CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter I of this research presents such topic as: background of study, statement of problems, purpose of study, significance of study, scope and limitation, and definition of key terms. Each section is presented as follows.

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is always interesting to be discussed. It gives different impression and knowledge for everyone. Therefore, human’s expression can be shown with any and different ways just depends on how they see things or on what views. The expression of human life sometimes is shown from literary works such as novel, poem, and drama.

According to Koesnosoenbroto (1988:2) literature exists because it pleases us. And it pleases us by imitating life, or more precisely, by displaying its writers’ vision of life as it should be. It means literature can give pleasure, and show what is happening around us and in what perspective of life is and poured into literary works.

Among literary works, drama is significantly different than others. What makes drama different from any other literary works is drama shows story about human life through action and dialogue, and drama is mostly enjoyed by watching and listening performance of people or group of people who act on the stage. Webster (1995:345) stated that drama is intended to portray life or character or to tell a story usually involving conflicts and emotions through action and dialogue and typically designed
for theatrical performance.

According to George Kearns (1984:321), drama consists of series of action meant to be performed on a stage by live actors for audience. Nowadays, in the development, drama has developed into more sophisticated form such as a film. Film gives not only entertainment but also knowledge to the audience.

In “The American Film Institute Desk Reference” (2002:394), Martin 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 behaviour and the style of living of the people of that society and the popular music, clothes, and language of that time. On the other words, film will show how people live in the certain places, how the people will think and act to certain things, and film shows the real life of the society.

From explanation above, film is human expression that is reflecting the human thinking, act, behaviour, lifestyle, and anything related to human kind which becomes a history with all the meaning inside it. Since film is a part of history, it means that film is meant to be learnt from what happened to the past. Therefore, the future life will be much better by taking the lesson and message shown by the film itself. Film is also media of communication and education which represents the situation and condition of human life. This what makes the thesis writer is interested in literary works especially film because it always relates on human life with all the things related to life so it is going to give message and lesson to the people who enjoy the literary works. Therefore, this research is important to be conducted.
Based on the explanation above, “Freedom Writer” film is chosen because it is related to life while it is also based on the true story and it will show how school life is with all the things inside it. Erin Gruwell’s struggle to get the unity is analyzed because there is no research which analyzed about the same topic. Furthermore, it reflects the life in school with all differences among the students and how the teacher will handle the problem inside the class since the students have a major problem in diversity. Deep analysis on the teacher point of view is taken in order to connect with education side which is teachers mostly have a challenge or difficulty on handling the students in big class nowadays.

1.2 Statement of Problem

Considering the given background above, the statement of the problems are:

1. Why did Erin Gruwell struggle to get unity of the students?

2. How did Erin Gruwell struggle to get unity of the students?

3. How was the effect of Erin Gruwell’s struggle on students?

1.3 Purpose of Study

1. To explain why Erin Gruwell struggled to get unity of the students

2. To describe how Erin Gruwell struggled to get unity of the students

3. To explain the effect of Erin Gruwell’s struggle was on the students
1.4 Significance of Study

Theoretically, this thesis is expected to give significant contribution to other students who want to analyze film. It is also expected to be an input toward lectures who teach literature and anyone who likes literature as well.

On practical significance, by reading this thesis, it is hoped the readers could have a better understanding about problems that always happen in teaching especially faced by the teacher which is found in “Freedom Writer” film.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This analysis is focused on the struggle to get the unity of the students found in “Freedom Writer” film. The limitation of the analysis is on Erin Gruwell’s struggle as a teacher point of view. Therefore, this analysis will be more concentrate on the Erin Gruwell’s struggle to get the unity of the students.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

*Erin Gruwell* is the main character which is analyzed by the writer.

*Struggle* is to use great effort to get something [accessed at 02.18pm on 30-04-2010](http://www.brainyquote.com/words/st/struggle224910.html).

*Unity* is defined as the state of being undivided or unbroken completeness or totality.
with nothing wanting. Unity can denote a combining of all the parts, elements and individuals into an effective whole (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Unity, accessed at 01.44pm on 30-04-2010).

*Freedom Writer* is title of the film that would be analyzed on this thesis.

*Richard Lagravenese* is the director of Freedom Writer’s film.