

**THE INFLUENCE OF LEARNING MODEL ON STUDENT'S  
PERSONALITY DEVELOPMENT IN *FREEDOM WRITERS*  
MOVIE:  
EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*Freedom writers* is a film based on true story which is taken from *The Freedom Writers Diary* by teacher Erin Gruwell and her students. This film is directed by Richard LaGravenese and produced by Michael Shamberg, Danny Devito, and Stacey Sher. The location of making this film is in Los Angeles, California USA. The major characters are starred by Hillary Swank (Erin Gruwell), Imelda Staunton (Margaret Campell), and Aprill Lee Hernandez (Eva Benitez). This film is released in January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007 in United Stated.

The *Freedom Writers* film tells about problems in education institution, racism, gang members among students, juvenile delinquents, and underprivileged students. The problems in education institution are such as teaching-learning process and school policy which have to be faced by Erin Gruwell as a new teacher. In the racism problem it appears when Erin watches as separates racial territories that are created within the room, as the students take their seats: the back right section is filled by black gang members, and the Latinos sit on the back left side of the room. Besides, The Asians take seat on the front right and one Caucasian boy sits in the front. Erin feels shock when she sees the riot a fight among gang war in and out her classroom. Almost all her students are underprivileged students. Most of them go to school taking three buses and almost ninety minutes to arriving at the school and they also do not

have good capability in reading lesson. In addition, her students do not obey her and continuously talk back to her. At the beginning her teaching, Erin never gets respect from her students.

Erin never surrenders to change her student's behavior and attitude. Although she does not get support from another, she has conviction that she can do the best for her job. She tries several methods in her teaching-learning process. She invites Holocaust survivors to talk with her students about their experience and then takes them on a trip to The Museum of Tolerance. Erin also asks for them to read *The Diary of a Young Girl or Anne Frank's Diary*. Her colleagues and her department chair of Wilson High School regard her methods as an unorthodox so they scorn her. Erin tries not to care. She thinks that she has to make changing. She knows that her students do not only need theory in classroom but also they need real experience.

Her methods do not get support from her school in realizing her purposes; she takes two part-time jobs and spends more time at school. That thing makes her husband, Scoot, protest her and finally Erin has to separate from her husband. In other side she has never imagined previously that there is changing in her student's behavior and attitude. Her methods are successful. At the last, Erin compiles her students' stories in a book and it is named *The Freedom Writers Diary*.

A literary work reflects life with all complex problems in its human life. It is illustration from many life aspects, such as social, politic, culture, law, education, and religion. Every literary work appears, it will invite response from

someone else whether that is support or not. A film is one of parts of literary work which its appearance is influenced by certain public background. This is likewise with *Freedom Writers* movie. This movie is taken from *The Freedom Writers Diary* which is compiled by teacher Erin Gruwell.

The movie also invites various arguments from viewers, either pro and contradiction comments. They who give good comment come from Eleanor and Claudia. Eleanor Ringel Gillespie from Atlanta Journal Constitution) states that Erin is a really inspiring teacher to her students although she teaches bad students in the bad school and bad area. She gives new spirit in that school. She inspires her students to get happiness and to become a leader until they can become writers who have desire and spirit to their roles. ([www.accessatlanta.com/movie/movie/etc/getcriticreview.criticreviewID=883](http://www.accessatlanta.com/movie/movie/etc/getcriticreview.criticreviewID=883)). Claudia Pluig from USA TODAY also adds that *Freedom Writers* is really an inspiring drama for adolescent and it has well-meaning for them. ([www.USAtoday.com/life/movie/review/2007-01-09.Freedomwriters.htm](http://www.USAtoday.com/life/movie/review/2007-01-09.Freedomwriters.htm)).

The *Freedom Writers* Movie tells about the behavior of the students in a school, which has bad setting and effect for them. If the students are allowed to have bad behavior, it would be a dilemma. But there is a hero, named Erin Gruwell, who has succeed to change the students' behavior. This movie is good for teacher especially, and the whole viewer generally, to get reference related to the method or the way to handle and manage the bad behavior of the students because the students are responsibility of the teacher in school. Here, the

function of teacher is as the facilitator to the students' education development and psychology.

Otherwise, this is from a Cristian Perpective who gives contradiction comment. The man said that he was disappointed to that movie. After he watched the movie, he went out and bought book that entirely told about student own stories. It was not story between teacher and her students. As a teacher, he was not sure how Erin Gruwell could do so much for her students. He thought that Erin's techniques would influence his entirely life whereas teaching was something difficult without must take second job. Here, Erin took part time job to support her program so he thought that it was impossible (<http://insear.chchofatext.blogspot.com/2007/09/freedom-writers-diary.html>).

The role of the teacher in this movie is quite great, because usually the teacher cannot do so much, especially in changing the students' behavior. In the reality, the teacher just transfers the knowledge to the students.

One of appreciations to literary work is an award. Although *Freedom Writers* movie does not yet enter box office but this movie has gotten some awards, among other things are in 2007 Freedom Writers won a Humanitas Price Award for feature film category and Richard LaGravenese as a recipient. In 2008, this movie got nominated in Image award for outstanding writing in a motion picture (Theatrical or Television) category and Richard LaGravenese as a recipient ([www.Imdb.com/title/tt0463998/awards](http://www.Imdb.com/title/tt0463998/awards)).

*Freedom Writers* film is entitled to get awards because this film obviously has interesting story. It is about individual uniqueness which comes

from different racism. This thing causes students diversity in the classroom. They have self background and self experience which influence one personality. This is shown by behavior such as anarchistic, obstinate, not respect each other, and introvert. They behave like that because they ever got and saw rude behavior in past time. When they study in the school, the fact is the school police never try to change their problems. The school only makes students to obey the teacher and to learn discipline. The students in Wilson High School need development and become a mature person.

