

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Literature has contribution in life. People create literary works like poetry, fiction, drama, novel etc. Literary works have given valuable contribution to the other works, for example the world of movie. There are some movies based on non-fiction books. Many good movies in the world made from adaptation upon non-fiction books. Non-fiction or nonfiction is an [account](#) or representation of a subject which is presented as [fact](#). [Essays](#), [journals](#), [documentaries](#), [histories](#), [scientific papers](#), [photographs](#), [biographies](#), [textbooks](#), [travel books](#), [blueprints](#), [technical documentation](#), [user manuals](#), [diagrams](#) and some [journalism](#) are all common examples of non-fiction works. Mandirectors get the idea of movie from novels or non-fiction books. The movie itself is also a product of the art.

The reason of transferring the novel or true story books to the movie is doing to adapt it with the condition of the time and to make it easier for the audience to get meaning from the story. Because for common people, when they cannot read the novel or true story books they cannot comprehend it as well as watch in the movie. The purpose is to give entertainment and certain message to all community. A movie is a work in the visual and plastic art and noted for 'assemble' piece colognes built up of miscellaneous found object (Douglas, 1996:115). There are some novels and true story books performed became of movie for example *Romeo and*

Juliet, The Ten Commandment, Titanic, Defiance, Macbeth, King of Henry V, A mid summer Night Dream, The Red Badge of Courage, Great Expectation, Kiss Kiss, Bang Bang, Mystic River, The Godfather, Freedom Writers, and etc. Sometimes the movies became box office on that era, for example *Freedom Writers*.

Freedom Writers movie is a [2007 drama](#) film starring [Hilary Swank](#), [Scott Glenn](#), [Imelda Staunton](#) and [Patrick Dempsey](#). It is directed by Richard LaGravenese and produced by Danny Devito and Michael Shamberg. It is based on the book [The Freedom Writers Diary](#) by teacher [Erin Gruwell](#) who wrote the story based on [Woodrow Wilson Classical High School](#) in [Long Beach, California](#). The title is a play on the term "[Freedom Riders](#)", referring to black and white [civil rights](#) activists who tested the [U.S. Supreme Court](#) decision ordering the [desegregation](#) of interstate buses in 1961.

The storyline of the movie takes place between 1992-1995, beginning with scenes from the [1992 Los Angeles Riots](#). [Hilary Swank](#) plays the role of [Erin Gruwell](#), a new, excited schoolteacher who leaves the safety of her hometown, Newport Beach, to teach at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach, a formerly high achieving school which has recently had an integration program put in place. Her enthusiasm is quickly challenged when she realizes that her class are all "at-risk" students, also known as "unteachables", and not the eager students she was expecting. The students segregate themselves into racial groups in the classroom, fights break out, and eventually most of the students stop turning up to

class. Not only does Gruwell meet opposition from her students, but she also has a hard time with her department head, who refuses to let her teach her students with books incase they get damaged and lost, and instead tells her to focus on teaching them discipline and obedience.

One night, two students, Eva ([April Lee Hernández](#)), a Hispanic girl and narrator for much of the film, and a [Cambodian](#) refugee, Sindy ([Jaclyn Ngan](#)), find themselves in the same convenience store. Another student, Grant Rice (Armand Jones) is frustrated at losing an arcade game and demands a refund from the owner. When he storms out, Eva's boyfriend attempts a drive-by shooting, wanting to kill Grant but misses, accidentally killing Sindy's boyfriend. As Eva is a witness, she must testify at court; she intends to protect her own kind in her testimony.

At school, Gruwell intercepts a racist drawing of one of her students and uses it to teach them about the [Holocaust](#). She gradually begins to earn their trust and buys them composition books to record their diaries, in which they talk about their experiences of being abused, seeing their friends die, and being evicted. Determined to reform her students, she takes two part-time jobs to pay for more books and spends more time at school, to the disappointment of her husband ([Patrick Dempsey](#)). Her students start to behave with respect and learn more. A transformation is especially visible in one of her students, Marcus ([Jason Finn](#)). She invites several Holocaust survivors to talk with her class about their experiences and takes them on a field trip to the [Museum of Tolerance](#). Meanwhile, her unorthodox teaching methods are scorned by her colleagues and

department chair Margaret Campbell ([Imelda Staunton](#)). The next year comes, and Gruwell teaches her class again for sophomore (second) year. In class, when reading [The Diary of Anne Frank](#), they invite [Miep Gies](#) ([Pat Carroll](#)), the woman who sheltered Anne Frank from the German soldiers to talk to them. After they raise the money to bring her over, she tells them her experiences hiding [Anne Frank](#). When Marcus tells her that she is his hero, she denies it, claiming she was merely doing the right thing. Her denial causes Eva to rethink lying during her testimony. When she testifies, she finally breaks down and tells the truth, much to some of her family members' dismay. Meanwhile, Gruwell asks her students to write their diaries in book form. She compiles the entries and names it *The Freedom Writers Diary*.

