

**THE FIGHTING SPIRIT OF 1998 INDONESIA MONETARY CRISIS
IMMIGRANT REFLECTED IN “MERRY RIANA : MIMPI SATU JUTA
DOLAR” FILM**
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Abstract

Merry Riana film is based on the story of the life journey of a young motivator, Merry Riana. The May 1998 riots were racial discrimination riots against ethnic Chinese that occurred in Indonesia on May 13-May 15, 1998, especially in the capital city of Jakarta but also occurred in several other regions. The riots were preceded by the Asian financial crisis and triggered by the Trisakti tragedy in which four Trisakti University students were shot and killed during a May 12, 1998 demonstration. This resulted in a decline in President Soeharto's position, as well as the inauguration of B. J. Habibie. In Jakarta there was a monetary crisis, looting, damage and riots; one of those who experienced the 1998 incident was Merry Riana. Therefore, her family suggested she go to Singapore to looking for protection and safety. In Singapore Merry was alone and didn't have enough money for her life there before finally meeting her friend. As an immigrant, Merry certainly didn't have freedom while in Singapore because many regulations were set up there for immigrants such as in finding work. There are some conditions that limit Merry to getting a job, especially if she is a student. It is prohibited for students to work in Singapore, even though she has to pay for her studies and daily life while living there.

Keywords: immigrant. Sociology of literature, racial discrimination

Introduction

Fighting spirit is the willingness to compete or to do things that are difficult. Fighting spirit is courage and determination expressed in a willingness to fight or struggle. In film “Merry Riana” tells the fighting spirit and the struggle of Merry riana to survive as immigrant in Singapore. From nothing to be something it can describe the Merry riana’s struggle, she has a big fighting spirit to achieve her dream. First, she came to Singapore because of 1998 Indonesia

riots and want to looking for protection but finally she must live there with not enough money she must survive to live and definitely is not cheap and easy.

Second, without expectation she becomes a student at Nanyang Technology University in Singapore. So, she must be responsible to finance her study too. Therefore, she has a big fighting spirit to getting a job. As a student in Singapore it’s so difficult to get a job because there is a rule which prohibited for students

to work. However that reason not make her give up, instead make her more motivated to getting a job to finance her daily life and her study.

This paper focuses on the fighting spirit of Merry riana as immigrant because of 1998 Indonesia monetary crisis. Among ASEAN countries, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand were hit particularly hard by the economic crisis. In Jakarta 1998 there was a racial discrimination especially Chinese, monetary crisis, looting, damage and riots. Merry riana has to left her family and live independently. As an immigrant or foreign student there are rules or regulations to obey. And that is complicated her to do something important such as in her job.

This paper is using sociology of literature because sociology discussion like this is seldom to be discuss, even though in high school level. The sociology of literature is a specialized area of study which focuses attention upon the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created. It reveals that the existence of a social situations.

Alan Swingewood (1972:11) states: "Sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions and of social processes; it seeks to answer the question how society is possible, how it works,

why it persists". In the words of W. H. Hudson, "literature is a vital record of what men have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt about those aspects of it which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us. It is thus fundamentally an expression of life through the medium of language". The sociology of literature is an outcome of the complementary relationship between literature and society.

The relationship between this study and sociology of literature is the sociologists, historians and the literary critics. This study views about the sociology of literature have been manifested mainly in two ways. The first way is historical, the effort to describe historical trends in art or literature, to trace their growth, achievements and changes over time. The second way is an attempt to discover how the forms of art come into being and to account for their qualities and styles.

Methodology

In this paper we used Descriptive Qualitative Method

A descriptive Qualitative study is a comprehensive summarization, in everyday terms, of specific events experienced by individuals or groups of individuals. To some researchers, such a qualitative design category does not exist. Unfortunately, this

has forced other researchers, especially novices to the methods of qualitative research, to feel they have to defend their research approach by giving it 'epistemological credibility.' This has led to the labeling of many research studies as phenomenology, grounded theory, or ethnography, when in fact these studies failed to meet the requirements of such qualitative approaches. studies is a comprehensive summarization, in everyday terms, of specific events experienced by individuals or groups of individuals. To some researchers, such a qualitative design category does not exist. Unfortunately, this has forced other researchers, especially novices to the methods of qualitative research, to feel they have to defend their research approach by giving it 'epistemological credibility.' This has led to the labeling of many research studies as phenomenology, grounded theory, or ethnography, when in fact these studies failed to meet the requirements of such qualitative approaches.

Descriptive Qualitative study may have grounded theory overtones, because it used constant comparative analysis when examining the data. However, a qualitative descriptive study is not grounded theory, because it does not produce a theory from the data that were generated. The goal is to obtain cases deemed rich in information for the purpose of

saturation of the data. Of basic importance is for researchers to be able to defend their sampling strategies to meet the purposes of their studies.

Sugiyono (2008: 222) stated that in qualitative research, the instrument is the researchers themselves. Hence, the researcher should be validated by themselves about their ability in conducting research.

The Sociology of Literature Theory.

The Sociology of literature is a specialized area of study which focuses its attention upon the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created. It reveals that the existence of a literary creation has determined social situations. As there is a reciprocal relationship between a literary phenomena and social structure, sociological study of literature proves very useful to understand the socio-economic situations, political issues, the world view and creativity of the writers, the system of the social and political organization, the relation between certain thoughts and cultural configurations in which the occur and determinants of a literary works.

