

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

A literary work such as poetry, prose, and drama is an author imagination of world, life, and experience remarked in words. Drama or play covers anything written for performance by actor, for example screenplay or movie. It generally comprises chiefly dialogue between characters and usually aims at dramatic or theatrical performance rather than at reading. Between drama and movie there is no sharp distinction. Both represent life and character through action and dialogue. Society and human being contribute in designing a movie for they are the most important units that cannot be separated from life. Although people have a different background, they need to negotiate with society.

The society of an individual is the culture that he or she educates and lives in or the people and institutions with whom the person interacts (<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/environment-sociology>). The individuals of a person's environment have a strong influence upon the person, often in every subtle ways. The social environment that is influenced by culture and society is a major factor that changes human behaviour. Social environment forms humans' behaviours that perform human personality. "Personality is an arrangement of behaviours, attitudes, beliefs, and values of persons " (Hall and Lindzey, 1985: 462).

The human's personality development depends on two interacting factors: heredity factor and environmental factor. Heredity factor is a factor that is inherited from his parent and transmitted by genes. Environmental factor is factor from outside of human. Environmental factor influences a person directly after his family, including childhood and maturity's phase in family, society and cultural values.

In relation to human's personality, *The Last Samurai* discusses Nathan Algren, an American Captain whose personality is influenced by *samurai's* society. In fact, he was commanded to attack *samurai's* society. After losing a battle with the *samurai* rebels, Algren is taken as a prisoner. Among his *samurai* captors, Algren discovers a sense of honour and purpose. He finds a renew sense of worth and dignity in the traditions.

Edward Zwick is the director of *The Last Samurai* who was born on October 8, 1952. Zwick produced, wrote and directed the popular 1980s weekly TV Drama *Thirty Something About Last Night* (1986), *Glory* (1989), *Legends of the Fall* (1994), *Shakespeare In Love's* (2000), *Traffic* (2000), *The Siege* (1998), and *The Last Samurai* (2003). *The Last Samurai* was a modest financial success domestically. It was also bigger one internationally, and went on to be honoured with four Academy Award Nominations (<http://video.barnesandnoble.com/search/Biography.asp?2=y&CTR:664791>)

The Last Samurai tells about an American Warriors named Nathan Algren joining up with *The Last Samurai* Warriors in Japan. For the first time he is commanded by Emperor Meiji to train Meiji's army and to attack *samurai's*.

Algren is captured by *samurai* led by Katsumoto, but he is not killed because Katsumoto finds him interestedly and admires his fighting spirit. He also wants to learn more about his enemy. Katsumoto treats his captive very well. The wife of *samurai* warrior who is killed by Algren in a battle cares him. As Algren recovers from his wounds, he begins to understand more about the *Samurai* code and way of life, called Bushido, “The way of the warrior”. He gradually becomes a *samurai*. This leads to a final confrontation between the *samurai* and new Japanese army, led by his old Indian massacre nemesis Colonel Bagley. (<http://www.lariat.org/AtTheMovies/new/lastsamurai.htm>).

The behaviourist approach is the right method to reveal the character’s behaviour and personalities in the work. The writer chooses Edward Zwick in *The Last Samurai*. It makes the writer interested in knowing the knowledge about movie and its elements in order to be more understood. That is why the writer intends to conduct a research of movies entitled “**THE IMPACT OF SAMURAI’S SOCIETY ON NATHAN ALGREN IN EDWARD ZWICK’S THE LAST SAMURAI : BEHAVIOURIST APPROACH**”.

B. Literature Review

There is a researcher, Indri Setiyorini, who conducted different studies of Edward Zwick’s *The Last Samurai*. She used Sociological Approach to analyse this movie by focusing her study on the conflict between traditional and modern cultures. For this study, the writer uses Behaviourist Perspective. So, there is no

same research, at least among the students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

C. Problem Statement

What are the impacts of the samurai's society on Nathan Algren's personality?

D. Limitation of the study

The research focuses on the personality of Nathan Algren as a result of the influences of society, from behaviourist perspective.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe the personality of Nathan Algren from behaviourist perspective.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

1. Practical Benefit

After this study has been completed, it is expected to contribute the study of body of knowledge, particularly the literary study on Edward Zwick *The Last Samurai*.

2. Theoretical Benefit

It aims to enrich the literary study particularly among students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta.

G. Research Method

1. Object of the Study

Object of the study is Nathan Algren's *The Last Samurai*.

2. Type of the Data

Type of the data is audio-visual.

3. The Data Sources

This study consists of two data sources:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the movie it self: *The Last Samurai* directed by Edward Zwick.

b. Secondary Data Source

These data are derived from research approach books, fiction study books, and internet websites.

4. Technique of the Data Collection.

The methods of collecting data are as follows:

- a. Watching the film several times, until the writer gets an adequate information or data to be analyzed.
- b. Reading some other sources related to the film.

- c. Giving marks to the particular parts, which are considered important to the analysis.
- d. Taking notes for the important parts both in primary and secondary sources.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

Before analyzing the data, the writer classifies the data into categories, namely: good and bad personalities. Then, she analyzes the data by using descriptive qualitative technique. It is used to describe the elements of the movie and make some understanding toward the movie.