

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discusses an introduction. There are six parts are covered, they are background of the study, research question, definition of the key term, objective of the study, significances of the study, and the last organization of the thesis.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Rahmat, Tirtanawati, and Purnama (2021: 1) state that education is a learning process in the personality of a person's life, starting from birth to death. Process in education can be found in family, school, and community environments. Further, there are two kinds of education processes, formal education, and informal education. Formal education is usually obtained from the school, where a person may learn basic, academic, or trade skill. Informal educations take place in a family and community environment. Instilling moral standards to create more tolerant and democratic societies, is including the education process. Daniel and Selvamony in Rahmat (2021: 2) in their book entitled *Value Education Today: Exploration in Social Ethics* said that the value of education makes someone able to think independently and enables them to distinguish between truth, lies and also between reason and nonsense.

The current modernization that is happening today makes changes in social life. One of the changes is in terms of morals. According to Indrijati (2017: 184) states the juvenile delinquency of senior high school students in

Surabaya, Indonesia getting the results: that 169 subjects skip school, 55 subjects get out of home without their parent's permission, 110 subjects engage in smoking behavior, 74 subjects damage other people properties, 32 subjects steal, 16 subjects exploit others and 7 subjects engage in drug abuse. The frequency of the top five mentioned behavior is 1-10 times. Wardani (2021: 5) says the problem of character education in various worlds needs to be prioritized, especially in Indonesia. Character education is a reference focus that is discussed every day and gets the spotlight of the Indonesian people.

The importance of the value of education in today's society, generates us learning, having, and applying the values of education in the aspect of life. The value of education is not just found in real life like school, family, business, and community environment but we can find it in a literary work. Talking about literature cannot be separated from how the definition of literature in itself. According to Aristotle (2006: 63), "Literature is to please and to be useful, to be catharsis, and to be communication media. It includes three components, such as a writer as a consignor of the message, literary work as a medium to message, and audience as a receiver of message".

The film is one of the kinds of literature that have any values, Klarer (2004: 53) states that "film is made by literary techniques, conversely, the literary practice developed particular features under the impact of the film". Drama or film is a piece of work consisting of literary aspects and aspects of performance. The literary aspect of drama in the form of script and the literary aspect of the film is a scenario. The film often has a storyline that lifts real life

which film was made to be interesting to the attention of the audience, the function of the film is not only as entertainment but also education and learning.

According to Dewi (2015: 1) character in the film is the basic thing that is attached to every individual. Lickona in Zubaedi (2011: 29), mentioned that a character would be related to the three components, moral knowing, moral behavior, and moral feeling. In accordance with these three components can state that a good or positive character is always supported by good knowledge, and encouraged with the desire to do good and do deeds good. So the writer assumes that individuals who have good character must have morals and character the good one.

Based on the statement above, the writer takes the point that film can give an important role in building character in people. The character possessed by each person or individual is not absolute, but some factors can make a person's character good or bad. Because of the non-absolute nature, a person or individual tends to follow the times so that they cannot control social life.

Not all films can be used as educational media, of course the film must contain educational values that can be learned by students. Through the plot of the story and the characterizations in the film, they are able to educate reason, imagination and ethics as well as build and develop their potential. *Freedom Writers* film by Richard LaGravenese which was adapted from *Freedom Writers Diary* by Erin is inspiring film and is rich in educational values in it. In addition, *Freedom Writers* film by Richard LaGravenese has gotten some

awards, there are A Human Price Award for Feature Film category in 2007 and Nomination Image Award for Outstanding Writing in A Motion Picture category in 2008.

*Freedom Writers* film by Richard LaGravenese wants to convey to the audience that education and character building are important, this can be seen from the storyline and dialogue in the film. When Erin Gruwell who is a teacher wants to know what is experienced by her students at school because she see their less educated attitude “*Thank you all very much. Now, I have something for each of you. Everyone has their own story and it’s important for you to tell your own story, even to yourself. So, what we’re going to do is we’re gonna write every in these journal*” (Scene 0:41:12 – 0:45:43) in the scene proves that the honest attitude of students revealed.

Muslich (2011: 85) states that moral value need to not simplest contact the extent of introducing norms or values however also at the extent of internalization and real action in regular existence. Consequently, the writer analyzes the film "Freedom Writers" directed by Richard LaGravensie wherein there are value of education that may be used as studying, especially in studying English for high school students in order that later they can construct characters that are in accordance with the predicted features and academic goals.

Thus, based on the problem above, the writer analyzes how film can deliver this value of education. The writer chose *Freedom Writers* film by Richard LaGravensie because it has the same theme as the reality that the

writer has described. The writer represents the scenes that contain the values of character education in it. The writer wants to examine the values of character education through the implied message contained in *Freedom Writers* film by Richard LaGravensie. The writer chose this film to be investigated more deeply because the researcher assumed that *Freedom Writers* film by Richard LaGravensie contained a hidden message about character education that could be useful in real life. The values of character education in *Freedom Writers* film by Richard LaGravensie are not shown directly and clearly, so they must be represented.

