

THE DISCRIMINATION AS SEEN IN 8 MILE MOVIE

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A FINAL PROJECT STATEMENT

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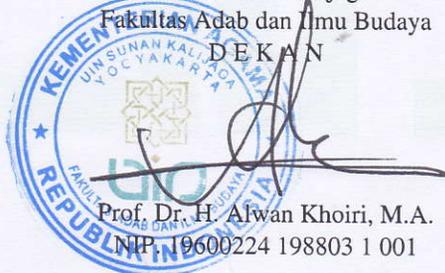
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THE DISCRIMINATION AS SEEN IN 8 MILE MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

Multicultural society have many cultural backgrounds, ethnics, classes, races, sexual identities and religions, so it is vulnerable to conflict. It also describes in the *8 Mile* movie. The *8 Mile* movie describes a little United State based on Eminem real life as a *rap* musician. It is interesting to study, how the discrimination describes in the *8 Mile* movie. Moreover, this research uses qualitative method of research. The researcher applies the theory of racism according to D. M. Newman and Charles A. Gallagher to analyze the discrimination based on the movie. This research also uses film theory to help the researcher in explaining some pictures that exist in this research. The researcher concludes that racism consists of ideologies and practices. It means that racial discrimination occurs because of their ideologies which is differentiated one another, so it emerges the practice, it is racial treatment. Moreover, the environmental (culture) and historical factors are the main factors of racial discrimination.

Key words: *Discrimination, Multiculturalism, Rap, United States.*

THE DISCRIMINATION AS SEEN IN 8 MILE MOVIE

By: Tantan Hidayana

ABSTRAK

Masyarakat multicultural mempunyai latar belakang yang berbeda seperti etnis, golongan, ras, jenis kelamin dan agama yang memudahkan munculnya sebuah konflik. Hal ini juga terjadi di dalam film *8 Mile*. Film *8 Mile* menggambarkan sedikit tentang negara Amerika Serikat melalui kehidupan Eminem sebagai musisi rap musik. Hal ini menarik untuk dikaji, bagaimana diskriminasi digambarkan didalam film *8 Mile*. Selain itu, penelitian ini menggunakan metode kualitatif. Penelitian ini menerapkan teori rasisme menurut D. M. Newman dan Charles A. Gallagher untuk menganalisa diskriminasi yang ada di dalam film tersebut. Penelitian ini juga menggunakan film teori sebagai teori pendukung untuk menganalisa gambar yang ada dalam penelitian ini. Peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa rasisme itu terdiri dari ideologi dan praktek. Yang dimaksud dengan hal tersebut, rasial diskriminasi itu terjadi dikarenakan adanya perbedaan ideologi dari setiap orang, dan hal tersebut menimbulkan sebuah praktek yaitu tindakan rasial. Selain itu, faktor lingkungan (budaya) dan sejarahlah yang menjadi faktor utama munculnya rasial diskriminasi.

Kata kunci: Amerika Serikat, Diskriminasi, Multikulturalisme, Rap.

MOTTO

O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah, witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do. (2. S. Al-Maidah: 8)

Sebaik-baik manusia adalah yang bermanfaat bagi orang lain (HR. Ahmad, Thabrani, Daruqutni)

Jika tidak ada ilmu maka pasti manusia seperti binatang (Mahfudzat)

Your word (language) is your weapon. Making your word better, you can change the world.

DEDICATION

My graduating paper is dedicated to:

My beloved father H. Kana, S.Pd

(Father you are awesome)

**My beloved mother Hj. Mimin Nurmilah
S.Pd.I**

(Mother you are my spirit)

And my big family

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is a work of art. According to Abrams, “literature is applied to a number of works in drama and prose fiction, which have in common the view that the human condition is essentially absurd, and this condition can be adequately represented only work of literature that are themselves absurd” (Abrams, 2009: 1). It means that the definition of literature is absurd and always changes over time (Ryan, 2014: 9). It looks like the human condition always changes because literature and human are related each other. Literature uses to express human’s expression by writing such as poetry, novel, and movie.

As one kind of literary works movie is giving the message by performance in the media. However, according to Abrams, movie is the form of compositions designed for performance in the media, in which actors take the roles of the character, performs the indicated actions, and utter the writer dialogue (Abrams, 2009: 84). It is also a type of visual communication using pictures and sound of the movie to tell the stories. Therefore, there are many people easier to laugh, cry, or feel afraid after watching the movie because the story of the movie is easier to understand.

