

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### **A. Background of the study**

People are born in the world are undoubtedly related to other person. They cannot live all alone, they need somebody's help beside them. Because of that, people usually live in an environment where people usually live side by side and help each other. The environment is called society. Society means a group of people who live in a certain place and organize certain community. A society is a particular kind of population: it is the largest population whose members share a cultural identity and way of life and interact in patterned ways (Johnson, 1986:17)

Society is also related to human being as the element that creates it. People influence the norms, values and also ceates social system in society. This system appears directly or indirectly by the relationship between one people with another, and it can rule in every side of life whether in doing socialization or doing the daily activities. A social system is a mode of organization of action elements relative to the persistence or ordered processes of change of the interactive patterns of a plurality of individual actors (Parson, 1951:24). Social system means the independence of people, and a boundary between people and its environment. In addition when the characteristics of one part in a system (society) change, all the other parts and the system as whole are affected.

The changes of the system in society often arise many problems such as social, political, and economic problems. All these problems comes up because

of the differences of thinking, ideas and also dissatisfaction to the system in the society. The problem can be injustice, racism, and discrimination. One of the disruptive features of this social system is the appearance of class conflict between groups or among institutions. It is one of the phenomena in the society, which is again, caused by the differences of way of thought, principles, values, and so on. This phenomenon in the society cannot be avoided easily. Soekanto (1994:27) argued that each social life shows the tension under the structural and processes in society. On the other hand, a particular generation wants to defend the old structure and on the other hand, the other wants to break it.

The phenomena and problems in society are often depicted by an author in his or her literary works. It could happen because the author has the strong relationship with his or her social life. It cannot be rejected, because the author is the part of the society too. The ideas of his or her literary works often come from the social condition where he or she lives. Literature shows a real life's portraits and real life is social reality (Damono in Jabrohim, 2001: 162). According to Koesnosoebroto (1988:4) literature is not only written to be read for pleasure but also to broaden, deepen, and sharpen the reader's awareness of life. Literature is not only for furnishing entertainment but also for seeing, feeling, and understanding life, human beings, and nature better.

In *Freedom Writers*, Erin Gruwell wants to describe the social system or the social manners of American society especially in Long Beach, California. Erin Gruwell had just gotten her degree and starting her journey in the field of teaching. She landed a job at Woodrow Wilson High. She was thrown into a

classroom of students who were labeled "unteachable." These students have experienced violence, drugs, and alcohol first-hand. Every single one of them were exposed to it during their life. Through the major character Erin Grunwell and the students, the author symbolizes as the person who wants to break the social system at that time. At this point, she wants to describe the conflict, that caused by the social system which has huge influence in American society. Based on this consideration the present researcher is interested in analysing it as the object of his study entitled "A Rebel Against Social System in *Erin Gruwell's Freedom Writers: A Sociological Approach*".

#### **B. Problem Statement**

The main problem of this study is how the major character rebel against the social system in American society in the twentieth century is reflected in Erin Grunwell's *Freedom Writers*.

#### **C. Limitation of the study**

The problem is limited on major character attempts in rebelling against social system viewed from the sociological perspective.

#### **D. Objective of the study**

The objective of this study are as follows:

- a. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
- b. To analyze the movie based on the sociological perspective.

#### **E. Benefit of the Study**

By studying *Erin Gruwell's Freedom Writers*, there are two benefits can be gained: theoretical and practical benefit:

1. Theoretical benefit:

This study is expected to give contribution to the development of the body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Erin Gruwell's Freedom Writers*.

2. Practical benefit:

It is expected to give contribution to literary field as reference to the other researchers in analyzing this movie particularly the Student of Muhammdiyah University of Surakarta.