


# Chapter 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background



Film is a work of art in the form of a series of live images that are rotated to produce an illusion of a moving image that is presented as a form of entertainment. The illusion of the series of images produces a continuous motion in the form of video. Film is often referred to as a movie or moving picture. Film is a modern and popular form of art created for business and entertainment purposes (Jakarta, Nusa Indah 1989 ; 36).

The definition of a film is literally a series of live images, often called a movie.

According to the Big Indonesian Dictionary, films can be interpreted into 2 meanings, the first as a thin film made of negative celluloid for positive image places, the second film is interpreted as a live image (Balai Jakarta 1990 ; 242). Films have always influenced and shaped society based on the messages behind them. Without ever being in the wrong. Films always record the realities that grow and develop in society and then project them onto the screen (Alex Sobur 2006 ; 127).

Film is a complex social, psychological and aesthetic phenomenon which is a document consisting of stories and pictures accompanied by words and music. So that film is a multi-dimensional and complex product. the presence of film in the midst of human life is now increasingly important and equal to other media ( Ashandi Siregar 2000 ; 176).

The players who play a role in the film are called actors (male) or actresses (women). In addition there is also the term extras actor who is used as a supporting actor with a role that is not too much in the film. This is different from the main actors who have bigger and more roles. Being an actor and actress must be demanded to have good acting talent, which is in accordance with the film theme that their act. In certain scenes, the role of the actor can be replaced by a substitute actor or called a stuntman. The existence of a stuntman is important enough to replace actors doing dangerous and difficult dangerous scenes, which are commonly found in action films (Effendi 1986 ; 239).

Films can also be used to convey certain messages from the filmmaker itself. Filming is also a form of expression, thoughts, ideas, concepts, feelings and moods of a human being visualized in a film. The film itself is mostly a fiction story, although some are based on the facts of a true story or based on a true story. Even so, a film adapted from a true story is sometimes changed in such a way that it will contain more dramatizing elements (Ardianto, 2004:134). It means if films has many kind that can be watch by many people.

There is also a documentary film whose picture is taken in original and real, or a biography that tells the story of a character. There are many other popular movie genres, ranging from action, horror, comedy, romane, fantasy, thriller, drama, science fiction, crime, documentary and others. All of them have the characteristics and characteristics of each that distinguishes one another. Not surprisingly, many good and quality film films which then successfully penetrated the world box office achievement. Movie themes and concepts are also divided into several main genres, depending on the content and concept of the story.

In another meaning, movie is a cummunication media that very important to communicate about a reality that what happened in the life and has a strong reality , one of them

told about the realities in society (Effendy,1986:239). Like in the film many people can find out about the real reality and this is can be interesting to looking for about conflict in the film that it self. It grows and the development of the movie is dependent very much on technology and blend elements of art so as to produce the film that has a nice quality ( McQuail, 1997:100).

Sometimes a film has many genres, but of course there is one main genre that is more prominent that is the identity of the film. There are many genre of film genres that have characteristics and characteristics that are certainly different. Some of the most common and most popular include action movies, drama, horror or comedy. Of course there are also several film subgenres that come from the main genre with more specific characteristics (Graeme Burton 2006 ; 108) .

The first is story films, story films a type of film that contains a story commonly displayed in cinemas with famous film stars and distributed as merchandise. Stories that are made into film topics can be in the form of fictional stories or based on a modified true story, so that there is an interesting element, both from the storyline and from the aspect of the artist. The second is horror film, horror films are identical with supernatural and mystical themes. Some people even call horror films identical to thriller and fantasy. Horror movies also often involve evil and mystical powers. Then cartoon film, cartoon films are made for children's consumption, and we can be sure we all know Donald Duck (Donald Duck), Snow White (Mickey White), Mickey Mouse (Mickey Mouse) figures created by American artists. And the last is history film, history film is a type of film that contains stories of the past according to events and events that have become a history.

