

**ALIENATION TO NATURAL RESOURCES IN EDWARD**

***ZWICK'S BLOOD DIAMOND (2006):***

**A MARXIST APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the writer presents background of the study, literature review, problem statement, objective of the study, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, research method which includes type of the research, object of the research, data and data source, technique of collecting data, technique of analyzing data and research paper organization.

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

*Blood Diamond (2006)* is an action/adventure film co-produced and directed by Edward Zwick, and starring Leonardo DiCaprio, Jennifer Connelly and Djimon Hounsou. The title refers to blood diamonds, which are diamonds mined in African war zones and sold to finance the conflicts and profit the warlords and the diamond companies across the world. The film focuses on the civil war in Sierra Leone, and the issues of child soldiers, diamond mining, and smuggling. DiCaprio plays a mercenary-like character that becomes interested in hearing of a man (Hounsou) that has found a very large diamond and hidden it. Hounsou's character is a father who has lost his son to the rebels, and is desperately seeking for his boy in the maelstrom that Sierra Leone has become. This film has 134 minutes long and released on December 8, 2006 in United States and January 4, 2007 in United Kingdom by Warner Bros Pictures Virtual Studios. The film was nominated for five Academy Award including Best Actor (DiCaprio) and Best Supporting Actor (Hounsou) (imdb.com)

*Blood Diamond* (2006) is one of the most successful films of Edward Zwick after *Glory* (1989) and *The Last Samurai* (2003). Zwick was born in 1952, in Chicago USA. After graduating from the AFI Conservatory in Los Angeles, California, Zwick worked as a journalist with the magazine "Rolling Stone". In his early career, he produced drama *Paper Dolls* (1982), *Having It All* (1982) and *Special Bulletin* (1983); and heroism story *Glory* (1989) which won Oscar for Best Cinematography. In 1998 he produced *Shakespeare in Love*. Then in 2003, He directed the epic film *The Last Samurai* (2003) starring *Tom Cruise* and *Ken Watanabe* which earns four Oscar nominations for Acting (Watanabe), Art Direction, Sound, and Costume. In 2008, his latest film, *Defiance* (2008) was released on December. It stars Daniel Craig, Jamie Bell, Liev Schreiber as three Jewish brothers outrunning Nazi forces occupying Poland and protecting hundreds of Jewish refugees (imdb.com).

*Blood Diamond* (2006) movie got excellent response from Global Witness and Amnesty International. They supported that *Blood Diamond* (2006) movie gave great description about the conflict, and they hope that the result of watch the movie, people ask more question before buying a diamond. The diamond industry should take action to make sure companies can provide consumers with adequate assurances that the diamonds that they sell are conflict free. In *Rottentomatoes*, this movie also gets positive reaction from the reviews; about 63 percent of them said that this movie has overcome its poor storytelling with its biting commentary and fine performances.

*Blood Diamond (2006)* is set during Sierra Leone Civil War in 1996-1999. This movie tells a Mende fisherman names Solomon Vandy which is separated from his family and forced as a slave in diamond mining which is controlled by rebel organization Revolutionary United Front (RUF). In this place he finds a big pink diamond that changes his life. When he is imprisoned with other miners in Freetown jail, the information about the discovery of this thing is spread to diamond smugglers in this country.

Danny Archer (Leonardo DiCaprio), a white Rhodesian mercenary and diamond smuggler arranges for Solomon's release and offers to help him to find his family if he wants to exchange with the diamond. When RUF launches a massive assault on Freetown, Danny and Solomon steal away from the city at night. Archer and Solomon meet Maddy Bowen, an American journalist to help to track down Solomon's family. With the help of Maddy they go to the refuge camp in Guinea. In this place Solomon meets his wife and is daughter but his son is not there.

Solomon, Archer and Maddy want to take benefit from one another. Archer helps Solomon to get his diamond while Maddy helps Archer to get information about the diamond smuggling in this country for her article which is hoped to be able to stop the flow of blood diamonds in the world.

