

**THE STRUGGLE OF BLACK PEOPLE AGAINST RACISM AND JUSTICE IN THE FILM
“ IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK”**

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Abstracts

Racism is a complex social phenomenon that has garnered significant attention in social and humanitarian research over time. Entitled "REPRESENTATION OF BLACK PEOPLE FIGHTING AGAINST RACISM IN AMERICAN AS SEEN IN THE FILM "IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK," this study aims to delve into the fundamental aspects of this issue and its repercussions on individuals, groups, and society at large.

Employing qualitative methodology, primary data is sourced from If Beale Street Could Talk, while supplementary information is gathered from various sources such as literature, journals, and online

resources. Utilizing both psychological and sociological approaches, the research employs racism theory to dissect the unfavorable portrayal of black individuals depicted in the film. Furthermore, the researcher shed light on the diverse emotional, cognitive, and behavioral reactions stemming from encounters with racism, including feelings of anger, decision-making processes, and psychological stress.

This film offers a moving description of the effects of racism and social injustice against Black people through rich and evocative imagery. In addition, the movie shows how resilient, hopeful, and loving individuals can be while confronting injustice and working for equality, in addition to portraying the hardship that Black people endure. In addition to being funny, "If Beale Street Could Talk" makes viewers consider and pose pertinent contemporary societal issues.

Keywords: Racism, Struggle, Psychological impact, If Beale Street Could Talk

A. Introduction

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 colonization, demonstrating the deep roots of this issue. In order to maintain plantations, the American colonies needed more labor, particularly in the South, where heavy labor was required to grow commodities like cotton and tobacco. Tradesmen and colonial landowners started bringing in slaves from Africa to meet this demand. Slaves of African descent who arrived in the US were eventually viewed as property that could be owned and used as a labor force.

The idea of "white supremacy" solidified its hold on American culture in the 18th and 19th centuries, supported by false scientific notions about the superiority of particular races. Racism has grown to be a widespread issue that affects many people worldwide and has not yet been adequately addressed. 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 deemed outside of the white group, while white people enjoy social and legal rights and advantages.

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

The purpose of this research is to explore the problem of racism as depicted in the film "If Beale Street Could Talk," where racism and injustice are prevalent themes. This study examines the stereotypes and discriminatory behaviors reflected in the film, providing insight into the broader social issues.

B. Scope of the Study

This study focuses on analyzing the representation of Black people fighting against racism in the film "If Beale Street Could Talk." It includes examining the film's portrayal of racism, the emotional and psychological impact on the characters, and the broader societal implications. The research employs qualitative methodologies, utilizing primary data from the film and secondary data from relevant literature and online sources.

C. Problem Formulation

The main problems addressed in this research are:

1. What is the impact 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

The objectives of this study are:

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

E. Review of Related Studies

Previous studies have explored various aspects of racism and its representation in media. This research builds on the existing literature by focusing specifically on the film "If Beale Street Could Talk" and its portrayal of Black people's fight against racism .

The study employs both psychological and sociological approaches to provide a comprehensive analysis of the film's impact.

F. Method of Research

This study employs qualitative research methodologies, utilizing primary data from the film "If Beale Street Could Talk" and secondary data from books, journals, and online resources. The research methods include content analysis of the film, examining scenes and dialogues that depict racism, and analyzing the emotional and psychological responses of the characters. The theoretical framework is based on racism theory, psychological theory, and sociological approaches.

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.

B. The impact of racism that makes black people traumatized and afraid in the film If Beale Street Could Talk

A psychological theory is a system of ideas and reasoning that is employed in empirical investigation and evidence collection to comprehend and account for an individual's thoughts and behaviour. Psychological theory explores how people's interactions with their surroundings, including other people, influence how they behave with them. Psychologists examine how the movie IF BEALE STREET COULD TALK affects black people's pain and dread of white people today using psychological theory.

Research by (William & Morris, 2000) shows that racism and racial trauma make victims depressed because they do not feel safe and free from all their restricted activities. Other research also shows that victims of racism will usually feel hopeless, such as attempting suicide and closing themselves off from environments that make them feel uncomfortable (Ziersch & Fran Braum, 2011).

The principle of prejudice is applied in this study. A judgement or conclusion about anything based on the experiences and emotions of a specific individual or group is known as prejudice. The principle of prejudice is applied in this study. A judgement or conclusion about anything based on the experiences and emotions of a specific individual or group is known as prejudice.

The definition of prejudice is an unwarranted animosity towards a person or group. Negative behaviour resulting from incomplete or inaccurate knowledge about a person or group can lead to prejudice and social division (Worchel & Austin, 2000).

Prejudice is associated with an individual's view or ideas that criticise other groups. When someone judges a group without having all the facts straight, they are committing prejudice. When racism is committed against a group, prejudice is used as a justification, leading victims to consider leaving the group in order to receive equal treatment and rights. One setting in which prejudice might manifest itself is the impact of popular culture or motion pictures.

According to Samovar and Porter (2010), films that attempt to improve society but do not accurately depict historical events or factual details will engender bias and misinformation.

