

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Hollywood has consistently acted as a mirror reflecting and sometimes reshaping the American understanding of patriotism and democratic leadership. Through its diverse cinematic offerings, it provides a dynamic and often contested space for these concepts to be explored, challenged, and redefined. In the early days of Hollywood, patriotism was often depicted with a stark or uncomplicated heroism. The urgency of national unity, particularly during World War II, fueled films that celebrated American values and the sacrifices made in their defense. These films, such as *Casablanca* (1942) and *Yankee Doodle Dandy* (1942) presented a unified front, emphasizing the collective good and the fight against a clear and present enemy. This era saw patriotism largely equated with unwavering loyalty, military valor, and a staunch defense of traditional American ideals. American patriotism in terms of American ideals enables a sense of indebtedness and sacrifice to uphold values such as freedom, equality, and justice for all (Briseno, 2019, p. 16).

Hollywood's portrayal of democratic leadership has also undergone a significant evolution. In the early days, political leaders were often depicted as idealized figures embodying the virtues of integrity, public service, and unwavering commitment to democratic principles. Films like *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington* (1939) celebrated the power of individual citizens to challenge corruption and

uphold the ideals of democracy. These films presented a romanticized vision of politics, where good ultimately triumphed over evil. In more recent decades, Hollywood has explored the challenges of democratic leadership in a globalized world, grappling with issues such as terrorism, economic inequality, and climate change. Films like *Lincoln* (2012) and *The Post* (2017) have highlighted the importance of principled leadership, courage, and the defense of democratic values in times of crisis. They have also acknowledged the complexities of political decision-making, the need for compromise, and the importance of dialogue and debate. Dialogue and debate are vital to democratic leadership because they facilitate informed decision-making. By encouraging the exchange of diverse perspectives, leaders can gain a comprehensive understanding of complex issues and potential solutions. In a way, democracy and democratic leadership are considered to give access to everyone to learn about government because they have education and fair chances (Danoff, 2019, p. 65).

The portrayal of patriotism and democratic leadership can shape the audience's understanding of history, influence political attitudes, and inspire action. While Hollywood's depictions are often fictionalized, they can serve as powerful tools for exploring complex issues and promoting civic dialogue. However, it is crucial to recognize that Hollywood films are also influenced by commercial considerations, political agendas, and cultural biases. Therefore, it is essential to approach these films with a critical eye, recognizing their potential influence and engaging in thoughtful discussions about their messages. Hollywood movies provide a rich and dynamic tapestry of representations of American patriotism and

democratic leadership. By exploring the evolving portrayals of these concepts, the audience can gain a deeper understanding of the nation's values, its challenges, and its ongoing struggle to live up to its ideals. The power of film itself extends beyond entertainment, and audiences should be conscious of how unseen details can affect their perspectives (Suwankaewmanee, 2021, p. 2).

Olympus Has Fallen (2013) depicts a big attack at the White House. A bad group of terrorists from North Korea takes over, and they hold the President hostage. Mike Banning, who used to be the President's bodyguard, has to save him. He knows the White House really well, so he's the only one who can stop the bad guys. Mike fights his way through the White House, taking out the terrorists one by one. He's trying to rescue the President and his son, and he also has to stop the terrorists from getting control of the nuclear weapons. It's a really dangerous job, but Mike is tough and skilled. Allan Trumbull, as the Speaker of the House and acting president during the White House siege, becomes a crucial ally to Mike Banning. Trumbull and his team, operating from a secure location, rely heavily on Banning's on the ground intelligence and actions. Trumbull's role is to provide Banning with vital support, including real time information and strategic guidance. He authorizes Banning's actions, recognizing his unique ability to navigate the White House and neutralize the terrorists. In the end, Mike stops the terrorists and saves the day. He defeats their leader and makes sure they can't launch any nuclear missiles. He gets the White House back to normal and goes back to protecting the President.

Based on the explanation provided above, the writer is interested in analyzing the portrayal of American patriotism and democratic leadership and how social identity reinforces these values among the characters in *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013). The writer's purpose in writing is to share the insight concerning the film's portrayal of American patriotism and democratic leadership because these values offer insights into prevailing political ideologies. By examining how these concepts are depicted, the writer can uncover underlying political messages and their potential influence on public discourse. The us versus them narrative is the film's plot. This analysis allows for a deeper understanding of how media influences perceptions of national security, democratic values, and the role of leadership in times of crisis, ultimately revealing the complex interplay between film, culture, and politics.

1.2 Research Problems

Based on the background of the study, the writer divided the problems in this study into three main analyses. The following are the formulation of the research problems:

1. How do the characters of Mike Banning and Allan Trumbull portray American patriotism?
2. How do the characters of President Asher and Allan Trumbull portray democratic leadership?
3. How does social identity reinforce American patriotism and democratic leadership among the characters in *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013)?

1.3 Scopes of The Study

The scope of this study can be seen from the film as the object of this study. The object of this study is *Olympus Has Film* (2013). The writer focuses on the portrayal of American patriotism and democratic leadership and how social identity reinforces these values among the characters in *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013). Besides that, intrinsic elements that will be discussed by the writer in this film include characters and characterization, themes, settings, plots, and conflicts.

