

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Literature is used to describe any creative writing, imagination or any work of art such as movie. Movie as a part of literature form also tries to reflect what happened in the society. It can also be a way for the writer to show some aspects of human life, like the psychology of some characters in the story (Tirtaningtias & Setiawan, 2021). Movie as a part of literature represent the society including the social issue such as discrimination that had existed in the society since a long time ago.

A movie, also known as a motion picture or film, is a series of movies displayed on a screen which usually with sound that make up a story. As a part of Literature in the form of works such as thoughts, opinions, experience, and feelings in imaginative forms and made aesthetically pleasing through the medium of language, literature also provides aesthetic and intellectual satisfaction for the viewers (Morris, 2005). The movie can portray the issues occurred in our surroundings, like poverty, social status, race, religion, and not to mention is about discrimination. The concept of discrimination is about treating other people less favorably than others because they are more inferior and less worthy. Social discrimination means persistent inequalities among people because of disease, disability, religion and sexual orientation or gender identity.

According to Dinesh Burga "Social discrimination is defined as persistent inequality between people on the basis of disease, disability, religion, sexual orientation, or other indicators of diversity." (Bhurga, 2016, p. 336-341). In a simple term, discrimination is when someone is treated unpleasantly or when someone's dignity is violated. Unfavorable treatment or violation of one dignity. Discriminatory behavior can be witnessed directly or indirectly. These include insufficient accessibility, verbal consent, sexuality and instructions to discriminate also constitute discrimination (Theodorson and Theodorson, 2010, p.115-116). Discriminations the unequal treatment of individuals or groups, usually categorical in nature, or on the basis of certain attributes such as race, ethnicity, religion, or social class. Discrimination is the practice of treating someone or a group of people in society unfairly (Nelson, 2009, p.94).

Discrimination is a term that refers to any behavior that harms another person or group based on their gender, race, ethnicity, religious views, disability, or weight. Discrimination may cause harm to those who are discriminated against. Therefore, discrimination has been identified as a global concern. Weight discrimination, racial discrimination, age discrimination, and social discrimination are example of various form of prejudice (Heinrichs, 2007). Any act of discrimination is born because there is a stigma or stereotype. A stereotype refers to a fixed view or image that many people have about a particular type of person or thing, but often not true (Nelson, 2009, p.2). In addition, stereotype deals with cognitive tools that people apply to make understand the social world. Thus, stereotypes reserve people any expectation towards certain social group from their traits and behaviors. Further, stereotypes provide people with the ambiguous information of

interpretation. Since stereotypes gives people ambiguous information, the information could lead to wrong conclusions. Stereotype's content consists of stereotypes of any social groups. The basic dimension of stereotypes is the degree of certain social group to other social group in society for status, resources, power, or other social values (Sibley and Osborne, 2015, p.240).

Therefore, stereotypes could lead to discrimination act. Any groups that do not belong to the majority part in certain society tend to receive discrimination act. Erin Beeghly, in her research, argues that discrimination is a result of stereotype. If drawing differences requires discrimination, stereotypes are always a form discrimination. That's because stereotypical actions always require "understanding or noting or" make a distinction between different kinds of forgotten social (Beeghly, 2021).

One of the marginalized groups in the world is the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Queer) community. Issues related to discrimination against LGBTQ+ have become global issues. There are 1 in 4 LGBTQ people in the United States are reported experiencing many forms of discrimination in 2016 (The Center for American Progress as cited in Healthy Talbot, 2020). The form of discrimination refers to the LGBTQ community is based on sexual orientation and gender identity. People from LGBTQ community tend to be bullied and harassed especially people the transwoman (Result of the ILO's PRIDE Project, 2015). So, related to the *Moonlight* Movie, Barry Jenkins describes the character Chiron is a gay. Thus, gay is a term generally used to treat people homosexual or homosexual traits, because he is male and his amorous partner, love, or affection is also male. If it is associated with this phenomenon, then the problem of marginalization

refers to the state of social domination of marginalized groups. The social dominance referred to in this study is the dominance over gay identity, so that the main character who is described as someone who has a different sexual orientation is in a non-dominant position.

