

RACISM IN BASEBALL SPORTS SEEN IN FILM THE 42 THE TRUE STORY OF AN AMERICAN LEGEND (2013)

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ABSTRACT

The research titled "Racism in Baseball Sports Seen in the Film 42: The True Story of an American Legend (2013)" investigates the discrimination faced by the main character, Jackie Robinson, in the film. It aims to explain the racial discrimination Robinson experienced in America and why baseball was predominantly played by the white race during that period. Employing qualitative research methods, the study gathers primary data from the film and supporting data from journals, theses, and articles. The results reveal that Robinson endured significant discrimination from his peers and society, demonstrated by the segregation of facilities and the treatment he received, highlighting the pervasive racism against African Americans. Keywords: Racism, Baseball, Jackie Robinson, Discrimination, Qualitative Research, African American, Segregation.

Keyword : Discrimination, Racism, Baseball, Culture.

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Choosing the Study

Racism has become increasingly pervasive over the years, extending its reach from word-of-mouth to the media, including films. Films, which combine visual and audio elements to convey messages, are now rapidly evolving and often contain elements of racism. The widespread popularity of films makes them powerful tools for communicating ideologies, sometimes promoting racist narratives. According to classical Marxism, media, including films, can be monopolized by the capitalist class to propagate specific interests, often marginalizing minority voices. The film "42: The True Story of An American

Legend," produced by Warner Bros. and Legendary Pictures, tells the inspiring story of Jackie Robinson, the first African-American baseball player in a predominantly white professional team in 1945 California. The film, featuring characters like Jackie Robinson (Chadwick Boseman), Branch Rickey (Harrison Ford), and Rachel Robinson (Nicole Beharie), highlights the racial challenges Robinson faced. Researchers find the film compelling for its portrayal of racial discrimination in baseball and the dominance of white players, making it a significant subject for academic study on racism and media representation

B. Scope of the Study

Based on the explanation above, in this section the researcher focuses on discrimination that occurs in the main character, and why in general the game of baseball is dominated by white people in the film *42: The True Story of An American Legend* and why white people fight against African American.

C. Problem Formulation

From the description that the researcher describes above, the researcher focuses on many problems:

1. How is racism discrimination reflected in the film *42: The True Story of An American Legend*, especially in American.
2. Why is the game of baseball dominated by whites in the film *42: The True Story of An American Legend*.

D. Objective Of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem, the researchers set several objectives for this study, namely as follows:

1. To explain the discrimination experienced by the main character in the film *42: The True Story of An American Legend*, especially in America.
2. To know why in *42: The True Story of An American Legend*, the game of baseball is dominated by the white race

E. Review on Related Study

Many studies have explored films about racism, focusing on various aspects such as racial and social class discrimination. This research

specifically examines racism in baseball as depicted in the film "42: The True Story of An American Legend" and investigates why baseball is predominantly played by the white race. Ariesta and Muliastuti (2017) discuss racial and social class discrimination faced by black maids, concluding that discrimination can motivate minorities to fight for equality. However, their analysis lacks depth in understanding the factors leading to racial discrimination. Ghassani and Nugroho (2019) analyze racism in the film "Get Out," focusing on police interactions with African Americans and categorizing scenes and language without examining the film's extrinsic elements. Evelyn et al. (2019) study racism in "Woodlawn," highlighting three levels of racism—reality, representation, and ideology—illustrating white supremacy in education and sports. This research differs from previous studies by providing a broader analysis, including language, treatment, and dominance in sports, particularly baseball.

F. Research Methodology

This research employs qualitative methods to explore and understand the meanings derived from human problems, as described by Bogdan and Taylor in Moleong (2007). Qualitative data can include photos, emails, video recordings, and especially dialogue, which serves as a key material for analysis. The study focuses on primary data, collected directly from original sources such as scenes and dialogues from the film "42: The True Story of An American Legend."

Researchers watch and analyze the film repeatedly to identify problems in each scene. Secondary data is gathered from other studies and sources like YouTube interviews about the film. The data collection methods include listening and note-taking techniques, where researchers intensively view the film, read the script, and document scenes with potential discrimination. Data analysis involves collecting information from the film and other sources, and then applying relevant theories to describe the findings.