## **B. Research Question**

Based on the problem on the background above, this study is intended to answer the following problems “What are educational values reflected from the characters in film “Freedom Writers” directed by Richard LaGravensie?”

## **C. Definition of the Key Terms**

To avoid the miss understanding of the title of the research, it is important to explain the key term related to this research. Therefore, the writer gives some description of the key term to make the reader understand the study easier.

### **1. Educational Value**

According to Lakshmi and Paul (2018: 30) the value of education is defined as the process by which people give moral values to others. It can be seen as an activity taken in an institution in which people are assisted or helped by others, who are elder or have more experience or

have authority over the people. This activity of the value of education will be used to make an individual better and it is important to assess the result of it to see the long-term well-being of an individual and others.

## 2. Character

Suyatno in Asyifana (2019: 20) describes character as a way of thinking and behaving that characterizes each individual to live and work together, both in family, community, nation and state life. Individuals with good character are individuals who can make decisions and are ready to take responsibility for every consequence of the decisions they make.

## 3. Film

Based on Simanjutak (2020: 1), the film is a description of the narrative of human life that is presented through the role of players in various action scenes supported by visual effects and musical accompaniment. Films use a combination of language, sound, and images. The film is formed from two elements, namely narrative and cinematic elements, which are both closely related.

According to Pratista (2008: 19), narrative elements explain aspects or themes of stories, such as characters, problems, conflicts, location, time, and others. As with the narrative element, cinematic elements explain the technical aspects in the production of a film, including mise-en-scene, cinematography, editing, and sound.

#### 4. *Freedom Writers*

*Freedom Writers* is a movie based on the true story which is taken from the *Freedom Writers Diary* by teacher Erin Gruwell and her students. This movie took place in California, United State of America. This movie was released on January 5, 2007. The running time or the duration of this movie is about 122 minutes or one hour and twenty-two minutes. The language used in this movie is English. *Freedom Writers* is directed by Richard LaGravenese and produced by Danny Devito, Michael Shamberg, and Stacey Shen.

*Freedom Writers* is a film based on the true story of the struggle of a teacher in the New Port Beach area, Long Beach, California, the United States in reviving the enthusiasm of their students to learn. It is said, Erin Gruwell (played by Hillary Swank), a highly educated woman, came to Woodrow Wilson High School as an English teacher in class 203, where various racial gangs are always grouped, such as frangipani, black, Latin, and whites, and at that time being warmly discussed on the issue of racism.

#### **D. Objective of the Study**

Based on the research question above that is the focus of the writer's research, the writer determines and sets the objectives to be obtained in this study, is to find out what are the educational values reflected from the characters in film "Freedom Writers" directed by Richard LaGravenese.

## **E. Significances of the Study**

The findings of the study are expected to be relevant and useful theoretically and practically.

### **1. Theoretically**

This research is expected to be able to contribute to deepening the development of studies on media, especially mass communication. Then the writer hopes that it can provide a new perspective, especially in the study of communication science, especially regarding films.

### **2. Practically**

It includes advantages of this study for the writer and reader as follows:

#### **a. The writer**

The result of this writer is to fulfill the requirement of graduation. In addition, it is also intended to find out what are the educational values reflected from the characters in film "Freedom Writers" directed by Richard LaGravenese.

#### **b. The readers**

The readers expected to add broader insight into literary works that talk about the world of education so that it can be an example of a reference in terms of educating and motivating children.

### **3. Pedagogically**

The findings of this study are expected to be useful for:



a. Teacher

The result of this research is expected to be useful for English teachers in educate students through educational values and also creating interesting and fun learning.

b. Students

This research is expected to provide input or contribution regarding the creation of the next film so that it can become a reference for teaching materials and can take lessons from the essence of the educational value contained in a film.

## **F. Organization of the Thesis**

This thesis contains five chapters, which are systematized as follows:

1. Chapter I – Introduction

This chapter is consists of the background of the study, research question, the definition of the key terms, objective of the study, significances of the study, and organization of the paper.

2. Chapter II – Review of Related Literature

This chapter presents the result of the writer's search on theories or related research studies in a similar field, then the writer explain the theoretical framework. This chapter consists of theoretical study, previous studies, and theoretical framework.

3. Chapter III – Method of Investigation

This chapter is consists of research design, the source of data, techniques of data collection, and techniques of data analysis.

#### 4. Chapter IV – Findings and Interpretation

This chapter is the implementation of research, contains about finding answers to the first research question that displays all the results of the data collected and discussion of research result.

#### 5. Chapter V – Conclusion and Suggestions

In the last chapter, the writer gives points from the result of her research and suggests what can be done by the next researcher, looking for what is lacking in this research and what can later do to improve this research.