

***THE REVENANT:***  
**THE PORTRAYAL OF WHITE AMERICAN**  
**FUR TRADERS' LIFE IN THE WILDERNESS**

**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

**BY**  
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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH DEPARTMENT OF**  
**LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE FACULTY OF**  
**CULTURAL STUDIES UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**  
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**UNDERGRADUATE THESIS**

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**For the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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## DECLARATION OF AUTHORSHIP

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Martina Ayu Shevania Lestari

## ABSTRACT

Lestari, Martina A. S. 2018. ***The Revenant: The Portrayal of White American Fur Traders' Life in the Wilderness***. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Dyah Eko Hapsari.

**Keywords:** Historical Approach, Fur traders, Wild Life, Survival, *The Revenant*

In 19<sup>th</sup> century, fur trade was a major business in North America. At that time, fur trade was at its peak in business of fur industry. Behind the history of fur trade in North America, the story of the long journey of fur trappers and traders in the wilderness became an amazing story. In the movie *The Revenant*, the journey and experience which experienced by fur trappers and traders in North America is illustrated. This study uses historical approach, movie studies, and cinematography to help the researcher analyze the data.

From the results of the analysis, the researcher found some results that portray the fur traders' life. The portrayal of fur traders' life and historical facts that exist are mostly the same. The results that found such as traders who joined the company would spend months in the wilderness and left their family. They must also try in their own way to protect themselves from wild animals, harsh nature, lack of food supply or the changing of transportation while taking a journey. One condition that was faced by fur traders was the Indian rebellion which is also reflected in the film *The Revenant*. While in fact, it was actually happened in 1823 that referred to as Arikara War. The good relationship between white trappers and Indian Pawnee is also shown. In fact, Pawnee was one tribe that had a good relation with the American government at the time.

## ABSTRAK

Lestari, Martina A. S. 2018. *The Revenant: The Portrayal of White American Fur Traders' Life in the Wilderness*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: Dyah Eko Hapsari, M. Hum.

**Kata kunci:** Pendekatan sejarah, pemburu kulit, alam liar, bertahan hidup, *The Revenant*

Pada abad ke 19, perdagangan kulit merupakan bisnis utama di Amerika Utara. Pada saat itu perdagangan kulit sedang dalam puncaknya. Dibalik sejarah perdagangan kulit di Amerika, cerita dari perjalanan panjang para pemburu dan pedagang kulit di alam liar menjadi cerita yang mengagumkan. Dalam film *The Revenant*, perjalanan dan pengalaman yang dialami pemburu dan pedagang kulit di Amerika utara digambarkan. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan historis, *movie study*, dan *cinematography* untuk membantu penulis menganalisa data.

Dari hasil analisa, penulis menemukan beberapa hasil yang menggambarkan kehidupan pemhuru dan pedagang kulit. Dan kondisi yang tergambar pada film dengan fakta sejarah yang ada merupakan sebagian besar sama. Pemburu kulit binatang yang bergabung dengan sebuah perusahaan akan menghabiskan waktu berbulan-bulan hidup di alam liar hingga target kulit tercapai dan mereka harus rela meninggalkan keluarga. Pemburu kulit juga harus berusaha dengan cara mereka sendiri dalam melindungi diri dari hewan buas, lingkungan yang tidak bersahabat, kekurangan makanan atau transportasi yang berbeda. Transportasi yang digunakan tergantung dari kondisi sekitar dan beberapa pesaing antar perdagangan kulit di Amerika terutama Indian. Salah satu kondisi yang harus dihadapi oleh fur traders adalah seperti pemberontakan oleh Indian yang tergambar dalam film *The Revenant*. Dalam sejarah, kondisi tersebut memang terjadi pada tahun 1823 dan disebut sebagai Arikara War. Namun hubungan baik antara pemburu dan Indian Pawnee juga ditunjukkan. Salah satunya seperti fakta bahwa Indian Pawnee merupakan salah satu suku yang berhubungan baik dengan pemerintah Amerika Utara pada saat itu.



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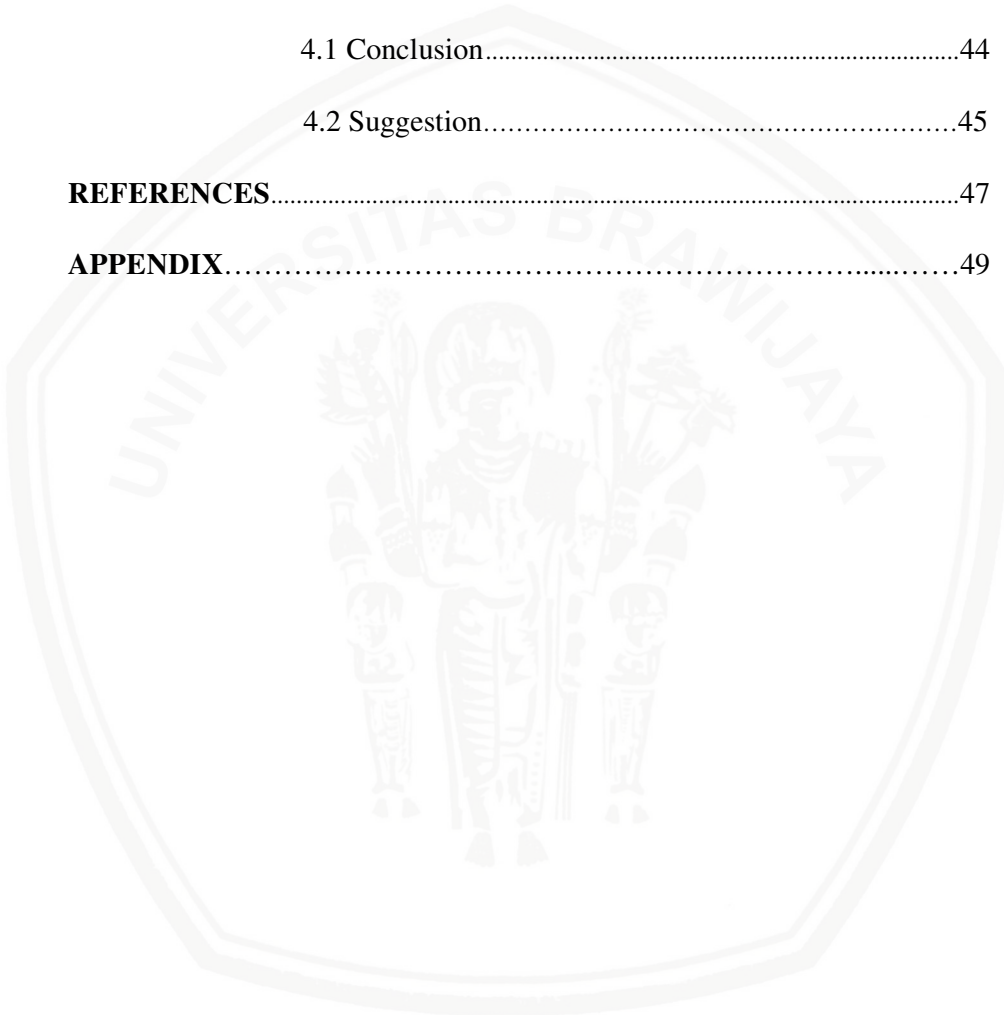
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## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents about some information of the research. This chapter consist of three sub-chapters as the background of the study, problem of the study and objective of the study.

