

EDGE OF SEVENTEEN:
A SOCIAL CRITICISM ON THE CULTURS
OF AMERICAN FAMILIES

THESIS

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By:
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APPROVAL SHEET

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DEDICATION

This thesis is finally completely composed. It is the unforgettable experience for the writer, because it gives many valuable things during composing this work. But obviously, the writer realizes that it could not be done as well without any help from somebody else, such as the names below. So this thesis is presented and especially dedicated to:

1. My beloved parents, the people that have a thousand different ways to love, and to care. Because of your blessing and love this thesis is finally created.
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6. My friend in Simply box café, thanks for these free access, it's really helpful for me. All my friends in RHS TC, life is cheers, right?

MOTTO

GET RICH OR DIE TRIYING
50 Cent

LEARN TO KILL, BEFORE YOU FEEL SAVE
The Rasmus

SURAT PERNYATAAN

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Menyatakan bahwa karya ilmiah/skripsi ini saya buat untuk memenuhi persyaratan mendapat gelar Sarjana Sastra Inggris (SS) pada Fakultas Humaniora dan Budaya Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Malang dengan judul *Edge of Seventeen, A Social Criticism to the American Family Cultures* adalah hasil karya saya sendiri dan bukan Duplikasi karya orang lain. Selanjutnya apabila di kemudian hari ada klaim dari pihak lain, bukan menjadi tanggung jawab Dosen Pembimbing atau pengelola Fakultas Humaniora dan Budaya Universitas Islam Negeri (UIN) Malang, tetapi menjadi tanggung jawab penulis pribadi.

Demikian surat pernyataan ini saya buat atas kesadaran diri sendiri tanpa ada paksaan dari pihak manapun,

Malang, 18 April 2007
Hormat saya,

Suparman

01320103

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The Writer

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ABSTRACT

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Literary works cannot be separated from peoples life. Moreover, literature has many functions. One of them is to be a mediator to show some hidden facts in the society trough the literary works. It is claimed as the best way to show the portrait of the facts occur, because it has no limit to explore, improve, describe, and increase the values in the society, and literary works, commonly, be based on the very free point of view of the men of letter to compose their works, and it makes literature unhampered from any kinds of values.

Movie, as the work of literature has the function depend on its viewers. It can be, only, an entertainer for the viewers by the interesting content of story, criticism of the fact in the place and time where the movie is set, including the cultures, education, governmental system, and other kinds of social problem or matter taken as the theme in the movie. In other hand, a movie can explore and tell the viewers the real life, that may people have not known yet. And off course, this description is only an argument and a judgment of the movie maker to the life in the setting, as both, a member of the society and as a man of letter. But it is very common that the movies are made as the portrait of the real life condition of a current society.

The facts above are possibly true, related to the function of literature as mediator to explain the life in the literary works. It mirrors any kinds of social matters and problems based on the different point of view of man of letters and, off course; it may bring and create the different description too, even taken from the same object. It based what the point of each man of letter is focused on.

This research is all about the movie *Edge of Seventeen*, which tells and mirror the social condition of society in Ohio, United States of America in 1980s, and the researcher here catches the social problems in the cultures of its families.

As the result of this study, the writer presents some proves that the current customs and cultures of American families, related to the behaviors and familys policies, create some negative and bad effects to the children as the next generation. There are some negative things found actually, but this study is focused on the very dominant effects, it is homosexuality as the deviated behavior of the main character, Eric.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. I.1 Background of Study

Analyzing movie is an activity, which has concerned many spectators for many years. It is a given assumption, that analyzing movie is enjoyable. Not only do people analyze the content plot, picture, screenplay, music of movie, but also analyze messages given implicitly and the messages based on the socio-culture point of view.

Film or movie is not merely a motion picture where we can enjoy the visualization of written material into a complete moving image on the screen. The word film deals with several concerns of art, such as plot, character, setting, story, acting, and so on which indicate how film exist in the human life and civilization, as Rooney (2000) said in his page at <http://home.att.net>, that:

Art, whether good, bad, or mediocre, cannot lie. The truth value of any works of art resides within the fact of its very existence. The importance of an artists contribution to the art forms terms always from the soul, and it is the eternal truth-value in and of itself as a work of value in its own right that remains through it all and stays to be recognized in its naked essence even after he and we are all gone from this place

Film could be both, entertainment and cultural richness for each place and land in the world that have its own style and way of life reflected within. As a matter of fact, film can also give further role as equipment in scientific study and technology. Let us see the newest film released nowadays, most of them involve the special effect and high-tech interference in their way to serve the viewers. It shows how film takes a significant place together with the sifting.

