

**THE REPRESENTATION OF ERIN GRUWELL IN THE FREEDOM  
WRITERS MOVIE**

**A GRADUATING PAPER**

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for gaining the bachelor  
degree in English Literature



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**2019**

### Final Project Statement

I certify this research is the original work of my own work. As a writer in this thesis I am, completely responsible for the content of this research. Other researcher's opinion or finding included in this research are quoted or cited in accordance with ethical standards

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Kami menyatakan bahwa skripsi tersebut sudah dapat diajukan pada sidang Munaqasyah untuk memenuhi salah satu syarat memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris.

Atas perhatiannya, kami ucapkan terimakasih

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## **PREFACE**

Praise to Allah SWT who has given the writer the opportunity to share his thoughts into this graduating paper. With His blessings the writer can finally finish this paper in time. The writer would like to share the analysis of the *Freedom Writers* movie by using representation theory by Stuart Hall.

Thanks to the writer's lecturers and friends for their opinions and ideas for the paper. There were many problems the writer faced in the data analysis process, like the analysis of data and diction. However, the writer is grateful to be able to solve the problems. The writer hopes that this paper is useful for all the readers.

## The Representation of Erin Gruwell in the *Freedom Writers* Movie

By: Wahyu Wijaya

### ABSTRACT

Films are one of the literary works that have a close relation with people's lives. Films come with a number of different genres and one of them is based on true story or real life and the genre is called "biography". The subject which was analyzed in this genre is a film entitled *Freedom Writers*, a film adapted or inspired by a novel with the title *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*. The film tells the story about a new teacher Erin Gruwell who has no experience in teaching, struggles to fight and to transform her problematic students of Room 203, and tries to make her turn into good citizens and good students because some of the students have committed crimes or joined a gang. However, it is not an easy path for Erin Gruwell because she gains resistance from other teachers at the school who do not want to help these students. The struggle and the resistance create image, characteristic and representation of Erin Gruwell in this movie. Erin Gruwell does every possible way even it has to break the rules. In this movie Erin Gruwell seems to be a more ideal teacher than the other teachers at Woodrow Wilson High School based on her actions. The research aims to analyze Erin Gruwell's representation in this movie. This research used an objective approach by implying representation theory and film theory. Representation emphasizes on finding a shared meaning or constructed meaning thorough the film language. After analyzing all the collected data, the writer concludes that Erin Gruwell is represented as a strong woman and an ideal teacher.

**Keywords:** *Freedom Writers, Movie, Representation,*

## The Representation of Erin Gruwell in the Freedom Writers Movie

Oleh: Wahyu Wijaya

### INTISARI

Film adalah salah satu karya sastra yang ada di dunia ini dan karya sastra memiliki kaitan yang erat dengan hidup kita. Film memiliki beberapa genre dan salah satunya berdasarkan cerita nyata atau kehidupan nyata dan genre itu bernama “Bindo”. Subyek yang akan di analisis dari genre itu adalah film yang berjudul “*Freedom Writers*”, sebuah film yang diangkat dan terinspirasi dari novel yang berjudul “*Freedom Writers*”, a film that adapted or inspired from a novel that titled “*The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them*”. Film ini menceritakan seorang guru baru Erin Gruwell yang tidak memiliki pengalaman penuh dalam mengajar yang harus berjuang untuk mengatasi dan memperbaiki masalah yang di alami oleh muridnya di kelas 203 dan dia juga berusaha untuk membuat muridnya menjadi warga dan murid yang baik karena beberapa murid ada yang melakukan tindak kriminal dan masuk dalam sebuah geng. Tapi ini bukanlah jalan yang mudah bagi Erin Gruwell, karena dia mendapatkan perlawanan dari guru lain di sekolah yang tidak ingin membantu murid – murid ini. Perjuangan dan perlawanan guru lain membentuk gambar, karakteristik, dan representasi Erin Gruwell di dalam film ini. Erin Gruwell melakukan banyak cara meskipun harus melanggar aturan-aturan yang di buat oleh guru-guru lain. Di dalam film ini Erin Gruwell merupakan guru yang ideal dari pada guru-guru lainnya di sekolah Woodrow Wilson Highschool berdasarkan dari tindakannya. Tujuan melakukan penelitian ini adalah untuk mencari bagaimana Erin Gruwell digambarkan di dalam film dan menunjukkan bahwa Erin Gruwell adalah seorang guru yang ideal. Penelitian ini menggunakan sebuah pendekatan obyektif dengan menggunakan teori representasi dan teori film. Teori representasi bertujuan untuk mencari makna yang terbenak dan terbagi. Setelah menganalisis semua data yang telah di temukan, penulis menyimpulkan bahwa Erin Gruwell di gambarkan sebagai wanita kuat dan guru yang ideal.

