

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

War is an everyday reality for millions of children. A huge number of the victim of war is children. They are killed, disabled or orphaned by civil war. They become refugees and separated from their families. Many children are traumatized by witnessing brutal deaths and by being surrounded by violence, fear and hardship.

*Turtles Can Fly* movie produced, written and directed by Bahman Ghobadi. It Produced by IFC films and screen writer by Ali Kani. It was the first film to be made in Iraq after the fall of Saddam Hussein. This movie made on September 10, 2004 and released on February 18, 2005 in theatrical. *Turtles Can Fly* movie categorized as a drama film and it has 98 minutes of running time.

Bahman Ghobadi was born on February 1th, 1969 in Baneh, in the Kurdistan border of Iraq and Iran. He was brief career in industrial photography and graduating from the national audiovisual school, he made his first short documentary film *Life In Fog* that won numerous awards. Then, Bahman Ghobadi was also as assistant director on Abbas Kiarostami's the *Wind Will Carry Us*, and got success of it.

This movie begins with the scene of little girl falling herself from a ravine or ledge, the film tells about the background of a village 'Iraqi Kurdistan' in the

border of Iran and Turkey. Using setting of 2003 under the invasion of America, the film displays the obsession of people toward international news acquired from satellite to get information of American future planning to save Iraq.

There are many children who as victims of America invasion that live in the refugee camp (Kurdistan village) such as Soran (satellite), Henkov, Agrin, and Rega. They have touched different tragedy as victim of the war. Satellite is familiar name of Soran, it because of his job repaired a antenna. He is an American boy that lives in refugee camps with other victims of Iraq war. Henkov is handicapped boy who lose his hands because of weapon in the war. Agrin, the little girl, 12 years old lose her parents and at the same time she experiences other cruel tragedy, she trapped by the soldier in the war.

Because of those, Agrin was pregnant and having little child in very young. Rega is Agrin's son, he was also victim, he born as blind child it's because of him born from very young mother. Agrin was depressed, she would be more depressed when she thinks of how Rega grows and what people think about her. Many times, Agrin tells her planning to leave Rega, but her brother Henkov always forbids her because Henkov loves the boy so much.

However, one day in dark night Agrin kills her child and then she is suicide. This scene was surprised and the end of the story gives sympathetic. This story described the cruel war that makes children suffer.

*Turtles Can Fly* movie has good public response, such as audience, market and industrial. Firstly, from the audience response, *Turtles Can Fly* movie 90%

rating of positive reviews. Many viewers like and interest in this movie. Such as Joan Widdifield in movie magazine of San Francisco, April 13, 2005 [www.shoestring.org](http://www.shoestring.org) state that “a good film is supposed to transport you to a different place and show you another way of seeing the world, and *Turtles Can Fly* has succeeded”. Roger Ebert also reviews this movie on April 14, 2005 in <http://rogerebert.suntimes.com> state that “many people assume the movie is a liberal attack on G. W. Bush’s policies. It is just about the actual lives of refugees, who lack the luxury of opinions because they are preoccupied with staying alive in a world that has no place for them”. And it has been criticized by some people in Rotten Tomatoes; two of those is Tariq Ali who say that despite the film has a beautiful story line, the film is seems to support the American invasion of Iraq. Significantly, the film is silent about what happen to satellite after the Americans finally land in their refugee camp. And David Stratton regret about scene of against Saddam Hussein, who brought them nothing but grief and sorrow, but when President Bush and coalition of the willing invaded Iraq it’s the Iraqi and Kurdish children, like the ones in this film, who are, inevitably, the victims.

Secondly, *Turtles Can Fly* movie get a good market’s response. First evidence is this movie plays in 24 theatrical in many country in the world. They are Canada, South Korea, UK, USA, Argentina, Brazil, Greece, Netherlands, Iceland, Israel, Poland, Denmark, Japan, Colombia, Thailand, Switzerland, Finland, Mexico, Hong Kong, German, Czech Republic, Australia, Spain, and Belgium. This movie achieved box office until \$213,047. And the second

evidence is the VCD and DVD of this movie divided into 10 kinds of language, subtitle and the title. Such as *Lakposhta parvaz mikonand* for origin title in Kurdistan, *Kai oi helones petane* (Greece title), *Kaplumbagalar da uçar* (Turkish title), *Las Tortugas también vuelan* (Argentina), *Les tortues volent aussi* (France DVD title), *Schildkröten können fliegen* (Germany), *Skildpadder kan flyve* (Denmark), *Skilpadder kan fly* (Norway), *Zelvy mohou létat* (Czech Republic), *Turtles Can Fly* (International or English title). The price of VCD is Rp. 49. 000,- and DVD is Rp. 59. 000,-. According to data from [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com), 68% people in the world buy this VCD and DVD. According to the data, it can be concluding “*Turtles Can Fly* success in the market.

The last, from industrial response *Turtles Can Fly* movie got many awards from national and international academy awards. They are 3 National awards such as awards as best director, best film and special jury of Iran cinema. And 39 awards from International academic awards such as awards for the top prize (golden shell), special audience, best director the best film, favorite film, the peace film, best narrative feature, freedom of expression film, the signis award, special distinction, special jury, la pieze award, the E changer awards, special mention film, the most moving film, and special recondition film.