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

The early 19<sup>th</sup> century was the beginning of the expansion of North America region started from the Mississippi River extended toward the west. This historical event is referred to as Louisiana purchase, which was the purchase of Louisiana region by the President of Thomas Jefferson from France. Therefore, the west side of the Mississippi River is often referred to as the USA's western frontier as strengthened by Morris (1994, p.4) that states "In short, the notion of a regional Western history deserves a prominent place alongside a frontier-based history of westward expansion". The same statement is said by Nolan (2011, p.1) that "..... the American West - and by that is meant exclusively the trans-Mississippi West - is largely, the story of the coming of the nationhood of the United States of America".

After Louisiana Purchase, which was the beginning of the exploration of the American West, President Thomas Jefferson made an expedition called Lewis and Clark Expedition led by Captain Meriwether Lewis who previously became the private secretary of the President and the Second Lieutenant William Clark. The

expedition aimed to find a route to the west, studying the geographic of American West and observing the natural resources. This was also aimed to establish trade relation with Native American.

One of the natural resources in American West were wild animals located in the Great Plains. Therefore, the Indians of the Great Plains hunting for their livelihood. Beside, white American as explorers, trapper, hunter or trader came looked for fortune such as trading the fur. Those who had to deal with not only Native American, but also with the same trappers or traders, wild animals of the wild west, and rivers and mountains that must be passed. Those who had to left their home to sought some fortune and spread it through word of mouth to many people. The people who would immigrated to American West in sought of a better life. The early arrival started in the year 1845, as Wiloughby states (1996, p. 9) that,

To escape the persecution for their religious beliefs and way of life, they trekked westward in 1847, finally setting in the plateau region near the great lakes....and between 1854 and 1865, the first homesteaders (farmers) began to move in the eastern prairie lands of the Plains into the territories of Arkansas and Nebraska.

According to Nolan (1994, p.6) fur trade had already exist since the 16<sup>th</sup> century but in the early 19<sup>th</sup>, fur trade of the American west became a blossomed new industry. After the westward expansion, fur trade became more developed because American had more place to be explored and could build some companies and Forts. In addition, in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, precisely in 1822, the fur trade was dominated the William Henry Ashley and Andrew Henry, the co-owners of

Rocky Mountain Fur Company, for a decade. Fur trade was an important industry in North America since the 17<sup>th</sup> century which was accompanied by both White and Indians. This statement is strengthened by John Dunn (1846, p.14) that says,

The fur trade was an industry which invented because of its natural resources in Newfoundland by French in 1608, and in the next 2 years followed by England who found source of wealth precisely at Hudson Bay in 1610. Starting from Hudson Bay, giant fur trading company was founded namely Hudson's Bay Company (HBC) and had some incorporation of North American territory which dominating the fur trade.

Meanwhile, there were some prominent fur trade post located in American West as in Plains and Rocky areas such as Fort Osage in Missouri, Fort Pierre in South Dakota, or Fort Mandan in North Dakota. Other than that, there were some great fur companies from Western America such as Rocky Mountain Fur Company and Missouri Fur Company.

Fur trade was a trade that had a high economic value. For that reason, white people came and joined the fur trade company. The trade was accompanied by both white American and indigenous people of America. From the trade that came from the western America, the white greed appeared to extend the Indian-owned land and moved them elsewhere or called the expansion to the west. The expansion that would increase Whites economically by getting rid of Indian, or this phenomenon referred to as westward expansion.

Therefore, this study uses *The Revenant* object to get a picture of life experience of the frontiersman in The American West precisely in the early 19<sup>th</sup>

where the actual set of the film took place. *The Revenant* is a based-on-true-story film with a very thick historical nuance. This film tells about the story of a frontiersman Hugh Glass who joined a fur trading company in the area of South Dakota because at that time, fur trade was dominating the economy of North American, so that some men came and joined the fur trade company. The company's target was pelts got from grizzly bear and buffalo. Besides, the fur traders and trappers had to deal with bears attack that could strike anytime, but they also had to face some conflicts which based on this film, came from the indigenous people, The Indian. Some conflicts occurred due to personal factors such as kidnapping done by the Whites or Indians. However, some good relationships also shows between White and Indian in this film.

*The Revenant* is a semi-biographical western adventure drama directed by Alejandro G. Iñárritu and starring by an outstanding actor Leonardo DiCaprio. Cited from IMDb (2016), *The Revenant* won 5 awards at once for the best film category as Robert Award and Bodil Award as The Best American Film in 2016, Golden Globe Award, Empire Award, and BAFTA Award for The Best Film in 2016. This 156 minutes length film was produced in 2015 and aired on December 16<sup>th</sup> in the United States and January 8<sup>th</sup> widely. This study uses *The Revenant* movie because the movie describes clearly about the historical and economy condition in that era. The researcher also interested in this movie because it describes the detail condition of fur trappers and traders and every risk they took while in the journey.

Therefore, this study uses historical approach to find the historical facts and expected to provide the accuracy of historical events in *The Revenant*. Historical approach in literature is an approach that links a literary work with historical facts so that some concrete proof can be found. This is reinforced by a statement from an article Literary Criticism: Question of A Variety Approaches that "historical approach focuses on the connection of work to the historical period in which it was written" (p. 2). Thus, the Whites life in American Wild West depicted in *The Revenant* will be related to historical facts that existed in the exact same time.

By this research, history in literary works can be verified by the use of historical approach. In addition, this study is expected to be used as a comparability material for other research or as a guidance to the other researcher with the same objects or focus of the study.

### **1.2 Problem of the Study**

As explained above, this study is going to analyze the White American's life of the Wild West. Historical approach is used to analyze the data and some precise information of the phenomena in that era. In summary, this study will analyze the phenomena of the White American's life in the Wild West that are portrayed in *The Revenant* which the story is based on true experience in 1823.

### **1.3 Objective of the Study**

According to the problem of the study, the study aims to analyze the life experience of White American's life that are portrayed in *The Revenant* which the



story is based on true experience in 1823. By using historical approach, this study is expected to be able to find deeper information about the fact and phenomenon in that era.



## CHAPTER II

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### AND RESEARCH METHOD

##### 2.1 Theoretical Framework

The second chapter presents related literature. This chapter explains about historical approach to literature, historical account on fur trade in North America, movie studies, previous studies, and research method.

##### 2.1.1 Historical Approach to Literature

Historical approach is one of the literary criticism that is used to comprehend a literary work seen from the historical aspect. As Stephen Holliday (2013, para. 1) states that,

Historical Approach is one of the oldest. The historical approach to literature is simply means that the critic-the person trying to understand any work of literature-looks beyond the literature itself to the broader historical and cultural events that might influence the author whose work is being considered.

In other words, historical approach is an approach that is used to analyze the data by searching for historical facts in a literary work based from the condition or phenomenon that occurred at the time the literary work was written. In this research, the researcher uses historical approach to strengthen the primary data got from the movie. After the researcher took some data from the movie, the

historical approach will be applied by looking for historical facts from the external sources such as books or journal. The external source is used to support the primary data.

While literature is referred to as something written. It is strengthened by Moody (1987, cited in Alaofe Issac 2008, p. 2) that writes "literature springs from our in love of telling a story, of arranging words of pleasing patterns, of expressing in words some special aspects of our human experience". Literature has a broad meaning because, some things can be described into a literary work in the form of songs, dramas, or movies that describe the social condition of a nation, the feelings or personal experiences of the author, or even history.

History and literature are not unfamiliar thing to enjoy because literature is a flexible thing that can create a work from many aspects. Hence, people can find a literary work with historical background easily. By using historical approach the researcher will be able to examine a literary work with historical background and analyze historical accuracy in a literary work.

