

**THE PORTRAYAL OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, RACIAL
PREJUDICE, AND RACIAL STEREOTYPE IN PAUL
HAGGIS'S *CRASH* MOVIE**

A FINAL PROJECT



AGUS YUNIFAHMI DESIANTO

30801500193

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LANGUAGES AND COMMUNICATION
SCIENCE**

SULTAN AGUNG ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY

SEMARANG

2021

APPROVAL

Final Project of English Literature

**THE PORTRAYAL OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, RACIAL
PREJUDICE, AND RACIAL STEREOTYPE IN PAUL
HAGGIS'S *CRASH* MOVIE**

Prepared and Presented by


AGUS YUNI FAHMI DESIANTO

30801500193

Has been approved by the advisor and to be examined by the Board of Examiners.

Semarang, August 12th 2021




Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum
Advisor

VALIDATION

A Final Project on English Literature

**THE PORTRAYAL OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION, RACIAL
PREJUDICE, AND RACIAL STEREOTYPE IN PAUL HAGGIS'S *CRASH*
MOVIE**

Prepared and Presented by:

Agus Yuni Fahmi Desianto

30801500193

Defended Before the Board of Examiners

on August 13th, 2021

and Declared Acceptable

Board of Examiners

Chairman : Destary Praptawati, S.S, M.Hum.

Secretary : Idha Nurhamidah, S.S, M.Hum.

Member : Afina Murtiningrum, S.S, M.A.



Semarang, August 14th, 2021

Faculty of Languages and Communication

Science of UNISSULA

Dean

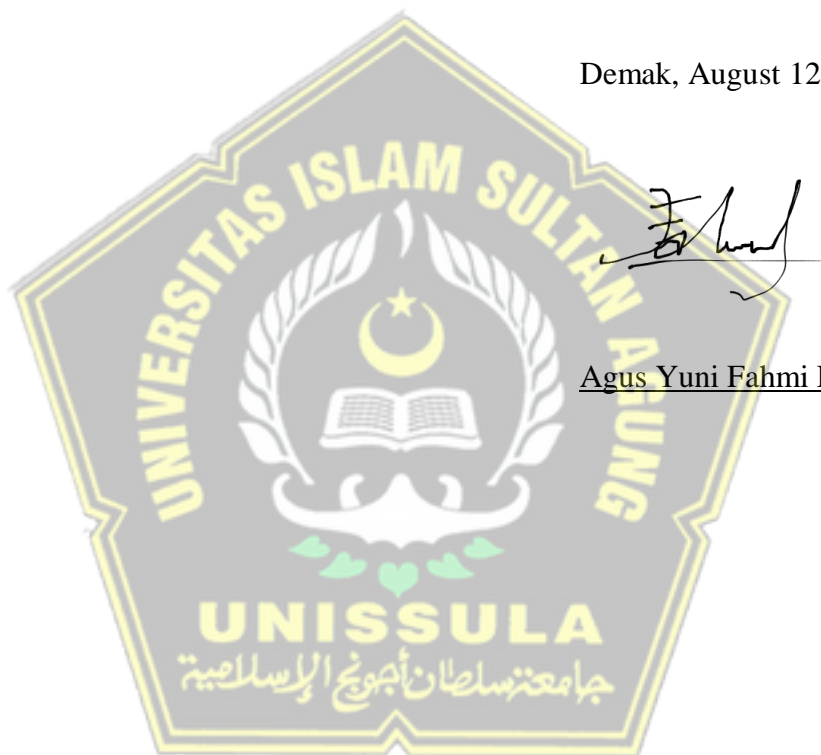


Kurniawan Yudhi Nugroho, S.Pd, M.Pd

STATEMENT OF ORIGINALITY

Hereby, I declare that the undergraduate final project i wrote does not contain the work or part of the work of other researchers, except those which were cited in the references and screenshot pictures. If my statement is not valid in the future, I absolutely agree to accept an academic sanction in the form of revocation of my paper and my degree obtained from that paper.

Demak, August 12th, 2021



Agus Yuni Fahmi Desianto

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

MOTTO:

“Think thousand times before taking a decision But – After taking decision never turn back even if you get thousand difficulties”

(Achmad Kosim)

DEDICATION TO:

1. FAMILY
2. FACULTY OF LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION SCIENCE (LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM)
3. PEOPLE OF INDONESIA
4. ALL ASPIRING LANGUAGE ENTHUSIAST



Desianto, Agus Yunifahmi “The Portrayal of Racism in Paul Haggis’s *Crash* Movie”. Final Project College and Communication Science, Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang. First advisor: Destary Praptawati, S.S, M.Hum.

