

**THE SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM BY BIELSKI FAMILY
IN EDWARD ZWICK'S *DEFIANCE* MOVIE (2008):
A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



RESEARCH PAPER

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NI'MAH KHAIRI

A 320 060 304

**SCHOOL OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA**

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Defiance is one of epic drama movies of World War II ever produced. The screenplay of this film is adapted from the book entitled “*Defiance: The Bielski Partisans*” written by Nechama Tec. Nechama Tec is a holocaust scholar and Professor Emerita of Sociology at the University of Connecticut, Stamford who was born in Lublin, Poland in 1931.

Defiance is a movie that was directed by an American director Edward Zwick. In this movie, Edward Zwick is not only as a director but also as a screenplay with Clayton Frohman. Zwick is well-known as the heroic maker movies. Zwick made his first foray into feature waters directing *About Last Night* (1986), his second feature, *Glory* (1989). The others movie project directed by Edward Zwick’s are *Courage Under fire* (1996); *Shakespeare in love* (1998), *traffic* (2000), *I Am Sam* (2001); *Abandon* (2002), *Lone Star State of Mind* ; *The last Samurai* (2003).

This movie is distributed by Paramount Vantage. *Defiance* is a 2008 movie which first release was at December 31, 2008 in United States. The full release was on 16, January, 2009. *Defiance* made \$128,000 during its two weeks of limited release in New York City and Los Angeles, California. It made \$10 million during its first weekend of full release in the United States, and by the end of its box-office run, the film made approximately \$50 million worldwide. The production budget \$ 50 million, and the opening prediction

\$ 1 million; finally gain \$55, 426,926. This movie was taken for three months in the fall and early winter of 2007, which the setting of place is at Poland. The movie runtime time is 137 minutes, released in VCD and DVD.

Defiance is a movie telling about true story of the three Jewish Eastern European brothers, they are Tuvia Bielski, Zus Bielski, Asael Bielski. They have an important role in their act to escape and protect Jewish Partisans people from the Nazis in 1941. They are Jewish Partisans in Naliboki village.

At World War II Germany Nazi kill half people and abducting the rest. The Germany army, under the command Bernicki, the Belarussian Police Captain and also as a murderer David and Beila Bielski, both of them are Bielski parents. Germany Nazi does not give options for Jewish, they just kill Jewish.

The three brothers live in Naliboki forest when Germany Nazi look for them. They meet 1200 Jewish partisans in the forest. Then, they form a fledging partisan group determine to fight the Nazi occupation and those cooperating with them. They build bunkers as a house. They call Ortriad Bielski at the camp that consists of Jewish Partisans people.

One day, at the Ortriad Bielski camp, German scout planes peer over. Then, Tuvia orders everyone to evacuate the camp. The planes bomb the camp and kill many Jewish Partisans people. Tuvia and the refugees confused when they come up on a large marshland. Asael take the running up and giving a brilliant solution. They should cross the marsh if they are to survive.

Asael orders to collect rope and everyone's belt. So, they can go through the marsh.

Finally, they arrive in a battle. Suddenly, Germany army attacks using a tank and company. Once again, a number of partisans are killed. Otriad Bielski tries to turn against. Zus and other man came to help. They kill many Germans, killing the gunner and throwing in a grenade. War has finished, the partisans complete cleaning up the remaining Germans. They all walk to the woods. They live in the forest for two years. In their new camp they build a school, a hospital, a nursery. At the time liberations 1200 people walked out of the forest.

The public responses are important to know. There are some positive comments and negative comments. The positive comments, from USA in Popmatters web Bruce Dancis (2009) comments that *Defiance* not only pays attribute to the Bielski partisans, but also casts an emphatic glance in bad condition of refugees in everywhere, wherever and whenever people will find themselves forced to leave their homes in order to survive. In his opinion, *Defiance* is devoted to the establishment and maintenance of the Jewish Partisans in the forest, especially, in reconciling the differences between educated urban Jews and the rougher from many characters people.

Besides the positive comments, *Defiance* also gains some negative comments. Holly Huffstutler (2009) stated that *Defiance* is a powerfully acted and beautifully scored film that accurately portrays complex people and their reactions to desperate situations. Unfortunately, it is also a movie which is

held back by an amateurish script. From the positive and negative comments, *Defiance* is interesting to be studied because the process of writing so long and carefully considered.

During this movie release, this movie got some nominations and as a winner in the Academy Awards of category recipients Best Achievement in Music Written for Motion Pictures, original Score, USA in 2009; Nominated as Golden Globes, in USA 2009 Best Original Score - Motion Picture; in Las Vegas film critics society Awards in 2008 *Defiance* got category Best Score; Nominated Visual Society Awards in 2009 Outstanding Special Effects in a Motion Picture (The Internet Movie Database, 2008).

Defiance movie is an interesting movie: there are three aspects that make it is also interesting to be studied. The first, *Defiance* movie shows the military strategy that so has effectively defeated invaders through history. It can be proved when Jewish Partisans use Naliboki forest to save people and to live together.

