

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*The Blind Side* is a 2009 American semi-biographical sports drama film. It is written and directed by John Lee Hancock, and based on the 2006 book *The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game* by Michael Lewis. *The Blind Side* was produced by Alcon Entertainment and released by Warner Bros. According to Reuters, the film production budget was \$29 million. This film has duration one hundred and twenty eight minutes. The film premiered on November 17 in New York City and New Orleans and opened in theaters on November 20 in the rest of the United States and in Canada.

John Lee Hancock was born in Texas, 1957. John Lee Hancock's career path took an abrupt turn when he decided to work in the film industry after years of practicing the law. A native of Longview, Texas, Hancock obtained his B.A. in English from Baylor University and his J.D. from Baylor University Law School. He served four years as an attorney with Houston-based Sowell & Hogg, working as a production coordinator, location scout, and assistant director for numerous productions. Hancock was inspired towards the silver screen through his work on stage, where he had once been a member of the Fountainhead Theatre Company in L.A., and Legal Aliens Theatre, which he had co-founded. While working at his theatre, he wrote and directed a number of plays, including *Riff for Emily* and *Ten to Midnight*.

By 1993, he had started making a name for himself in the film world when he penned the feature, *A Perfect World*, directed by Clint Eastwood. After writing and making his directorial debut on the film *Hard Time Romance* (1993), he and Eastwood teamed up again to film his second script, *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* (1997). He returned to directing again with *The Rookie* (2002) and *The Alamo* (2004). Hancock has also done some work for the small screen writing, directing and executive producing the drama *L.A. Doctors* and executive produced the pilot *Falcon*.

*The Blind Side* is based on the remarkable true story of Baltimore Ravens offensive left tackle Michael Oher. Michael grew up in the inner city housing projects with his mother in Memphis, Tennessee aptly named "Hurt Village". Michael's story began with him be homeless and came from a broken home with a drug-addicted mother, and an absentee father. Because of his family circumstances, Family Services took control of his life as he was growing up. Unfortunately, he was being bounced around in and out of foster homes. Then his last foster family successfully persuaded the coach in Wingate School, Bert Cotton so Michael could study there. Fortunately, the coach wished for a player the size of Michael, he ended up enrolling in a private Christian school where the Tuohy kids studied. Michael ran away from his home. He decided to stay in the school gym because it was the warmest place. Michael is a quiet person. Michael was befriended by S.J. Tuohy, the youngest Tuohy.

One icy winter night, as Michael was walking down the road to the school gym, where he was sleeping, Leigh Anne Tuohy with her husband Sean and children S.J and Collins picked Michael up and took him home for the night. Soon, Leigh Anne offered him a room and bed. Michael was the only Negro in the house but he did not be discriminated by Touhy Family. Precisely Touhy Family really loved him, especially the mother, Leigh Anne. She gave Michael a place to stay, foods and new clothes.

She also wanted to adopt Michael. There comes a moment when Leigh Anne wanted to have a face-to-face conversation with Michael's mother. Leigh Anne Tuohy looked for Michael's mother to tell that her family wanted to be legal guardians for Michael. Michael's mother told more about her past with Michael. She said that social services had branded Michael "a runner", and she forecasted that Leigh Anne would find one day that he has run away and always came back to take care her. Although she seemed unresponsive in the beginning, the mother finally wished the best for Michael. Finally, Touhy family only listed as Michael's legal guardians.

One day, Michael and Sean Junior drove a new car but they had an accident. Fortunately, there was no victim in that accident. Michael stopped the air bag with his arm so S.J could be safe. Leigh Anne saw that Michael could join in the rugby team because of his strong power and big protective instincts. Almost all of Touhy Family had history in a sport. Up to that moment, Michael was playing as a left tackle that protect The Blind Side of the quarter back and running back. Michael was not able to get the hang of

the game and its rules, and he was not able to understand what his role in the field was. Rugby was a sport that always has a body contact after all but Michael did not want to hurt anyone. Leigh Anne would use his big protective instincts to explain him how to play rugby in the field. Leigh Anne gave understanding for Michael that team was like a family so he might protect them. Game after game held, Michael could play very well. Michael's rugby team kept win.

