

**STRUGGLE FOR INDEPENDENCE  
IN MEL GIBSON'S *BRAVE HEART* FILM :  
A MARXIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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by

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of Study

Literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. Hence, a literary work which is the author's creation is an ideal reflection of social reality. The literary work and the author can not be separated since the literary work is a reproduction of the author's mind.

Film is one of literary works. As a literary work, film also reflects social life. One of them is *Brave Heart* film. *Brave Heart* is a 1995 historical action drama movie directed by Mel Gibson, who also starred in the role. The film generated huge interest in Scotland and in Scottish and in Scottish history, not only around the world but also in Scotland it self. It won five academy awards at the 68<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, including the academy Awards for best picture and best director and had been nominated for an additional five. The film's success may have helped to revive the historical epic genre, with subsequent film such as *Gladiator*, *The Patriot*, *Alexander*, *Troy*, *Kingdom of Heaven* etc.

The researcher is interested to analyze *Brave Heart* film because *Brave Heart* is a film which almost totally sacrifices historical accuracy for epic adventure, partly historical and partly mythological. *Brave Heart* tells about William Wallace is a Scottish rebel who leads an uprising against the cruel English ruler Edward the Longshanks, who wishes to inherit the crown of Scotland for himself around the end of the 13<sup>th</sup> century. When he was a young boy, William Wallace's father and brother, along with many

others, lost their lives trying to free Scotland. Once he loses another of his loved ones, William Wallace begins his long quest to make Scotland free once and for all, along with the assistance of Robert the Bruce.

In 14<sup>th</sup> Century Scotland, William Wallace leads his people in a rebellion against the tyranny of the English nobility the 'Prima Nocta', a right to take all new brides for the first night. The Scots are none too pleased with the brutal English invaders, but they lack leadership to fight back. Wallace creates a legend of himself, with his courageous defence of this people and attacks on the English.

Considering the story of that film, the researcher will analyze the film by using Marxist perspective because human history consists of series of struggles for independence between classes.

According to Marxist, and to other scholars in fact literature reflects those social institutions out of which it emerges and it itself a social institution with a particular ideological function. Literature reflects a class struggle and materialism thinks how often the quest for wealth traditionally defines characters. So Marxist generally views literature "not as work created in accordance with timeless artistic criteria, but as product of the economic and ideological determinant specific to that era.

There are four reasons that the researcher is interested to analyze *Brave Heart* film. First is because this is historical action drama film. The second reason is the conflicting value. The third reason is the plots that attractively build. And the fourth reason is struggle for life that becomes the main issue of the film are reflected well.

The first reason is because this is historical action drama film. Everyone who watches this film would be surprised that the end of the film can be sad because William Wallace is more choose death than live for mercy, he does it to get freedom his country

from English. This story is different from the others. Not many directors can cover the struggle for life problem in a film as well as Mel Gibson. He tells the detail of the problems well.

The second reason is conflicting value given in William Wallace. This film was the first film director by Mel Gibson who makes sympathetically of William Wallace character as tramps emphasizing his daily struggles against overwhelming odds and fight against English oppression in Scotland.

The third reason is the attractive plot. The conflicts build from the early moment play the watcher emotion. It makes the film become not boring to watch.

And the last, struggle for life that become the main issue of film is reflected well in this film. Mel Gibson covers struggle for life found in the himself and society. The story of the film tells the existence of struggle for life symbolized by the main character.

From the illustration above the research is interested in analyzing Struggle For Independent In Mel Gibson's *Brave Heart Film* By Using A Marxist Approach.

## **B. Literary Review**

*Brave Heart* is one of film made by Mel Gibson and it is an interesting film to analyze. This is the best film in 1995. Before the researcher analyzed it, she has read one research paper that is relevant with her analysis. The researcher find that the film had been analyzed by student of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta namely Tomi Indrianto. His research paper focuses on the analysis of the inferiority feeling that influences the personality of William Wallace as a major character in Mel Gibson's *Brave Heart* film by using individual psychological approach. The major character,

William Wallace gets the inferiority feeling because his inferiority feeling come from a sense of imperfection, the thing of which is the mental imperfection. The inferiority of William Wallace is firstly when William was child, his father and brother were killed. He feels inferior because he can not survive himself without his father and brother.

He has frustrated again when his wife was killed. His inferiority feeling influences his style of life. He does not have motivation and spirit to live. He is weak because many problem which faces in his life. He feels inability to overcome the life problems. In this research, he concerns to the character of William Wallace to be analyzed in how he copes with the life problems he faced.

Different from previous study, the present focuses on the analysis of struggle for independent of the *Brave Heart* film was directed by Mel Gibson. The major issue at 13<sup>th</sup> century is about revolt against England to get Scotland independent. In a legend, Wallace always leads his army through a series of successful battles against the English, including the battle of Stirling and sacking the city of York. However, he is betrayed by the Scottish nobily and defeated at the battle of Falkirk. In addition, William Wallace has a big struggle in the last live when he must choose between plea for mercy or death for freedom. But using the last strength in his body, he cries freedom and turns his head. The present researcher will analyze it by emphasizing on the Marxist Perspective.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The major of the study is how the Struggle of William Wallace for Independent in *Brave Heart* film which occurs between Scottish and English especially by Marxist perspective.

#### **D. Objective of the Study**

The Objective of the Study are stated as follows:

1. To analyze the film based on its Structural Element.
2. To analyze the film based on Marxist Perspective.

#### **E. Benefit of the Study**

1. Theoretical Benefit

This study is purposed to contribute to the larger body of knowledge, particularly literary studies on *Brave Heart* film.

2. Practical Benefit

This study can develop the writer's knowledge about *Brave Heart* film particularly related to the Marxist approach.

#### **F. Research Method**

1. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *Brave Heart* film by Mel Gibson.

2. Type of Data and Data Source

- a. Primary data source is *Brave Heart* film by Mel Gibson.
- b. Secondary data source are the book about Marxist and also the other materials related to the analysis.

3. Type of the Study

In this study, the writer uses a qualitative research. It is a library research while data are using literary data.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The method of data collection in this study is library research. The writer collects and record the data form primary and secondary data analysis.

- a. Watching and learning the *Brave Heart* film repeatedly.
  - b. Describing the story of film.
  - c. Looking for selecting the correlation of the data and theory using Marxist analysis.
  - d. Making notes of information in both primary and secondary data sources.
  - e. Classifying the data into some categories.
5. Technique of Data Analysis

The writer uses two techniques in analyzing the data:

- a. Clarifying the obtained data by selecting the necessary ones.
- b. Analyzing data based on Marxist theory proposed by Karl Marx.

## **G. Paper Organization**

This paper is divided into six chapters. The First chapter is Introduction, which explains the Background of the Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Objective of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method and Paper Organization. The Second chapter is underlying theory of Marxist approach. The Third consist of social historical background of Scotland society at the thirteenth century includes social, economic and political, science and technology, cultural and religious aspect. The Fourth chapter consists of structural analysis of the film and discussion. The Fifth chapter consists of analysis based on Marxist perspective and the last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.