G. Theoretical Approach

The researcher will utilize a Cultural Approach and Racism Approach to analyze the film "42: The True Story of An American Legend." The Cultural Approach examines how culture, including popular culture, is transmitted through communication and imitation across generations. Popular culture, often mass-produced for profit, encompasses various aspects like consumption, fashion, and politics. According to John Storey's "Cultural Theory and Popular Culture," popular culture is defined by its mass appeal and commercial nature. This approach helps to understand how cultural elements in the film reflect broader societal norms and values.

The Racism Approach focuses on understanding how racism manifests in society and its impacts, particularly on minority groups. Racism involves discriminatory behaviors based on superficial judgments without considering deeper qualities like

kindness or commitment. The approach explores how racism affects individuals and groups, often in minority populations, and is pertinent in examining the film industry's role in perpetuating black discrimination in American baseball, as depicted in the film. This dual approach allows the researcher to explore both cultural and racial dynamics in the film and their broader implications.

H. Presentation

This graduating paper is presented in eight sections. The first chapter is the background of the research, the next part is the scope of the study, problem formulation, objective of study, review on related studies, research methodology, theoretical approach, and the last part of this is presentation.

CHAPTER 2

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Baseball, a sport originating in America, has become deeply ingrained in American society, not only as a popular pastime but also as a significant economic driver. Baseball is characterized by essential equipment like bats, small balls, and gloves, which work together to create the game. However, despite the sport's popularity, it has a history of racial discrimination, particularly against African Americans. The film "42: The True Story of An American Legend" highlights this issue by portraying the discrimination faced by African American players in baseball.

The research in this chapter aims to explore relevant theories to understand the discrimination in baseball

as depicted in the film. The theoretical framework includes two main parts: (1) Historical Theory, which provides context on the historical background of racial discrimination in America, and (2) Popular Culture Theory, which examines how popular culture, including films like "42," reflects and influences societal norms and attitudes. These theories help to explain the types and causes of discrimination experienced by African Americans in baseball.

A. Popular Culture

Popular culture is defined by the cultural products and activities that are widely appreciated by the masses. To understand its impact, particularly in American politics, one can analyze the sales of books, CDs, DVDs, and records of sporting events and cinema. This analysis reveals how the American government utilizes films as a medium to express opinions, illustrating the quantitative aspect of popular culture's influence.

Imam in Muhni (2003) divides culture into high culture, folk culture, and popular culture, with the latter encompassing creative arts like painting, music, and film aimed at entertainment. Popular culture is mass-produced for financial gain and popularity, often conveyed through commercial media. Films, as a significant component of popular culture, shape and reflect societal norms and realities, making them a powerful medium for communication (Effendy, 1986; Irawanto, 1999). They teach us about languages, characters, and cultures,

providing both entertainment and education.

Films like "42: The True Story of An American Legend" illustrate how popular culture can highlight issues such as racial discrimination. The movie focuses on Jackie Robinson, the first African American to play in Major League Baseball, showcasing the conflicts he faced. This reflects the broader societal issues and serves as an example of how popular culture can influence and reflect societal attitudes (Danesi, 2010; Corrigan and White, 2004). Through films, viewers can engage with and understand complex social issues, including ongoing discrimination against African Americans.

B. Film as a Popular Culture

The researcher utilizes film theory as a secondary theory to analyze the representation of the film, focusing on the elements of *mise-en-scène* and cinematography. *Mise-en-scène*, a French term meaning "to put into the scene," encompasses elements such as setting, lighting, costume, hair, make-up, and character figures, all of which contribute to the film's visual storytelling. Cinematography involves techniques related to camera movement and framing, including various shot types such as extreme long shots (ELS), long shots (LS), medium shots (MS), and close-ups (CU). Additionally, camera height and angle, including level angles, high angles, and low angles, play crucial roles in creating artistic, dramatic, and psychological effects. The types of camera angles used—objective,

subjective, and point of view (POV)—further enhance the analysis by offering different perspectives within the film. By examining these aspects, the researcher aims to provide a deeper understanding of the film's visual and narrative techniques.

C. Racism Theory

History records the progression or decline of events. A historical approach integrates knowledge about the social and political contexts of these events. Using this approach, the researcher will examine the history of racism in the film "42: The True Story of An American Legend," starting with the definition of racism and then detailing what happened to the film's main character.