**Kata Kunci:** *Freedom Writers, Film, Representasi*

## **Motto**

“The right man in the wrong place can make all the difference in the world”

- G-man, Half life

“in a world filled with misery and uncertainty, it is a great comfort to know that,  
in the end, there is light in the darkness”

- Joshua Graham, Fallout

“Evil is evil, lesser, greater, middling makes no difference. The degree is arbitrary.  
The definition is blurred. If I’m choose between one evil and another... I’d rather  
not choose at all”

- Geralt of Rivia, The Witcher

“Wanting something does not give you the right to have it”

- Ezio Auditore da Firenze, Assassin Creed



## **Dedication**

I dedicate this final project to:

- ❖ My beloved mother and father
- ❖ My beloved brother and all my family members
- ❖ All the people and friends who have struggled to balance their time between doing their hobby and doing their work.

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Yogyakarta, 15 August 2018

The Writer,

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

According to Abrams, the word “literature” is derived from Latin *Litteraturae*, that means ‘writing’ (2009: 177). Literature has a close relation with life because literature is the replica of people’s lives. Literature, such as proses, novels, plays or any other literary works, can never be separated from the authors’ lives because it usually tells the life, imagination or experience of the authors. They take advantage of all of those to write stories in a unique writing style. Not only literary works tell us stories, but also contain both aesthetic sides and moral values, so it can make literary works become more useful and meaningful. The meaning ‘writing’ on *Litteraturae* does not mean that literary works or literature must be created through writing on a piece of paper, but literary works can also be created from a screen play or moving pictures, which is nowadays called as films or movies. The writer takes this type of literary works as the material object in this research.

Movies are considered literature because they need literary elements in the making process. Literary elements are the most important things in creating a literary work, like a film, because when it does not use these elements, the literary work will lose its essence and make it pointless or just a plain work. This is in line with Turner who said that film is seen to be analogous to literature” (via Zaeni,



2014:1). Compared to any other literary works, “Film covers a broad range, from practical (as a technical invention it is an important scientific tool) through environmental, on through pictorial, dramatic, and narrative to music” (Monaco, 2009: 30). It is suggested that movies shall not be judged as just a mere entertainment, because films can give more, such as knowledge, experience, pictures of the social, historical, or personal condition (Villarejo, 2007: 9).

Movies come with many genres, namely fiction, drama, action, comedy, horror, sci-fi, biography and so forth. In this regard, the writer takes one of the genres as the material object in this research; the genre is biography because of some reasons. First, the writer found biography genre interesting because biography is simply a bio that gives an account or detailed description about the life of a person. It entails basic facts, such as childhood, education, career, relationships, family and death. Biography is a literary genre that portrays the experiences of all these events occurring in the life of a person mostly in a chronological order. Unlike a resume or profile, biography provides life story of a subject, highlighting different aspects of his/her life (<http://literarydevices.net/biography/>). From the description, biography is a movie genre that actually happened in the real world and all characters in the movie are real and exist in the real world.

