

**RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OF LOVE IN *GUESS WHO* MOVIE (2005)**

**DIRECTED BY KEVIN RODNEY SULLIVAN:**

**A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



**RESEARCH PAPER**

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# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **A. Background of the Study**

Human beings are social creatures. They live and interact with others in the society. In the society, they do their own duty and role as member of the society. Human social life is interesting to be analyzed because there are many phenomena that occur in social life. Even, those phenomena that occur in social life are usually used by the authors in their literary work such as novel, poem and movie.

Society is viewed as a complex system of parts structures that interact to perform various necessary functions, shared values, norms, attitudes and beliefs. Conflict society views as a struggle for resources and power, between the classes determines social change. All human beings belong to a single species and share a common origin. They are born equal in dignity and rights and all form an integral part of humanity. All people of the world possess equal faculties for attaining the highest level in intellectual, technical, social, economic, cultural and political development.

Social life described in literature usually gives description to the readers how social life where the author lives. It means that social life influences the work of the author in making his literary work. When the author makes a literary work, the author will use social condition of certain society as a setting in that literary work. For instance, the author raises social

life such as discrimination. Conflict is universal social consensus is limited and inequality is widespread.

Discrimination is one of the social phenomena that generally occurs in the society. Discrimination often occurs when in one place there are several races, then between one race and others cannot accept, even discriminate to each other. That is the reason why discrimination is raised. Some societies may welcome the new system and accept the risk of the changing of their society and some do not because of their fear of changing. This fear of changing can emerge and causes the discrimination towards new comers (Vernellia Randall, 2010).

The searching for racial discrimination happens when someone is treated worse than another person in the same or similar situation. Discrimination can happen because of race, colour of skin, nationality, ethnic origin. The law protects human from discrimination and gives the right to take a claim to an employment tribunal or to a court if person think have been treated unlawfully. People may suffer discrimination at work, at school or college, and relationship of love.

Throughout this resource uses the words race and racial to cover all these things. People may suffer discrimination at work, when buying or using goods and services, when trying to buy or rent somewhere to live, at a school or college or when dealing with the authorities for example the police. The law protects people from discrimination and gives the right to take a claim to

an employment tribunal or to a court if people think have been treated unlawfully (Community Legal Advice, 2007:3).

Discrimination has meaning as behaviour an action, with reference to unequal treatment of people because they are members of a particular group (Discrimination, 2009). *Guess Who* movie is one example of movie which describes about discrimination. *Guess Who* is an American movie about interracial or cross-cultural romance and race culture clash relations. *Guess Who* is a remake of the film *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner* in 1967, in the form of a romantic comedy with the same writer by David Ronn.

The director of *Guess Who* movie is Kevin Rodney Sullivan. He was born on August 3, 1958 in San Francisco. His nationality is American and his occupations are director, writer, actor, and producer. Sullivan made his feature directorial debut in 1998 on the critically acclaimed *How Stella Got Her Groove Back*, which swept the NAACP Image Awards including the award for Outstanding Motion Picture. Sullivan begins his career as a child actor, appearing on stage and in films. At twenty years old, Sullivan cast in the films *More American Graffiti*, *Night Shift*, and *Star Trek II*. While working as an actor, Sullivan wrote screenplays and sold his first teleplay, (an episode of *Fame*), at age twenty two years old. Sullivan executive produced, wrote and directed, debuted in the fall of 1988. Sullivan's success with that series catapulted him into the ranks of the top show runners in television, and raised his profile in the feature community ([www.filmreference.com](http://www.filmreference.com)).

*Guess Who* is a movie about interracial or cross-cultural romance and race culture clash relations. In detail *Guess Who* movie told about two people who love each other. But their love obstructed by their racial differences. They are Simon Green and Theresa Jones. Theresa is an original black. Whiles the lovers, Simon is an original white. Ashton Kutcher as Simon Green is a businessman. He is about to journey with his girlfriend, Theresa (Zoe Saldana), to meet Theresa's parents for the first time. They also intend to announce their engagement day, so it is going is differences racial and Theresa do not told her parents yet.

Reversing the concept explored in the 1967 classis *Guess Who's Coming to Dinner*. *Guess Who* looks at the challenges of a biracial relationship in an enlightening, tender, and amusing light. The radiant chemistry between Bernic Mac and Ashton Kutcher keeps explore the humour of the biracial relationship. In one of scene in this movie, Simon tells racial jokes at the dinner with Percy's family.

*Guess Who* is a major critical success. This movie was made in March 25, 2005. The setting of *Guess Who* movie place is United Stated. The film runtime is 103 minutes, released in VCD and DVD distributed by Sony Pictures. According to [Box Office Mojo](#), the film earned \$68,915,888 in the US and went on to earn \$32,950,142 at the world wide box office, giving it a total gross of \$101,866,030 ([guess\\_who\\_\(film\) wikipedia.htm](#))

The good acceptance does not only come from the market, but also from the film expert. Blake French (2005) said that a scene in which Simon

tells racial jokes at the dinner table request of Percy is masterful in evolution. This film offers laughs and moments that develop the relationship of both couples. The audience comes to care about these people a lot. Scott Holleran (2005) also enhancing that Ashton Kutcher is perfect as the goofy but sweet man who loves their daughter. The message is never lost and the film does a great job of showing how far we have come and how far we still need to go, while balancing the fact the audience is just joking to have a little fun.

