

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Movie is one of several entertainments preferred by people around the world. People are interested for watching movie because movie have many interesting factors for the viewers. Some of the interesting factors which made most people attracted to watch the movie were the movie photography, camera movement, sound, actresses and actors acting, story, etc. Moreover, the development of movie making will also provide the combination of some or all interesting factors in the movie. The combination made the movie related with the viewer condition and some movie viewers believed that movie is the reflection of their experience. It was because most movie themes are closely related with people life experiences, such as love, friendship, politic, life struggle, etc.

The themes indirectly made the viewer to feel an interaction and receive some information about it. But, some of movie directors did not only make movie as an entertainment media for the viewer. Some of them included their intentions which are related with some events at the time they were making the movie and their action will later be criticized by some movie critics. Although the action is criticized, some movie director believed that action is the best way to show the main purpose implied

in the movie. Under this circumstance, the movie which produced for the viewer with a particular theme could not directly associate with the main theme carried.

In order to understand well the main purpose of the director in producing the movie, the viewer should understand the condition when the movie was produced. Since the condition when the movie was being produced has a strong relation with the movie production, the directors always had particular conditions when they made the movie at that time. The director's work is not a pure director purpose, but also 'a negotiation with the society and historical condition at that time' (Bertens 140).

The life background of the director and some important events which appeared when the movie produced were the other factors which made the movie could not be comprehended using ordinary way. The understanding of director negotiation with the society, historical condition, life background, and the influence of some important events could be seen in some of movies such as Steven Spielberg's *Saving Private Ryan* (1998), Ridley Scott's *Black Hawk Down* (2001), Gabrielle Muccino's *The Pursuit of Happiness* (2006), and Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* (2000).

From the movies listed above, the movie from Roland Emmerich, *The Patriot*, is the movie that contains and reflects the director intention and condition of US through the image of US constructed in the movie itself. The condition could be seen from the setting taken in the movie, dialogues, and the visualization of the story through the movie itself. For the time setting, Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* took

the oldest time than two movies before. The movie took time setting in the early birth of US at 1776 to 1781. Although the movie took time setting more than 200 years ago, the movie succeeded to reflect and deliver director critics about the condition at the time of movie produced in 2000 through some scenes and dialogues that appeared in the movie itself.

The director of *The Patriot* movie itself, Roland Emmerich, was an expert in making a good movie. He had recorded several box office movies including *The Patriot*. Although this movie is his first movie with historical genre, he succeeded to bring home 3 Oscar nominations, 17 other nominations, and 8 wins for *The Patriot* movie. Roland Emmerich himself is not an American, he is a German. Although many information closely associates German with Jewish, according to many biography about him, the writer did not find any information that associates the director with Jewish.

Supported with good visualization of the condition at that time through some scenes and the dialogues between the characters, *The Patriot* movie succeeded to implicitly deliver the director intentions through the image of US constructed in the movie. If the image of US constructed in the movie is compared with the condition when the movie produced, the politics and US military policies and strategies are actually two major issues criticized by the director. The critics about US politics and US military policies and strategies were placed by the director implicitly through the dialogue between characters and some scenes in the movie itself.

For the director critic about politics, the critic was shown in *The Patriot* movie through Benjamin Martin character's dialogues in Charles Town's Hall event scene. Benjamin stated that the end of a politic would be replaced with the other politic. The rotation will never end (movie). When related with the condition at the movie production time in 2000, the director critic was addressed to the US politics that shows US as the superior country in the world (United States Department of State online). The image of US as the superior country in the world is closely related with US foreign policy. The US foreign policy itself was the foreign policy used by US to define their overseas action or their action to the foreign countries. This foreign policy could be seen through US intervention for several terrorism attacks in the world, especially in Middle-East countries. This intervention was shown through the issue of the *Pattern of Global Terrorism* by US government each year. Although US had increased their intervention in Middle-East countries to fight terrorism, the *Pattern of Global Terrorism* shows that the rate of terrorism increased significantly from 1998 to 2000 (United States Department of State online).