Michael had an opportunity to play at university level. S.J sent the tape of Michael's game that he had recorded to the great Universities in that country. They were interested to recruit Michael in their university to reinforce their rugby team. Michael confused to choose which university that he wanted to come in, Tennessee or Ole Miss. However, he needed to improve his grades, so the Tuohy Family hired a private tuition teacher, Miss Sue.

Then, Michael graduated and passed the score grade level. He chose the Ole Miss where Tuohy's family and Miss Sue was an alumnus. That caused Investigator, Jocelyn Granger from the NCAA organization called to investigate Michael before Michael arrives there. She thought that the Tuohy Family and Miss Sue used Michael to benefit that particular university. She told that Touhy Family is one of the highest investor in the university that Michael has chosen. Michael started to get angry and leaved Touhy Family. Leigh Anne felt so bad because she never asked him about what Michael wanted.

Michael came to find his mother in her house. There, he met with a people that used to be his neighbors. They asked Michael to join while he waited for his mother. Suddenly they had conversations that made Michael really angry and then hit them all. Michael ran and then called Leigh Anne. Leigh Anne was very happy and surprised to meet Michael again. She told Michael that he was free to choose where university to go in. Michael decided to go back to Tuohy family. He explained to NCAA investigator the reason why he chose Ole Miss. He was very proud to choose Ole Miss because his family had studied there. The film end said that Michael Oher become a professional player later on. S. J went out to the game field with Michael before all local games.

The responses of audience about *The Blind Side* movie are various. Many people say that this movie is great about the movie itself and the characterization. Christ from United States tells there are so many great performances by the actors and a charming story with laughs and tears. In other hands, Jeremy Scates from United States thinks Sandra Bullock has been over-rated and it is a silly film. In the writer's opinion, *The Blind Side* pulls the writer into the story and leaves the writer feels inspired.

This film was a financial success, and with a budget of around \$29 million, it had a worldwide gross of US\$309,208,309. *The Blind Side* was released on DVD and Blue-ray March 23, 2010. *The Blind Side* was available exclusively for rental from Blockbuster for 28 days. As of 30 October 2010,

units sold for the DVD stand at more than 5.5 million copies and have grossed a further \$88,532,725 adding to its total gross.

*The Blind Side* has earned numerous awards and nominations for the lead performance of the film's star, Sandra Bullock. For her performance, Sandra Bullock won the Academy Award for Best Actress, as well as the Golden Globe Award for Best Actress and the Screen Actors Guild Award for Outstanding Performance by a Female Actor in a Leading Role. Sandra Bullock received Washington D.C. Area Film Critics Association Award nomination for Best Actress. Sandra Bullock also won the Critic's Choice Award for Best Actress, Teen Choice Award 2010 for Movie Actress Drama and People's Choice Award for Favorite Movie Actress. *The Blind Side* itself received an Academy Award nomination for Best Picture. The film also won ESPY Awards for Best Sport Movie and Teen Choice Award 2010 for Favorite Drama Movie. Quinton Aaron received Teen Choice Award 2010 nomination for Breakout Male Actor. Jae Head won PFCS Award for Best Performance by a Youth – Male.

*The Blind Side* is an interesting movie. There are four aspects that make this movie really interesting. The first is *The Blind Side* is based on the true story. The story makes the audience feel inspired with Michael's life. It is captured with skill and integrity. *The Blind Side* is an American semi-biographical sports drama film. Rugby is one of the most favorite sports in America in that time. *The Blind Side* can become the highest grossing rugby movie and sports drama of all time domestically.

The second is the characterizations that are really great so that everyone can relate and feel connected to the characters. There are a lots of famous stars that involved in this movie such as Sandra Bullock as Leigh Anne Touhy, Quinton Aaron as Michael Oher, Lily Collins as Collins Touhy and Tim McGraw as Sean Touhy. They have a great contribution in box office movie that ever made.

The third, plot and setting of *The Blind Side* movie is really interesting. The plot moves forward at the beginning in the scene where the problem arise, then move backward and finally back to forward like in the beginning of the movie. This film took place in Memphis, Mississippi, USA. The setting is really matched for the story. There is a slum area where Michael Oher live, then a nice neighborhood too where a new place for Michael to live with Touhy family. Filming for the school scenes set in Tennessee but took place at Atlanta International School and The Westminster Schools in Atlanta, Georgia, and it features many of their students. Georgia lotteries sign can be seen in a few scenes at one of the stores but the rest, they are very selective to choose the location of every scene.

