

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The word racism has become a prevalent issue in society, and it becomes the “*prejudice problematic*” (Wetherell & Potter, 1992, p. 201). Racism is usually perceived as a problem of racism rooted in central multiethnic societies in different parts of the world. Racism has grown in the country, and the development of technology and trade has led to the development of the country's pluralist level. Racism is better known as “*an ideology of racial domination*” (Wilson, 1999, p. 14). The assumed biological or cultural supremacy of one or more racial groups is used to confirm the social position of other racial groups.

The term *race* was initially introduced by Charles Darwin, who was thought of as having biological and physical characteristics, such as skin color. Among social scientists, the race is generally perceived as a social construct, and it nevertheless has great significance in structuring social reality—the idea of human differences is based on categories or characteristics of skin color and face shape. Through racialization, perceived patterns of physical difference – such as skin color or eye shape- are used to differentiate groups of people, thereby making them a 'race'; racialization becomes racism when it involves hierarchical judgments and social consequences racial groups. Interest in the better life it has to offer by a country with a good trade climate invites the arrival of people from various racial groups. A myth about the superior race and the lower class race contributing to the increasing

problem of racism is strange. Those who are constructed as a superior race often commit acts of racism against the lower class race.

Weber (1971) stated that although many believe that race is determined by biology, it is now widely accepted that this classification system was in fact created for social and political reasons. There are actually more genetic and biological differences within societally defined racial groups than between different groups based on the idea that humans can be separated into racial groups. That the group can be arranged based on degrees or hierarchies based on intelligence or skills, abilities, and even morality. Racism occurs when people believe in superiority they inherit from other races. Racism is a social driver occurrence of racial discrimination. Racist people sometimes do discrimination against people of one or more races. Clair & Dennis (2017) noted that a form of racism has been around for thousands of years.

US history is inseparable from the slavery of African descent. African descent in America has played a role in building the United States as a nation-state since the 17th century, but white supremacy has always made African Americans treated as a second-class society. Although slavery of African descent in the US was abolished in the 19th century, and civil rights and the right to participate in general elections were ratified in the 1960's, discrimination continued to be experienced by African Americans. Police violence against African Americans is partly based on the existence of class structures and racial hierarchies that are rooted and cause racial bias. This bias is not only possessed by the police, but because the police are the ones authorized to use weapons and arrest certain people, the racial bias of police officers

can be very fatal. This is what then led to the emergence of the Black Lives Matter movement, which aims to ensure that parties with great authority such as the police do not easily make critical decisions that can result in loss of life based on this bias. (Fredrickson, 1995)

The motion picture is better known as film which is presented in an audio-visual form to make it interesting to watch. According to Bordwell & Thompson (2008) film is a part of people's lives, so it is difficult to imagine a world without them. They also stated that:

Movies communicate information and ideas and they show where and how people live. Films carry people through experiences, experiences are often driven by stories with characters, and films may also develop ideas or explore visual quality or sound textures. (Bordwell & Thompson, 2008, 2)

Delivering messages about issues to the community such as issues regarding the fight against racism. It can not only be conveyed through print and electronic media, but can also be submitted via e-mail film. Mass media, both print media and electronic media, have a role in the formation of prejudice against a person or another group. Film is a form of mass media. Film can be a medium to convey messages directly to society. Film can be a means of communication that can influence society through a series of images displayed. Films have reached the academic level, followed by the increasing numbers of movies used as the object material to learn about history, culture, and society (Kasih & Fitratullah, 2018).

As explained by Bordwell & Thompson (2008), the meaning of film as representation and reality of society. Film as a representation of reality means that film shapes and represents reality. Based on the codes, conventions, and ideologies of their culture.

This study centres on *I Am Not Your Negro* film (Peck, 2016). This film is a documentary directed by Raoul Peck, based on the script of James Baldwin's unfinished novel, *Remember This House*. The film is considered the best documentary by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association. This film won the award as creative film awards from the International Documentary Association. This film has a narrative for the history of the black race. The film *I Am Not Your Negro* focuses on the lives of three central movement leaders in the 1960's who find their lives tragically cut short by various strategic assassination attempts. Those leaders were Martin Luther King, Medgar Evers, and Malcolm X, who fought for their rights for unfair treatment, crime, lies, and fought for the hopes of the black race in the eyes of the state.

I Am Not Your Negro is an informative film that chronicles the nation's history and a stirring memoir that attempts to unite and illustrate the contents of James Baldwin's unfinished manuscript. Directed by Raoul Peck, this documentary brings Baldwin's own personal depiction and observation of American race relations and history in which refusing to take responsibility & face its blood-stained history that has not, is able to make a real fundamental change. The parallels drawn between then and now

are quite frightening, because America is basically still racist, more or less the one described by Baldwin in his unfinished script.

Through the words & voice of James Baldwin, underlines how western nations have lived in the lies of hypocritical humanism and continue to deliberately ignore the history of ancestral injustice. Baldwin's voice keep the audience's anger under control whenever explicit images of discrimination experienced by the African-American population appear on screen. This film is presented in several scenes where one of the scenes places Malcolm X, as a figure who believes that black people must unite independently to face a nation with a white power structure. His role in history is often distorted, mainly in famous media accounts which often characterize him as a black racist. In the film *I Am Not Your Negro* not only tells about history but also inspires many activists to be more motivated, especially black activists. This film follows a carefully crafted story about the civil rights movement at a critical juncture in the history of the black race. Where the assassination can weaken their movement. This research will look and focus in forms of racism that black people get as seen in the movie.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the description of the research background and the scope of the research above, the writer formulate the following problem:

How is racism toward Black delineated in *I am Not Your Negro* Movie?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the formulation of the problem, the main objective in this study is:

To delineate racism toward Black people in *I am not your Negro* movie

1.4 The Use of the Study

The uses of the study divided into two parts:

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, the use of this study provides some information for the readers about Racism toward literary study especially in analysing research. The writer expects this research can enrich a comprehension of the readers who are interested in discussing about racism in movie especially with approaches and theories that are used in this study, which are sociological approach and semiotic theory of John Fiske.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, the writer hope that this study can assist other writer especially students of S1 English Literature who want to conduct film analysis. Besides, this study can attract people's attention toward the issue as delineate in *I am Not Your Negro* (2016) film. Thus, the appreciation of the reader toward the result of the literary works can be reached.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study focuses to delineate form of racism experienced by black people in *I am Not Your Negro* (2016) film. The study is limited on text gathered from film as film is also considered as text. The data were gathered from picture, sound, camera angle, dialogue and narration. For discussing the issue of racism, this study applied sociological approach. The cinematography and semiotic theory of John Fiske were also applied to analyse some aspects in film.