CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the background of the study, the statement of the problems, the purposes of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and the limitation, and the definition of key terms.

1.1 The Background of the Study

Film is a new form of literary work. It differs from other previous literary work, such as novel and drama. Film has more special characteristics than novel and drama. It can be played at the same time in different cities and can be replayed many times without involving the actors again. Film spends less time to see the description through its depictions. Therefore, watching film is more comfortable than reading novel containing hundreds of pages or watching drama which cannot be replayed when the viewers miss parts of the scenes. But, film has also the sameness with drama and novel because it uses actors as a major means of expression. Many film makers may also get inspirations from drama or novel to be filmed.

Film gives a new color for literary work because it is a new media to convey the message that the author has through its photographic depictions. Film has also the elements of literary works, such as: the plot, theme, setting, and character and dialogue. Besides, there are elements which include camera angle, editing, mise-en-scene, montage, etc. (Klarer, 2006: 57). Those elements support
the atmosphere of the scene. These elements make the representation of this audio-visual literature form becomes an interesting form of artwork to enjoy.

Since film is included literary work, it may represent the reflection of human life. Viewers can take the lessons from it. Therefore, it can be one of media to teach social, culture, moral, or behavior such as prejudice. Gardner, in Nelson (2002: 7), states that the word prejudice can be taken literally to indicate a prejudgment about something. He suggests that it is an evaluation either positive or negative toward stimulus. But, since prejudice is prejudgment, which means determining something without knowing the proof, it often leads to negative. Thus, although prejudice can be positive, prejudice in many cases may cause certain act toward the group which lead to social conflicts. It is in line with what Zastrow and Ashman say (2001: 207) that prejudice is a combination of stereotyped beliefs and negative attitudes.

Based on the experts’ opinions about prejudice above, it can be concluded that prejudice is a negative attitude because it is a prejudgment based on less or no information about something. This matter is often found in the social life. Therefore, it inspires the film makers to take it as the theme of the films. One of them is Crash, directed by Paul Haggis.

*Crash* is a film which tells about many characters who come from various races, such as: Chinese, Arabian, Mexican, Caucasian, White American, Black American. They deal with the tense of prejudice because race relations. For instance, there is a wife of Caucasian lawyer who goes by a car, then the two black men have carjacked her because the two black men have prejudice that white people hate the black men like them. The two black carjackers steal her car
because they think that although they do not do a crime, she certainly thinks bad about them. This negative attitude and violence is an example of prejudice, which is known as a negative feeling and behavior toward a group or a member of that group. It is an issue that always exists in humanity.

This film shows viewers the different point of view of people in society. It invites to see and understand how negative attitude, like prejudice, can go along and affect people in plurality (multi races people). This film teaches viewers the important lesson of life about the prohibition of having prejudice toward other which can cause conflicts. That is why the writer chose this film to be analyzed in term of prejudice.

Related to this study, there was a previous study conducted by Unniyasari (2010) entitled *An Analysis of Elizabeth’s Prejudice to Mr. Darcy in Jane Austen’s Novel “Pride and Prejudice”*. She focused on Elizabeth’s prejudice to Mr. Darcy in Jane Austen’s novel “Pride and Prejudice”, the reason of Elizabeth’s prejudice to Mr. Darcy and the effects of her prejudice toward herself. The finding showed there were three negative prejudices that Elizabeth had to Mr. Darcy, namely Mr. Darcy was arrogant and cruel. He also saw someone from his or her economic status. Those negative prejudices had two reasons. The first reason is emotion because those prejudices derived from Elizabeth's dissatisfaction feeling and anger to Mr. Darcy's attitude. The second reason is social because it related to the different of social status between them. Then, prejudices belonged to Elizabeth toward Mr. Darcy brought two effects. Those were feeling embarrassed and feeling regret.
The writer was interested in conducting a research on prejudice reflected in *Crash* film because prejudice is prejudgment which can cause the conflict occurs in the multi races society like reflected in this film. In the writer’s view, people are better informed and educated to understand that their actions should not be prejudice to all races or ethnics because prejudice can be destructive force both in the world and in individual society, especially in diverse ethnic country like in Indonesia. Therefore, this study is important to conduct.

1.2 Statements of Problem

1. What are the prejudices reflected in the Paul Haggis’ film *Crash*?
2. What are the reasons of prejudice contained in the Paul Haggis’ film *Crash*?
3. What are the effects of prejudice exposed in the Paul Haggis’ film *Crash*?

1.3 Purposes of Study

1. To know the prejudices are reflected in the Paul Haggis’ film *Crash*.
2. To find out the reasons of the prejudices are reflected in the Paul Haggis’ film *Crash*.
3. To describe the effects of prejudice are exposed in the Paul Haggis’ film *Crash*.

1.4 The Significance of the Study

The result of this study has significance for several parties. The first is for readers of this study. The readers can take the lesson about prejudice, which can
bear the conflict between human because of having prejudice each other. The second is for English Department Students. This thesis is advantageous for literature field because prejudice is one of problems occurs in life which expressed in the literature by an author. In addition, since film is included literary work, it is also expected to encourage students to study much more about film which has given many lessons about social or moral. The third is for lecturers. The lecturers can use this study as reference when they teach social and moral aspects, especially about prejudice or film. The Fourth is for other researchers. It is hoped that this study can be an inspiration for them who are interested in analyzing films or other aspects of life.

1.5 The Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is focused on prejudice which includes positive and negative prejudice. Prejudice studied here is limited on prejudice among the major characters which is exposed in the Paul Haggis’s Crash film. The major characters here are limited on White American and Black American and vice versa.

1.6 The Definition of the Key Terms

Prejudice is a prejudgment about something (Gardner in Nelson, 2002)

Crash is a 2004 American drama film co-written, produced, and directed by Paul Haggis. The film is about racial and social tensions in Los Angeles, California.