

***Seppuku* Culture in Letters From Iwo Jima Movie**
(Charles Sanders Peirce's Semiotic Analysis About *Seppuku* Culture in Movie)

Abstract

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Cultural studies often we find in a movie. This is because the study of culture has a special attraction for the audience. One of the culture that is often raised in a movie is seppuku culture, or better known as harakiri. Not few of Hollywood movies that raise the culture of seppuku to be used in movies, beside of Letters From Iwo Jima itself, there is also a movie called 47 Ronin which is a samurai themed movie, and also a popular movie which is almost has nothing to do with samurai though, is The Wolverine. Letters From Iwo Jima movie is a story about the struggle of the Japanese soldier while against American soldiers during the World War II. They risked their lives to protect the island of Iwo Jima which is to be taken over by the Americans to facilitate the invasion of the main islands of Japan. When facing the defeat, the Japanese soldiers who want to keep their dignity and honor choose the path of seppuku. They believe that by performing seppuku on the basis of the value of bushido, their self-esteem would remain intact. Seppuku that committed by the Japanese army is seen in verbal and nonverbal communication, therefore, to create reflections of reality that occurs in real life, this study uses the method of Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotics analysis, which the sign is divided into icon, index, and symbol. Then supported by the literature of mass communication theory, Peircean semiotics theory, and the literature about bushido values, which is aims that this research has a foundation of theoretical thinking. Thereby, this research has found an understanding of seppuku motives that performed by some of the characters in this film, which is based on the value of the ethic codes of samurai, that is a bushido value.

Keywords: *seppuku*, semiotics, cultural studies