

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter explains about the introduction of research, there are: basic consideration, research question, objective of study, scope and limitation of study, and significance of study. This research discusses about racial segregation in Richard Lagravenous *“Freedom Writers”*.

Basic Consideration

Movie is one of art which is different from novel, short story, drama, and poetry. It is a form of entertainment that enact story by a sequence of image, having sound and giving the illusion of continuous movement. So that, it makes pictures seem alive.

Movie is dramatized representation of reality and it is included in one of fiction. In term fiction to describe prose works that tell a story (for example, fairy tales, short stories, and novels). Griffith (2002, p.19) states “Fiction is something in them signals that readers may set them apart from the context of real life”. It means movie included in one of fiction because movie is just tell imaginative story and context of real life. This definition is clearly stated movie is belongs to prose fiction.

Movie have several functions, one of them is as media of information. Information could be anything such as art development, cultural, education, entertainment and action. Metz (as cited Elsaesser and Buckland, 2002, p.1) stated that “Movie is something that difficult to explain but it is easy to understand”. To

explain what has been stated by Metz, this study separates it into two sentences, they are: First, movie is something that difficult to explain which means movie is a media which provides stuff to entertain, to educate and to persuade people, and for that reason or purpose movie consists of several kinds which make it hard to explain by words. Second, movie is easy to understand, what makes it easy to understand is that movie provides, picture, video, dialog, actors, setting, plot and others intrinsic elements.

Furthermore, this research aims at analyzing *Freedom Writers* movie which is directed by Richard LaGravenese. The focus of analysis is the racial segregation that portraits in the movie. According to Webster's Dictionary, "Segregate is defined as to separate or set apart from others: isolate or to require, often with force, the separation of a specific racial, religious, or other group from the body of society". It means that every single thing is separated.

Moreover, Sugrue and Khan (2008, p.1) state racial segregation was a system derived from the efforts of white Americans to keep African Americans in a subordinate status. The white Americans denies black Americans equal to accesses public facilities and ensuring that they lived apart from whites.

Based on the previous statement, it means that segregation is the difference of concept between individual and group of people that will not come together as a result in contrary that pointed on segregation.

Freedom Writers movie tells young, idealistic teacher, Erin Gruwell (played by Hilary Swank) and her class of racially mixed students at Wilson High School in

Long Beach, California. It is based on a true story. The movie was set in 1994 following the 1992 race riots in Los Angeles which were sparked by the televised police bashing of Rodney King. The movie's title refers to a book of the students writing, published in 1999, on which the movie is based – *The Freedom Writers Diary*.

In *Freedom Writers* movie we can find same culture: like Cambodian, Latin, and Black skin, and White skin. The problem in this movie is the different of social status, race and pride between Americans.

As seen on this following monolog:

“In America, a girl can be crowned as princess for her beauty and her grace. But an Aztec princess is chosen by her blood. To fight for her people as her grandpa and her father's fight against those who said we are less than they are. Who says we are not equal in beauty and in blessings”. Eva's Diary

(00:01:31 00:01:59)

Aztec is native tribe of america especially in south of america. Based on the language, nahuatl is the original language of aztec, “Aztec” means someone who came from Aztlan. In other side, aztec also call themselves as mehika, meshika, or mexica that is Mexico. Nation of aztec is nation which is respectful to the god and the god who is the most exalted is the god of sun or Huitzilochti as the name.

Meanwhile, the conflict begins in the movie between the white and Latino (Aztec). Every day, whenever you go out of your house, does not matter if you are black or Latino or Asian. You can get shot at anytime. They fight each other for

territory; they kill each other over, race, pride and respect. They fight each other for what is theirs. That is a little explanation about the movie.

Erin : *I'm a teacher. Doesn't matter what color I am.*
Eva : *It's all about the color...
 I hate white people....*

(00:33:19-->00:33:32)

Based on the dialog, as a teacher she got a responsibility to teach no matter what colors, black or white, human remains human but in contrary, Eva one of Erin students does not think the same, to her, it always about colors. As white skin, they are treated as human, but as black, they are treated as slaves. That is why Eva hates the white several much.

Moreover, this research would like to explore more about the segregation occurred in the movie and explain how it occurred. This study realizes that this is important to be understood by people or students, specifically for those who are studying literature especially about segregation. This research however could be beneficial as source of information for upcoming research regarding this topic in which is segregation.

Research Question

Based on the previous explanation, it is realized that however as the English department students, it is important to understand parts of literary work as it is taught in English department. Therefore, this study formulates the research question as follows:

The research question in this research is “how is racial segregation in *Freedom Writers* movie”?

Objective of Study

This research discusses about racial segregation. Not all of the students of English department understand what racial segregation is, therefore this research aims at helping student who learn about literary work that racial segregation is a part of literary. Next, this research aims at introducing student what racial segregation is and where it can be found. Especially in this research the racial segregation found in a movie.

Scope and Limitation of Study

It seems to this study that segregation is quite large. Therefore in order to make this research focus, this study analyzes specifically about racial segregation, which occurred in the *Freedom Writers* movie.

Significance of Study

Significance of study is expected to give advantages either in theoretically or practically.

Theoretically

Theoretically, this research aims at helping students to explore more about segregation. This research is going to be one of the guideline, for the students who want to do research related to segregation could use this as a source of information.

Practically

Practically, this research is expected to show how to identify, analyze to occur of segregation in *freedom writers* movie, also, to show that segregation and racial quite different. Segregation generally discusses the separation of life, culture, territory, position, and power.

Therefore, this research will provide brand new information to the students