Second, biography never just tells about an ordinary person, but about great or famous figures in the world. For instance, the Indonesian movie *Habibie & Ainun* (2012) portrays the life of Habibie, the third president of Indonesia. This movie tells the story of Habibie before and after he became a president. By

watching the movie, according to what the writer has explained before, people can gather important information about Habibie, such as about how he became a president, how he has become successful, and so forth. As a result, people regard him as one of the most inspiring people in life.

The movie the writer chose is *Freedom Writers* directed by Richard LaGravenese and released on January 15, 2007. The movie has won two awards and received one nomination. It has won Golden Camera, Germany (2008) and Humanitas Prize (2007) and received a nomination from Image Awards (2008) (<http://www.imdb.com/>). The movie has received positive reviews and rating from two popular movie sites IMDb and Rotten Tomatoes. The movie receives 7.5/10 rating on IMDB and 69% of positive score on Rotten Tomatoes. The movie is based on a true story and adapted or inspired from a book with the title *The Freedom Writers Diary: How a Teacher and 150 Teens Used Writing to Change Themselves and the World Around Them* which is written by Erin Gruwell and all her students are known as The Freedom Writers.

The movie tells the story of a woman named Erin Gruwell that has just got a job as an English teacher at Woodrow Wilson High School, adding that it is her first time of becoming a teacher. She has to face a problem that her school has. The integration has ruined the school since previously stellar academic standing has been replaced with many students who will be lucky to graduate or even be literate. The students that Erin teaches are notorious for their bad reputation. Some of them are gang members, commit crimes, and are racists to each other. Erin Gruwell wants to change all these things; she wants to make her students become

good students and good citizens. She has to endure any kinds of problems and try to help solve her students' problems. She can slowly handle the students and get closer to them. Finally, she teaches her students how to write a book. In this book, she wants her students to tell a story of their life and how they handle it and solve any problems that they had.

The writer chose Freedom Writers movie because the movie has an interesting conflict from the struggle of a teacher to racism among students. The movie shows that every conflict is connected as the story progresses. The movie shows how the main character Erin Gruwell must struggle to find a way to end racism in her class. Racism in this movie becomes the main conflict and makes the movie itself interesting. Each student in the class is divided into different gangs and all of this happens because the students are racist or stereotyping each other. Not only the students, but also the teachers in Woodrow Wilson High School create rules to put aside these students because of racism. Erin Gruwell has an objective to solve this problem and make them see that they only ruin their life.

Furthermore, the writer finds this movie full of moral values. It can teach a lot about life and how to handle hard life. In the movie the viewers can see how the students handle their own life, a life where they need to see war between their friends and die in front of their eyes. Racism and stereotypes are the things to blame. It is displayed in the movie that racism and stereotypes bring nothing but pain and chaos. The viewers will learn not only a number of moral values, but also how to become a great teacher and a great person at the same time. This movie depicts how Erin Gruwell handles the problematic situation very well. The

writer found that in this movie almost all the characters, except Erin Gruwell, believe in racism and stereotypes. The way Erin Gruwell handles this situation has an Islamic value contained in the surah:

يَا أَيُّهَا الَّذِينَ ءَامَنُوا لَا يَسْخَرْ قَوْمٌ مِّن قَوْمٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُونُوا خَيْرًا  
مِّنْهُمْ وَلَا نِسَاءٌ مِّن نِّسَاءٍ عَسَىٰ أَن يَكُنَّ خَيْرًا مِّنْهُنَّ وَلَا تَلْمِزُوا أَنفُسَكُمْ وَلَا  
تَنَابَزُوا بِالْأَلْقَابِ بِئْسَ الْأَسْمُ الْفُسُوقُ بَعْدَ الْإِيمَانِ وَمَن لَّمْ يَتُبْ فَأُولَٰئِكَ هُم  
الظَّالِمُونَ ١١

Translation :

