

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Suicide is a leading cause of death worldwide. Yet, there are considerable variations in national suicide rates. According to World Health Organization (WHO) data, Indonesia's suicide rate reached 1.6 to 1.8 people for every 100,000 people in 2001, that approximately 1 million people died by suicide. The rate of suicide across the world reach 16 per 100,000 which increases in the past four decades and substantially increases suicide rates globally as much as 60% (World Health Organization, 2009). Recently the WHO's South East Asia regional office reported that the global suicide rate had risen from 10 suicides per 100,000 people in the 1950s to 18 suicides per 100,000 people in 1995. As many as 73 percent of suicides in the world occur in developing countries.

The WHO's regional office has reported that suicide is on the rise in Indonesia. From 1997 to 1998 there was an increase of 34 suicides in Jakarta alone and the average number of suicide cases in Indonesia is still lower than other countries, some recording 10 per 100,000 people. The WHO report has shown the average number of deaths due to suicide in Indonesia was 24 per 100,000 of the population. The data said 50,000 people commit suicide each year or 1,500 people on average each day. For 2006 about 100,000 Jakarta's people committed suicide. The factors related to common mental disorder in Indonesia such as hopelessness, insecurity, poor education, low income (poverty) including suicide (Vijayakumar L et al. 2004).

The writer wants to tell about a suicide case which he followed at the moment because he was curious about it and the news pulled the writer's attention. That is the case of Iptu Budi Riyono's, a policeman committing suicide in Tangerang, Banten, West Java, Indonesia. He was a chief of traffic unit. As reported by *Liputan 6 Malam*, on Monday (11/2/2015), he was suspected committing suicide in Griya Cluster, Kenanga Gondrong boulevard, Cipondoh, Tangerang. It is really terrible that he shot himself on the head and found dead in his room. He was suspected committing suicide because a woman named Herlin Herlina, who is his friend whom he met on one of social media network for five months before his death, refusing him to marry her. Whereas, she was ready to marry him and she had also been introduced to his first wife. Feeling depressed is suspected becoming the cause of his committing suicide.

The police's case shown above has some relation to the movie which is chosen by the writer to be the object of the study he conducts even though they are considered as indirect relation. First relation to pick up, travelling directly to Neil Perry, the one who is committing suicide in the movie, he is a great and brilliant boy to his study, to his peer, and to social connection. Meanwhile, the police officer above is a great and also important man for citizen. In Indonesia, a police who holds that kind of position like him is considered having a high position. The second reason comes up with their way by shooting themselves with a gun. Both Neil Perry and the police are great men; it is unbelievable that those men choose committing suicide than keeping on living. Certainly, people who commit suicide are in great desperation which keep them away from thinking clearly and better. Here, the writer really wants to explore more,

especially on how people can kill themselves. The writer wants to know the reason through this movie analysis. It is a *Peter Weir's* movie entitled *Dead Poets Society* as the writer has decided to pick up the movie to analyze. He then defines why he chooses this movie as the object to analyze from some points compiled in the next paragraph.

This movie has a very interesting story and it was first aired in July 1989. It also absorbed many public attentions and won many awards at that time, such as ASCAP Award for Top Box Office films category, BAFTA Film Award for Best Film Category, Silver Ribbon Award for Best Director and Best Foreign Movie, and many other awards, but the most prestige award is Oscar Award for Best Writing by Tom Schulman. The writer of this study believes that this movie ran successfully because it got many awards as a fact to a strong reason.

One of *Dead Poets Society* movie viewers said that many people are usually afraid of being bored at the beginning in watching movies, but *Dead Poets Society* is different. The story began interestingly, so the viewers would not get bored watching it. It shows that Peter Weir is successful in directing the movie. In fact, the movie got many awards. It is sold millions over worldwide and translated into many languages including Indonesian language. Surely, it would be interesting to analyze the *Dead Poets Society* movie.

In relation to the study, the writer uses a literary work in this case a movie as the object to analyze. Learning literature is like walking on a never-ending way, with beautiful scenery around. One reason why learning literature is very interesting is that literature provides enjoyment in terms of knowing and understanding the life and human value. Brooks (1975:1) even describes that literature is an attribute of our nature. Learning literature improves one's capability to understand how life

represented in words; growth, love, hatred, conflict, and experience. Literature can be described as a reflection and illumination, mirror and lamp of the human experience. It reflects how people live at the certain time, the problems and the conflicts occurred, and it acts as a mirror for people to look back, how they have changed, what they have changed, and what can be changed.

The reason why the writer chooses literature to be the subject to study because literature varies one from another, as it is related to human's life. Since humans react differently towards emotions they feel, the reaction may lead into different outcome. These emotions form one to be unique and personally different, and provide essential character of living.