After they have been attacked by rebels, when they continue to find Solomon' son, Archer asks Maddy to leave this mission because the situation become worse. After Maddy leaving this country with other foreigners, Solomon and Archer fight to continue this mission. Finally they find Dia, the son of

Solomon who is trained as rebel soldier after he was kidnapped from his family. They find Dia in diamond mining in Kono district where Solomon used to work. In this place they also find the diamond that was buried by Solomon before he was imprisoned in Freetown. But when they want to go out from this place, Danny is shot. He is dying, therefore he asks Solomon to take Dia home and giving back the diamond to him. He also asks Mandy Bowen to help Solomon.

Solomon travels to London and, with the help of Bowen; he trades the diamond to Simmons for £2,000,000 and gets reunion with his family. Maddy, who secretly photographs the deal, later publishes a magazine exposing the trade of "conflict" or "blood" diamonds.

In this study the writer concerns the alienation of Sierra Leone's people to their natural resources in Edward Zwick's film *Blood Diamond* (2006). Sierra Leone is a country in West Africa bordered by Guinea in the north, Liberia in the southeast, and the Atlantic Ocean in the southwest. It has very rich minerals and relied on mining, especially diamonds, for its economic base. But not all of the people of this country get the benefit from the wealth of its natural resources; on the contrary a lot of people still live in poverty. The natural resources of a country should be gained for the prosperity of its societies. But a poor country with very rich natural resources is always exploited by the greedy industrialists for their advantage. Therefore, to explain those problems above the researcher will employ Marxist theory as the approach of this study.

At least there are four reasons the writer choose Edward Zwick's film *Blood Diamond* (2006) as the object of the study. First, this film portrays the

social and political condition of Sierra Leone society. The story takes place in 1999 Sierra Leone when the country is embroiled in a civil war in which more than two million people died. In this period, there are many people cut their hands by the rebellion to make them cannot participate in general election of this country and there were many children taken from their parent to be trained as the brutal soldiers. Sierra Leone people live in suffers, they have to live in refugee camp with million of other victims war in Africa. They are poor and there are not safe place in this country in this period.

Second, this film portrays the fact of the diamond trade in the world. This film shows that there are many illegal diamonds circulating free in the world market. These illegal diamonds comes from the conflict areas and smuggled to finance terrorism or other violent acts including civil war, this is usually called as “conflict diamond” or “blood diamond”. The blood diamond trade has been recognized as a global problem, with terrorist organizations in a wide range of nations benefiting from the trade of these diamonds. The blood diamond problem is most severe in Africa, where several nations including Liberia, Angola, and Sierra Leone have been affected. Sometimes a blood diamond may be traded directly for weapons, to reduce the traceability of the transaction. In other cases, the diamonds may be exchanged for currency of various nations, often deposited into bank accounts outside the nation of origin.

Third, this film has earned many international awards and nominations such as Academy Awards and Golden Globe. In 79th Academy Award, *Blood Diamond* is nominated as Best Actor-Leonardo DiCaprio, Best Supporting Actor-

Djimon Hounsou, Best Sound Mixing, Best Sound Editing, Best Film Editing- Steven Rosenblum. In 64th Golden Globe Award, this film is nominated as Best Performance by an Actor in a Motion Picture - Drama - Leonardo DiCaprio. In 2007 Black Reel Awards and 78th National Board of Review Awards Djimon Hounsou won as Best Supporting Actor.

The forth reason is three major characters of this film which are Danny Archer, Solomon Vandy, and Maddy Bowen are played very well by each actors. Leonardo DiCaprio who usually plays as a romantic man gets the challenge character in this film. He plays as Danny Archer, the mercenary soldier and diamond smuggler. He has to act with many violence scenes and also speak with the African English accent which is seem difficult to do, but as one of the great international actor in this world DiCaprio has done very well. Djimon Housou plays as Solomon Vandy, a father who endangers his life to protect his family from the cruelty of civil war. For his play in this film, he won Best Supporting Actor in 2007 Black Reel Award and 78th National Board of Review Awards. Jennifer Connelly plays as Maddy Bowen, a smart and hard worker journalist. She also endangers his life to catch in formations to expose the international diamond smuggling. So with this great cast composition, this film is very interested to be watched.