C.1. Definition of Racism

Racism is the belief that biological differences justify the superiority of one race over others. Memmi (2005) defines it as assigning value to differences for the benefit of the accuser. Boggs (1970) describes it as using racial considerations to control a racial group.

C.2. Individual Racism

Individual racism involves personal beliefs and actions that maintain racial hierarchies.

C.3. Institutional Racism

Institutional racism includes laws and practices that create racial inequality, disadvantaging minority groups.

C.4. Cultural Racism

Cultural racism combines individual and institutional racism, expressing the dominance of one race's culture over others.

C.5. Racism and Discrimination Today

Racism remains common in America despite legal measures. Discrimination includes:

C.5.1 Verbal Discrimination: Using language to demean races, including racial slurs and stereotypes (Winslow et al., 2011).

C.5.2 Physical Discrimination: Unequal treatment based on physical racial characteristics (Pinderhughes in Elvira Craig de Silva et al., 2007).

D. White Supremacy

According to Frederickson in Fany (2021), many define "racism" as the process of developing and justifying white privilege and domination. Frederickson describes racism as a system of thought that attributes differences in culture, status, and power among ancestry-based groups to hereditary characteristics rather than environmental or historical events. He prefers the term "white supremacy" over "racism," as it specifically refers to the attitudes, ideologies, and policies supporting white or European dominance over non-white populations. Frederickson identifies three forms of

white supremacy: color bars, racial segregation, and restriction. Color bars, stemming from colorism, involve discrimination based on skin tone, even within the same race. Racial segregation is the legal or cultural separation of ethnic groups, and restriction includes laws or rules that limit individuals based on race (Taufik & Hasniar, 2016).

CHAPTER 3 ANALYSIS

This chapter contains the analysis of the data that the researcher has collected. The researcher uses Racism Theory and Popular Culture Theory which refers to Racism to analyze the film *42 The True Story Of An American Legend* and to examine the types and causes of discrimination experienced by Jackie Robinson.

A. Populer Culture in the film

American filmmaking dominates globally in various genres, including action, fiction, drama, horror, and biographies, thanks to sophisticated technology and talented actors and crew. "42: The True Story of An American Legend," a biographical film about Jackie Robinson, highlights his impact on challenging racism, police brutality, and other social issues. The film, which portrays Robinson's rise from an African American family with a talent for baseball, became a box office hit, grossing around 97.5 million USD. It received an 86% rating on Rotten Tomatoes and a 70/100 on Metacritic, with numerous positive reviews. Additionally, Netflix awarded it a spot in

the Top 100 Most Popular Narrative and Animated Features.

B. Film as Popular Culture in the Film

Film is an outcome that is included in popular culture, it is unavoidable that watching movies is a way to escape from the busyness of everyday life. As a product and cultural media, film can be seen as an important medium for meaning. Cinema and film are embedded in culture and therefore there is a complex and interesting relationship between film, culture, ideology and audience. Film is considered a pervasive and powerful art, while film stars are often seen as 'cultural icons' (Browne 1997). Tells the story of Jackie Rabinson, a person who became an icon in the world of sports for the cruelty of racism at that time. The time that Jackie went through was not easy, he was always discriminated against in various ways, ranging from physical acts and verbal acts, but that did not make Jackie Robinson discouraged, instead he proved with very brilliant achievements, and from Jackie Rabisnson we are also aware that every people have the same position.



(All The Bright Places Film Poster)

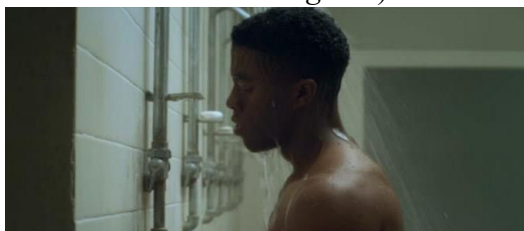
C. Racism That Happened Around the Life of Jackie Robinson Seen in the film

C.1. Individual Racism

After analyzing the film "42: The True Story of An American Legend" using the (Lacey & Gillespie) structure, researchers found that racism frequently arises due to Jackie Robinson being the only black baseball player. Robinson faces racism through the separation of facilities, a common depiction of racial oppression. This racism is not limited to Robinson but also affects all African Americans in the film, including a black reporter who experiences discrimination through segregated facilities and divisions among sports news reporters based on skin color. The reporter highlights his own struggles with racism, emphasizing the widespread impact on African Americans.



