

THE ANALYSIS ON RACISM IN 12 YEARS A SLAVE MOVIE

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Abstract

This study discusses a practice of racism carried out by the upper class to the lower class. Racism is behavioural differences and inequalities based on a person's skin colour, race, ethnicity, and origin that limit or violate a person's rights and freedoms. Racism is often interpreted as the view that humans can be divided into separate groups based on biological characteristics called "race". This idea also believes in a causal relationship between the physical characteristics of a race and personality, intelligence, morality, and other cultural and behavioural traits, which makes some races 'innately' superior to others. The object of this research is 12 Years a Slave Movie with text data from the movie. The aims of this research are 1) to reveal the practice of racism by the upper class to the lower class., and 2) to show the form of social discrimination due to the practice of racism in the United States in the 19th century. This study uses Goldman's Genetic Structuralism to analyze the film 12 Years a Slave. This analysis produces two forms of racism, namely verbal and non-verbal forms. This form of racism takes place continuously and is maintained by social classes in society.

Key Words: Genetik Structuralism, 12 Years a Slave, Movie, Racism.

INTRODUCTION

12 Years a Slave is a 2013 biographical period drama film directed by Steve McQueen and an adaptation of the 1853 slave memoir Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup, a New York State-born free African-American man who was kidnapped in Washington, D.C., by two conmen in 1841 and sold into slavery.

According to Swingewood (1986), sociology is the study of humans in society and the study of groups and social processes. Besides having to know and understand sociology definition we also have to know and understand the definition of literature. The problem in formulating literature and sociology is the literary definition itself. A lot of scientists in the literary discipline try to define literature but none of them succeeds and can include all unsure of literature in one definition. A lot of definitions of literature of it relate to society such as literature as language and literature as the script. Faruk (2014) in the

book introduction of literature, tries to connect the nature of literature to sociology.

The research of literature is an academic way to explain the effect of the function of literature in society and to explain the position of literature in society, in this genre of literature is not just a reflection of history but the essence and summary of the history.

According to Wallek and Warren (2014), the first relationship between literature and society is the sociology of the author. This relates to the economic basis of literary production, social background, and status of the authors. The second is the contents of a literary work itself, and other things of interest implicit in the work related to the social problem, the latter of the literary works and social impact of literary works.

The writers have several reasons why choice 12 years as a slave as work that has to analysis. The first is the film directed by Steve McQueen perfectly is the new movie that brings racism issue, the movie copies social conditions in that era and can use as a reference

to analyze the social condition. Moreover, the theme of racism in 12 years, a slave also shows an economic condition that has a relationship with racism discrimination in the United States. The second reason why the writer chose 12 years a slave is that the film is based on a true story, the film was made based on the book written by Salomon Northup. He is of educational African descent and had his freedom before his kidnapped and used as a slave. When he succeeded to escape from his master, He wrote a book about his experience as a slave for 12 years. What is the difference between the 12 years a slave movie with the other work about racism? The answer is the background of the story when the story was created by Salomon Northup (the main character in 12 years a slave) itself. The experience the author of 12 years a slave put into their biography of himself makes the story that he wrote non-fiction. Steve McQueen perfect bring the audience back to the 19th century and watch the violence of slave.

The theme of slavery is making One of the most prominent elements in 12 years of a slave movie has a scene of violence (Anriadi, 2021). The illustration of the violence that occurs between the slave and his master becomes the main ingredient in making the movie-themed slavery. Scenes of violence experienced by slaves encourage the emergence of empathy in the audience this is what causes the film 12 years a slave feels special. Steve McQueen was able to construct a narrative through a moment of painful moments experienced by the slaves without having to put a lot of scenes of violence and change the genre of that movie to a horror movie (Astiantih, et al., 2017).

In the modern era, every single human in the world has the same right. The world government has launched rules about human rights, but the effect of discrimination against African people for more than 300 years influence many subjects in the world until the present day. Many writers in the world write a story about racial discrimination, they talk about anti-racism because they assume that every single man in the world has the same right to be a human (Harun, 2015) Lutfi

(2015). There is no limit to that. 12 years slave movie shows how the racial discrimination according to the victim of the racial case. Many literary works write about this case but a lot of that works just tell about race according to the writer's perspective but not from the victim's aspect.

