THE REPRESENTATION OF RWANDAN CONFLICTS IN HOTEL RWANDA MOVIE

A GRADUATING PAPER

Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for Gaining the Degrees of Bachelor in English Literature



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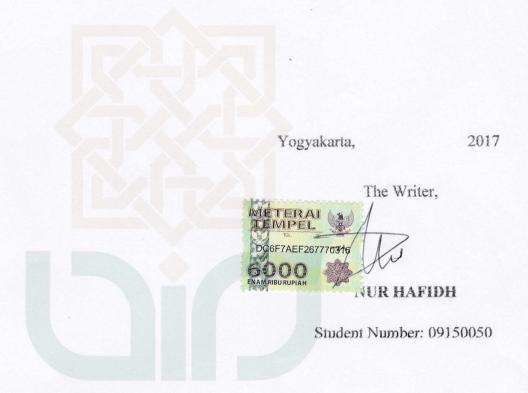
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THE REPRESENTATION OF RWANDAN CONFLICTS IN HOTEL RWANDA MOVIE

ABSTRAK

Konflik menjadi sebuah pemicu terjadinya banyak kakacauan, tidak hanya memengaruhi kehidupan bermasyarakat akan tetapi juga kedamaian dunia. Salah satu konflik yang kerap terjadi adalah rasisme atau kepercayaan suatu kaum atau ras tertentu bahwa mereka memiliki kualitas yang lebih baik atau unggul dibandingkan ras yang lain sehingga timbul rasa ingin menguasai dan menjatuhkan ras yang lain. Terjadi suatu konflik rasisme dalam suatu wilayah atau negara tertentu dapat menyebabkan banyak konflik antar ras itu sendiri di antaranya diskriminasi sosial, politik maupun budaya. Akhirnya hal tersebut dapat mengakibatkan terjadinya pembunuhan massa atau pembantaian massa. Hal sama juga terjadi pada film Hotel Rwanda yang menceritakan kaum Hutu sebagai kelompok mayoritas yang ingin menguasai kembali apa yang seharusnya menjadi milik mereka di tanah Rwanda dan melakukan pembantaian pada ras Tutsi sebagai kaum minoritas. Pada film ini sosok Paul Russesabagina menjadi tokoh yang berjuang dalam menyelamatkan keluarganya yang berasal dari ras Tutsi dan orang-orang Rwanda dari pembantaian yang terjadi. Dalam penelitian ini, Paul dijadikan sebagai sudut pandang guna menelaah konflik, rasisme, dan diskriminasi yang terjadi serta mengkaitkannya dengan sejarah yang terjadi. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori representation oleh Hall dengan melakukan pendekatan constructionist. Disamping itu, peneliti juga menambahkan apa sebenarnya tujuan si penulis dalam membuat film ini sehingga peneliti mengetahui maksud atau pesan dari film ini sendiri. Sehingga hasil dari penelitian ini adalah penggambaran bagaimana konflik yang terjadi pada seseorang dapat memberikan banyak pengaruh terhadap dirinya sendiri maupun lingkungannya.

Kata kunci: konflik, rasisme, diskriminasi.

THE REPRESENTATION OF RWANDAN CONFLICTS IN HOTEL RWANDA MOVIE

ABSTRACT

Conflict becomes the source of many disruptions. It does influence not only the human life but also the peace in the world. One of the factors that can make conflicts and frequently happen is racism. Racism means the belief that people's qualities are influenced by their race and that the members of other race are not as good as the members of their race or a resulting unfair treatment of members of other races. The occurence of racism in the country or certain region can give many conflicts between one race and the other races such as social, politic, and culture discrimination. Finally this conflict can become more crucial effect for the society such as a slaughtering or genocide. This conflict is represented in Hotel Rwanda movie where the Hutu want to dominate what they should get in the Rwanda Land. They kill many people of Rwanda especially the Tutsi as the minority and their rival race. The character of Paul Russesabagina becomes the hero to safe many Rwandan especially his Tutsi's family who have to struggle from the Hutu's cruelty. In this research, Paul becomes the point of view to analyze the conflict, racism, and discrimination represented in *Hotel Rwanda* then, it relates to the history or the real fact of this incident. This research uses representation theory by hall by doing constructionist approach. Besides, the writer also give the author's purpose about *Hotel Rwanda* movie so the researcher know and understand what the message of the movie. So the result of this research is how the conflict in someone's environment can influence many things that relates to their life and their society.

