

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Racism is usually associated with race, ethnicity, and discrimination. Race is a grouping of people based on the characteristics, traditions and culture inherited from their ancestors. According to Du Bois, race is a vast family of human beings, generally of common blood and language, always of common history, traditions and impulses, who are both voluntarily and involuntarily striving together (2001:79). Racism is a racial problem that is taught and passed down amidst the lives of the multicultural society in various parts of the world. Racism is a belief which states that a particular race is the superior class and has the right to regulate another race, especially the lower class or often called as minority's race. "The racist is not content to assert that races differ; he also believes that some are superior to others" (Todorov, 2001: 66).

The difference between superior races and lower class races is an increasingly complicated factor in the problem of racism. Those who consider the superior race often carry out racism against the lower classes, because the superior race thinks that their race is the best among all races. Slavery, social discrimination, segregation and violence often related to oppression in racism. One example of countries that has a racial problem is the United States of America.

Coombs (1972) explained that the slaves or which we often called "Negro" worked on the tobacco, rice, cotton, and indigo plantations most commonly found in the South from Southern Virginia to Georgia. Besides slavery, a segregation system also occurred in America. Segregation system often called racial segregation usually always related to using violence, because this began in 1863 when black soldiers were forced to serve white officers (Coombs, 1972). At the end of the 19th century before the civil war began, northern states had begun racial segregation as a social system. After that, it was also followed by Southern countries which made it a legal requirement.

The triggers of violence against black people who are weak and try to oppose the law are having no access to public places, getting an education in poor schools and difficulty in voting elections. Usually, black people who try to break the law are caused by needing justice and equal position to white people who never get a good response from white people. The white people treat black people like animals. We can find various kinds of form of racism in America with residents of various races. Almost all sectors of life in the United States are controlled by white people who are the Caucasian race.

Initially, Europeans came to America by assailing the land; they also attacked Native American who is settled in the country. White people who were Caucasian race wanted to eliminate every single indigenous who lived in the American mainland at the time, in particular, the Indian clans that were a piece of the Mongoloid race. All efforts by white peoples to eliminate

Native American are by carrying out mass butcher of Indians and Africans-Americans who originated from the Negroid race. White inhabitants place Negroid race occupants in the lowest position in racial and ethnic strata depend on the level of strength that they have. The meaning of strengths is the level of position or position in a job or how rich they are. But not infrequently, even though they have wealthy, some white people will always try to take away their wealth so that they remain at the lowest level. Mostly the existence of black people and Negroid race are additionally isolated from white people in social offices and are restricted in their space in legislative issues.

In the 1960s, racial practices at that time still continued in the Southern state. In early 1865, the state legalized discrimination between white people and black people using segregation laws. It caused black people more inferior and discriminated. At that time, black people fought for equal rights as citizens in the United States. Slavery, segregation, negative perceptions and also a violence that they got, can be categorized in institutional racism. Of all the types of racism cases that were mentioned earlier and experienced by black people, can be related to institutional racism that kept racism going within and across generations which could precede and precondition individual expressions of racism. The most well-known legal form of institutional racism is segregation laws.

Many Southern states that legalize segregation for Black people since the nineteenth and twentieth century used segregation laws. In little Southern

towns, every citizen both white people and black people separated in every aspect of life. In America, segregation law separated public facilities such as schools, courts, movie theatres, jobs, housing, churches, and even cemeteries were racially segregated. Segregation law not only separated but allowed white Americans to treat black Americans badly like beatings, shootings, massacres, lynching, and raping. Even those of certain groups of white Americans also did not hesitate to intimidate and discriminate black people.

Racism is often used as a theme for various films like the “*Mississippi Burning*” (1998), “*Detroit*” (2017), and “*Amistad*” (1997) movie. In this case racism study will make the researchers learn and deepen the cases and racial issues experienced by black people in America, and how they struggle against racial discrimination. Some forms of racism and discrimination condition can be found in the literature study which discusses racism, discrimination, and the history then will be represented in a movie by Lee Daniels’s entitled “*The Butler*” (2013).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The research will be focused with the accompanying inquiry:

1. How is institutional racism reflected in “*The Butler*” (2013) movie?
2. Why institutional racism happened as reflected in “*The Butler*” (2013) movie?

3. What are the impacts of institutional racism in "*The Butler*" (2013) movie toward Afro – Americans?

1.3 Objective of the Study

The principle objective of this study is to conclude about institutional racism toward Afro-Americans shown in "*The Butler*" movie. Therefore, the objectives of this study can be categorized as follows:

1. To describe institutional racism in "*The Butler*" (2013) movie.
2. To find out the reasons for those institutional racism shown in "*The Butler*" (2013) movie.
3. To find out the impacts of institutional racism in "*The Butler*" (2013) movie toward Afro – Americans.

1.4 Scope of the Study

This research is focused on the analysis of institutional racism toward most of Afro-Americans characters in "*The Butler*" (2013) movie. This research analyzes institutional racism that the characters experience. In this research also reveals the reason for institutional racism and impact toward Afro-Americans. The Afro-Americans were treated unfairly by the superior race or often called white American based on "*The Butler*" movie in Southern states which starts from 1926.

1.5 Significance of the Study

Through this research, the researcher hopes to increase insights into racism and particularly about institutional racism. Hopefully, this thesis would be able to make the readers easy in understanding the issue of institutional racism. This thesis is intended to give additional comprehension and knowledge for fellow students and other institutions.

1.6 Approaches to the Study

Approach that is used in this research is sociological approaches. The sociological approach to literature is a view centered on the relationship between literary works and how social structures are created. Like Madame de Stale's idea of an empirical relationship between literature and society, she wants literature to illustrate important changes in social order, especially those which show a movement towards the goals of freedom and justice (Jadhav, 2014). The researcher focuses on the analysis of "*The Butler*" (2013) movie using institutional racism theory by Stokely Carmichael. In conducting this study, the researcher did collecting data and analyzing the data. To collect the data, the researcher watched the movie, read the screenplay, and identified the data from the screenplay. After collecting the data, the researcher interpreted and analyzed the data.

1.7 Organization of the Paper

In the organization of the paper to attain a complete and structured discussion, the writer writes this thesis with the following structure writing. First of all that is chapter I with title introduction which contains background to the study, statement of the problem, objective of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, approach to the study, and organization of the paper. Chapter II contains biography of Danny Strong and synopsis of *The Butler* (2013) movie. Chapters III contains about review of related literature. It is about previous studies, popular culture, movie, racism, institutional racism, and social condition of Southern USA in 1926's. In chapter IV is analysis and discussion. The last is chapter V which omit about the conclusion.