

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses about background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of the research report. Bellow are more detailed descriptions.

A. Background of the study

Literature is an expression of human expression in the form of written or oral works based on thoughts, opinions, experiences, to feelings in an imaginative form, a reflection of reality or original data wrapped in aesthetic packaging through language media. The above understanding is reinforced by Sumardjo & Saini (qtd. in Thabroni 1997: 3) which argues that Literature is an expression of the human person in the form of experiences, thoughts, feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, beliefs in a form of concrete images that evoke enchantment with language tools.

Literature has diverse functions in human life. Amir (2010) revealed that several literary functions, namely the functions of entertainment, education, beauty, morals, and religious. This work not only gives a happy feeling to the reader, but also provides education through the extrinsic values contained therein. According to Eagleton;

Literature is a work of beautiful writing (belle letters) which records something in the form of a language that is condensed, inserted, twisted, lengthened and twisted, turned

into odd or other aesthetic changes through language tools
(qtd. in Thabroni, 2010: 4).

The film is a literary work that is included in the type of drama that is a story that uses dialogue as the main ingredient to convey the story and various events in a story. Made in the form of a script and then acted in a theater performance or transformed into a film. In this study the author uses film as research material, the author uses the film *The Pursuit of Happyness* by Gabriele Muccino because the writer wants to discuss life, habits and characteristics that are reflected in the values of life on the main character Chris Gardner who is mentioned in American Ethos. Because it was revealed that the work "literature is an imaginative expression of human life that is conveyed through language as a medium and has a positive effect on human life (Mursal Esten (1978: 8) "

The film *The Pursuit of Happyness* by Gabriele Muccino was chosen because the writer is interested in finding out more about the attitudes, actions and thought patterns of the main characters. The authors see two things that make this film much more interesting to examine. First, the actions of the characters that reflect the type of character they have. Second, the values of the American ethos concept are shown by the main characters in the film. This can be seen from the actions and thoughts of these figures. One example of the values of the American ethos concept, namely: competition which generally gives freedom and opportunity to the main character. This encourages their desire to achieve something they

want. Therefore, the goal of the American ethos concept is to improve individual lifestyles to be more developed than before.

Thus in this study the author wants to discuss the representation of American ethos symbolism contained in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness* on the main character Chris Gardner. Where in the American ethos itself discusses, habits and characteristics of the main characters contained in the values of life and here the author wants to discuss the representation of the symbolism of American ethos reflected in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

B. Limitation of the study

The limitation of this study focuses on the symbolism of the American ethos in the main character as reflected in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

C. Problem Formulation

The problem the writer wants to write in this paper in *The Pursuit of Happyness* movie is:

1. How do the signifier and signified are contained in the film “*The Pursuit of Happyness*” ?
2. Does the American ethos in the film “*The pursuit of Happyness*” explain the main character that is reflected in the film ?

D. Objectives of the study

The aim of this research is:

1. To describe the American ethos in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

2. To analyze the symbolism representation of American ethos reflected in the main character of the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*.

E. Significance of the Study

There are three goals the writer wants to achieve in this study, namely:

1. Analyze the symbolism of the American ethos reflected in the main characters in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*.
2. This research can be a source of information and further research on the symbolism of the American ethos.
3. The author also hopes that after reading this research, readers can learn more about the study of symbolism that focuses on American ethos in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*, especially students of the Faculty of Languages and Communication Science, Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang majoring in literature studies.

F. Organization of the study

This final project is systematically organized in these chapters. Each chapter will discuss different matters as follows:

Chapter one provides an introduction that consists of these matters: background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the research report.

Chapter two is about a theoretical framework that includes synopsis, American ethos (individualism, hardwork, competitiveness), symbolism. Chapter three is a research method that deals with data

sources, data collection methods, and data analysis methods. Chapter four is analysis. That is the most important part of this study because it illustrates the symbolism of the American ethos in the main character as reflected in the film *The Pursuit of Happyness*. Chapter five is the last chapter, which consists of conclusions and suggestions.