CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents an introduction. It covers the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, significance of the study, scope and limitation of the study, and definition of the key terms.

1.1 Background of the study

Literature concerns with human being life. Literature is usually used by human beings to communicate in order to express their feeling, thoughts, ideas, and also share information. Therefore, literature also can be applied through many written forms. Literary works are imaginative and creative. It also has a wonderful meaning.

Kusnosoebroto states that literature is rooted in one of the most basic human desire, and man have taken pleasure in the imaginary adventures and experiences of imaginary people (1988:1). It means that literature is connected with life because it describes the events and the things that can happen in a society, what human being has experienced in his life or it describes the reality. In discussing literature, it should be pointed out that literature could not be separated from its social environment, in which a close relationship between literature and society appears as the appreciation of the literary problem. Therefore, by reading literature, people will get vision and new experience indirectly from the author’s solution.

Literature such as drama, short story, or novel is good to increase and enrich the reader’s insight. The advantages of reading literary works are it will expand
people’s imagination and it does not only give us and enjoyment but also give understanding of life, because literature talks about human life. According to Francis Connolly in Koesnosoebroto, the reason for reading literature is because of hunger of information, or amusement, or solace, because of an appetite for truth that seem to grow by what it feeds on (1988:1)

Midega (2011) explains that literature shares with film because it has the ability to employ the structures and devices narrative. Sequence of images on screen told a story and this is equivalent to the sequence of words on page. The use of language in film established firmly the connections to literature. Films, just like in literature, present i) action ii) images iii) words replicating life. Literary works also have a stylistic and thematic basis in a realistic presentation of characters and incidents.

In age of increasing electronic communication, the concept of films study is suddenly expanded to become “screen education”, which includes the study of film, television, and various projected forms of mixed media. In “the America film institute desk reference” (2002), Scorsese stated that films are part of our artistic heritage-some say that film is history. Movies made at a certain time, even minor ones, document the way of thinking and speaking, the behavior and the style of people’s life of that society and the popular music, clothes, and language of that time. In other words, film will show how people live in certain places, how people will think and act to certain things and the real life of the society.

Film is one of media that contains sounds, video, animation, picture, etc. Film gives us not only entertainment but also education, because we can understand about
the development of life, science, art, and technology that we do not know before. There are many people who are interested in film. Film is supposed to be an image of the real world.

One of interesting films is “Freedom Writers”. It is one of dramatic films which is directed by Richard Lagravenese, an American film director. This film tells about Mrs. Erin Gruwell sacrifices. Mrs. Erin Gruwell is a new teacher at Wilson Senior High School, she teach freshman English. Mrs. Erin Gruwell chose Wilson Senior High School because of integration program. In the class, all of her students are gangsters and they have low capabilities of knowledge. At the first time she teaches her students did not pay attention with her because they underestimate Erin as a teacher. Until a few days later, Mrs. Erin was at a peak of her patience so, she reorganized the class and she effort to make her students to get a good knowledge. Mrs. Erin tries to borrow a book in the library but department of school did not give permission for her and she tries to consult their problem with the other teacher but no one respect with her. So, she is doing many sacrifices for her student’s knowledge. Until, she is willing to sacrifice her family’s happiness for their students.

Based on the explanation, the writer analyzes this film because it is related to life while it is also based on the true story and it will show how schools life with all the things is inside it.

1.2 Statement of the problem

There are many problems that can be analyzed in “freedom writers” movie. Therefore, the discussion will be focused on three problems as follows.
1. What are the reasons of Mrs. Erin Gruwell’s sacrifices in the film?
2. How are the efforts and results of Mrs. Erin Gruwell’s sacrifices in the film?
3. What is the effect of Mrs. Erin Gruwell’s sacrifices in the film?

1.3 Purpose of the study

The writer states the purposes of the study in order to achieve a good result.
1. To explain the reasons of Mrs. Erin Gruwell’s sacrifices in the film.
2. To describe the efforts and result of Mrs. Erin Gruwell sacrifices in the film.
3. To dig out the effect of Mrs. Erin Gruwell do the sacrifices in the film.

1.4 Significance of the study

The result of the study is expected to be able to encourage the readers to pay attention to literature. Secondly, the result of the study is expected to provide the reference for the students who are interested in literature, in this case is film. The result of the study is also expected to give a description or some information to the readers about the films entitled *Freedom Writers* directed by David Lagravenese.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

In this thesis, the writer would like to analyze some aspects of “Freedom Writers” film. The study is limited to the analysis of the main character, Erin Gruwell, the effort, and the result she did the sacrifices.
1.6 Definition of Key Terms

In order to avoid misunderstanding of key terms, related to the study, the writer clarifies them as follows:

a. **Analysis** is to identify the separate parts of a literary work that make it up (this correspond roughly to the notion of tearing it to pieces), to determine the relationship among the parts, and to discover the relation of the parts to the whole (Kenney, 1966).

b. **Sacrifices** is an act of giving something of value for the sake of something that is of greater value or importance (oxford dictionary eleventh edition)

c. **Film** is human expression that is reflecting the human thinking, act, behavior, lifestyle, and anything related to human kind which becomes a story with all the meaning inside it

d. **Freedom writers** is the title of an American film, that tells about the sacrifice of a teacher, Erin Gruwell, to help her students