

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter 1 consists of the background of the study, the limitation of the study, the problem formulation, the objective of the study, the significance of the study, and the organization of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Each country in this world has their own uniqueness which becomes a heredity from their ancestor. Culture is one of their important assets that have to be preserved from generation to generation. Thus, when people talk about culture, they have to be careful because it is a sensitive thing. On the other hand, more different religions, cultures, identities and even races may raise more problems in society. There are many possible problems that can happen because of these conditions such as prejudice, racism, racial discrimination, ethnocentrism, stereotype and etc.

Furthermore, racism is the most happening problem in society especially America, because as people know that America is a multiculturalism country whose people are from various tribes, race, ethnic, and culture such as Chinese, Europe, African, Asian and others, and since long ago existing aspect of human experience is related to racism.

Haris writes in his research *"Interactive in Values American a Study of Ethnic and Character"* that:

American are proud of bringing a diverse country. It is a mix of genders, race, ages, cultural, backgrounds, and religious beliefs, the diversity brings of host value, and other that's less vital in everyday lives, commonly held values involving family, country, personal, responsibility and ethnic that's bring together in Americans (3).

American immigrant background comes from different cultures and the society positively influences their character including self-esteem, skills, and family relationship.

Today, the term of racism is used more broadly to apply in racial unfairness and discriminatory beliefs, actions, desires, projects, persons, groups, social institutions, and practices (Garcia 1436). "Being black in U.S. society means always having to be prepared for antiblack actions by whites "in most places and at many times of the day, week, month, or year. Being black means living with various types of racial discrimination from cradle to grave" (Feagin 187). According to Feagin, even America has been a multicultural country but some of their people are racist to the other people from different races and ethnic. Some of white Americans believe that they are superior, and they usually cannot accept immigrants or minorities.

Actually, racism is a wider phenomenon than racial discrimination. Racism is an ideology which subordinates individuals or groups based on their race that either directly or indirectly asserts that one group is inherently superior to others (Wolf 2) whereas, “Racial discrimination is an unequal treatment of persons or groups on the basis of their race or ethnicity” (Pager 2). It can be inferred that racial discrimination is an unequal treatment toward individuals or groups based on their race and ethnic. Racism is an ideology, while racial discrimination is an action even attitude which shows discrimination to others based on their race and ethnic. Sanson argues that racial discrimination is a false assumption to members of races and belief to be inferior, limiting access for minorities and refuse their contributions (qtd. in Chng and Tan 461).

According to Feagin, racial discrimination persists and greatly influences the life chances and routine situations of everyday life for racial minorities in the United States (qtd. in Burt 648). Similarly, Longen believes that by 1640, most blacks in America were slaves since they had certain “advantages” over white workers. According to colonial accounts blacks were strong and inexpensive. Besides having no government protection, black people seem to be always available because their black skin prevented them from blending with the white population, making it easier to identify them. Their different skin color also reflects their status as the second class (qtd. in Daik 2).

The racial discrimination towards individual or group in society may raise the positive and negative effect towards human psychology itself. “The perception of discrimination may exert deleterious effects on an individual’s health, independent of the material impact of institutional discrimination in causing differential access to goods, services, and environmental exposures” (Ahmed, Mohammed and Williams 323). Carter believes that racial discrimination affects individual mental health such as depression, anxiety, stress and post-traumatic stress and general well-being such as lower self-esteem, lower life satisfaction, quality of life and low happiness. In addition, the other negative effect is causing differential access to goods, services, and environmental exposures (qtd. in Chng and Tan 462).

This racial discrimination problem is clearly shown in *Green Book* movie. It is narrated, in the movie an African American pianist named Doctor Don Shirley experiences the racial discrimination done by the white people during his tour concert through Midwest and Deep South. He gets racial discrimination because of his condition as minority in United States, different skin color, ethnic, race, and belief, so the other people discriminate him in all aspects of society. Those racial discrimination actions from the white people make him experiences, stress, depression, low happiness and self-esteem. Therefore, based on the explanation above, this study is entitled “The Portrayal of Racial Discrimination in the Main Character in Peter Farrelly’s *Green Book* Movie” that analyzes the portrayal of racial discrimination and its negative impact experienced by Doctor Don Shirley as

the main character in *Green Book* movie based on the background above.

B. Limitation of The Study

The racial discrimination is one of the social problems in society. Based on the background above, this study focuses on the racial discrimination happens in America in the middle of 1960's. This study only analysis the main character "Doctor Don Shirley" as an African-American man who lives around white people in America using racial discrimination theory. Doctor Don is an African-American pianist who experiences racial discrimination done by the white people majority in America as portrayed in *Green Book* movie.

C. Problem Formulation

Based on the limitation above, this study formulates the statements of the problems as follows:

1. How is racial discrimination experienced by Doctor Don Shirley as portrayed in *Green Book* movie?
2. How does racial discrimination affect Doctor Don Shirley as portrayed in *Green Book* movie?

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study on this paper are:

1. To analyze the racial discrimination experienced by Doctor Don Shirley as portrayed in *Green Book* movie.
2. To analyze the effect of racial discrimination toward Doctor Don Shirley reflected in the movie.

E. Significance of the Study

Racial discrimination mostly happens in a multicultural society, so this issue is very interesting to analyze. By understanding this study, the readers hopefully can cope and reduce the number of racial discrimination and other racial problems in society. The result from this analysis can be useful as the one of reference for English Department especially English Literature students to enrich the reader's knowledge about Racial Discrimination and will also help the students to do further studies.

F. Outline of the Study

This study is divided into five chapters. Chapter I is the introduction, consists of general background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objective of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study. Chapter II is review and related literature consisting of synopsis of the movie and related theories including of racial discrimination and its effects. Chapter

III is a research method consisting of source of the data, data collecting method, and data analysis method. Chapter IV chapter is findings and discussion. It is racial discrimination reflected in *Green Book* movie. Chapter V chapter is conclusion and suggestion.