

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Racism is the underestimation or possibly maltreatment of ethnic minorities subject to a socially created racial hierarchy that benefits white people. Humans must have different characters, attitudes, and mindsets in carrying out their daily lives. In this film the director wants to convey that we do not need to differentiate humans from each other from any race. As we know in everyday life in our country there are still many who differentiate the poor and the rich. In this millennial era, it is clear that they are still discriminating. Actually, it is all very bad, because the rich will not always be rich and the poor will not necessarily be poor forever. Life is like a spinning wheel, some are above and some are below. But not to overthrow each other, but to mutually petrify one another.

Therefore, a lot of films present racism as the theme example *12 Years a Slave* (2013), *The Butler* (2013), *Dear White People* (2014), *Fruitvale Station* (2013), *Let the Fire Burn* (2014), *Trouble the Water* (2008), *The Birth of a Nation* (2016), *I Am Not Your Negro* (2016), *If Beale Street Could Talk* (2018) *Queen & Slim* (2019), and *Crash* (2004). Talking about a movie, it cannot be separated from the director. Here are some directors who had to direct racism movies, they are Steve McQueen, Lee Daniels, Justin Simien, Ryan Coogler, Jason Osder, Tia Lessin and Carl Deal, Nate Parker, Raoul Peck, Barry Jenkins, Melina Matsoukas, Paul Haggis, and many more. Here this study talks more about Paul Haggis. Paul Edward Haggis is a Canadian screenwriter, movie maker, and overseer of film and TV. He is most popular as screenwriter and maker for sequential Best Picture Oscar champs: *Million Dollar Baby* (2004) and *Crash* (2005), the last of which he additionally coordinated. Haggis additionally co-composed the conflict film *Flags of Our Fathers* (2006) and the James Bond films *Casino Royale* (2006) and *Quantum of Solace* (2008). He is the maker of the TV arrangement *Due South* (1994–1999) and co-maker of *Walker, Texas Ranger* (1993–2001), among others. Haggis is a double cross Academy Award victor, double cross Emmy Award champ, and seven-time Gemini Award victor.

Crash released in 2004, directed by Paul Haggis, discusses the racism that differentiates blacks and white skin. In the film the director aims to convey how to deal

with cultural differences. Because each person is unique, from their respective backgrounds, from the perspective of culture, religion and ethnicity, the social processes that are carried out during life. We should not and do not need to differentiate between people because we do not know what their backgrounds are.

This film was made because this incident happened until now. Especially in America, they still differentiate between races, ethnic groups, and differentiate black and white skin. In this film the director wants that this incident can be reduced or not there any more. Then he gave the message according to what happened in real life and he also showed how to respond to the differences in the film.

The director depicts what actually happens in American racism. Black Americans are citizens who must be spaced apart or separated from whites. Minority groups are always considered as citizens who have the potential to make trouble or approach criminal acts. Acts of racism that occur are not just differentiations in public facilities but sometimes tend to lead to sexual harassment for women. This is illustrated when a couple of African Americans who were driving a car were stopped by two American police. At that time also one of the 2 policemen committed acts of abuse against the wife because the couple did not accept being questioned and refused to apologize because they did not feel that they had committed any offense. But the husband could not prevent the police action against the wife because if she fought she would be shot. Here you can see how 'miserable' life for minorities in America is. Not to mention, Arab citizens or Arab descendants who are often regarded as terrorists. They as a minority are very marginalized and 'feared' only because of their physical shape or skin colour.

Crash also depicts that even though Americans look evil at first, they are actually good, and Americans who had evil intentions become self-aware of evil. First, when a woman who was harassed had an accident until her car overturned, what saved the woman was the police who broke it, even the policeman was described as struggling to help the woman. Second, when the husband was chased by the police and even wanted to be shot, what prevented him was the police who stopped his vehicle. Third, at the end of the story, the role played by Sandra Bullock finally considers her maid as her best friend, even though previously she really did not like the existence of her maid.

This film illustrated that it is the minority who themselves form a negative image of their group. This film seems to want to illustrate that acts of discrimination

based on race do occur in America. But the Americans also protect them, in the sense that it may look evil on the outside but actually the American citizens (white men) are good human beings who will even protect them. Even so, this film also depicts that in fact not all minorities, especially black-men, are bad people, but many of them are good. But in this film, it is not illustrated that even minorities can protect the majority. With films like this, America can portray itself as a country that has socio-cultural diversity but can live in harmony even though previously there were many bloody events due to cultural diversity.

Publics also give many responds toward *Crash* movie. Tysonadhy thought well for this film. He said that this film has a message and also excels in its storytelling which is able to overcome the many characters and the many sub stories that have to be summarized in a duration of 2 hours. That's an achievement. The director, who also wrote the script, knows exactly how to make this film effective with all its limitations.

In response to Iza Anwar, who is written in his blog, he said that the film by Paul Haggis is still good, even though the theme it raises is racist issues which are not new to the "nature" of cinema. But still *Crash* has its own uniqueness. What he really wants to express in this film is very simple. Namely, that judging other people from their race is not justified, because indirectly it is an act of generalizing a group. In essence, of course there are still many good people in each race without the need for us to generalize because of basic views.

This film also received positive reviews from Roger Ebert. According to him this film has extraordinary appeal. He could quickly understand who his characters were and what their lives would be like, but he did not know how they would behave, for many things depended on chance. The film is extraordinary in its ability to engage audiences and engage audiences.

In my opinion from the title *Crash*, it can be interpreted that this film is against cultural incompatibility. Tells about differences in race, ethnicity, to differentiate blacks and whites' skin. Has an interesting and not boring storyline so I can enjoy this film from start to finish. Although there were lots of shots that made me afraid to see it.

The reason I choose this film for my proposal because it is very interesting and useful for me and the reader of my proposal later. Many moral messages that I can receive in the film. One of them is the director advised that we should not judge people

from one side only. And good people do not come from a certain tribe or race, but that is a trait that has been implanted in a person regardless of race or ethnicity.

Starting from a story of a fight, shooting, etc. Until they finally realized that when he needed someone in a difficult situation, he was helped by the person he had been hating. And it can change their character mindset. And it can also change the mindset of the audience to always do good, and not easily hate people. In my opinion that crimes need not be repaid equally, but we must do good. Because we have to prove that we are not what they think.

From the explanation, the writer has interest in analysing opposite racism in *Crash* movie. The study will be analysed using Sociological Perspective. Therefore, the paper entitled **OPPOSING RACISM IN PAUL HAGGIS ' CRASH MOVIE: A SOCIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE.**

B. Problem Statement

1. What are the indicators of racism in the film?
2. How is racism depicted in the film?
3. Why did the director specifically discuss about racism in the film?

C. Objectives of The Study

1. To identify the indicators of racism in the film.
2. To describe how racism is depicted in the film.
3. To reveal the reason why the director specifically discuss racism in the film.

D. Significance of The Study

The benefits of the study are divided into two:

1. Theoretical Significance

The study expected to provide new information and contributed to the literature field. It tends to be additionally as a kind of perspective for different authors who need to conduct further research and especially the literary studies on *Crash* movie.

2. Practical Significance

The study is expected to add the gap of knowledge for others students and can be used as a reference in literary study on the literature from A Sociological Perspective.