Our society is more familiar with some commercial films played widely through cinemas and theatres. This commercial one offers excitement and enjoyment of a film and intended in gaining benefit as much as possible. Unfortunately, this kind of film often ignores the art elements of a film for any simple reason like trends, limited fees etc. Still, we found a good movie with the great benefit like *Titanic*, *Armagedon*, *Men in Black*, and so on which are then pioneering the better trend in filmmaking. Social phenomena such as life style, fashion, accessories, and new habits are affected by a particular and successful film. *Gost* (1994) for instance, popularized a short haircut style for woman performed by its actress, Demi Moore.

Nowadays, a movie or a film is categorized into a literary work, because usually a motion picture is taken from a novel, short story, and other written literary works. As a literary work, movie always describes and reflects clearly related to the social and culture conditions in its setting taken, including the time and place where the movie is made. Related to Rooney Gilberg said, literature, however, fantastic or mystical in content, is animated by a profound social concern, and this is true or even the most flagrant nihilistic work. This statement clearly represents that a literary work in whatever its type (fantastic or mystic), it puts the big attention on the social phenomenon. This literary work will always show the occurrences in the society. And of course, literary makers will always distort the social facts based on their own thought.

This is what named the rationalization of sociology of literature. Based on Wolfs view (Faruk, 1994:3), sociology of literature is a discipline with no shape, can not identified as well, consists of some empiric studies and some tests on theory that little bit complicated and general, that only has an equal of each other in the term of the relation between society and the literary works. He also formulates study of sociology that more phenomenological that has target in the level of meaning of literary work.

Sociology of literature is a branch of literature research that reflective. This kind of research has been interested by the researchers who want to see a literary work as a mirror of the social life. The basic assumption of research on sociology of literature is the outward of a literary work is not in the blank-social. The success literary work is which successfully reflects the real condition in its era.

Even there is a certain different between sociology and literature but it gives explanation the meaning of the literary texts (Laurenson and Swing wood, 1972). It can be understood, because its object of study is about human and the society as literature does. A literary work is the expression of human life than can not be separated from its society's root. And, once again, even sociology and literature are two different things, but they fulfill each other. In this case, literature is a reflection of social and culture that explains the condition in the society and described in a literary work by an author.

It is very reasonable if the research on sociology of literature much more tells about the relationship between the author and his or her social life. The types or the contents of literary work will be formed by the situation of environment in the society

and by the social power in a certain period. Although occasionally the imagination aspect and other manipulations are occur in the literary works, but the social aspects can not be ignored. The social life aspects will fully reflect into the literary works.

In this kind of research, there was another basic assumption that the researcher is a *silent being*, a creature with sensations in his or her real social life. It means literature is also formed by its society; literature is in the link of system and value in the society. By this though, there is a understanding that literature has counterbalance relation in a certain degree with its society; and the society try to describe the relationship between both in many ways.

One of the most important in sociology of literature is the mirror concept. In this case, a literary work is named as the *mimesis* (imitation) of the society. But, literature is still acknowledged as the illusion or the imagination of the reality. Here, a literary work does not show the facts directly, it does not copy the reality, but it shows the interpreted reality.

Once again, movie was categorized as a literary work. Because, usually it is taken from novel, short story, drama and or another written literary works. As a literary work a movie always interprets the social condition and cultural background, where the setting of the movie is taken or made, including the place and the time. It is related to the mirror concept, means all literary works, however its contents, always animates the profound social and cultural concern, and off course the movie does.

As we know there are many kinds of movie, such as comedy, tragedy, epic, romance, science fiction, drama (family movie) and mystery (Encarta, 2003). Here the writer concerns to the kind of drama movie, and ofcourse concerns to the socio-cultural life which are shown in the movie.

One example of thousands drama movie is *Edge Of Seventeen*, written by Todd Stephens and directed by David Moreton. The movie is set in Sandusky, Ohio, in 1984, and said to be based in part on the memories of the writer.

Edge of Seventen is a kind of teenage family movie written by Todd Stephens, directed by David Moretton and published in 1999. The movie is set in Sandusky, Ohio

in 1980s and it is claimed, inevitable, as gay movie. The whole content of story argues and tells about confession the identity as a homo, where the major character, Eric (Chris Stafford), is ready to confess and show the people that he is a gay guy. That it, homosexuality, is the usual thing and phenomenon in some western countries and especially in America, because it was supported by its indigenous norms, cultures and others.

Discussing of the movie, we can not go far from three famous film manufactures where films are released and viewed by million eyes. These three places have made films more than just entertainment, they become independent industries and employ a lots of workers, and have been related closely whenever we heard the word film.