And this research will tell about historical film. History film is a type of film that contains stories of the past according to events and events that have become a history. The historical film

has been served as a vehicle of studio prestige and artistic ambition, and many distinguished directors have made major contributions to the genre. Although in reality is a form of art , the film industry is a bussiness that gives an advantage, sometimes to be a money spending machine than often, for the money out of the rules of the artistic it self (Ardianto, 2004:134). There are many films about history and culture that have been aired to many public right now , some of the historical movies it is *Pearl Harbour*, *Jarhead*, *Black Hawk Down*, *The Last Samurai* , *Letters From Iwojima*, etc. The Last Samurai is a 2003 American epic drama war film that directed and coproduced by Edward Zwick. This film grossed a total of \$456 million at the box office and was well reeived upon its release, receiving praise for the acting, writing, directing, score, and message. It was nominated for several award, including four Academy Award, three Golden Globe Award, and two National Board of Review Award. In this film the story of the samurai is lifted based on true stories in Japanese history that took place in the meiji government, this film was made like doing an illustration of events that have happened in the past by maintaining objects and situations that occur around it such as Japanese life.

The samurai trace their origins to the Heian Period campaigns to subdue the native Emishi people in the Tohoku Region. Around the same time, warriors were increasingly hired by wealthy landowners that had grown independent of the central government and built armies for their own protection. The two most powerful of these landowning clans, the Minamoto and Taira, eventually challenged the central government and battled each other for supremacy over the entire country. Minamoto Yoritomo emerged victorious and set up a new military government in 1192, led by the shogun or supreme military commander. The samurai would rule over Japan for most of the next 700 years. (clarion-journal.com. 2006/06/09, The-Last-Samurai-Review)

During the chaotic era of warring states in the 15th and 16th centuries, Japan splintered into dozens of independent states constantly at war with one another. Consequently, warriors were in high demand. It was also the era when ninja, warriors specialized in unconventional warfare, were most active. Many of the famous samurai movies by Kurosawa are set during this time (filmjournal.2004,09,27.*The-Last-Samurai*). Samurai culture attractions can be found in across Japan in form castles , historic residences, museums, and dress up tours. In this era samurai culture like the clothes has been applied in modern culture in every street in Japan and can be used to many event in Japan and Japanese Kendo. In the past, samurai in Japan always use Yukata in practice before they come to the war of Samurai (Situmorang, 2009:20)

Right now Yukata and Kimono can be applied to many event in Japan. There are many culture in Japan like Kabuki, Geisha, Chad, Ikebana, and many else that applied in The Last Samurai film by Edward Zwick. In that film there are many culture that exist in Japan like the writer want to show about Japanese culture in the past. Previous studies consisted of research in national and international journals with the main theme of public relations strategy. Previous studies was used to enrich concepts in reviewing the research being carried out. This research study does not have a similar title, but has some connection with the research being carried out, where the results of these studies show the importance of research on historical films and what is contained in them.

The first this research inspired from Hendriyana research who also make a research about The Last Samurai. Her paper displays an analysis of several literature reviews. It aims to understand the types of leadership depicted in the characters of the “Last Samurai” movie. The dilemma of cultural, political, economic and military transition for Japan in approaching the modern era is an exciting scenario depicted in the “The Last Samurai” movie. Having leaders

compete against each other in achieving their intended goals, made it easy for the audience to analyze their type of leadership (Hendriyana, 2016, *Analysis of Leadership Type in Film The Last Samurai*). The differences with this research is she told about leadership character in that film but in this research talk about samurai culture in Japan, it has a same film but in the different object.

The second Sam Kyung-Gun Lim also make some research about *The Last Samurai* but in his research he told about the themes of Western Superiority in that film. Through the discipline of the samurai, he conquers his alcoholism and learns to find tranquility. He quickly masters the way of the warrior and the sword, befriends Katsumoto, and joins him in the fight against the Meiji government and Westernization. These elements of Western superiority find additional support in the film. The only Japanese that Zwick portrays as valiant and honorable also happen to die by the end of the movie. The samurai, with the exception of their newest member Algren, are all inevitably slaughtered at the hands of the Meiji Imperial Army in one final battle. While the samurai are constantly honored throughout the film, all of the modern Japanese are depicted as cowardly, stupid, and evil (Sam Kyung, 2007, *The Themes of Western Superiority In The Last Samurai*). The difference with this research is how western people always want to show about their superiority and their power in front of Japanese people who lived there.

