminology, research questions, aim and significance of study and also the methodology of the research.

A. Background of Study

Movie functions as a historical or a cultural process community presented in the form of a living picture. movie also work as information media. Apart from being a media of information, movie as well are social documents. Through movie, the public can see the reality in the midst of a particular society at the certain time.¹

Jasse states that movie is a photographic record of an artistic performance, but not an art form in it is own right. Harcourt also adds that the other state movie is a recorded sequence of video images displayed on a screen with sufficient rapidity as to create the illusion of motion and continuity. ²

Based on explanation above, movie is a combination between audio and visual work whose idea was taken from portrays of attitude and behavior of the character and also can be made as an information.

¹ Nuhardi surya pratama, analysis character skripsi>32151193(universitas Hasanuddin makasar.2004).p.35. accessed on 21 januari 2010

² Jasse, J.P. movie is art. Jurnal education education press: 2008.p.120. accessed on 22 oktober 2005
In a movie there are also several characters played by the main character or others characters. Where characters is a habit and trait that exists in every human being and can also be formed from the social environment. According to Hornby, character is (of a person, community, race, etc) mental or moral nature, mental or moral qualities, that make one person, race, etc different from other. Hornby asserts that, character is attitude, habit formed from the social environment character is also a nature from within a person.

From the explanation above, shows that the characters are formed by human habits and told in a movie. The character in the movie that I have chosen based on a true story. She is very educated, brave, pretty middle class, no ethnic, well-dressed, and smart. Her efforts to be a good teacher for her students and she never gives up until her students become better. Based on a true story, Mrs. G. as her class calls her, is a white young. Her students do not like her at the first sight because she seems to know nothing about their street lives and she actually expects them to work in her class. Mrs. Gruewell might seem innocent at first but she knows so much more than what anyone expect. She does amazing things for her classroom, trips, gifts, and refuses to give up on those student who everyone lost hope in. She does not fit the stereotype of the others because she does not give up on people like the other teachers and even the student do.

Erin Gruwell who changed the lives of young people separated by their ethnicities. At the first time, she never really expected the type of class she is

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3 As Hornby, Oxford Dictionary....p.140. acessed on 23 February 2011
getting. Everyone in her class was disrespectful and seems to be gangster, and do not care about school or their futures at all. The last straw was broken when an incident happened and she comprised it to the start of the holocaust. This a reality check for both, her and her students. As the year goes along Mrs.G finds different after all. Therefore, she asked them to write in a notebook journal about their lives, and what they considered to make their teacher to know about them, all their different stories.

Based on of her students’ perception in the past their lives, their stories, Mrs. G knows which is her responsibility now, to make each of them reach their goals and make them believe in themselves no matter which situation they will face throughout their lives, but Mrs. G will face some other obstacles that will not let her down until she completes her proposal.

Departing from the background above, the writer would like to examine further on character through the elements of formation, attitude or behavior certain films displayed in the film Freedom Writers in the form of thesis with the title: A Character Analysis of Erin Gruwel in the Movie Freedom Writers

**B. Terminology**

To avoid misunderstanding of the readers about this research, the writer elaborates some term mentioned in this research, including:

1. Analysis

   There are some common definitions of analysis. In Merriam Webster, analysis is defined as separation of a whole into its component
parts. Bull adds that an analysis is the result of such study. Analysis in this research means investigating of main character “Erin Gruwel” through dialogue and actions in "Freedom Writers" movie.

2. Character

Character in this research means, habit that leads to an action done by someone, which is formed from behave and traits possessed by humans in general, including way of looking, thinking, acting, saying, and behaving in daily life. In this study, character means the persons played in the movie “Freedom Writers”

3. Movie

According to Arsyad, movie is picture in a frame where frame is projected through the projector lens mechanically so that the pictures in the screen look alive. Harcourt also adds that the other state movie is a recorded sequence of film or video images displayed on a screen with sufficient rapidity as to create the illusion of motion and continuity.