### **2.1.2 Historical Account on Fur Trade in North America**

North American fur trade was an activity of fur hunting, usually from beaver or mostly buffalo that could be sold, bartered, and distributed. American fur trade was an advance industry joined by both White and Indian. The fur would be exported especially to Europe to be made as jacket, hat, belt and something related to fashion. It is strengthened by Rachel and Michael (2002, p. 5) that "Broad-brimmed beaver felt hats became fashionable in Europe in the sixteenth

century, and marked people's social status". Based on the explanation above, fur trade began in sixteenth century and became increasingly growing along with fashion development in Europe.

Rachel and Michael (2002, p. 2) stated that Fur trade became a central part of France's economy as France entered the trade network of Native American long before the coming of European settlers. France then established trading network like building some posts and fort in North America which then followed by other European country as British, Russian and Dutch. In other words, fur trade had already existed right after the settlement of European and Native American. The beginning of establishment of fur trade was because the European failed to find any gold resource. Hence, the European then found another natural resources of the North America as wild animal resources. As they found many animal resources of North America, the European thought that they could use the fur to be used as product of the business and fur trade became more developed. The economy, social, and culture partnership was also made by European-Native American because of fur trade.

As time goes by, the rivalries of fur trade became stronger and the need of fur was bigger. The competition between each European and Indian became brutally exploitative. The competition of North American fur trade made each company found any place to make post or fort as the sign that its place was controlling by them as Rachel and Michael (2002, p. 7) that writes "While French controlled much of the trade St. Laurence and Great Lakes, The English chartered the Hudson's Bay Company"

Based on Rachel and Michael (2002, p. 8) statement, there were some companies in American fur trade as Hudson's Bay Company (1670) by Frenchmen Radisson and Groseilliers, Russian-American Company (1799) by Tsar Paul I, Rocky Mountain Fur Company by William Henry Ashley and Andrew Henry, and American Fur Company and Pacific Fur Company which both established by John Jacob Astor (1808) which had an important role of westward expansion as Rachel and Michael (2002, p. 7) that,

John Jacob Astor established the American Fur Company in 1808 with the hopes of gaining a monopoly on the trade from St. Louis to the Pacific, and his company played a significant role in westward American expansion. Astor created a subsidiary of the American westward expansion.

Behind the success of fur trade company in North America, fur trappers were one important role. They were people, usually referred to as mountain man, fur hunter or frontiersman who were paid by fur trade company but some of them were free trappers or independent fur trappers. Their role as fur trappers employee could not be underestimated because furs were obtained directly from fur trappers who sacrificed their lives in the wilderness & had to face some rivalries and indigenous people of America who also did the trade.

Generally, fur trappers were people who loved outdoor activities rather than farming. They were also referred to as mountain man, fur hunter or frontiersman. There were two types of fur trappers which was those free trappers that did the hunting and trading independently and not joined the company, and fur trappers who joined the company. Fur trappers usually hunted through the

river. Their targets were beaver, deer, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, buffalo, otter, wolf, mountain lion and bear. They survived in the wilderness by eating the animals' meat as mentioned above because all it took was the fur for clothing, bedding or shelter. Fur trappers were 80% married and some of them married with Native American. They had some characteristics like long hair, boots, some tools they carried like knife and ammunition and riding horse. They usually travelled in group for safety. (Dollin, 2010; Laylock, 1988 cited in Bakken 2017, p. 303).

Fur traders and fur trappers problem was not only about how to survive in the wilderness and how they deal with the foods supply. They also had to face the rivalries of the other fur trade companies and the Indians. One of the huge incident that was caused by fur trade was Arikara War in 1823. The Arikara war was caused by the murder of the chief's son by a trading company employee (Weiser 2017, para. 3). Therefore, fur trappers have the important role in American history, they were not only known about the way they survived and its experience they had., but also because fur trappers and traders took place in the establishment of the economy and industry in North America.

## **2.2 Movie Studies**

Movie is one of the most popular literary works. In fact, literary works in the form of novels, biography or even history are widely presented as a movie because of its popularity. Movie itself has many genres, just like other literary works, such as romance, action, thriller, horror, history, comedy and others. Some literary works are influenced by the personal experience of the author, the social

condition of an era, or the historical event. Therefore, movie is also one of the objects that can be used as the material object as the research, especially in the field of literature.

According to Amy Villarejo in his book *Film Studies The Basic* (2013, p. 13) movie studies aim to study or examine carefully about the content of film. Therefore researchers use movie studies because the material object of research is a movie. To help the researcher analyze the data deeper and clearer, the researcher uses dialogue, *Mise En Scene* and cinematography for supporting the research.

### 2.2.1 Dialogue

In a movie, dialogue become one of the most important because it is functioned to help the audience understand the plot of a movie. Besides the elements of *Mise En Scene* and cinematography, movie studies has some other important components as sound which has music, sound effect and dialogue as the elements of sound in movie study. (Rhodes. B 2013, cited in Watson 2017 p. 6). Dialogues are universal conversation between two participants engaged by human culture and interactive context. Dialogue can be found in everyday life, books, songs especially movies. In the movie, the dialogue aims to understand what kind of characters in the movie and help the audience to understand the plot of the movie (Brennan 2010, p. 1). In this research, the researcher uses dialogue as the primary data. The dialogue will be taken from the movie in accordance with the title of the movie. Dialogue will be added in every analysis and discussion as the evidence of the finding.

### 2.2.2 *Mise En Scene*

*Mise En Scene* is the meaning of "put into the scene". (Villarejo 2013, p.

31) It is one of the most important element for making a movie or doing a research with a movie as the object material. In this research, the researcher uses three elements of *Mise En Scene* as setting, performance and costume because the three elements are considered interconnected to help the researcher analyze the primary data.

#### 1. Setting

Setting is a place where an event took place. Setting, like props and costume, sets up expectations and can instantly produce meanings; it signifies certain things. In short, setting helps the audience to understand the conditions in the movie. In a movie, settings can be made in the actual place or artificial location (Abrams 2001, p. 93). In this research, after the researcher find the evidence from the movie in a form of picture, the researcher will explain what kind of setting in the picture is. Therefore, the setting is explained to make a clearer illustration about what happened in the taken picture.

#### 2. Performance

The way an actor moves could indicate confidence, uncertainty, panic, friendliness. Some facial expression as mad, sad or happy are also some parts of performance. The performance of an actor helps the audience to recognize the character in the movie (Abrams 2001, p. 94). As setting, performance will be



explained after the primary data had found. The researcher will explain about what the actor was doing in the taken picture.

### **3. Costume**

Costume creates a character within the actor. Costumes can also be an indication of a particular historical period, social class or lifestyle. In the costume as well, the film genre can also be known (Abrams 2001, p. 94). As two explanation above, costume will be explained after the researcher found the primary data in a form of picture. In the data of this research, the actors will always appear in the taken picture. So that the researcher will explain what the actors wear in the picture. This explanation is also used to help the reader to distinguish each characters as which one is fur traders and which is not.

#### **2.2.3 Cinematography**

In addition to *Mise En Scene*, cinematography too is the most important element in film making or film analysis. As Abrams (2001, p.98) states, "cinematography is a recording of a moving image". In other words, cinematography is a process of image shooting in movies with some techniques created to give understanding of the movie because each movement in a movie has its meaning. In this study, researcher uses framing and shot size from the element of cinematography to help the researcher analyze the primary which got from the movie. The data that can be analyzed by using cinematography is the data in a form of picture. The researcher uses two elements of cinematography

because the researcher has evaluated that these elements are quite helpful to support the researcher to analyze the data.