Many movies talk about slavery in the world but 12 years a slave movie is a movie based on a true story and the movie can describe the situation perfectly. Based on the movie writer also thinks about the causes why the racism growing fast in society. Racial has existed even in the ancient world, and in fact, the development of racism itself is growing fast and worrying.

The reason why racism issues on the top of the global issue follow feminism issues is because in the present day every single human in the world has his/her freedom and also everyone has the same right. Discrimination of race has made a margin among the group of people (Zakaria, et al., 2020). Even after the world government has launched human right rules, the condition of racism in some country have not changed especially in the united stated. This case inspires the writer to analyze 12 years a slave, a movie that remain us about equality of human rights.

Based on the background above, the writer formulates the Problem statements as follows; (1) What kind of racism is described in 12 years a slave movie?, and (2) How racism is presented in 12 years a slave movie?

This research is limited to discussing the social discrimination, especially racism in the United States in the 19th century by watching and analysing 12 years a slave movie and also the relationship between racism in the movie to real society. This research will use the structuralism genetic approach by Lucien Goldmann.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Racism is the kind of discrimination by a particular race against another race that considers the lower class in society. Prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against

someone of a different race is based on the belief that one's race is superior (Indrasari, et al., 2020).

Racism is a differentiation action against a particular group of people in society because of differences in physical characteristics. Even American biopsychosocial organizations assume racism more evidence they said that racism is operationally defined as beliefs, attitudes, institutional arrangements and acts that tend to denigrate individuals or groups of phenotypic characteristics or ethnic group affiliation (Clark, 1999). This action happened if a particular race of human or groups of people think that assume that race or group of its most superior to the other. The terms of racism have a long story there is no deal about racism theory. The theory about racism is still developed by the scientist who was trying to make a theory that is accepted by society.

Structuralism also called the objective approach, is the approach that focuses on the intrinsic approach in literary works is mean the research only analyzes the unsure in the works only and passes the social background when the works have been written (Rahman, 2016; Jabrohim, 2014). Genetic structuralism in the history of literature is merely applied in literary criticism and is trusted to be the valid method in the scientific method (Goldmann, 1964).

Genetic structuralism approach is one part of structuralism theory and genetic structuralism appears as they react by the scientist of literature that does not satisfied with pure structuralism (Ratna, 2011). Pure structuralism is a literature approach that focuses on intrinsic unsure in literary works, the researcher of literature thinks that analysis of literature cannot stop just in the works, analysis shall continue to the next levels of research. According to Ratna (2011), genetic structuralism gives attention to the analysis of extrinsic works without ignoring intrinsic ones. It goes for a real step into the social background of the works

Lucien Goldmann (1975) as the founder of structuralism genetics not directly connected literary works to the social structure that produce those works but the literary works to

social class, genetic structuralism sets out from the hypothesis that all human behaviour is an attempt to give a meaningful response to the particular situation and tends, therefore, to create a balance between the subject of action and object on which it bears the environment.

Writer experience as the individual and part of society make the real relationship between the works and society assume appear to follow the status of the writer, they can pour their experience into the works (Goldmann, 1975).

As the basis for structuralism genetic human fact is the result of human activity that tries to learn by the knowledge or discipline, for example, a human activity follows as artistic works, social activity or even the relationship between human and god. The theory is considering every fact about human have its structure that tries to understand by the researcher and every structure have its purpose. Anywhere the purpose of the meaning from human fact is grown as the response from the group of people or individual to condition or social situation around them.

Genetic structuralism is also known as a concept that focuses on the author of literary works that consider social class where the author coming from, this concept is known as the trans-individual concept. The important thing in structuralism genetics is the point of view of the society. Point of view means the response of the society to the works. How far do the works show the reflection of human life and the response of society to that? That question is an issue that appears by structuralism genetic. Genetic structuralism is about the origins of structure itself with research homology, social class, trans-individual concept and point of view. The literature cannot be separated from social background, social response and members of a particular social class that is the reason why structuralism genetic was made an approach of literary criticism that focuses on the background of works but does not pass intrinsic clue in the works. Structuralism genetic is formulating Analysis method following:

- a. The analysis shall begin at intrinsic unsure of works. That's mean the researcher shall analyse all parts of unsure in the work such as plot, theme, point of view, characteristic and setting
- b. The second step is analyzing the author through their biography, the researcher's attention focus on the social background of the author, and the social classes of the author.
- c. The last is analyzing the social background and history that influence the literary works. This step is the final step to analyze the works based on structuralism genetics the analysis will produce a world vision based on the author of the literary itself shown by their character in the works.

