

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

The Hurt Locker is an American war movie about three men of United States Army Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team during the Iraq War. The screenplay of this movie is based on accounts of Mark Boal. He was embedded with American bomb squad in the war in Iraq in 2004. Mark Boal is a freelance journalist. The other Boal's work is article in *Playboy* turned into the short-lived television series *The Inside* in 2002.

The Hurt Locker movie is directed by Kathryn Bigelow, an American movie director, and the screenplay is written by Mark Boal. Bigelow's best-known movies are the cult horror film *Near Dark* (1987), *Point Break* (1991) and *The Weight of Water* (2000).

This movie was made in July 2007 in Jordan and Kuwait where temperature average is 120 degrees. This film was taken for 44 days with low budget. The setting of place at Iraq and setting of time is 2004. The movie runtime is 131 minutes released on DVD and blue-ray by Summit Entertainment. *The Hurt Locker* premiered at the Venice Film Festival in Italy on October 10, 2008 by Warner Bros Pictures. Then it is distributed in the United States by Summit Entertainment and it was released in the United States on June 26, 2009.

The Hurt Locker movie is about three men of United States Army Explosive

Ordnance Disposal (EOD) team during the Iraq War in 2004. Initially, Sergeant First Class William James becomes the new team leader of an EOD unit with the U.S. Army's Bravo Company, replacing Staff Sergeant Thompson, who was killed by a remote-detonated Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Baghdad. James's teammate, Sergeant J.T. Sanborn and Specialist Owen Eldridge have job to communicate with their team leader via radio inside his bomb suit, and provide him with rifle cover while he examines an IED. While at Camp Victory, James befriends Beckham, a young Iraqi boy who works for a local merchant operating at the base, selling pirated DVD movies to the soldiers. The next mission is at the United Nations building in Baghdad, where a parked car which has a large bomb in the trunk. Meanwhile James intensively studies the intricate bomb, Sanborn and Eldridge provide him with cover. Sanborn concerns at three men watching them from a minaret and another filming them from a nearby rooftop at the building evacuated. Until Sanborn thinks that it is dangerous then he commands James to finish the mission in many times. James ignores and he throws his radio headset and his bomb suit. Finally, James is out from the car after he finishes it.

The EOD team encounters a British private military company while returning from detonating bombs in the desert. And they soon come under enemy attack, and three of the British mercenaries are killed in the ensuing firefight. The next, the team is called out for the mission in a warehouse to retrieve unexploded ordnance. Suddenly, James found a dead body of young boy who has been surgically implanted with an unexploded bomb. James thought that it was Beckham but Sanborn and

Eldridge are not entirely certain. Directly, James drives to Beckham's home that night. He meets an Iraqi professor who thinks that James is a CIA agent and calmly invites him to sit down as a guest of his household. James demands the professor to know who was responsible for turning Beckham into a body bomb. Then the man's wife appears, becomes panic and throws everything to James. It makes James goes from that place back into Camp Victory. In the same night, EOD team has mission and successfully tracks down and kills two bomb makers although Eldridge is accidentally shot in the leg during a mission. The next morning, James meets Beckham who is alive. But James ignores Beckham and makes him confused. Meanwhile, Eldridge blames James for his injury, claiming James unnecessarily put his life at risk.

Then, James and Sanborn are called in a situation where a man was forced to wander into a military checkpoint with a time-bomb strapped to his chest. James can't remove the bomb, and decides to run before the bomb goes off. Back to the base, Sanborn becomes emotional, he can no longer cope with the pressure of being in EOD and tells that he is leaving Iraq and starting a family. Meanwhile, James back home with his family but he is bored with civilian life. So, he is back to Iraq and ready to join as part of an EOD team with Delta Company in another year.