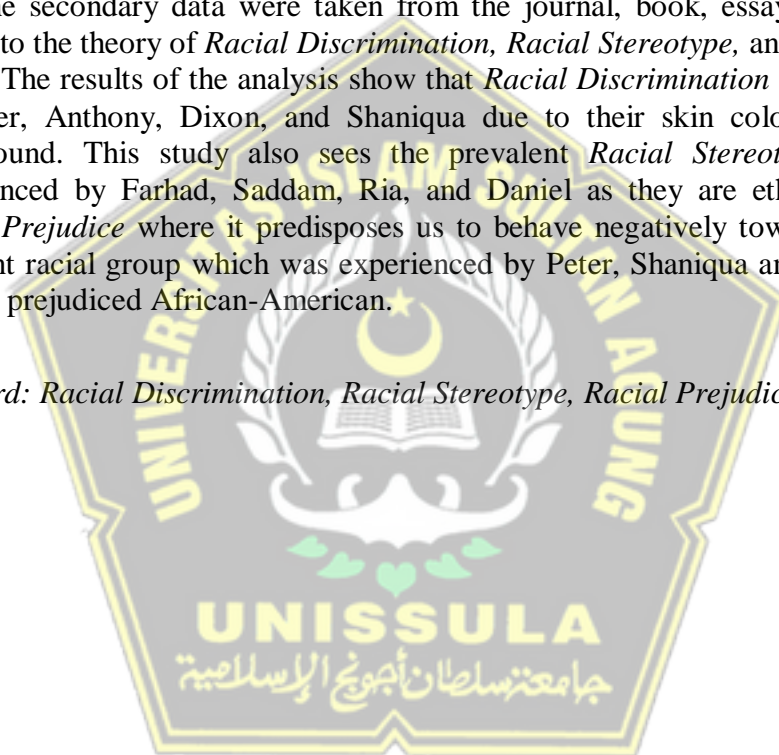
ABSTRACT

This study is about *Racial Discrimination* happened in contemporary United States portrayed in *Crash* movie. The purpose of the study is to know how Racism experienced by the characters does and more specified ones such as *Racial Stereotype* and *Racial Prejudice*.

In analyzing the study, descriptive qualitative method was used. The *Crash* movie is the primary data in this study. Whereas in collecting the data, this study used the secondary data were taken from the journal, book, essay, and articles related to the theory of *Racial Discrimination*, *Racial Stereotype*, and *Prejudice*.

The results of the analysis show that *Racial Discrimination* is experienced by Peter, Anthony, Dixon, and Shaniqua due to their skin colour and racial background. This study also sees the prevalent *Racial Stereotype* which is experienced by Farhad, Saddam, Ria, and Daniel as they are ethnic minority. *Racial Prejudice* where it predisposes us to behave negatively toward people of different racial group which was experienced by Peter, Shaniqua and Anthony as heavily prejudiced African-American.

Keyword: Racial Discrimination, Racial Stereotype, Racial Prejudice.



Desianto, Agus Yunifahmi “Penggambaran Peristiwa Rasisme dalam Film *Crash* oleh Paul Haggis”. Skripsi Program Sastra Inggris dari Fakultas Bahasa dan Ilmu Komunikasi, Universitas Islam Sultan Agung. Pembimbing pertama: DestaryPraptawati, S.S, M.Hum.

INTISARI

Penelitian ini tentang *Diskriminasi Ras* yang terjadi di Amerika Serikat pada zaman kontemporer, yang tergambarkan pada film *Crash*. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui apasaja bentuk tindakan *Diskriminasi Ras* yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokohnya dan berbagai bentuk *Diskriminasi Ras* lain seperti *Stereotip Ras* dan *Prasangka Ras* yang merekaalami.

Dalam melaksanakan penelitian ini, metode deskriptif kualitatif digunakan. Film *Crash* merupakan data primer untuk penelitian ini. Sedangkan dalam pengumpulan data, penelitian ini menggunakan data sekunder yang diperoleh dari membaca jurnal, buku, penelitian, essay, serta artikel yang berkaitan dengan teori *Diskriminasi Ras*, *Stereotip Ras* dan *Prasangka Ras*.

