

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

*Black Hawk Down* is a 2001 British-American war film directed by Ridley Scott and released on December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The running time of films is 144 minutes. The film was taken in 1993 when the U.S. sent the soldiers into Somalia to bring food and humanitarian aid to the starving population using the Black Hawk helicopters. It is an adaptation of *Black Hawk Down* book, the story of modern war by journalist Mark Bowden. The book is based on a series of 29 articles of *The Philadelphia Inquirer*. There are 320 pages. It is the documentation efforts of U.S. force to capture the Somalian militia leader, Mohamed Farrah Aidid in 1993. The book was published on February 10<sup>th</sup>, 1999 in United States.

*Black Hawk Down* is directed by Ridley Scott. His full name is Sir Ridley Scott. He was born on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 1937 in South Shields, Country Durham, England. He is an English film director and producer .Ridley likes watching films as a child and he also focuses a film career. So, he has many successful films such as; *Gladiator* (1982) as a classic film, *Thelma & Louise* (1991) is starred by Geena Davis and Susan Sarandon, *Gladiator* (2000) is starred by Russell Crowe, and *Black Hawk Down* (2001) is starred by Ewan McGregor and Josh Hartnett. Moreover, he also produced other films, such as: *Matchstick Men* (2003), *American Gangster* (2007) which are starred by Denzel Washington and *Robin Hood* (2010) which stars Russel Crowe. There are many films that made some of Scott's more well-known successes.

*Black Hawk Down* film was taken from real events of the battle of Mogadishu in 1993 between American military against militants of Somalia Habr Gidr which is led by Muhammad Farah Aidid. The Somalia militant's deposed the power of the fourth president, Siyaad Bare. On October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1993, the American military pulled down the soldiers as much as possible to capture or kill Muhammad Farah Aidid. The Assault force consisted of Delta Force soldiers that are the legendary military, army ranger, special force Navy SEALs. The forces were predicted to take a few hours only to perform the operation in Somalia. But unexpectedly, the battle actually extended up to 2 days which is happened in October 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>.

Actually, military operations was begun with a smooth way, but deteriorated after two Black Hawk helicopters were shot down by rocket. It could be said that one of the shooters was Zachariach al Tunisi, a militia member who later joined the Jihad al Qaeda Tandzim and then he was dying in Afghanistan in November 2001. Some of the soldiers were injured in urban, hiding in some buildings, and some of them were isolated in the middle of Somalia militant. 18 American soldiers were killed, 73 injured and 1 crew of Black Hawk killed. PBB (United Nations) helped the American mission. However, on April 24, 1994, Boutros Ghali (General Secretary of United Nations) stated that the United Nations was over there. The defeat was followed by an American soldier who later withdrew from there.

The *Black Hawk Down* is a movie which has many public responses. The responses come from the reader reviews, critic, and market. This movie has

been reviewed by reviewers in the media. There are 1089 reviewer's statements on IMDb Website. Edward Douglass (New York) wrote in the movie review on January, 12<sup>th</sup> 2002. He said that *Black Hawk Down* is the one of the best war movie all of the time. It can be seen from the characterization, visual, and the camera work that make the movie is amazing and gives the viewer one of the most realistic impressions about the real condition and situation in the middle war. The review is also delivered by Rumpole 16 (Jacksonville, Florida) on October 6<sup>th</sup> 2002. He stated that the whole story was never explained, the movie only made a passing reference to the major reason why 19 soldiers died needlessly.

There are pros and contras about this movie. The pros told that *Black Hawk Down* movie is based on the true story. It means that the story is facts about what happened in Mogadishu and it did not romanticize the story. Not only the setting of the film was accurate to the real thing, but the way that the movie was filmed is great because it seems like someone is running along the battle scene to get everything. This small detail makes the movie much more realistic. This review is written by Daniel Berman (Miami, Florida), March, 3<sup>th</sup> 2005. He concluded that the movie was one of the best accurate war movie. However, the movie also has many contras from the public response. Horanim wrote her review which is entitled "*Make sure you read the book before you see the movie*" on December, 27<sup>th</sup> 2001. He said that the movie did not realistically portraid the facts as stated in the book. The movie was about warriors. It can be said that the story of the film is different from the book

which is written by Mark Bowden. The other reviews were also delivered by Borut (Slovenia) on April, 25<sup>th</sup> 2004. He wrote on his review “ *Say Again... Why is this Movie Bad?*”. He mentioned that the movie was too one side, it meant that the story was about the US Soldiers not the Somalian, the story was brutal, movie was pro war and poor character. He concluded that the movie was not perfect, but the performance of US Soldiers made his proud of against the Somalia militant.