Based on the definition above, the writer concludes that film is a human creativity that is based on the experience of a person both in terms

6 Azhar Arsyad, Media Pembelajaran. (Jakarta: Rajawali Pers, 2011).p.34
of science or from the historical record done by actors and actresses. Then projected through a projector lens and displayed in theaters or television, this research focuses on analyzing movie "freedom writers" directed by Richard La Gravenese.

C. Research question

The research questions of this study are:

1. How is the character of Erin Gruwel in the movie Freedom Writers?
2. What is the most prominent characteristic of Erin Gruwel?
3. What does the interesting thing belong to Erin Gruwel?

D. The aim of study

1. To find out the character of Erin Gruwel in the movie Freedom Writers.
2. To analyze the most prominent characteristic of Erin Gruwel in the movie Freedom Writers.
3. To find out the interesting thing belongs to Erin Gruwel.

E. Significance of study

In this study the writer is interested in analyzing of a teacher 'Erin Gruwel' in the movie freedom writers but in this study the writer only focuses on analyzing the character of 'Erin Gruwel' as the main actress in the movie Freedom Writers. Therefore to find out the nature of the main character, either of the type of character formation, or from attitudes and behaviors that focus on the main character who plays in the movie Freedom Writers. The actress’ name is Hillary Swank.
F. Research Methodology

This research employs descriptive research design. Which analyze the character of Erin Gruwel.

The writer uses the theories founded to facilitate this research. The movie is observed and analyzed deeply so that the research question can be answered.

In this research, the project is based on the language and literary resources. According to John, "a qualitative research is one in which the inquirer often makes knowledge claims based primarily on constructivist perspectives".  

Furthermore, the data analysis is absolutely an important action on how the data collected and analyzed so that the aims of the study can be achieved. McMillan & Schumacher state that data analysis is the terms refer to research methods - how data are collected. It means, the data collected will be analyzed accurately from the documents and the facts studied, the researcher is aimed to classify the background of each word so that they can have different meaning in contexts and analyzed using descriptive derived from the data. The instrument of this research is watch the movie, understand the story in movie and write the most dominant character of the main character Erin Gruwel. There are several steps conducted to analyze the movie they are:

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1. Watch the movie "Freedom Writers"

2. Understand the story in movie "Freedom Writers"

3. Write the most dominant character of the main character Erin Gruwel.

G. Technique of Collecting Data

Guzman asserts that, the technique of data collection is documentation. Documentation is a process consisting of several activities, namely:

a. Determining what information is needed and establishing means for acquiring it.

b. Recording the discovered information and storing such in appropriate container (called documents) or collecting already existing documents containing the needed information classifying the data.

c. Organizing the documents to make them accessible. Reporting selected data.

d. Actually providing the documents to user who needs the information.10

In addition, documentation refers to the process of providing evidence or to document something or to be the communicable material used to provide such documentation. Based on the data obtained from the documentation, the types of the main character can be analyzed.

There are several steps how the writer analyzes the movie:

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a. Watching the movie “Freedom Writers”

b. Understanding the story of the movie.

c. Collecting the theory of character

II. Technique of Data Analysis

Method of this study is descriptive qualitative analysis. According to Sugiyono, descriptive qualitative analysis is “an analysis that intends to make descriptions of situation or events”. It means that the analysis only try to accumulate the basic data descriptive, without assess and make prediction of the data. The steps of this technique are:

a. Selecting the movie entitled “Freedom Writer”

b. Watching and understanding the movie

c. Analyze character of main character Erin Gruwel

There are several steps how the writer analyzes the characters in the movie. The first step is the writer reads a synopsis of the film, then the writer watches and understands the film. After that, the writer identifies the main character using Eysenk theory to find the most prominent characters of Erin Gruwel. Finally, the writer provides the result analysis clearly.

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11 Surabaya : Sugiono, Metode penelitian Kualitatip.p338