Fortunately, a new teacher joins on that school. The new teacher brings changing to the students need. Erin Gruwell as a new teacher in that school combines learning-teaching model. She knows that her students not only need theories in the classroom but also need experience outside. She thinks how to teach adult learners. She is an inspiring teacher. She encourages and reinforces her students. She wants her students better than now. She educates them to realize that everyone has chance to take important role in his life. A good teacher will create good students. The good students will have good personality. The good personality can be formed by education. The education can change man's way of thinking and man's future. In education people will learn about knowledge, moral, science, and etc.

In education teacher has many roles in teaching-learning process. (Richard 2001: 7-8) explains that there are some roles of a teacher in teaching learning process such as:

First, an instructional expert is a teacher who has roles to facilitate and plan learning activities and also evaluate the outcome of students' experience. Second, teacher as a manager, it means that a teacher must be able to arrange the classroom and help development of the learning process. Third, teacher as a counselor is a role where a teacher has to realize diversity of the students in the classroom. They have various kind development issues, additional emotion or societal stressors. Here, the function of teacher as a counselor must take appropriate referral to others expert when necessary in facilitating learning.

This role will help a teacher to arrange the lesson plan and take learning model which is appropriate with student psychology. A teacher who considers those things will make teaching-learning process become effective.

Learning and teaching are essential in education world. There is no education without learning. So it has important meaning in human development. Muhibbin (2007: 59) explains that learning has important sense to human life. By learning human can take important decision in their life.

People know that learning is a mean to defend human life and create better civilization. As far as people know that they learn not only in formal education but also they can learn by daily experiences from their life. Of course these will give big influence toward their personality. A good teacher is demanded to be able to combine the theories of learning so necessary of students can fulfill by education process.

In essence education is to foster better students, form independent students who have responsible to them selves without ignoring that they are

social creatures. Learning is a process of becoming person not process of being shaped according to willing another person. In learning activity has to involve individual in thinking process: what they want and what they do to fulfill that wish. This principle is well-know as andragogy psychology. ([www.geocities.com/teknologipembelajaran/andragogi.html](http://www.geocities.com/teknologipembelajaran/andragogi.html))

The theory of andragogy psychology is also called as adult education. (Lunandi, 1984: 3-4) delivers that learning is a process independent interaction which is centered on learner. Adult learners have motivation to study because they feel unsatisfied with their behavior. Changing of the behavior can be reached if content and learning model are appropriate with students necessary.

Adult learners are often regarded as an independent people, so they have responsibility in learning. Therefore, the teacher has to consider content and learning model, which is suitable with the adult learners.

From the explanation above, the writer knows that to educate adult learners different with young learners. Adult learner is as independent person and have responsible toward their selves. Thus the writer interest to analyze “The Influence of Learning Method on Student’s Personality Development in *Freedom Writers* Movie: Educational Psychology Approach.”

## **B. Literature Review**

*Freedom Writers* movie is an interesting movie to analyze. This is the first research in UMS, UNS or Surakarta regional. Further, in this study, the writer studies *Freedom Writers* movie based on Andragogy and Educational



Psychology Approach. The writer focuses on learning method which is used in that school.

### **C. Problem Statement**

After analyzing the explanation above, the writer formulates problem statement. As that is; how does learning model influence student's personality development?

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

To carry out the study, the writer needs to limit the study. The writer is going to analyze learning model which is done by Erin Gruwell as a teacher and the major character in *Freedom Writers* movie based on andragogy and educational psychology approach.

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

Based on the problem that has been stated above, the writer states the following objectives:

1. To analyze *Freedom Writers* movie based on its structural elements of movie.
2. To analyze *Freedom Writers* movie based on educational psychology approach, andragogy, and learning models.

## **F. Benefits of the Study**

The study of *Freedom Writers* movie which is based on educational psychology approach has two benefits. They are:

1. Theoretically, this research will add and improve the study of literature as a part of knowledge.
2. Practically, the result of this study will add and improve the writer's knowledge especially about educational psychology. And also this study can develop the writer's ability in applying in the real world if the writer becomes a teacher.

## **G. Research Method**

The research is qualitative method, there are 4 elements involved:

### **1. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *Freedom Writers* movie directed by Richard LaGravenese.

### **2. Type of the Data and Data Source**

The writer takes the data from two resources, namely primary and secondary data source.

- a. The primary source is every data of the *Freedom Writers* movie directed by Richard LaGravenese which is related to the study.
- b. The secondary source is from all referential data. It can be from book, internet, journal, and etc.

### **3. Technique of the Data Collection**

The method used in this study is library research by collecting and recording both of the primary and the secondary data. Some steps of collecting data applied in this study are as follows.

- a. Watching the movie repeatedly.
- b. Identifying the topic of the movie.
- c. Determining the major character that will be analyzed.
- d. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.
- e. Taking notes of important information both primary and secondary data sources.
- f. Arranging and developing the selected data into a good unity toward the topic of the study.

#### 4. Technique of the Data Analysis

Firstly, the writer views the primary data repeatedly to reach more understanding of source. Secondly, the writer takes, compare, quote, and study others data to reach information. Finally, the writer classifies the data into some categories and develops into a good unity.

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

The writer organizes the research in order to make easier to understand.

The contents of this research based on the following arrangement

*Chapter I* is introduction. This part 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 research paper organization.

*Chapter II* is underlying theory. It consists of notion of educational psychology, major principles of educational of psychology, notion of andragogy, major principles of andragogy, learning model, and structure element of movie.

*Chapter III* is structure analysis of the movie. It involves structure element of the movie.

*Chapter IV* is educational psychological analysis.

*Chapter IV* is conclusion and suggestion.