

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### A. Background of the study

In this modern era, many people across the world want to get something that they have not got yet. “The factors leading to such a massive movements, inequalities within and among regions, the continuous expansion of capital, occupational mobility directly related to the people’s desire for a better life” (Serban 96). It shows that a massive movement has been a common issue to a group of people who wants a better life that move from one place to one or more places. A group of people or an immigrant that goes through the process of leaving homeland possibly succeeds to adjust in the new land but always longs for homeland. To find one’s own identity in the host country is quite difficult for immigrants. They have to pass the problem that might be possibly to face in the way of adopting the new culture which makes them becomes new types of human being when they live outside of the homeland. It is inevitably linked to a new kind of genre has formed that commonly discusses explores immigrant term it is called “Diaspora”.

“Diaspora is an encompassing term that denotes people who are displaced from their native place through migration, immigration or exile. Diaspora as a movement can be explicated as an annexe from a discrete geographic locale that is inevitably linked to the homeland of the diasporic subjects.

The crossing of border as geopolitical experience and reality encompasses dispersed population that intersects pluri-locale diasporic cultures. Diaspora implies a dislocation from the nation-state or geographical location of origin and relocation in one or more nation-states, territories, or countries” (Briezel and Mannur 1).

It is inevitable that Diaspora is linked to movement by group of people who leaves or displaced or even exile to cross borders from the homeland to the host land. The concept of Diaspora has been widely known and studied to view aftermath of international migration and the shifting of the state border populations. Moreover the newer notions of Diaspora in this category emphasize the cultural hybridity that illustrates the way these groups can be blended into the new society without totally erasing their origin culture. Therefore, the scholars agree that Jewish Diaspora has been called as the heart of any definition of term Diaspora. “The term Diaspora finds its roots in the Greek language and is based on a translation of the Hebrew word, Galut. Based on speiro (to sow) and the preposition dia (over), in the Ancient Greece, the word referred to migration and colonisation. In Hebrew, “the term initially referred to the setting of colonies of Jews outside Palestine after the Babylonian exile and has assumed a more general connotation of people settled away from their ancestral homelands” (Shuval 262).

In another words, “the Diaspora event of Jewish has been examined as the starting step of the Diaspora studies. The term itself can be developed or theorized from any kind of Diasporic experiences such as African, Chinese, East Asian,

South Asian, Southeast Asian, Caribbean Diaspora and so on” (Chang 23). In an attempt to contribute a general-purpose, Steven Vertovec argues that “the concept of diaspora refers at the same time to a social form created by the scattering, displacement of a population, a form of social identification, and a mode of cultural expression” (36).

Hence, it is interesting to discuss about the life of immigrants in China from their Diasporic experiences as the process of Diaspora itself. As the visitors, it cannot be ignored for the term to experience the confusions in adapting their new life. Vijay Mishra argues that “Diasporas are unhappy, but every Diaspora is unhappy in its own way” (26). It can be defined that the uneasy about feeling which used to experience to the emigrants because of the traumatic event that happened in their origin country, continued with the fact that the new place which they expect to be such a new community, does not give them the better situation. However, they should intercede to the memories of the homeland and tries to be mixed in a new community to exist as James Clifford underlined:

“The different attempts to list some working definitions are productive but present some difficulties to fit with an “ideal type” of diaspora. In fact, a large part of the problem is also due to the production of various analyses from very different scientific positions: some researchers can put the label “diaspora” to a group of people by referring to their history (exile, existence of a collective trauma) or by considering the religion and a

memory of the homeland, some others can make this choice in regards of the density of the social relationships in a dispersed group” (267).

Based on the above statement there is a memory of the homeland when a group of people displaced from their ancestor home to the new land which make them may get some trauma or treatment being there. In addition, talking about Diaspora does not only relate to their experiences as the process that they will get as newcomers in the host country but also Diaspora changes the condition and may affect to ethnic identity and culture of the people in the host land if a group of people do not maintain their identity and culture which that is possibly to happen an assimilation as the impact. “As with any exile, changes in conditions at home will affect subsequent relationships with the Diasporan group. The distinction is made between forced and voluntary exile because the nature of the separation may affect the degree to which ethnic identity and culture are maintain or surrendered in favour of assimilation” (Butler 201). Based on the quote, it shows that when a group of people who dispersed or exiled from homeland to host land they will change some things and get assimilation as the impact of Diaspora itself when they do not maintain their identity and culture in living there as a minority and yet they have to accepted and face that process.