For the director critic about US military policy and strategy, the condition was shown implicitly in *The Patriot* movie through the dialogues of Benjamin Martin character in the Battle of Camden scene. Benjamin stated the Continental army took the bad strategy that made them defeated. He added that the battle had ended before it was begun. If related with US condition when the movie produced, the director criticized US military strategy as a good strategy but the implementation was bad. US

military strategy had a main purpose to keep world peace through their intervention. In the application, US had interfered too deep. The condition made US became the most targeted country by some big terrorism organizations (online). Because of that, US took big proportion in the effects of it.

Because of the interesting director critics about US in Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* movie, the writer aims to analyze the movie through the historicity of the movie itself. In relation with the previous purpose, the interesting factors to study and to analyze the historicity of the movie are the director critics implied in the dialogues between characters and the relation with the condition when the movie was produced in 2000. Moreover, the analysis about the historicity of the movie through some aspects mentioned before would help the readers and the movie viewers to know the main purpose of the director in producing the movie.

The main reason for the writer is interest in analyzing *The Patriot* movie is because the movie reflects the condition when American Revolution occurred. Besides, the movie contained many values about nation, family, and battle. The value about nation was shown through the equality issue and the way people should think and treat their nation. The family value was shown through the condition of the main character family and the problem occurred in the family. The battle value was shown through the condition of the battle itself and several tricks occurred. The battle value was the most noted and interesting value for the writer. Since it was indirectly

constructed the image of US. On the other hand, all of the values were shown through the dialogues and some scenes in the movie

In order to analyze the movie, the writer tried to understand the problem and the construction of US image in the movie. The understanding process of problems appeared in the movie and the construction of US image in the movie will help the writer to find the main purpose of the movie director in making the movie. The writer will also search for some important events which happened in 2000 or before which could have relation with the movie. For the theory used, the writer used New Historicism theory as the main theory in this research. It is because New Historicism theory is believed as the most suitable theory to find the historicity of the movie and the purpose of the director in making the movie. It is also very effective to analyze the historical events and sensitive with the other factors happened around the movie.

As it had already been said before, the writer took the New Historicism theory to examine the text, to search for the director's purpose in making the movie, and to understand the condition when the movie produced. Based on *Contemporary Cultural Theory* book, the New Historicism studied wider area than history itself. The New Historicism analyzed the social, cultural, and historical context in which a text is produced and received (Milner 44). From that explanation, the New Historicism does not only analyze the history contained in a literary work, but also analyze the other factors that are related with the process of the literary work. The analysis about history was not only blocked by the history that contained or placed as the main

essence of the literary work, but also the analysis about many other factors related with it. Another factor that could also be analyzed with the New Historicism is the director life experience, including events related directly or indirectly with the author.

The purpose of the New Historicism is to understand literary work through the historical context, the cultural and intellectual history through literature. From this point of view, the relation between history and literature could not be separated. More in his explanation, Milner also mentioned that the New Historicism analysis brought both non-literary and literary discourses into creative juxtaposition which showed the relation of social power and historical conflict to absorb the textuality of a society's literature.

As the result of the study, the writer believed that the study would make the readers understood the implicit messages from the movie director, such as the director intention for the condition at the time when *The Patriot* movie produced. For the method, the methods used in this study were close reading method which analyzed all aspects appeared in the movie, understood both new historicism and non-narrative theory to support the analysis of the research, collected the data, analysis all data gained and support the analysis with theory, and made conclusion.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

From the background of the study, the writer of this study wanted to analyze and understand the historicity of the movie, especially about the director critics for the condition when the movie produced. The study also tried to search and understand the motives for making relation of the condition at that time with the movie visualization. The research question which used in the study was as follow:

- How is the image of US constructed in *The Patriot* movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

From statement of the problem, the objective of the study is aimed to answer the question as follow:

- To analyze the construction of US image in the movie which constructed by the director.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer of the study hoped that the movie viewer would not only enjoy the visualization of the movie directly but they should also increase their awareness about the indirect message which the director tried to show in the movie. Although the movie carried a specific theme in the movie, the director always had main purposes for making the movie and this main purpose usually placed indirectly in the movie through the dialogues of the characters, scenes, or some other visualization in the

movie. By understood the real purpose of director for making the movie, the viewer would know the real information inside the movie itself.