There are many genres of movie, such as drama, horror, action and documentary. In this research the researcher prefers to analyze a dramatic movie. Drama movie is a genre that relies on the emotional and relational development of realistic characters. Moreover, drama movie relies heavily on this kind of

development; dramatic themes play a large role in the plot as well. Commonly, these dramatic themes are taken from intense, real life issues. Whether heroes or heroines are facing a conflict from the outside or a conflict within themselves, Drama movie aims to tell an honest story of human struggles (https://thescriptlab.com/screenplay/genre/drama#disqus_thread).

However, in producing a drama movie, it is needed to consider the concept of movie making. On the other hand, there are some kinds of drama movie such as, biography, courtroom, tragedy, history, melodrama, romance, politics and period piece (https://thescriptlab.com/screenplay/genre/drama#disqus_thread). Furthermore, the movie that analyzed in this present research is semi-autobiographical drama that contains an issue of race based on the real life of the character.

Semi-autobiographical drama is dealing partly with the writer's own life, but also containing fictional elements (<http://www.dictionary.com/browse/semiautobiographical>). Here, the researcher takes a semi autobiographical drama movie containing the race issue entitled *8 mile*. The movie is a 2002 American drama film written by Scott Silver and directed by Curtis Hanson. *8 Mile* is starring well-known rapper Eminem. It is a semi-autobiographical drama (<http://www.censor.org.nz/resources/html>).

The movie tells about a struggling poor's rapper in his life. In fall 1995 in Detroit, Jimmy Smith Jr. (B-Rabbit) as a young and unhappy blue-collar workers from a poor family which struggling with various aspects of his life. He moves back from north of 8 Mile Road to the rundown trailer home in Warren with his

alcoholic mothers Stephanie, his little sister Lily, and Stephanie's abusive boyfriend Greg. Jimmy is a white rapper who has a great talent. When he shows his rap's talent in front of people, they will be amazed at his talent as a rapper. Not all rappers can make the selection as good as his words, and everyone knows it. Although he has a great talent, he always gets insulted by another rapper except his best friend David 'Future' Porter. Jimmy worries about his lack of confidence as a rap musician because rap music is music of black people. Therefore, when Jimmy joins a rap battle in the Shelter club, there are many people who humiliate him because only Jimmy, who becomes a white rapper so he freezes on his turns.

Moreover, *8 mile* movie is also the movie, which is based on Eminem's real life as a rap musician and it contains some elements which deal with the theme that the researcher discusses in this paper concerning discrimination. There are many kinds of discriminations such as discrimination in race, religion, economics, and moral, but the researcher will focus on the discrimination on race. In analyzing the discrimination, the researcher uses racism theory, but at first the researcher will explain how the discrimination can emerge in *8 mile* movie.

The *8 mile* movie is an American drama film which tells about Eminem's real life. Moreover, he is American so it describes a little United States country. United States is the country which has a multicultural society because there are many people from around the globe who bring their cultures there and throw them into a United States (Weaver, 2001: 2). Therefore, United States society is a multicultural society which has many cultural backgrounds, ethnicities, classes, and

religions, so it is vulnerable to conflict. One of many conflicts that often emerge in a multicultural society is racial discrimination.

According to Storey, race is a cultural and historical category, a way of making difference signify between people of variety skin tones (Storey, 2009: 167). In addition, race is a group of people somewhat different from other groups in a combination of inherited physical characteristics, but race is also substantially determined by popular social definition (Horton, 1964: 286). It can derive from the skin color or the line of descent. So, it does not close the possibility if the skin color becomes the space between people that lead to the emergence of racism.

Moreover, racism also consists of ideologies and practices that seek to justify or cause the unequal distribution of privileges or rights among different racial groups (Newman, 2012: 405). Modern variants are often based on social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. These can take the form of racial treatment of black towards white in the public sites such as discrimination in the street and workplace, the range of discriminatory actions such as verbal attack black towards white and physical threats or attack (criminality) to white by another black (as cited Gallagher, 2004: 162). These cases make races to be ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities. It may also hold that members of different race should be treated differently in societies (Newman, 2012: 407).

For instance, in *8 mile* movie, Jimmy as white rapper has called “Elvis” by a black rapper (Free World group) because black people is rejecting white people

to follow their supremacy. It is a kind of racial treatment (verbal attack) by black people towards white. This differential treatment of black towards white is a kind of racism in practice and it occurs because his ideology that the color becomes the space between black and white.

