

## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION

The historical film *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (2007) illustrates events that occurred in South Dakota in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, prior to the Wounded Knee Massacre. By analyzing and comparing the film with previous studies, this thesis addresses the research question in *Chapter IV* regarding assimilation policies through Johan Galtung's imperialism theory. It answers the questions posed in *Chapter I*, including explanations of intrinsic aspects such as plot, theme, character, characterization, and conflict. Moreover, it addresses answers related to assimilation policies, including their triggers and influences on Native Americans, based on the extrinsic aspects discussed in *Chapter II*.

Considering that the film adapts the latter two chapters of Dee Brown's book, the Native American community was aware of assimilation policies in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. These policies were considered to provide benefits not only to the United States but also to Native Americans. However, this implementation ultimately brought misery to the Native Americans community.

The assimilation policies was driven by the dominant system of imperialism, which had a lasting impact on Native Americans. One of the most significant influences, portrayed in the film, is the resistance of Native Americans, exemplified by the Ghost Dance Movement, which the United States government perceived as a threat. The climax of *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (2007) occurs when the United States army responds to this perceived threat from the

Ghost Dance Movement. This leads to a confrontation between the army and Native Americans, culminating in one of the largest and most catastrophic historical events, the Wounded Knee Massacre.

Assimilation policies is exemplified during Charles Eastman's adulthood, indicating that the assimilation policies is protected by a legal basis, namely the Dawes Act of 1887. However, the portrayal of reservations erasing cultural and sacred values, including restrictions on dancing, hunting, and tribal leadership, showcases the impact of regulations imposed by the United States government.

The completion of this thesis up to this chapter summarizes an exploration of the history and assimilation policies in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, as portrayed in the film. It is anticipated that this thesis will provide valuable insights for scholars interested in studying historical perspectives, particularly regarding the assimilation policies based on the film *Bury My Heart at Wounded Knee* (2007).