Laurenson and Swingewood in Jabrohim (2014) also explain the steps of analyzing. They added the explanation that the first step is to analyze the structure of the works or intrinsic, this step's purpose is to prove and connect all the parts of works until the analysis can unite the parts of that works. The second step is analysis shall to find out the relationship to social culture. The unsure that find in the first step connects to social culture and history that make the works created, then the analysis continues to connect the result to the psychology of the author itself, and connect how the author sees the world this step is also called world vision (Akhmar, et al. (2019). The last to get the final result of the analysis the research uses an inductive method. This method finds out the specific clue in the analysis and then finds the general clue in the analysis.

OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

This research has set two objectives, namely 1) to reveal the practice of racism by the upper class to the lower class., and 2) to show social discrimination due to the practice of racism in the United States in the 19th century. In addition, this study describes the answers to the research question, namely to find out the kind of racism by the European

people towards the African people in the movie and how the movie describes the racism of European people towards the Africans.

12 Years a Slave is a 2013 biographical film by Steve McQueen and an adaptation of the 1853 memoir about slaves, Twelve Years a Slave, by Solomon Northup, a free African-American from New York living in Washington, DC, who has kidnapped two fraudsters in 1841 and sold into slavery.

METODE

In this research, the writer applies the descriptive method by using the structuralism genetic approach by Lucian Goldmann and social theory to describe the racist discrimination in the *12 years a slave* movie and the effect on victims of racism that influences the social structure in the United States. The data used in this research were taken from the movie as primary data, while the supporting data are from periodicals, journals, and articles. Data presentation is done in the form of an extract.

The method of collecting data used by the writer is as follows: (1) The writer watched carefully the movie 7 times, through this way the writer analyzed the pictures and the dialogue of the character in the movie as the primary data. The writer was also identified the intrinsic of the movie, (2) The writer collected and read some related literature work to support the object that want to analyze, (3) The writer collect and read some related journals, thesis and articles about racism and American history to support the object that wants to Analyze.

In analyzing racist discrimination in *12 years a slave* movie the writer used genetic structuralism to describe racism in the movie. The approach is to use intrinsic and extrinsic unsure about the work. Describe racism in *12 Years a Slave* movie using structuralism genetic follows: (1) Selecting and sorting the data (primary data and secondary data), (2) Identifying the primary data taken from the dialogue and pictures in the movie, (3) Identifying secondary data such as book,

journal and article that related with the movie, (4) finding out kind of racism discrimination to American African people in *12 Years a Slave* movie, (5) Describe racism development in *12 Years a Slave* movie.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The writer finds that the kind of racism depart into two parts first was the verbal racism and the second was non-verbal racism. The author also finds how the directors develop racism in the movie. In this part, the author will discuss the kinds of racism in this movie.

The writer finds that there are two kinds of racism, the first is a verbal kind and the second is a non Verbal kind.

Verbal Racism

McQueen appeared racist through the dialogue of the character in the movie. According to Clark (1999) there are 2 conceptual of racism, he departs into two concepts of racism in society first was the attitude and the second was behaviour.

Attitude Racism

This concept has been used to represent the attitudes of the particular group that has the power to rule the minority group. The concept of attitude was talked about how white as the superior group treated black as the lower group, this concept can be described and give a reason why different acts that shown by a majority group to the minority group. In this movie we find white and black separated by the colour of skin, the different attitudes we can see from dialogue said by the character, we can find white pressure the black from the words that white choose when they talk to black. This way is also considered as the act to make black obedient to the orders from the master, but this act also can be categorized as the way to confirm their position in social structure.