The last, *The Blind Side* demonstrates and discusses about race to make social statement. *The Blind Side* portrayed about the stereotype and discrimination of black which happens in America. Stereotypes are over generalized, that is behavior that may be true of some members is taken as typical of whole group. Discrimination is the unequal treatment of individuals

on the basis of their membership in categories. Sometimes people do not realize that they have done stereotype and discrimination to the others without knowing the effects. Stereotype and discrimination can destroy life, health and property. They also affect the self. The victims of stereotype and discrimination often internalize negative self images, which lead to low self esteem. This movie allows these characters attribute to be what they were in reality, and tells the human drama in an effective and sensitive manner. This movie tells that everyone can be successful although a black man.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *The Blind Side* movie by using sociological theory. So the writer constructs the title **AGAINST STEREOTYPE AND DISCRIMINATION OF THE BLACK IN JOHN LEE HANCOCK'S *THE BLIND SIDE* MOVIE (2009): A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

## **B. Literature Review**

In this study, the researcher does not find the other researcher in line with *The Blind Side* movie. This is the first research paper that conducts *The Blind Side* movie to be analyzed through a sociological perspective.

## **C. Problem Statement**

In this study, the writer proposes a single problem statement. The major problem is how the struggle against discrimination and stereotype of the black which reflected in John Lee Hancock's *The Blind Side* movie.



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

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the struggle to against discrimination and stereotype of the black in John Lee Hancock's *The Blind Side* movie based on sociological perspective.

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

Concerning with the problem statements, the objectives of the study are as follows:

1. To analyze John Lee Hancock's *The Blind Side* movie based on structural elements of the movie.
2. To analyze the struggle against discrimination and stereotype of the black in *The Blind Side* movie based on sociological perspective.

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

The reason why someone makes a research is to get the benefit from it. By so doing, the writer expects some benefits produced from this research. Those are:

##### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

This study is expected to give information and contribution the development of the knowledge, and particularly the literary study on *The Blind Side* movie.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

The writer gets some information about sociological perspective that may help to analyze students in society and to give a deeper understanding to the other researchers who intend to analyze *The Blind Side* movie into different perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Research**

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

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

The object of the study is *The Blind Side* movie directed by John Lee Hancock and publishing by Warner Bros in 2009. It is analyzed by using a sociological perspective.

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

#### **a. Type of Data**

The types of data employed in this research are

- 1) Textual Data that consists of words, phrases, sentences, narration and dialogue of movie.
- 2) Image that consists of scenes of movie.

## b. Source of Data

The types of data source in this research are classified in two categories:

### 1) Primary Data

The primary data source is the film itself, *The Blind Side* directed by John Lee Hancock.

### 2) Secondary Data

The secondary data sources are taken from some books, websites, and other literary and other matters that support this analysis.

## 4. Technique of the Data Collection

The techniques of data collection are capturing the picture and note taking with steps are:

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly
- b. Browsing the script of movie in the internet.
- c. Reading the movie script.
- d. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- e. Taking notes of the influence information in textual data and image in both primary and secondary data.
- f. Arranging the data into several groups on its classifications.
- g. Selecting particular part considered important and relevant for analysis.
- h. Drawing conclusion and formulating suggestion.

## **5. Technique Data Analysis**

The writer uses sociological perspective and applies it by using the descriptive analysis. In addition, the writer also uses the structural analysis of the work. Firstly, the data are arranged in a list of data. Secondly, the researcher is looking for a selecting the correlation of data by using the chosen approach. Thirdly, all data from the second step are arranged. Finally, a conclusion is drawn.

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

In order to make this paper easy to be followed, the writer gives some order for the paper organization. Chapter I is Introduction; it consists of background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory; it consist the notion of sociology of literature, major principles of sociology of literature, structural elements of the movie, and the notion of stereotype and discrimination and theoretical application. Chapter III is the social background of America society in twenty-first century. Chapter IV presents structural element analysis and discussion of the movie. Chapter V deals with analysis of the movie by a sociological perspective. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion of the research.