Hasil dari analisis menunjukkan bahwa *Diskriminasi Ras* telah dialami oleh Peter, Anthony, Dixon, dan Shaniqua karena perbedaan warna kulit dan latar belakang ras mereka. Analisis ini juga melihat *Stereotip Ras* yang umum ditemui dan telah dialami oleh Farhad, Saddam, Ria, dan Daniel sebab mereka berasal dari etnis minoritas. *Prasangka Ras* yang cenderung membuat kita bertingkah negatif kepada orang yang berasal dari ras berbeda telah dialami oleh Peter, Shaniqua dan Anthony sebagai etnis Afrika-Amerika yang selalu menerima prasangka buruk..

Keyword: Diskriminasi Ras, Stereotip Ras, Prasangka Ras.



UNISSULA
جامعة سلطان أبجوج الإسلامية

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

In the name of Allah who always gives ample and blessing that I can finish this final project. I would like to say my grateful to:

1. Kurniawan Yudhi Nugroho, S.Pd, M.Pd, the Dean of Faculty of Language and Communication Science.
2. Idha Nurhamidah, S.S, M.Hum as the head of study program of English Literature Department.
3. Destary Praptawati, S.S., M.Hum as my supervisor who has been helping me and motivating me to finish my final project.
4. My parents, specially mum, Sulistyaningsih and family who always gives me their endless motivation.
5. Garis Gusti Ayu, for her love and continuous support through everything that i am going through.
6. My Friends specially Ekky Isha who always helps me with my questions.

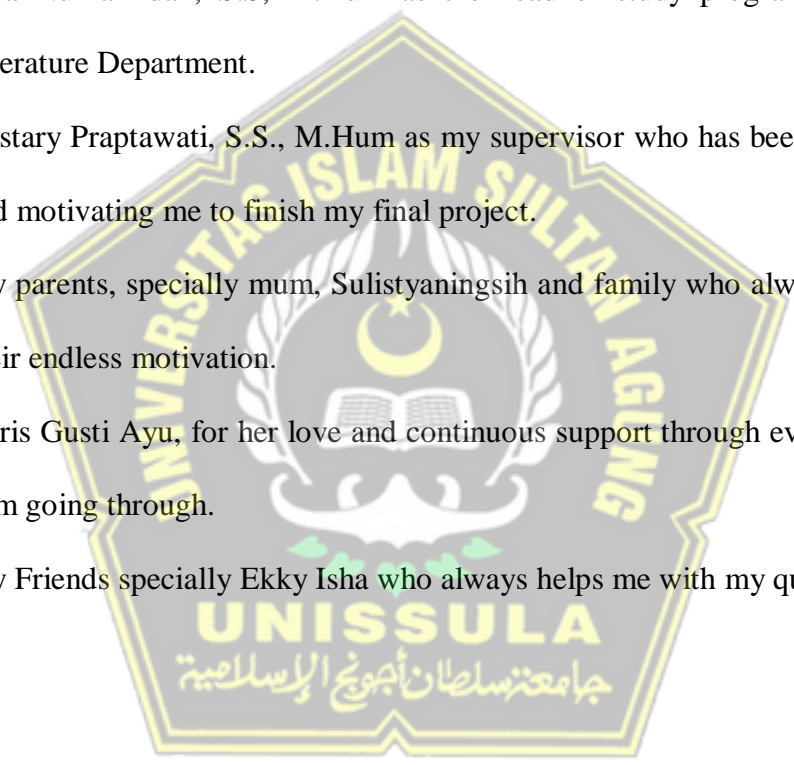


TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page of Approval	i
Validation	ii
Statement of Originality	iii
Motto and Dedication	iv
Abstract	v
Acknowledgment	vii
Table of Contents	viii
CHAPTER I: Introduction	1
A. Background of choosing subject	1
B. Problem Formulation	5
C. Limitation of the Study	5
D. Objective of the Study	5
E. Significance of the Study	6
F. Organization of the Study.....	6
CHAPTER II: Reviews of Related Literature	7
A. Synopsis.....	7
B. Related Literature	10
B.1. Racism	10
B.2. Racial Prejudice & Racial Stereotype	16
B.2.1. Racial Prejudice.....	16
B.2.2. Racial Stereotype.....	20
CHAPTER III: Research Method	24
A. Type of Research	24
B. Data Organizing	24
B.1.Data Collecting Method.....	24
B.2.Types of the Data	26
C. Analyzing Data	26

