

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Race and ethnic differences often occur in the United States. Moreover, many people who choose to live and settle in the United States, because the United States is a country that is quite large and has a large number of residents living in the country. It makes people who are not Native Americans come and settle in America to look for a more decent life, find jobs and earn lots of money. This phenomenon rises to a new race or ethnicity in the United States of America and the majority who came in this country were black people or could be called the African-American.

However, over time there were more and more Black people who wanted to live and settle in America. The racial group that started arriving there were also several groups and not only those from African American. Based on Kurt Metzger and Jason Booza with the result of the researchers said “Black have been enumerated in every census, according to the census, the term “Black or African American” refers to people having origins in any of the black race groups of Africa. It includes people who reported “Black, African Am., or Negro” or wrote in entries such as African American, afro American, Nigeria, or Haitian” (3). Then, with the increasing number of Black people coming to America, it made white people always want to hire Black people all the time. Because many white people assume Black people are people who can work very hard in any situation, even under pressure.

Along with the large number of Black people employed by white people, white people had a lot of power over the black in America. Not only were they employed under pressure, but at that time white people who had more power also enslaved the black people. "In the North American context, racist ideology served as justification for land appropriation and colonial violence towards indigenous peoples as well as the enslavement of African starting in the sixteenth century. It was later used to justify the state-sanctioned social, economic, and symbolic violence directed at black and other minorities under Jim Crow Law" (Clair and Denis , 857-858). So that the act of hiring black people is more real and is mostly done by white people. In fact this has become a custom, where people who come from the black race will always be used as workers for white people in America.

Underlying the racism that some white people commit against black people is prejudice. Which according to Allport says that "Allport's (1954) definition of prejudice fixes on ethnic prejudice as "an antipathy based on a faulty and inflexible generalisation. It may be felt or expressed. It may be directed toward a group as a whole, or toward an individual because he is a member of that group" (Zuma, p 47). So that many of the white people think their group is superior and always think that the black group often makes mistakes.

According to Darboe, most African Americans were descendants of slaves who came to the United States to get work and wages and living expenses. So that all people will live side by side and if imagined according to the herings they will coexist in harmony, but there will always be differences between these two groups (1). However, cultural coexistence is not easy with what is imagined

without creating racial tensions between white American as the majority and Black people as a minority. If a group occupies a new county can adapt and live side by side in harmony, but one group among them cannot control their own ego, emotions, and temperament, both from black people and white people. Everything will feel very clear that between them there is a large wall as a barrier between them.

The existence of the custom of discriminating against racial groups in America leads to a variety of actions and behavior that is not good for workers who come from black groups. Often black workers get unfavorable acts and behavior, and some even commit acts of violence to force them to work even harder. However, few black workers who are still treated well, and more are a small part and not so much. It will create divisions in a sense of ethnicity. Then, white people tend to act on their own, because this is very possible in a country or city that has a strong ethnic group. These actions are often interpreted as racism. "Racism can be defined simply as any policy, belief, attitude, action or inaction, which subordinates individuals or groups based on their race" (Wolf and Caroline, 2). Thus, any racially motivated actions in the form of violence, coercion, oppression and discriminating behavior based on skin color or group can be considered as racism.

Not only the acts of racism created by white people for black people. This situation also creates racial tension between the two races. This racial tension impacts the behavior and acts of violence that often occur against white people to Black people.

This situation is also illustrated in *Detroit* (2017) movie which tells about the condition of the city of Detroit in the United States in 1967. In the movie, the arrival of African-American immigrants caused some white people to take actions that led to racism, more precisely in situations of racial tension. This racial tension is formed due to several factors such as racial bigotry as started by Klitgaard:

Relation racism is certainly the most obvious form of racism. Therefore, racism is the type of irrational bigotry that is demonstrated in personal interactions and includes demeaning language, discriminatory behavior, and/or assault. Yet, by confining racism to the interpersonal, we neglect the more insidious and destructive impact of structural racism (41-49).

This caused concern for some Black people and was always forced to fight. One of the frequent acts of racism is that these blacks are forced to work with richer whites. However, they do not get wages that are equivalent to the work they do. Steven C. Pitts. said in a study that "Black people work. However, many of these jobs are bad jobs that do not allow for a decent quality of life. the jobs don't pay well. they don't provide retirement and health benefits" (6). This shows that many African american immigrants have been enslaved or are forcibly employed by white people. and this situation shows that white people with their power can treat Black people as they like without thinking about the mental condition of the Black people. However, the writer believes that these actions are morally wrong. Some people also assume that people who have power are also not always right for their actions and also not always who is strong will become the ruler.

This *Detroit 2017* movie is of great interest to be subjected to research. Because the story that was picked up in this movie is based on the true story that took place in Detroit. Detroit is one of the few cities in America that have the highest levels of social inferiority that people in town experience. “Detroit is also an outlier among american cities in suffering from extreme social distress. The city ranks first among the nation’s large cities in violent crime, for example. Furthermore, the stark municipal boundaries between whites and blacks have hindered the development of Detroit as an economic or transportation hub for the metropolitan area as a whole” (Silver, p. 98). So that in the *Detroit 2017* movie shows that justice and equality between races need to be fought for, and needs to be demonstrated to bring about justice in a large group.

B. Limitation of the Study

This study will be focusing on the social impacts of racial tension towards African-American people in *Detroit* (2017) movie. More Specifically, this research is focused on the case of racial tension occurring among various African American immigrants in Detroit as well as the social impacts felt by the community.

C. Problem Formulation

The problem formulation of this study is set to answer the following questions:

1. How is racial tension depicted in *Detroit (2017)* movie?

2. What social impact, as a result of racial tension, can be observed in *Detroit* (2017) movie?

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the racism and racial tension happens in *Detroit* (2017) movie
2. To analyze the social impact and racial tension depicted in “*Detroit*” (2017) movie.

E. Significance of the Study

This study aims to provide analysis related to racial tension. It is hoped that this research will be useful to find out and understand how racial tension occurred in the 19th century in America.

F. Organization of the Study

In this paper there are three chapters. In chapter one is an introduction which consists of Subchapters, i.e.: Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Outline of the Study. In Chapter two is review on related literature i.e.: synopsis of *Detroit* (2017) movie and the theories which are used in this study such as racism, racial and the factor cause the racial tension as well.

Chapter three consists of: Research Method, Types of the Data, Data Organizing, Analyzing the Data.