These two elements are inextricably linked, making it impossible to separate them. Racism is justified by prejudice, yet racism also frequently puts others around it in danger. Tolerance and openness have no place in the presence of prejudice and discrimination. For instance, in South Africa, white people will treat black people poorly if they choose to support them. Therefore, white people blocked any opportunities for advancement that black people might have.

1.2.1 Affective aspect

An attitude or sentiment that results from disliking the victim is known as the affective element.

1.2.1 Conative aspect

The conative aspect of the perpetrator usually shows negative behavior towards other groups, usually resulting in discrimination, apart from that the perpetrator is openly hostile and does not respect the victim.

C. The impact of racism in society and in daily life

The sociological approach focuses on the broader social context and the systemic nature of racism. This research analyzes how the film reflects societal attitudes towards race and the structural inequalities that perpetuate discrimination against Black people. The principles of prejudice and discrimination are applied to understand the film's portrayal of racism (Worchel & Austin 2000; Samovar & Porter 2010).

1. American Racism

Racism is a long-standing societal issue in society. In addition to contributing to social injustice, human rights abuses, and inequality in society at large, racism has a detrimental effect on both people and society at large. Furthermore, racism is thought to dictate the way that other groups live. They also

believe that, in comparison to other races, they are the strongest and best group (Dalimunthe, M. A. & Rizky, S., 2021).

Slavery and prejudice were two instances of racism that took place in America in the eighteenth century. After Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States in 1862, slavery and discrimination were outlawed, yet prejudice persisted. In fact, during the Lincoln administration, the desire to end racism really sparked a protracted argument between northern and southern Americans that ultimately led to the American Civil War. While there was a civil war and some African-American slaves were freed to obtain their rights and equality, racism did not entirely vanish; rather, it gave rise to other manifestations, such as the propagation of racial stereotypes and hatred. Another way that racism is portrayed is through racial stereotypes. A malicious act of prejudice based on race and culture is also known as racial stereotyping.

The racism itself comes in two varieties. The first type of racism is personal racism, which can happen when someone acts racist out of fear or suspicion of other people. Racism manifests itself when someone holds stereotypes or beliefs about racial differences and believes the other person to be wicked, even to the extent of physically abusing and demeaning them. And that's discrimination, which includes violence against minorities, unequal treatment, and threats. The second is institutional racism, which is the practice of treating minority communities differently by institutions or by powerful people (Neubeck, 2001).

1. The impact of racism

Racial injustices have a detrimental impact on people's life, which includes the destruction and harm of individuals, communities, and society at large.

Racial prejudice has the following detrimental effects:

- a) Provoke hostility between groups.
- b) prohibiting members of particular ethnic groups from using public facilities.
- c) It may result in physical or mental health issues for the individual.
- d) Triggering the emergence of sectarianism.
- e) Creates oppression and authoritarianism.

2. Cause of Racism

According to Unsriana (2011), racism has been caused by a number of factors historically and currently, including the following:

- a) psychological safeguarding techniques. An individual trades attributes with others that they find objectionable about themselves.
- b) Disappointment. Some people who are discouraged will blame their own mistakes.
- c) Humility and insecurity are felt. People with low self-esteem and compromised morals will be more composed and will make an effort to make other groups feel uncomfortable.

d) History. Arises because of history in the past.

e) competition as well as exploitation. The modern world is increasingly competitive and materialistic. Individuals and organisations vie with one another for resources, opulence, and power.

3. Struggle

The term "black struggles" encompasses a complex array of issues that have deeply impacted various aspects of life, including social, political, economic, and cultural domains. Originating with the institution of slavery in the United States, which laid the groundwork for enduring discrimination and inequality, this historical battle has taken shape through centuries of resistance and activism.

Despite the legal abolition of slavery, the emergence of Jim Crow laws and institutionalized racial segregation entrenched inequality and disenfranchisement. The civil rights movement of the 1950s and 1960s marked a significant turning point in challenging these systems, striving for the end of segregation and the attainment of equal civil rights. Yet, the journey toward true equality has been arduous, with enduring challenges such as economic disparities, disparities within the criminal justice system, and the ongoing fight against racial stereotypes and prejudice.

In contemporary times, the Black Lives Matter movement has risen to prominence as a response to systemic racism and police violence, emphasizing

the urgent need to address discrimination and violence targeting Black communities. This movement has brought global attention to the pervasive nature of racial inequality and has sparked conversations and actions aimed at dismantling oppressive systems. On an international scale, the struggle for black liberation extends beyond national borders, encompassing efforts to combat global inequality, confront the legacies of colonialism, and challenge systemic racism in diverse contexts. Thus, the black struggle represents both a historical narrative of resilience and resistance and an ongoing quest for equality, justice, and recognition within society.

D. Conclusion

The film "If Beale Street Could Talk" provides a poignant depiction of the struggles faced by Black people due to racism and social injustice. Through its rich imagery and compelling narrative, the film highlights the emotional, cognitive, and behavioral responses of characters to racism, emphasizing the broader societal implications. The study concludes that the film not only entertains but also raises awareness about contemporary social issues, prompting viewers to reflect on and question the pervasive problem of racism in society.

This research contributes to the understanding of how media representations of racism can influence societal attitudes and behaviors, and it underscores the importance of addressing racism through both individual and collective efforts. Future research could further explore the impact of such films on audience perceptions and the potential for media to drive social change.

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