First is Hollywood, located in Los Angeles, America. It was considered as the centre of cinema world which can produce any kinds of films such as commercial, documentary, geography, historical, horror, comedy, romance, drama, action, etc. it was the trend setter of filmmaking and its academy award, Oscar, considered as the most popular and highest award in the world of cinema.

Second place is Bollywood. Located in Mumbai, India. A name that makes us thinking soon in dancing, singing, and very romantic love story in. the amount of released films in Bollywood is much more higher than the other place. The industry market view covers the viewers from Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, and America. Hindi movies are well known by the world wide viewers not only because of the style and the story, but also supported by the spreading Indian people all around the world.

The third place is Hongkong, located in China. Hongkong films are known with its oriental touch of culture such as kungfu action and legend stories. From those three big industries in the different places, once again Hollywood has the largest percentage of all its portion of playing, technology and income.

Edge of Seventeen is one film product from Hollywood. It, finally, pioneers the next films with the same genres. Lets name some titles such us *Get Real*, *Queer as Folk*, *Beautiful Mind*, *Nico and Danni*, and many more. Those movies also describe the real life condition in the society (western countries, especially America) that, once again, it proves that a literature is the mirror of social life in society.

Talking about America, one of the first think from some people, eastern people, is the freedom; freedom to speak, freedom to act, and so on (the Jakarta Post May, 12 2003), and off course they also admire that. But the researcher here found, based on the movie, that the freedom in America not always bring the good sides even it often creates the bad impacts. And ironically they, the society, does not really realise of that, and again, the researcher assumes that must be something wrong with the social system in the curent place and time. Becouse, however, a literary work puts a big attention on the social phenomenon, as Gilberg said, literature, however, fantastic or mystical in content, is animated by a profound social concern, and this is true or even the most flagrant nihilistic work, and it is true that a litrary work will show the reality in the society.

We know in society there were many elements, and the smal but important element is family, including the parents, brothers and sisters, and relative, it is believed that the family is first basic to protect its children (teenegers) from deviated behaviors, such as homosexuality. Because teen-age is the very sensitive peiod to be a homo, proved that one of ten young guys is potential to be a gay guy (Jawa Pos August, 7 2002). In this period the families should take a big role and attention for their children to be saved from the deviated behavior

www.americanfamilytraditions.com/humanlife.htm).

2.5 Previous Study

There are some previous studies of literature which used sociology-literature approach that had ever done. The researcher here takes two of these some previous studies that have similar problems of research and off course have similar research

methodology, the two are as follows.

2.5.1 Priyadi (1994): Tinjauan sastra Terhadap Kumpulan Cerpen *Senyum*

Karyamin karya Ahmad Thohari

Priyadi is a student of State Malang University (IKIP) of Malang he done research on literature as his thesis in 1994 entitled Tinjauan Sosiologi Sastra Terhadap Kumpulan Cerpen *Senyum Karyamin Karya Ahmad Thohari*. In this study he states that Sociology-literature approach is one of research methodology that used to describe some social aspects which are appeared in the literary works.

Using sociology-literature approach means trying to find out the real social life condition illustrated in the work of literatures, novels, dramas, movies, poetries, and others. By using this approach the researcher will focused to the social life matters in the society where did the works are set, it related to the times and places. In this method a researcher also can identify some social problems described in the work and then s/he will analyze them based on the research problems that s/he will concern on.

2.5.2 Imam Bukhori (2004): A Study of Javanese Socio Culture Values in *Serat*

Kalatida by R. Ronggo Warsito

In his study of research of his thesis, Imam Bukhori states that a man of letter, actually, as a member of society s/he is bounded by a certain social states. That way literature could be seen as that social institution, which is language as the medium. Language itself is the social product as arbitrary system of symbol. Literature displays a picture of life, and life itself is the social fact. In the term, life copes relationship between society, society and person, human being, and between occurrences that exists inside the inner of human being. However, the occurrences that exit inside the inner of human being frequently become the subject matter of work literature, as a reflection of relationship between someone with the other and someone with society. In the sight is waded, the subject matter of literature will present as the problem of society that rises from relationship between the person and society and between person and God as manifestation of religiosity attitudes.

2.5.3 Siti Hindun Hamidah (2005): Social Value in June Austens *Emma*

In her thesis research, Siti Hindun Hamidah found there are some social values that reflect the social condition described in literary works. Literary works give many

useful values and messages and give contribution to build up sensitivity to the environment. By literature, the author has to be sensitive to the social condition in his or her place. Literature is able to show and cover the weaknesses and the real condition in the society.