### **1. Framing**

This refers to the edged as of a shot, in that framing determines both what is included and what is excluded. Framing is only realized when the shot is filmed through the camera lens ( Abrams 2001, p. 98). Framing is used to make some limitation between the characters and the environment. The researcher will explain about why some data from picture had more view of the actors than the environment or vice versa. Because of that, the application of framing should be connected with another elements of cinematography as shot size. In this research, framing will be explained after the researcher found the data from primary sources.

### **2. Shot Size**

Shot size is the second element of cinematography that is used to the researcher to help the analysis. Shot size is applied after the primary source or the picture from the movie is taken. The researcher will give some explanation that the size of the shot has different meaning to be delivered. So that this element can help the reader to understand the message of the taken picture. This research uses five basic of shot size such as;

#### **1. Extreme Long Shot (ELS)**

Extreme Long Shot (ELS) allows to use the see the characters and its surrounding. ELS is usually encountered at the opening of the film.

## 2. Long Shot (LS)

Shows the entire object or human figure and is usually intended to place it in some relation to its surrounding.

## 3. Mid Shot (MS)

Medium shot is framed from the waist up or shot with medium distance. It is mainly used for a scene where the audience can use what kind of expression they are using and also the surrounding at once.

## 4. Close Up (CU)

Show important detail such as characters' emotion. CU also aims to show the audience the expression of a character or the response of a character to something.

## 5. Extreme Close Up (ECU)

This could be use to make us inquisitive. The shot is interesting and intriguing while also being disconcerting. However, it makes no obvious sense in the context of the film.

### 2.3 Previous Studies

This chapter contains the previous studies, which consist of one undergraduate thesis and one graduate thesis. The first previous study is the undergraduate thesis entitled *Westernization in Japan Post-World War II As Seen In Japanese Television Animation- Kids On The Slope* by Fatimah Fardiza from

Faculty of Cultural Studies Brawijaya University. In Fatimah's research, socio-historical approach is used as an approach and westernization as a theory. She analyzed the film to look for the westernization that is applied by Japanese people in the movie *Kids On The Slope* for example the style of dress, lifestyle, western tradition or absorption language that is reflected in the object material. The similarity of Fatimah's research and this research is this study is analyzing the data by using movie as an object and using historical approach. Meanwhile the difference between Fatimah's research and this research is the focus on the discussion of the object because Fatimah's research is about westernization in Japanese television animation while this research is about the life experience of white American. Besides using the same approach, Fatimah's uses the combination of both sociological and historical approach.

The second previous study is a graduate thesis entitled *The Infrastructure Of Fur Trade In The American Southwest, 1821-1840* by Hadyn B. Call Utah State University. In Hadyn's research, historical approach while analyzed about the infrastructure of the fur trade in American Southwest during the era of 1821-1840. Hadyn's research aims to show how the infrastructure of fur trade in American Southwest reached its success. The similarity between Hadyn's research and this research is both research use historical approach and the same discussion about fur trade. The difference between Hadyn's research and this research is the discussion of the object material. Hadyn's research is analyze about the infrastructure of the fur trade while this study is analyze about fur traders' life.

From Fatimah's research, the researcher comprehend about the clear explanation of historical approach. The researcher also understand how to apply historical approach in a literary work such as movie so that the researcher had some illustration to do the analysis. While from Hadyn's research, the researcher gained some understanding about brief history of fur trade in North America and the information on how fur trade working.

## **2.4 Research Method**

### **1. Deciding the Material Object**

This study uses *The Revenant* as the material object of the research. The researcher uses *The Revenant* as the material object of the research because the researcher is drawn to the storyline of the movie because it is based on a true story with a very thick historical background. The fascinating historical background of the movie bring the researcher uses historical approach to analyze the data.

### **2. Categorizing the Data**

Historical approach is used to analyze the white traders' life experience reflected in the movie *The Revenant* and Historical approach is also used to find the accuracy of historical facts that exist in the movie. Historical approach is applied as the secondary data to support the data got the movie. Historical account on fur trade in North America and movie studies is also applied to help he researcher analyze the data deeper and accurate. Movie studies is used to make some clearer explanation of the data like what is delivered from the scene. In this part, the researcher also comprehending the data from the movie by watching it

while collecting which part of the movie is appropriate to be taken as the data. The taken data should be focused on the lives of white people in America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century that portrayed in *The Revenant* movie.

### **3. Analyzing the Data**

In this part, the researcher will be interpreting the data by explaining the primary data based on the movie and support it with the secondary data as historical facts got from external sources. Movie study is also used to support the researcher in analyzing the data deeper.

### **4. Drawing Conclusion**

After observing and analyzing the data based on the approach and some supporting materials, the researcher draws some conclusion and suggestion to the next researcher with the same focus.

## CHAPTER III

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the researcher presents the analysis of White American's Life Experience in *The Revenant*. In analyzing the data, the researcher uses historical approach to support the analysis about the life of White American fur trappers and traders in North America based on *The Revenant*.

Fur trading and trapping activity in North America was the wild animal hunting activity performed by fur trappers who joined a company or independent trappers. They usually hunted by spreading in several areas in North America such as the Missouri River and Rocky Mountain. The number of fur trappers and traders reached up to 1000 trappers during the fur trade period and most of them worked for big companies like America Fur Company or smaller ones like Rocky Mountain Company and Missouri Fur Company. (Janin, H 2001, cited in Bakken 2017, p.301)

The story of fur trappers & traders in the wilderness was filled with stories of their dangerous and risky experience because they had to face many obstacles like wild animals, unfriendly weather and the Indians. Fur trappers and traders were also referred to as mountain man or explorers because their route of hunting was near the area of mountain. Therefore, the researchers analyzed the picture of white American life as fur trappers and traders depicted in *The Revenant* film.

### 3.1 Leaving the Family During the Expedition

Fur trappers and traders usually had some typical characteristics like riding horse, some physical characteristic like beard and long hair, wearing leather jackets and boots and traveled in group. Besides, fur trappers and traders were men's job and they were usually married men. This statement is portrayed by a dialogue in *The Revenant* between two fur trappers conversation.

TRAPPER 1 : I've been out here so long eating this damn beaver meat. I'm actually starting to miss my wife's cooking.

TRAPPER 2 : Shit, I'm actually starting to miss your wife

TRAPPER 1 : Why don't you shut the hell? (Goldman, 2015)

This conversation shows that a fur trapper was a married man and must be willing to leave his family for a while for hunting. In the dialogue, a fur trapper stated that he missed his wife's cook. In the dialogue, fur trappers and traders were resting and clearing up their hunting products under the trees that close to hills and rivers. Some of them were peeling the hunting product and some of them were resting when a fur trapper told them that he found the hunting product they could eat. Based on the dialogue of fur trapper 1, it points out that fur hunting took a long time which made him miss his wife's cooking or it could be the food was not as good as at home because they lived in the wilderness eating whatever there was. While, Laylock (1988, cited in Bakken 2017, p.302) stated that mostly White fur trappers or traders in America were 80 percent married while in the movie is also shown the fur traders were men who were already quite aged. And



from the dialogue above, a trappers said about his wife which can be concluded that he is a married man. This is reinforced by other evidence of different fur trappers.