CHAPTER IV: FINDING AND DISCUSSION	28
A. Racism Experienced by the Characters in Crash Movie.....	28
B. Racial Prejudice and Stereotype Experienced by the Characters in Crash Movie.....	37
C. Racial Stereotype Experienced by the Characters in <i>Crash</i> Movie...	37
CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION	54
A. CONCLUSION	54
B. SUGGESTIONS	55
REFERENCES	56



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the study

In every corner of the world lives different groups of people each with their own unique customs and culture that has developed for hundreds or even thousands of years in those specific region or area that people lived in. Interactions between each different races and group of people with varying cultures become more common. United States of America is one of the best examples of this case. It is widely known that the country is built around the idea of immigration where people from different backgrounds of nations and races working together. United States of America becomes the very boiling point of interracial interplay. Racism tends to rise even in the smallest slightest disagreements because of interactions between different multi-ethnic and multi-cultural society.

Racism in the United States of America is the price of slavery that happens hundreds of years ago and transforms into what we widely see as racism in this day and age.

“The development of racism in America perfectly exemplifies that multiple causation which historians constantly observe. The factor of dark color, associated with night, dirt, evil, ignorance and so forth, easily reinforced the binary tendency to assume superiority of one's own culture and language, to say nothing of religion.” (Powell, 16)

Racism is the idea that there is a direct correspondence between a group's values, behavior and attitudes, and its physical features (Kuper, 843). It is appropriate to recognize that racism has various forms. Racism as we know it comes in wide range of seriousness or, severity. Racism would be able to be identified from what seems to be something as simple as an insult directed towards a particular person or a group of people where either from appearance wise or background culture's different from those who insulted them. In this case, the impact of such conduct which may still fall under racism, might considerably be less damaging compared to another oppressive attitudes which we are able to still witness to this day.

“Indeed, if the assertion of such a relationship were the only defining aspect of racism, its impact might be less damaging, though no less unacceptable. Instead, a more pernicious feature of racism entails the belief that some groups, those of a certain hue, with less power and low status, are inferior; others, of another hue, with greater power and high status, are deemed superior.” (Kuper, 844)

There are many kinds of racism. Out of the varying different types, racial stereotype and prejudice are arguably two of the most prevalent in daily lives. Although the terms often see its usage interchangeably and the definitions of the two terms may overlap, evidently racial stereotype and racial prejudice are different. Dovidio writes that stereotype can be easily recognized when a member of certain groups of people where they are linked with the stereotypes of their people is immediately seen to be generally similar in characteristics and attitudes

beyond their direct surface qualities or their actual personality. Such information would be used by those who believe in the stereotype to generate expectations and anticipate behavior for possible new situations or even confrontations (Dovidio, 7).

Discussing racial prejudice would not be complete without knowing what it is. Checking the fourth edition of the American Heritage College Dictionary, there are multiple definitions of racial prejudice written there. One of the written definitions that the dictionary provides for said term is “an adverse judgment or opinion formed beforehand or without knowledge or examination of the facts”. The definition indubitably applies precisely in modern times. Typically arises from race based stereotypes, racial prejudice is more than often viewed as the results of individual bias, tendencies, and experiences. Other than that it is also likely that racial prejudice comes out of relations or past incidents between two individuals that belong to different groups of people (Quillian, 586). It does show that there are indeed reasons behind one’s acts of hostility towards different groups of people and they are mostly personal as the aftermath of past incidents.

“Prejudice is a defensive reaction against explicit or (usually) implicit challenges to the dominant group's exclusive claim to privileges. This is not to say that all members of the dominant group respond to a challenge with prejudice. Members of the dominant group do share a sense of group membership and of their group's position relative to the subordinate group. The greater the sense of threat to their prerogatives, the more likely are

members of the dominant group to express prejudice against threatening outsiders.” (Quillian, 588)

Immoral values of racism, stereotype and prejudice are quite prevalent in the modern time specially in the United States of America that acts as world’s number one immigrants destination which subsequently makes the country highly diverse ethnically, socially, and culturally diverse. In spite of certain people’s tendencies to argue that acts of racism are mostly done by the group of majority, it is evident that every group of people do take parts in racial acts and it is done interchangeably. Such process is demonstrated in Paul Haggis’s *Crash*.

