

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into some subject matters. In this chapter, the researcher explains the background of the study, research questions, research objective, research significance, and definition of key terms.

1.1 Background of Study

Basically, movie is simply described as a media that united from every photos and video. According to Erneste (1991:18), “the movie is a combination of a wide variety of arts, namely music, art, drama, literature coupled with photographic elements.” Photographic elements can be like the art or the ways on how the movie make interested, like sound effect or image effect. Nowadays, people share about their experiences or the incident that ever happened which is recorded into the images or videos and made them into a movie and uploaded into any kinds social media such as Youtube, Dailymotion, Instagram in short length duration of movies, and many more.

There are differences between movies and film. Movie or motion picture is a sequence of consecutive photographic images projected onto a screen in such rapid succession as to give the illusion of movement (Longman, 1969:120). It means that moving picture concentrates in how the picture is moved and the content of the story can be displayed by pictures. Although, film or moving picture is a thin sheet or strip of flexible material, such as a cellulose derivative or a thermoplastic resin, coated with

a photosensitive emulsion and used to make photographic negatives or transparencies. It referred to the “tools” to display the pictures on it (Longman, 1969:56). Moving picture can be identified as the tools or device to take or shoot the picture. So, the motion picture is about how people see the picture or video and film is the tools or device to see the movie inside it.

Movie can describes more information or representation about human life. When people can see the representation how they lived. Movie can be also a popular media for learning something, they are economy, social, science, and also culture. Movie still valued as the exact and effective media to introduce culture one to another countries (Khaerani, 2016). It means that movie is still useful to introduce anything about culture like as tradition. Then, Hill assumes that “representation is an essential part of the process which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of culture (2004, p. 15).”

In society, many people can see the sign that could be found in the surrounded area, like social, economy and also culture. According to Bodley, “culture is socially transformed, often symbolic, information that shapes human behavior and that regulates human society so that people can successfully maintain themselves and reproduce. In addition, culture has mental, behavioral, and material aspects; it is patterned and provides a model for proper behavior (2005:11).” It can be a model because people see their behavior as their predecessors and they imitate it from time to time.

In the culture, there are many things which is hidden matter, like as the origin, background, or a few of history to find where the culture existed. So that, culture has a hidden things or called as myth. Barthes argues that myth is a type of speech (Barthes, 1992:132). It means that the myth relates to the language. The language can be defined as writing, music, gesture, picture, or gesture. Based on the analysis in culture, myth is related to find the origin or myth in the movie, *Eat Pray Love*.

The researcher found some myth on modern literature, which one of them is a literary work, a novel. This title of the novel is *Eat Pray Love*. This novel wrote by Elizabeth Gilbert in 2006. Then, it adapted into a movie that has a same title as the novel. This movie tells about the journey of Liz that wandered four countries to find her peace. Many years she lived in, she felt her life uneasy, his husband do not want to have a baby and decided to continue his studies for a long time that makes her mad. Because she has trouble with his ex-husband and finally divorced. So, it makes her mental breakdown. And to heal her pain, she went to some countries to calm her mind. Four countries that she visited, they are Italia, India, Indonesia, and Unite States. Wandering of that countries, many cultures or habits that different from his real home, USA.

The representation of myth can be analyzed by semiotic theory by Roland Barthes. In accordance with Roland Barthes, semiotic or semiology use the cultural sign to recognize the cultural in every place in around the world. According to Barthes (Chandler,1999:12) semiology aims to take in any system of signs, whatever their

substance and limits; images, gestures, musical sounds, objects, and complex association with these, which form the content of ritual, convention or public entertainment: these constitute, if not languages, at least systems of signification. These semiology takes all everything symbol that can be a sign, like art, literature, social, and also culture.

This movie has become the source of the data in this thesis. According to Honeycutt, there are four main reasons why this movie is interesting. First, Elizabeth Gilbert is one of popular woman writer in the USA; second, this novel is one of highest sales rate of her novel and the movie have much attention for woman in the USA and other countries; third Gilbert's novel has a good plot or have a deep writing; and fourth, Gilbert has many experiences to wandering three countries, so that it is a novel and movie which has the real story, including about culture and can be understood more deeply about (2010).

There are previous studies about the same object or same theory of the thesis. The first thesis titled *Self Identity of the Main Character in Elizabeth Gilbert's novel: Eat Pray Love* by Rossy Agustina. This thesis describes the identity of the main character Liz. But, her fear, hope, the aim of life who will be existed in future that analyze by researcher. Then, she used psychology theory by Abraham Mellow which is related to her true character. She used the theory of hirearchy of needs. The theory of hirearchy of needs is connected with self identity in the main character. The result

is the main character experiences the self-identity impediments because she does not achieve the stage of the hierarchy of needs.

