

CHAPTER I

This chapter deals with the background of the study, limitation of the study, problems statement, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and thesis organization

1.1. Background of the Study

The Kingdom movie is an action movie that tells about a team of American government agents sent to investigate the bombing of an American facility in the Saudi Arabia. The genre of this movie is fictional drama and inspired by bomb terror at the Khobar housing complex in the east territory of Saudi Arabia on June 25, 1996 and the tragedy of 9 September 2001 that a plane was hijacked by terrorist crashed World Trade Center in USA. The Kingdom movie was released in the United States of America on 28 September 2007 and copyright by Universal pictures and MDBF Zweite Filmgesellschaft mbH & Co. KG. This movie was directed by American director named Peter Berg and edited by Colby Parker Jr, Kevin Stitt. The story was written by Matthew Michael Carnahan. The man who makes the sound and music great in the movie is Danny Elfman. The language in this movie is English and Arabic. The starrings of this movie are Jamie Foxx as Ronald Fleury, Chris Cooper as Grant Sykes, Jennifer Garner as Janet Mayes, and Jason Bateman as Adam Leavitt. They all are FBI team. There were also Ashraf Bahroom as Colonel Faris Al Ghazi, Ali Suliman as Sergeant Haytham; both of them are Saudi Arabian police officers. The another actors are Jeremy Piven as Damon Schmidt, Richard Jenkins as Robert Grace, Tim McGraw as Aaron Jackson,

Kyle Chandler as Francis Manner, Frances Fisher as Elaine Flowers, Danny Huston as Gideon Young, Kelly AuCoin as Ellis Leach, Anna Deavere Smith as Maricella Canavesio, and Minka Kelly as Miss Ross.

The director of the Kingdom movie is an American named Peter Berg. He is an actor, director, writer, and producer. He was born in New York, March 11, 1962. He was known as a director film such as *Very bad things* in 1998, *The Rundown* in 2003, *Friday Night Lights* in 2004, *The Kingdom* in 2007, *Hancock* in 2008, *Battleship* in 2012, and *Lone Survivor* in 2013. Peter Berg is the student of Macalester University in Saint Paul, Minnesota majoring theater arts and theater history. He graduated in 1984 and he moved to Los Angeles in 1985 to get his film career. On August 28, 1993, Berg married to his girlfriend named Elizabeth Rogers, but they divorced in 1998. Peter Berg also ever become guest star in two parts of *Alias* in 2001. In these two episodes he played with Jennifer Garner as her ex-boyfriend. Based on this experience, he decided to cast and direct her in *The Kingdom* movie. In the research for making *The Kingdom* movie, Peter Berg visited Saudi Arabia for two weeks.

The story of the movie started with a narration that Wahhabi as a founder of Saudi Arabian Kingdom dislikes the Western country and wanted to return to Saudi Arabia to the origin of Islam. Saudi Arabia at that time is the number one country that produced oil in the world, meanwhile USA is the number one oil consumer in the world; that needs much oil especially for their National security priority. USA claimed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

needed a security from USA. With the regulation of commercialization, the king of Saudi Arabia accepted it. With the consequences, both nations produce a partnership between Saudi Arabia and USA namely Arabian American Oil Company or ARAMCO in 1938. To accommodate the American worker in Saudi, the first housing of American was build. Western and Eastern made a unity when President Roosevelt and Ibnu Saud had a meeting in 1945, but there was a movement from Wahhabi with the reason when America supported Israel in the Arab war versus Israel in 1970. Therefore Wahhabi pressured the Saudi Arabia Kingdom to stop producing oil. The result was that there was an oil embargo in 1973 that caused increasing of oil and gas prices. this effect is very influential for USA. In 1990 when Iraq attached Kuwait, as the Saudi Arabian, Osama bin Laden offered some help to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. He believed that his Afghanistan army could destroy Iraq, but Saudi Arabia got a good offer from a half million of USA army. Because of that rejection, Osama bin Laden did not like the cooperation between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the USA. Then, the movie showed a plane that crashed a big building with assumption that, it was the perspective of tragedy 9 September 2011. In fact, the plane was hijacked by terrorist and crashed the big building named World Trade Center in USA. It was known from the news and all media that the actor behind all of this was Osama bin Laden.