Homosexuality can be characterized as a sexual introduction or choice coordinated to an individual or individuals of same sex or enthusiastic and sexual people's fascination to somebody or individuals of same sex (Oetomo, 2001, p.6). According to Duffy & Atwater (2005, p.11). The Designation gay often used to refer to a man who is have a tendency to love same sex. The definition of gay is the man who has an orientation of sexual relations with the other man. Levin (1984) stated "Homosexuality is considered an abnormal state for purely mechanical reasons, not because it is immoral or sinful, weakens society or hinders evolution". In addition, discrimination and stereotypes toward LGBT group have been a part of social problem in society. As movie as a part of literary work tries to reflect the society complete with the social problem, there are movie tries to bring and represent discrimination issue in the movie such as in *Moonlight* (2016) movie by Barry Jenkins.

Moonlight movie is an American drama written and directed by Barry Jenkins in 2016. The film tells the story of three stages in the life of the main character, Chiron, which are childhood, youth, and early adult life. The first stage talks about the way he spent his childhood in Miami city with a hard life. "Little" is a nickname. In his youth stage of life, it tells about his life that protected by his best friends Juan and Theresa. Besides, Chiron also got attention from his old friend Kevin, which eventually made Chiron realized his sexual orientation as a gay.

Chiron who always got bullying since his childhood by his surroundings, more bullied because the fact that he was Gay and in love with Kevin. In the early adult life “Black” is a nickname for Chiron. Because of this story line, the film has been awarded one of the best films of 21st century. The film has won several awards such as Drama and the Academy Award for Best Picture, Golden Globe Award for Best Motion Picture, and etc. The film is also becoming the first movie with all-black cast. Further, the movie represents discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The movie is a story about Chiron who is a black male protagonist who has gay identity.

The writer interested in analyzing the other side of Chiron's character in the *Moonlight* movie through the existing signs with using the representation concept by Stuart Hall. It was because the discrimination toward LGBT group will always be a hot issue to be discussed, especially in the writer's surrounding and most of the countries, where the law itself doesn't support the LGBT group. From the description above, the background is these problems, researcher choose the title “The Representations of Social Discrimination Toward Homosexual Character in *Moonlight* Movie by Barry’s Jenkins” intended to make the public aware - especially readers - that differences should not accept discrimination, because they can hurt both physically and mentally, moreover it is not easy to survive from the trauma caused. In addition, the writer uses representation theory to reveal any discrimination experienced by Chiron in *Moonlight* movie. Some of the discrimination experienced is symbolic so it is not clear if someone is basically being discriminated against.

1.2 Research Question

Referring to the background of the study, this is the research question of this paper:

- How does social discrimination toward homosexual character in *Moonlight* movie by Barry Jenkins represented?

1.3 Research Objective

Referring to the research question, this research analyzes social discrimination faced by homosexual character in *Moonlight* movie. The objective of the research is to uncover the representation of social discrimination toward homosexual character in *Moonlight* movie by Barry Jenkins.

1.4 Uses of Study

Any research needs to bring real contribution to the development of research and bring significance to the society. Therefore, research should be written with the reasons and benefits for doing it in mind. The main purpose of this study is to provide knowledge that is not widely known to the public, knowledge that can be applied to everyday life, and additional information. Thus, this study overcomes two research use cases. It has both theoretical and practical applications.

1.4.1 Theoretical Use

Theoretically, the research is able to give contribution to the research development in literature department and add insights and knowledge about the topic analysis. Moreover, the writer could be a guideline for other literature students to analyze representation in a movie.

1.4.2 Practical Use

Practically, the research is expected to give contribution for the readers to understand more about social discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation especially to discrimination against LGBTQ+ community who are marginalized community.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The focus of the study is limited. The research only focuses on revealing how does social discrimination on homosexual character in *Moonlight* movie by Barry Jenkins represented. In analyzing the thesis, the writer applies Representation theory by Stuart Hall (1997) and semiotics by Roland Barthes for the methodology.