The *Black Hawk Down* director, Ridley Scott is nominated for an Oscar, an actor in the film speaks out against its pro-war message. The movie is in the top ten movies on the charts in the US and Europe. Mark Bowden’s book *Black Hawk Down*, which the film is based on, is number one the *New York Times* paperback bestseller list in second weeks in February, 2002. The book has been the best seller list for 26 weeks. Beside nomination awards for best director, this movie also gets awards for Best Cinematography, Best Editing, and also Best Sound in 2011.

According to the writer, there are some interesting points of the movie which can be analyzed. The story of movie is really good and it tells about the battle of Mogadishu between US Soldiers and Somalia militant. The soldiers wanted to capture the leader of Somalia militant, but their effort was fail because two helicopters fell down. An the US Soldier was defeated by Somalia militant. To keep their image, they took away this story to make a film that based on the real story of the battle in Mogadishu. This movie was included the best war movie of the year (2001).

The director of movie is a good director in English movie, it is represented from his works. He got award as the best director of the movie in 2011. He can make the audience engage the situation of the film. It can be seen from the cinematography, editing film. Some scenes are very daring and are nicely assembled.

This research, the writer focuses on the readers' response theory. The readers' responses are taken from the *Black Hawk Down* movie reviews. In IMDb, there are many reviews statements to response this movie. They come from many different countries who reveal their arguments related to the stories in the movie. There are critics pro and contra from their response. There are many issues variation from the responses of the reviewers. The most responses are about the war movie. The American country is mixed up with the production of the *Black Hawk Down* movie.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher is encouraged to entitle the research as follows, "AMERICAN CALL FOR WAR: CULTURAL READER RESPONSE TO RIDLEY SCOTT 'S *BLACK HAWK DOWN* (2001)".

## **1.2. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses on the research which analyzes the readers' responses to *Black Hawk Down* Movie (2001) by Ridley Scott.

### 1.3. Problem Statement

The problem statement of the study is “How is the readers’ response to Ridley Scott’s *Black Hawk Down* movie (2001)?”

From the major problem, the researcher can formulate into three research questions as follow:

1. What are the dominant issues of the reviewers’ response to *Black Hawk Down* movie?
2. How is the reviewers’ response related to the background of the movie?
3. Why does the American reviewer call for war to Somalia city?

### 1.4.Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are the following

1. To identify the dominant issue responded by reviewers in *Black Hawk Down* movie.
2. To describe the background of reviewer response to the *Black Hawk Down* movie.
3. To Explain the reasons that influenced American reviewer call for war to Somalia city.

### 1.5. Benefits of the study

The benefits of the study are explained as follows:

#### a. Theoretical Benefit

The result of the study is expected to contribute 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 Universities related to literary studies.

## **2. Practical Benefit**

The researcher hopes that this research will give more information and get deeper understanding about the movie which uses reader response theory.

### **1.6. Research Paper Organization**

In order to make the research is easier to be understood, the research paper is organized into five chapters. Chapter I is introduction which consists of the Background of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Problem of the Statement, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study. Chapter II consists of the Underlying Theory. It consists of the Notion of Reader Response, The Theoretical Perspective on Response, Applying the Culture Reader Response Theory, Theoretical Framework, and Previous Studies. Chapter III is Research Method and it consists of Research Type, Research Object, Data and Data Source, Technique of Collecting the Data, and Technique of Analyzing the Data. Chapter IV is Research Finding and Discussion. Chapter V is conclusion, pedagogical implication, and suggestion of analyzing the data.