

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher discusses the topic or issue raised in the research. This chapter includes (1) background of the research, (2) research problem, (3) research objective, (4) scope and limitation, (5) research significance, (6) definition of key terms. These six subchapters are described in detail as follows.

1.1 Research Background

The film is an audiovisual work of art that combines moving images and sound to convey a story or information to an audience. As a literary work of audiovisual media, movies have unique capabilities in terms of literary works, movies are usually adaptations of novels, short stories, or plays that transform written narratives into vivid visual experiences. This adaptation process involves creative interpretation, translating plot elements, characters, and themes from the original literary work into the language of film. Movies are divided into various genres, such as drama, comedy, action, horror, and documentaries. Each genre has different characteristics and objectives in presenting its content. One interesting genre is the documentary film, which aims to depict reality and provide information to the audience through objective and in-depth presentation. In addition, movies are a means of conveying important messages in an entertaining way, depending on what genre the movie is about. According to Buscombe In Anastasia G et al (2022), through various genres, movies invite viewers to reflect on the concepts of right and wrong, good and bad, and the eternal struggle to find meaning and purpose in a chaotic world.

One film that is particularly interesting to research is "Freedom Writers" (2007), directed by Richard LaGravenese. This film is an exploration of moral values that have the power to transform lives and communities, is a moving examination. Based on the true story of Erin Gruwell, the movie depicts her struggle with racism in her classroom at Woodrow Wilson Classical High School in Long Beach, California. Racism becomes a major conflict as Erin strives to eliminate prejudice

among her students. Through her determination, the movie shows how moral values can drive positive change.

To understand moral values more deeply, researchers can refer to the definition put forward by Hartmann (2002: 167). The author states that moral value is something intrinsic to a person's character. A person's moral value exists, independent of whether it translates into "goodness" for others. The difference between moral values and other values lies in the ethical qualities of behavior, volition, and disposition, which is a fundamental difference and not merely a hierarchical one. Furthermore Sulayani (2022) states that moral values are values related to the good and bad of a person, this moral value is also the content of character education. Morals regulate relationships between people in a social context and the natural environment.

It is noteworthy that films not only captivate the audience but also impart valuable lessons that can potentially have a profound and positive influence. According to Soundarya & Sarath (2024), immersive films have the ability to make audiences feel a variety of emotions that refer to moral. "Freedom Writers" also presents various moral values such as justice, wisdom, courage, self-control, trust and humility as described in Nicholas Hartmann's book *Ethics, Volume II: Moral Values*. These values are reflected in the characters' actions, decisions, and interactions, demonstrating their important role in education and personal transformation.

Regarding this film is that language politeness is an important tool in maintaining interpersonal relationships with others, Kristyaningsih & Arifin (2022). Other researchers have also expressed on this matter Harerimana Jean Paul (2019) highlight the potential and benefits of using films in the classroom for education and student character development, Films serve as an instructional tool or media for shaping student character.

Furthermore Utomo (2019) is the most effective approach for teachers to educate students by understanding their psychological state. This perspective suggests that

teachers should comprehend the students' emotions and structure the classroom environment to activate specific defense mechanisms, as outlined in Freud's theory.

In conclusion, the researcher's reason for choosing this topic is that “Freedom Writers” offers valuable lessons on moral values such as justice, wisdom, courage, self-control, trust, empathy, humility, resilience, and hope. The true story told in the movie is inspiring and relevant to today's social and educational challenges. As a student researching moral and social value issues, the researcher feel that this analysis can deepen understanding of the role of education in overcoming racial and social tensions and help shape the character and morals of the younger generation.

1.2 Research Problem

What kinds of moral values are found in the film “Freedom Writers” by Richard LaGravenese?

1.3 Research Objectives

The objective in this research is to determine the kinds of moral values that exist in the movie “Freedom Writers” directed by Richard LaGravenese.

1.4 Scope and Limitation

The scope of this research focuses on the moral values found in the characters Erin Gruwell, Eva Benitez, Andre Bryant, Marcus in the film "Freedom Writers" directed by Richard LaGravenese. Moreover, the moral value limitation is defined by the kinds of moral values depicted in the character of the film.

1.5 Research Significance

1. Theoretically

This research helps readers understand how movies can be used to convey moral values.

2. Practically

This research has real benefits for various parties which can be applied to educational needs.

a) For educators

It offers a new method to use movies as a teaching tool in character development and moral education of students.

b) For next Researcher

This research can also be a useful reference for future researchers who are interested in the research of moral values contained in movies.

1.6 Definition of Key Terms

1. **Moral Values:** Moral is a value that is very important and needed by humans, both as individuals, members, and groups. The success of a country can be seen through the character of its people, humans must obey the rules, norms, customs and laws, Anggraini & Kiki, (2022)
2. **Film:** Film is one of the communication media that has a great influence on the audience. According to Ega in Annisa et al (2022) film is an electronic communication tool that is successful enough to influence the audience in changing every action and thought of every individual.
3. **Freedom Writers:** "Freedom Writers" is a movie based on a true story directed by Richard LaGravenese. The movie is set in 1994, where Erin Gruwell, played by Hilary Swank, becomes the new English teacher at Woodrow Wilson High School in Long Beach.
4. **Richar LaGravenese:** Richard LaGravenese is an American screenwriter and director known for his work in various films. LaGravenese became widely known after writing the screenplay for the film "The Fisher King" (1991), which earned him an Academy Award nomination for Best Screenplay.