Crash is a film that was released in 2004 and directed by Paul Haggis. This film features racial and social tensions in the USA. Presenting wide range of characters from various racial backgrounds from Asian, Middle-Eastern, and Latino, the film illustrate the harsh truth of systemic racism that happens in the country. While other films might only offer racial tensions between Caucasian-American and African-Americans, *Crash* gives distinctive perspective by adding more representation of different groups of people that better reflects the real life condition in America where every single individual member of certain groups could be on both ends of either racism, stereotype or prejudice acts that happens in daily life.

B. Problem Formulation

The discussion on this study will be presented in the following problem:

1. How is racial discrimination experienced by various characters in the movie *Crash* by Paul Haggis?
2. How is racial prejudice experienced by the characters in the movie *Crash* by Paul Haggis?
3. How is racial stereotype experienced by the characters in the movie *Crash* by Paul Haggis?

C. Limitation of the Study

This study will discuss about the racial discrimination that are experienced by various characters in the film *Crash* by Paul Haggis. The main concern that would be addressed is the depiction of racial discrimination. This study will also analyze the depiction of racial prejudice and racial stereotype experienced by the characters in the movie *Crash* by Paul Haggis.

D. Objectives of the Study

From the problem formulation above, this study will be presented in the following objectives:

1. To describe the racial discrimination experienced by various characters of different racial background as depicted in the movie *Crash* by Paul Haggis.
2. To identify the racial prejudice experienced by some of the characters in the movie *Crash* by Paul Haggis.

3. To identify the racial stereotype experienced by some of the characters in the movie *Crash* by Paul Haggis.

E. Significance of the Study

1. This study hopefully can help the reader to understand the theory of racism.
2. This study hopefully can be used as reference for literature students regarding the study of theory of racism

F. Organization of the Study

In order to represent clear description about the study to the reader, this study represents a systematic organization as follows:

Chapter I is the introduction that contains of background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study.

Chapter II talks about synopsis and related theories. It contains of synopsis of the movie, and related theories including of racism, racial stereotype and racial prejudice.

Chapter III discusses about method of investigation which consists of types of research, data organizing, data collecting method, types of the data, and analyzing the data.

Chapter IV talks about the findings and discussions from the analyzed movie, *Crash* by Paul Haggis.

Chapter V talks about the conclusion of this study.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

A. Synopsis

The movie starts with two police detectives, Graham Waters a black man and his partner Ria a latino involved in a minor car crash with Kim Lee a Korean woman while driving towards a crime scene. Subsequently, Ria can be seen having exchange of racially charged insults with the Korean woman while Waters walks closer to the crime scene where a dead kid was discovered.

The movie then cuts to the day before this incident happens. Two Iranian-descent American citizens, Farhad and Dorri are seen inside a gun shop trying to buy a pistol. As the shop owner asks Farhad which ammunition would he like to get with his gun, Farhad proceeds to speak in *Farsi* with his daughter which results in the shop owner saying that he can have his jihad planning somewhere else and kicks him out, leaving his daughter Dorri to choose the ammunition by herself.

In the evening, two black men, Anthony and Peter after having their dinner they had arguments of potential racial discrimination on the place where they dine as Anthony felt that he did not get the service that he thinks he deserves. On the other side of the street Rick and Jean, a white couple is seen walking by and Jean proceeds to rest herself on Rick's arm as she sees the two black men. Feeling upset that she reacts this way after only seeing two black men, the two agrees to do something about it and went on to carjack them.

After getting home, the couple hired the service of a locksmith Daniel Ruiz, a Hispanic. Ruiz overheard Jean when she argues with Rick saying that Ruiz is a gang member because he is Hispanic and having a tattoo that she suspects as a prison or gang tattoo and demands that all the locks would be changed again the next morning as she is scared Ruiz would sell the locks keys to

his fellow gang member. Ruiz decides to throw the key on the table right in front of Jean's eyes just to prove her wrong before he leaves.

On the next scene, two police officers, Tom Hansen and what seems to be his senior officer, John Ryan is on patrol. After listening in to police radio chatter of fugitive, Ryan sees a car and chooses to pursue it despite of Hansen's explanation that the car description does not match but Ryan continues the pursuit anyway as he sees a black woman in the car. After stopping them, Ryan asks a black movie director, Cameron Thayer and his wife Christine to step out of the car despite them not doing anything wrong. Ryan proceeds to do a body search on Christine while actually molesting her right in front of her husband while Hansen could not stop his partner. Ryan threatened the couple and let them leave with a warning.