1.4 Aims of The Study

There are three aims of this study, they are:

1. To find out the characters of Mike Banning and Allan Trumbull portray American patriotism
2. To find out the characters of President Asher and Allan Trumbull portray democratic leadership
3. To find out how social identity reinforces American patriotism and democratic leadership among the characters in *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013)?

1.5 Previous Studies

In this study, the writer found several previous studies that were relevant to the same topic of discussion with different research objects. Some of them are a journal published in 2014 entitled "National Image in Film (Study of Semiotic Analysis of America's Self Image Becoming a Superpower as Represented in The Hurt Locker Film by Kathryn Bigelow)" by Linda Ayu Puspita Dewi, Sri Hastjarjo,

and Mahfud Anshori from the Communication Studies at Sebelas Maret University. This study uses a qualitative semiotic method with Roland Barthes's semiotic approach which examines denotation and connotation. The results of this study state that the film *The Hurt Locker* which tells about American soldiers who take control of a bomb in the battle for Iraq shows the image that America is a superpower country. The scene that strengthens the writers' hypothesis is the sophisticated American robot used to find bombs and the idea to prevent war.

In addition, the thesis written by Lilis Suryaningsih, a student majoring in Islamic Communication and Broadcasting at Syarif Hidayatullah University, Jakarta, also analyzes the theory of representation through film. With the title "Representation of Journalist Imagery in the Film *All President's Men* (2017)" the writer uses qualitative research that refers to the discourse analysis method by Teun A. Van Dijk. The results of this study indicate that the image of journalists in the film *All President's Men* are described as people who have a high sense of curiosity, adhere to a code of ethics, are independent, uphold the values of truth, maintain the identity of sources, and deliver news according to facts.

Furthermore, there is a journal published in 2017 by Christina & Lim Yudhi entitled "Film Representation as Cultural Diplomacy (Semiotics Analysis of Barthes Film *Me VS Mami* as Padang Cultural Diplomacy)". This study uses Roland Barthes' semiotic analysis to test the hypothesis that the film *Me VS Mami* tries to introduce the culture of Padang. Based on the results of the author's research, the scenes that appear in the film *Me VS Mami* not only introduce Padang culture but also as a form of cultural diplomacy.

A thesis entitled "Cultural Diplomacy Through Captain America Films and Comics in Raising the Image of the United States as a Superpower in the World (2018)" by Hokuto Adijoyo, a student of International Relations at the National Development University "Veteran" Yogyakarta. The results of research conducted by Hokuto Wijaya show that the Marvel entertainment industry uses films and comic books to enhance the image of the United States as a superpower. Through Captain America, indirectly the Marvel entertainment industry is showing cultural diplomacy efforts that are in line with the government's efforts to build a good image of the United States.

A journal entitled "Black Panther Movie: Cultural Relations Analysis (2020)" by Husni Yatim Wahidah, Sukma Nur Ardini, and Faiza Hawa from PGRI University (UPGRIS) also examines the relationship between culture and film. This study uses a qualitative method that analyzes the theory of cultural relations by Iriye (2002) and cultural elements by Barkan (2012). The results of this study indicate that in the Black Panther, there are two types of cultural relations namely direct cultural interaction and indirect cultural interaction.

The study differs from the previous studies because the writer will be focusing on the portrayal of American patriotism and democratic leadership and how social identity reinforces these values among the characters in *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013). The writer will bring a new perspective for a deeper understanding of how media influences perceptions of national security, democratic values, and the role of leadership in times of crisis, ultimately revealing the complex interplay between film, culture, and politics.

1.6 Research Methods

1.6.1 Method of Data Collection

In this study, the writer used two types of data, namely primary data and secondary data. The primary data was obtained from the film *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013) which then selected several appropriate scenes to answer the research problem formulation. The secondary data was obtained from a literature review to support the primary data. The secondary data was obtained through e-journals, books, and other reports from previous studies related to primary data.

1.6.1 Method of Approach

The research technique used by the writer is divided into two. The first is observation, namely by making in-depth observations of the film *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013). From the results of observation, the writer chose several scenes that needed to be studied to answer the research problem formulation in terms of visuals, text, and sound (dialogue) in this film. The second is the documentation technique, namely by reading and studying various sources such as e-journals, books, and other reports from previous studies that related to the topic of the problem and the film *Olympus Has Fallen* (2013). The theories used in this research are patriotism concept, American patriotism, democratic leadership, and social identity theory.

1.7 Organization of The Writing

CHAPTER I: INTRODUCTION

This chapter analyzes the background of the study, research problems, aims of the study, scopes of the study, previous studies, research method, and the organization

of the writing.

CHAPTER II: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORKS

This chapter describes the object and theories that are used to examine this study.

CHAPTER III: RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This chapter examines the correlation between the theories and the findings.

CHAPTER IV: CONCLUSION

This the review of the study and answers and the correlation between the theories and the findings.

REFERENCES