

# CAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### A. Background of the Study

*Remember the Titans* is an American sports film produced by Jerry Bruckheimer and directed by Boaz Yakin. The plot was conceived from a screenplay written by Gregory Allen Howard. Boaz Yakin was born in New York City in 1966 and after graduating from high school, Yakin opted to study filmmaking at New York University College. He soon moved on to New York University and made his first deal for a screenplay at the age of 19. After finishing school, Yakin worked in the film business helping to develop projects for several companies, and he saw his first screenplay reach the screen in 1989 when *The Punisher* was released.

Wanting to take on more personal material, Yakin drew from his experiences growing up in New York's inner city for his next screenplay, *Fresh*. Yakin opted to direct his screenplay for *Fresh* himself, and the film won critical raves, earning the Filmmaker's Trophy at the 1994 Sundance Film Festival. Yakin went back to his youth for inspiration on his next project; while his parents were non-practicing Jews, they enrolled their son in an Orthodox private school when he was five, and his experience with the Chassidic community informed his screenplay for *A Price Above Rubies*, a

more difficult project which did not fare quite as well with critics or audiences as *Fresh*. Yakin rebounded with his next assignment, which was his first film that he directed but did not write; *Remember the Titans* was a major box-office success, and moved him to the upper tier of bankable Hollywood talent.

This film featured by Denzel Washington as Herman Boone and Will Patton as Bill Yoast, two coaches which work together in the team football school even they are in different color. Gerry Bertier and Julius Campbell played by Ryan Hurst and Wood Harris as the athletes of the football team. The main characters and the central story in this movie are non-fictional because the story of the movie is real but there are some names are changed to protect the characters.

The story began in Alexandria, Virginia in the year 1971. In 1971, at the desegregated T. C. Williams High School, African American head coach Herman Boone (Denzel Washington) is hired to lead the school's football team. Coach Boone takes the coaching position from current head coach Bill Yoast (Will Patton), who has been nominated for the Virginia High School Hall of Fame, and who also later decides to move on to other coaching opportunities. In a show of respect, Boone offers an assistant coordinator coaching position to Yoast. Yoast at first refuses Boone's offer, but is then tempted to join after the white players pledge to boycott the team if he doesn't participate. Ken Smithson also promises to leave if he doesn't coach, Ken Smithson (Fintan Ryan) being an integral part to the team. Smithson's co-

worker, Joe O'Brien (Jimmy Macsmall), also threatens to leave with Smithson. Dismayed at the prospect of the students losing their chances at scholarships, Yoast changes his mind and takes up the position of defensive coordinator.

The African American and white athletes of the football team frequently clash in racially motivated conflicts at their football camp, including those between captain Gerry Bertier (Ryan Hurst) and Julius Campbell (Wood Harris). However, after forceful coaxing and rigorous athletic training by Boone, the team achieves both racial harmony and triumph. After returning from football camp, Boone is told by a member of the school board that if he loses even a single game, he will be fired. Subsequently, the Titans go through the season undefeated while battling racial prejudice, before slowly gaining support from the community.

Just before the state semi-finals, Yoast is told by a member of the school board that he will be inducted into the Hall of Fame after the Titans *lose* their game, essentially implying he wants Boone to get fired over his race. During the game, it becomes apparent that the referees are engaging in biased officiating against the Titans. After seeing his daughter upset over the horrible calls, Yoast warns the head official that he will go to the press and expose the scandal unless the game is called fairly. The Titans end up winning, but Yoast is told afterward that his actions have resulted in his loss of candidacy for the Hall of Fame.

Later, while celebrating after the victorious game, Bertier becomes paralyzed in an automobile accident. Although Bertier is no longer able to play, the team goes on to win the championship and gains the esteem and admiration of the local townspeople. Ten years later, the coaches and athletes from the team reunite to attend Bertier's funeral, following his death from another automobile accident

The researcher is interested to analyze *Remember the Titan* Movie (2000) due to the following reasons; first, *Remember the Titan* (2000) is realistic Movie. The second reason, *Remember the Titan* (2000) is suitable to analyze with Marxist Approach. The third reason, this film has attractive plot. And the fourth reason is the racism that becomes the main issue of the film is reflected well.

The first reason is because it is a realistic film and full of emotional. Everyone who watches this film would think that story become their favorite movie, the story breakdown the bad culture of racial diversity.

The second reason is that *Remember the Titan* (2000) movie is suitable to analyze with Marxist Approach. This movie tells the struggle of Herman Boone to get the winner in order to get the respect of the society.

The third reason is the attractive plot. The conflict build from the early moment play the viewer's emotion. It makes the film become not boring to watch. This film has perfect plot structure.