Meanwhile Anthony and Peter hits a Korean man on the side of the road while he was trying to park his van while they were busy talking inside the stolen SUV. Even though calling the man as "china man", Peter argues that they should help their victim and drop him at hospital while Anthony does not want to touch him.

Ruiz is called to fix Farhad's shop's lock. Though Ruiz manages to fix the lock, he tries to explain to Farhad that his door is the one that needs to be changed, Farhad accuses him of having accomplices with people who can fix doors so that they can get more money. Ruiz disgruntled and decides to leave even though Farhad still wants him to fix the lock that he already fixed. The next day Farhad found his shop fully vandalized because of the broken door can be opened easily.

Waters gets a phone call from his mother with dementia while having an intercourse with his partner, Ria, which leads to an argument about her ethnicity. Waters later visits his mother, who asks him to find his missing younger brother.

Ryan come across a car accident and found out it is Christine trapped inside an overturned car. While trying to help her out, Christine remembers what

he had done to her and refuses, but Ryan tries to convince her that he just wants to help and politely asks whether he can touch her. Christine is saved seconds before her car burst into flames.

Anthony and Peter tries to carjack another car and it happens to be Cameron's car and they only realizes that Cameron is black when they tries to open the door. Peter manages to run away but Anthony ends up in the car with Cameron while being chased by police. Hansen being one of the police in pursuit of the car prevents the other cops from shooting Cameron who is trying to protect Anthony as he acts as the carjacker. Hansen confesses how he feels bad for what happened to Cameron and his wife the night before and decides to let him go with harsh warning. Cameron expresses his disgust towards Anthony's criminal lifestyle and let him go at a bus stop.

Farhad is trying to find Ruiz's house and setting an ambush thinking that he was the one responsible for his shop's demise. Before Farhad gets to shoot Ruiz, his daughter jumped in front of him. Thinking that his daughter got shot, Ruiz was in despair but after realizing that nobody gets hurt, Ruiz and his family runs inside his house. Farhad tells his daughter that he believes the little girl was his guardian angel, preventing him from committing a terrible crime. He gives the gun to his daughter who is then seen going over near the cash register to retrieve the box of gun cartridges that her father had not known were actually blanks.

Hansen pulls over to pick up a hitchhiking Peter, who fled from the carjacking that took place earlier. Throughout the drive Hansen becomes more and more suspicious of Peter's intentions. Peter offends Hansen by suddenly beginning to laugh, and when Peter reaches for his pocket, Hansen shoots. In Peter's hand is a statuette similar to the one on Hansen's dash and, horrified, Hansen hides the body in some nearby bushes and burns his car. Waters arrives at the scene with his partner and the connection is made that Peter is his missing brother and the "dead boy". Waters is disowned by his mother for not finding Peter alive.

Kim Lee is seen rushing to hospital to meet his husband who was the Korean man that Anthony and Peter hit with their stolen car beforehand.

Jean who fell down from stairs and passed out receives help from Maria, their house helper whom she had distrust with because she is Hispanic and she starts to treat Maria the way she deserves it now.

Anthony decides to steal the van of the Korean man he accidentally hit and, when he drops it off at a chop shop he frequents, he discovers a number of Cambodian immigrants locked in the back of the van. The chop shop owner offers him \$500 per immigrant but Anthony has other plans. After driving into Chinatown and setting the Cambodian people free, he passes by a car crash where, once again, an exchange of racially charged insults takes place.

B. Related Literature

B.1. Racism

Racism is the belief that groups of people possess different behavioral traits with the likes of characteristics, abilities, or qualities which corresponds to their physical appearance. These differences may then be used to segregate them based on inferiority or superiority of one race over another. In one of the angles of racism, there is a need for one group of people of a specific skin colour that holds high status and great power inside the society to see the others with different skin colour and lower status to be nothing but inferior beings (Kuper, 715). This is one of the more dangerous versions of racism that Kuper manages to identify. When a group of people in a multicultural society holds this belief, they would not treat those of other races with fairness. The group that sees themselves as superior easily

disregards the inferior and seize every moment to deny them any opportunity for them to break through from their lower status.