Considering their position at the highest level in the social structure make white can tell everything they want to say. Some dialogue of white men communicated to black was followed by yelling, mocking and humiliated black, this attitude was represented by Mr Tibbeats, Mr Freeman, and Mr and Mrs Epps. From the findings we can see how they were communicated with black, they wanted to communicate in that way they have not realized anymore the different attitude they has been showing. Difference ways to communicate white to black and white to white we can see in the dialogue below;

Instruction to white people:

Mr Freeman:Follow me, Please, yes, now inspect them at your leisure but I ask you to pay particular regard to young Ezra here.... (McQueen. 2013)

Instruction to black people:

Mr Freeman:goddamn you! Get out of here, I will give you something to cry about you goddamn witch.... (McQueen, 2013)

That piece of dialogue was shown in different acts using the verbal way shown by Mr Freeman. As the white man and the master of the black, he talked politely to a white man but when he turned to talk with one of his slaves his tone was changed. He yelled and curse his slave. We can recognize that as the discrimination between employer and employee but Mr Freeman was command his assistant politely. At least he was not yelling at him. People talk politely intending to respect other people but said bad words are usually shown by some circles below to indicate their proximity, as well as the word nigger, which words regarded as a sign of closeness but if said by people outside their group that words will turn into ridicule.

In this case, roughly speaking white people against black people to show their superiority, they humiliated and treat them to make them quiet and follow all of the orders from their master. The words that were always said by white to black were the words“ nigger” and “black” all of those words were used to humiliate the African American.

Mr. Tibbeats: ...(singing) run nigger run, nigger tore shirt in two run nigger run the patty roller will get you, run nigger run well you better get away, run nigger run, run so fast stove his head in hornet's nest run nigger run the patty roller will get you.... (McQueen, 2013)

That was how Mr Tibbeats humiliated black by using the words nigger. The history of the word nigger is often traced to the Latin word nigger, meaning Black. This word became the noun, Negro (Black person) in English, and simply the colour Black in Spanish and Portuguese. In early modern French, nigger became nagger and, later, Negress (Black woman) was unmistakably a part of language history. This word was a sign of the closeness of black people but when the words were said by white people or the people outside the group those words become insulted.

Behavioral Racism

Behavioural racism, in contrast, was an act of an individual or group that denies equitable treatment to an individual or a group because of phenotypic characteristics or ethnic groups. Differences in attitude that just focus on how white treat black behavioural more deep into society (Clark, 1999). The cultural concept was the other name of behaviour, in this movie we find some people who treat and talk with black politely enough that character was represented by Mr Ford the first master of Platt.

In this movie, McQueen shows some protagonist white characters who treat African Americans well enough even if they were treated as slaves human enough but the racism is still there. McQueen showed the protagonist a white character that makes a relation to black but American behaviour in treating black like the animal has made the protagonist do a different action. White just treat black well if they still give a benefit for them but if it was done they will be sold or exchanged them. The point is the white doesn't care about the black fate they just treat them well to make them

comfortable working with them, despite all of that they still consider black as property or animal.

Non Verbal Racism

Non-verbal racism was the kind of racism that is described as the attitude, prejudice, and behaviour of a particular group toward another group. In this movie, we find a racial act that shows from the daily activity of white people and how they behave toward people from another group. The racial discrimination that was done without awareness, those activities include the way they look, the way they move until they respond to black people. The writer separated this action into two parts first was the economic reason the second was the prejudice reason.

Economic Reason

The system developed by white people made the economy grow fast in a new country like America but the economic system just benefited the business owner and damaged the worker, the system known as capitalism. Capitalism is an economic system based on private ownership of the means of production and their operation for profit. Capitalism was an economic system that introduced by the government and applied in the United States in the 19th century, which made businessmen that move into agribusiness, applied slavery as the answer for their business. The capitalist system has appeared a new problem because the system makes a particular group dominate and rule the other group, discriminate was follow this system in this case slaves just focus on one group making this classified as the racism.

The era in the movie was shown that black property was sold by whites, as well as goods lifeless. In the movie, we find a character that is mixed up with slavery because they just follow the system that is applied by the society and government we can see that characteristic

in Mr Ford character. The dialogue below shows that Mr Ford just thinks about the profit of their business when he is mixed up with slavery.