O you who have believed, let not a people ridicule [another] people; perhaps they may be better than them; nor let women ridicule [other] women; perhaps they may be better than them. And do not insult one another and do not call each other by [offensive] nicknames. Wretched is the name of disobedience after [one's] faith. And whoever does not repent - then it is those who are the wrongdoers. [Al-Hujurat, 49:11]

The surah above tells and teaches us not to ridicule or mock each other with a nickname that can hurt others' feelings. From the explanation and the surah above the writer will take one of those problems as the research object. Almost every character in the movie ridicules each other; even the teachers always talk bad to the students of room 203 just because they have different and rough life. However, Erin Gruwell treats them differently. She treats them with care and patience. She never talks bad things to her student. The character of Erin Gruwell in the movie is built from this problem.

In 1992, a riot known as ‘1992 Los Angeles riots’ took place. The riot happened because four Los Angeles police officers who were caught beating an unarmed African-American motorist in an amateur video are acquitted of any wrongdoing in the arrest (<https://www.history.com>). The movie takes place in Woodrow Wilson High School Long Beach, California and it is only 30 km away from where the riot took place. Long Beach City also gets impacts from this riot as what the movie told. Woodrow Wilson High School Long Beach has become an integration school because of this tragedy.

This is also what makes Erin Gruwell become a teacher in this school. She wants to fight for the students, to change their life for the better. The tragedy also makes the area around the school is unsafe for white people like Erin Gruwell to live in. Even though the riot is over, the aftermath still exists. Racial discrimination will still be a sensitive issue to white people, but Erin Gruwell does not show any fear to live in the neighborhood and does not stop to do her job. She has a strong push to reach her goal. In the movie, Erin Gruwell is the only one who fights for the students and against racial discrimination. No other characters in the movie do the same. Erin Gruwell remains strong despite fighting against this problem alone.

Erin Gruwell is a strong, but rebellious woman. She will do anything even by bending or breaking the rules as long she can help her students and reach her goal. In the movie, Erin Gruwell does not break the rules once. She does what she does because she thinks it is the right thing to do and the best for the students.

Erin Gruwell also often oversteps the authority of her superiors or her senior co-workers who have stronger authority in the school.

In the movie, Erin Gruwell also becomes a man of the house in her family by supporting her family more than her husband does. Erin Gruwell will do anything to achieve her goal to help students of room 203. She even decides to have more than one job because she thinks it will aid her financially and help her husband who has a job with minimum wage. However, her husband has a different way of thinking. He thinks that Erin Gruwell seems more like a husband than him. He feels useless in their relationship, so he divorces her. However, it does not stop Erin Gruwell from doing more jobs to support her financially.

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes that Erin Gruwell is a fearless, rebellious and strong woman. The author and the moviemaker show all of these aspects by focusing the movie on Erin Gruwell. The author focuses on the struggle of Erin Gruwell to achieve her goal rather than on the main conflict of the movie itself. The writer thinks that by doing so the author has reasons by focusing on Erin Gruwell. Erin Gruwell becomes the main focus of this film even though the movie is given the title "Freedom Writers". Freedom Writers is a nickname of students of room 203. Therefore, it is expected that the movie puts the focus on a story of the students of room 203 becoming freedom writers. The objective or the main focuses of this research, because the movie focuses on Erin Gruwell instead of the students of room 203 known as Freedom Writers.

Erin Gruwell's characters are displayed by how she acts in the entire movie. She is a passionate woman who will do anything to achieve her goal. Erin Gruwell has a noble goal that she wants to change her students to become better citizens. The writer thinks that from the explanation above the characters of Erin Gruwell are quite different from what common teachers do. Teachers should not bend or break any rules. The movie never that Erin Gruwell teaching her students with ordinary methods like what common teachers do. Yet, does this make Erin Gruwell an ideal teacher from all characters explained above?

