

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, and benefits of the study.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

Everybody has their own culture, ethnic, ras, skin colour, hair type and also beliefs. They have same right to do something they want in all good and positive part of life actually. For example: to have an occupation position, a great education, to choose their beliefs, to share their opinions, ideas and arguments also.

Every country also has the differences about their society, like what the researcher mentioned before (beliefs, culture, ethnic, skin colour, hair types, and occupations also). Those differences called “Multicultural”. According to Banks (1990, p. 10) multicultural is relating to, reflecting, or adapted to diverse cultures, a multicultural society, multicultural education and multicultural menu. According to Victoria in Oxford Learner’s Pocket Dictionary (2001, p. 288), Multicultural is for or including people of different races, religions, language, etc. Multicultural also relating to or containing cultural or ethnic groups within a society.

Multicultural means not only occur in the society, but it can occur in the institution or educational field also. For example, Indonesia has lots of school that consists of many students that come from different culture,

ethnic and beliefs also. Those differences or phenomena occurred in the *Freedom Writers* movie.

*Freedom writers* movie is an interesting movie, because it is based on the book “*The Freedom Writers Diary*” by the teacher named Erin Gruwell who writes the story based on Woodrow Wilson Classical High School in Long Beach, California. Not only that, but the movie is also based on the DC program called City at Peace.

Freedom Writers movie shows the viewer of life reality about multiculturalism (black, white, big mouth, big nose, curly hair, straight hair and etc). The story is about a 23-year-old freshman teacher (Erin Gruwell). Erin Gruwell, a major character on the movie, is a teacher in Wilson High School in Long Beach. She teaches multicultural students (different ethnicity, race, culture and belief). They fight each other in or out of class or school, hate and hit each other. They also hate Gruwell because she is a white teacher.

Looking to those phenomena, Gruwell challenging to solve the problem mentioned before. With her brilliant ideas, Gruwell success to change her students and the world around them. Gruwell teaches her students not only all about English language, but also compassion, respect and tolerance as well. She finally finds out the way to teach, guide and educate them on the positive and right path of life. They become unity at the end.

The *Freedom Writers* movie was directed by Richard LaGravenese. He was born on October 30th, 1959. LaGravenese came of age in

Brooklyn and studied acting at New York University's experimental theater wing at the Tisch School for the Arts. As a student, he honed his skills with dialogue and formed a New York and Toronto based comedy troupe, for which he also wrote sketches. After a disastrous turn on the Icky 1989 generation gap "comedy" *Rude Awakening*, starring Cheech Marin and Louise Lasser, LaGravenese supplemented his (unrelated) day job by working on the script for what became *The Fisher King* (1991) a project reflecting his lifelong fascination with mythology. Directed by Terry Gilliam (who shares La Gravenese's passion for antiquated Arthurial legends and myth), *King* debuted during the Christmas season of 1991 and became an instant runaway hit and Academy contender. This most unusual picture stars Jeff Bridges as long-haired Jack Lucas, a suicidal New York DJ who regains his grasp on life after meeting Parry, an ostensibly insane homeless man (Robin Williams) obsessed with questing for The Holy Grail in midtown Manhattan. At the 64th Annual Academy Awards, the 32 year old LaGravenese netted an Oscar nomination for his original screenplay (Best Screenplay Written Directly for the Screen), though he lost to Callie Khouri for *Thelma & Louise*.

(<https://www.fandango.com/people/richard-lagravenese-378055/biography>)

Lagravense not only directed *Freedom Writers* (2007) but also *Rude Awakening* (1989), *The Ref* (1994), *Unstrung Heroes*, *A Little Princess*, and *The Bridges of Madison County* (1995), *The Mirror Has Two Faces* (1996), *The Horse Whisperer*, *Living Out Loud*, and beloved

(1998), *Freedom Writers*, and *P.S. I Love You* (2007), *Water for Elephants* (2011), *Beautiful Creatures*, and *Behind The Candelabra* (2013), *The Last Five Years*, *Dangerous Liaisons*, and *Unbroken* (2014), and the last is *The Comedian* (2016).

(<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0481418/>)

The interesting facts about *Freedom Writers* movie are: (a) The movie told about multicultural students. They came from another country (black, white, Latino, Asian and etc). Some of the students were gang members, they hating the other colours. (b) Teacher's efforts to develop students' knowledge by using multicultural teaching strategy, gave them many kinds of book, asked them to write down anything everyday in their own diary or journal. (c) Gruwell sacrifice, she really loves her students so much, she joined part time job to buy some books for her students material, then she divorced at the end. (d) A lot of valuable life lessons reflected in this movie, such as: respect each other (to your friends, parents and teachers also), no matter you are black or white but we are same as God creation. Everybody live in Social Life. The goal of this paper is to analyze a social phenomenon reflected on that move about a great teacher and her great vision in multiculturalism to teach, guide and educate her students.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher encouraged to do a research entitled as follows, **“MULTICULTURAL TEACHING STRATEGY REFLECTED IN FREEDOM WRITERS MOVIE: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE”**

**B. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses on analyzing the multicultural teaching strategy reflected in *Freedom Writers* Movie directed by Richard Lagravenese.

**C. Problem Statement**

According to those phenomena, the researcher break down into some research questions, as follows:

1. What are the indicators of multicultural teaching strategy reflected in *Freedom Writers* movie?
2. How was the multicultural teaching strategy depicted in the *Freedom Writers* movie ?
3. Why did Richard Lagravenese address multicultural teaching strategy in *Freedom Writers* movie ?

**D. Objective of the Study**

1. To identify the indicators of multicultural teaching strategy reflected in the *Freedom Writers* movie.
2. To describe the multicultural teaching strategy depicted in the *Freedom Writers* movie.
3. To reveal the reasons of addressing multicultural teaching strategy by Richard Lagravenese.

**E. Benefit of the Study**

There are theoretically and practically benefits of this research, those are:

**1. Theoretical Benefit**

This research expected to give contribution and more information for larger knowledge particularly in the literary studies.

**2. Practical Benefit**

- a. The result of the study are hoped to develop students ability in studying English through literatures.
- b. This study can be useful to everybody who interested in analyzing movie and it can be used as a guides also.