

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presented background, problems of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and limitations of the study. A brief history of World War I and World War II was discussed, along with how World War affected literature. The postmemory theory and the novelty were also included in this section.

1.1. Background

The First World War lasted from 1914-1918. The World War I outbreak started by several factors. The first factor was started by the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand, aggressive military alliance, armament race, economic nationalism of Britain and Germany, and colonial rivalries in Africa and Asia. It recorded massive destruction and heavy loss of lives (Amalu, 2018).

During 1939 to 1945, a conflict involved almost every side of the world, called World War II or the Second World War. Germany, Italy, Japan, France, Great Britain, The United States, Soviet Union, were the main parties to this global conflict. In many ways, the war was a resumption, after 20 years break of a quarrel left unsolved by World War I. World War II was the deadliest and largest war in history, with 40,000,000-50,000,000 people killed (Hughes & Royde-Smith, 2023).

World War II was a global conflict that had become the most massive and deadliest ever came to pass. This battle began on September 1, 1939, and involved more than 30 countries including America and Japan. America was on the Allies' side,

and Japan, on the other hand, was on the Axis' side. The Battle of Okinawa is known to be the Pacific theater's killing field in World War II. The Second World War was a massively destructive and bloodiest battle, and memories have preserved a significant place of consciousness in Americans, Japanese, and Okinawans towards World War II (Altenberg, 2019).

U.S. ground forces began the Battle of Okinawa on April 1, 1945. Securing the island was the objective of the battle, to remove the last barricade between U.S. forces and Imperial Japan. The battle was becoming the most dangerous with American casualties reaching a staggering 49,151, of which 12,520 were killed or missing in June. Four service members individually received the Medal of Honor for actions they performed during the Battle of Okinawa. Thirteen went to the Marines and Navy corpsmen, nine to Army troops, and one to a Navy officer (Naval History and Heritage Command, 2022).

To appreciate the combatants who took a big role in the war, acts of valor to risk their life above duty, the combatant will be awarded The Medal of Honor, presented by the President of the United States. One of the recipients of the World War II Medal of Honor is Desmond Thomas Doss. Corporal Desmond Doss, a medic ground force corps during World War II, was a strangeness, or in the view of people today, is an anachronism. The anomaly formed because Doss is a man with deep religious faith and rejected hurting other individuals due to the commandment not to kill (Exodus 20:13), yet he was willing to endure in the battle to save lives (Puddy et.al., 2019).

It was not easy for Desmond Doss to combat without pointing a gun at the enemies in World War II, specifically in Guam, Leyte, and Okinawa. Being raised

with a good strong belief in 7th Day Adventist, he is against killing and taking life. This global conflict left a traumatic impression on Desmond Doss. He lost his friend on the battlefield. After he returned home from the battlefield, he had to undergo several years of treatment for the wounds and tuberculosis he contracted in Leyte (The National WWII Museum, 2020).

Through this heroic story, Booton Herndon caught Doss's memory and made it the inspiration for his novel. This novel then finally was filmed in 2016. A novel, as part of literary work, can become a way for humans to express their experiences, opinions, and knowledge to be communicated back to connoisseurs of literature with added aesthetic value in it (Yanti and Neisya, 2021). The novel *Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge* is itself a literary work in the form of a reconstructed narrative. In a social novel, the reality is re-established by the author in numerous figures of social phenomena that have occurred in society offered through the text to the reader as an overview (Puspitasari and Neisya, 2019). In this case, World War II was a social phenomenon that took an impactful part in the literature. The war profoundly affected literature and caused numerous authors to intend to play with their imaginative minds to create a masterpiece in the form of literary works (Short, 2015). This second global war caused numerous authors and directors to play with their magical imaginative minds to create a masterpiece in the form of literary works, that are inspired by World War II.

Literary work itself is defined as a form of expression of the human mind that has been poured in various forms since hundreds of years ago and has played an important role in human civilization. Literary work is a way for humans to express their

experiences, opinions, and knowledge to be communicated back to connoisseurs of literature with added aesthetic value in it (Yanti & Neisya, 2021).

Booton Herndon was one of those authors. He wrote the novel *Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge*, originally published in 1967. The novel tells the reader the story of how incredibly Desmond Doss became a medic army who fought in World War II, by saving the lives of his colleagues and refusing to point a weapon at the opponent. The making of this novel was inspired and based on personal interviews with Corporal Desmond Doss. This novel inspired a director, Mel Gibson, to make a movie adaptation, entitled *Hacksaw Ridge*.

The movie of *Hacksaw Ridge* is very popular, and although many researchers are interested in analyzing the movie of the *Hacksaw Ridge*, there is not found yet the research that has taken the novel version as the object. Instead, the novel is pictured in more detail the event. Hence, the researchers found it fascinating to analyze the novel using the postmemory theory by Hirsch. Postmemory itself was introduced by a professor named Marianne Hirsch. Marianne Hirsch is a professor who lectured at Columbia University. She wrote a book about postmemory called “*The Generation of Postmemory: Writing and Visual Culture After the Holocaust*” in 2012. She stated that:

“there was a moment, in the 1980s, when I first began to wonder why certain stories that my parents had told me, or scenes they had evoked about what they always referred to as “the war,” were more vibrant and more vivid in my memories than moments I recalled from my own childhood. Their accounts had the textures and qualities of memories for me, but they were clearly not my memories: I had not experienced any of them directly. I felt that I needed a term to describe this indirect form of recollection, its belatedness, and its multiple mediations. And I realized then that my experiences were not at all unique. Not only did I share them with other descendants of Holocaust

survivors, but they described a larger cultural phenomenon common to my generation – a generation dominated by histories we did not ourselves live through. Memories are not just personal or familial. They are, as I describe in the book, more broadly affiliative – mediated by public images and stories that are transmitted to us from overpowering historical events like the Holocaust” (Columbia University Press, 2012).