It seems every single literary work is reflecting the real condition of social life. In it is true as Gilberg said, literature, however, fantastic or mystical in content, is animated by a profound social concern, and this is true or evens the most flagrant nihilistic work (Ekarini, 23:2003). This statement clearly represents that a literary work in whatever its type (fantastic or mystic), it puts the big attention on the social phenomenon. This literary work will always shows the occurrences in the society. And of course, literary makers will always distort the social facts based on their own thought.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter the writer describes the way, and method that the writer uses to analyze the object for the work. The chapter is divided into six sub topics, they are: (1) Research design, (2) Research Subject, (3) Data Sources, (4) Research Instrument, (5) Data Collection, and (6) Data Analysis. It is arranged in such a way the guides the writer to the right of discussion and also give a clear picture or description of what the writer had done in this study.

3.1 Research Design

There are two types of researches namely: qualitative and quantitative research. Qualitative researches are those in which the description of the observation is not ordinarily expressed in quantitative terms. It is suggested that numerical measures are never used, but other means of measurement are emphasized (Best, 1982:156)

However, this study is a descriptive qualitative research, because the data are made up of written description and cannot be treated with statistical procedures. Furthermore, in this study the researcher will use descriptive and analytical method to analyze and describes the object that will be observed.

The object of this chapter is to describe in detail the important procedures to discover answers to questions through research. It will describe more about the major steps dealing with action research. The research process consists of a number of closely related activities that overlap continuously rather than follow a strictly prescribed sequence.

So interdependent are these activities that the first step of a research project largely determines the nature of the last. If subsequent procedures have not been taken into account in the early stages, serious difficulties may arise and prevent the completion of a study. Frequently these difficulties cannot be remedied at the time they become apparent because they are rooted in the earlier procedures. They can be avoided only by keeping in mind, at each step of the research process, the requirement of subsequent steps.

To be sure, as research proceeds from the conception of a theme for a study through the gathering of the data to the production of a report and the application of the

findings, the focus of attention will necessarily shift from one activity to the next. This shift reflects a difference in emphasis, however, rather than an exclusive concentration on an isolated step. A mechanically consecutive sequence of procedures, in which one research step is entirely completed before the next is begun, is rarely, if ever, the experience of social scientists.

The usual pattern of reporting research creates an oversimplified expectation of what is involved in doing research. Customarily, a report on completed research, when it appears as an article in the technical journal, resembles, with minor modifications, the following models:

1. A statement of purpose is made in the form of *formulating the problem*.
2. A description of the *study design* is given.
3. The methods of data collection are specified.
4. The *Results* are presented.
5. Frequently, there follows a section on *conclusion and interpretation* (usually called the Discussion Section)

3.2 Research Subject

This study concerns to analyze and criticize the American family cultures that showed in the movie *Edge of Seventeen* written by Todd Stephen and directed by David Moreton.

At the same time, the researcher also learn not only on the movie *Edge of Seventeen* as the main subject, but also concerns more to the real social life of American families as the setting. Remembering that every single literary work is the mirror of the real condition of social life in the era when the work is set and made.

3.3 Data Source

According to Lofland (Agustini, 2002:17), the major data sources in qualitative research are words and actions. However, books and magazines can also be classified in this category (Moeleong, 1996:112). And the data source of this research is the movie itself, *Edge of seventeen*. Based on the general title of this study, Social Criticism on the Cultures of American Families, based on the movie *Edge of Seventeen*, the researcher try to find out the data trough the dialogues made in each scene in the movie.

The quotation of the dialogues in some scene of the movie is much important as

the proof before the researcher describes each data collected. So, the researcher has to find out the original text of this movie. It seems that this study wish to show the final messages in this movie to the viewers.

The researcher here tries to prove that there are some connection between the literary work and the real social live, especially with the setting where and when the work is made. It is very needed to learn more about the social life and background of American families especially in Ohio 1980s where the movie, *Edge of Seventeen*, is set. Further more some historical data of America also very urgent, in order the make the description in this qualitative study clearer.

Generally, all the data was taken from the movie *Edge of seventeen*, but some supporting data from the out side are much needed. The data meant are such as; the social life background of American families (life style, economical condition, and others), the reason why the parents let their children get the job earlier. It is related to the assumption of the researcher that the families (parents) are the first suspect of creating the homosexuality (gay) of teenagers in Ohio, America.

3.4 Research Instruments

In a qualitative research, the researcher himself will be the main instrument of data collection (human instrumental). He will spend a great deal of time by viewing and understanding the content of the movie. It is the social criticism aspect in *Edge of Seventeen* the movie, then identifying the obtained data from the movie in accordance with the problems of the study. So, in other word he will be a planner, doer, data interpreter and reporter of research result. This way will be done for the only human being can cooperate with the object and understand the related facts in the field. That is why, the researches has a significance role to determine all the aspect of scenario.

