

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the researcher will explain the background of the research that underlies the researcher to raise the issue that occurs in the object of research, this chapter also contains about the formulation of the problem in research, research objectives, benefits of research, previous studies and also research paper organization written by the author.

A. Background of the Study

Culture is a way of life that develops and is shared by a group of people, and is passed down from generation to generation. One of the elements of culture is discussing the arts. Tylor (1929) states that culture is that complex whole which includes knowledge, belief, art, law, morals, custom, and any other capabilities and habits acquired by man as a member of society. One of the works of art that is able to penetrate all elements of society is film. Film has become a popular medium for the society. Film is a form of electronic mass communication in the form of audio-visual media capable of displaying words, sounds, images, and combinations thereof. Tazakka, Dewa, & Putro (2020) stated that film can be used as a medium to reflect the reality that exists in society or to shape the reality desired by film producers. Apart from being a medium of communication, film is also an art medium for communicating. In a film there is a message that is conveyed by the film producer to the audience, implicitly or explicitly.

Film or also often called movie is a work of art that is expressed in the form of a story to convey messages played by humans or creatures and objects that are arranged or made by humans with various expressions recorded by cameras so as to display a series of scenes in a story. In a film, story packaging is equipped with sound settings, lighting, cinematography settings, place layouts and appropriate color settings to make the story more interesting and the audience can easily understand the story. According to Tazakka, Dewa, & Putro (2020) films contain elements of themes, stories from characters that are packaged in audio-visual format which ultimately communicates a message, either implicitly or explicitly. Film is also one of the most effective and popular media in cultural learning by the society. In films we can learn about the culture that lives around us which can be the same in other countries, or it can be foreign cultures that we have never had contact with. Meanwhile, according to Petrie & Boggs, (2008:3) consider film as a form of expression similar to other art media, such as painting, photography, drama, music, and even literary arts (poetry and novels). Therefore, nowadays many films are adapted from poetry, novels,

biographies and other literary arts because both have the same elements (film and literary arts).

In this study, the author wants to study a film adaptation of a novel entitled *BlacKkKlansman*. *BlacKkKlansman* is an American crime comedy-drama biographical film directed by Spike Lee. The screenplay was written by Charlie Wachtel, David Rabinowitz, Kevin Willmott and Spike Lee based on Ron Stallworth's novel *BlacKkKlansman*. This film is the true story of Ron Stallworth, the first black detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Spike Lee, the director of this film cleverly chose the comedy crime genre for this film. Although the theme of racism seems serious, *BlacKkKlansman* is filled with satirical jokes. Making this film feel fun and also right in conveying the message.

BlacKkKlansman is the 41st film directed by Spike Lee. The film was released on August 10, 2018 in the United States. The release coincides with the first anniversary of the White Supremacist Unite the Right rally, but previously, this film was first released at the Cannes Film Festival, on May 14, 2018. The film was released in 2018, but the people behind the film purchased the film rights to the novel in 2015. Spike Lee signed an agreement to direct the film in 2017. Spike Lee, the director of this film chose the comedy crime genre for this film. *BlacKkKlansman* received one award at the 2019 Oscars for the best adapted screenplay category, but overall, this film entered six 2019 Oscar categories. The categories include, Best Picture, Best Supporting Actor (Adam Driver), Best Adapted Screenplay (Charlie Wachtel, David Rabinowitz, Kevin Willmott, and Spike Lee), Best Director (Spike Lee), Best Original Score Music, and Best Film Editing. In this film directed by Spike Lee, it is told to take place in 1972. In the true story, it takes place in 1979. Another difference between the film and the true story is that the figure of Philip Flip Zimmerman, is not his real name in the actual event and in the final scene of the tragedy of the bombing at this film is just to add tension and part of the dramatization in the film.

This film tells the story of Ron Stallworth, the first black detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department, set in the 1970s. Ron is assigned by his superiors to the archives without knowing his abilities, where he is often subjected to racial slurs from his co-workers. He then asked his boss for a transfer because he couldn't stand working in that room. Ron gets a golden opportunity to be transferred to the intelligence investigation department, and meets his new partner, Flip Zimmerman. Ron is then assigned to infiltrate the location of a public meeting that features black civil rights leader Kwame Ture. At the meeting, he met Patrice Dumas, head of the black student organization at Colorado College who was frequently harassed by a white police officer named Landers. After the event, Ron found an advertisement in the newspaper about the Ku Klux Klan (KKK) and finally Ron got an assignment from the police chief to disguise himself and join the KKK group, and was asked to uncover the

crimes committed by the group. In the course of his assignment, it was not that easy, because he had to face the racism that was present throughout his assignment.