Postmemory is usually identical to the result of cultural trauma that is caused by war, holocaust, genocide, or catastrophe. Postmemory is a memory owned by the generation who has not experienced the memory itself. The term postmemory is possible to slide to rememory—recollecting things someone has already forgotten—, traumatic reenactment, and repetition (Hirsch, 2012b).

However, postmemory also able to be defined as a memory or a remembrance that one has but did not experience the event directly. Memory that is transmitted to the next generation or postgeneration, is able to make them “live” in the events of the previous generation’s remembrance.

Desmond Doss’s story also attracted researchers to analyze them. As seen in the thesis that is written by Burhanudin (2017), “The Journey of Desmond Doss in *Hacksaw Ridge*”, it is unmasked the stages of the adventure of Desmond Doss using Joseph Campbell's hero journey theory (Burhanudin, 2017). Another research was done by Maderek (2017), the researcher’s master thesis entitled “War: Glory or Doom of Humankind.” Maderek analyzed how soldiers are depicted in both literary works and movies, and some main characters of war-themed movies are being analyzed, including Desmond Doss of *Hacksaw Ridge* (Maderek, 2017). The research entitled “Desmond Doss’s Struggle in Defending His Value in *Hacksaw Ridge* Movie” was written by Putri and Saifurrohman (2018). The research result was dissecting about

how Doss defended his value, and the moral injury he received, which was divided into three disdain forms through Honneth's theory (Putri & Saifurrohman, 2018). Research written four years ago by Wangania (2019), entitled “Tindak Ujar Kompetitif dan Konflikatif Dalam Film *Hacksaw Ridge* Karya Mel Gibson.” The research was identifying and describes the Leech theory of competitive and conflictive acts that is portrayed in the *Hacksaw Ridge* movie (Wangania, 2019). Finally, research entitled “Character’s Personality in The *Hacksaw Ridge* film (2016): An analysis of Carl Jung’s MBTI theory” written by Anugra (2023). The research result was made to reveal the MBTI type of each character in the *Hacksaw Ridge* movie, using the Carl Jung 16 MBTI type personality theory. Based on the finding of the research, it can be concluded that Desmond Doss’s MBTI type was INFP.

Of all the research that has been done by Burhanudin, Maderek, Putri & Saifurrohman, Wangania, and Anugra above, none of their research or study was focusing on analyzing the post-memory. The problem they focused on was the journey, soldiers depicted, Desmond Doss’s defending his value and receiving moral injury, studying the competitive and conflictive act, and finding the personality type. It signifies that the concept of studying postmemory, specifically for the Redemption at *Hacksaw Ridge* novel is never done previously. By comparing the four research or study above, there will be an expansion of the understanding of Redemption at *Hacksaw Ridge* novel.

This research elucidates the postmemory theory that contained and happened in the Redemption at *Hacksaw Ridge* novel, which was never done by any researchers

above who used both the novel and movie of Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge as the object of their research.

The researcher discloses that it is fascinating to analyze the post-memory theory by Marianne Hirsch through the Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge novel. The novel itself tells the reader how difficult Desmond Doss's effort was to live through World War II and to combat as a medic. It caused Desmond Doss to experience traumatic memory and triggered Booton Herndon to write the narrative reconstruction of the traumatic memory through the Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge novel using his imaginative projection.

Hereby, the researcher interested in analyzing how postmemory works, which is formed by Booton Herndon inside his masterpiece, the Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge novel. Therefore, the research is entitled “Narrative Reconstruction Of Traumatic Memory In The Novel *Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge*.”

1.2. Problems of the Study

According to the background above, the problems of research are formulated as follows:

1. How is Desmond’s traumatic memory described in the interview?
2. How does Herndon reconstruct the narrative of Desmond’s traumatic memory in the novel of Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge?

1.3. Objectives of the study

In accordance with the questions of the problem of the study above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To unveil Desmond's traumatic memory in the documentary interview.
2. To describe the reconstructed narrative of traumatic memory portrayed in the Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge novel.

1.4. Significance of the study

Previously, the role of post-memory theory in analyzing the Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge Novel was never done. This research is made to unmask the traumatic memory and narrative reconstruction of traumatic memory from Booton Herndon's point of view, as the author of the novel. The findings of this research directly benefit the reader who is doing the same research with postmemory theory related or the reader who is just wondering how post-memory theory works in the Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge novel.

1.5. Limitations of the study

Concerning to the background and objectives of the study above, this study has two limitations. These limitations highlight analyzing the traumatic memory and narrative reconstruction of the traumatic memory that is illustrated in the Redemption at Hacksaw Ridge novel using the postmemory theory by Marianne Hirsch.