

## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

Indonesia is a country with its multicultural society. *Bhinneka Tunggal Ika* or “*berbeda-beda tetapi tetap satu jua*” becomes the motto and watchword which binds all Indonesian citizens into a whole. Despite having different local languages, ethnics, religion and various elements, it is not the root of disunity. The watchword is supported by the the precense of practices / the act of tolerance towards Indonesian citizens. However, none is perfect. There are certainly some hindrances in practicing tolerance.

Therefore, several practices of intolerances remain to occur frequently around the world. The topic on tolerance seems to be interesting as well as important if it can be identified through a different way. However, the issue of tolerance can be observed through entertainment media – movies. This makes movies play a significant role in people and for that reason, people need to explore and observe what a film conveys to them (Buckland, 1998: 1).

#### **1.1. The Background of Study**

Recently, American films have been dominating the filming world. The popularity of the great artworks have made adolescents these days preceive movie watching as a need or a hobby. As the time goes by and technology advances alongside with the freedom to communicate, a lot of movies with innapropriate content appear, which cover criminal, violence and sex. Ironically, those films are watched by children and teenagers which will in fact give out negative impacts to young generations and the moral of the nation’s children. In spite of that, not every film gives out negative impacts, there are also films which bring about positive influences and tend to lead towards moral repairs, such as the movie *Fantastic 4* and *Black Panther*. Tolerance, for instance can be found out in those films.

Tolerance, generally, means to appreciate, to permit or to allow a certain way of life, which includes opinions, views, beliefs, habits, behaviours, that is condtradictory or different compared to one’s way of life. Tolerance is crucial if linked together with a multiethic, multicultural and multireligious social life. A film is surely produced through many extensive considerations and researches in order to achieve maximum results; moreover, the message in a movie is as well influenced by the society so that the purpose of the making of the film is obtained. It is true that besides entertaining, films can also enrich one’s knowledge (Adi, 2011:

71). Movies with superheroes as the main characters may often depict the sense of tolerance which many people are not conscious.

The tolerance of a great leader in many of the arising issues is seen, reflecting that neither skin nor gender poses as a hindrance to become a hero. This study focuses on tolerance because it is clear that tolerance in the society is dropping especially amongst adolescents; as a result of the lack of tolerant attitude, a lot of issues often happen in the community. Among the moral values portrayed in the films, tolerance is considered more significant than others because it can be used to enhance people's awareness of being tolerant.

Therefore, this research provides understandings and benefits of tolerance for teenagers through American Superhero films. Superheroes are always depicted as powerful and kind figures. They fight for peace and protect the world. Their extraordinary power has inspired a lot of people. Therefore, superheroes movies may have an impact toward someone's life. There may be essential values of life which can be explored through superheroes movies. One of the values is tolerance. It is indeed interesting to explore how superheroes films can represent tolerance which is seen as a very fundamental issue particularly in a multicultural society.

The conduct of education in Indonesia has to fulfil the expected goal. Education goals are not always based on the numerical scores obtained by students in a learning activity. A good student's attitude is likewise an education goal success, the sense of having tolerance, for example. In a teaching and learning process, two essential elements are teaching method and learning media (Arsyad, 2013:19). Both of these aspects are related to each other. For this reason, choosing the right media to learn something can be a good way.

However, it is possible to state that one of the main functions of a learning media is as a helping tool which at the same time affects learning atmosphere, condition and environment that is arranged and created by teachers. In studying a language, for instance, the success in a learning process is influenced by several factors, such as teachers, students, method, motivations, and surroundings (Harmer, 1991: 9). The study source in a history learning activity has various types. The more varied the learning source used by students or subjects in studying history, the more historical information or knowledge studied and developed by the students. So, one can study from any kinds of sources.

One learning source facilitates learning media in the form of cassettes, videos, computers, CDs, films, and many others. Film is chosen because it is easy to understand, interesting, popular, and it can also be the source of entertainment (Adi, 2011:29). Therefore, film is used to fulfill a general need that is to pass on an idea, message or reality. In other words, it has been studied by many people from different kinds of perceptions (Turner, 1999:1). The use of film media in learning provides a whole new atmosphere and excitement for students. Films are able to present materials regarding a process or a past event with particular venue, subject as well as atmosphere of any kinds of places. Therefore, this study emphasizes the significance of identifying meaning represented through films.