The second, this movie is interesting because it tells about the sacrifice and struggle of Bielski family. One of their struggle aims is to get freedom of life, belief and free as human in Poland. The third, *Defiance* movie has the patriotism value. It can be proved when Germany Nazi kills many people. At the camp the Otriad Bielski learns to fire a gun and to turn against. Their action makes the sacrifices for freedom is necessary not only to survive, but also to thrive. Moreover, the powerfull struggle of Bielski brothers-Tuvia, Zus and Asael is used to survive their life by taking care of society. They

attempt to struggle and fight back to get freedom to life, freedom to talk and freedom to believe and to survive their life, their struggle through their statement :

“We may be hunted like animals, but we will not become animals. We have all chosen this – to live free, like human beings, for as long as we can. Each day of freedom is a victory. And if we die trying to live, at least we die like human beings.”

From the statement above, it shows and proves that Bielski brothers are responsible for their struggle. It shows the cover of their characteristic as partisans.

Based on the previous reasons the writer will observe *Defiance* Movie by using sociological theory. Thus, the writer constructs the title **THE SACRIFICE FOR FREEDOM BY BIELSKY FAMILY IN EDWARD ZWICK’S *DEFIANCE* MOVIE (2008): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

B. Literature Review

In this research, the writer does not find any research using the socialist or the other approach in *Defiance* movie. In the contrary the writer finds two sources those are an essay and an article.

The first is an essay written by David A. Thomas (2008). He is a Prof. of Rhetoric at Emeritus of Richmond. He wrote an essay entitled “War and Anti-Semitism in Christian Ethics Journal”. He used Theological perspective to analyze the data. The aim of the study is to find the ways two brothers Tuvia and Zus Bielski’s respond to the impossible struggle of staying in the forest.

The result shows that *Defiance* is a scarring but inspiring movie. It tells how the three brothers respond their differences. The movie focuses on the two oldest brothers, Tuvia and Zus, who personify two contrasting personality types. Their interpersonal conflicts often appear in the dramatic story. The third brother, Asael is a young fighter and lover. The fourth brother is Aron, he depicted as a traumatized, nearly mute teen with only a minor role in the story. The implications in this movie is a study in theology.

The second essay conducted by John Bessa (2009), entitled Edward Zwick's *Defiance: Nazi, Soviet, and Zionist*. In his article he used the role effectiveness military strategy in *Defiance* Movie. He stated that *Defiance* brings up the major ironies of the Second World War, and shows us how the irony still influences our life today.

The differences between the writer and the two previous resserachers are the theme and the perspective. David wrote about the War-Anti Semitism Scriptural Implications. He used theology approach to analyze *Defiance* movie. While, in this research the writer analyzes *Defiance* movie by using Sociological Perspective.

C. Problem Statement

Based on the phenomena on the background of the study, the writer proposes, "How is the sacrifice for freedom reflected in *Defiance* movie?"

D. Limitation of the Study

The writer focuses on this research in analyzing the sacrifice for freedom by Bielski family in *Defiance* movie based on sociological approach.

E. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze Edward Zwick's *Defiance* movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe the sacrifice for freedom by Bielsky family in Edward Zwick's *Defiance* movie based on sociological approach.

F. The Benefits of the study

The benefits of the study are:

1. Theoretical Benefit

The study is hoped to give a new contribution to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Defiance* movie and book.

2. Practical Benefit

It adds the writer's knowledge on Edward Zwick's *Defiance* movie particularly based on sociological approach.

G. Research Method

1. Type of Study

The type of this research is descriptive qualitative. Descriptive qualitative is a type of research which result the descriptive data in the form of written or oral words from the observed object.

2. The Object of the Study

The object of this research is *Defiance* Movie (2008). Directed by Edward Zwick's and published by Picture Home Entertainment in 2008. It is analyzed by using Sociological approach.

3. Type of the Data and Data Source

a. Type of Data

The data of this study are the scenes and dialogues in *Defiance* movie directed by Edward Zwick.

b. Data Source

1) The primary data source is the movie and script of *Defiance* movie directed Edward Zwick which is related to the study.

2) The secondary data source are the books and other sources that support the analysis.

4. Technique of Data Collection

The technique of data collection are capturing of the picture and note taking, in which the steps are:

a. Watching the movie for the several times.

b. Reading the movie script.

- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- f. Taking notes from the material and some other resources related to the movie and analysis.

5. Technique of Data Analysis

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and sociological approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

Paper organization of this research comprises six chapters. Chapter I is introduction. It consists of the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, the benefit of the study, research method, and research paper organization,

Chapter II concerns with Underlying Theory. It consists of sociology of literature, the perspective of sociology of literature, structural elements of the movie, and theoretical application.

Chapter III is social historical background of American society in early twenty first century which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect.

Chapter IV is the structural analysis of *Defiance* Movie. It consists of character and characterizations, casting, plot, technical elements of the movie, point of view, style, and theme; and (2) discussion.

Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *Defiance* Movie. It consists of the social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect.

Chapter VI is dealing with conclusion and suggestion.