CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer presents section, they are background of the study, statements of problem, purpose of study, scope and limitation, significant of study, and definition of key term.

1.1. Background of The Study

Literature is the expression of thought, it means the ideas, feelings, views, reasoning, and other operation of human mind (Newman in Singleton, 1966: 573). Literature makes the people increase their understanding of human life which have different cultures, and the other aspects of life. They will know how to interact and treat the other people because sometimes in literature there is a character that is reflection from people’s characteristics in the real life.

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

One of literary work is film. Film that has been determined by literary techniques: contrarily, the practice of literature developed particular features under the impact of film (Klaler, 2004: 53). People in every part of the world watch film that tell stories as a type of entertainment; a way to have fun. Most of films are made so that they can be shown on big screens at cinemas or film theatres. By watching a film people can get some information and get the moral value from the film which is important and can be applied for our life.
One film shows violence as “Freedom Writers”. It is a drama film released in 2007, inspired by the experience of a teacher at Woodrow Wilson High School on the Eastside, Long Beach, California with pupils from different ethnic and backgrounds. The film departs from the real events, it tells about the story of the main characters, Erin Gruwell, who teaches in Freshman English Class room 203 for special classes of children victims of fights between racial gangs, and Eva, a student who involved in violence from she was child. The priority to discuss is the violence faced by Eva, the causes of violence and how Eva overcomes violence as a student at Woordrow Wilson High School.

In the previous study which has been done by Sari (2015) in analyzing social identity formation of Eva in Freedom Writers Film show that Freedom Writers film is interesting. She found that Eva’s social identity formation is divided into two processes: self-categorization and social comparison. Furthermore, previous study which has been done by Anjani (2012) in analyzing the violence faced by students in school shows that violence can be happened and done by whoever, such as the violence caused by teacher, the student itself, and the element of school. Actually, the violence that happened in school which is done by the students is often not resolved properly by the help of a teacher. However, this previous study did not tell about the violence that happened in school in more detail yet.

From that’s previous studies, this study will analyze literary work on “Freedom Writers” film in different topic which more interesting than the first and the second previous study. The topic which is chosen is the violence faced by the
main character which will be explained in more detail in the study entitle “An Analysis of Violence Faced by Eva as a Student at Woordrow Wilson High School on Richard LaGravenese’s Film “Freedom Writers”. Thus in this study, the film is analyzed because it offers many valuable lesson, message and interesting story. “Freedom Writers” film is chosen to be analyzed because it tells about violence faced by Eva that happened in school. This story is based on true story of the major character Eva who involved in violence since she was child.

Violence is chosen as a topic because however, nowadays it is becoming the crucial issue in Indonesia, such as the students in Makassar got in fighting each other at school. It is a main matter that should be given more attentions from the government and people who have empowerment. Violence as human action always has reason, importance, and certain aim. Not only in Indonesia, in United State of America the violence which is caused by races also being a crucial issue. It is not only violence between Blacks, Whites, Latinos and Asians but it is also the institution such as police. Some data from ProPublica (2014) showed that as many as 1217 fatal shooting by police in 2010-2012 are summarized in the federal data show that age 15 to 19 of blacks were killed at a rate of 31.17 per million, while only 1.47 per million white in the same age died shooting by police. Detailed accounts of more than 12,000 police homicides stretching from 1980 to 2012 contained in the FBI’s Supplementary Homicides Report were involved in its examination. That data showed that Blacks are more likely to be victims of violence than Whites.
Loftin in ProPublica, the professor of Albany University and co-director of The Violence Research Group, said that the count of homicides by police in FBI is a minimum and to precisely measure what puts people at risk of homicide by police is impossible without more and better records. Still, what the data are certainly relevant that shows about the race of victims and officers, and the circumstances of killings, “No question, there are all kinds of racial disparities across our criminal justice system” he said. According to Pro Publica (2014), the data is incomplete. The fatal police shooting reports of the country’s 17,000 police departments is not filed at all and many have field reports for some years but not others. Indeed, while the absolute numbers are problematic, a comparison between white and black victims shows important trends.

In United States of America, Blacks who are known as a people deserve to be slave make them underestimated by Whites. This matter is cleared by Brooks (2009: 3) there are plenty low class Blacks and they fill the prisons and the level of financial assets among all blacks is lower than it is for whites. Blacks do not deserve fair life and have a high position. Because of it, there are some imbalance between blacks and whites, such as the differences in getting good education and health service. Not only Blacks, the main targets of racial violence and disadvantage in this territory were Latinos. They have a special relationship to the southwestern portion of the United States because the land used to be part of Mexico (Brooks, 2009: 3). Those factors are being a matter that can increase a crucial racism in western and Blacks and Latino always get judgment as a group
of criminals and dangerous people, so that is why Blacks and Latino always become the victim of violence.

The reasons above are motivated to conduct this study is expected to give new insight and important lesson to the audiences who know and involve to violence and to the teachers who have the student that is involved to the violence. It is very important for teacher to know about the ethnic, racial, even the culture of the student and can make easily for the teacher and students to understand each other when they are in learning process.

1.2. Statements of Problem

Following the information exposed in the background of the study, the statements of problem can be formulated three questions as the focus to investigate. They are:

1. What are the violences faced by Eva as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School on Richard LaGravenese’s Film “Freedom Writers”? 
2. What are the causes of the violence faced by Eva as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School on Richard LaGravenese’s Film “Freedom Writers”? 
3. How does Eva overcome the violence as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School on Richard LaGravenese’s Film “Freedom Writers”?

1.3. Purpose of Study

In the line with the formulated research questions, the purposes of the study are becoming the target of this study. These purposes of the study are:
1. To explain the violences faced by Eva as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School on Richard LaGravenese’s Film “Freedom Writers”.

2. To find out the causes of the violence faced by Eva as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School on Richard LaGravenese’s Film “Freedom Writers”.

3. To discover Eva overcome the violence as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School on Richard LaGravenese’s Film “Freedom Writers.

1.4. Scope And Limitation

The scope of this study is focused on the violence which happens in ‘Freedom Writers’ directed by Richard LaGravenese. Furthermore, it is limited in discussing on the violence faced by Eva as a student at Woodrow Wilson High School, the causes and the overcome.

1.5. Significance of Study

It is hoped that the result could give worthy contributions to the development of literature subject. Besides, she hopes that it could encourage students to read literature and to get good appreciation on English literature works. Furthermore, the result of the study can be used as reference in writing a similar research from different title.

1.6. Definition of Key Term

1. Film or motion pictures that communicate information and idea. The information and idea often driven by stories, with the characters we
come to care about, but a film might also develop an idea or explore visual qualities or sound texture (Bordwell and Tompson, 2008)

2. **Violence** is a situation when someone does actions that could endanger physically against her/himself, others, and environment (Stuart and Sundeen in Hasibuan, 2013)

3. "**Freedom Writers**" is a drama film released in 2007, inspired by the experience of a teacher at Woodrow Wilson High School on the Eastside, Long Beach, California.

4. **Richard LaGravenese** is an American screenwriter and film director, best known as the writer of ‘The Fisher King’.

5. **Eva** is the main character in “Freedom Writers” film by Richard LaGravavenese.