

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of background of the study, problem of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study.

1.1 Background of the study

Film is a work of art created from creative ideas taken the form of moving images, or audio visuals. Film encompasses individual motion pictures, the field of film as an art form, and the motion picture industry. Film is one of interesting media that give the audience benefit, such as can reduce stress and make us happy with the genre of the film. According to Lawson (1967: 16), “film is a *narrative* form (a matter which is not settled), it is essential to unite narrative and composition in a structure which is aesthetically unique and uniquely cinematic. Film is a narrative, told through sound and image that build to a climax and culminates in a resolution.” This means that films tell all events in stage, supported by some sounds and perform the character on the stage and make the complete action in order to ensure the audience about one film. The film has a script written by the writer about someone’s experiences. Film is an infinite subject containing properties that simultaneously and continuously interplay between images, sound, and motion on the screen making film the most powerful and realistic art. The mood and treatment of the film can range from lyrical to epic. In point of view, a film can cover the full spectrum from purely objective to the intensive subjective; in-depth it can focus on the surface realities and the purely sensual, or it can delve into the intellectual and

philosophical matters. A film can look to the remote past or probe the distant future; it can take a few seconds to seem like hours or compress a century into minutes (Dennis, 2000: 2).

In literary works, there are two main aspects that form the basis of analysis of work, namely the intrinsic aspects and extrinsic aspects. Those elements are plot, character, theme, setting, and point of view. Intrinsic aspects are the element that directly participates in and builds the story. Meanwhile, extrinsic elements are those which are outside of the story, but indirectly influence the story building of a literary work. They do not take a part in it (Nurgiyantoro, 2007). In this writing, the writer focus to analyze of main character in Freedom Writer Film. Character always appears in the film. The story does not complete without character. Character is the person presented in work of narrative who convey his or her personal qualities through dialogue and action by which the reader or audience understands his or her thought, feelings, intentions, and motives. With character the audience can be interested with the film. A character always presents in every event and can be found in every scene of the movie. Character is a person in a literary work who has some kind of identity (not necessarily strong), an identity that is formed from appearance, conversation, actions, name, and maybe thoughts that go through the head.

Abrams and Geoffrey (2009:42) give two definitions about the characters in literature. The first definition is that the character is the name of a literary *genre*; it is a short, and usually witty, sketch in prose of a distinctive type of person. The

second, characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as possessing particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying which is called the dialogue and from what they do which is called the action.

In this study, the characters always involve and have the main role in running their roles within the plot of the story. In line with this, there are two methods used for characterizing suggested by Abrams and Geoffrey (2009:43), they are; first is showing (also called “the dramatic method”). They continue to state that the author simply presents the characters talking and acting, and leaves it entirely up to the reader to infer the motives and dispositions that lie behind what they say and do. The author may show not only external speech and actions, but also a character’s inner thoughts, feelings, and responsiveness to events; for a highly developed mode of such inner showing, see *stream of consciousness*. Second, they state that in telling method, the author intervenes authoritatively in order to describe, and often to evaluate, the motives and dispositional qualities of the characters.

Character is a representation of a human being that reveals thoughts, speeches, and actions. The approach of character in literature as well as a concern when we approach an individual in real life. It can be observed by their actions, to listen to what they say and how they say, in order to notice how they relate to other

characters and how other characters respond. It was related to other elements because it plays a role to show the elements in the film.

Freedom Writers film tells about racism and it is one of the films based on a true story in America. This work by Richard LaGravenese (2007) tells the story of the struggle of a teacher named Erin Gruwell, an idealistic woman with a high education who comes to Woodrow Wilson High School to teach as a new English teacher for children who are victims of racial gang fights. She is excited schoolteacher that teaches at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach a formerly high-achieving school that has recently had in integration program put in place. She spent her life just to make students with different ethnicities; in a war caused by gang violence and racial tension reach an all time high change of their life and their class that were busy with their activity before, become a family.