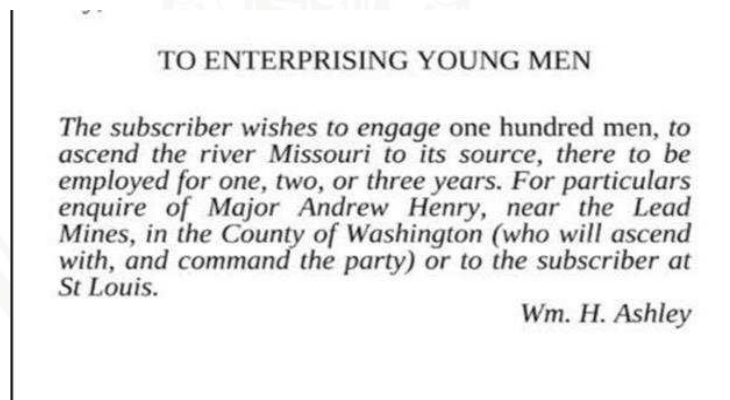


**Figure 3.1.1 Captain Andrew Henry talked about his wife  
(Goldsman 2015, 02.07.16 - 02.07.30)**

CAPTAIN HENRY : I can't remember my wife's face. Last week she was still with me. Now she's gone. Now I'm worry I won't recognize her when I get back home. (Goldsman, 2015)

The long journey took by fur trappers made them had to be willing to leave the family in a long time and it was one thing that was hard for them. It is shown in figure 3.1.1 that uses close up shots to clarify facial expressions from the cast in order to make the audience can feel the condition of the cast and the message of the movie. Based on the shot size that used in the scene, Captain Andrew Henry looked a bit sad, anxiety and seemed like imagining about his wife while he was talking about her because the length of the journey he took. In the scene, Captain Andrew Henry was in the wilderness only with a Hugh Glass. The

scene took place during the night when they were taking a break from their journey and light a campfire due to very cold weather condition. Figure 3.1.1 and the dialogue describe the same thing that being fur trappers and traders must be willing to leave their family until the hunting period ends. In the movie, the personal lives of fur trappers and traders were often shown as two evidences that had been taken by the researcher from both dialogue and scene that fur trappers of traders were mostly married and they were leaving their family during the journey from some dialogue and scene. White (1839, p. 584) also states that, "A trapping expedition arrived on the hunting ground, is divided into parties of four or five men, which separate for long period of time;". The statements means that fur trappers did take a very long time on their hunting journey. As depicted in figure 3.1.1, Captain Andrew Henry was feeling guilty and worried that his wife will not recognize him because the time of the journey took too long. The time period for the hunting journey is shown from the advertisement of William Henry Ashley



**Figure 3.1.2 An advertisement of William H. Ashley on hiring trappers**

**(St. Louis Newspaper, 1822 as cited in Chittenden 1986, p. 5)**

Figure 3.1.2 shows an advertisement made by William Henry Ashley company requiring hundreds of men to be fur trappers employed. In the advertisement, it was written the journey length of time the employees should take required by the company. There, it was said to be up to 1-3 years to do the animal hunting journey. This is related to the scene where the fur trappers started to feel burdened to live in the wilderness for that long for example when they were begin to miss their wife's cuisine or miss his family.

### 3.2 Consuming Hunting Product for Daily Food

The expedition of animal fur hunting in several places in North America took several months for fur trappers and fur traders, therefore the supply they had would not be enough so they required to find their own food by hunting or eating the meat of their hunting product but still keeping the fur for trading. This is portrayed in a dialogue in *The Revenant* movie when a fur trapper found hunting product which the meat was good to eat.

JIM BRIDGER : Hey, we took down an elk. A big one. We're gonna need some help to haul the meat back.

TRAPPER 1 : You let me know when it's on the spit.

TRAPPER 2 : I'll help with it then.

JIM BRIDGER : Hey no, come one fellas... I need your help. We need help when we were bustin' are asses loadin' them bales. (Goldsmann, 2015)

From the dialogue, it can be seen that a fur trapper preached to his company that he found an elk and asked for help to haul it. Other fur trappers said

to tell him when the meat is roasted. The dialogue took place in a wooded area near to the hills and rivers. At that moment, fur trappers and traders were sharing some task as cleaning up the pelts, dry it and guarding their resting area. Another data about the experience of fur traders in the wild west also shows from this scene.



**Figure 3.2.1 John Fitzgerald was roasting meat.**  
(Goldsman 2015, 1.16.47)

Another part of the movie also shows the condition of fur trappers and traders who had to eat anything from the nature especially the hunting product for their daily meal during the journey. As seen in figure 3.2 that uses a long shot to show simultaneously what the characters do in the movie with their surrounding. From the scene, the character was roasting the meat and the researcher can see some things near the character like a bunch of fresh meat which seems as food from hunting product. In the scene, the actor, John Fitzgerald was in the forest and sat next to the bushes with his hunting companion, Jim Bridger. The condition

showed at night and he was lighting a campfire while burning a hunk of meat he would share with Bridger.

The dialogue and scene shows that fur trappers and traders survived by relying on hunting for their food supply. Although they mainly hunted for fur, the meat was the important thing for their food supply during the expedition. This is reinforced by a statement that "In addition to beaver and various birds, mountain man especially hunted deer, elk, pronghorn, bighorn sheep, buffalo, otter, wolf, mountain lion and bear ..... Meat of the above-mentioned animals served as the basis of the high protein diet of mountain man ". (Dolin, 2010, cited in Bakken 2017). Another explanation comes to The Southern Literary Messenger (1842, p. 584) that states "Trappers, and others who remain in these regions, subsist for years wholly upon this game. They never taste bread, nor they can even produce salt. Indispensable as it may be considered in civilized life". The statement is clearly explained that fur trappers and traders could not consume other food except the hunting product which helped them fulfill their daily need in the wildlife. An evidence is also taken from a movie as Hugh Glass' way of survive.



**Figure 3.2.2 Hugh Glass was eating a raw fish he just got  
(Goldsman 2015, 1.21.07)**

Figure 3.2.2 shows when Hugh Glass had another way to avoid starvation. In the scene, Hugh Glass was eating a raw fish he just got. He was separated from his group after the bear attack incident. He did not bring any tools to help him hunt. Therefore, he ate raw fish because of the limitations of the tools he had. In addition, his physical condition was very weak after the bear attack that befell him. All he could do was catching fish rather than no food at all.

Figure 3.2.2 uses medium shot because it shows Hugh Glass while he was eating a raw fish and also the condition around him Hugh Glass seems standing in the edge of the river, the cloud looked cloudy and it was snowy. Hugh Glass hair's was wet, that because before this scene, Hugh Glass was streaming down the river by his body for miles until he finally arrived in a quiet river area and could make himself out of the river. Holston (1963, p.301) says that fur trappers ate meat for most of the time such as bison or buffalo meat. The foods they rarely ate were elk, deer, beaver or any other smaller animal species. Fur trappers often spend months consuming meat because through this way, they can reduce the brink of starvation for months. Although the scene shows that Hugh Glass consumed fish instead of meat, it also shows how fur trappers survived under extremely precarious condition and any kind of food can be consumed to survive.

### **3.3 Using Common Transportation During the Expedition**

During the expedition in the wilderness, fur trappers took a long journey until the hunting target was fulfilled. The hunting journey placed in several different area of North America as the area near the Missouri Ruver, Gear Plains,

and Rocky Mountain. Fur trappers and traders usually took months to years of the expedition because they had to reach many location. Thus, it required fur trappers and traders to plan the transportation for their long journey.