Literature, then, as stated by Roberts and Jacobs (1989:2), is classified into three kinds of genre or classes: (1) prose fiction, (2) poetry, and (3) drama, in which movie belongs to the drama class. Movie has some elements as drama's itself. There are actors or main characters, plot, setting, theme, costumes, property. The writer chooses a movie to be the object of the study because it deals greatly with many concepts, and describes thoroughly all the existence inside; thoughts, feeling, and emotion. A movie deals with feelings in recognizable experiences and social settings, confronted with condition and problem that can happen in the real life.

The writer is using Abrams's Objective Theory as the basis of the analysis to get into the intrinsic points of the movie. More specifically, the writer will point out the analysis of plot into the inner conflict of the main character of the movie. Further, the writer will enter the inner conflict analysis into the psychological conflict which can also be a conflict in one's mind and heart. The writer tries to convince readers that

he can get the answer “why people commit suicide” by relating the analysis of psychological conflict and its effect to change people’s living value.

The writer chooses this movie of Peter Weir’s, *Dead Poets Society* because it is an interesting movie to him. The movie reflects views of life and death. The movie is about a preparatory school for boys, called Welton Academy, the school is very focused about their four pillars, which are: “Tradition, Honor, Discipline and Excellence” then are secretly changed and believed by the boys as “Travesty, Horror, Decadence, and Excrement”. The tradition is being tested, when a replacement teacher, John Keating a Welton alumnus, arrives. Mr. Keating show the students a whole new site of life, he teaches them poetry, with the foundation of “carpe diem”. Some of the boys find out that Mr. Keating, when he attended Wellton, was a member of an organization called the Dead Poets Society. He tells them that it was a secret club where students took turns to recite poem to each other, both famous but also homemade poems. Inspired by Mr. Keating’s story, the boys decide to reform the club and by the request of Mr. Keating they start to take a lot of chances in their life. One of the boys, Knox Overstreet, decides to chase his new found love for a girl named Chris. Another of the boys, Neil Perry, decides that he wants to act, and gets the leading part of a play.

His biggest problem is that his father does not approve of his acting career, so he chooses to lie to both his father and Mr. Keating. It all ends in a confrontation between father and son which leads to Neil Perry’s suicide. The boys are forced, by the dean and their parents, to sign a confession statement indicating that Mr. Keating is responsible for their actions, which leads to his being dismissed from the school. At the end of the film Mr. Keating enter the classroom to get his personal belongings,

when he is about to leave the room, the youngest of the boys, Todd Anderson, chooses to defy the dean and jumps onto his desk to show his respect gratitude to Mr. Keating for changing his life. One by one, almost all the boys defy the dean, and standup on their tables. Mr. Keating leaves the room with moist eyes, and the words: “Thank you boys, thank you”.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Related to the title of the study, the research question is generated as the following:

1. What is Neil Perry’s view of life?
2. What is Neil Perry’s view of death?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Related to the research questions above, this study aims at finding out what the main character’s views of life and death are in the movie.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study will encourage the students of the English Department of Widya Mandala to enrich their knowledge by reading literature. The writer also hopes that literature will take more places in the study of teaching and learning in this university, as literature deals with the image of experience and human values. It is also expected that this study will get to parents’ mind about giving their children choices in settling their future instead of trammeling them or manipulating

them their whole life. This study also aims at senior high students about resolving problems, and viewing life and death in the positive point of view.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the Study

To avoid the study of going too broad, the writer limits the point of the study into the analysis of the inner conflicts faced by Neil Perry. The reasons of the emergence of the inner conflicts as well as the steps taken to find out what the conflicts are also need to be discussed in line with the inner conflict and views of life and death. In this way, the writer uses objective approach theory to get closer to the analysis of the inner conflict faced by Neil Perry through the intrinsic elements of the movie. The extrinsic elements, however, are not to be discussed in this study. The writer may talk a little about the extrinsic elements only to support the analysis of the intrinsic elements.

1.6 Theoretical Framework

Related to the topic of the study, there are some underlying theories to discuss. They are as follow: (1) theory of literature, (2) value of life and death, (3) the intrinsic elements of movie; setting, character, plot, and theme, (4) types of conflict: physical, social, psychological (inner) conflict, (5) objective theory.

1.7 Definition of Key Terms

1. Main Character

A main character is a character that plays an important and prominent role in the movie.

2. Inner Conflict

An inner conflict is a conflict within the mind of the character who is torn frequently between contrasting loyalties and ways of life or between two aspects of the self, usually one that is “idealized” and one that is “real” (McKenzie, 1978:31).

3. Dead Poets Society

An American drama movie, written by Tom Schulman, directed by Peter Weir, and set at Welton Academy in the northeast United States, by Touch Stone Pictures in 1989.

1.8 Organization of the Study

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter I deals with the background of the study, the statement of the problem, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study, the theoretical framework, the definition of key terms, and the organization of the study. Chapter II presents the review of the theories used in analyzing of the literary work as well as the review related literature. Chapter III views the research method of the study. Chapter IV presents the findings and the analysis of the study. Chapter V presents the conclusion of the study and the suggestion.