3.5 Data Collection

In this study using qualitative research to obtain the data carried out the writers descriptive qualitative research. It takes some follows:

1. Viewing the movie entitled *Edge of Seventeen* for several times.
2. Finding and identifying the data through each scene related to the problem of study.
3. Reading some supporting references related to the study.

4. The data are gathered, it is the time to present and analyze them.

3.6 Data Analysis

All the data have been collected are worked in several steps. First, the data are viewed to gain a perfect understanding. Second, each data will be discussed and analyzed based on the classification that refers to the research problems and research objectives.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the research problems, in this chapter the writer finds some social and cultural problems of American families showed in the movie *Edge of Seventeen* to be discussed and presented.

The findings here also viewed from the side of the American families cultures named in the previous chapter (chapter II) that connected to some scenes taken in the movie *Edge of Seventeen*. Again, through these findings the writer tries to prove that there are something wrong with the customs of American families presented in the movie, and of course, with the real custom of them in the real social life. Firstly, this discussion will start by the synopsis of *Edge of Seventeen*, and in the last will discuss the findings based on the research problems.

4.1 The Synopsis and Profile

a. Synopsis: *Edge of Seventeen*: The Review

It's 1984 in suburban Ohio and Eric (Chris Stafford) has just turned 17. He's an average adolescent who loves music (The Eurhythmics, The Bronski Beat) and his girlfriend Maggie (Tina Holmes). Eric's about to go to college, and earns money flipping burgers at an amusement park. The manager, Angie (Lea Delaria), is a softhearted cross-dressing lesbian, and Rod (Anderson Gadrych), a hunky blond co-flipper, is an openly gay freshman at Ohio State. When Rod kisses him, Eric starts frequenting Angie's local gay bar, Universal Fruits and Nuts. Soon Eric is bleaching his hair, experimenting with mascara, and liking the androgynous New Wave Boy George look. It naturally alienates him from his friends and family. As Eric slowly accepts his emerging sexuality, he faces the inevitable confrontations of coming-out.

He is pretty responsible about the serious stuff: the only drug he uses is poppers, which have gone out of use since the AIDS crisis (and by the way, reader, poppers can cause cardiac arrest in persons with undiagnosed heart arrhythmias). AIDS is mentioned once (since the setting is Reagan-centered 1984), in a sign, and no, Rob didn't use a condom. There is also social commentary: Eric's stay-at-home mother takes a job so Eric can apply to NYU, when he really just wants to make Rob jealous. Ohio State will do just

fine for his music studies. By the way, Eric does display some of his composition talents at times; the music sounds like William Bent's "Sirius Lullaby" (1984).

One other point: in some states, Rob could have gone to jail for his "conquest" of Eric. The age of consent is as old as 18 in a few states. In Ohio, it is normally 16. But that's a good pretext for a movie: an older man falls in love with a teenager, not knowing the teenager is under age (maybe the teen "looks" older and lies). Good pretext for another independent film? Should everyone check ID's?

The movie does play on erotic undertones. Early in the film, Eric and Rob engage in harmless horseplay on a sofa, their super-hairy thighs grating. The mood is really one of hyper masculinity, even when women and girl friends are present. Later, in the "Seduction Scene," Eric displays a narcissistic fascination with Rob's chest hair, something Eric is too young to have much of yet for him (it increases during the rest of the movie). David Skinner of *The Weekly Standard* becomes refuted! And I didn't know that college dorms these days (let alone fraternity houses) were turning into weekend sex clubs, where innocent roommates slept unawares.

As with many independent films, all the outdoor scenes seem to be on location. I spent my boyhood summers about 20 miles from Sandusky (in the Kipton-Oberlin area) and the scenes look real for 1984. I don't know whether Sandusky had a gay bar in 1984; the 1999 Gay Yellow pages show one. Sounds like Eric would have had to drive to

Cleveland to do much exploring, and the Ohio Turnpike is a bit expensive.

Now, leap by way of your movie imagination to the summer of 1984 and the coming-of-age story of a 16-year-old named Eric. He's going to be a senior at Sandusky High School, of all places, but there's the little matter of his first job (at Cedar Point, but called Crystal Shores here). Oh, and falling in love – with another guy.

The fictionalized memoirs of writer/producer Todd Stephens make up the gist of "Edge of 17," his sometimes sexually explicit but equally moving account of "coming out" in northeastern Ohio.

Look closely and anyone who's ever made the short drive to the burgeoning summer resort area about 60 miles west of Cleveland will recognize Lake Erie locales and amusement park venues they've seen before. (In one scene, the Brecksville-Broadview Heights High School Marching Bees make an ever-so-brief appearance).