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)

C.2. Cultural Racism

In simple terms, cultural racism is difference and discrimination based on culture. Like, white culture is superior to other ethnic cultures. Like, white culture is the most superior of other ethnic cultures. The culture of racism in the film *42 The True Story of An American Legend* can be seen when the film scene shows the separation of audience seats for African American and white skin from this scene, which indicates that racism has been entrenched for a long time. Henry Girou, an American and a

Bachelor of Arts and Culture from a Canadian University, says that cultural racism is also evident in American political rights.



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)

D. The Reasons The Whites Dominated Baseball Game

D.1. Baseball of Rasicm

The discrimination experienced in the Baseball game in 42 *The True Story of An American Legend* is not only verbal discrimination but also physical

discrimination.



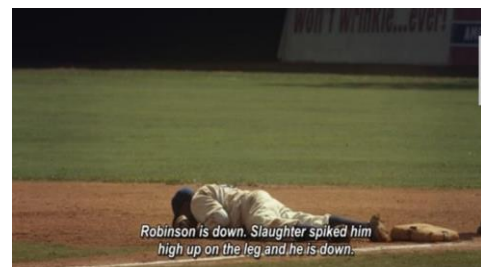
(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)

D.2. Physical Discrimination

The form of physical discrimination that exists in the film 42 *The True Story of An American Legend* is when at the end of the film, where Jackie Robinson was intentionally injured by his opponent due to differences in skin color, the incident can be seen in the screenshot below, from here we can see see below the whites think that the game of Baseball belongs to them and that African Americans do not deserve to play the game.



(Source : 42 *The True Story of An American Legend*)



(Source : 42 The True Story of An American Legend)

D.3. Verbal Discrimination

When Jackie Robinson stepped onto the Baseball field, he was met with protests from parties ranging from white spectators to the game they assumed that African Americans were unfit to play baseball as seen from the cheers and cheers from the crowd. in this place where the dialogue brings back the dark story of black people by white people. Chapman's words did not stop there, he again issued harsh words that ignored black people by equating them with monkeys.



(Source : 42 The True Story of An American Legend)



(Source : 42 The True Story of An American Legend)

E. Proving Jackie Robinson as African American Equal White Race to Play Baseball

Jackie Robinson found it very difficult to prove that African American was worthy and equal to the White Race in baseball. Many parties do not agree with the existence of Jackie Robinson in the game of Baseball but Jackie Robinson proves that he deserves to be in the team, from here Jackie Robinson opened many hearts and many people's eyes. The discrimination experienced by Jackie Robinson has made many people think about humanity and discrimination itself is inappropriate. Because basically everyone has the same position and equal opportunities in various ways, especially in channeling talent, especially in the sport of Baseball.

CHAPTER 4

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter contains the results and conclusions that have been discussed starting from chapter one to chapter three.

A. Conclusion

Based on the findings and discussion in the previous chapter, it can be said that the researcher found several conclusions in this study. 42 The True Story of An American Legend is a literary work adapted from the true story directed by Brian Helgeland. This film is included in popular culture as seen from how the film's characters portray their characters perfectly and have moral values that are specifically intended for all groups, get ratings and get lots of positive reviews.

In this film, the writer finds some personality traits through the theory of racism. Jackie Rabinson as the main character, lives a very hard life because of the treatment of his friends and even the treatment of many groups, which is shown from the separation of facilities on Jackie Rabinson and the African American race. Therefore, the writer finds the cause of discrimination experienced by the main character. The discrimination depicted in 42 The True Story of An American Legend is because Jackie Rabinson is an African American.

Finally, the film 42 The True Story of An American Legend conveys the discrimination experienced by the African American race. The moral values in the film 42 The True Story of American Legend are very good about the importance of respecting each other's differences because it is through differences that humans become perfect

B. Suggestion

Based on the conclusions and referring to the benefits of the research, it can be concluded as follows:

1. From the analysis that has been done, the researcher hope that the results of this study can be a reference and better than previous researchers. It is hoped that this research can also be used as a reference for analyzing a film and can be an additional reference for further research.
2. The importance of knowingly that discrimination is a crime that no one deserves to commit.
3. The researcher suggests for further research to open up more insight and develop further about discrimination in depth because in this study the researcher is consciously still far from perfect.

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