(a)

(b)

**Figure 3.3.1 (a) Fur trappers and traders were taking a journey by keelboat. Figure 3.3.2 (b) Fur trappers and traders changed the route by walking in order to avoid The Indians.**

**(Goldsman 2015, 14.57 (a) & 14.11 (b))**

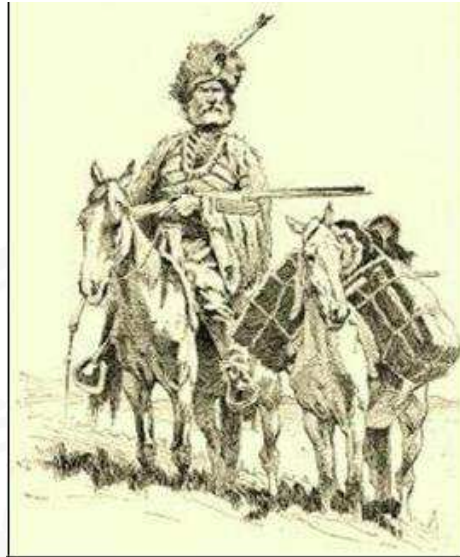
Figure 3.3.1 and 3.3.2 both use long shot that shows what the characters do and how's the environment around them. In figure 3.3.1, long shot is applied to show fur trappers journey condition when using keelboat. The setting was on the river while fur trappers are on the keelboat looked like keep watching their surrounding in case there might be a sudden attack from the Arikara tribes because they were taking a journey by a keelboat right after they were attacked by Arikara. In the scene, the fur trappers were decided to change the route and leaving the keelboat because there might be a worse thing happened when they were still riding a keelboat. Although keelboat commonly used for faster journey with more payloads, it can be changed anytime for saver journey.

In figure 3.3.2, the long shot is applied to show the condition of the fur trappers at the time they started the journey by walking. The setting of scene shows how many fur trappers are on the hills and the location was next to the river. It can be seen that some fur trappers were moving the fur which put into boxes to the hill. The fur which later would be kept up to the hill behind the rocks and bushes because the trappers could not made the journey with too many things to be carried. A horse in the scene seemed as a carrier tool besides it is used to ride. According to Chittenden (1986, p. 32) that says, "The keelboat, the historical predecessor of the steamboat was extensively used down 1830<sup>S</sup> and did not disappear from the river for several years thereafter".

The use of keelboat in 1800<sup>S</sup> was a common transportation through river route for fur trappers and traders. But in other situations, fur trappers and traders must also be willing to travel on foot to avoid rivalries when they were pursuing. They could also chose another option when situations around them are dangerous like passing some winding area, or when they were passing the forest they must guard themselves and their company from the attacked of wild animals especially bear. Another picture of fur trappers is also shown by this illustration. Besides the use of the keelboat or taking a journey by walking, some traders also used animals as a tool to help them passing the expedition. Kind of animal that commonly used was horse. In *The Revenant* or as the historical fact that is found by the researcher, the use of horse is very helpful for fur trappers and traders as a tool to carry the target results. Traders also usually riding a horse while the horse was also carrying the hunting target. Therefore, the researcher adds an illustration to make a clearer



depiction about how traders uses a horses as one of the common transportation and as a carrier tools.



**Figure 3.3.3 Horse was used to be ridden and to carry the pelts**

**(Parrish 1907, cited in Weiser 2017, para. 1)**

Figure 3.3.3 is an illustration of an old fur trapper who is riding a horse and another horse besides him that is used to help him bring the pelts. The illustration is exactly the same as the characteristic of the fur trapper depicted in *The Revenant* film. Horses were one of the most common transportation used by fur trappers whether it was to be ridden or to help them carried the pelts. And the kind of transportation they used depend on the condition they estimate as this taken dialogue.

TRAPPER 1 : So what do we do now? Praying that poach ain't rockin' if we ever get back here to pick them up.

TRAPPER 2 : No more room here. You gotta move up the hill.

CAPTAIN HENRY : Make sure to mark this place. We're leaving a fortune under these rocks. Glass, chart a course. Try as you can figure to get us around the reefs.

HUGH GLASS : Yes, Sir.

FITZGERALD : This ain't right, this ain't right. We all know that this furs ain't won't be here by the time we come back.

CAPTAIN HENRY : There's no way we can hold them all the way back to the Fort. Not the way we're going, besides Arikara is spread all through their territory. We want to go with our hands free.

FITZGERALD : I'm tryin' to tell you you're gonna lose this pelts. (Goldsmann, 2015)

From the dialogue, fur trappers kept their fur under or between rocks and bushes in order not to get caught by other fur company rivalries. Based on the dialogue, they kept it there to made their journey became easier so they arrived to the Fort sooner. Because there was no communication access they could use while in the wild west except they reached the Fort. After they reached the Fort, some help would came to take the fur which still out in the wilderness. Another similar data is also found for example this dialogue between Captain Andrew Henry and John Fitzgerald.

FITZGERALD : Damn I was wondering when we light be getting paid for that haul? Cause them pelts we collect, they're still out

there. They're covered with some dirt and snow, but they are they and it ain't my fault.

CAPTAIN HENRY : I'm waiting for Captain Leavenworth to arrive with his army and then we'll have enough men to get back out there and shoot some civilization into those fuckin' Arikara and get back our pelts.

FITZGERALD : Alright alright. (Goldsman, 2015)

The dialogues show how fur trappers and traders were faced by some difficult access to bring the pelts when the transportation was not possible. The trappers were going to put the hunting products and hide it into the bushes and between the rocks in order to not get caught by the other trappers or the other rivalries like the Indians. After they put the boxes orderly, trappers could easily get back to the fort and looking for a help to take the boxes back. As shown in figure 3.2.2, fur trappers hide the hunting products between bushes and rocks because they wanted to change the route.

However, in fact, there has never been firm evidence that explains that fur trappers had to leave their hunting product in the wilderness although in an urgent condition. However, some animals were used by fur trappers to transport the pelts as explained by Bakken (2017, p. 303) that "a fur trappers would typically ride a horse, and lead a mule that carried his supplies and furs". The description from Bakken related to what is depicted in Figure 3.2.2 that horse is used by fur traders to help their journey. Besides for being ridden, animals such as horses or mule were used to transport the hunting product.

### 3.4 Facing the Harsh Nature of the Wild West

The life of fur trappers and traders during the expeditions made them facing various risks. Some risks they had to face such as wild animals, rivals and especially the extreme weather. They faced that conditions for several months until hunting targets were fulfilled. In this sub-chapter, the researcher found some depiction of white American fur traders deal with various risk such as wild animal attack, the unfriendly weather, and also the unfriendly Indian.



(a)

(b)

**Figure 3.4.1 (a) Fur trappers were resting in a snowy condition & 3.4.2 (b) Fur trappers were taking hard route as and unfriendly weather. (Goldsman 2015, 35.45 (a) & 1.07.45 (b))**

Figure 3.4.1 uses long shot to show the characters and its surrounding. It shows that fur trappers must be willing to stay and rest in any places during the expedition. The setting was in the forest and it was snowing. In the scene, the fur trappers were sleeping and resting in a very uncomfortable place. The facial expression and the gesture shown by the fur trappers were inconvenient and chilled. In figure 3.4.2 extreme long shot is used to show the condition of the characters and the environment with the wider and longer view. The scene shows

when fur trappers were passing through the high snowy mountains. The setting was on the top of a snowy mountain with slightly cloudy cloud that shows a very unfriendly condition. It can be seen that fur trappers and traders were walking but seemed exhausted while carrying some stuff. While according to Wild Illinois History (p. 3) that states, “Most furbearer pelts were harvested in the winter months where the furs are in the highest, plushest, thickest condition”. The explanation shows that the hunting targets of fur trappers were at its peak when it was winter. This is related to the scene depicted in the *The Revenant* movie where most of the weather conditions are winter. Both scenes above show how fur trappers experienced difficult conditions during the expedition.