“Extrinsically motivated students strongly endorse the importance of an ideal teacher being “caring” (encouraging and compassionate) and “professional” (knowledgeable and confident). Implications for instructors include rewarding extrinsically motivated student by recognizing their performance and mentoring students who lack self-efficacy.” (Kommaraju, 2013:104-110)

To prove that Erin Gruwell is an ideal teacher, the writer analysed through how she handles or teaches her students in the movie. Erin Gruwell has a “caring” trait. She cares about her students by having a goal to change her students' lives to be better and willing to do anything to achieve that. Erin Gruwell also has “professional” trait. She tries to handle her students very well. As the writer has already explained that Classroom 203 where Erin Gruwell teaches is filled with troubled students. In the end of the movie, however, she succeeds to change her students to become better people by employing her unique teaching method. This explanation suggests that Erin Gruwell has every aspect of becoming an ideal

teacher, which is the main reason why the writer was interested in conducting this research.

The aim of this research is to find out whether Erin Gruwell's representation has same aspect or is close to be considered an ideal teacher. The characters of Erin Gruwel in the movie shows that she is an ideal teacher, but it is necessary to discover how the movie represents her. The writer found this interesting to analyze. However, the writer will not focus on disapproving her as an ideal teacher, but rather to support her as she is.

The constructed meaning of Erin Gruwell as an ideal teacher is discovered based on how the movie represents her. The writer analyzed this matter and found how the representation of Erin Gruwell makes her an ideal teacher in this movie. The writer diligently analyzed what Erin Gruwell characters are based on how she behaves and talks. First, the writer found how Erin Gruwell is characterized. Consequently, the writer successfully made the interpretation of how Erin Gruwell is portrayed by the author. Second, the writer used this interpretation to discover the the constructed meaning of Erin Gruwell.

The writer focuses not only on how Erin Gruwell is constructed as an ideal teacher, but also on another constructed meaning that develops from her representation in the movie.



## **1.2 Research Question**

Based on the explanation in background of the study, the writer conducted this research to answer the following question: what is the representation of Erin Gruwel as an ideal teacher in the movie *Freedom Writers*?

## **1.3 Objective of the Study**

The writer conducted this research to achieve the objective of this research, which is to analyze the representation of Erin Gruwell in the movie *Freedom Writers*.

## **1.4 Significances of the Study**

This research is expected to have significances as follows:

1. The research on Erin Gruwell's representation and its meaning in *Freedom Writers* movie can be a reference to the next researchers of *Freedom Writers* movie.
2. Erin Gruwell's representation the writer analyzed can hopefully help the readers understand and follow Erin Gruwell's steps.
3. Hopefully, this research can help the writer himself understand better about how to become a better person based on the representation of Erin Gruwell in the movie.

## **1.5 Literature Review**

The writer discovered that some of the works from other researchers can help the writer on his own research. Most of them have the same research object

as the writer does which is *Freedom Writers* movie. However, none of them discuss contrasting teacher character in film.

The first work is the graduating paper of Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta by Ulfa Puspa Sari (2015) entitled “Social Identity Formation of Eva in Freedom Writers”. In this paper, she focused on how Eva forms her social identity. She used Social Identity Theory by Henri Tajfel to conduct the analysis. In the research, she concluded that Eva’s social identity formation process is influenced by family, environment, and self-experience. The writer takes advantage of her research to know Eva’s characters because one of the writer’s problems is to try to contrast characters in the movie that may help build Erin Gruwell’s representation. As a result, the writer is able to know all characters in the movie, especially Eva.

The second work is a graduating paper of Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta by Aan (2013) entitled “*Nilai-nilai Islam dalam Film Freedom Writers*”. In this paper, he focused on finding Islamic values contained in the movie. In the research, he concluded that there are at least nine Islamic values found in the movie. This research helps the writer to understand islamic values displayed in the movie, so the writer can relate the current research with Islam.