Mr. Ford:I am trying safe your life! And I have a debt to be mindful of. That is to Edwin Epps now, I could find no other who would take you... (McQueen. 2013)



Figure 1 From the movie scene

Based on the pieces of dialogue and picture above we can identify that Mr Ford was one of the men who treat the black well just for business, he tried to get loyalty from his slave but when talking about money Mr Ford have another vision, he will look his slave as a property and business, he was thinking about profit and loss his debt. The reaction of Mr Ford when he put Platt on the floor was a sign that they don't care about black fate. In this movie, we find some good attitude characters like Mr Ford but even though he was good man racism still appear among slave and their master.

Prejudice Reason

This kind of racism appear because white people were beliefs the myth about evolution. even in the present day his theory no longer applies but at first appear his theory makes people believe that there was no equality because some kind of human has evolved more perfectly than others kind. White people beliefs European was the perfect evolution of humans and has a right to rule the others. According to Haran (2015), the white people were beliefs that Africans were a primitive race and race that used a power than a mind.

The proud white man was the provident of white people's beliefs the Myth and science theory about evolution. White who put prejudice as failed evolution to black people makes them consider black people like the animal, that's why white would do everything they want to do to black because for them they were not same with them. Appearance prejudice against blacks makes white hate and gives a space between them and black, the space that they have made sometimes make them do violence to black. Violence was done without any feeling of sorry because there was no law to protect black people, they have bought and give them food that's make white people have ownership of black, and scientific facts about the differences between white and black.



Figure 2 One of the Movie Scenes



Figure 3 A Discrimination For the Black

The picture above was shown what white can do to black if the black cannot obey the master's will. The first picture was two young black get chain because they have do something wrong or they no follow the instruction of their master, on their back we can see the scar, that scar was made by whipping. In the second picture look Patsy lashes until breaking the flesh on her back, this act was done by Mr Epps. Patsy was the girl

that become their partner Platt in Mr Epps Plantation. violence was done by white to give a lesson to black if they were doing an act without instruction from the master, and violence was done to make black realise their position of them as the lowest class in the social structure.

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis in the previous chapter, the writer finds some conclusions they are: (1) the kind of racism shown in this movie was racist from the lowest level to the highest level. The lowest level was the racism using words or verbal way and the highest was non-verbal, this act includes a response, behaviour and violence. Economic reasons were the first reason which discrimination using the capitalist system. Both are political reasons used by white people to show their superiority to other races by enslaving black skin and the third was the reason the myth and history, discriminate unconsciously because already familiar with the existing culture. (2) Racism developed in this movie was begin from the manner of speaking in which whites spoke harshly against blacks, how to dress in which whites give clothes shabby white as a sign of slavery, segregation residence luxury homes for whites and huts for the blacks and the latter is the way restraint in thinking and acting which ended with torture if any of one of the slaves who tried to rebel with predefined rules.

Racism is a follow differentiator of a dominant race to racial minorities. The film gives a lesson that all men have the same right to be happy, to enjoy what they like and what they want. The life of every human race as the valuable distinction between race and ethnicity will only create gaps which will lead to a conflict between races. Make our steps are limited in the know different cultures. Uphold the unity will make people understand each other and be capable of human avoid of contention

A racist way of thinking can make a person harbour prejudices against certain

racism. Of course, this bad prejudice can harm people who are discriminated against. Racism preceded many horrific events in world history, such as the Nazi massacre of Jews. Here are some of the bad effects of racism: 1) Racism often leads to torture and ill-treatment, 2) Racism views those who are different as not human, but objects that can be treated arbitrarily. In a country torn apart by racial conflict, torture and ill-treatment often afflict groups that are the target of racist behaviour., 3) For example, in the US, although half of the people shot and killed by white police officers, the number of blacks shot is disproportionately high. US demographic composition. Blacks make up less than 13 per cent of the population, but police kill more than twice as many as whites.

For every one million black population, 30 people are shot dead by the police. This number is inconsistent with statistics which state that for every one million white population, 12 people are shot dead by the police. This data indicates allegations of racism or discrimination against people of darker skin.

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