**Figure 3.4.3 Hugh Glass Warming his body inside a dead horse  
(Goldsman 2015, 1.52.50)**

In addition, extreme weather made fur trappers had to think of other ways to survive. In figure 3.4.3, Hugh Glass used a horse as a tool to warm his body. At first, Hugh Glass used the horse to get back to the Fort, but halfway through the journey he was attacked by a group of Indians until finally he fell from the cliff which made the horse die instantly but he survived. Figure 3.4.3 used medium shot, because in the scene, although the facial expression of the Hugh Glass is still

clearly shown, the conditions around the Hugh Glass are still shown too, as the body of a horse that was used to warm Hugh Glass' body and also the snowy conditions around him. The condition of the scenes is strengthened by Martin (2016, p. 9) that says "The Great plains bounded in the west by the Rocky Mountain and the east by the Mississippi River.....The climate of the region is, and still, one of extremes temperature, with strong winds all year round". To face this condition, fur trappers did various ways to survive from the extreme temperatures for example when Hugh Glass got into the horse's body to warm his body from the very cold temperature. In the scene, it can be concluded that the temperature in the area was very cold so that the character should did such way of survival. Another evidence shows the condition of fur trappers while facing the very cold temperatures is illustrated in the following dialogue.

CAPTAIN HENRY : Watch it!

TRAPPER 1 : How are we gonna make it up there

FITZGERALD : Slow down a bit

TRAPPER 2 : It's killing us, Captain! (Goldsman, 2015)

The dialogue also shows the extreme weather in the Western part of North America at that time became one challenge for fur trappers' journey. In the dialogue, fur trappers expressed his feelings that the journey made him very tortured by the extremely cold weather. It was said when the fur trappers and traders were walking up the snowy hills. Not only the weather conditions that fur trappers had to deal with, but also the attacks of wild animals that could strike

every time. It is strengthened by *National Park Service* (2015, para. 4) that fur trappers often met extreme condition like freezing and cold temperature. They usually faced by a dangerous geographical navigation and also a chance meeting grizzly bear.



**Figure 3.4.4 Hugh Glass, a fur trapper, was attacked by a grizzly bear while hunting.**

**(Goldsmann 2015, 24.43)**

Figure 3.4.41 uses a long shot to show the character and environment. In the scene, Hugh Glass is being attacked by a grizzly bear in the forest. The setting is in the forest, where Hugh Glass hunted by himself and suddenly attacked by a grizzly bear. In the scene, Hugh Glass could do nothing but roaring in pain and let himself be attacked by a grizzly bear. From the scene, the researcher can see the facial expression of Hugh Glass which is in a critical condition because he was attacked by a grizzly bear and could barely did something to against the bear. Moreover, the data is supported by Burger's statement (2002, p.4) that states In the early 1800s, some fur trappers began to move farther west, to the Rocky

Mountain. They became known as the mountain men of the West. They lived lonely lives in the forest. They often met dangerous wild animal. In addition, the story of Hugh Glass as one of the legendary stories from the West that which famously known for its struggle after being attacked by a grizzly bear is also clarified by a statement from Chittenden (1986, p. 689) that says, none of the authenticated then that of the escape of Hugh Glass from the very portal of death at the hands of a grizzly bear. The story has survived in oral tradition and is well known by the older of the mountains and plains who still alive.



**Figure 3.4.5 A fur trapper was attacked by grizzly bear**

**(Bonner 1956, p. 511)**

Figure 3.4.5 also shows a grizzly bear attack to a fur trappers. This proves that grizzly bear or the other wild animals attack could occur and suddenly attack the fur trappers in any condition. This illustration have the similarity with the scene in *The Revenant* where the Hugh Glass was attacked by a grizzly bear. Besides, the bear attack was a real story from Hugh Glass.



During the journey, fur trappers and traders had to deal with some different risk as wild animals when they were passing through the forest as happened to Hugh Glass or extreme weather when they were on the mountain and hills. Because of that, some legendary story of fur trappers is well-known because of their astounding journey to the West for example the story of Hugh Glass that survived after being attack by a grizzly bear, Colter's escape from the Blackfeet, and the treachery of Mike Fink (Chittenden 1986 , p. 25).

### 3.5 Making Contact with the Indians

Besides facing the bad conditions such as cold temperature, lack of proper food supplies or wild animals that could strike them anytime in the wilderness, the traders were also had another problem. Another experience faced by fur trappers were the contact with the indigenous people, the Indian, who contributed the fur trading activity in North America. Whereas, some depiction of Indian and White American contact on fur trade are depicted in *The Revenant* movie.



**Figure 3.5.1 White American fur trappers and traders were attacked by the Indian from Arikara tribes.**

**(Goldsman 2015, 10.21)**

Figure 3.5.1 uses extreme long shot so it views what happened to the characters and also the surrounding when Arikara was attacking White American fur trappers in a wider view. The scene shows a riot that was caused by Arikara tribe. Some victims laid and run to safe themselves from the attack of Arikara tribes. The setting is among the trees and there were some campfire that was used by fur trappers to strip and dry the fur. Both fur trappers and Arikara armed themselves with guns to protect their party. Another evidence shows from the dialogue that Arikara tribe attacked White American fur trappers because they wanted to take the pelts of White American fur trappers.

CAPTAIN HENRY : Stay down!

TRAPPERS 1 : Help me!

CAPTAIN HENRY : They want us out in the open. Someone get up the hills.  
Nobody moves! Stay where you are.

TRAPPER 2 : Well they want the pelts. We do and get on them 'bout right now or we're gonna lose it all. (Goldsman, 2015)

From that dialogue, it clearly shows that the Arikara caused the riot because they wanted to take white trappers' pelts. The Indians took the pelts to be bartered for horses to the French fur traders.

ARIKARA CHIEF : My daughter, Powaga, is not here. Collect all the pelts we can carry. We'll trade pelts with French for horses and we will keep searching for her. (Goldsman 2015)

Besides taking some pelts for trade, the attack of Arikara is caused by chief's daughter loss. Arikara chief is looking for his daughter whom he thought was kidnapped by White American. This incident is also referred to as Arikara War, the first war of Plains Indian, Arikara, and Whites that happened in 1823. According to Nichols (1984 p. 93) that states "the whites provoked a fight with the unpredictable Arikara Indians...This incidents labeled as the worst disaster in western fur trade history". Hence, another explanation comes from Weiser (2017, the 2-3) Arikara War happened because Arikara chief's son was killed by one of the fur company employee which create the anger of Arikara. But in essence, Arikara War was caused by the fur trade itself as described by William R. Nester (2001, p.225) that states,

The attack on William Henry Ashley's trading company in June 1823 led to the brief Arikara War. A force of soldiers ,traders, and Sioux allies, led by Colonel Henry Leavenworth.....its causes and consequences together with a general coverage of tribal cultures, economy, and political dealings of the time.

From the statement above, it can be concluded that Arikara War did happen in a real world. From some statements, the Arikara War was caused by the trading activity. In addition, it was not just the bad relationships that White American and the Indian had. From the scene, bad relationship happened between White American fur trappers and the Indian from Arikara tribe, while, the good relationship between White and Indian from Pawnee tribes were also shown in *The Revenant*.



**Figure 3.5.2 White American fur trapper, Hugh Glass, was helped and riding a horse together with a Pawnee.**

**(Goldsman 2015, 1.28.47)**

Figure 3.5.2 uses a long shot to show the character and environment. The scene shows an Indian Pawnee and Hugh Glass were riding a horse passing through unfriendly weather conditions. The setting is in the area of Great Plains in a snowy condition. Hugh Glass and a Pawnee were riding a horse together to find their company. In the scene, Hugh Glass was assisted by a Pawnee after rising from a grizzly bear attack that attacked him some time ago.