The third one has a different subject of the research, but it has the same theory with the writer’s. It is a graduating paper of Islamic State University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta by Tri Utami Widayanti (2014) entitled “The

Representation of Miranda Priestly in *The Devil Wears Prada Movie*". In this paper, she focused on the research to find the representation of Miranda Priestly's characters in the movie. She employed the representation theory by Stuart Hall as her main theory. In this research, she concluded that Miranda Priestly is represented as a strong woman. The writer took advantage of this research paper to be more knowledgeable about the representation theory.

## **1.6 Theoretical Approach**

This research will discuss how Erin Gruwell in the movie is represented. Thus, the writer used the Representation Theory as the theoretical approach and the film theory as the supporting theory.

### **1.6.1 Representation Theory**

In this research, the writer employed the representation theory by Stuart Hall to analyze the data. Representation theory is suitable to find out the racial representation in *Freedom Writers*. According to Hall, language operates as a representational system; it shares meaning, ideas and thoughts through sign and symbol (1997:1). In literary works, meaning is important to understand the literary works themselves. Thus, to make people understand the meaning in a literary work, people need to understand how meaning is created. As Hall mentioned, language is used to share the meaning contained in a literary work to other people. Language can be shared through words, sounds, or gestures. Moreover, in literary works, especially films, one of the language forms used is sign and symbol.

Culture also plays an important role in representation theory because representation connects meaning and language to culture (Hall, 1997:15). In *Freedom Writers*, culture is one the most important aspects of this movie because it is concerned about American culture and society. To create meaning and language, culture is needed as a foundation since language is created through culture. For example, Indonesian language exists because of Indonesian culture. It would not be the same and would be imposible to make if Indonesian language was created through American culture because both of the cultures are different. The same thing applies to movies. To make language in films, it is necessary to consider what culture is portrayed. *Freedom Writers* portrays the American language and society. Thus, it needs American culture to create language within the movie. Therefore, representation theory uses culture to reveal the language and the meaning of the movie. Understanding the culture helps comprehend meaning through film language, such as sign and symbol. Most importantly, meaning is influenced by culture.

Representation can be interpreted as the use of language to uncover the implicit meaning within the movie to other people. In this research, *Freedom Writers* uses culture to share its language. Thus, making how every character in this film is represented or streotyped is through culture that becomes the background of this film. Consequently, the writer examined the cultural background in the movie to understand how Erin Gruwell is being constructed through every sign and symbol within the movie so that sign and symbol can be shared to the same language that people understand.

Representation divides the into two processes of representation. they are the process to construct meaning of the movie maker's concept. First, a process sets of system of concept around in people heads to interpret the world. Second, a process shares meaning of the construction (1997:17-18).

Three approaches are needed, according to Hall (1997:24-25), to understand the meaning, namely reflective, intentional, and constructionist or constructivist approaches. Reflective is the meaning that reflects from the meaning that already exists in the world. Meanwhile, intentional is meaning created through how the filmmakers share the meaning through their own language. The last approach is constructionist which is the meaning created through shared meaning that already exists in the world and gains knowledge about that meaning to generate new meaning.

### **1.6.2 Film Theory**

In addition, the writer used film theory to conduct the analysis in the current research. Film theory helps the writer to find meaning in every scene, frame, or any other film element inside the movie. This theory helps the writer deeply understand the movie, so the writer can easily find the necessary data. The writer employed the film language and *mise-en-scene* concept.

Ideology and language can be shared through film; thus, films are considered the representation of ideology and language (Turner, 1999:153). Films can share the ideology and language through *mise-en-scene* and camera work. Thus, the movie makers use this to do “the social practice of making images, sounds, signs, stands for something” (Turner, 1999: 48).

*Mise-en-scene* emphasizes the setting, lighting, costume, hair, make-up, figure behavior, cinematography, sound, and editing (Villarejo, 2007: 28-29). Film theory also uses a work of camera, like shot and angle. Every shot and angle in camera work on movie gives the viewers some perspectives about the movie. In this line of sense, camera work tells what the movie makers want to tell to the viewers, or in another word, a meaning. Villarejo (2007: 38) stated that in camera work there are seven different types of shots: extreme long shot (ELS), long shot (LS), medium long shot (MLS), medium shot (MS), medium close-up (MCU), close-up (CU), and extreme close-up (ECU).

