CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1   Background of the Study

The *Hundred-Foot Journey*'s film is set in a small village in the southern part of France inhabited by people from the same background: the French culture (Steven, Oprah & Hallström, 2014). The arrival of an Indian family, Kadam's family, changes the village's life. Kadam's family, who practices Indian culture, gives distinctive shading to life in the village. The village people who are not used to individuals from different cultural backgrounds watch this Indian family with curiosity and prejudice. The film shows the discriminations expressed by Madame Mallory and some of her kitchen staff toward Kadam's family. Madam Mallory is the owner of Haute Cuisine, the nearest neighbor to the Kadam's family.

The conflicts between the two neighbors, Kadam's family, and Madame Mallory and her staff shown in the first half of the film and the development of tolerance between those two neighbors shown in the second half of the film are the main focus of this film. The conflicts and the development of tolerance attract the writer to study the film because of the writer's point of view; the conflicts are the representation of what happens in a multicultural society. In contrast, the tolerance developed is the representation of what should happen in a multicultural society.

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To analyze the conflicts and the development of tolerance, the writer will apply the theories of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism is a condition that exists when two ethnic groups or more life and interact with each other in a social network (Rex & Singh, 2003). In a more detailed understanding, Tiryakian (2003) defines multiculturalism as:

> …an empirical demographic condition referring to a society (which may or may not be a nation-state but may also include an empire) having two or more ethnic groups, each having cultural traits that may have some overlap with the other group(s), yet is distinctive enough to form a different cultural identity and community (p. 23).

Some scholars have already done studies on multiculturalism in the film. One of them is Chu (1996). The title of Chu's study is *Erasing Race in Nancy Kelly's Thousand Places of Gold*. The study discussed Lalu Nathoy (Polly), a Chinese woman who lived in Northern China. After three years-long droughts, Lalu was sold for two bags of seeds to the middleman. Then she was sold to a "Madam" in Shanghai who sent her to Francisco. She was sold to a man who ran a saloon in Warrens, America, Hong King. As a minority Chinese, Lalu is marginalized in the United States. She is sold as a sex slave, and she could not do anything to help herself and get help from others. Her Chinese features are used as a unique feature to sell her. When Lalu is brought to Hong King's friends, she is described as "The Pearl of the Orient" because of her foreign bearing. Moreover, as a Chinese sex worker, she is also considered as a

rare commodity, she is claim to represent "the pleasure of the east and is sold with a high price, "She is prepared to show you all the pleasure from the east now for the first $200..". Hong King, Lalu's employer, tells Charlie, his friend, that Lalu could make a fortune for them. When Charlie rejected the idea, Hong King replied, "but she is Chinese", implying the idea that a Chinese is an inferior that can be made into a slave in the U.S.

The writer's reason to do this study is to give more enlightenment to the readers on multiculturalism or multicultural society today, including the discriminations and tolerances that happen in the society. There is proof that people often neglect to see how good multiculturalism is, including the importance of tolerance in a multicultural society. This study is not the same as the previous study regarding the object chosen to analyze and its background.

1.2   Field of the Study

The field of this study is literature, especially film related to multiculturalism.

1.3   Scope of the Study

This study focuses on discriminations and tolerance shown in *The Hundred-Foot Journey* film.

1.4   Problem Formulation

The problem formulation of this study are :

1. What are the discriminations experienced by Kadam's family?

2. Why does Kadam's family experience discriminations?

3. How is the tolerance between Kadam's family and Madame Mallory developed?

1.5 Objectives of the Study

With the problems mentioned, it is expected from this study to achieve the following objectives:

1. To find out the discriminations experienced by Kadam's family.

2. To find out the reasons Kadam's family experiences discriminations.

3. To reveal the way the tolerance between the Kadam's family and Madame Mallory is developed.

1.6   Significance of the Study

It is expected that this study will give an advantage in the learning of literature by increasing the knowledge and helping the reader to understand better about

multiculturalism and tolerance. This study may be used as a reference for further research in the same study field to future writers.

1.7   Definition of Term

This part consists of brief definitions and descriptions of the key terms which are used in this research.

1.   Asian Immigrants

Asian immigrants are people who born in Asian country then immigrate to destination country. (Migration Policy Institute [MPI], 2021).

2.   Multiculturalism

Multiculturalism in contemporary political discourse and in political philosophy reflects a discussion how to comprehend and react to the challenges associated with cultural diversity based on ethnic, national, and religious differences. The term "multicultural' is frequently use as a descriptive term to describe the reality of diversity in society (Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy [SEP], 2020).

3.   Discrimination

 Discrimination is the unfair prejudicial treatment of people and groups based on characteristics such as race, gender, age or sexual orientation. (American Psychological Association [APA], 2019).

4.   Tolerance

Tolerance is the ability or eagerness to accept something in particular the existence of opinions or behavior that one does not necessarily agree with (Stebbins, 2017 .p. 1).