

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the Study

*Bullying* is major problem in life. *Bullying* also impacts negatively the surrounding environment. The emergence of cases of violence in school-age children is particularly haunted for educators and parents. The school should be a place for children to learn and help personal characters who are positive. However, it is the place where bullying behavior grows, giving the impression of frightening impressions for children. Bully is an act of someone who uses power or strength or scare or hurt others who are weaker. *Bullying* usually occurs in the school environment such as bullying children who look weak. *Bullying* is not just in school, it happens everywhere.

According to Olweus (2005), *bullying* is an intentional aggressive action by a group or a person repeatedly from time to time against victims who cannot defend themselves easily or as an abuse of power. The goal of bullying is to make the victim suffer and also to make psychological victims depressed. *Bullying* also includes physical violence which can cause the victim to become injured. There are 4 forms of Bullying, that are *Physical Bullying, Verbal Bullying, Psychological Bullying, and Relational Bullying*. First, Physical Bullying is physical violence such as hitting, slapping, spitting, kicking, damaging the victim's belongings, etc. The purpose of the act is because the perpetrator of bullying wants to get the attention of those around him. Second, Verbal Bullying is the most used form of bullying, both among men and women. Verbal bullying is easy to detect with the eyes and ears, but cannot be touched between the bully and the victim of bullying. According Coloroso (2003) verbal bullying is very dangerous for a long period of time and can make bullying victims feel self-esteem is destroyed and confidence is gone. Third, Psychological Bullying is the behavior of a bullying perpetrator who makes about a joke of a person's physical weakness or deprivation. This is done in front of others and the victim will feel ieded. Fourth, Relational

bullying is an act that disconnects a person or group that targets the victim's weakness in order to lower his or her self-esteem. Bullying is a form that is difficult to detect by the eyes and ears. Victims of relational bullying usually do not know if they have been bullied, but they can feel the effects of such bullying. Relational bullying is usually used to reject someone in the sphere of friendship or the surrounding environment.

The researches chose *Freedom Writers* as of the object the research. And the *Freedom Writers* is a movie based the true story experienced by Mrs. Erin Gruwell and her students through *Freedom Writers* diary. The movie is located on California, United State of America. The *Freedom Writers* movie was released on January 5, 2007. This movie also has running time or duration is about 122 minutes or one hour and twenty-two minutes. And the language used English. The *Freedom Writers* movie directed by Richard LaGravenese.<sup>1</sup>

Freedom Writers film director Richard LaGravenese raised the issue because the youth issues shown in the movie are very close to the problems of teenagers in general. The problem raised by Freedom Writers director Richard LaGravenese is not just bullying, it's racism that is still rife about skin color, origin, and tribe. Small misunderstandings can trigger interracial fights, as each race has the confidence to earn honor if it dies to defend its race. And also Freedom Writers movie also teaches about the search for identity and violations of the rules to strengthen self-existence.

Victims of bullying are usually quiet children and children who are difficult to get along with friends around them. Bullying occurs because of several factors that are, economy different, gender, religion, tradition, and habit senior to punishment for his junior which often happens. And there are also feelings of revenge or jealousy, the emergence of enthusiasm to persecute victims with physical force. And also, the perpetrators of bullying do so to increase the popularity of bullying among friends. Bullying often

---

<sup>1</sup> Ade Putra Yandwiputra, “[Resensi Film] Freedom Writers”, <http://yandwiputra.blogspot.com/2018/10/freedom-writers.html>, pada tanggal 28 September 2020 pukul 11.25

happens because of the tradition of seniority, like senior who controls the environment in schools or other places. If seniors act or say, then juniors only obey and follow these rules. While children who are victims of bullying have problems with their parents. For example, parents punish excessively and the child learns to imitate bullying behavior that occurs in his parents, then imitates his friends.

The act of bullying has a long-term effect and becomes a nightmare that is hard to lose in the memory of the victim child. According to (Danielle & Patricia, 2019), the impact experienced by children who become acts of violence is experiencing mental health problems, lack of motivation, having a sense of fear, and also the occurrence of death to the victim. According to Rigby (2014), explain that victims of bullying have the following characteristics, come from broken home families (divorced parents), have physical disabilities, and come from poor families.

In the *Freedom Writers* movie to tell a new teacher named Erin Gruwell who gets an assignment to teach a class where students have problems and all students have racism, students only want to gather in their groups and do not want to be friends with other students. And black-skinned students don't want to be friends with students from Latin America, whites, and Asians. The lives of students are influenced by the environment around them, where they live in the Long Beach area that everyday experiences war among gangs, blacks consider white as a threat and others, and also otherwise. This resulted in students experiencing a dark period, for example, students named Eva students come from Latin America as a child saw his neighbor killed by a gang war and not only that Eva saw his father arrested by the police for the accused killing his neighbor. Erin Gruwell was concerned about her students. And the idea arises that is giving a journal to write down the experiences of his students every day. And Erin Gruwell understands what her students experience every day. In *Freedom Writers* movies have reflected bullying experienced by students at Woodrow Wilson High School, New Port Beach, USA. They experienced bad events that were caused by

racism, a war between gangs, and physical violence. Besides, they are vulnerable to bullying in the Long Beach environment.

Researchers want to analyze more deeply the reflections of the dangers of bullying that occur in *Freedom Writers* movie. The reason the researchers chose the *Freedom Writers* movie for research was that each movie had a case of bullying. Researchers chose the theme of bullying because many children had experienced bullying cases at school or in the neighborhood. As well as the impact arising from bullying that can affect the psychological condition of children who are victims of bullying.

## **B. Problem Statement**

Based on the above review, it is necessary to formulate these problems:

1. What are the forms of bullying in the *Freedom Writers* movie?
2. What is the impact of bullying on the psychosocial condition of the victims of bullying in the *Freedom Writers* movie?
3. Why did the producer of the movie address the issue of bullying?

## **C. Objective of the Study**

Based on the above, it is a raised issue, and the purpose of the research as follows:

1. To illustrate the forms of bullying done in *Freedom Writers* Movie.
2. To find out the impact caused by bullying behavior towards psychosocial conditions in *Freedom Writers* Movie.
3. To realize to all of us that bully behavior has a detrimental impact on our daily lives.

## **D. Benefit of the Study**

Researchers expect a lot of research that investigates the problem of "Bullying Reflected in *Freedom Writers* Movie (2007)" which brings benefits. From this research, it is expected that there are benefits that can be taken, that is:

1. For students who have been victims of Bullying, especially in schools expected to provide information about bullying in the world of education and reflect on the personality profile of someone who has been a victim of bullying at school.
2. For Parents and Educators expected to realize their duties and obligations to educate their children properly and correctly without any bullying which can almost the process of learning in school or the surrounding environment.

### **E. Research Paper Organization**

In this study there are consists five chapters will be described as follows:

1. The first chapter with the background of research that explain the subject matter of this research. And the limitation study also shows the outline tis study. Also the problem formulation will outline the main discussion of this research. And the purpose of research is to explain about the purpose of this research. Last, the study benefits to demonstrate the fuction of this research.
2. The second chapter is the theory underlying it. In this chapter examines the notion of Bullying reflected, the basic concepts of sociology, and theory.
3. The third chapter is examining research methods, type of the study, object of the study, type of data and the data source, technique of the data collection, and technique of the data analysis.
4. The fourth chapter is to discuss seeking reflections on the bullying that Woodrow Wilson High School in the Freedom Writers Movie, using an sociological approach.
5. The final chapter is discussing the conclusion and suggestion of research.