There are four points that make *Turtles Can Fly* movie interesting to be analyzed by the researcher. Firstly, in *Turtles Can Fly* movie the director using casting of real victim of Iraq war that live in refugee camp in Kurdistan. The characters in *Turtles Can Fly* movie are children and teenager, all of them

orphans. There are adults' characters in the movie but the kids run their own lives. And about the characterization of *Turtles Can Fly* movie is very variation, such as agrin as a depression child who raped by soldier, satellite as a smart leader child, henkov as handicapped child who get job to clean the weapons, and many others interesting characters.

Secondly, the setting of *Turtles Can Fly* movie describes social background of Iraq by using set right before the American invasion 2003 that tells about the background of a village 'Iraqi Kurdistan' in the border of Iran and Turkey. So, the location and the sense of place are very real and match with the story line and make a sense of watching a real setting of refugee camp of Iraq war.

Thirdly, plot that using in *Turtles Can Fly* movie begins with the scene of little girl falling herself from a ravine or ledge. In the middle story line consist of the rising action; agrin tries to suicide herself and her child because she is not able to keep survive of the heavy life. And the climax is when she get conflict with her brother, he always forbids her because henkov loves his sister and her child so much. And the problem solving in the end of the movie is very surprised, Agrin loses her childhood and then she suicide herself. The tragedy of the both die makes the viewer uncontrolled.

Finally, the story of *Turtles Can Fly* movie describes social background of Kurdistan village, Iraq. Using setting of 2003, under the invasion of America. The film displayed the obsession of people toward international news acquired from satellite to get information of American future planning to save Iraq. *Turtles Can*

Fly is a tragic story of orphan children in the refugee camp who as victims of the Iraq war that run their own lives.

Through the description above, the researcher decided to conduct a research focused on the children as victims of war that reflected in *Turtles Can Fly* movie by using sociological perspective entitled CHILDREN AS VICTIMS OF WAR IN BAHMAN GHOBADI'S *TURTLES CAN FLY* MOVIE (2005): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

## **B. Literature Review**

To prove the originality of this research, the researcher presents the previous research that deals with this research proposal. The previous researcher of Bahman Gobadi's *Turtles Can Fly* movie is Karakas, Saniye, University of London (2006/2007) entitled *Turtles Can Fly and The Image of Perpetrators, Victims And Heroes*,. That accessed on June 11, 2010: 11. 27 a. m. In the research, the researcher focuses her research on study human right to analyze *Turtles Can Fly* movie and to illustrate the image of perpetrators, victims, and savior.

The second research is Ningsih, Yulia (2010) entitled *The Anxiety of Agrin in Bahman Ghobadi's Turtles Can Fly: A Psychoanalytic Approach*. The focus of the study is how the anxiety reflected in the major character (Agrin) based on its structural elements and psychoanalytic approach. The conclusion of the study is the psychoanalytic approach shows that the anxiety can occur when a person has conflict in her or his personality.

Based on the two previous studies above, it is clear that this research different with those researches. Here, the researcher presents the study of Children as Victims of War in Bahman Ghobadi's *Turtles Can Fly* Movie (2005) by using Sociological Perspective. And the film script by Gohbadi, Bahman and Sergeik as the data source to be analyzed.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The research focused on “how the children as victims of war are reflected in Bahman Ghobadi's *Turtles Can Fly* movie related to sociological perspective?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research the writer focuses on the analysis of *Turtles Can Fly* movie viewed from the sociological perspective; it is because the researcher wants to analyze the children as victims of war by using sociologically.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

- 1) To describe the structural elements of the movie.
- 2) To analyze the movie by means of sociological aspect to know the social aspect changes in Iraq as reflected in Bahman Ghobadis *Turtles Can Fly* by using sociological approach.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits expected from the study are as follows:

#### **1. Theoretical**

- a. To give additional contribution to literature researches dealing with *Turtles Can Fly* Movie.

- b. To give information about the content of *Turtles Can Fly* movie for who are interested in analyzing this study. Especially from the sociological aspect.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

- a. It is used for getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.
- b. It can be a reference in doing researches of other cases.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this study, the writer applies qualitative research.

### **2. Object of the Study**

Object of the research is *Turtles Can Fly* Movie.

### **3. Type of the Data and The Data Source**

- a. There are two types of data
  - 1) Text that consists of words, phrases, narrations, dialogues of *Turtles Can Fly* movie.
  - 2) Image that consist of scenes in *Turtles Can Fly* movie
- b. In analyzing this movie the writer uses two sources of data, they are:
  - 1) The primary data sources are taken from *Turtles Can Fly* movie and its movie scripts that downloaded from internet.
  - 2) The secondary data is taken from other sources, which are related to primary data that support the analysis. They are books and virtual references as documentation.

#### **4. Method of the Data Collection**

The methods used for collecting data are note taking and image capturing. There are steps of the method:

- a. Watching and learning the movie repeatedly
- b. Reading the script to get more understanding
- c. Reading some related references to observe the theory, data and information
- d. Making notes of important part and both primary and secondary data sources
- e. Classifying the data into some categories

#### **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the writer employs descriptive analysis of content. The analysis begun from the structural analysis of *Turtles Can Fly* movie and finally the sociological analysis of the literary work.

#### **H. Research Paper Organization**

This study is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction, which explains the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study, research method and paper organization. Chapter II is dealing with the underlying theory, it consists of notion of sociology of literature, approaches of sociological perspective, and structural elements of the movie. Chapter III is Social background of Iraq at the turn of the century. They are; social, economic,

political, science and technology, cultural, religious, and education aspects. Chapter IV is structural analysis: the writer wants to explain the structural element of the movie and discussion. Chapter V constitutes sociological analysis of the movie. The last is Chapter VI contains conclusion and discussion.