And the last, the racism that becomes the main issue of the film is reflected well. Here, the writer interested in analyzing the movie about the racial discrimination to black people. The writer uses Marxist Approach to analyze the movie.

Based on the reason above, the researcher intends to conduct a study on Marxist Approach with the title: **THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN BOAZ YAKIN'S *REMEMBER THE TITAN* (2000) MOVIE: A MARXIST APPROACH**

## **B. Literature Review**

The movie, *Remember The Titan* is a popular literary work. The theme brought makes the people are interested you know it.

Nur Nazaruddin has conducted a research entitled “AMERICAN FOOTBALL AS A MEANS TO CONVEY ABOLISHMENT OF RACISM AS SEEN IN BOAZ YAKIN'S REMEMBER THE TITANS”. This research is about the importance of American Football for American people and the correlation between racism and American football to the abolishment of racism in American society. The source of data in this research is a Boaz Yakin's film entitled “Remember the Titans (2000)”, while the main data are collected from the shot composition, lighting, sound including the intonation of the dialogues, the story itself, dialogues, narration, characterizations including the character's gestures and facial expressions, and the interpreted phenomena as the components which construct the film which are relevant to

answer the research question. The supporting data of this research are the script, articles, books and all kind of information related to the subject matter. The objectives of the research are to portray how “Remember the Titans” shows the role of American football in the abolishment of racism between black and white people as a means to abolish racism between Black and White people in America. This research is aimed to provide a significant contribution to the understanding at American society; culture and experience related to the sport activities, in this case American Football in the racism issue represented in American movie. In order to achieve the objective, the researcher employs four relevant approaches. The approaches that are used are historical approach, sociological approach, semiotic film approach and social psychological approach. Those approaches are used in the analysis phase to find out the answer of research question. In conducting the research, the researcher analyzes the data and then answers the research question using the approaches. The research question of this research is “How does Remember the Titans portray the role of American Football in abolishment of racism between Black and White people in America?” In order to focus on solving the research question, the researcher divides the research question into two, they are: “how does American football play the role as a catalyst in abolishment of racism between Black and White people as reflected in Remember the Titans?” and “how does the social interaction change as a result of abolishment of racism among Black and White people in American

society as reflected in Remember the Titans?”. Analysis of the data leads the researcher to conclude that American Football plays a role as a catalyst of interaction between Black and White people in Alexandria, Virginia. American Football finally brings a good social interaction in the society as a result of abolishment of racism among Black and White people in American society. American football in this film is portrayed as a means to convey abolishment of racism among the Black and the White in America.

Different from previous researchers this study focuses on racial discrimination are reflected on *Remember the Titan* movie, one of the major issue in this movie by Marxist approach. In this study the researcher gives the title ”Racial Discrimination in Boaz Yakin’s *Remember the Titan* Movie (2000): a Marxist approach”.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the background of the study, the problem of this research is “How is the racial discrimination reflected in *Remember the Titan* movie?”

### **D. Research Limitation**

The researcher limits the study of racial discrimination on Marxist Approach. It is emphasized on *Remember the Titan* Movie (2000) by employing primary approach (Marxist Approach).

## **E. Objective of the Study**

The objectives of this study are:

1. To analyze the movie in terms of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the movie based on Marxist Approach..

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

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

Hopefully, the result of this research will give some benefits to the world of literature, beside development: particularly the literary study on Boaz Yakin's "*Remember the Titan*".

### **2. Practical Benefit**

This study is expected to give deeper understanding about the movie especially from the aspect of a Marxist approach and give input to other researchers who are interested in analyzing Boaz Yakin's "*Remember the Titan*".

## **G. Research Method**

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

This research uses descriptive qualitative method.

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

Data in this research is text consisting of words, phrases, and sentences.

Data source in this research are:

- a. Primary data source is Movie in Boaz Yakin's *Remember The titan*.



- b. The secondary data are taken from some reference and material related to the study whether picking up from books and internet.

### 3. **Object of the Study**

The object of the study is movie *Remember the Titan* Movie (2000).

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

The collecting data technique is done through literary research. The data are collected from the book and articles related to the topic. In order to make the data more complete the writer is doing some steps. The necessary steps are as follows:

- a. Watching movie and reading the books that are connected to the research repeatedly.
- b. Making notes of information in both primary and secondary data.
- c. Arranging the data into several based on its classification.
- d. Developing data that are provided.

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

In this research, the data are analyzed by using descriptive qualitative analysis through Marxist Approach.

## **H. Paper Organization**

The research consist of six chapter which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, benefit of the study, theoretical approach, research method, and paper

organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consist of Marxist. Chapter III deals with the social background with all of the aspect of the social reality of the American society in the early twentieth first century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the movie by describing character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot, and theme of the movie and brief discussion. Chapter V is Marxist Analysis dealing with the problems in the movie. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.