

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. The Background of Study

Racism is one of big problems in world today. It is a product of the complex interaction in a given society of a race-based world view with prejudice, stereotyping, and discrimination. Racism can occur in social actions, practices, or political system that supports the expression of prejudice or aversion in discriminatory practices. It may make negative and fearful attitudes which result in the violation of basic human rights because people belong to the inferior race are considered as less than human.

Racism is categorized as serious social problem that may take place wherever since it is related to life. Life has many elements and differences in terms of biological concept. Life also cannot be separated from human and human rights, which are the right for having prosperity, living as what other people do, and being admitted as the same of God's creation. Genocide which is related to racism does not only occur in abroad but also in Indonesia. When President Soeharto came as a new president, his regime created many anti-Chinese legislations in Indonesia. One of them was 127/U/Kep/12/1966 which mandated that Chinese who lived in Indonesia were being forced to adopt Indonesian sounding names instead of the standard three-word or two-word Chinese names. The government also modified a person's name without consent from time to time, such as adding a corresponding Chinese surname to

be more accurate on describing someone's ethnic origin. For example, Junedi Santoso may be changed to Junedi Santoso Liem, Junedi Liem, or Liem Junedi. People whose modified names like this way may have different names in their official documentations. Today, the prefixed or suffixed names by a Chinese surname as Tan Meliana Puspita, or Lena Angelina Liem are more common. However, if the surname is a suffix, such as Oen Jayadi Susilo, it is almost certain that the surname is forced to be there by the government. In the past, people were not be able to discern a successful athlete's ethnicity as the media would not mention their Chinese name. However, if the Chinese person were doing something harmful, his or her name would not be mentioned.

In racism there is racist, it is a situation where the majorities fully press the minorities. In this situation, the minorities have no free for living in their life. According to Eduardo (2006:15), racist is the sport of choice of those who practice the “clinical approach” to race relations—the careful separation of good and bad tolerant and intolerant. One of the most appalling racist in the world was Holocaust which happened in Europe in World War II era.

Holocaust was one of genocides which ever existed in world. It was used by Nazi to erase Jewish in Europe. As noted by Montreal Holocaust Memorial Centre (2012:1), Holocaust is the systematic persecution and murder of approximately six million Jews by Nazi and their collaborators between 1933 and 1945. Individuals, organizations and governments made choices that promoted and permitted discrimination, prejudice, hatred and ultimately, mass murder to take place.

Back to the history, When Adolf Hitler was living in Vienna in his youth, he began to form his anti-Semitic ideas (although arguably he had been anti-Semitic since much earlier). He observed that many of the large, successful department stores were run by Jewish businessmen. He also thought that these large stores were squeezing smaller, more 'traditional', 'German' stores out of business. Therefore Hitler began to resent intensely the wealth, and therefore, commercial power, that many Jewish firms had built up. He thought he saw this all over the world, or at least all over Germany and Austria, and so he decided that Jewish people must be inherently greedy. Related to this was Hitler's opinion that Jewish people were 'corrupting' German culture with Jewish culture.

However, this was only one of his two major reasons to hate the Jews. He had also built up an extensive pseudo-racial theory relating to the racial 'inferiority' of the Jewish 'race'. Hitler thought that the greatest race in the world was the 'Aryan' race, which included basically Western and Northern European peoples — the Germanic/Saxon peoples (Germany, Austria and Britain) and the Scandinavian peoples (Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Finland), and to a lesser extent France and the other countries neighboring Germany to the West. Of these, Hitler felt that the Germans (Germany and Austria) were the most 'perfect' of the Aryans and were destined to rule the world. The two 'races' that Hitler believed to be the most inferior were the Slavs (Eastern Europe and Russia) and the Jews. In fact, Hitler began to associate Slavs, Jews, and Communists (his other main enemy, a political

philosophy) together as some sort of vast, international, Jewish-Slav-Communist conspiracy that was trying to overthrow Aryan superiority. Undoubtedly Europe especially German has many histories and timelines which showed how actually a revolution appeared from the dark era into the brighter one. One of the major issues which developed in Europe was Holocaust which related to racism. It was obviously known that genocide and racism had become the major issues in Europe in World War II era. Genocide was the impact of social injustice which spread because of race differences. Holocaust, Nazi's genocide toward Jewish in Europe especially Poland was happened. It's important to be discussed because Holocaust was seized human right, that is right for life.