Whereas, according to Patridge (2014, para.6), Pawnee is one friendly Indian tribe because they never made war against the U.S through all 19<sup>th</sup> century. They also gave some advantages to U.S as a good treat of them. Patridge statement is strengthened by Logt (p.3) about some good treat of Pawnee to the U.S government for example by joining U.S Army called Pawnee Scouts that says, "They (Pawnee) joined the army against in many operation against resisting Indian tribes who usually were enemies of the Pawnee people as well....Within e

few years, the Pawnee establishing a reputation as a highly effective fighting force”



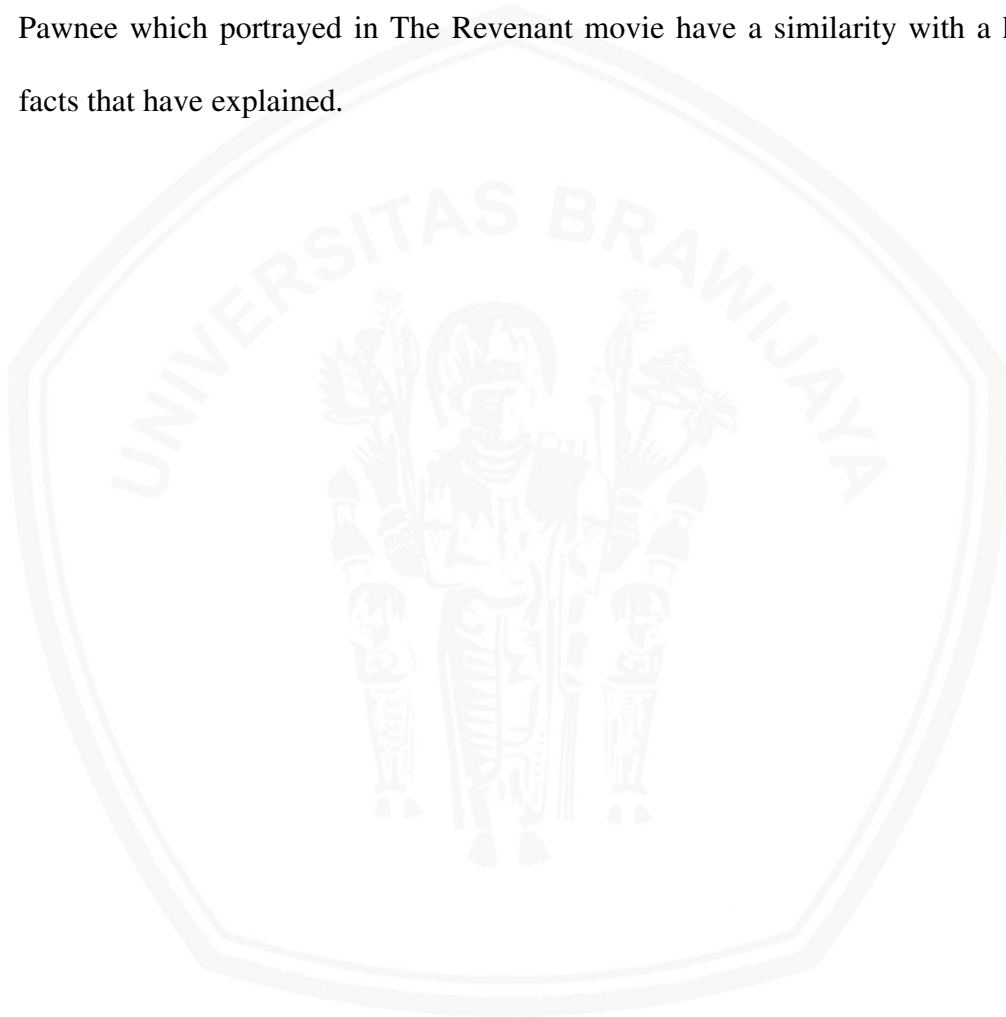
**Figure 3.5.3 Pawnee Scout**

**(Abourzesk 2011, para. 1)**

Figure 3.5.3 shows a picture of a Pawnee scout. Pawnee Scout was referred to some Pawnee who joined the American Army. Different style of Pawnee can be seen between Figure 3.5.2 and 3.5.3. In figure 3.5.3, the Pawnee had already wore a complete suit and holding a firearm. The style was influenced by the Americans because they already joined the American army. While in Figure 3.5.2, it shows a Pawnee in a traditional costume. The costume from figure 3.5.2 was a costume where Pawnee tribe was not influenced by the American style yet.

Meanwhile, the relation between the evidence from the movie and the historical facts is related. The fact about Pawnee Scout had good relation with the

American is related to figure 3.5.2 when a Pawnee gave a hand to Hugh Glass after being attacked by a grizzly bear that a Pawnee was one friendly tribe and they had good relation to the U.S government. It can be concluded that a good treat by a Pawnee which portrayed in The Revenant movie have a similarity with a historical facts that have explained.



## CHAPTER IV

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 4.1 Conclusion

*The Revenant* is a true story movie of fur trappers' and traders' life in North America in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Fur trappers and traders in North America were mostly hired by some companies. After the westward expansion that happened in the early 19<sup>th</sup>, the condition of fur trading activity became more developed. The area of North America became wider so that some fur traders could explore more place and built some Forts for the trading activity. While, by using historical approach and movie studies, the researcher have completed this research and found some similarities between what happened in the movie and what actually happened in history. Researchers found several events that are identical with historical facts or not. Some cases that illustrate historical facts are like how fur trappers must be willing to leave their families and live in the wilderness for long periods of time for animal hunting.

On a journey in the wilderness, fur trappers and traders had to face many risks such as starvation, wild animals attack, extreme weather or attacked by rivalries. Both in the movie and historical facts, fur trappers face hunger by eating meat from their hunting product because that was one way to avoid hunger for longer time. Meanwhile, to avoid the attack of wild animals and rivalries on their way, fur trappers and traders determined it with the means of transportation they

used. Like when the river route was not safe, they had to leave the keelboat and traveled overland by using horses or on foot. However, with extreme weather and without the use of transportation equipment, the journey would take a longer time and they were faced by some wild animals as the true story of Hugh Glass.

Whereas, another risk faced by white fur trappers was the rivalry on fur trading activity as the incident depicted in the film *The Revenant* between the Whites and the Indians-Arikara. Historically, in 1823 there had been a real rebellion by the Indian-Arikara to White American's fur company caused by fur trading activity, called Arikara War. The war took many victims from Whites and Indian-Arikara. However, not only the bad relationship between White American and the Indian, the good relationship is also found in this film where Hugh Glass was helped by a Pawnee. Historically, Pawnee is a friendly tribe.

The conclusion of this research is, what is depicted in *The Revenant* movie almost entirely describes the historical facts. *The Revenant* movie had shown how the condition of fur trappers and traders in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century. By using historical approach and the data from the movie, the researcher concludes that life of fur trappers and traders are depicted in detail from their personal life background, characteristics, and some personal incidents or which related to the fur company.

#### **4.2 Suggestion**

This research has been completed by using historical approach to help the researcher analyze the data. The researcher hopes that the next researcher can



make this research help them in completing the research or other forms of writing by using the same approach. Another approach as Psychology can be used to analyze *The Revenant* movie by analyzing the actor's character in the movie or Post-Colonialism to analyze how trading activity was brought by the European colony to North America.



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