

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

Human beings who are born with different physical traits from every other are not a hereditary mistake. Any person in no way had a choice when he became born, including being born with a physically handicapped situation. All of this is a present from God. That is, the physical form and coloration of human pores and skin is a God-given proper that cannot be denied by using every person. These variations aren't something that serves to divide or avoid the creation of peace in human life, but range and variations need to be understood as racial pluralism which is a top-notch present from God. All human beings have been created identical with the aid of God and endowed with the identical person rights. Likewise for the proper of each human being born in the world to pick a perception to be embraced.

Prejudice is a person's perception of someone or another group and their attitudes or behavior without enough thought and knowledge (Cambridge Dictionary, 2023). It can be judged as a form of racism if it has a certain effect on a person or group itself. Associated with prejudice, the function of the media is very crucial in shaping perceptions in a collection. Be it print media or digital media, each are very dominant helping equipment in forming a prejudice in society, in particular right now (Walgito, 1999, p.84).

Racism is a phenomenon that has passed off over the centuries, with a distinction races, tribes, and cultures around the world. One researcher confirmed that “*Because of stigmatization of racism after WW2, racist practices have frequently been*

Reformulated in less conspicuous form Race has been replaced with culture, colonialism, has been replaced with immigration (Anna Maria Boileau, 2014, p. 6)”.

As a shape of mass media, movie taken into consideration to be able to persuade the target market. Film is visible as having realism, influence emotional, and more popularity. Along the development of time, the film is likewise used as a propaganda tool. Film phenomenon as a propaganda device capable of inflicting the prevalence of social crises in numerous international locations. Racism is an accepted hassle that prompted through many factors from social, political, historical, and monetary. From long ago, a whole lot of racist incidents in round us due to variations in pores and skin shade, ethnicity, faith, race, and culture. So far nevertheless, there are still many activities that result into racism. There are so many movies that raised issues of racism including the assist, Selma, The Butler, 12 Years a Slaves, and lots of more each have a distinct way of lifting racism problem. The depiction of racism also can visible inside the film if Beale Street could talk.

The film *if Beale Street could talk* is the work of Barry Jenkins released in 2018 in the romance drama genre, telling the story of the two couples, Tish (Kiki Layne) and Fonny (Stephan James). Have known each other and grew up together

since childhood. When they grow up, they just feel if they love each other. But to manage life and love well is not easy for them in the era of the early 1970s in New York City which is still shrouded in the mist of discrimination. Told one night, Tish and Fonny were involved in an incident in front of the shop when a man disturbed Tish and made Fonny angry. The police who witnessed the incident tried to arrest Fonny but did not because Fonny and Tish were defended by the shop owner who even called the policeman a supporter of racism. Still Fonny was arrested by the police on charges of raping a woman named Victoria. Although Fonny has tried to make a strong defense if he is not guilty, still he was charged based on the testimony of the police and the victim. Tish often visited Fonny in prison, and once he told Fonny that she was pregnant. Fonny was both happy and sad to hear that. They immediately invited Fonny's parents to tell them about the good news at a dinner. Although Fonny's father is happy with this news, Fonny's mother is furious and says that the child Tish is carrying is a curse for a sin. Fonny's father is angry with his wife and beats her before they all leave the Tish family's house in a commotion. Although at first glance it is implied that Victoria was forced by the police to charge Fonny, but she does not want to change her testimony and looks like she has a mental disorder. Sharon finally gave up on the case that befell Fonny, because all methods have been used to prove that he is innocent or at least reduce his sentence. The trial schedule was postponed several times, until finally Fonny accepted the negotiated agreement from the court regarding his sentence in detention. As for some of the problems related to racism in the film, the first is Racial Discrimination. This film depicts various forms of racial discrimination experienced by African-

American characters. They face unfair treatment and rejection based on the color of their skin. Second, African-Americans character are frequently the target of racial profiling by law enforcement officials. They are unfairly considered as suspects based solely on the color of their skin, without any clear reason. Third, unfair Justice System This film depicts how the unfair justice system affects the lives of the main characters. They were faced with unfounded accusations and unfairly processed in court. Fourth, social Inequality in the film *If Beale Street Could Talk* describes the social inequality that exists between races in the United States. African-American characters often face difficulties in obtaining decent jobs, good housing, and equal opportunities. And lastly, Police Violence against Racial Minorities. This film highlights police violence directed primarily at racial minorities, especially through scenes tense scene. The African American characters fall victim to the abuse of police power.

