

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

Rambo IV is an American action/war films by Sylvester Stallone as director and writer of the film. The film was published in 25 January 2008 and it has 91 minutes of the duration. The genre is action film, this film is produced in United States with location are Thailand, Burma and it is presented by Millenium and Nu Image Film. The actors of this film are Sylvester Stallone (John Rambo), Julie Benz (Sarah), Matthew Marsden (School boy), Graham McTavish (Lewis), Reynaldo Gallegos (Diaz), Jake La Botz (Reese), Tim Kang (En-Joo), Paul Schulze (Michael Burnett), and Muang Muang Khin (Tint). It is the fourth installment in the *Rambo* franchise, twenty years since the last film *Rambo III*. This film is dedicated to the memory of Richard Crenna, who played Col. Sam Trautman in the first three films, who died in 2003.

Sylvester Stallone became one of Hollywood's highest paid actors, usually playing monosyllabic, antisociety, underdog heroes. While Stallone has attempted to extend his range into film comedies and drama, his real box office success continues in action films. Beside that he is good actor and director of film. He has many literary works; he ever played some of film such as Rocky I (1976), Rocky II (1979), Rocky III (1982), Rocky IV (1985), Rambo I (1982), Rambo II (1985), Rambo III (1988), and Rambo IV (2008).

The film is about a former U.S. soldier, John Rambo, who is hired by a church pastor to rescue a group of missionaries who are kidnapped by men from a brutal Burmese military regime. *Rambo* holds the record with the most kills out of the entire *Rambo* series, with 236 kills. In the film, the military regimes kill a group of pirates and an entire squad of Burmese soldiers.

The film opens with newsreels of the crisis in Burma. Burma is under the iron-fisted rule of Than Shwe and takes harsh stances against the nation's pro-democracy movement. Rebels are thrown into a mine-infested marsh and then gunned down by the Tatmadaw, while the cigarette-smoking Burmese military officer Major Pa Tee Tint gazes grimly at the scene.

One day a group of Christian human rights missionaries, led by Michael Burnett and Sarah Miller, approach Rambo with the desire to rent his boat to travel up the river to Burma. For over fifty years, Burma has been a war zone. The Karen people of the region, who consist of peasants and farmers, have endured brutally oppressive rule from the murderous Burmese military and have been struggling for survival every single day. After some inner contemplation, Rambo accepts the offer and takes Michael, Sarah, and the rest of the missionaries up the river. When the missionaries finally arrive at the Karen village, they find themselves part of a raid by the sadistic Major Pa Tee Tint and a slew of Burmese army men. A portion of the villagers and missionaries are tortured and viciously murdered, while Tint and his men hold the remainder captive.

*Rambo IV* is interesting movie; there are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first aspect is this movie has good theme, the second aspect is the character, the third aspect is the plot, and the last aspect is the cruelty that becomes the main issue of the film reflected well.

The first aspect is this movie has good theme. The theme of this movie is about reality of war. Rambo can let the world know the military government is totally cruel. Sylvester Stallone returns and reprises his famous role as legendary Cold War/Vietnam veteran John Rambo. *Rambo* holds the record with the most kills out of the entire *Rambo* series, with 236 kills.

The second aspect is the characters are terrific because they are able make the audience feel for them and make the audiences feel like involve there. Rambo kills the soldier of Burmese Military Regime to help the missionaries by himself. In addition, the actor in Rambo is an action movie and the actor should have good stamina because it presents a lot of extreme scenes such like war scene, falling, running, dragging and the place of action is in jungle. Moreover, the actors are suitable with the character that they play.

The third aspect is the plot. Its plot is very attractive. The conflict built by the early moment plays the viewer's emotion. It makes the movie become not boring to watch. There is a lot of conflict as a favor of the movie that can raise the curiosity and waiting for what happens next. The end of plot makes the audience feel satisfied, sad and happy.

The last aspect is the cruelty that becomes the main issue of the film is reflected well. It tells about the cruelty in the jungle of Myanmar's Karen

State from Burmese Military Regime which is cruel, brutal and arrogant characters. That is why, the writer intends to conduct a study entitled: “THE CRUELTY OF BURMESE MILITARY REGIME IN SYLVESTER STALLONE’S *RAMBO IV* (2008): A MARXIST APPROACH.”

## **B. Literature Review**

*Rambo IV* is interesting film, and as far as the writer knows, there is no student that has analyzed this film, especially Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The researcher takes the Marxist Approach to analyze the cruelty of Burmese Military Regime in Sylvester Stallone’s *Rambo IV* (2008).

## **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems as follows: “How the cruelty of Burmese Military Regime in *Rambo IV*?”.

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

The objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze the movie in term of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on Marxist approach

### **E. Limitation of the Study**

Based on the title and background, the writer focuses on analyzing the cruelty of Burmese Military Regime in *Rambo IV*, viewed from the Marxist approach.

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

By presenting this thesis, the writer hopes that there will be some benefits as follows:

1. Theoretically, this study is purposed to give additional information to literature research especially those dealing with Sylvester Stallone's *Rambo IV*.
2. Practically, this study can develop the writer's skills and ability in applying the Marxist approach in Sylvester Stallone's *Rambo IV*.

### **G. Research Method**

#### **a. Type of the Study**

The writer's uses descriptive qualitative method besides books and other related references to supports the subject matter.

#### **b. Object of the Study**

The object of the study *RAMBO IV*.

**c. Type of the Data and the Data Sources**

The researcher here uses qualitative. This is a library research, which takes the source of the data from words and other writings. The writer divides the data source into two categories:

- i. The primary data source of the study *Rambo IV* by Stallone.
- ii. The secondary data sources consist of the other data, which have dealing with the study, such as biography of the some authors, and other relevant information.

**d. Techniques of the Data Collection**

The data are collected from film and articles relating with the topic. To make the data more complete the writer is doing some steps. The steps as follows:

- a. Watching the film and reading the articles that connected to the research repeatedly.
- b. Finding the important data.
- c. Arranging the data into several parts and classifying it.
- d. Developing the data that are provided.

**e. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The data analyzed by using descriptive qualitative analysis. This is an interpretation of the content analysis to get characteristic of the data of Marxist analysis of Karl Marx's theory at the *Rambo IV* film.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organization of Sylvester Stallone's *Rambo IV* (2008) is divided into six chapters. The first chapter is introduction which explains the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization. The second chapter is underlying theory of Marxist approach; it covers notion of Marxism, major principles, structural elements of movie and theoretical application. The third chapter is the historical background of Burma in the nineteenth century up to the early twenty first century; it deals with social, economic, political, science and technological, culture, and religious aspects. The fourth chapter is the structural analysis. The researcher describes the structural elements of the *Rambo IV* movie and its discussion. The fifth chapter presents the Marxist analysis and discussion related to the problem of the movie. Finally, the sixth chapter is the last one, integrating the overall discussion, and bringing it to the conclusion of the study and also the suggestion of the researcher.