After a narration, it was continuing by the action movie. Once upon a time there were terrorists who attacked American and continued by suicidal bomb in housing of America. A team of FBI tried to investigate the terrorist

attack and suicidal bomb. Many of USA citizens were killed by terrorist because of Saudi Arabian's suicidal bomb. Fleury took his FBI team to Saudi Arabia to know what was happening in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. They were Special Agent Janet Mayes as a forensic examiner, Leavitt as an intelligence analyst, and Grant Sykes as a bomb technician. When they arrived in Saudi Arabia, they met with Colonel Faris al-Ghazi. He was the chief of the Saudi Arabian Police. The FBI arrived to investigate about the terror in Saudi Arabia, but General Al Abdulmalik gave responsibility to Al-Ghazi to control FBI team. General Abdulmalik did not allow them to investigate, rather than to observe the investigation. When the FBI team was invited to Prince Ahmed bin Khaled's palace for a dinner, Fleury told him that the bomb was set in ambulance and the bombs used marbles as projectiles. In other words, the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Damon Schmidt told the FBI team to come back home soon.

On their way to the airport, Fleury saw a teenager watching their convoy, and then he also saw that the last car of their convoy stopped far behind them. Then Fleury noticed a high speed car coming towards them and grabbed the wheel from the driver because the car behind them was going to crash them. In that condition, it was just Leavitt that became a hostage and they brought him into their quarter. Then, the FBI team and Al-Ghazi continued chasing the terrorist. As they got the quarter, a brutal war occurred between FBI versus the terrorist team. After gun shots and won by FBI and Al-Ghazi, Al-Ghazi saw a grandfather who had a finger missing. Missing fingers mean that a

leader of terrorist. Therefore, he could conclude that the grandfather was the key of the terrorist named Abu Hamza.

At the same time, grandson of Abu Hamza walked out of the bedroom and shot al-Ghazi at his neck twice with a pistol. Suddenly, Fleury shot him to death. Abu Hamza then used his gun and Haytham shot his chest. When Abu Hamza died, his younger grandson hugged him and Abu Hamza whispered something to his ear "Don't be afraid of them, my child, we are going to kill them all". Al-Ghazi died in Fleury's arms. At Al-Ghazi's house, Fleury and Haytham met his family. Fleury told his son that al-Ghazi was his good friend, looking back at a similar earlier scene in the movie in which he also did it to Special Agent Manner's son. Finally, The FBI of America come back home, and Fleury answered the Leavitt's final question for Fleury: what did he whisper to Mayes to calm her down? Fleury said that "We're gonna kill them all".

According to *imdb.com*, The Kingdom movie showed nine filming locations, there are Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Phoenix, Arizona, USA, Arizona State University -Polytechnic Campus, Mesa, Arizona, USA, Arizona, USA, Mesa, Arizona, USA, National Mall, Washington, District of Columbia, USA, Puerto Peñasco, Mexico, Gilbert, Arizona, USA, and Washington, District of Columbia, USA. In business market, this movie can classify in Box Office movie, with estimation budget \$70,000,000. In opening weekend in USA, this movie can held in 2,793 Screens and profit \$17,135,055. In UK, there was 393 Screens with profit £919,537 in 7 October 2007. Moreover in 29

December 2012, the profit grow up to \$86,658,558 (Worldwide) and many more places like Germany that can sell the biggest admission up to 253,729 in 4 November 2007, and many more places like Philippines, Estonia, Netherland and many more that success in screen and profit.