Discussion

Merry Riana "Mimpi Sjuta Dolar" film was a comedy drama movie realising on December 24, 2014. The movie was directed by Hestu

Saputra. The movie tells about History of Indonesia Crisis Monetary in 1998, Merry Riana and her family who is Chinese ethnic to move abroad. On their way to the airport, his family was robbed; their money, phones and document are stolen except Merry's father laptop. Because the money was not enough for all family member, so only Merry could go to Singapore.

In Singapore, Merry met her friend and she decided to register in the university which her friend studied. But, Merry had a lot of problem to apply in the University, her friend try to help Merry and calling Alva who become the student guarantor of Merry. Finally, she can study at the University by Alva and Irene help.

After Merry become a student, she wants to make investment to continue her life in Singapore. She tries everything which can help her to make investment, she struggles and never give up. Merry through the problem with friend, Irene was upset because she knows Alva and Merry usually meet each other, and she jealous. Merry through all the problems one by one until she find the investor who investment the money and Merry so happy.

Merry Riana "Mimpi Satu Juta Dolar" is a good movie which can motivate the people to get their goals and keep their spirit to enjoy their

life, eventhough there are so many problems in the future.

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This paper also discuss about the discriminaton toward Merry Riana as an immigrant, such as :

a. Racial Discrimination

Racial discrimination is when a person is treated less favourably than another person in a similar situation because of their race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin or immigrant status. For example, it would be 'direct discrimination' if a real estate agent refuses to rent a house to a person because they are of a particular racial background or skin colour. It is also racial discrimination when there is a rule or policy that is the same for everyone but has an unfair effect on people of a particular race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin or immigrant status. This is called 'indirect discrimination'. For example, it may be indirect

racial discrimination if a company says that employees must not wear hats or other headwear at work, as this is likely to have an unfair effect on people from some racial/ethnic backgrounds.

So, Merry Riana's family treated less favourably than another ethnic/racial, cause they are Chinese ethnic in Indonesia and after Merry become an immigrant in Singapore, she through difficult problem because she is Chinese ethnic from Indonesia who can not doing something carelessly in Singapore.

b. Job Discrimination toward Immigrant

Job Discrimination means making an adverse decision against the employee or the job applicant on the basis of his membership in a certain group. In an organization, several instances can be seen where an individual is discriminated on the grounds of sex, religion, caste, physical disability and national origin.

According to the film, Merry is an immigrant when she decided to go to Singapore as her father advise. In Singapore she register in a university to continue her study, because she is from Indonesia she have to find the guarantor to help her passing the register, but there is a requirement which Merry have to take it. She must get a job

immediately to making sure the guarantor about Merry's aim.

After Merry looking for a job, she is very confused, cause no one can give her a job, it's because she is a student and the owner's job can not hire Merry. But, she begging the owner until she get a job as a disseminator of advertising flyers.

Merry Riana "Mimpi Satu Juta Dolar" film reveals the fighting spirit as immigrant, such as :

a. High Expectations

Hope is heart wants to achieve. Eventhough hope can make person survived in various obstacles. In this film shows how Merry have a high expectations after she met Alva to be her guarantor, and she believe that she can get the job to fulfill Alva's requirement.

b. Motivate yourself

Motivating is a change in energy in one's person which is characterized by effective emergence (feeling) and reaction to achieve aim. In this film, Merry try to motivate herself by giving a trust to Alva and Irene who can help her to continue her life in Singapore. She really sure about what will do after getting failed. Being able to motivate yourself means considering the capable out of the complexity that is a challenge on the way to success.

- c. Finding Ways to Achieve Goals
Finding ways to achieve goals means thinking creatively or adventuring in solving problems. That means not racing in one way, she will always be looking for other ways after the first or done method failed in solving the problem. Someone who is embedded in her optimism, will continue to struggle and try to find a way out for find a way so that the desired goal can be achieved.
- d. Have High Self Confidence
According to Thantaway in the dictionary the term guidance and counseling, confidence is the mental or psychological condition of someone who gives strong belief in himself to do or do something action. 14 Self-confidence is a belief in his ability itself so that it is not easily affected by others. Confidence is a personality trait that is very decisive and influences each other one another.
- e. Not Resigned
Not being resigned means there is no anxiety or hopelessness in chasing the target. Receive a case without complaining in each the incident that happened to him. If he experiences failure he will assume that failure is only temporary. While the

opportunity to succeed bigger to achieve.

Conclusion(s)

Fighting spirit is courage and determination expressed in a willingness to fight or struggle. In film “Merry Riana” tells the fighting spirit and the struggle of Merry riana to survive as immigrant in Singapore.

It is used sociology of literature because sociology discussion like this is seldom to be discuss, even though in high school level. The sociology of literature is a specialized area of study which focuses attention upon the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created.

The relationship between this study and sociology of literature is the sociologists, historians and the literary critics.

Merry Riana “Mimpi Satu Juta Dolar” film reveals the fighting spirit, such as ; high expectations, motivate yourself, finding ways to achieve goals, d. have high self confidence, not resigned

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