So, based on the reasons above the researcher conduct the research entitles *Alienation to Natural Resources in Edward Zwick's Blood Diamond (2006): A Marxist Approach*

## **B. Literature Review**

Dealing with the subject of the study about Edward Zwick's *Blood Diamond* (2006) such researches have been done by the other researcher. But the writer finds that the previous researchers use the different object of study to be analyzed. For instance is the research that has been done by Mukhaeron (UMS, 2008), *A Descriptive Study on the Use of American- English Address Terms in the Movie Entitled "Blood Diamond", A Sociolinguistics Approach*. In this research, she analyzes the variations of address terms used in the movie entitled *Blood Diamond*. She also analyzes the communicative functions and the reasons of using each variation of address terms used in this movie.

The second previous study is from Surya Sandika (UMS, 2008), *Suffering Behind Luxury in Edward Zwicks Blood Diamond: A Sociological Approach*. He analyzes the social phenomena of some people who can gain the luxury from the suffer condition of others reflected in Edward Zwicks's *Blood Diamond* viewed from sociological perspective especially sociology of the society.

Related to the previous study above, the researcher also analyzes Edward Zwick's *Blood Diamond* (2006) but with different topic that has not ever been studied before. In this study the researcher will study the forms of alienation of Sierra Leone people to their natural resources by conducting Marxist Approach.

## **C. Problem Statement**

Considering the background of the study above, the researcher formulates the problem statement in this research as "How is the alienation of natural resources reflected in Edward Zwick's *Blood Diamond* (2006)?"



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

To carry out the research, the researcher needs to limit the study. The researcher focuses to analyze the form of alienation of natural resources of Sierra Leone people by employing Marxist approach.

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

Dealing with the problem statement above the objective of the study is:

1. To analyze the structural element of the film in order to identify the unity of the film.
2. To analyze the film based on Marxist approach.

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

The benefits affected from this study are as follows:

##### **1. Theoretical benefit**

Hopefully the research will give the additional information about literature related to Edward Zwick's film *Blood Diamond (2006)*.

##### **2. Practical benefit**

Expectantly the research will give deeper understanding in literary field, and as the reference to other researcher in analyzing this film in different perspective.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the research**

The research of the *Blood Diamond* (2006) film belongs to qualitative research. Azwar (2007: 5) states that “qualitative research emphasizes its analysis in drawing conclusion of deductive and inductive process and on the analysis of dynamic relation among the phenomena observed, by using scientific logic.”

### **2. Object of the research**

The object of the research is the Ken Loach’s film *Blood Diamond* (2006).

### **3. Data and data source**

There are two kinds of data in this research which are primary data and secondary data. First, the primary data are taken from the text of the film such as dialogues, characters action, and whole narration. Second, the secondary data include the reference of some books and articles from internet.

### **4. Technique of collecting data**

The techniques of collecting data are:

- a. Watching the film repeatedly and learning the script of *Blood Diamond* (2006) and secondary data from the others books and articles.
- b. Taking note the important part in primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several parts based on classification.
- d. Analyzing the data.
- e. Drawing conclusion based on the analysis

## **5. Technique of analyzing data**

The researcher will use two kinds of technique in analyzing the data. The first is the researcher try to classify and to obtain data by selecting the necessary ones. The second step is analyzing data based on Marxist theory.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research will be divided into five chapters. First is introduction that covers the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, research limitation, objective of the study, benefits of the study and research method. The second chapter is underlying theory. It deals with the notion of Marxist, principles of Marxist, structural elements of the movie and theoretical application. The third chapter includes the social historical background of Sierra Leone. The forth chapter includes the structural analysis. In this chapter, the researcher will explain the structural elements, which includes character and characterization, plot, setting, and theme. The fifth chapter analyzes the film based on Marxist Approach. Finally, the researcher will present conclusion and suggestion in the sixth chapter.