

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

A movie is one of the literary works that has a high demand by people in this era. The movies entertain people through visual color and music. There are conflicts and emotions contain in the movie. It is once said that “movie can bring us to some places that we never visit yet in reality. Thus, we will get experiences from many places that can help us to see ourselves and our problems more clearly” (Johnson qtd. in Uhrig 7). From the explanation, movies do not only entertain, but it can also be a media learning for people, because people will easier imitate what they see. Thus, the visual color entertains the viewers and the story educates the viewers.

The story of the movie tells about imagination or true stories. No matter it is, it always has meaning inside it. It can be entertaining and has moral value to viewers. Sometimes, movies show what happens in the present and happened in the past, also. It means movies are reflections of human life, and contains some knowledge. Thus, people can take the lesson and make the better future.

Nowadays The United States becomes a big country that produces many movies. It makes the story usually based on its society. One of the examples of the issues presented is cultural diversity. The United States is one of the countries with cultural diversity. As Wilkinson (2015) has stated that “the U.S. has always

been and will always be a multicultural society – one where people from many distinct ethnic backgrounds have come together and formed society as a whole”. Multicultural and cultural diversity are the terms that usually used to describe societies of different culture as statement of Mishra and Kumar “Cultural pluralism, cultural diversity and multiculturalism are the terms very commonly used to describe societies of different cultures, religions, languages and races” (63).

One researcher “conceptualized diversity as representing a multitude of individual differences and similarities that exist among people. Diversity can encompass many different human characteristics such as race, age, creed, national origin, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation” (Washington 3). From that explanation above, it can be concluded that cultural diversity consists of different characteristic of human like creed, religion, ethnicity, race, age, and national origin.

A country contains many people with different characteristics, it makes some social conflicts happen as the effects of the cultural diversity, and one of the example is ethnocentrism. Differences in cultural values and basic norms can be difficult for someone to adapt. It is always be contradictory and thus facilitate the emergence of conflict. Besides, one researcher also has definition about ethnocentrism as:

A cultural narrowness in which the “ethnically centered” individual rigidly accepted those who were culturally alike while just as rigidly rejecting who were culturally different ,and

ethnocentrism also refers to the belief that the in-group is the center of everything and is superior to all out-group. (Öğretir & Özçelik 237)

From the quotation, it means that people who have ethnocentric behavior will accept who were alike and automatically reject who were different.

Ethnocentrism is also a behavior that believes their own culture is the best from the others. It was once said, “Ethnocentrism is simplistically summarized as in-group preference/solidarity out-group rejection/aversion” (John 4). In addition, ethnocentrism makes solidarity toward in-group become increase. They will protect the members of the group, support peers of the group, and agree with whatever they do as long as they still in the same group.

Every problem always has its own way to overcome, and also ethnocentrism. The way that helps to overcome ethnocentrism is the developmental model of intercultural sensitivity. The first is ethnocentric stage, consist of three stages. They are denial, defense, and minimization. The second stage is ethno-relativism. It consists of acceptance, adaptation and the last is integration (Dong et al. 30). It means that the way to overcome ethnocentrism consists of six stages where it is divided into two kinds of stages.

One movie that presents cultural diversity, ethnocentrism, and the way to overcome it is *Freedom Writers*. The movie is produced by Richard LaGravenese and released in 2007. The movie is based on a true story. It tells about the teacher and her students at Woodrow Wilson High School. The movie can entertain and

give knowledge to the viewers because it is a reflection of the situation of human life.

As stated before, *Freedom Writers* shows cultural diversity. There are many people with different beliefs, customs, nationalities, and races in one class. The movie takes setting of place in Woodrow Wilson High School, Long Beach, where the teacher comes from white people and the students come from many regions. Almost all the students of 203 class are immigrants, except Ben. Ben is a white people and the others come from many regions such as Mexico, Asia, also there are some black people.

In the *Freedom Writers* movie, the portrayals of ethnocentrism can also be found. It happens between the teacher and the students, and also between students. The students of 203 class are the characters who become the victims of ethnocentric behavior from teachers in Woodrow Wilson High School, but it is different from what happens in the class. Because almost all of them have different races, so certainly they have a different culture. In the class, one group ignores the other group. In addition, they interact with their group only.

Most of them think that they are superior more than the other cultures, and it makes many conflicts happen around them. Besides that, ethnocentrism gives impacts on their attitude toward the other, they always ignore, judge and do not give attention to people who differ from them including friends or even the teachers. Although at the beginning of the movie they always gather with the same group, but different in the end. In this movie, ethnocentrism can be solved, and they can receive the diversity around them.

Ethnocentrism still happens until now. It can be experienced by everyone, wherever they are and whoever they are. All of the explanations above are the reasons why the writer takes *Freedom Writers* movie as the object to analyses with the title “*The Portrayal of Ethnocentrism and The Way to Overcome It in the Freedom Writers Movie*”.

B. Limitation of the Study

Based on the background of study above, this study discusses the portrayal of ethnocentrism of four characters (Tito, Eva, Ben, and Marcus) and the way to overcome ethnocentrism of five characters (Ben, Eva, Marcus, Sindy and Andre) which represent in the *Freedom Writers* movie. The *Freedom writers* movie is a movie about a teacher dealing with her students which is most of them are coming from different races, ethnics, and cultures. They experience ethnocentrism because of their racial differences. All of us already known that United States is a country which approve multicultural or cultural diversity in their society. It provides many conflicts happen in cultural diversity. One of them is ethnocentrism. It is still happening and waiting to be overcome. The limitation of the study is focused on the portrayal of ethnocentrism and the way to overcome ethnocentrism using a developmental model of intercultural sensitivity.

C. Problems Formulation

The problems that the writer put in this study are:

1. How is the portrayal of Ethnocentrism in the *Freedom Writers* movie depicted?

2. What kinds of ways to overcome ethnocentrism are depicted in the *Freedom Writers* movie?

D. Objectives of the Study

There are two objectives of the study, as follows:

1. To show the portrayal of ethnocentrism as seen in the *Freedom Writers* movie.
2. To show the ways to overcome Ethnocentrism as reflected in the *Freedom Writers* movie.

E. Significances of the Study

The significances of the study in this study are:

1. This study hopefully can be useful as a reference for English department students in their proposal writing or final project relating to this topic.
2. The result of the study from this analysis will be useful as a reference for students of the Language and Communication Science Faculty of Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang who major in the literature study.

F. Outline of the Study

The discussion is systematically divided into three chapters. Every chapter would discuss the different matters as follows:

Chapter I provides an introduction that consists of these matters: background of the study, limitation of the study, problems formulation, objectives of the study, significances of the study, and outline of the study. Chapter II is a theoretical framework consists of a synopsis of the movie and a review of related

theories as follow, the definition of culture, cultural diversity and its effects, American multiculturalism, ethnocentrism, and the way to overcome ethnocentrism. Chapter III is the research method consists of type of the data, data collecting method, and analyzing the data. Chapter IV is the findings and discussion consists of the portrayal of ethnocentrism and the way to overcome ethnocentrism. Chapter V is the conclusion and suggestion.