*Guess Who* is a movie that got some awards from 2005 years until 2006. In 2005 years *Guess Who* got three nominations. First, the nomination of BET Comedy Awards the category is Outstanding Lead Actor in a Theatrical Film by Bernie Mac. Second, the nominations of Black Movie Awards categories are Outstanding Achievement in Directing by Kevin Rodney Sullivan and Outstanding Performance by an Actress in a Supporting Role by Zoe Saldana. Third, the nomination of Teen Choice Awards the categories are Choice Date Movie, Choice Movie Actor Comedy is Ashton Kutcher, Choice Movie Blush Scene is Ashton Kutcher, Choice Movie Breakout Performance Female is Zoe Saldana, Choice Movie Chemistry are Ashton Kutcher and Bernie Mac, Choice Movie Dance Scene are Ashton Kutcher and Bernie Mac, choice Movie *Hissy Fit* is Ashton Kutcher, Choice Movie Liar is Ashton Kutcher, Choice Movie *Rockstar Momen* is Bernie Mac, Choice Movie Rumble are Ashton Kutcher and Bernie Mac. In the 2006 years, *Guess Who* gets two nominations. There are, first the nomination of Black Reel Award is Best Actress by Zoe Saldana. Second the nomination of Image

Award is Outstanding Actress in a Motion Picture by Zoe Saldana (The Internet Movie Database, 2009).

Racial discrimination of love becomes an issue chosen by the researcher in this movie. The searching for racial discrimination happens when someone is treated worse than another person in the same or similar situation. Discrimination can happen because of race, colour of skin, nationality, ethnic origin. People may suffer discrimination at work, at school or college, and relationship of love.

Based on the previous background the writer constructs the title **RACIAL DISCRIMINATION OF LOVE IN *GUESS WHO* MOVIE (2005) DIRECTED BY KEVIN RODNEY SULLIVAN: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

## **B. Literary Review**

There is no researcher that researches this movie. The writer does not find the other researches in Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta about *Guess Who* movie. In this research, the writer uses a sociological approach as a to analyze “*Racial Discrimination of Love in Guess Who Movie (2005) Directed by Kevin Rodney Sullivan: A Sociological Approach*” because racial has equality with reality of human which relates to social problem especially in love.

### **C. Problem Statement**

The problem of the study that the researcher wants to analyze is how racial discrimination of love is reflected in by Kevin Rodney Sullivan's *Guess Who* movie using a sociological approach.

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

The writer focuses this research in analyzing the racial discrimination of love in *Guess Who* movie based on a sociological approach.

### **E. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of the study are mentioned as follows:

1. To analyze *Guess Who* movie based on the structural elements of the movie.
2. To describe the racial discrimination of love in *Guess Who* movie based on a sociological approach.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

The benefits of the study are:

#### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The study is hoped to give a new contribution and information to the larger body of knowledge, particularly the literary studies on *Guess Who* movie.

#### **2. Practical Benefit**

The study is hoped to enrich knowledge and experience of the writer and other students of Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta or another



universities who have interest with literary study on the movie from sociological approach.

## **G. Research Method**

### **1. Type of the Study**

In this research, the writer uses a descriptive qualitative research. To analyze the movie using sociological approach.

### **2. Object of the Study**

The object of the study is *Guess Who* movie directed by Kevin Rodney Sullivan and publishing by 21<sup>th</sup> Century Fox in 2005. It is analyzed by using sociological approach.

### **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

There are two types of the data namely primary data and secondary data that are needed to do this research.

#### **a. Primary data**

The primary data source of the study is *Guess Who* movie directed by Kevin Rodney Sullivan with the script movie written by David Ronn.

#### **b. Secondary data**

The secondary data sources are books and other sources that support the analysis.

### **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The techniques of data collections are capturing the picture and note taking, with the steps are:

- a. Watching the movie for the several times.
- b. Reading the movie script.
- c. Determining the character that will be analyzed.
- d. Taking notes of important parts in both primary and secondary data.
- e. Classifying and determining the relevant data.
- f. Taking notes from the material and some other resources to the movie and the analysis.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

The technique used in analyzing the data is descriptive analysis. It concerns with the structural elements of the movie and a sociological approach.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

The research paper organization of “Racial Discrimination of Love in *Guess Who* Movie (2005): A Sociological Approach” is divided into six chapters. Chapter I is Introduction, it consists of Background of The Study, Literary Review, Problem Statement, Limitation of the Study, Objectives of the Study, Benefits of the Study, Research Method, and Paper Organization. Chapter II is Underlying Theory, it consists of Sociology of Literature, The Perspective of Sociology of Literature, Structural Elements of the Movie, and Theoretical Application. Chapter III is social historical background of America society in the early twenty one century which covers social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter IV is Structural Analysis of *Guess Who* movie which

consists of The Structural Elements of *Guess Who* movie, it consists of Character and Characterization, Casting, Plot, Technical Elements of the Movie, Point of View, Style, and Theme. Chapter V is Sociological Analysis of *Guess Who* movie; it consists of the social aspect, political aspect, economic aspect, science and technology, cultural aspect, and religious aspect. Chapter VI is Conclusion and Suggestion.