### **1.2 The Problems of Study**

In relation to background of the problem above, the problem of the study are formulated in the forms of questions as followings:

- (a) What is the concept of tolerance?
- (b) What kinds of tolerance represented in the American superhero movies?

### **1.3. The Objectives of Study**

Based on the formulation of the problems above, the objectives of the research are listed as followings:

- (a) to understand the concept of tolerance
- (b) to identify the kinds of tolerance represented in American Superhero films.

### **1.4. The Purpose of Study**

The results of the research are expected to contribute to society. Therefore, the purpose of study is classified into two parts as followings:

- (a) The purpose of this study is theoretically expected to be able to contribute to the development of humanities theories, especially cultural and literary theories. The result of the study can be utilized to enrich certain studies related to movies, such as media studies, film studies, etc.
- (b) The result of this study is practically expected to be helpful in giving better understanding about tolerance to students, teachers, parents, etc. Additionally, this study can also be a useful reference to other researchers who are interested in analyzing movies.

### 1.5. Clarification of Terminology

This part contains the definition of the key or essential terms used in this study. This is useful to help readers understand the concept of the term in order to avoid misperception toward the terms used in this study. The first term to define is superhero. This term is frequently used in this study. Superhero movie is a phenomenal and popular genre which may contain of science fiction, action, and fantasy in it. This kind of film usually portrays the fight between the good and the bad. The good one is known as a hero who own extraordinary power to defeat the bad characters.

A lot of people, especially teenagers enjoy watching superhero movies because they are usually full of incredibly creative visual and sound effects, so film producers will have to spend a lot of money for superheroes movies. This uniqueness can attract people to watch superheroes films (Pratista, 2008: 26). In other words, a lot of people will enjoy watching superheroes movies because this kind of film may present certain satisfaction because most superheroes films are highly supported by great technology in terms of visual and sound effects. Additionally, good-looking actors appears as hero characters will certainly attract more audiences.

There are two important words which describe superhero – “super” and “hero”. From the teenager’s perspective, *Oxford Essential Dictionary*: for elementary and pre-intermediate learners of English (2006:405) defines ‘super’ as “very good” and ‘hero’ as (1) “as person, especially a man, who has done something brave and good” (2) “the most important man or boy in a book, play or film” (2006: 194). From the definitions above, superhero means a person, usually man who is strong and has good personalities or characteristics and needed by people.

Superheroes have extraordinary skills or super abilities which come from the advancement of science and technology (Winterbach, 2006: 115). As the point mentioned previously, the use of modern technology in creating the effects makes it worthwhile. Further, it could be understood that the distinctiveness of superheroes with the popular names or letter on their costumes and all the missions they must carry out to save human beings and fight for kindness.

Many popular superhero characters have been produced by Marvel Comics as a part of Entertainment. The superheroes characters created by Marvel have becomes popularly significant characters in the world of entertainment. The official website of Marvel states that thousands of superhero characters have been included in many kinds of media for more that

seventy years (<http://marvel.com/corporate>). Therefore, these Marvel's superhero characters have been found in TV series, video games, films, etc. Therefore, superhero film discussed in this study is a kind of genre which portrays heroes with super power carrying out tasks to save people and fight against the bad.

### **1.6. The Scope of Study**

Superhero movies discussed in this study are produced in the United States. They are *Fantastic 4* (2005), *Fantastic 4: Rise of the Silver Surfer* (2007), and *Black Panther* (2018). These films have been chosen for some reasons. First, many people, especially teenagers enjoy watching superhero movies and these three superheroes films gained a lot popularity when they were released.

They were so popular that even two of these superhero movies were shown on Indonesian TV channels. In other words, a lot of Indonesia people watched these movies. Second, the three films above contain many scenes and dialogues which can represent tolerance.