

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of Choosing the Subject

Black people have historically faced racism in the United States, which is a significant aspect of the nation's lengthy and complicated history. The practice of slavery was a major factor in paving the way for racial inequality during the early stages of colonisation, demonstrating the deep origins of this issue. In order to maintain plantations, the American colonies of the time needed more labour, particularly in the South where heavy labour was needed to grow commodities like cotton and tobacco. Tradesmen and colonial landowners started bringing in slaves from Africa in an attempt to fill this demand. Slaves of African descent who arrived in the US were eventually viewed as property that could be owned and used as a labour force.

The idea of "white supremacy" solidified its hold on American culture in the 18th and 19th centuries. False scientific notions, such as myths about the superiority of particular races, support this way of thinking.

Racism has grown to be a widespread issue that affects many people worldwide and has not yet been adequately addressed. As per (M. Fredrickson, 2015), racism has been a problem since the colonial period in the 1700s, when African Americans were brought to the US to work as slaves or domestic help for white people. Aside from that, discriminatory actions are committed against those who are deemed to be outside of the white group, while white people themselves enjoy social and legal rights and advantages. In comparison to

non-white people, white people also enjoy some perks, such as easier access to power, citizenship rights, education, residency, voting rights, immigration, and law enforcement.

There have been many instances of racism-related injustice, including instances of violence and judicial proceedings. Hispanic or Black people will be the focus of police investigations. In addition to being more likely to be sentenced to prison than White people, Black people and other persons of colour are also more frequently the targets of offenders. Blacks and Latinos in the court system are also more likely to face harsher threats and penalties from attorneys and prosecutors.

The purpose of this research is to find out the problem of racism contained in the film *IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK*, where racism and injustice are dealt with in this film very heavily, this is not only a matter of skin colour sentiment but also stereotypes. These stereotypes are reflected in everyday life in this film.

According to (Grosfoguel, 2016:10), racism is an ideology or concept that certain communities have developed to oppose or detest particular groups that are related to them in some way, such as by race, rank, etc. Racism is therefore a bad attitude held by a group of people or by someone of a different ethnicity. (Miles, 2003:11) asserts that racism—basically, what "Whites" do to "Blacks"—is a result of an individual's attitude or behaviour. Racism always has a negative effect on the victim who experiences it. The definition of racism as an ideology based on belief can be deduced from the description given above.

As a result of the persistent problem of racism in the United States, movies addressing racism or social issues are created to heighten audience sensitivity and awareness towards the prevalent social challenges. *"IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK"* exemplifies one such film. In this context, films wield substantial influence on society, not only providing entertainment but also fostering societal awareness and serving as a platform for conveying

crucial messages to the public in an engaging and enjoyable manner (AMI Rifwan, H Purnama, 2015).

The movie "IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK" depicts a young woman undergoing pregnancy while her family endeavor to demonstrate the innocence of her boyfriend, who is also her childhood companion, accused of a crime he didn't commit. Discriminatory behavior is widespread in the film, including instances like landlords refusing to lease their apartments.

The film highlights that racism extends beyond the actions of white people, as it also involves discriminatory behavior from black individuals. In this narrative, white supremacy leads to the oppression of black people, while the latter struggle for freedom and equal rights, often resulting in acts of rebellion. Consequently, white individuals perceive black people as morally deficient, associating them solely with rebellion, ignorance, and violence (Nadhifi, 2013). Such films serve to increase awareness of social inequalities that undermine black individuals, underscoring how racism can persist even in modern contexts without our realization.

B. Scope of the study

Based on the explanation above, the researcher focuses on analysing the representation of racism and struggle through characters in the film IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK.

C. Problem of Formulation

The author focuses on several important things in this thesis, namely:

1. What is the Representation of racism in the film IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK?

2. How do black people fight against racism and fight for justice?

D. Objective of the study (Tujuan Studi)

1. To analyse the Representation of racism depicted in the film IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK.
2. To analyse the struggle of black people against racism and fighting for justice.

E. Review of related studies

The researcher searched for various sources that addressed the same theme or topic as the researcher in order to use them to check the originality of this study. Researcher identified socioeconomic problem that still exist today as the problems that appeared in the movie, IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK.