Such familiarity represents a stark contrast to the content which, even in this day and age, will remain foreign to most audiences. Obviously, it's Stephens' ties with the area, not the gay storyline that has this Sundance Film Festival hit opening here Friday,

the same day it debuts in New York, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Told simply, sweet, young Eric, marvelously played by Chris Stafford, falls head over heels for a collegiate co-worker (Anderson Gabrych). That leaves best friend Maggie brilliantly bothered and bewildered, as portrayed by Tina Holmes.

Stephanie McVay, as a rightfully confused mom, and stand-up comic Lea Delaria, as the new shoulder to lean on, turn in strong work as two other important women in Eric's changing life.

Featuring a soundtrack that runs the gamut from Toni Basil's reduntantly awful "Mickey" to Cilla Black's powerful "You're My World" and everything '80s in between, "Edge of 17" offers a place where gay and straight teens alike can relate to the awkwardness of becoming an adult. "Theres been a fair amount of praise for this tender coming-of-age / coming-out story from the American Midwest. Indeed, debut director David Moreton and writer Todd Stephens, taking a few cues from the British films, Beautiful Thing and Get Real, have nailed the strange, scary, awkward world of fledgling gay adolescence. We are right there with Eric from his first experiments to his pivotal encounters. We feel for his caring mom and his innocent-bystander girlfriend. The scenes of Eric's first attempts with gay sex are excruciatingly real in their depiction of the situations mutual clumsiness and eroticism. Theres not much more to Edge of Seventeen than we've witnessed in other coming-out films. Theres the slow slide into sexual experimentation, the overbearing mom, the caught-in-the-middle girlfriend, the colorfully dressed gay folk, and the frightening first encounters. The point is the filmmakers handle delicate if unoriginal material extraordinarily well, never degrading the film with outrageously camp lines or scenes but evincing a sincerity and tenderness so rarely seen in film today. The only discernable difference here is the period: the mid 80s of awful

pop music and cringe-inducing fashion. Eric's hair and make-up is also just fab. It's all pretty real here, and draws wellsprings of empathy for this troubled teen. As Eric, Chris Stafford is a real find, displaying a perfect evolution from gawky teen to angst-ridden passionate young man. Stafford is ably supported by his cuddly mom (Stephanie McVay), various toy-boys, and some colorful gay-club gals. No drag queens in the desert here. Edge of Seventeen resonates with that simultaneous feeling of pleasure and pain in being gay, giving the average hetero the closest insight into coming out, and the average homosexual tears of serendipitous joy."

b. *Edge of Seventeen*: The Profile

EDGE OF SEVENTEEN (MA)

CAST : Chris Stafford, Tina Holmes, Andersen Gabrych,

Stephanie Mc Vay

PRODUCERS : David Moreton, Todd Stephens

DIRECTOR : David Moreton

SCRIPT : Todd Stephens

CINEMATOGRAPHER : Gina Degirolamo

EDITOR : Tal Ben-David

MUSIC : Tom Bailey

PRODUCTION DESIGN : Ivor Stilin

RUNNING TIME : 99 minutes

4.2. Data Presentation

This chapter will present some finding data on the scenes of *Edge of Seventeen* in correlation with the research problems which are focused on the cultures of American families as named in the previous chapter. Because this research takes the point to criticize the cultures of American families based on the movie, so in this finding and discussion the researcher tries to find the negative sides and effects of the current customs in American families. These steps are needed to prove that set of freedom in America (families) not always bring the positive liberties, but some times it creates the negative effects. In other hand, based on the movie, the freedom given by the families creates the bad social effects to their children.

4.2.1 Family Tradition

From very beginning the American families set their children to feel free for everything, remember the term the land of the free, and the home of the brave. American people use this quote in educating and raising their children.

The quotes above give the description that, American families directly teach their

children to be free start from its family. From very beginning they let the children to get the freedom of everything in their own life, including choosing friend, school, and other activities outside and inside the family. This condition is presented in the very beginning of the scene in the movie. Its described what happens in the family of the major character, Eric (Chris Stafford). This family is a kind of nuclear family which consists of the father, the mother, and the children. Eric is live with his two parents and his only one younger brother,

In the first scene is narrated and described how the American family lets the children having free choice of life start from the family. Known by the activities of each family member, who has his or her own listed things to do. Eric for instance, he spends his time in his private room more than involved himself with his father who has a routine hobby, fishing with his younger brother. He makes a dream inside his room, making plan for his next study

<http://www.amazon.com/Ask-Children-Americas-Working-Parents/dp> accessed

17th January 2007)

Those American family values above as well as what *Edge of Seventeen* describes in its most scenes. One of the major characters, Eric, was treated as the elder child in his family, and he encouraged but not forced to make final decision for his own future life. In his adulthood time he is allowed to make his own money, make a relationship, met and support his own social life, grow, physic and mental, as Eric, and finally decides that he is a gay.

