

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer discussed about the background of the study, formulation of research questions, purpose of the study, significance of study, scope and limitation of study, and definition of key term.

A. Background of Study

As we know being a teacher is not easy. Teacher must be physically and mentally prepared to be good role model for their students. But even though being a teacher is not an easy matter it is an extraordinary job. Trying to understand the students is a challenge for a teacher. Understand the children are important for a teacher because it is a form of effort to communicate with students. Communication takes an important role in the relationship between teachers and students. The teacher's role needs to build good communication with his students. If there is no conversation and care it would not be successful because of the misunderstanding between teacher and learner during the conversation (Victoria Fromkin: 2011). This means that smooth communication makes it easier for the teacher to carry out his role. The teacher must be able to determine the right teaching strategy, handle the classroom, and be able to make teaching and learning activities fun. These things can be realized by good communication between teacher and students.

The role of the teacher is defined as the act of the teacher “to insert scaffolding in learning plans of a learner, assist the teacher in taking control of the teacher learning and help the teacher to realize the learning goals”

(Shaikh & Khoja, 2011). When the teacher takes a role in classroom control, the teacher will find it easier to observe student attitudes. Student attitudes also play an important role in the teaching and learning process. An attitude is defined as “a relatively enduring organization of beliefs, feelings, and behavioral tendencies towards the socially significant object, groups, events or symbols” (Hogg & Vaughan, 2005, p. 150). Based on that statement it can be concluded that the achievement of teaching learning process can be seen from the change in behavior showed by students. When students show certain behaviors, the teacher can find out whether students have an interest in learning or not. This will be the basis for the teacher in determining the next learning strategy in order to achieve the learning objectives.

The teacher's role and student's attitude are interesting topics to discuss. Many stories about teacher's struggles are presented in films and books. One of the films that impressed the writer was *Freedom Writers* Film by Richard LaGravenese that based on true story. The film tells about the struggle of a new teacher named Erin Gruwell at Woodrow Wilson High School. With a background in 1992, Los Angeles is full of gang riots. Racism issues are widespread throughout society. At Woodrow Wilson High School children only make friends of the same race. There is no harmony in the school environment. However, this did not make Erin Gruwell give up, this is precisely what made her even more challenged.

Based on the explanation the writer wants to describe how Erin Gruwell performed her role as a teacher. With all the chaos and racism issues

unstoppable, Erin Gruwell is still trying to carry out her role as a teacher. In addition, children at Woodrow Wilson High School who must attend school amidst the threat of gangsters every day are a focus that is no less interesting to discuss in this study. So with these reasons writer decided to take research with the title “**Teacher’s Roles in changing students’ attitudes in *Freedom Writers* Film by Richard LaGravenese**”.

B. Statement of Research Problems

Based on the background of the study above, the researcher formulated the question as follows:

1. How are the character of Mrs. Erin Gruwell and the students of Woodrow Wilson High School?
2. How does Mrs. Erin Gruwell change students’ attitude at Woodrow Wilson High School?
3. What is the effect of Mrs. Erin Gruwell’s effort to change students’ attitude at Woodrow Wilson High School?

C. Objectives of Research Problems

1. To describe the character of Mrs. Erin Gruwell and the students of Woodrow Wilson High School
2. To know Mrs. Erin Gruwell change students’ attitude at Woodrow Wilson High School
3. To know the effect of Mrs. Erin Gruwell’s effort to change students’ attitude at Woodrow Wilson High School

D. Significance of the Research

In the significance of the research, the result of this research is expected to be any use as follow:

1. For the Future Researcher

The result of the research will give information for other researchers; it can be used as reference or useful information about the teacher's roles to change student's attitude.

2. For the Students

The result of this research was expected to be useful for students who wants to analyze how attitude affects the teaching and learning process. So that it can be a reference for students in their behavior in the classroom.

E. Scope and limitation of the Research

Actually there are many aspects that writer can be analyzed in the film, but here the writer focuses on the role of the teacher who try to change students' attitude in Woodrow Wilson High School. The role of the teacher here is very important in changing the attitudes of students. Mrs. Erin Gruwell's efforts to change the attitudes of her students are very interesting to discuss.

F. Definition of Key Terms

Definition of key terms is necessary to be given in order to avoid misunderstanding. Based on the title of the study, this research is focused on teacher's roles in changing students' attitude in Woodrow Wilson High

School. In order to avoid misunderstanding about the term used in this research, some related terms are needed to be defined.

a. Teacher Role

Ngalim Purwanto (1980: 169) emphasized that the role of the teacher is the creation of a series of interrelated behaviors that are carried out in certain situations and are related to the progress of behavior change and the development of students who are their goals.

b. Attitude

Attitude is a form of our treatment and how we interact with others. Based on Krech and Crutchfield (1948) Attitude as an enduring organization of motivational, emotional, perceptual and cognitive processes with respect to some aspect of the individual's world'.

c. Character

Character is behavioral values in individuals who are formed from various backgrounds. Baumrind (1998, 4) "Character refers to such positive and cultivated habits as social responsibility, moral commitment, self-discipline and resoluteness by which constellation the whole person is judged to be deficient, adequate, or exemplary."