Key word: conflict, racism, discrimination.

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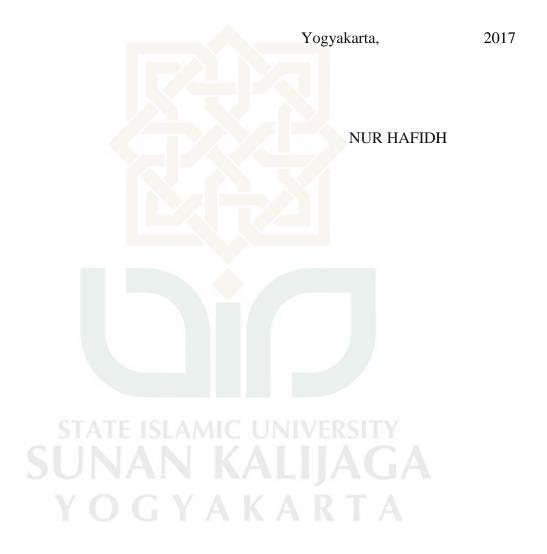
This graduating paper is submitted to fulfill one of the requirements to gain the bachelor degree at State Islamic University of Sunan Kalijaga Yogyakarta.

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DEDICATION

The final project I dedicated to:

1

My honorable parents (Kismanto alm. And Mudrikah)

&

My beloved brother (Ridwan Harwadi and Hidayatullah)

2

My Big Family

3

All of my friends especially my beloved person

MOTTO

"If you are lost by yourself, you should try to find someone else to get you up."

Because

"Just because we do bad things does not mean we are bad people"

This is who I am. Nobody said you had to like it.



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

A movie is popular literature which is popularly consumed. The movie is one of the literary works with complex delineation which portrays stories about life whether imagination of the author or based on reality, like a prose and a poem (Turner 1999: 2). It tells story in an audio visual media form and a classic literatures which deal with papers and folklores. The writer chooses a movie because it represents the aspects of life. The aspects of life are showed by its narration in visual delineation or textual delineation which make it more real. According to Ratna (2007: 306), the nature of society and culture generally is based on reality and the nature of literary works is fiction, people generally call imagination. The facts in social studies are a reality that has been interpreted, the reality as a social fact. The movie does not only solely tells about the good society but also the problems of social conflicts: genocide, racism, bondage, and others.

The social conflict leads to the destruction. According to William and Joyee Hocker (2011) in Mohammed A. Hassan's article entitle "Define Conflict and Personal Mediation Skills" conflict as "an expressed struggled between at least two interdependent parties who perceive incompatible goals, scarce resources, and interference from others in achieving their goals". It can be related to the history of humanity and powerful motivation in the peace-

building process. The existence of a conflict reflects the presence of antagonisms that originates from different interests between two or among several parties. For the conflict to outbreak, the parties should not only have or pursue incompatible interests, but they should also more importantly become aware of that situation (Shyaka: 5). Conflict and the society are two aspects that cannot be separated.

One of the conflicts that still happens in the society is racism. The word 'racism' in Cambridge dictionary (2008) means the belief that people's qualities are influenced by their race and that the members of other races are not as good as the members of their own, or the resulting unfair treatment of members of other races. According to Benoist (13), racism is a doctrine claiming the existence of biological differences between various races and the superiority of one of them.

One of many movies which represent the racism conflict is *Hotel Rwanda*. The movie is a powerful and moving film about the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. This is a feature film whose story was written and produced by Terry George in 2004. The director chooses to make a documentary about what happened at that time, and he focused on the story of Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle) that represents the theme of love and struggle. The drama movie shows the complex emotions such as happiness and sadness, gloom and grimness. Besides, the uniqueness of the movie is the cruelty and violence as the core of the genre which also contained on *Hotel Rwanda* that has the

connection with the theme of the research. It also becomes the consideration why the writer chooses *Hotel Rwanda* movie.