As an adult, Eric is given a wide world to play by his parents. It is a give that makes some advantages for a young man like Eric. He may maximally grow as what he is and what he wants to be. But in the other hands, as an adult like Eric, rarely finds some difficulties to bring and came out as his self in his own wide world.

Starting from a summer job at the Amusement park restaurant, Eric goes to search his own identity to the student dormitory in New York, where Rod, his brilliant co worker who already open him self as a flamboyant gay guy, and finally Eric found him self there, as a gay too.

It is a relatively new phenomenon for people to come out as gay in adolescence or, in some cases, even younger. They may have grown up in a time or place that made it difficult, if not impossible, to disclose their homosexuality to the people in their life. While homophobia is still a problem in today's society, attitudes have changed enough for many gay adults to feel empowered to come out, even if they've lived a good portion of their adult lives in the closet. Moreover if they life in the lost world at their adolescences era, just like Eric did.

A study by Dr. Jose Ashford examines and critically analyzes bio psychosocial development from adolescence trough the late adulthood concludes that an adult is the risky age to be affected by the social organizations especially family members, which will influence his social, psychological, and biological growth which has certain affection the sexual orientation.

This is true that in this late adulthood age, a teenage should be protected more than just a giving an attention. Seeing the new phenomenon based on the research by a Germany researcher which examines and proves that one of seven young men is potentially grow to be a homophobia (Menzie:s:2005)

Again it depends on the social roles and effects that may influence the one into a disorder behavior. But the most part which has the big responsibility is family, where the young adult tries to find and grow properly. It is like a given direction where a little man like Eric should go. If the direction is wrong, he will find the wrong way too. But if he finds the good and completely right direction, he may drive his life into the right place too.

In scenes III part 4 for instance, Eric tries to reach a dirty place like fruity night club, where the older gays are inside, and of course some nasty and dirty life is commonly happen inside the bar. Without any control from the parents, firstly Eric feels free to join them. But after takes some moments visiting, Eric consciously knew that something goes wrong with his life. Until he finds Angie (Lea Deliria) as his second

mother, and tell her his everything very personally.

From the very short discussion, Angie and Eric make such a deal that Eric have to confess as him self as a gay. Undoubtedly, this is an easy suggestion from the second mom, because Angie was a senior lesbian in that bar.

This case proves that a family attention is strongly needed by the young guy like Eric. However, some parents in American families less conscious to this problem. This is the common case that happens, when a child find no more enough attention and role of the parents, he may tries to find out another place to chat and socializing his own future life.

4.2.5 The Principle of Human Freedom

As described in the previous chapter that American families teach their children The Principle of Human Freedom. They teach their children that to be free to choose they must accept responsibility for our choices. To accept responsibility for our choices means they accept their current condition of life or they choose to change it. As they make their choices in pursuit of Life, Liberty and Happiness; they recognize, they must work hard and earn their own way. As they compete to improve their lives they must treat the fellow Human Beings with Dignity, Respect and Fairness. In return they expect to be treated also with the same Dignity, Respect and Fairness (www.americanfamilytraditions.com/humanlife.htm).

First and foremost there is the belief that all people are to be free. Freedom or Liberty is the fundamental American Family Value. Freedom is the opposite of Slavery. The terms Freedom and Liberty can be used interchangeably in this context. Freedom is a condition of life where an individual is afforded the opportunity to choose one's next action. With Freedom comes the responsibility to care for one's self; for it is the freedom of choice that carries with it the responsibility to accept the consequences of the choices made.

Again, from the tradition in American families above, the researcher states the question that by seeing the setting stage of freedom does it gives children the liberty or the death. Every single new born in America is set to be a free and independent person in the future. So then, the key of freedom is given start from very early age even. Related to this, the movie *Edge of Seventeen* clearly describe how the American families treat their

son and let them act freely.

In the scene IV takes 1 for instance, the dad told Eric find your new world in New York my son. It is one reply from Eric's father when he knows that his son is going to reach his dream ever to the music college in New York. This is a given assumption that a parent wants to release his son freely with no boundaries. And, it seems that the parents give no more suggests as the consideration for the next risk may exist and for some benefit or disadvantages for the future.

Based on the *Edge of Seventeen* the researcher found some disadvantaged from the given freedom by the parents to the children in American families. And the very clear example of the disadvantage of the freedom is the homophobia phenomenon in the teenage and late adulthood age just like the case of the major character at the movie, Eric. The coming up next answer from the question did freedom give the liberty, or the death? Through the movie analyzed, the writer here dares to give an answer that the freedom settled in the American families is creating the bad aspects which slowly killing the children themselves. This creates some unhealthy matters that may influence the youth life in both, psychologically and physically.