Hence, talking about the impact of Diaspora which is assimilation, Bardis argues that “assimilation was the social absorption of an ethnic, racial, or cultural group, or of an immigrant, into an adopted society, which produced a new, common, and fairly homogeneous culture” (152). This quote shows that when a

group of people live in new surroundings they will adopt and applied every single culture that is different from their culture that they found in the new home. Hence, in every single country in this world, there are so many cultures between one country and another that has their own characteristics and differences symbolizing their attitudes, habits, etiquettes and also something sacred. “Culture is ordinary: that is the first fact. Every human society has its own shape, its own purposes, its own meanings” (William 3). Based on the explanation above that culture involves an active personal quest and it has have a meaning which is represented their characteristic. Related to statement that there are so many ways to rise up, introduce, convey a message and respect the culture itself with something entertaining to make the people or the audience easily to get more comprehension about the different cultures and respect the cultures that exist in this world. One of the best ways to introduce kinds of culture in this world through a film.

As mass media, a film is used to communicate an act of sending or receiving and understanding message or meaning that delivered to the people in order to criticize cultural environment issues that happen in the society. Kellner said, “The gaining of critical media literacy is an important resource for individuals and citizens in learning how to cope with a seductive cultural environment. Learning how to read, criticize, and resist sociocultural manipulation can help one empower oneself in relation to dominant forms of media and culture” (7). By the film itself, the information consumed in deeply because film is audio visual media that contains a lot of message between the line. The strength and ability of the film are

extended to the whole social segment in the society. For film conveys a message and reflects the social reality in the society.

Furthermore, a lot of things that the audience can get by the film itself such as message, values, feedback, interpretation and so on which cannot deny that watching film is able to make the audience easily to understand and get the point of the story directly. On the other hand, film has a purpose to entertain and teaching the audience based on genre of the story itself such as drama, comedy, drama-comedy, tragic, war and so on and one of the best films that raise up the difference culture and especially reflects the issue of diaspora is *Karate Kid* film.

*Karate kid* film is remake of the old film with the same title *Karate Kid*. A film drama-comedy that released in 1984 and succeeded in critical as well as commercial. In 2010 this film released again with quite difference film as previously in 1984. Based on the story, this story is telling about a family that moved from Detroit, America to the China. Mrs. Parker (Henson) accepts a job in China, teenager Dre Parker (smith) is forced to move to the new country. Absolutely Chinese culture is different from his homeland, Detroit, America. He and his mother have to adapt and face every single issues of diaspora and may get the impact of Diaspora itself in China and show their existence in China.

Based on the explanation, it is conclude that Diaspora is very important to learn. Moreover, *Karate kid* is chosen as the object of this study as it represents the issue of Assimilation in Diaspora. Thus, this study is entitled “Assimilation as the impact of Diaspora reflected in Mrs. Parker family in *Karate Kid* film”.

## **B. Limitation of the study**

Since there are many literatures with variants of diasporic experiences, this study, is limited to make deeper and more comprehensive research. Based on the reason above, this study only focuses on the characteristics of Diaspora that happen to Mrs. Parker family (Mother-Mrs. Sherry Parker and son-Dre Parker) and try to analyze this deeply.

## **C. Problem formulation**

In this research, this study formulates the problem as follows :

1. What are the characteristics of Diaspora depicted in Mrs. Parker family in *Karate Kid* film?
2. How is assimilation portrayed as the impact of Diaspora as depicted in Mrs. Parker family in *Karate Kid* film?

## **D. Objective of the study**

Based on the problem discussed in this paper, the purpose of the study are :

1. To find out the characteristics of Diaspora depicted in the main characters in *Karate Kid* film.
2. To describe assimilation as the impact of Diaspora as depicted to the main characters in *Karate Kid* film.

#### **E. Significance of the study**

This study has been made to give some benefits. First, the study will be useful for student of Sultan Agung Islamic University, especially for students majoring English literature, who are interested in analyzing the experience and the impact of diasporic itself. Second, this study gives some good effects to the readers, which are to be more care to their own culture especially the identity itself, and respect each others who have difference culture that exist entire the world.

#### **F. Organization of the study**

As the way to make this study easier to understand, this final project of under graduate bachelor degree present in five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. This chapter covers the background for choosing the study, Scope of the study, Problem Formulation, Objective of the study, Significance of the study, and Outline of the study. The second chapter is review of related literature. It consists of brief synopsis of Karate Kid film and theories related to the study: Diaspora, American culture, Chinese culture, and Assimilation and migration theory. The third chapter presents research method. It includes type of research, data collecting method, types of the data and data analyzing technique. The fourth chapter is discussion of this study that relates to the issue of Diaspora and the fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion of this study.