The Hurt Locker is nominated in 9 categories at the 82nd Academy Awards and won in six. It is Best Picture, Best Director for Kathryn Bigelow, Best Original Screenplay for Mark Boal, Best Sound Editing, Best Sound Mixing and Best Film Editing for Chris Innis and Bob Murawski. Beside that, *The Hurt Locker* is also

nominated for three Golden Globe awards. Kathryn Bigelow is awarded the 2009 Directors Guild of America Award for Outstanding Achievement in Feature Film for the film. The film swept most critics groups awards for best director and best picture including Los Angeles, New York, Chicago, Boston, and Las Vegas film critics associations. *The Hurt Locker* also became only the fourth film to win all three major US critics group prizes (NY, LA and NSFC). The Washington DC Area Film Critics award for Best Director was given to Kathryn Bigelow. The five awards from the Boston Society of Film Critics was the most given out by that organization to a single film in the group's entire 30-year history. Even when this film premiere at the Venice Film Festival on September 4, 2008 it was won SIGNIS award, the Arca Cinemagiovani Award (Arca Young Cinema Award) for "Best Film Venezia 65", the Human Rights Film Network Award and the "Navicella" (Venezia Cinema Award). Kathryn Bigelow became the first woman to win the Academy Award, the BAFTA, and the DGA for Best Director for her work on this film. This is also the first film to win Best Picture that was directed by a woman (http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hurt_Locker).

Beside the good responses, *The Hurt Locker* also gains some protests, Kate Hoit said that “*The Hurt Locker* is Hollywood 's version of the Iraq war and of the soldiers who fight it, and their version is inaccurate”. Author Brandon Friedman, also a combat veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan had similar view he said that “*The Hurt Locker* is a high-tension, well-made, action movie that will certainly keep most viewers on the edges of their seats. But if you know anything about the Army, or

about operations or life in Iraq, you will be so distracted by the nonsensical sequences and plot twists that it will ruin the movie for you. It certainly did for me." While in *Air Force Times*'s review published March 8, 2010 cited overall negative reviews from bomb experts in Iraq attached to the 4th Brigade, 1st Armored Division, quoting a bomb disposal team leader who called the film's portrayal of a bomb expert "grossly exaggerated and not appropriate" (http://id.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hurt_Locker).

There are four reasons why the writer is interested to study this movie. The first is because this is great movie. *The Hurt Locker* movie picks up the story about American soldiers stationed in Iraq to perform missions that endanger their lives. The film portrays the good and detail to the audience what the film the soldiers' duty in Iraq. Bigelow as a director is able to package it with a slick film that this movie looks so real and impressive. It is evidenced by the acquisition of numerous awards which reinforces the recognition that this film is the great movie. This is very impressive considering the film's director is a woman. Other power of this film is Mark Boal as script writer is a freelance writer who was embedded as a journalist in 2004 with a US bomb squad in Iraq. He talked to more than 100 soldiers during his research. *The Hurt Locker* had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival on September 4, 2008, and the film received a 10-minute standing ovation at the end of its screening.

The second reason is the character and characterization. In this movie there are 3 main characters who have a different characterization. James is a soldier who is appointed as the new leader after the leader is killed by a bomb. James is dare to take risks and sometimes wants to do dangerous things, which make two of his

subordinates, Sanborn and Eldridge worry and panic. It can be seen when James feels guilty and responsible Beckham's death and he decides to find the perpetrators himself. Owen Eldridge, the youngest member of the EOD squad who feels guilty for the death of his old leader because at that time he does not dare to take the decision to shot the culprit. Therefore, he is so afraid to take his own decisions. Outwardly tough, he suffered mental anguish and believe that he is responsible for the death of the original squad leader, Thompson. Until he visits a psychiatrist for advice. Meanwhile the last main character, Sanborn, he is often critical of James' obvious carelessness during the mission

The third reason is interesting plot. Boal as script writer can describe the story of Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) unit team very detailed so the audience can know what the soldiers do in Iraq. He describes every single moment in their duty.