Her husband divorces her and Margaret tells her she cannot teach her kids for their junior year. She fights this decision, eventually convincing the superintendent to allow her to teach her kids' junior and senior year. The film ends with a note that Gruwell successfully brought many of her students to graduation and college.

Based on the description above, the researcher wants to take the effect of racial discrimination reflected in the *Freedom Writers* movie directed by Richard LaGravenese. Racial discrimination is one of the major themes in this movie. The effect of racial discrimination becomes to interesting to be studied because it's represent one of big problem and has many bad effects for people. Racial discrimination typically points out [taxonomic](#) differences between different groups of people, although

anyone may be discriminated against on an ethnic or cultural basis, independently of their somatic differences. According to the [United Nations](#) conventions, there is no distinction between the term *racial discrimination* and *ethnic discrimination*.

In the other hand, racial discrimination is treating people differently through a process of social division into categories not necessarily related to races. [Racial segregation](#) policies may officialize it, but it is also often exerted without being legalized. Researchers, including Dean Karlan and Marianne Bertrand, at the [MIT](#) and the [University of Chicago](#) found in a 2003 study that there was widespread discrimination in the workplace against job applicants whose names were merely perceived as "sounding black". These applicants were 50% less likely than candidates perceived as having "white-sounding names" to receive callbacks for interviews. In contrast, institutions and courts have upheld discrimination against whites when it is done to promote a diverse work or educational environment, even when it was shown to be to the detriment of qualified applicants. The researchers view these results as strong evidence of unconscious biases rooted in the [United States'](#) long history of discrimination (i.e. [Jim Crow laws](#), etc.)

The researcher takes sociological as an approach in this research. That thing because the researcher wants to know do racial discrimination case that is reflected in this movie. Sociological theories are complex [theoretical](#) frameworks that sociologists use to explain and analyze variously how social action, social processes, and social structures work.

Sociological theories are sometimes called [social theories](#), though the latter term generally refers to interdisciplinary theory. In seeking to understand society, [sociologists](#) use both sociological theory and interdisciplinary social theories to organize [social research](#). This is reflected for instance in the different perspectives of [liberalism](#) and [socialism](#) on society and [public affairs](#).

Sociological theories are based on certain basic core assumptions, or basic [metaphysical](#), [epistemological](#) and [moral](#) premises, about the nature of the social world. Basic assumptions include [positivism](#) and [antipositivism](#), [materialism](#) and [idealism](#), [determinism](#) and [free will](#) (related to the problem of [structure and agency](#)), and [individualism](#) and [collectivism](#).

The sociology of literature is a study of literature based on the sociological perspective that is described by the author on his or her literary work, to understand the social phenomenon at that time, sociology of literature also tries to explain that the existence of literary work is not only as indication of individual but also indication of social. Its means that literary work is reflection between man and man, and social community and events which happen in a certain period time.

Laurenson and Swingewood (1972:14-17) states that sociology of literature is divided into three kinds, there are: (1) Sociology of the writer. It attempts to study the literary career of the writer and his whole works dealing with his life story and background (writer biography), (2) Sociology of the society. It is study of the influence of society to his work.

To dig he linked between the literary work and its social background, (3) Sociology of the readers. It is the study in terms of the influence of the work to the reader.

A more formal the definition of sociological theory is a set of interrelated ideas that allow for the systematization of knowledge of the social world, the explanation of that world, and prediction about the future of the social world.

There are four reasons why the researcher choosing this title. The first is that the researcher interested in racial discrimination case to main focus because it represents one of big problem and has many effects especially for families in life our society. The second is that the researcher wants to know deeper racial discrimination that is reflected in this movie. The third is the Motion Picture Association of America (MPAA) is included this movie for [violent content](#), some thematic material, language and has many inspirations, so the researcher wants to detect deeper about this movie. He last is because of the researcher take sociological theory, so the researcher wants to know deeper about the real condition of United States social society in the nineteenth century (especially racial discrimination).

From the explanation above, the researcher wants to analyze the effects of racial discrimination especially for families are reflected in the *Freedom Writers* movie and then decide to take the title THE EFFECTS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION FOR FAMILIES IN THE *FREEDOM*

WRITERS MOVIE DIRECTED BY RICHARD LAGRAVENESE (2007):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.

B. Literature Review

The writer will show the previous studies to prove the originality of this study. There are the researches conducted by Wiwin Astuti (2009) and Dewi Erna Patmawati (2009)

Wiwin Astuti (2009) has conducted a research entitled *THE INFLUENCE OF LEARNING MODEL ON STUDENT'S PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN FREEDOM WRITERS MOVIE: EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY APPROACH*. In that paper, she conducted the problem statement on how learning model influence student's personality development. There are some results of her paper. The first, learning models that used in the *Freedom Writers* movie are very influence to the student's personality. It fact, it learning models can change the student's personality from bad to very good personality. The second, learning models that used in the *Freedom Writers* movie are also can develop the student's personality to reach their dream.

