

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Study

Globalization is a phenomenon where the international integration arising from the interchange of world view, ideas and other aspect of culture. This situation was begun in the era of 19th and early 20th where economies and cultures grew very quickly in every part in the world and no exception in Indonesia. Yet despite bring advantages such as the exchange of culture and the development in technology, this situation also brings disadvantages precisely in the moral of the new generation.

Indonesia as a growing country is considered not ready to face this situation. With the development of technology, the new generation in Indonesia undergo a moral crisis and seems to forgotten the history of Indonesia and its culture. The exchanges of the culture as the effect of globalization, make the new generation love other nation's culture, especially Western culture which bring a big change since the early of 20th century. This is the problem that keep become the topic of conversation and an issue which interest the people to solve it so the new generation would like to love their own culture and arts which part of the culture, might become a tool to solve this social issue.

Arts is considered as a represent of an expression and usually influenced by the culture and which in turn helps to change the culture. Arts also included a literature such as a poetry, novel, short story and movie which is usually adapted

from a novel.

Literature stated by Hadjira (2013) is a mirror that reflect human life and society with its characteristic and development and this is what make literature different over nations and periods. Later, he also said that a literary work which contain various themes, also rich with symbolic elements such as colour, form or animal to convey a message.

Symbol itself in a literature is the deepest meaning and hidden meaning in a piece of work and often used to represent things, a moral or religious belief or value (Cuddon, 1998). Perrine (1966: 83) states that “we- as the literary readers, are expected to dig some new and existing experiences through literary works, because in fact, we do not only get experiences by involving directly into such action, but we can get it through reading some literary works as well”.

In literature, symbol basically carries the meaning of the literary device that the writers use to convey their message in directly by using symbol, whether for the sake of decorating the work in order to give artistic beauty or for other purpose (Amraoui & Salah, 2009). So, it can be said that a literary work without a symbolism in it, is just like a work of word on a paper or a picture of documentary video and the symbol in a literary work not only make the novel, movie or a poetry look beautiful but also worth to watch because movie as a literary work, reflected or mirrored the real life of human being (Fadaee, 2011).

Symbol itself, not only used in literary work but also in daily life as a tool of communication to deliver a meaning through an image. It is also used to represent a certain group or community. As shared in en.wikipedia.org, Symbols are the

basis of all human understanding and serve as vehicles of conception for all human knowledge. Symbols facilitate understanding of the world in which we live, thus serving as the grounds upon which we make judgments. In this way, people use symbols not only to make sense of the world around them, but also to identify and cooperate in society.

Symbol and culture is related each other. Human as part of the culture and have a close relationship with the culture can be considered as symbolic creature. As stated by Herusatoto (2008:16) who said that *“begitu eratnya kebudayaan manusia itu dengan simbol-simbol sehingga manusia dapat pula disebut makhluk bersimbol (so close that a culture with the symbols so that it can be said that human is a symbolic creature).*

In relation to culture, Womack (2005:1) states that “symbols are the language of religions, magic and expressive culture, including art, literature, theatre, music, festival and sporting event”. This means that symbols exist in culture and part of it, in term of an action or sign or picture. The example of symbolism in culture can be found in any culture for example is the different pattern and colour in Japanese traditional clothes, a kimono, which the colour represents the seasonal weather or the feeling of the user.

The existent of a culture is really important. For example is in the East Asia. The culture influences the behaviour, the custom and the daily life activities of the people in that continent. This is because Asia consist of many nationalities, societies, and ethnic group in one region. Japan itself, as part of Asia continent

which located precisely in East Asian, is highly honoured and keep their culture despite being one of the advanced country which also being influence by the western country's culture. This can be seen by the different kinds of festivals, design of the garden that maintaining the balance of the nature, the clothes, and some historical heritage such as the castles and some beautiful temples. The Japan culture itself is influenced by the Chinese culture. Showed in the language characteristic, religious and also philosophy which is derived from Confucianism. (http://en.m.wikipedia.org/wiki/Culture_of_Asia)

The reflection of a culture can be represented in any kinds of literary works such as a film which sometimes, adapted from a novel.

Memoirs of a Geisha is an American epic/historical drama film that adapted from a novel with the same title from the author Arthur Golden and directed by Rob Marshall which also the director of famous film, *Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides*.

It is a film which consists of symbolic elements in the story such as the handkerchief which symbolize the main character's first love and water which symbolize the main character's personality. This film, despite being an American film which the dialogue mostly in English, use Japan culture as the background of the story.

Analyzing symbolism in a film/movie can be more difficult than in any printed text (novel, advertisement, short story) because a film is a moving picture and need an extra attention to recognize the symbols. Meanwhile, to understand

the relationship between the symbols and the story in the film can be more complicated and need more observation. Furthermore, Perrine (1974), the meaning of the literary symbol should be recognized according to its context. Thus, this research intends to find out the meaning of the symbol that consist in the Memoir of a Geisha's movie based on the Japanese culture.

B. Problem of the Study

In line with the background, the problems are formulated as forward

1. What kinds of symbols used in Rob Marshall's movie *Memoir of a Geisha*?
2. What are the meaning of the symbols in Rob Marshall's movie *Memoir of a Geisha*?

C. Objective of the Study

The object of the study in this research are

1. To find out the kinds of symbols in Rob Marshall's movie *Memoir of a Geisha*.
2. To explain the meaning of the symbol in Rob Marshall's movie *Memoir of a Geisha*.

D. Scope of the Study

The scope of the study in this research was focused on the symbolic elements which was presented in the movie to find out the kinds of the symbols and the meaning of the symbols in the movie.

E. Significant of the Study

Finding of this study are expected to give both theoretical and practical significant in symbolism study.

Theoretically, the finding of this study is expected to be significant:

- 1) For English literature student as additional theory in literature
- 2) To provide knowledge and understanding of semiotic, especially in symbolism for the readers and English literature student.

Practically, the finding of this study is expected to be significant:

- 1) For the readers who want to learn the symbols in Japanese culture or comparing it with other Asian culture.
- 2) For English literature student to gain the interest to study the symbols in Indonesian culture and use symbol as references in their field of research.