Related with the main subject of the study, this study was aimed to reveal the truth of *The Patriot* movie. This study aimed to know the director purpose through the construction of US image in *The Patriot* related with the condition at the time of movie produced. The study also purposed to give contribution toward the study of literature in English Department of Airlangga University, especially to one which related to the New Historicism study.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

To keep the study in the right field as purposed before, the writer of the study limited the analysis based on Roland Emmerich's *The Patriot* movie and the condition of US in few years before the movie produced until the year of the movie produced (1998 - 2000). The study focused to analyze the director purpose that showed through the scenes and dialogues in the movie. The focus also continued to the relation of the US condition at the time of the movie produced in 2000 and the movie itself. The condition of US limited to the politic, overseas policy, and military strategy.

1.6 Theoretical Background

The writer of the study would apply the theory of New Historicism as main theory in the study to get a deep analysis. The theory will be based on Stephen Greenblatt's theory about New Historicism. The writer believed that the analysis with New Historicism theory was the best way to analyze the director's purpose produced the movie and the movie relation with the condition at the time of the movie produced, which indirectly shown in the movie.

The simple meaning of New Historicism approach was a way of interpreting something based on several reading of literary and non literary texts. From *Cotemporary Cultural Study* book, New Historicism's starting points was something like 'thick description' which was a close reading and analysis of social, cultural, ad historical value that related to when the text produced and received (Milner and Browitt 44). New historicism has succeeded to analyze a history which conducted by old historicist and replaced it with another history that developed before.

1.7 Method of the Study

The method used in this study was the qualitative research. The method would consist two major parts which were data collection and data analysis. Data collection consisted three minor parts which were close reading, theory, and collecting secondary data. Data analysis consisted two minor parts which were analyzed research problem with the data and made conclusion. The description would be as follow:

a. Close reading

In close reading, the writer decided *The Patriot* movie as the main material for the research. The writer tried to find some data from Charles Town's Town Hall event and Battle of Camden in *The Patriot* movie. The writer chose to gain some data from both Charles Town's Town Hall event and Battle of Camden because the writer believed both of them contained many data that able to support the research well. The writer also took some dialogues in *The Patriot* movie, especially dialogues in both scene Charles Town's Town Hall and Battle of Camden. The writer took the dialogues because the dialogues supported the analysis.

The writer also did close reading to some documents that contained some important information about the condition at the time when the movie produced in 2000. *Pattern of Global Terrorism* was one of the documents that had important information about the condition of US. The *Pattern of Global Terrorism* also supported the purpose of the research.

b. Theory

For the theory, the writer used New Historicism as the main theory to be applied in the research. The writer chose the New Historicism because the New Historicism had the concept that able to reveal the purpose of the director to make the movie. In the research, the writer used Stephen Greenblatt as the main theorist. The writer would also use some other

New Historicists as supporting theorist who support Greenblatt definition about New Historicism.

c. Collecting the secondary data

For the secondary data, the writer took the secondary data from some sites in the internet and books. Some sites in the internet chose by the writer were some sites that contained information about the condition of US when the movie produced, the background of the director, the transcript and non-transcript interview with the director or the artists, and the critics from international movie critics for the films. The writer also analyzed the social, cultural, and historical values appeared in US society to support the analysis.

d. Analyzing the problem with the data

After all data gathered, the writer tried to analyze the problem as mentioned in the research question. The writer tried to analyze the image of US constructed in *The Patriot* movie. The writer used data from both primary and secondary data to gain maximal answer for the analysis.

e. Conclusion

In the conclusion, the writer gathered all information found through the analysis process. After all information gathered, the writer concluded the

analysis which included all the findings in the analysis. In the conclusion, the writer answered the statement of problem in the analysis.

1.8 Definition of Key Terms

Director Intention : The intention from movie director to make the movie.

US Image : The construction of general perception about US.

Historicity : The history of a literary work or something which included the initial process until the end of process itself.

Criticism of American Revolution : Several ideas about something that showed different from the condition portrayed in American Revolution condition.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW