

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Flags of Our Fathers is one of epic drama movies of world war II. The Screenplay of this film is adapted from a *New York Times Bestseller* book (year 2000) written by James Bradley. It was made in October 20, 2006 and released in Desember 20, 2006. The setting of place is at Backlot, Universal Studios - 100 Universal City Plaza, Universal City, California, USA and setting of time is the World War II. The film runtime is 2 hours and 12 minutes with production cost \$336.6 M. *Flags of Our Fathers* is distributed by Paramount. This movie is also known as La conquista del honor.

The film was directed by Clint Eastwood from a screenplay by William Broyles, JR. and Paul Haggis. Clint Eastwood has won five Academy Awards, twice as Best Director and as producer of the Best Picture (1992's *Unforgiven* and 2004's *Million Dollar Baby*) and he received the Irving G. Thalberg Memorial Award in 1995.

Flags of Our Fathers is a movie about war between the United States marines and Japanese soldier to govern one island of Japan, i.e Iwo Jima. In that war, the United States can occupy a half of Iwo Jima .When there was a war, more than 22,000 Japaneseese soldiers would die defending a patch of ground a third the size of Manhattan, while nearly

26,000 Americans fell taking it from them. The battle, the largest sea armada invasion ever assembled and the costliest war ever fought by the US Marines, was also a turning point in the war because control of the island of Iwo Jima (Japaneseese territory) allowed Allied forces to launch B-29 bomber raids into the heart of Japanese with the eventual dropping of the Atomic Bomb that would end World War II.

United States's conquest is recognized with marines's success in flag raising on Suribachi mount of Iwo Jima. When there was flag raising, an incident occured. It becomes controversial since there were two flag-raising in the invasion of American marines in Japanese. The first flag was raised by the third platoon army; they are Hank Hansen, Boots Thomas, John Bradley, Phil Ward, Jim Michael, and Chuck Lindberg (the men appearing in the photograph when the flag-raising) as the command from Colonel Johnson. For James Forrestal, the secretary of the navy, was so taken with the fervor of the moment that he decided to want the Suribachi flag as a souvenir, Chandler Johnson, discontentedly, commanded the second Platoon to replace the raised flag with another bigger one, and that was the second flag-raising by Ira Heyes, Franklin Sousley, John Bradley, Harlon Block, Mike Strank, and Rene Gagnon (based on the original Rosenthal photo). Finally, the second flag-rising that becomes wellknown and the men who raise that flag also become popular and the Treasury Minister exploits them for his private and make the country more glorious with heroes' share that died in war. These shares used to finance the war.

Because American's believe and pride for their country's conquest, they followed to participate in buying portions and give support to their country for the United States heroes on war includes they who still alive, John Doc Bradley, Ira Hayes and Rene Gagnon. Society of United States did not know that they had deceived by Treasury Department and third person who considered as heroes only exploited and manipulated by Treasury Department. They must obey Treasury Department's order and rule who reificate heroism for his private.

Flags of Our Fathers has public responses. There are from society respons, the market, and film industry. From Society respons, there are good and bad respon. This film becomes popular in United States, because this film is American's pride for their soldier in occupying Iwo Jima, Japanese. Enthusiastic of American in supporting this film is shown with the achievement of many Awards of categories that influence film industry there. *Flags of Our Fathers* was nominated for two Academy Awards, one Art Directors Guild, one Broadcast Film Critics Association, one Dallas-Ft. Worth Film Critics Awards, one Golden Globe, two L.A. Film Critics Association, one Las Vegas Film Critics Circle, one National Board of Review, ten Satellite Awards. This film won five among them. In L.A. Film Critics Association – 2006, it was sweeping Best Cinematography (Runner-up) for Tom Stern, Best Director (Runner-up) for Clint Eastwood. In Satellite Awards – 2006. It won Best Art Direction & Production Design for Henry Bumstead, Jack. G. Jr. Taylor, Richard Goddard, Best

Cinematography for Tom Stern, Best Director for Clint Eastwood. In the market, this film also becomes the bestselling film in the USA.

Besides the good responses, *Flags of Our Fathers* movie also gains protests from Asian especially Japanese. Japanese people give responds for this film as a controversial thing because it contains soldier's discourtesy of United States that successful kill thousands of Japanese's soldiers alongside of defense lines for their country. Of course, this case interfered humanity because human rights is disregarded.

In this study, there are some points of interest for choosing *Flags of Our Fathers* with reification for the topic. First is character of the movie. Clint Eastwood perfectly shows each character of the movie, main character and minor character. For example as the main characters, John Doc Bradley, Ira Hayes, and Rene Gagnon, they have same physical characteristics in their bodies. As armies, they have tall posture. Their hair must be short. They have special orderly uniforms. Their skill are smarter than usual person, especially in war in order to able to arrange strategies in war. Related to their attitude, they have good attitude. They must be discipline and obey their Comandan. For psychologically reason, they must have strong spirit and be tenacious. They also have firm attitude in their appearance. Meanwhile, in battle field, they are sweaty and full of spots on their faces. For minor characters, they use usual dress.

The second is the setting of the movie. This film has several setting including society environment and in the battle field. The director makes

audiences enjoy and be mesmerized. As an example, the setting of battle field is designed well and very unusually intensive. It is not easy to make a war setting where the place in total confusion and noise of rifle drills and bombs everywhere. The setting of this film shows condition in 1944.

The third is the plot. The film presents attractive images and story by giving some flashbacks. It is necessary to watch the film many times to understand the plot of the film because the plot is complex.

Mise – en – scene is also the next point of interest in this movie. Set dressing and props, costume and make up, lighting are the elements of mise – en – scene . In costume, the director shows costumes in a certain year complete with the properties. Related to make-up for artists is wonderful in this film. For example, the effect of the blood flood follows after someone is shot by an enemy soldier. The lighting is also good, Clint Easwood uses Frontal lighting, sidelight, backlighting, under lighting, top lighting, key light, and a fill light. *Frontal lighting* is used to eliminate shadows and *sidelight* is used to sculpt the characters. Meanwhile, *backlighting* defines depth by sharply distinguishing and object from its background. *Under lighting* suggests that the light comes from below the subject, *top lighting* usually appears along with light coming from other directions. Next, the *key light* is the primary lighting source of the image, and *a fill light* is used to fill the darkness.

The last is Cinematography. In capturing the scenes, the director uses framing, close-up, angles in order to make the audiences get angry and to make signify among one expression and others.

Based on the previous reasons, the writer will observe *Flags of Our Fathers* movie by using Marxist Criticism. So, the writer constructs the title **REIFICATION OF HEROISM IN CLINT EASTWOOD'S *FLAGS OF OUR FATHERS* MOVIE (2006) : A MARXIST CRITICISM.**

B. Literature Review

As far as the writer is known, there is only one study about *Flags of Our Fathers* by Abdulfattah Auliya Nashrullah, a Semarang State University student (2010), entitled *Imperialism behind the American War Propaganda in Clint Eastwood's Movie "Flags of Our Fathers"*. His study uses the sociology of literature approach in order to analyze the social phenomena occurring in the work (movie). The purpose of the study is to reveal how the American's propaganda gives some effects in American's glory through imperialism. The results of the study shows some evidences directing to the American imperialism. The first is that the monetary campaign is conducted by employing and propagandizing the victory of American war in Japan. The second is the American authority over Arabic, in the term of oil production.

C. Problem Statement

In this research, the writer would like to present reification of heroism reflected in *Flags of Our Fathers* by Clint Eastwood. The problem of the study is how reification of heroism is reflected in *Flags of Our Fathers*.

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the reification of heroism in Clint Eastwood's *Flags of Our Fathers* movie based on a Marxist Criticism.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study can be stated as follows:

1. To analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. To analyze reification of heroism reflected in *Flags of Our Fathers* movie based on a Marxist Criticism.

F. Benefit of the Study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study can give new information in knowledge, especially the literary studies on *Flags of Our Fathers* movie.

2. Practical Benefits

It fulfills requirements in getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

Generally, it is a study about literary writing using a qualitative research technique. Strauss and Corbin (2003:2) state that the research studies social, behavior, or any fields, which concerned about human behavior and role in society, can use qualitative research. So, the results or the findings are not gathered by statistical procedure or other counting methods. Examples of such research are research about life, biography, human behavior, organization behavior, social movement, or cause and effect relationship.

In qualitative research technique, there are some elements to be considered. According to Strauss and Corbin (2003:6), there are three prime elements. First, the data, they can be taken from interview or observation. Second is coding, it is the usage of a procedure of analysis and interpretation in order to get results or findings of theory that cover the technique to comprehend the data. Third is the report in which it is being presented in a written or oral form.

The writer uses the descriptive and qualitative method to analyze reification of heroism in the movie entitled *Flags of Our Fathers* in the form of words, sentences, utterances, and dialogues.

2. Object of the Study

The Object of the study is the movie entitled *Flags of Our Father* is one of the movies that depicts the reification of heroism in United States

in 1945. The film was directed by Clint Eastwood from a screenplay by William Broyles, JR. and Paul Haggis, which they adapted from a *New York Times Bestseller* book (year 2000).

3. Types of the Data and the Data Source

There are two types of the data namely text and image that are needed to do this research.

a. Text

The data are taken from the utterance or script of *Flags of Our Fathers* movie. The writer uses note-taking to analyze the movie.

b. Image

The data are taken from image capturing of *Flags of Our Fathers* movie. The writer captures image to analyze the movie.

There are also two data sources in this research, primary data and secondary data.

a. Primary Data

The source of the main data are taken from the movie entitled *Flags of Our Fathers*.

b. Secondary Data

The other sources that the writer uses in the form of books, journals, and articles to support the main data are some from the library and some information got from the internet.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

In analyzing the object of the study, the writer uses note-taking and image capturing. Since this research is a movie, so the data are text and image. If the data are text, the writer uses note-taking. Image capturing is used while the data is image. There are four techniques that are conducted by the writer in finding and collecting the data. They are watching and reading, identifying, selecting, and classifying. Those four techniques will be explained in the following:

a. Reading and Watching

Because the object of the study is a movie, the basic step in analyzing the data is watching the movie itself. To understand the story deeper, it is very important to watch the movie for several times. Reading is also conducted to analyze the data because it is very important to read the movie subtitle in finding dialogues or situations which are related to the topic.

b. Identifying

After watching the movie and reading its English subtitle for several times, identifying is conducted to find parts of the movie which are going to be analyzed. The data which are identified can be in the form of dialogues, sentences, or utterances of the movie. The relevant data in the movie subtitle are bracketed to distinguish them from the other parts of the movie that are irrelevant with the topic of the study.

c. Selecting

The next method is selecting the data. Selecting the data is conducted to select all of the listed data that will be dealing with the analysis of the study. They will be taken from the data that had been inventoried before. They will be selected based on their relevancy to the topic of the study so that only the most relevant data that are selected in the study.

d. Classifying

To answer the problems easily, the inventoried data need to be classified. There is a problem to be solved in this study. The first problem saying “How the reification of heroism is reflected in the movie?” will be answered by referring to the data reported in a Marxist analysis.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and Marxist criticism.

H. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of “Reification of Heroism in Clint Eastwood’s *Flags of Our Fathers* movie (2006): A Marxist Criticism” is as follows: Chapter 1 is Introduction. It consists of Background of the Study, Literature Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, The Benefit of the Study, Research Method, and Research Paper Organization. Chapter II is dealing with review of Underlying Theory, in this chapter the writer explains the Basic Principle Theory of Marxist and Structure Elements of the movie. Chapter III is Historical Background of the movie. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis. It deals with Structure Element of the movie and Discussion. Chapter V is Marxist Analysis of the Movie. Chapter VI is the last chapter. It contains Conclusion and Suggestion of this research.