# CHAPTER I

# INTRODUCTION

This chapter present background of research, statements of research problem, objectives of the research, significance of the research, scope and limitation of the research, and definition of key terms.

## A. Background of Research

Education is a process of activity or deliberate learning activities on the basis of the importance of efforts to shape and direct humans. Education makes someone more concerned and learn from what is not yet known. Therefore, education is very important in determining a better future.

Education is the process of transferring knowledge to each individual and a higher understanding of the specific object which can shape character, attitude, and behavior (Kim, 2015: 174). This means that education is not just a process of teaching and learning in the classroom between students and teachers. However, it is necessary to form a character for students.

Lickona (1992), character education is a deliberate effort to help people understand, care about, and act upon core ethical values. This means that education is not only an intellectual learning process, but the formation of students in character, morality, and ethics is part of education. Simply put, character education is an effort to build character through one's personal character to become a better person.

In character building, a teacher instills and teaches good behaviors in the educational process in the form of actions or habits in the classroom so that students will get used to these habits. Character building must be done consistently and continuously so that students get used to it.

Character education is carried out on the basis of establishing a conducive and effective learning environment. In addition, environmental factors are taken into consideration in character education. This is because students come from different backgrounds so that students have different characters and personalities. These differences can come from differences in race, class, environment, and others. It can form a multicultural class.

The main key of the multicultural class is a sense of tolerance for differences. Tolerance is part of character education. Tolerance is the basis for establishing a safe, comfortable and conducive learning environment. The application of tolerance character education makes students concerned about the importance of respecting differences and with differences they can complement each other.

The process of learning and cultivating character education is not only through learning in the classroom. The development of science and technology makes the process of learning and cultivating character education possible through technology and information media. The media includes visual, audio and audio visual aspects. We can find this technology and information media in everyday life, namely movie.

Movie is a public entertainment medium that can be accessed anytime and anywhere featuring visuals, audio and audio-visual. Apart from being a medium of entertainment, films can attract people's attention because films have the ability to deliver messages to the audience. In addition, the film is a representation of real life so that the audience can take a meaning and lessons from the film to be applied in life. Therefore, films have a great impact and are in demand by people from all walks of life.

The development of the movie industry has given a change to movie production which does not only produce a limited number of film genres. However, now movie are produced in various genres, such as educational movie, namely movie that present entertainment as well as contain educational elements that aim to educate the audience in certain aspects.

In some previous studies, an analysis of moral values has been conducted by many researchers. The first previous study by Harerimana (2019) entitled "Character Education Through Digital Technology in the Classroom (Analysis of A Film: Freedom Writer by Richard Lagravence, starred by Hillary Swank)". The result is Character education and development are significantly facilitated by the films in the classrooms, and this provides teachers the opportunity to purpose the use of films in classrooms for character education and development.

The second previous study by Febriyanto (2022) entitled "Peningkatan Mutu Pendidikan Dalam Film Freedom Writers dan Laskar Pelangi Melalui Pendidikan Karakter". The result is Freedom Writers is inclined to how

teachers develop and carry the direction of education, meanwhile, Laskar Pelangi is more inclined to character education of students.

The third previous study by Okelessiya (2021) entitled "Character Education As Revealed in the Movie Freedom Writers Directed by Richard Lagravence". The result is only five of character education revealed, were honesty, tolerance, curiosity, creativity and peace-loving, and particularly for students as the younger generation who must use those values in their daily lives as a lifestyle.

Based on the explanation above, the writer has an interest in researching and digging deeper into character education in the film The Freedom Writer. In this study, researchers will focus on research on one character education in the film, namely **Tolerance Character Education in Multicultural Class in the Movie "The Freedom Writer"**. The researcher chose the "The Freedom Writers" movie as the object of research because based on the research title above, the movie contains educational elements because in the movie there are teachers and students who play a role in the film. In addition, the movie also contains elements of character education.

The movie is adaptation from the true story of a teacher named Erin Gruwell. The film tells of an English teacher named Erin Gruwell who teaches in a multicultural class where students come from various races and group. The film has meaning and lessons that can be taken, one of which is the cultivation of character education in multicultural classes. This film can be a teacher's reference for educating students in the formation of character

education in a unique and creative way, as has been applied by Erin Gruwell to her students.

