

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Self-Sacrificial acts were done throughout histories, some were greater than others, as it is capable of saving close to a hundreds of thousands of lives, especially during the war. Genocide tends to happen to a particular race or culture, such example were the people with the Jewish ancestry, who were massacred, tortured and imprisoned inhumanly by the Nazi Germany, just because of their ancestry and families. However, some dare to defy this, even few from the Wehrmacht forces and various nations, even putting their life or career on the line. In short, sacrifice is an act that defines someone who are more than willing to sacrifice themselves for others despite their safety.

The writer is interested in sacrifice topic because it shows how society nowadays are faced with a crucial, and crippling matter, racism, yet there are some people who courageous enough to stand before this matter by showing self-sacrifice. The writer also interested in this movie because it is mainly about World War II history. The writer also touched by how the individuals more than willing to die as martyrs for the sake of others and it was represented in the novel entitled *13 flowers of Nanking*.

The historical background of the story told that in the year of 1937, the Empire of Japan invaded Republic of China. One of the areas that is heavily impacted by the war is the Nanjing province, where the notorious event called *The Massacre of Nanjing* happened during the invasion. Many civilians and soldiers alike perished in the entire region, only some were lucky enough to barely make it out alive, the records also state that captured soldiers, civilian men and babies were used as a living bayonet targets, young women and older women were raped and killed throughout the area, leaving only trails of blood and corpses along the way.

Yimou Zhang's *Flowers of War* was inspired by a novel titled *13 Flowers of Nanking* by Geling Yan. It depicts several convent girls and their lone-male assistant

(and adopted son by the late priest), joined by the American mortician who was trapped in the burned city, and a lone American in the whole country. And sooner, 12 Chinese comfort women were seeking sanctuary in the church, and during that time, churches weren't allowed to be attacked or destroyed, soon they found out that they have to find ways to survive and learned how to sacrifice their own for the sake of others.

The movie was set during the 1937 Second Sino-Japanese war throughout China, when border dispute and resources were part of the reasons to invade China by Japanese officials, and along the way, Chinese forces were woefully lost to the much more advanced Japanese forces, and the movie depicts how cruel the Japanese were to the Chinese and how the Chinese people managed to survive the war with the help of one American, who originally came not as a savior, but a man with unholy attitude and how he transformed from the attitude to a person that was able to be called "hero" along with several individuals who more than willing to sacrifice themselves for the sake of others, despite their backgrounds. (bbc.co.uk)

There is additional information about the movie which is produced by several individuals and also won the awards. The individuals mostly involved in it are Zhang Yimou, Heng Liu, and Geling Yan. Zhang Yimou is the movie director. He also directed several movies such as *The Great Wall* and *House of Flying Daggers*, he won several awards in his movies, such as Silver Lion & Golden Lion in Venice film festival, Golden Bear Award in Berlin Film Festival, and Grand Jury Prize in Cannes Film Festival. Heng Liu is the scriptwriter, his scripts used in several movies that he wrote, and also he is responsible for the screen play, he is involved in several movies such as *The Story of Qiu Ju* and *The Knot*. Geling Yan is a writer originated from China, she was responsible for her works in several novels, such as *13 Flowers of Nanjing*, *The Criminal Lu Yanshi*, she is currently represented by the Hong Kong Peony Literary Agency.

The movie also won several awards and nominations such as the Golden Reel award, as the best sound editing – Foreign Feature award, also one of the actor Ni-Ni won the Best Newcomer award in Asian Film Festival (AFF), and notably, Golden Globe Award as one of the nominee for the best foreign language award. (bbc.co.uk)

To begin this research, there were two previous studies that had been read. The first previous research was a thesis entitled *Racial Discrimination in the Drama "A Raisin in The Sun" by Lorraine Hansberry Based On Postcolonialism Theory* written by Novianti in 2014 from English Department of Bina Nusantara University. The goal of this research were to see how postcolonial characteristic reflected in African American family's life in A Raisin in the Sun. The research used intrinsic elements focusing on Synopsis, characters, setting and symbol, as well as extrinsic elements focusing on post-colonialism theory. The result of the research showed that postcolonial characteristic reflected to African American family's life.

The second previous research is a thesis entitled *A Postcolonialism Approach in Racial Discrimination of Hotel Rwanda Movie by Keir Pearson and Terry George* written by Andri Yansen in 2014 from Bina Nusantara University. The goal was to find out how mimicry, hybridity, and hegemony were portrayed in Hotel Rwanda movie. The research used intrinsic elements focusing on characters, setting, symbol and mimicry as well as extrinsic elements focusing on post-colonialism theory and hybridity. The result of the research showed that hybridity and hegemony were portrayed through the characters.

There are similarities and differences between the writer's thesis and the two previous studies. First, this research is similar with Novianti's because both are using post-colonialism theory. The second, this research and Yansen's are discussing about hybridity. For the differences, in the first previous study, the media used for this research along with its contents is different. Secondly, in the previous research the goals were the goal of this research were to see how postcolonial characteristic reflected in African American family's life in *A Raisin in the Sun*, meanwhile this research goals to find out how self-sacrifice shows altruism and hybridity. Thirdly, in the second previous research analyzing about hybridity and post-colonialism, meanwhile in this research analyzing about hybridity, and altruism.

Based on the two previous researches, a research entitled *Self Sacrifice as Represented in Yimou Zhang's Flowers of War by using Hybridity Theory*. This research used intrinsic elements focusing on plot, character, setting and theme. Post-colonialism

theory focusing on hybridity and altruism will be used in extrinsic elements to show how self-sacrifice shows altruism and hybridity happened in the movie.

1.2 Problem Formulations

There are two problem formulations going to be analyzed in this research these are:

1. How is hybridity shown in the movie?
2. How is the self-sacrifice shown in the movie?

1.3 Scope and Limitation

This research's scope is *Flowers of War* movie by Yimou Zhang. This research is limited by the main characters which are John Miller and Yu Mo.

1.4 Goals and Function

1. To find out how hybridity is shown in the movie.
2. To find out how self-sacrifice shows is shown in the movie.

Functions:

The function of this research is to help raising awareness for society of social racism happening around the globe and reminding people that they don't have to be a specific race nor gaining a social status to save another.