CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

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

1.1 Background of the Study

There is a reason why people to do something. There is something which enhances the people’s eagerness, which is called motivation. It is a psychological factor which can emerge enthusiasm or eagerness toward thing. Motivation plays important role in people’s live because it causes them to keep certain behavior to reach their goal in their life. It will empower enthusiasm, increase initiatives, and help people to direct their energy to reach their goal.

Santrock (2001: 394) defines motivation is the reasons why people behave the way they do. It means that the person who is motivated, he/she will be energized, directed, and sustained. In daily life, almost all people need motivation to keep their life runs well and satisfy their need. A person who feels no impetus or inspiration to act is thus characterized as unmotivated, whereas someone who is energized or activated toward an end is considered motivated. Therefore, motivation is important to have.

Most of people who work or play with others are concerned with motivation. However, the motivation which belongs to someone may be different. They may have less or more motivation. More or less motivation which belongs to
someone to do something can influence his/her success in accomplishing the work or achieving the goal.

Realizing the importance of motivation, there are many ways which are done by people to motivate themselves or others to reach the goals in this live. People motivate each other as like what was done by Lagravenese as a filmmaker. He taught motivation to the viewers of his film through *Freedom Writer* film. Giving motivation through film is an effective way because film has become one of the most popular media in literature nowadays. Film differs from other previous literary work, such as novel and drama. It is easier to enjoy than novel or short story because it spends less time to see the description through its depictions. However, film has also the sameness with drama and novel because it uses actors as major means of expression and has elements contained in drama, short story, or novel. Klarer (2006) states:

Film is means of photographic depiction far surpass the means of realistic portrayal in the theater. Film is categorized into performing art because it uses actors as its major means of expression. The visualization of the action is not left merely to the imagination of a viewer, but rather comes to life in the performance.

Based on the quotation above, it can be known that film is categorized into art which also uses actors as the major means of expression and emphasizes visualization of the action. So, it makes more real life performance. Since film is included performing art, it may represent the reflection of human life. Therefore, it can be one of media to teach something good and important like giving motivation.

*Freedom Writer* film is interesting to study because it implies worth lessons. This film was directed by Richard Lagravenese. It won *Humanitas Prize*
in the first year it was released in 2007. This film is categorized into crime drama genre, which runs in 122 minutes. This film tells about a young teacher, names Erin Gruwell, who motivates to build students’ characteristics with different races. Making the students live in tolerance is one of Erin’s motivations to build students’ characteristics with different races.

Related to the study about motivation, there was a previous study conducted by Widiyawati (2013) entitled A Study on the Student’s Motivation in Choosing the Elective Subjects at English Department at University of Muhammadiyah Malang. It focused on the English Department students’ motivations in choosing English for Young Learner, Business English, Translation, and to identify the types of English Department students’ motivations in choosing an elective subject. The study showed that the students had both intrinsic and extrinsic motivation to choose the elective subject. However, the intrinsic motivations more dominantly influenced them in choosing the elective subject.

Different from the previous study, this study focuses on motivation to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravenese’s film “Freedom Writer”. Therefore, this study is interesting to conduct.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

To clarify the focus of this study, the researcher formulates the problems as follows:

1. What is Erin Gruwell’s motivation to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravenese’s film “Freedom Writer”?
2. How are Erin Gruwell’s efforts to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravenese’s film “Freedom Writer”?

3. What are the effects of Erin Gruwell’s motivation to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravenese’s film “Freedom Writer”?

1.3 Purposes of the Study

Based on the statement of the problems above, it can be formulated that the purposes of the study as the following:

1. To know Erin Gruwell’s motivation to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravenese’s film “Freedom Writer”.

2. To identify Erin Gruwell’s efforts to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravenese’s film “Freedom Writer”.

3. To understand the effects of Erin Gruwell’s motivation to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravenese’s film “Freedom Writer”.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The result of this study has significance for two parties, the readers of this study and the English Department students. Generally, this study is significant for the readers of this study. The readers are expected to get more insight about motivation. Especially, this study is significant for the English Department students. They are expected to have high motivation like Erin Gruwell as the
teacher of English who finally succeeded to build her students characteristics into good characteristics.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this study is focused on motivation. Motivation focused here is limited on Erin Gruwell’s motivation, the efforts done by Erin Gruwell, and the effects of Erin Gruwell’s motivation to build students’ characteristics with different races in Richard Lagravene’s film *Freedom Writer*.

1.6 Definition of the Key Terms

*Motivation* is the reasons why people behave the way they do, which means that the person who is motivated, he/she will be energized, directed, and sustained Santrock (2001).

*Freedom Writer* is the film directed by Richard Lagravene and released in 2007, which is categorized into crime drama genre, runs in 122 minutes (IMDB.com.inc., 2013)

*Erin Gruwell* is the main character of Freedom Writer film, who is a teacher of English at High School, whose students live by generations of strict moral codes. Many are in gangs and almost all knew somebody that had been killed by gang violence (IMDB.com.inc., 2013).