Although there are many movies that discuss the genocide of Rwanda such as *Sometimes in April*, *shooting Dogs*, *100 Days* and *Sunday in Kigali*. This movie represents the racism between Hutu and Tutsi and their conflict through the main character's point of view. The racism itself actually becomes the crucial problem which does not only happen in this movie but also in the other countries but, in this movie, Paul as the main character is a Hutu and he has a Tutsi's wife. The emphasis of personality disorder becomes one of the main points in the movie how Paul against his own race for his family's life. Unconsciously, the racism itself also can be happened in Indonesia or other countries and, hopefully, this movie can give the lesson how someone or people bear and cope with the racism conflict itself.

From the explanation above, the movie contains many elements that deal with the theme that the writer discusses in this paper concerning the representation theory especially in constructionist approach. This movie can become a representation of racism which happens in a country and the influence of conflict itself for someone's life. Besides, this movie is more focused on an individual's heroic acts against all peculiarity.

1.2 Research Question

The writer formulates the problem as follows:

1. How are the Rwandan racism and conflicts represented in *Hotel Rwanda?*

1.3 Objective of Study

The objectives of study appear in answering the question mentioned above, as follows:

1. To elaborate on the representation of Rwandan racism and Rwandan conflict in *Hotel Rwanda*.

1.4 Significances of Study

Basically all research activities should possess clear purposes. In the end of this study, the researcher expects that the study will give great benefits for several components.

- 1.To other researchers, this study can be helpful to add information sources if they want to analyze literary works based on historical study especially they have the same topic.
- 2. For students, this study can encourage them to know more about movie and challenge them to analyze movies.
- 3. To stimulate the other students to dig out the other series of the result of this study will give contribution to English Department in developing the materials in extensive reading, introduction of literature, literary appreciation, and literary criticism.

1.6 Literature Review

Many researchers have done with their research about movie and *Hotel Rwanda* is a new release movie. Although many kinds of book of review analyze Rwanda or genocide in Rwanda but only a few people are interested to analyze *Hotel Rwanda* movie.

One of the research analyzes the Rwanda genocide is Joshua James Kassner with his dissertation entitle *Rwanda and the Moral Obligation of Humanitarian Intervention* (2007). He explains that under the reconstructed normative framework the presumption of nonintervention would have been rebutted in the case of Rwanda, and as a consequence, there was a thing that considered obligation to intervene in Rwanda.

The other review of Urther Rwafa entitles Contesting Culture and Political Stereotypes in the Language of Genocide in Selected Rwandan Films (2010). This study aimed to contest political and cultural stereotypes depicted through the verbal and audio-visual languages used to represent the Rwandan genocide in the films, A Good Man In Hell(2002), Hotel Rwanda(2004), Sometimes In April(2005) and Keepers of Memory(2004). In Hotel Rwanda, mostly the Tutsis died during the genocide of 1994.

The last is a thesis of Karin Samuel entitles *Bearing Witness to Trauma: Representations of the Rwandan Genocide* (2010). This thesis examines representations of the Rwandan genocide and its aftermath in selected literary and filmic narratives. It aims in particular to explore the different ways in which narrative devices are used to convey trauma to the

reader or viewer, thus enabling them to bear witness to it. *Hotel Rwanda* movie also become one of the object which analyzed by Karin.

According to the review, the researcher considers that this research is different. Since the other researchs analyze the Rwanda conflict through the history and the fact of the genocide of Rwanda. This research analyzes the Rwanda conflict through the *Hotel Rwanda* movie. Although this research cannot deeply analyze Rwanda genocide but this research will analyze the conflict by using the characters point of view and the author's purpose.

1.7 Theoretical Approach

In this paper, the writer uses representation theory since the object of this research concerns on the delineation situation of conflict in Rwanda at that time that can be seen in *Hotel Rwanda* movie. For the approach, the writer uses the reflective or mimetic approach since the research is about the representation that imitates the truth of Rwandan conflict through the *Hotel Rwanda* movie.