The second researcher is Dewi Erna Patmawati (2009) she has conducted a research entitled *STRUGGLE FOR EXISTENCE IN ERIN GRUWELL'S FREEDOM WRITERS DIRECTED BY RICHARD LAGRAVENESE: AN INDIVIDUAL PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH*. In that paper, she conducted the problem statement on how the major character struggle for existence reflected in Erin Gruwell a major character of *Freedom Writers*. There are some results of her paper. As a frustrated

person when teaching, Erin Gruwell's a major character of *Freedom Writers* sends to make a reaction to reduce the pain of her frustration when teaching. In this case she uses ego defensive mechanism to reduce her frustration so that she stays existence. After observing the play, the writer finds that Erin Gruwell's defense mechanisms are reflected in her student's attitude in time of frustration. Those ego defense mechanisms are Repression Denial, Fantasy, Projection, Undoing, and Regression.

From the previous research above, the writer current study intends to complete the previous research and to enrich the similar research. This research is to analyze the effects of racial discrimination especially for families reflected in the *Freedom Writers* movie directed by Richard LaGravenese. This paper tries to explore how this movie reflects racial discrimination case that occurred of American society in the nineteenth century. Besides, the writer identifies the relationship between the intrinsic elements of the movie and the extrinsic ones based on the perspective of sociology. The message of the director is carried out through the intrinsic elements of the movie include the theme, setting, style, plot, points of view and character. Meanwhile, the writer tries to portrait the social background of American society in nineteenth century as the extrinsic elements..

C. Problem Statement

Knowing that the problem is the most important part of research, the writer proposes the problem "How the effects of racial discrimination for families are reflected in the *Freedom Writers* Movie?"

D. Limitation of the Study

This research will be limited to shares. The writer focuses this research in analyzing the effects of racial discrimination for families in the *Freedom Writers* movie based on the sociological approach.

E. Objective of the Study

In carrying out the research, each researcher has their own objectives of the study. This research is aimed at:

1. To analyze *Freedom Writers* movie based on its structural elements.
1. To analyze the effect of racial discrimination for families in the *Freedom Writers* movie based on the sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

By doing this research, many benefits can be gained. These benefits include practical and theoretical benefits.

The benefit of this research will be:

1. Theoretically
 - a. To give some information which can be used by the other researcher who are interested in analyzing this literary work.
 - b. To give a contribution to the literary research especially in the study of the *Freedom Writers* movie.
2. Practically
 - a. For getting deeper understanding about sociological issues in the *Freedom Writers* movie.
 - b. For getting bachelor degree of education in English Department.

G. Research Method

1. Types of Research

This research is descriptive research that the objective is to describe the actual user of language for communication. The nature is not to test and to prove, but to explore and to describe. The research that is conducted can be considered as qualitative research, because this research aims at finding an abstract or descriptive, rather than an exact solution of the problem statement which is usually found in quantitative research. The data collected are in the form of words rather than numbers.

In the research paper, the researcher just wants to find out the effects of racial discrimination for families are reflected in the movie.

2. Types of Data and Data Source

In this research, the researcher takes two kinds of data:

a. Primary Data

Primary data are the movie manuscript and the real condition of American society especially for racial discrimination in the nineteenth century.

b. Secondary Data

Secondary data is the supporting data taken from literary books, criticism, and some articles related to the title.

3. Research Object

The object of the research is *Freedom Writers* movie directed by Richard LaGravenese. It was released on January 5, 2007 with running time 122 minutes and distributed by Paramount Pictures.

4. Method of the Data Collection

In this research, the researcher uses library research. The data are collected from the books, articles and etc related to the topic. The researcher uses the procedures as follows:

- a. Watching the movie to identify the problem and structural elements.
- b. Reading the relevant theory with the subject
- c. Searching the real condition of American society especially for racial discrimination in the nineteenth century through books and internet.
- d. finally is collecting the supported data from any critical review, literary books and other references related to the topic.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

- a. In this research, the technique of data analysis is descriptive analysis. The researcher tries to describe the structural elements of the movie and sociological analysis. The collected data will be interpreted and analyzed in detail through sociological approach. In this case is by showing the effects of racial discrimination for families are reflected in the *Freedom Writers* movie viewed by sociological approach

H. Paper Organization

The research is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is introduction, covering the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. *Chapter II* comprises of the underlying theory, which presents the notion of sociological theory, sociology of literature, types of the sociology of the society, aspects of sociology of the society, structural elements of the movie and the last is theoretical application. Chapter III includes the social background of the American society in the nineteenth century and all of the aspects. Chapter IV includes the structural analysis of the movie by describing characters and characterizations, setting, point of view, plot, style and theme of the movie and also a brief discussion. Chapter V presents the sociological analysis and discussion dealing with the problem of the movie. Chapter VI consists of conclusion and suggestion.