Besides, the race is indeed a pre-eminently *social historical* concept. It relates to the social practices and historical context which they are embedded. But, racial meanings have varied tremendously over time and between different societies. In the United States, the black or white color line has historically been rigidly defined and enforced. White is seen as a *pure* category. Any racial intermixture makes one *nonwhite* (Ore, 2006: 21). Moreover, black people always become an inferior group and white people always become a superior group because white people think that black people are identical with badness, such as violent, ravisher, and murderer. On the contrary, in *8 mile* movie views, black people become superior group and white people become inferior group because it is all about rap music. They are authorized by an ideology of supremacy.

In this case, Gramsci also argues that powerful group cannot always lead position in social life; it can be who has a power to defense his life, such as the main character of the movie (as cited Connell, 2005: 77). Jimmy (white rapper) defends his right in the rap world, although there are many people who humiliate him because he is a white rapper whereas rap music is black's music (black's supremacy).

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background of the study above, this research aims to answer the following question: “How is the discrimination showed in *8 mile* movie?”

1.3 Objective of Study

Based on the problem statements above, there is an objective of this research. It describes about the discrimination in *8 mile* movie by racism theory.

1.4 Significances of Study

This research has the significance practically and theoretically. Practically, this research helps academic readers such as student, lecturer, and researcher in understanding racial discrimination, especially black and white. Also, this research can be a reference about discrimination in literary work. For non-academic readers, this research helps them in understanding discrimination appears in the movie. Theoretically, this research intended to add literary analysis in racism theory. Moreover, it is also intended to add knowledge, reference, and understanding racial discrimination in the movie.

1.5 Literature Review

There are some people who have analyzed *8 mile* movie and the discrimination. The first research is *A Critical Discourse Analysis of 8 Mile Movie* written by Reizha Ocnarulita Tobing from State Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga. In her research, she focuses on finding the cultural aspect in the *8 Mile* movie and how the power can influence the interlocutors. Reizha’s research uses qualitative method data. Her analysis was clearly differentiated with

the researcher's analysis. Reizha has analyzed her research by using Critical Discourse Analysis.

The second is *The Analysis of Slang Words and Social Factors in 8 Mile Movie* written by Sri Wahyuni (2016) the student of English Literature Department in UIN Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta. Yuni used sociolinguistic theory as the theory to analyze slang word formation in *8 Mile* movie. Yuni also used qualitative method data. In her research, she focused on classifying the establishment of slang words in the *8 mile* movie based on the theory and the social factors relate with who are the speaker and the participant, the setting, the topic, and the function of slang words.

The third is *Subtitling 8 Mile in Three Languages* written by Kristiina Taivalkoski-Shilov from University of Helsinki. Kristiina used the stylistic theory as the theory to analyze subtitling in *8 Mile* movie. In her research, she is explaining to find text-specific translation problem in subtitling of the *8 Mile* movie. This research is used qualitative method. The result of her research is some of France and Russia policy government restrict the quality of subtitling.

In conclusion, the researcher uses some idea from the studies above. First study, Reizha's research analyzes about the cultural aspect in the *8 Mile* movie and how the power can influence the interlocutors. The second study, Yuni's research concerns about classifying the establishment of slang words in the *8 mile* movie based on the theory and the social factors relate with who are the speaker and the participant, the setting, the topic, and the function of slang words. The third study, Kristiina's research explains to find text-specific translation

problem in subtitling of the *8 Mile* movie. However, the research is different from the researchers that have been analyzed before. The differences are this study focuses on discrimination in *8 mile* movie and uses racism as the theory.

1.6 Theoretical Approach

In this research, the researcher uses racism by D. M. Newman and Charles A. Gallagher as the main theory. Besides, the researcher also uses the film theory as the supporting theory to analyze the discrimination in *8 mile* movie as the topic of this research. The movie shows the discrimination that makes it appropriate to be analyzed by this theory.

1.6.1 Racism Theory

According to Storey, race is a cultural and historical category, a way of making difference signify between people of variety skin tones (Storey, 2009: 167). In addition, race is a group of people somewhat different from other groups in a combination of inherited physical characteristics, but race is also substantially determined by popular social definition (Horton, 1964: 286).

Racism is more about signification than it is about biology. As Paul Gilroy observes:

Accepting that skin 'color', however meaningless we know it to be, has a strictly limited basis in biology, opens up the possibility of engaging with theories of signification which can highlight the elasticity and emptiness of 'racial' signifiers as well as the ideological work which has to be done in order to turn them into signifiers in the first place. This perspective underscores the definition of 'race' as an open political category, for it struggle that determines which definition of 'race' will prevail and the conditions under which they will endure or wither away (as cited Storey, 2009:167).