In this research, the writer examined the racial representation in *Freedom Writers* through signs and symbols. The film theory helped the writer examine them. Signs and symbols are forms of language within the film created by the movie maker to tell people about something. The writer used film theory to look for the signs and symbols from every angle and shot within the camera.

## **1.7 Method of Research**

### **1.7.1 Type of Research**

The type of this research was qualitative research. One of the types of qualitative research is library research. Qualitative research involves the quality and kinds and helps gain insight into the problems or cases. Through the qualitative research in this work, the writer found the meaning, concept and characters of Erin Gruwell. The writer collected the data from library as a reference. The writer gathered information from the Internet, books, articles, and

journals as sources of additional data. The current research used Stuart Hall's representation theory as the main theory to answer the research problem.

### **1.7.2 Data Resources**

The main data in this research were *Freedom Writers* movie. The secondary data used in this research were books and Internet that related to the topic of research.

### **1.7.3 Data Collection Technique**

This research used documentation method to collect the data. The first step was watching *Freedom Writers* several times, so the writer understands the characters, plot, and scenes in order to analyse them. The second step was recording the data that were important and related to the focus of the current research, such as the scenes, dialogues and acts displayed in the movie. The writer also collected the supporting data from books and the Internet which have relation with the current research topic.

### **1.7.4 Data Analysis**

The writer analyzed the data descriptively. The writer interpreted and analyzed the collected data in details using representation theory. The writer was aimed to find Erin Gruwell's representation and to prove her as an ideal teacher.

The first step in data analysis was classifying the related data to the character by examining the scenes and dialogue of the film. The data the writer evaluated were the representation of Erin Gruwell and the meaning behind that representation. The second step was employing representation theory to analyse

the data. Finally, the writer finished the analysis by drawing the conclusion of the research.

## **1.8 Paper Organization**

The paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter contains the general information about the research. The second chapter describes the intrinsic elements of the movie. The third chapter is the analysis of the data using representation theory and the discussion on Erin Gruwell's representation by using Stuart Hall's theory. The fourth chapter is the conclusion and the result of analysis.



## **CHAPTER IV**

### **CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

#### **4.1 Conclusion**

This research is designed to figure out the representation of Erin Gruwell character. This research analyzes the representation of Erin Gruwell to get the constructed meaning of the representation. The writer formulates the data to the theory of representation by conducting two processes of representation. The first process describes the movie maker's concept of representation. The second process describes the Erin Gruwell's construction that is proved by conducting the elements of movie, scenes, and dialogues.

The construction shows the meaning of the movie maker's concept in representation. There are three representations of Erin Gruwell such as a liberator, a mother, and a hero.

Those representations are analyzed to get the constructed meaning in Erin Gruwell character. The writer concludes that the constructed meaning of Erin Gruwell shows that she is an ideal teacher and a strong woman. The constructed meaning found is the unintentional constructed meaning, and this constructed meaning is gained by focusing on the research toward the elements of the movie rather than the movie maker

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

The movie focused on Erin Gruwell's struggles to help her students against the oppression system that the school created. How Erin Gruwell struggles

to help the student face the problems can be analyzed using the representation theory proposed by Stuart Hall. It can be concluded that *Freedom Writers* movie tells about the ideal teacher such as Erin Gruwell that want to fight for her students' freedom to get a better education. Thus, in the end of the movie Erin Gruwell succeed to make her students became good citizens. The writer suggests the next researchers to employ another theory to analyze Erin Gruwell such as feminist masculinity. In addition, the next researcher may find another interesting character or theme in the movie that can be analyzed using other theories.

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