The focus of this research is tolerance character education. Tolerance is part of the various character education described in Indonesian law in Permendikbud No. 20 of 2018, there are 18 characters education; religious, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hardworking, creativity, independence, democrat, curiousity, national spirit, patriotism, appreciating achievement, communicative, love peace, environmental care, social care, responsibility, and reading interesting.

The difference between this research and the previous studies described above is that this research focuses on one type of character education and examines this character education more deeply, namely tolerance. Meanwhile, from the previous studies examining character education, they only mentioned what character education was in the film and made a comparison of character education between the film "The Freedom Writers" and the film "Laskar Pelangi".

## B. Statements of Research Problem

Based on the statements of research problem that can be identified as follows:

1. How are the teacher's strategies in building up the students' tolerance character in the "The Freedom Writers" movie?

## C. Objectives of Research

Based on the statement of research problem, the objectives of research are formulated as follows:

1. To find out the teacher's strategies in building up the students' tolerance character in the "The Freedom Writers" movie.

## D. Significance of Research

The significance of this study is aimed at the teacher, student, and researcher. For teachers, this research is a reference for learning and teaching activity to build up character education in students. For students, this research reminds them that character education can be learned through films. For researchers, this research can be a reference in further writing that is more relevant.

## E. Scope and Limitation of Research

In order to avoid explanations and descriptions outside of the research, researchers limit the scope of research to make it easier for researchers to focus and control research. The scope and limitatio that are the focus of this research are:

1. The scope of this research is the film "The Freedom Writers" which is the object of this research.

2. The limitation of this research is the researcher uses Indonesian of law in Permendikbud No. 20 of 2018, there are 18 characters education;

religious, honesty, tolerance, discipline, hard working, creativity, independence, democrat, curiousity, national spirit, patriotism, appreciating achievement, communicative, love peace, environmental care, social care, responsibility, and reading interesting. From the 18 types of education mentioned above, the researcher only chose one type of character education as the research focus.

3. In focusing research on the tolerance character education used theory of Thomas Lickona in his book entitled "Educating for Character: How Our Schools Can Teach Respect and Responsibility" (1991). Three types of tolerance in the book: tolerance as a respectful attitude, tolerance as acceptance of diversity, and tolerance as patience and perseverance.

## F. Definition of Key Terms

1. Character Education

Character education comes from two words, namely education and character. Education is the process of teaching and learning activities in teaching science from a teacher to students. Meanwhile, character is a person's personality that grows naturally within him related to aspects of habit, attitude, and manner. A person's character can be influenced by the environment in which a person is.

It can be concluded that character education is an effort to build one's character which can be done through teaching and learning processes in the classroom and outside the classroom. Education is not only related

to knowledge but also improving existing characters to become better characters through habituation, attitude and manner.

2. Tolerance

Tolerance is an attitude of mutual respect, respect, and acceptance of differences between individuals and individuals, individuals and groups, or groups and groups. Tolerance teaches the importance of maintaining peace and harmony in differences. Tolerance is highly respected to be applied in life because humans are plural and every human being is different.

3. Multicultural Class

Derived from the words "multi" and "cultural". The word "multi" means plural, while "cultural" means culture. According to Syaifudin, multicultural emphasizes inter-cultural relations with the understanding that the existence of a culture must consider the existence of other cultures. This means that in a multicultural environment there must be a sense of mutual recognition of the existence of other cultures. It was concluded that a multicultural class is a class that contains students from different backgrounds, such as culture, race, class, and so on.

4. Film

Film is an entertainment medium that is formed from a combination of visual, audio and audio visual in one frame where the frame can be projected through a projector on the screen so that the film looks like a live image. Film is a form of representation of real life.

5.  The Freedom Writers

This film tells of an English teacher named Erin Gruwell who teaches at Woodrow Wilson High School. Erin Gruwell teaches class 203. The class contains teenagers who grow up in an environment full of conflict tension as a result of mass riots due to racial conflict in America. This makes the students in the class compartmentalized based on their race. They grew up with a grudge and suspicion for one another.

Erin Gruwell was determined to change everything. She wants her students to realize that hate only makes things worse and education is a way for them to get a better life. That determination Erin poured into a learning method that was quite unique. She distributed blank notebooks to his students. They are free to write down whatever they want, events they experience or hatred they feel.

The method turned out to be successful. The way they view the life they have lived so far has changed. Revenge and suspicion that creates distance changes acceptance that unites.