In addition, the last is US army's safety and security that become the main issue of the movie that are reflected well. Soldiers are human beings. It can be seen from the outside they seem to look brave but deep down inside their heart there is fear and they want a sense of security to stay alive. Even Sanborn eventually confesses to his friends that he is afraid of die, he wants to continue living and having children with her lover. Meanwhile, Eldridge physically looks tough and strong but he suffers for mental anguish because Thompson's death. He feels responsible for his death. Besides they must to create peace for al, they also need safety and security for themselves. However, family is waiting anxiously in their country. Their job is to defuse the bomb, if there is a mistake, their lives are in danger. Besides internal

factors there are external factors that make them have to remain vigilant. Everyone there could be an enemy and every object there could be a death bomb.

Based on the previous reasons the researcher will observe *The Hurt Locker* movie by using humanistic psychology theory by Abraham Maslow. So, the researcher is interested to do a research entitled **US ARMY'S SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS REFLECTED IN KATHRYN BIGELOW'S *THE HURT LOCKER* (2009): A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Previous Study

The Hurt Locker is one of the most popular movies of Kathryn Bigelow. As long as researcher knows, there is no research that has been conducted to study *The Hurt Locker* movie in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. The researcher tries to analyze **US ARMY'S SAFETY AND SECURITY NEEDS REFLECTED IN KATHRYN BIGELOW'S *THE HURT LOCKER* (2009): A HUMANISTIC PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

C. Problem Statement

Based on the background of the research, the researcher proposes a problem statement. The problem of this research is "How is US army's safety and security needs reflected in Kathryn Bigelow's *The Hurt Locker* (2009): A Humanistic Psychological Approach?".

D. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the researcher will focus on the analysis of *The Hurt Locker* movie directed by Kathryn Bigelow. The researcher investigates US army's safety and security needs by using a humanistic psychological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

According to problem statement above, the objectives of the research are as follows:

1. to analyze the movie based on its structural elements.
2. to analyze the movie based on humanistic psychological approach.

F. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will give some contributions to the body knowledge, particularly the application of humanistic psychological approach.

2. Practical Benefit

- a. For the researcher

The result of this study will improve the researcher's knowledge of the US army's safety and security needs as reflected in *The Hurt Locker* movie.

- b. For the other researcher

This study can be used as a reference for other researchers who

are interested *The Hurt Locker* movie using other approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of the Study

This research uses descriptive qualitative method. Descriptive qualitative method is a research which employs the method of collecting classifying and analyzing the data and then drawing conclusion.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *The Hurt Locker* movie. This movie is directed by Kathryn Bigelow and written by Mark Boal. It is published by Summit Entertainment.

3. Type of the Data

The type of data is the text, image and scene of movie entitled *The Hurt Locker*. The writer divides the data source into two categories, they are primary data source and secondary data source.

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is *The Hurt Locker* movie. This movie is directed by Kathryn Bigelow and written by Mark Boal. *The Hurt Locker* is published by Summit Entertainment.

b. Secondary Data Source

The writer takes the secondary data source, including reference and materials related to the study. The script of the movie is downloaded from

internet and it is added by the researcher to reach completeness.

4. Technique of the Data Collection

The method of collecting data in this study is the library research. It involves both primary and secondary data. The methods are as follows:

- a. Watching the movie at several times and determining the character that will be analyzed.
- b. Taking note for important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Identifying the topic of the movie.
- d. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- e. Arranging, researching and developing the selected materials into a good unity toward the topic of the study.
- f. Drawing conclusion to get the last result.

5. Technique of the Data Analysis

The method of analyzing data is descriptive. It describes the structural elements of the movie and also analysis it by using humanistic psychological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

This research paper is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction consisting of background of the study, previous study, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefits of the study and research paper

organization. Chapter II is underlying theory. It presents psychology of literature, notion of humanistic psychology, hierarchy of needs of humanistic psychology and structural element of the movie. Chapter III will be research method it deals with structural analysis, which is involves character and characterization, casting, plot, point of view, theme, mise en scene, sound, editing, cinematography and discussion. Chapter IV constitutes include humanistic psychological analysis, it contains physiological needs, safety and security needs, belongings and love needs, self-esteem needs, self-actualization needs and discussion. The last is chapter V which contains conclusion and suggestion.