Talking about industry of movie, *The Kingdom* movie in the contribution got some award nominations. The fact in 2008, this movie got the nominations actors by Michael Hillow, Michael Huggins, Kriztian Kery, Alex Krimn, Damien Moreno, Jason Rodriguez, etc. In 2007, this movie also got nomination in Screen Actors Guild Awards outstanding performance by a stunt ensemble in a motion picture. Nomination On line film and television association with Best titles sequences in 2008, the best convoy moves down the freeway, An SUV rear ends a Mercedes that explodes, setting off a multi car crash including cannon rolls, T-bones and pyrotechnics.

The Kingdom movie is one of works of literature. According to Wellek, “literature is a part of our life. It is divided into three parts, namely poetry, prose, and drama. These part are product of society. Literature cannot exist without language. The result of the author’s thinking, experience, and imagination poured into language as its medium of expression (Wellek and Warren, 1963:75). Terry Eagleton in his book also criticizes that movie was also part of literature. “The finest example of such literature is perhaps the drama of Bertolt Brecht; but many other instances are available in the modern arts, not least in film. Think on the one hand of a typical Hollywood film which

simply uses the camera as a kind of 'window' or second eye through which the viewer contemplates reality” (Terry Eagleton 2003:148).

In the development of communication related with the Kingdom movie, there had been a controversy between the Saudi Arabian and United States of America. There were so many responds and stereotypes about Islamic community by many people from different country which were very debatable. The responds indicated their background based on their religion or belief, their nations, their trauma moreover their race. According to the Kingdom movie, it was pro and contra. Pro means that he or she supports the idea about the story of movie, meanwhile contra or con means that he or she disagree or rejected with this movie. We can see the data from IMDb that there is account private named Sheikh_Kamal_El_Voldemort from Salahudeen. According from the data from IMDb/Internet Media Database (page three of 29), he disagree with the rationale of that movie. In June 2nd 2010, he said that”This movie, like all science fiction movies produced by America, such as Spider Man, superman, batman etc. These movies show the American man as a superhero man. He always appears as the undefeated man. I believe that these movies have addressed a political message for the interest of America. The message is to intimidate its enemies. The message has become insisting especially having failed in its war on Iraq. America finds no any other alternative way to intimidate the world but by producing such ridiculous fiction movies. I believe that such movies only find success in the States. Watching such fiction movies and seeing that his dreams come true the American man feels satisfied.” (*The*

Kingdom Reviews & Ratings - IMDb.html). We can analyze that he is a Muslim; moreover, he saves Arab as the victim than USA that has political urgency to give stigma that Islam is identically with a terrorist. He was disagreeing with the rational thinking of *The Kingdom* movie. He has a reason that Americans believe trough to the stigma because they failed from war with another Muslim's country like Iraq.

According to that story, it makes a debatable response between American as non-Muslims that the victims of that bomb and the Muslims that support Arabian movement against the West Country. There is person who pro, support or agree with *The Kingdom* movie. He is Steven Lester (steven.lester@asu.edu) from United States of America. He said, "This film was an outstanding action film, addressing many major issues that exist today. This film is especially unique to me, because I attend Arizona State University Polytechnic, where the majority of the filming done. I am the building supervisor for the gymnasium the FBI team uses in the film. Aside from this connection, I have with the film, the storyline and action scenes are riveting, the political implications we currently face with the Middle East are accurately depicted, and the acting from Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper, Jennifer Garner, and others are superb. I highly recommend this film to anyone looking for a fast-paced, thrilling action movie. Hollywood truly outdid themselves this time" (9 *The Kingdom Reviews & Ratings - IMDb.html*). According to this comment, he supports and agrees with the background, setting, story, and the actor of *The Kingdom* movie. We can see that he is American and the supervisor for the

gymnasium of FBI team use in the film. He supports the storyline and action scenes that the American's political implied to the Middle East which accurately happen. He also responds that he amazed the actor like Jamie Foxx, Chris Cooper, Jennifer Garner, and so on.