Nowadays, there are some movies published which tell about genocide of Holocaust and racism, one of them was *The Pianist*. it is a 2002 historical drama film co-produced and directed by Roman Polanski, scripted by Ronald Harwood, and starring Adrien Brody. It is based on the autobiographical book "Śmierćmiasta", a World War II memoir by the Polish-Jewish pianist and composer Władysław Szpilman.

Wladyslaw Szpilman was born in Warsaw December 5, 1911. His family and he were art workers and lived in well life. In 1939 when German Empire (Nazi) seized Poland, his family's life was totally changed. By the time of experiences being a victim of Holocaust, in 1946 Szpilman wrote his life experiences in a book and finally was published with the title "Śmierćmiasta" or in English is Death of a City. The book tells how Szpilman survived the

German deportations of Jews to extermination camps, the 1943 destruction of the Warsaw Ghetto, and the 1944 Warsaw Uprising during World War II.

The Pianist met with significant critical praise and received multiple awards and nominations. It was awarded the Palme d'Or at the 2002 Cannes Film Festival. At the 75th Academy Awards, *The Pianist* won Oscars for Best Director (Polanski), Best Adapted Screenplay (Ronald Harwood), and Best Actor (Brody), and was also nominated for four other awards, including the Academy Award for Best Picture. It also won the BAFTA Award for Best Film and BAFTA Award for Best Direction in 2003 and seven French Césars including Best Picture, Best Director, and Best Actor for Brody.

Therefore, those explanations above became the reason why the writer chose *The Pianist* movie and topic of racism (oppression and resistance) became the center of this analysis. Showing the readers about how actually the Holocaust happened, what kinds of oppression the Jewish got and how they keep footing themselves toward Holocaust.

B. The Problems of Study

The problems of this thesis were focused on oppression as manifested in *The Pianist* movie especially on the main character. The problems were analyzed based on Young's theory (1990). The problems of this study were formulated as followed:

1. What kind oppression that Nazi done to Jewish in Poland in World War II era based on *The Pianist* movie?

2. What kinds of resistance that Jewish done to resisted Nazi according to *The Pianist* Movie?

C. The Objectives of Study

The objectives of the study were described as follow:

1. To describe what kind of oppression that Nazi done to Jewish in Poland in World War II era based on *The Pianist* movie.
2. To find out Jewish's vindication to keep footing themselves toward Nazi's genocide.

D. The Scope of Study

In conducting this research, the writer limited the discussion on the oppressions which are faced by Jewish and their vindications shown by some characters toward those oppressions which happened in *The Pianist* movie. The writer focused on some characters (Wladyslaw Szpilman and people around him) and their statements, dialogues, or actions toward Holocaust.

E. The Significance of Study

The writer did this research in order to know what kinds of oppression faced by Jewish and what kinds of resistance they did toward Nazi's genocide. After collecting the data, the writer was spread and explain them into their kinds of oppression and resistance.

In theoretically beside to know what kinds of oppression and resistance that Jewish faced, the writer expected to dig more information about Holocaust which happened in Europe during world war II. The writer expected the result of this research would be useful for him and the readers generally in order to know more information about racist itself and how foul it is for human being.

In addition, the writer expected that this research could give more contributions for everyone especially for the whole members of English and Literature Department State University of Medan. Many things could be found in this research like oppression towards Jewish that was one of social problems ever existed. Last, the writer also expected that the result trigger the readers to be aware on this issue.