Gilroy's statement above shows that 'race' has to be socially and politically constructed and elaborate ideological work which is done to secure and maintain the different forms of 'racialization' which have characterized capitalist development. It means that the different historical situations in which "race" have become politically pertinent such as the slave trade (as cited Storey, 2009: 168). In addition, racial discrimination can be appeared because of historical situation such as trading black people as slave. Therefore, the situation makes white people more powerful.

Moreover, racism consists of ideologies and practices that seek to justify or cause the unequal distribution of privileges or rights among different racial groups (Newman, 2012: 405). Modern variants are often based on social perceptions of biological differences between peoples. These can take the form of social actions, practices or political systems that consider different races to be ranked as inherently superior or inferior to each other, based on presumed shared inheritable traits, abilities, or qualities. It may also hold that members of different race should be treated differently in societies (as cited Newman, 2012: 407).

In addition, Feagin also argues in Gallagher's book that discrimination can be defined in social contextual terms as "actions or practices carried out by members of dominant racial or ethnic groups that have a differential and negative impact on members of subordinate racial and ethnic groups" (as cited Gallagher, 2004: 161). The differential treatment ranges from the blatant to the subtle ways, such as sites of discrimination (discrimination in the street and workplace) and the

range of discriminatory actions (verbal attack and physical attack) (as cited Gallagher, 2004: 162).

Besides, the race is indeed a pre-eminently *social historical* concept. It relates to the social practices and historical context which they are embedded. But, racial meanings have varied tremendously over time and between different societies. In the United States, the black or white color line has historically been rigidly defined and enforced. White is seen as a *pure* category. Any racial intermixture makes one *nonwhite* (Ore, 2006: 21).

1.6.2 Film Theory

Film theory is used as the supporting theory of the analysis. Villarejo also argues that “in the late nineteen century film has been a dynamic medium, put to use other than those of the commercial narrative form (2007: 23)”. There are two important aspects in analyzing a scene in the movie; Mise-en-scene and cinematography. Mise-en-scene is as the world of the movie because it supposes to make the movie such a real life. It has six components such as setting, lighting, costume, hair, make-up, and figure behavior. Those components are needed to make the film is like a real life.

Beside mise-en-scene, another aspect that is not less important to help the analysis of movie is cinematography. Cinematography refers to what to do with the camera when it shoots an object. It is camera distance, camera angle, and camera’s movements that belong to cinematography (Villarejo, 2007: 36). In the cinematography there is framing technique to notice what elements are included or excluded in the camera.

Here, Villarejo points that “film analysis has evolved an anthropocentric taxonomy for describing the distance that is using the human body as the reference point for each designation:

- a. The extreme long shot (ESL), in which one can barely distinguish the human figure;
- b. The long shot (LS), in which humans are distinguishable, but remain small in the background;
- c. The medium long shot (MLS), in which the human is framed from the knees up;
- d. The medium shot (MS), in which the audience moves slightly to frame the human from the waist up;
- e. The medium close-up (MCU), in which the audience is slightly closer and see human from the chest up;
- f. The close-up (CU), which isolates a portion of a human;
- g. The extreme close-up (ECU), in which the audience sees a mere portion of the face (Villarejo, 2007: 38)”.

1.7 Method of Research

1.7.1 Type of Research

In this research, the researcher uses qualitative method. According Lexy J Moleong, a qualitative method is a method which produces descriptive data in the form of words written or spoken of a person (Moleong, 2002: 5). Therefore, the researcher intends to explore a discrimination issue in *8 mile* movie and tries to interpret it by using racism theory.

1.7.2 Data Sources

There are two data resources for this analysis. The first data is the script and *8 mile* movie. The second data is supporting data of this research consist of book, journal and other sources that related to. These supporting data is used to support in analyzing the discrimination in the movie. The unit of the data is the scene, acts and the utterances of the movie, which is related to racism theory.

1.7.3 Data Collection Technique

The audio visual and the close reading method are used as the technique in collecting the data in this research. In acquiring the data, the researcher collects the data through watch *8 mile* movie and tries to find a scene of racial discrimination that shown in the movie such as black treats white differently. Secondly, the researcher finds any books or references that may relate to the analysis of the data and then marks some data which are considered as important data.

1.7.4 Data Analysis Technique

The data analysis technique of this research uses the objective-descriptive approach in which the data are factually taken from the movie and analyzed descriptively by applying racism theory and film theory. There are some steps that the researcher does in conducting this research.

The first analysis is classifying the data based on racism theory. Second, the researcher analyzes the data that have classified by the researcher in *8 mile* movie by using racism and film theory.