The second thesis is *Mythical Symbol on the Da Vinci Code* by Sandi Ibrahim A. This research explains about the hidden mythical symbol on the Works of Leonardo Da Vinci's, Religious Symbols, and Historical Building. Then, he used the Semiotic and Myth theory by Roland Barthes. The researcher uses this theory to mythical symbol in the mythical thing and place like historical building on the Da Vinci Code. The result of mythical symbol in the researcher's perspective in this novel is reflectios of how to restore and to recover the female image shown through the works of Leonardo Da Vinci, the symbol of pagan religion, the controversies, and distortions of the Holy Bible

The third is *Myth of Modern Capitalism on Narrative Structure of E.M. Forster's Howards End* by Erfan Muhammad Fauzi. This thesis explains about a movement that has symbolized as Modern Capitalism in that novel. The symbol of urbanism where people wish better future and better life by getting a job in the city that has an indirect effect of capitalism, especially for the money. He used the theory Narrative Structure and Roland Barthes in Semiotic. The conclusion of this thesis is money and economy have symbolized as the myth of the social classification.

From all the previous studies, many of them used the psychology approach, like Sigmund Freud in Id, Ego, Superego, or Abraham Mellow which is about feminism study. Then, there is a third thesis which used the theory of Semiotic by Roland Barthes, it describes modern capitalism (economy and social classification). From all these, this

thesis "The Representation of myth in culture of four countries on *Eat Pray Love* movie" is not as same as others.

In this opportunity, the analysis of the myth in this paper represents about culture with the assumption that this movie are about the myth in the culture. It also describes the differences between culture like tradition, food, or lifestyle in four countries that she visits. Analyzing the representation of myth on *Eat Pray Love* movie, the researcher uses the theory of semiotic by Roland Barthes. The main topic of this research is to representates the concept of myth and the deformation process to analyze the sign of myth on *Eat Pray Love* movie. **Therefore, the title of this research is "The representation of Myth in Culture of Four Countries on *Eat, Pray, Love* Movie"**

1.2 Statement of Problem

From the background in this research above, there are two questions, they are:

- a. What is Representation of Myth that related to Four Countries' History on *Eat Pray Love* movie?
- b. How is the deformation process on myth sign based on Barthes' semiology theory on *Eat Pray Love* movie?

1.3 Research Objective

From the questions above, the researcher takes a purpose of signification of the research, three significations as follow:

- a. To describe the representation of myth in four countries on *Eat Pray Love* movie.
- b. To describe the deformation process on myth sign based Barthes semiology theory on *Eat, Pray, Love* movie.

1.4 Research Significance

Academically, it can give the contribution to analyze semiotic in culture studies. It is on how semiotic theory can be applied in culture studies and how the culture studies analyze the movie by using the semiotic Roland Barthes.

Practically, it can give benefit for the researcher as a beginner to analyze semiotic theory in four countries on *Eat, Pray, Love* movie. It can also give the contribution to anthropologist in finding the culture studies theory. In the other hand, the researcher hopes that this research can give additional information for the researchers who interest in culture and semiotic.

1.5 Definition of Key Terms

- a. Semiology

Semiotic or semiology based on Barthes term, in principle wants to learn how humanity interpret the things, to signify in communicate (Sobur, 2005:15)

b. Language

Language is the system of human communication which consists of the structured arrangement of sounds (or their written representation) into larger units, e.g. morphemes, words, sentences, utterance (Richards,2013:311).

c. Literature

Literature is written works of artistic value (Eagleton,1996:7).

d. Customs and Tradition

Custom is a traditional and widely accepted way of behaving or doing something that is specific to a particular society, place, and time (Kottak,2012:6). Tradition is opinion, custom, principle, etc, passed down from the past to the present (Kottak,2012:7).

e. Sign

A sign is part of physical word, a symbol is a part of the human world of meaning (Sebeok, 2001:2).

f. Signifier

Signifier is a form of made up of something physical – sounds, letters, gesture, etc (Sebeok, 2001:6).

g. Signified

Signified is a form of made up of the image of concept to which signifier refers (Sebeok, 2001:2).

h. Myth

Myth is any story or narrative that aims to explain the origin of something (Sebeok, 2001:155).

i. Representation

Representation is to represent also to symbolize, stand for, to be specimen of, or to substitute for (Hall, 1997:17)

