**A Study of War Strategy Applied by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi in Clint Eastwood *Letters from Iwo Jima* and its Application in English Language Teaching**

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**Abstract**

*Letters from Iwo Jima* is a 2006 American war film directed and co-produced by the great American actor, Clint Eastwood. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi has a duty from the Japanese Imperial to defend Iwo Jima from the American invasion. Therefore, Kuribayashi has put in order his own strategy to save the island and he didn’t follow the traditional strategy that was recommended, so that his privates begin to feel desperate. In this research, the researcher did the investigation toward the war strategy that is used by General Kuribayashi in saving Iwo Jima. The main hypotheses are: *What kind of war strategy which is applied by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi in securing Iwo Jima? Is the war strategy which applied by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi effective to win the battle? What solutions did General Tadamichi Kuribayashi takes to end the war? What kind of application of this research which will be applied in English Language Teaching?* This analysis uses war strategy approaches from Carl von Clausewitz war theory based on his book entitled “*On War*” and Psychological Approach to identify the solution that the characters give. Finally we can find out that General Kuribayashi applies a ***Defensive Strategy***. We also know that the defensive war strategy is ***not effective***, because there is no any ***popular support*** at all from the Imperial; no combined fleet and the air forces. The war strategy doesn’t work well. Eventually, Japan surrendered. Before the Americans killed them, they commit an honor suicide which includes in ***Inseki-jisatsu***, because of their ***Moral Anxiety***. This research can be applied in conducting the lesson plan in English for Specific Purpose to teach military cadets.

*Keywords:* ***Film, Letters from Iwo Jima, War Strategy Approach, Psychological Approach***

1. **Background**

Film is a kind of motion pictures which is including in the art works. They are produced by recording the images using cameras, high technique and technology. Both technique and technology are as well required in the voice taking, images taking, and the other complements with special effects, so that viewers can say that films are also including in a good literary works. The functions of movies are so many. For instance, people are watching movies in televisions, cinemas even laptops for amusing themselves. Besides, they are also useful for learning and teaching something. As the teachers-to-be, of course, we are required to learn literature. Literature is described as the spoken or written materials which are produced from the creative and critical imagination works.

1. **Research Method**

This research is a qualitative because the researcher tries to find the motives on human behavior. Qualitative research gives us evidences, factors, and samples which are causing a behavioral changing, for instance, the researcher wants to find out the motives of General Kuribayashi in applying the war strategy which is used to secure Iwo Jima island in the pacific war against America. Therefore, a qualitative research has a connection with some psychological approach. The researcher uses library research to get the data. The analysis object is *Letters from Iwo Jima* film. The researcher uses descriptive method to visualize and describe the circumstances of the object and subject of analysis based on the facts which are existed in the film. The researcher utilizes war strategy approaches to identify the war strategy and its effectiveness, and psychological approach to identify the solution given by the character.

1. **Finding and Discussion**

The kind of war strategy which is applied by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi is a ***Defensive War Strategy***. As Clausewitz proposed; in the defensive generally, particularly in the defense of certain natural features such as river, mountains, and so forth, we know this is constantly required (2007:149). The war strategy which is applied in Iwo Jima battle by General Tadamichi Kuribayashi is **NOT** effective. According to the film, there is a single factor on the effectiveness of strategy which is not fulfilled. The Japanese combined fleet and the Japanese Air Forces are not going to be sent by the Imperial to help him. Japan lost in Mariana battle, and Iwo Jima now left without any help. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi finally chooses to commit the honor ***suicide*** as his problem solver. At first he refuses the suicide, but at last, he realizes his status and position in the battle. He is suffering from a ***moral anxiety*** which finally leads him to feel ***guilty and shame***.

Kuribayashi and the soldiers, who die in suicide before, use ***Inseki-jisatsu*** as the way to kill themselves. In this film, Kuribayashi and his men do the suicide by shooting or bombing themselves. They are not cutting the abdomen like the real *harakiri*. However, they do the suicide in hara-kiri way, and still in the Japanese soil. In creating a creative learning for ESP subject.

1. **Conclusion and Recommendation**

**Conclusion**

Based on the research finding which has been discussed, the researcher makes the conclusions as follow:

1. In *Letters from Iwo Jima* film, General Tadamichi Kuribayashi is applying a **Defensive Strategy**.
2. The war strategy; Defensive Strategy is **not effective** to be applied in defending Iwo Jima, because there is an important thing (the assistance of Combined Fleet and Air Forces) in the **Popular Support** of the effectiveness which is not fulfilled by the Imperial.
3. General Tadamichi Kuribayashi finally takes his own life by doing a honor suicide after unconsciously suffering from **Moral Anxiety**. This is including in **Inseki-jisatsu**; suicide as an honor. That is how he solves the failure in defending Iwo Jima.
4. The application of this research in ELT is in English for Specific Purpose. English for Military Cadets can be taught to them using this kind of film.

**Reccomendations**

The suggestions are listed below:

1. For the English Department Students

Honestly, analyzing a literature is not that difficult. The only way that you all have to master is “an intention to read”.

1. For the Educational Institution

This suggestion is for the researcher’s institution. Literary Appreciation class is the most wonderful one. However, most of the English students really don’t know or even pay attention on this subject. Although they are in a teacher training faculty, they need to learn literature to add more their sensibility. Any advancements regarding on this kind of subject would be very helpful.

1. For the Other Researchers

Hopefully, there are other researchers who conduct research using the War Strategy Approach using Carl von Clausewitz’s theories. So, the researcher hopes for other improvement.

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