Based on this background, the researcher is interested in analyzing the depiction of any form of racism contained in the film *If Beale Street Could Talk* and there will certainly be many moral messages that we can get from the film that is packaged by the director to the audience.

B. Problem Formulation

1. How is racism represented in the film *If Beale Street could talk*?
2. What self-conflict is the main character Tish experienced as impact of racism in the film *If Beale Street Could Talk*?

C. Objectives of the study

1. To know racism represented in the film *If Beale Street could talk*.
2. To analyze the self-conflict experienced by the main character Tish as impact of racism in the film *If Beale Street Could Talk*.

D. Review of the Related Studies

In conducting this research, the writer uses several previous studies as a reference. The first thesis entitled Representation of racism resistance in the film 12 Years a Slave was written by Ardian Widjaya, Universitas Diponegoro, and Semarang Indonesia. In this thesis, the research aims to describe the resistance of black people as a minority group in the film 12 Years a Slave against forms of white racism which are represented through visual and linguistic symbols in the film 12 Years a Slave. This research is included in a qualitative descriptive study with a semiotic analysis approach. And the results of this study indicate that the forms of black resistance occur in closed, semi-open, or open forms. Starting from the conversation that took place between black slaves who wanted to run away and fought for opinions by explaining and clarifying their opinions.

The second thesis entitled racism in the film *Fitna* (Semiotic analysis of racism in the film *fitna*) was written by Shinta Anggraini Budi Widianingrum, Universitas Pembangunan Nasional Veteran, and Yogyakarta Indonesia. This research is a qualitative descriptive study with a semiotic analysis approach. The method of semiotics, which is a science or method of analysis to study signs. The data in this study were obtained through the selection of scenes in the film "*Fitna*" which contained elements related to this research, namely racism.

The third thesis entitled racism in the crash film was written by Yaninta Sani Sawitri Universitas Sebelas Maret Surakarta Indonesia. This study aims to find out more deeply whether the signs used to represent the racism that occurred in the *Crash* film. By knowing and understanding the signs that show the symptoms of racism. This research includes a qualitative descriptive study with a semiotic analysis approach. The data in this study were obtained through the selection of scenes in the film "*Crash*" which contained elements related to this research, namely racism which was grouped based on racial prejudice, racial stereotypes, racial discrimination, and racial violence. And looking for data from various articles, books, and internet and so on.

Next is a journal entitled *Cinethetic Racism: White Redemption and Black Stereotypes in "Magical Negro" Films* by Matthew W. Hughey, Mississippi State University? This research is about African American media representation depicting progressive, anti-racist trends film production. In particular, "magical nigger" films (cinemas that highlight the lower class, the uneducated, and the magical). A black character who turns a disheveled, uncultured, or corrupt white

character into a competent person) has garnered both popular and critical acclaim. The author first examines how the notion of historical racism in cinema informs the understanding of race today's representation. This understanding creates an interpretive environment in which black characters are magical actors are relationally constructed as positive and progressive. Then advance cultural production an approach that examines 26 films that resonate with mainstream audiences' understanding of race relations and racial fantasy. The film "Magical negro" thus serves to marginalize black agency, empower the normalized and a white hegemonic form, and glorifies strong black characters if they are racially placed.

Next journal entitled Analysis of the action of racism on the help film directed by Tate Taylor. Writer by Damara Komala Padma, Senja Yustitia, Siti Fatonah Department of Communication Science Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, UPN "Veteran" Yogyakarta. In this study explain things related to forms of racism from the help film. The author uses content analysis method with data validity technique is reliability test. Based on the results of the study, it is known that the film The Help contains many acts of racism. In the scene of discrimination and prejudice, it is dominated by actions taken by white figures against black people. This response to racism led to hatred as well as fear a view dominated by the treatment of black figures towards white people.

Next journal is WACANA RASISME DALAM FILM "BLINDSPOTTING" Racism in Movies "BLINDSPOTTING" by Deani Prionazvi Rhizky In this journal, the film "Blindspotting" describes the reality that occurred

in Oakland, California. This film tells about how racist behavior such as discrimination and stereotypes accepted by the black community in the city. The data analysis technique in this research is by means of text which is then interpreted linguistic analysis by paying attention to vocabulary, sentence structure, and semantics contained in an object. This research is qualitative with using content analysis methods to uncover discourses of racism that often happens in real life. From the results of this study it can be concluded that filmmakers represent attitudes of racism including prejudice, stereotypes, discrimination and anti-Semitism.