Then in the next research there is Widhi Aryo Nugroho who told about *The Last Samurai* too. In his research he talk about Semiotic Analysis of Inner Conflict in Nathan Algren's Figures in "The Last Samurai". This film attractively displays the inner conflict experienced by the main character, because he feels all of his actions so far are only based on the instincts of greed of his superiors. That is, just getting a lot of money in order to quell the samurai who became a symbol of the character and culture of the Japanese nation. He wanted to turn around to help the struggle

of the samurai and fight the Imperial soldiers and their weapons imported from America, his own country. Although in the end he still took decisions based on his conscience, fighting the Imperial soldiers with the risk of losing his life. To analyze the message 'inner conflict' in the film, semiotic analysis is the method that will be used. Semiotics itself learns about signs, symbols or symbols and meanings that exist in a text (the text referred to here is text in the broadest sense). The semiotic study was used to analyze the scenes that featured 'inner conflict of Nathan Algren' through three units of research analysis, namely the conflict between professional commitment and conscience, the conflict between guilt and honor, and the conflict between desire and action. The scenes that display the signs representing the three units of analysis above will be examined and analyzed to find their meaning, both denotation, connotation and analysis of myths for later research conclusions.

One of the conclusions is that culture, values of beliefs held along with the conditions of the environment and society where individuals interact will greatly influence the thoughts, attitudes and actions that will be made. And if the interests and situations conflict with conscience, the moral conflict that occurs can present doubts and doubts. But the final decision taken is determined by the individual concerned. Set in Japan during the 1870s, *The Last Samurai* tells the story of Capt. Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise), a respected American military officer hired by the Emperor of Japan to train the country's first army in the art of modern warfare. As the Emperor attempts to eradicate the ancient Imperial Samurai warriors in preparation for more Westernized and trade-friendly government policies, Algren finds himself unexpectedly impressed and influenced by his encounters with the Samurai, which places him at the center of a struggle between two eras and two worlds, with only his own sense of honor to guide him.



In the film Captain Elgren in brought in to train a new Japanese army. But when he back to Tokyo, he finds the Japanese modernization has rapidly moved forward. Katsumoto also show about Japanese culture in that film in front of their family before American and Japanese modernization attack them, then Katsumoto is extremely depressed to learn his emperorr is merely a puppet of Japanese businessmen reaping the reward of European business and war.

### **1.2 Statement Of Problem .**

Based on the background, this research is pointing out to find out the conflict between pro and contra about samurai culture in Japan that exist in that film.

If we talk about this film continually, it wil interest to know everything about this film. The Research questions are formed as follows :

- a. How does the movie present the samurai culture ?
- b. How does the movie present the relation between east and west culture ?

### **1.3 Research Objective**

- a. To describe the presentation samurai culture in that movie.
- b. To understand the relation between east and west culture.



#### **1.4 Research Significance**

This research contribute to the discourse of the film, the adaptation from reality to the film to find out what are the corellation about them all. It expands the education about reality adaptation, film contribute, in film.

However, the important significance of this research it to know and analyze on how the samurai culture in the reality and when it adapted into film to illustrate the reality. This research also will correlate to another research, a reference for collage in English Literature and for people who are interested to know about the film.

#### **1.5 Frame of Work**

The historical film has often served as a vehicle of studio prestige and artistic ambition, and many distinguished directors have made major contributions to the genre. In terms of editing, realists are also not agreed with the formative. If the movie can be edit, then have to be involved in editing a sustainable, in which the editing is compare in the structure and then reassembled.

After that, a lot of theories have sprung up, this aspect was developed from the social sciences, such as the theory of liguistic by Ferdinand de Saussure and Jacques Lacan. This theory also must be understood in the context of history, that the film is produced in accordance with the social enviroentment, for example, about civil rights, the rights of women that be challange in the movie.

Japan can be proud of its warriors of the past and the way of the warrior can be found all over in this unique country and understanding the samurai heritage provides an interesting insight into modern society and the respect.

## **1.6 Research Method**

Research method is a scientific way of finding and obtaining data. And have a link with the procedures in conducting research and technical research. It is often difficult to distinguish these three things, because they are interconnected.

This research uses qualitative research methods because pressing on the object that is in closely related film *The Last Samurai*. In this film explain about the difference between the mindset of modern society and local people who want to maintain the value of the samurai culture that has fallen down since long ago. In the samurai culture there are some aspects that are maintained down to date, but there are some who do not want and erase the cultural values.