The concept of representation comes to occupy a new and important place in the study of culture (Hall, 1997: 17). This theory relates to the language and meaning of the culture. This theory uses language to say something meaningful, or to represent the other people. The point of this theory is the language itself must have a meaning to make other people understand and know what the purpose of the language itself. On other words,

representation is the production of the meaning of the concept in person's minds through language (Hall, 1997: 18).

It is the link between concepts and language which enables people to refer to either the real world of object, people or events, or indeed to imaginary worlds of fictional object, people and events. There are two system of representation. First, through language that gives meaning to things and concept. Second, it depends on the concept itself, arranged or organized into various languages that represent those concepts (Hall, 1997: 19).

Meanwhile, the relation between language and representation seems like the triangle concept; the language, the representation and the meaning. The language will give the right meaning by using a good representation. So the meaning of the language can be received by the reader well.

The reflective or mimetic approach will link the object, person, idea or event in the real world and the language functions like a mirror. It will reflect the true meaning of the event that already exists to be showed in the other things, such as movie. On the other word, the theory which says that language works by simply reflecting the truth from the real world is called mimetic (Hall, 1997: 24). This approach will guide the writer to represent the event in the movie based on the language functions that is used in the movie to elaborate the conflict. Secondly, through the picture as the sign will show the other meaning of the movie. These parts will help the research to elaborate deeply the conflict of Rwanda.

1.8 Method of Research

1.8.1 Type of Research

The research that is used in doing this analysis is qualitative research. According to Creswell in the book *Educational Research*, qualitative research has some characteristics such as exploring a problem and developing a detailed understanding of a central phenomenon, having the literature review play a minor role but justify the problem, and stating the purpose and research questions in a general and broad way so as to the participants' experiences (2012:16).

The present writer uses library research. The ability to do library research begins with understanding the ways in which libraries organize their collections and with knowledge of basic reference materials. This research is a qualitative research because the writer uses library research to gain the important resources through books, journals, and other texts which have connection with the topic and the object of the research in the library, also uses movie study and the scripts to get materials to support the subject matter of this research.

1.8.2 Data Sources

In qualitative research, there are two data sources; the main data and the supporting data. In this research, the main data is the script of *Hotel Rwanda* movie which contains some data for the analysis of the Rwandan conflict and racism itself, while the supporting data of the research is the supporting document which relate with the analysis of the movie, such as

some critical books, which related some data available on the internet that helps the writer to find and get the material related to the topic discussion.

1.8.3 Methods of Collecting Data

The data used in this research paper are collected from movie and movie script as the primary references. In order to collect the data, the writer of this research uses the methods of reading and documentation. The reading meant by the writer by intensively watching the movie *Hotel Rwanda* to achieve an understanding of the elements and cinematography. Thus, after understanding both two elements, the writer compares the movie with the script in order to mark the important acts and dialogues by giving the pictures and the quotes which are related, and also noting the time of the dialogues. In the primary research, after the movie pictures and the quotes are taken from every scene and dialogue which contained the issues of analysis, the explanation are given to amplify the analysis.

Furthermore, to collect more data related to the movie, the method of documentation is also used to document the data from the library and website after doing library visit and web browsing. The purpose is the writer can easily read the supporting data after documented it. The data taken is classified to the secondary data such as the movie record, the movie review, the film theory, and the books or the journals related to *Hotel Rwanda* movie or orientalism issue. The important data from the secondary data are read and summarized.

The main data is firstly interpreted by watching the movie, reading and collecting supported dialogue on the movie script, then, it is analyzed by using the approach and theory that gained from the supporting references. Then the evidences are given to convey the accuracy of the analysis. After collecting the data, the writer of this research intensively classifies the data to find the proper data to be analyzed. As the focus of this research is to analyze the constructions and the representations of conflict in Rwanda which relates to the racism, the writer firstly classifies the dialogues and the acts which can support the conflict and racism itself, especially the dialogue from Paul as the main character. Secondly, the data which do not indicate conflict and racism are eliminated. After that, the data are classified based on their characteristics. Thus, finally the writer gets the final classifications of the data of conflict such discrimination, human right, and genocide. The final classification itself will be related to the racism and the mental depression of Paul which then are analyzed to get the answer of the research.