Erin Gruwell is the main character in the Freedom Writer film. She is a new, excited school teacher who leaves the safety of her hometown, Newport Beach, to teach at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach California, a formerly high achieving school which has recently put an integration in place. Her enthusiasm is rapidly challenged when she realizes that her class is all “at-risk” high school students, and not the eager for college students she that was expecting. The high school’s student self-segregate into racial groups in the classroom, gang fights break out, and eventually most of the high school students stop attending classroom.

She teaches classroom 203 which is full of racial group students. What she faces is far from her expectation because the students often fight each other in order

to maintain their gangs even in the classroom. She continues to teach although they begin to stop coming in the class. She struggles, and try the best to teach them although the students do not respect her.

One day, one of the Latino students draws a picture of one of his Nigger friends. The drawing is about a black with a big fat lips. It makes Gruwell's patient is culminated and the drawing is embarrassed the boy. She compares the problem with Holocaust (the mass murder by the Nazis of the Jews of continental Europe between 1940 and 1945). In this day she debates with several students in the classroom about racial issues. She tries to make them understand that studying is the important thing that they should to rather than fighting in racial gangs.

Erin tries many ways. She start by trying many teaching methods to get their attention such as holding a trip to meet Holocaust victims, giving them books to be read, holding dancing concert to raise money for guest speaker from Europe, and so on. Her big intention to change their habit is successful and they become friends and no more gang fighting. Although at the first time she gets opposition from her department head, who refuses to let her teach her high school students with book in case they get damages and lost, and instead tell her to focus on training their discipline and obedience. From her brave, patience, and speech, she realizes them to be good students and finally all of them go to college.

Erin Gruwell shows that she is really confident in showing her belief, claiming, asserting, stating, and describing what she wants for her students in order to love studying in the school. She does not let any kind of obstacle prevents her

intention to change her students. She also does not want her student become gang's fighter in their age which is the age is the time to study.

Her efforts result in the condition that differ in Woodrow Wilson high school where the gang violence got low and her students got the true education. In the end, Erin gives the final project to her students and resulting "Freedom Writer Diary"

The writer chooses this study because of some reasons. The first, the film is very interesting to be analyzed because it is the real story based on the "freedom writer diary" written by Erin Gruwell and Freedom Writer diary was made into movie directed by Richard LaGravenese. Second, through this movie the writer wants to analyze and describe the character and characterization shown by Erin Gruwell as the main character in the movie freedom writer.

To understand about the main character in the film, the writer use the personality traits theory that commonly known as "The Big Five" factor analysis by Paul Costa & Robert McCrae (1992). In this research, the writer is interested to discuss about the main character in one film through theory of personality traits.

Based on the background above, it is interesting to know how Erin's character is portrayed and developed in that film viewed from theory personality traits by Costa and McCrae.

Therefore, the writer wants to analyze the film in this research under the title **“AN ANALYSIS OF MAIN CHARACTER OF “FREEDOM WRITER” FILM DIRECTED BY RICHARD LAGRAVENESE VIEWED FROM PERSONALITY TRAITS THEORY BY COSTA AND MCCRAE”**

1.2 Problem of the study

Based on the background of the study above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. How are the character of Erin Gruwell presented in Freedom Writer movie?
2. What are Erin Gruwell’s characteristics presented in the movie viewed from personality traits theory by Costa and McCrae?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The objective of the research is based on the problem above that is

1. To describe about kinds of character of Erin Gruwell in freedom writer movie
2. To know about the characteristics of Erin Gruwell viewed from personality traits theory by Costa and McCrae.

1.4 Significance of the study

Based on this problem that describes above, there are some benefits of this writing:

1. For writer

He will get the knowledge and learn more about the character and characteristic in film.

2. For the reader

It is useful to enrich people knowledge about the film.

3. For further researches

The researcher expect to this research will be helpful for herself in improving knowledge about analysis character, characterization related to literature issue and its development.

4. For teachers in English

As the educator, the lecturer is responsible for educating their students not only transferring knowledge but also impart great character. Through this research, hope it can be inspired and boost motivation personality.