And the last journal is Representasi Rasisme dalam Film Woodlawn by Ancilla Evelyn, Gatut Priyowidodo, Daniel Budiana Prodi Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Kristen Petra Surabaya. In this journal, it is explained that the Woodlawn film is a film with a sports drama genre with religious nuances set in Birmingham, Alabama at the Woodlawn School. This film tells about the desegregation process in 1973 in South America. This film tells about the desegregation process in Birmingham, Alabama at the Woodlawn School. This research was conducted to find out how racism is depicted in the film Woodlawn. The method used in this research is John Fiske's semiotics with 3 levels, namely the level of reality, representation and Ideology. The approach used in this research is descriptive qualitative to Describe the signs and symbols in the film. Based on 3 levels John Fiske can it can be concluded that the depiction of racism is divided into two fields, namely education and education Sport. Blacks are considered not smart in terms of academics and are considered to have no Ability in sports on a par with whites.

E. Research Method

In this study, the researcher used qualitative methods with descriptive text in collecting data based on the theme that has been taken, namely racism in the film *If Beale Street could talk*. “The term qualitative research is used to describe a set of approaches that analyze data in the form of natural language (i.e., words) and experiential expressions (e.g., social interaction and artistic presentation).” (Creswell et al., 2018, p. 27). To complete this research, the writer used a qualitative descriptive method. According to (Creswell et al., 2018, p.27-28) he states that: “Qualitative data sets are usually drawn from fewer sources (e.g., participants) than quantitative studies, but include rich, detailed, and highly contextual descriptions of each source.” From this explanation, it is known that the description and analysis not only describe but also provide a clearer and detailed explanation and knowledge in it. The researcher explains what types of racist acts are contained in the film *If Beale Street Could Talk*.

1. Data and Source of Data

The data source is the film *If Beale Street could talk* (2018) by Barry Jenkins, the trailer of the film was found by the researcher on YouTube and then the film was watched and downloaded via the Netflix website. The researcher used scenes that show racism in the film as objects of research, which is depicted through action and investigated what types of racism exist in the film.

2. Method and Technique of Collecting Data

The researcher used data collection through library research. In case study research, data collection techniques are usually collected from various sources. “As for the various data collection techniques, namely interviews, observation (direct and participant), questionnaires, and relevant documents” (Yin, 2014). In addition to library research, the author also used the internet as a data collection technique. To find the data of this research the researcher used observation as the technique of collecting the data. After finding out, the writer used scenes in the film that depict racism to collect data. The steps in data collection is as follows:

1. Watching movies from the internet
2. Observing to ensure that the film contains scenes or depictions of acts of racism
3. Choosing any scene that depict acts of racism
4. Writing down the data on the racism scene in the film

3. Method and Technique of Analyzing Data

After collecting data, to answer the problem formulation in this study, the writer analyzed the data by using qualitative research methods. According to Sugiyono (2014: 21) descriptive analysis method is a statistic used to analyze data by describing or describing the data that has been collected as it is without intends to make conclusions that apply to the public or generalizations. This is the most important step in collecting statistical data. To find answers from the formulation of the problem in this study, the researcher used descriptive analysis. In this case,

the researcher described the data analysis of acts of racism contained in the film *If Beale Street could talk*. Here are the steps:

1. The researcher identified data related to acts of racism that have been collected in the film *If Beale Street Could Talk*.
2. The researcher categorized the data and made an explanation about what types of racism are contained in the film.
3. The researcher analyzed and explained the types of racism found in the film *If Beale Street Could Talk*.
4. The researcher made a conclusion from the data that had been filled in. And then she made conclusions from the results of this study.

F. Theoretical Approach

In this study, the researcher used the American Studies approach. American studies as a multi-perspective study is applied in this study to gain a deep understanding of American studies. American Studies is the study of American culture. Smith (1957) in his essay "*Can American Studies Develop a Method?*"

"American studies is a collaboration between people who work from within existing academic disciplines but seek to expand the boundaries imposed by conventional methods of inquiry".

Smith (1957) also stated that "Students of literature must consider sociological, historical, and anthropological data and methods". The statement

shows that to understand American Studies must use more than one approach. In this study, the researcher used a cultural approach to see how racism is represented in the film. In addition, the researcher also used a sociological approach to see the internal conflict faced by the main character.