The researcher has some reasons to choose *Reader Response analysis of The Kingdom movie* as the object of the study. The first reason is that the structural element's response by the reviewers through the movie is interesting to analyze. The structural elements that response by reviewer are Mise en Scene, cinematography, editing, sound, and theme. For example in the point of Mise en Scene, there is an acting performance of cast, the chosen of cast and the character of cast. The researcher will find the reviewers who support American actor or Saudi Arabian actor . The writer also catch a different comment from every single responds of every reviewer from IMDb. The reviewers maybe give a critic about the ability of the cast to act or maybe critics to the cinematography of the film. The reviewer also criticizes to the work of moving camera. They appreciate about something like a great job from the director to choose cast or sound of the movie, appreciate about the story of that movie.

The second reason is the story of the movie. The story is very great; it is about a team of U.S. government agents sent to investigate the bombing of terrorist that attacked an American facility in the Saudi Arabia. This case meant that there was a war between both countries. There were so many backgrounds that became a motif of the war. Such as political background,

different culture, status background, etc. Terrorism and revenge each other are the core of that story. It affected the conditions of the world from past time until now that so many terrorisms happen. American versus Saudi Arabian in this movie can represent the war that happen in the world at present.

The third reason is about the response or comment from the reviewer in the IMDb based on the issue of terrorism. Probably, some of the reviewers will support American statement about a stigma that Islam is terrorist, or maybe they will support Islam in a suicidal bomb or he/she describes that Islam is not terrorist. It is because some of the reviewers dislikes to Western country which disturbs their nation of oil production, or maybe he/she disagree or blames a bomb and terrorism done by Arabian, get the sense effect of traumatic, and so on.

According to that reason, the researcher is interested in analyzing reader response in IMDb to Peter Berg's *The Kingdom* movie (2007). The researcher focused on the reader response from IMDb (Internet Movie Database) to *The Kingdom* movie, because he has important role in the IMDb response of every single reviewer, and gives information to reader response phenomenon. The researcher uses reader response theory by Richard Beach to analyze the IMDb reader response of that movie. He also uses theory of Orientalism by Edward Said. The title of this research is: **THE CONSTRUCTION OF MUSLIM TERRORISM IN *THE KINGDOM* MOVIE (2007) DIRECTED BY PETER BERG: A READER RESPONSE ANALYSIS.**

1.2. Limitation of the Study

To make the research appropriate with the objectives of the study, the researcher will make a limitation to the research. The researcher is going to analyze the readers response from IMDb (Internet Media Database) in the movie entitled *The Kingdom* (2007) directed by Peter Berg based on A Richard Beach's Reader response theory.

1.3. Problems Statement

The major problem of this study is to unveil "The Response by reviewers from IMDb (Internet Media Database) trough Peter Berg's *The Kingdom* movie (2007): A Reader Response Analysis". The focus of the study is to analyze the following questions:

1. What are the dominant issues by the reviewers to Peter Berg's *The Kingdom* movie?
2. Why are the dominant issues perceived differently by reviewers?

1.4. Objectives of the Study

The researcher is interested in answering the Reader Response in Peter Berg's *The Kingdom* movie (2007). The detail objectives are as follows:

1. To describe the dominant issue by the reviewers to Peter Berg's *The Kingdom* movie.

2. To explain the reason why the dominant issues are perceived differently by reviewers.

1.5. Benefits of the Study

The benefits expected from this study are as follows:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The result of the study contributes to the larger body of knowledge particularly literary devices to enrich the knowledge and experience of the writer and other students at UMS or other University who are interested in literary studies.

2. Practical Benefit

This research paper has a practical benefit, which is to give deeper understanding and information about the movie, especially those that use reader response theory.

1.6. Thesis Organization

The study consists of five chapters. Chapter I is introduction; it deals with background of the study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, and research paper organization. Chapter II is underlying theory that consists of previous study and the theoretical approach of reader response concept, post colonialism concept, and structure element of the movie. It deals with the explanation of Richard Phillips and the theoretical application by Richard Beach and Edward Said. Chapter III is research methodology, it consists of type of the research, object of the research, data and data source, data selection, technique of the data collection,

and technique of the data analysis. Chapter IV is research finding and discussion. Chapter V contains conclusion, suggestion, and pedagogical implication.