1.8.4 Methods of Analyzing Data

The analysis of the data in this paper uses objective approach, in which the analysis will be based on the factual data in the *Hotel Rwanda* movie. The data will be analyzed descriptively using the literary theory of film and representation theory. Hence, the results of the analysis will be represented on the explanation to answer of the research.

1.9 Paper Organization

This paper is divided into four chapters. The first chapter describes the background of the study, problem statements, objectives of study, significance of study, literature review, theoretical approach, method of research, and data analysis. The second chapter provides information on intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the movie. The third chapter elaborates the representation of the conflicts in Rwanda as reflected in *Hotel Rwanda* movie and the author's purpose of the movie. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

This research's objectives are to explain the representation of Rwanda racism and Rwanda conflict by analyzing *Hotel Rwanda* movie. The research tries to elabore how the conflict of Rwanda genocide can be represented in *Hotel Rwanda* through the main character –Paul Russesabagina- point of view. The conflict, here, emphasizes the struggle of Paul to save his family and how the cruelty of the Hutu to kill the Tutsi. This conflict relates to racism because the Hutus want to dominate the Rwanda land with all parts of the government there.

In conclusion, the character of Paul becomes the representation of the conflict itself. It is not only the conflict between the Hutu and Tutsi in Rwanda but also the conflict between his own patriotism as a Hutu and his humanity which makes him want to rescue his Tutsi's family. Furthermore, the politic involvement also influence the conflict and racism in the movie. So, the researcher decides that the Hutu and the Tutsi's conflict is include in ethnic militant groups. According to Benoist (2005: 13) ethnic militants are ethnic groups that are strong in both origin culture and political purposes. Both ethnics compete each other either in the politics to get the power of government or in the culture to maintain their own identity in the Rwanda land.

4.2 Suggestion

Considering the writer's perspectives as a Moslem, the writer gives some suggestion from Islamic perspective especially about the racism related to the conflict and Indonesian person generally. Islam does not allow racism toward another race. On Islam perspective, Islam forbids every kinds of discrimination, oppression, and domination behavior which shows the existence of social caste. There are verses on Al-Quran represents that every man is created the same;

Al Hujurat: 13 (from Al-Qur'an in Word ver 1.3, translated by Yusuf Ali).

"O mankind! We created you from a single (pair) of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other (not that ye may despise (each other). Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is (he who is) the most righteous of you. And Allah has full knowledge and is well acquainted (with all things)"

The verse above describes that people is created the same even from the beginning. On the verse, Allah creates people into nations and tribes in order to know and understand each other, besides, it is also purposed to prevent discrimination between each other. The verse does not order people to humiliate another by making racism but it clarifies people need to be aware of the equality of human being and it clarifies people need to build respectability between them.

In this movie, there is a scene when many orphans who have to be separated from their nursemaid guardian because of the conflict. They who have the abroad citizenzhip must come back to their own country and the orphans who have Rwandan blood must stay in Rwanda. It belongs to discrimination. It can be seen that only white people can get safety guarantee, whereas many black people still stay in the conflict zone.

On the other hand, Indonesia also has many races's conflict. For example, the conflict of Sampit which happens at February 2001 between Dayak and Madura. This conflict occurs in Sampit, Center Kalimantan. In this accident about 500 people died and more than 100.000 Madura's people have no place for living. Dayak people kill Madura people by cutting off their head brutally. This conflict ever happened in December 1996 and January 1997. This conflict is caused by many imigrant of Madura who arrive in Kalimantan. The race of Dayak have been lived in Kalimantan for along time. They feel that the Madura wants to dominate the region of Sampit. Because many of Madura people start to control many industries in the Kalimantan province. That forms the background of the conflict in Sampit.

If people want to understand each other and share everything, this conflict will not happen. In some races, they think that what they do, like

racism, is one of the patriotism. They have to look after their race or their country as the patriotism spirit.



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