The United States of America is the prime example of the world's number one multicultural country and occasionally see itself being at the forefront of racial tension. Racism in America has long lodge itself since the continent's colonial times. The way racism in USA become the way it is now is due to the development that racism evolves in the land where slaves were transported into in the past. The white European perceives the black skin colour of African slaves as a sign of something dreadful or even evil (Powell, 16). The fact that Christianity was widely embraced by the European colonisers on their conquest in the new world, handful of them still believes in superstitious practices. As they observe the darker skin colour of slaves, quick assumptions are made and therefore the dark colour of their skin is associated with night, dirt, ignorance and evil. Powel states that Africans did not speak as well, did not "know as much," and so did not seem to think as well or feel with such refinement as Englishmen. This reinforces their tendency to assume the superiority of European culture and language where they reign and has their grasp over people of different skin colour in that era of times.

Nowadays, racism which is the grouping of people on the basis of physical appearance for the purpose of social discrimination is deeply rooted in many societies, particularly in Western Europe and North America. Of course, in modern time racism exist in every societies around the world not only America and Europe where injustice and discriminations are thrown into people only because of different physicality's or skin color. Racism acts as a cultural pattern

and it is real enough to produce immediate social consequences (Perry, 18). Formed due to the development of certain culture, racism becomes a part of a belief system. Generally people do not create social patterns and practices intentionally. This is explained with how different level of racism in certain areas arises from distinct and specific historic events and social and cultural dynamics of that part of the world (Perry, 19). Despite of racism itself existing on pretty much every continent, one region's history would have entirely unique events which shapes its social and cultural dynamics. With that in mind, the level and possibly variant of racism that a region possess would be coherently different from one another. Racism has not always been the same, it has changed through the history and becomes more sophisticated. Racism seen as a negative thought or action toward members of other racial group's inequality. The belief that humans are subdivided into different hereditary groups has unknowingly forms a gap of difference in their social behavior.

Racism is universal. While for the most records people of African descent reports the most case of racism, in truth people of any background may suffer from racism too, including Caucasian. The number of reports being studied is minimum but most of them come from autobiographical accounts. Rutledge Dennis believes that any further evaluation of the impact of racism on people of Caucasian descent must take accounts of the economics of slavery and materialism, as well as the ideology and ethos of racism, and combinations of the two (Dennis, 72). There appears to be evidence in the adult effort to force racist values on children where some young Caucasian kids are beaten by their parents

for playing in neighborhood that is predominantly inhabited by people of African descent (Dennis, 78).

There is no biological basis of racism as a social phenomenon and the types of discriminations being spit around are completely based on notions. It is believed that the particular societies have created this concept to remain in authoritative positions (Dayal, 152). In a sense where most of the time these groups which tries to remain in power are the majority of the populations, that particular group would certainly try their best to continuously dominate the minority group that exist in their area in order to hold absolute control.

Ethnic and racial injustice, prejudice racism and chauvinism—in such gradual state— has seemingly become a major concern all over the world. The concept that has persist for thousands of years have always been able to seep through the layers of generations and surface itself even in the modern era. Injustice thats felt by numerous and separate social groups all around the world could emerge due to various differences where it could be because of beliefs, cultures and skin colors (Dayal, 63). Inequity is one of the symptoms where racial discrimination could exist in a population. In a community that consists of heterogenous populace, unfairness such as denying basic rights the likes of denying loan, turning down a job or not giving equal opportunities can be done in good mannerism and respectfully without having the need to use negative tone and in perfectly professional procedure (Lee et al, 3). Racial discrimination transpire as affinity or bias against a person base on their religion, skin colour and ethnicity. It occurs in the act of widespread unequal treatment towards a subjected

individual because of actual or perceived race. Racism in the United States has become a major issue and national embarrassment. It has been identified by Southern Poverty Law Center that there are at least 700 hate groups currently active in the area of continental United States which includes but not limited to Neo-Nazis and the Ku Klux Klan.