1.8 Paper Organization

This research is divided into four chapters. The first chapter is the introduction of this research that describes the reason why the research is important to analyze the discrimination in *8 mile* movie. It also provides the problem statements, the objective of study, the significances of study, the literary review, the theoretical approach, the method of research and the paper organization. The second chapter is explaining the aspects of the movie. The third chapter is explaining the analysis of the data. The last chapter is the conclusion of this research.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

This research focuses on the racial discrimination that happened in the United States that described in *8 mile* movie. Racial discrimination occurs because of the culture and the history. In United State, racial discrimination occurred because its society was multicultural society which has different background, ethnics, and religions so it can emerge conflict such as racial discrimination. Racial discrimination based on *8 mile* movie occurred because there is a white person who follow black's supremacist. In this case, white people are becoming inferior to black people because it was black's supremacist. Therefore, black people rejected white people from the subtle to the blatant ways. The subtle treatment that black people did in *8 mile* movie was racial treatments of black towards white in the public sites and verbal attacks. The blatant treatment is physical threats and attacks towards white (crime/ violence) by another black.

After comparing and contrasting historical fact of Eminem life can be concluded that discrimination happened in *8 mile* movie is only a few representations about Eminem's real life. Eminem's real life is more serious that what movie presented because not all of racial discrimination happened in Eminem life presented in the movie. These scenes are described clearly. Black people did not like Jimmy (white rapper) follows their supremacist except member of 313 group because member of 313 group knows that Jimmy has great talent as rap musician. Nobody can choose a word as good as Jimmy did.

After analyzing, the researcher finds some author's intentions of the movie. First, the author focuses on black supremacist it was *rap music*. In the movie they become the majority group who treats a white people as they pleased. In addition, black people reject a white person who follows their supremacist. In this case, white are inferior to black people. Second, the author focuses on racial discrimination between black and white. Forms of the discrimination that appears in *8 mile* movie are racial treatments of black towards white in public sites such as racial discrimination is the street and workplace, the range discriminatory actions by black people in white such as verbal attacks, and physical threats and attacks to white (crime/ violence) by another block. Behind the racial discriminations, the author actually wants to deliver the message how to tolerate and respect each other though there are some differences.

In conclusion, *8 mile* movie tells about the struggle of white rapper to gain position or recognition from another rapper, especially black, because *rap music* is black's supremacist. In gaining recognition as a white rapper, Jimmy always got racial discrimination in the street and workplace. Moreover, there are some ranges discriminatory actions of black people in white such as verbal attacks and physical attack by black. Besides, in this case, white people are inferior to black people because white people follow rap music which is black supremacy. These things can be occurred because of their ideology of supremacy, so black people treat Jimmy (white person) as they pleased such as rejecting him and humiliating him. Moreover, the environmental (culture) and historical factors are the main factors of racial discrimination can be occurred.

4.2 Suggestion

4.2.1 Suggestion for the Further Researchers

The researcher realizes this graduating paper has some weakness. The researcher only analyzes the few cases that occur in the movie. There are many other cases that the researcher has not analyzed yet because of the limitation of time. The researcher analyzes about racial discrimination between black and white people that occurs in *8 mile* movie by applying racism theory.

For further researchers, the researcher suggests the next researcher can apply other theories to analyze about racial discrimination between black and white people. Next, they can analyze the cause of racial discrimination between black and white in further analysis because the researcher only explains in a brief about the cause of racial discrimination between black and white people. The next researcher also can apply the theory of New Historicism to analyze this issue.

4.2.2 Suggestion for the Reader

This graduating paper generally provides a description about racial discrimination between black and white people in the United States based on *8 mile* movie. White people are treated differently because they follow black's culture, it was *rap music*. Actually, an American commission declares that all Americans have a freedom and have to respect each other. Considering On Islam's perspective, Islam does not allow representing stereotypes toward one race. Islam forbids every kind of discrimination as seen in the Surah Al-Maidah: 8:

يا ايها الذين امنوا كونوا قوامين لله شهداء بالقسط ولا
يجرمكم شنان قوم على الا تعدلوا اعدلوا هو اقرب للتقوى
واتقوا الله ان الله خبير بما تعملون

“O you who have believed, be persistently standing firm for Allah , witnesses in justice, and do not let the hatred of a people prevent you from being just. Be just; that is nearer to righteousness. And fear Allah; indeed, Allah is Acquainted with what you do.” (<http://quran.com/5>)

Considering explanation above, the researcher can conclude that Allah told to all Muslims not to discriminate people because all mankind are equal in front of Allah, those are identified by their hearts and behaviors.

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