Racism is a popular problem not only in movies but also in real life. According to the *Oxford Learner's Pocket Dictionary*, racism as “the belief that some races of people are better than others, or a general belief about a whole group of people based only on their race”. Neubeck (2003) stated that racism often arises from the point of view of a society to differentiate its group from other groups. In sum, some people have the belief that all members of each race have characteristics, abilities, or qualities specific to that race, especially to distinguish them as inferior or superior to other race or races and are their expression of prejudice. Racism can be found anywhere, especially America. There are many types of races in America. In America, there are many white supremacist support organizations that spread hatred against black people, one of which is the Ku Klux Klan which is also told in the film *BlacKkKlansman*. The Ku Klux Klan in America has existed for a long time and still exists today. It made black people uncomfortable living in America. They want to fight but they are afraid of losing their honour, their jobs, and even their lives. Following the racism that occurred in the film *BlacKkKlansman*, the author uses the Scale of Prejudice theory and the Contact Hypothesis theory proposed by Gordon Allport.

Gordon Allport was a psychologist who spent his career developing theory, studying social issues, such as prejudice, suspicion, communalism, and developing personality tests. Gordon Allport was born on November 11, 1897 in Montezuma, Indiana. He was one of the main figures in the international movement that pushed for the establishment of the Department of Social Relations at Harvard University, in order to achieve a partial integration of psychology, sociology, and anthropology. In the field of sociology, to measure racism attitude or racial discrimination, in 1954, Gordon Allport analyzes about prejudice and discrimination. Allport explains the sequential steps by which an individual behaves negatively toward members of another racial group. Allport also found one of the most effective ways to reduce prejudice between members of the majority and minority groups, namely the Contact Hypothesis.

According to the researchers' reasons above, the researchers are interested in conducting research relating to the problem of racism based on Gordon Allport's Scale of Prejudice and Contact Hypothesis theory. In this research the author raised the title, namely “**RACISM REFLECTED IN BLACKKKLANSMAN MOVIE (2018): ALLPORT'S SCALE OF PREJUDICE AND CONTACT HYPHOTESIS THEORY**”

B. Problem Statement of the Study

Based on the background of the study, the research questions can be formulated as follows:

1. What characteristics of racist actions are reflected in BlackKlansman movie?
2. How is the impact of racist actions on victims reflected in BlackKlansman movie?
3. Why is contact hypothesis able to reduce racism reflected in the BlackKlansman movie?

C. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of this study are related to the problems that have been stated above and aiming to answer the questions, they are:

1. To identify the characteristics of racist actions reflected in the BlackKlansman movie.
2. To explain the impact of racist actions on victims in the BlackKlansman movie.
3. To describe the Contact Hypothesis is able to reduce racism reflected in the BlackKlansman movie.

D. Benefits of the Study

By analyzing the Blackklansman film, the researcher hopes that later this research can provide benefits to readers both theoretically and practically.

1. Theoretical Benefit
The results of this study are expected to provide information on the development of science, and as an academic reference for other researchers on scale of prejudice and contact hypothesis theory to conduct further research and especially the study of literature on the BlackKlansman (2018) movie.
2. Practical Benefit
 - a. The researcher hopes that this research can provide references and inspirations, especially for student of English Education to increase their knowledge in analyzing Blackklansman (2018) movie using Scale of Prejudice and Contact Hypothesis Theory by Gordon Allport.
 - b. The researchers expect the readers to continuou another research of Blackklansman (2018) movie.

E. Research Paper Organization

The research paper organization of **“RACISM REFLECTED IN BLACKKLANSMAN MOVIE (2018): ALLPORT’S SCALE OF PREJUDICE AND CONTACT HYPOTHESIS THEORY”** as follows:

Chapter I is introduction, which contains background of the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, benefits of the study, and research paper organization.

Then Chapter II is literature review concerning underlying theories and previous studies. Underlying theories which contain the notion of theory of scale of prejudice and contact hypothesis and the concept of scale of prejudice and contact hypothesis theory.

Chapter III consists of research methods such as types of research, object of the research, types of data and data sources are divided into two, namely primary data and secondary data, techniques of collecting data, techniques of analyzing data, and data validity.

In Chapter IV the researcher presents the findings from the data source and explains the data in the discussion section.

Chapter V is the last chapter of this study which contains the conclusion from the explanation in the findings and discussions and the suggestions to further researchers.