The first study, "Representation of racism in the Film Get Out," was carried out by (Surya. E., 2021), a student at Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta. Methods of qualitative descriptive research were employed. This study illustrates how social inequality, physical and mental abuse, and the denial of several civil rights affect white people. The perception that whites feel superior to the black race is a result of this discrimination. Black people experience concealed pain as a result of prejudice, which is then transmitted to subsequent generations and even rationalised in its current form, ultimately affecting how they view white people.

The second article is published in a journal (Naji, Ola R, 2022) entitled Self- Society Conflict in Angie Thomas' The Hate U Give: A Critical Discourse Analysis. In this journal, self-society conflict is discussed, which is a global social issue. Racism and instances of police brutality depicted in the movie The Hate U Give are two examples. The discursive

techniques employed in this movie to produce either favourable or unfavourable images of society are examined.

The third is a publication with entitled RACISM IN “THE HELP” MOVIE BY TATE TAYLOR (A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH), (Adam, Mutia R., 2018), in this journal describe how racism stems from an individual’s thoughts and perceptions of the world, including how they perceive and judge others. In addition, this study reveals that black individuals believe that white people have a greater social rank than they have. Racism is not simply practised by specific people or groups; it is also institutionalised and organised. This movie demonstrates how racism causes black people to be treated unfairly by the government. The Help is a great movie to remind us of how brutal racism is as a result of this.

And the last study be entitled Redefinition of white racial superiority against blacks in The Help (Dalimunthe, M. A., 2021), explores cultural interactions between Blacks and Whites. Negroes, or black people, were historically thought of as being beneath white people. Even white people have to authority to erect obstacles or impose limitations on black people in a variety of public spaces. Jim Crow Laws, which steadily increased and legitimised the prejudice or obstacles whites erected against blacks, can be used to illustrate the power relations possessed by whites in this situation. However, the message that can be gleaned from this movie reconstructs that some white individuals did, in fact, resist discrimination and promote black rights through a book that was later published and read by the broader public. White superiority has typically been depicted as a discriminating behaviour.

In this book, the black struggle cannot be separated from the white presence. Black people would not have gained their freedom if white people had not taken part in their struggle.

Method Of Research

In this study the researcher used a method to analyse the REPRESENTATION OF BLACK PEOPLE FIGHTING AGAINST RACISM IN AMERICAN AS SEEN IN THE FILM “IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK“ as Scholars employed both descriptive and qualitative research methodologies. According to (Creswell, John W, 2017), “Qualitative research is defined as study that uses data collection words, text, images, or sound to gain a through understanding of social phenomena. The qualitative and descriptive approaches make up this research method’s two sections. Qualitative descriptive approaches are employed by researcher because of their relevance to the research title. Explaining and describing things with words, stories or images is the goal of the qualitative descriptive technique.

1. The sources data

a. Main Data

In this study, the researcher used The Help movie footage as the primary data of this study. research has found and collected several points about the issue from the movie.

b. The Supporting Data

The support the primary data, the researcher also uncovered information from a number of additional sources, including books and periodicals with subjects linked to those discovered on the internet.

2. Method of Collecting Data

In order to gather information, the researcher looked for various books on the primary issue in books linked to the library, saw the movie *The Help*, read screenplays, and visited physical and virtual libraries. A number of papers and articles about the research issue were also downloaded by the researcher.

3. Method of Analyzing Data

Researcher employed qualitative audiovisual digital material methodologies in this study to examine the racism and Black people's fight for justice in cinema screenplays. Thus, in order to identify the passages that describe racism directed towards Black people, researchers will either write notes or underline relevant passages. John W. Creswell defines qualitative audiovisual digital materials as images, artwork, sound, and video cassettes. (Creswell, 2017:318).

G.Presentation

There are four chapters that present this research. The research background, research problem formulation, research aims, research scope, review of related research, research techniques, research meaning, and presentation are all included in the first chapter's introduction. The theoretical background and approach are covered in the second

chapter. Research findings and related discussion are covered in the third chapter, while recommendations and conclusions are covered in the fourth.