A quotation from Adam Smith The American liberal model of freedom is unhealthy because it grants too much to the individual and does not allow the interests of any entity larger than the individual to be counted. We are so sensitive to infringements of our personal rights and our privacy that we allow easily cured problems to fester. This is the problem of the friend with BO writ large. When an individual is offending the community who speaks up? Who defends the interests of all? Far too often the answer is nobody (<http://mwillett.org/Politics/freedom.htm>).

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

After conducting data analysis in the previous chapter, then, a shareholder the last part of this thesis, this study arrives at the conclusion and suggestion. Some conclusions are drawn based on three research problems which has been proposed in the first chapter and the suggestions are intended to give information to the readers and the next researcher who will conduct the study on such similar matters.

5.1 Conclusion

Literary works, can be viewed and analyzed from many sides through the elements of it, whether the intrinsic or extrinsic elements. This study is conducted to analyze the movie as the literary work through the extrinsic element, and it takes the social criticism theory, and focused on the sociology-literature as the frame of study.

The content of a literary work can be in a shape of message, is one of the extrinsic elements that have a wide large side to be discussed. The message of a literary work also has a many aspects or point of views and it depends on what the researcher concerned in. The researcher here just takes the simple side to be understood in the work.

The researcher in this study takes the social values to be criticized from the content and message through the dialogues and the appearance in all scenes in movie *Edge of Seventeen*. And still, this study is based on the basic concept that a literary work whether is it fantastic or mystical in content, is animated by profound social concern (Rooney Gilberg, 1994:3)

The writer concludes generally from this study on the movie *Edge of Seventeen* by Todd Stephen as follow:

1. It is true that the literary work, direct or indirect, always animates the real social condition where the work is set.
2. Literary work takes the most part of the made of the work, from the social life as the auto-cortication from the author, and it can be the experience of the author or the mind set from the author then it described and collected completely as a literary work.

3. In other hand, literary work always mirrors the real condition of the society, whether it is poetry, novels, movies, and so on, where the work is made.

In another side the analysis of the movie *Edge of Seventeen* can be concluded that:

1. In the edge of seventeen teenagers are in the danger era, which are they can grown to be everyone, even to be unexpected figure that they want.
2. The young guy like Eric should be protected intensively and should be guided properly to find out the right way of life, because a guy like him is gristle to be influenced by the local custom where he socializes and communicates, and with whom he spends his activities all day long.
3. The freedom that expressed in the movie, and of course it describes the real culture and social life in American families, do not always bring the positive aspects for the social, especially for their generation because, based on the movie, it gives them the death.

5.2 Suggestion

In reading a literature, we can find something that we have never imagined before. We can release our experience, view, idea, opinion, or even the walk beyond true life. It is a mirror of freedom of speech, thought and imagination.

In the movie *Edge of Seventeen* the author tried to show his experience and view to open the eyes of the society and everyone as the viewer of his work. It shows the way of thinking from Todd Stephen as the film maker, how did he viewed the social life in his community and describe it into a work as a movie. Again, it gives the freedom to the audiences to take and give a response and feedback to the work, because every single viewer has the right to judge and criticize the result of the work from the man of literature.

In this movie, the author tried to show all aspects of the cultures and customs in American families from the front to the back, from the beginning to the end. He tells the viewer how the parents usually treat their kids and what the customs they teach to them. In a simply matter, the result is clear, that the freedom they give to the children do not bring the good thing. Even it is not in generally that the freedom as the custom of indigoes people always create the bad side to the social life, but from this view, the

audience can open mind and eyes to judge and decide where is the good and the bad one. Again, the audiences take their own roles to judge and analyse the work freely.

This thesis also can be used as another example of literary work analysis that is suitable for some levels of English mastery in a class related to the literary class. It may give the idea and inspiration in analyzing the literary works. They can be more critical to analyzing a movie for instance, from a vary point of view, not only from the intrinsic elements that only expressing the seen points, but also the extrinsic elements that make the analysis expresses the mind freely and critically described the outside matter tells by the work.

Analyzing the social message for example, give the wide view for the audience to be more look around the work. It may guide the viewers to be able to see and read the literary work more deeply. So the audiences critically try to found more message try to given by the author or the man of letter.

Finally, the researcher hopes that this study can give something more than just a story of the *Edge of Seventeen*, but also give the idea as the golden treasure that is deep message which is contained in the story. Therefore such kind of analysis is strongly needed to be continued by another researcher in the next days. In this regard, the writer suggests this short study will be reopened to be discussed in another occasion comprehensively.

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