A sample community that has the simplified two separate groups one being the majority and the other the minority, shows a possibility where a psychological asymmetry could occur between the two groups. Racial contacts between them would not necessarily result in racist incidents altogether. Despite the fact that the minority members would be most concerned with being discriminated against by the majority, such perceived discrimination is often interpreted by researchers as an affirmation of the minority's lower status which they see themselves as under constant threat of being stereotyped negatively (Binder, 845). With various ways to put a mark on people to lower their status as a method of discrimination and effectively dehumanize them, racial slurs are commonly used as a prevalent choice by the majority to either insult or humiliate the opposing group. Although it needs to be acknowledged that slurs are not only used by the majority as any racial groups would more often than not, have their own derogatory term that has grown inside their own community that is to be used or directed towards specific racial groups—for example: the Afro-American usage of the word 'cracker' towards Caucasian—which means that derogatory terms such as racial slurs are widely used by the public, either to taunt, ridicule, provoke, humiliate or dehumanize them as a whole (Cepollaro, 54).

Deep in the subconsciousness of American society lies the conviction where the populace believe the concept where people of Caucasian descent are in practice, more superior and enjoy different level of leeway in numerous cases of everyday life. The concept that Caucasian are superior to Afro-American people has become a shared belief and served as a critically important stabilizing functions in the society. The idea of superiority does not see the actual level of socio-economic status of the individuals as white supremacy has been employed as catalyst to negotiate policy differences, often through compromises that sacrifice the rights of blacks (Bell, 768). Even those of Caucasian descent who lack wealth and power are sustained in their sense of racial superiority and thus rendered more willing to accept their lesser share, by an unspoken but no less certain property right due to having lighter and fair skin.

In the realm of sexual assault, it has been described that Afro-American women are at higher risk of being raped than non-minority women. Going back in time in the era of slavery, rape and sexual exploitation served to social control and oppress African women slaves. The routine continues on around the time of American Civil War where rape of female slaves by their masters and the breeding practices forced upon bondswomen were legitimized by stigmatizing African women as lascivious and sexually uninhibited. Due to the underlying notion that African women could not be sexually exploited because they enjoyed the intercourse and in fact welcomed sexual advances, the practice continuously persist in colonial America. In modern time, class-based stereotypes are stuck into Afro-American women's behavior as they are easily and frequently

generalised into lower income women. Regardless of ethnicity, anywhere from one-sixth to almost one-quarter of women in the U.S have survived rape. For Afro-American women, race and class are embedded in their lives and provide the framework for their social experiences which leaves them vulnerable (McNair & Neville 109).

B.2. Racial Prejudice & Racial Stereotype

B.2.1. Racial Prejudice

Prejudice is characterized by an irrational faulty generalization and emotional evaluation (antipathy). Quillian writes that there are both individual-level and group-level theories of prejudice before expressing his view that prejudice is a response to threats to established group privileges, which are not necessarily linked to the individual interests of group members.

In the individual level, there are three main prejudice theories in which only two has racial implications in it and the two reads as follows. The first being social-psychological where it sees racial prejudice as resulting from individual emotional and cognitive processes that are beyond completely conscious control. It places the fear and anxiety of an individual onto others. Second is the self-interest theory where an individual could develop negative prejudice towards another individual of another racial background simply because they are in competition or conflict. These prejudice exist only in relation to their own self interest and not to wider cause (Quillian, 587).

In group level, Blumer writes that racial prejudice performed by the dominant group is the result of collective threat. Prejudice rises as groups develop sense in the instability of their social position relative to one another. Feelings might materialize as prejudice is being thrown around such as a feeling of superiority and how the dominant group sees the minority as inferior to them (qtd in Quillian, 588).

Prejudice induces us to behave negatively toward certain people because of a group to which they belong. It could be determined that when prejudice reaches the intensity of hatred, it becomes bigotry. Various definitions comes out of different dictionaries regarding prejudice and some sees it as the process of forming opinions without looking at relevant facts, yet people with prejudices may examine relevant facts and simply interpret them in different nature to confirm their prejudices (Bridges, 24). Some people misuse the term prejudice by saying they are prejudiced for something, but a prejudice is always negative in nature. Quoted in Harry Bridge's 'Understanding Prejudice and Its Causes', Levin and Levin identified four primary causes which could cause prejudice and sustains it. These are personal frustration, uncertainty about a person based on lack of knowledge or experience with the group to which they belong, threat to one's self-esteem, and competition among individuals in our society to achieve their goals in relation to status, wealth, and power (Bridges, 32).

It is believed that discrimination based on skin colour is another form of prejudice in which people are being given different treatment due to the assumption that others have associated with their skin color in socio-economic

way (Dayal, 250). With how rampant the prejudice is, a new term is proposed by Alice Walker for such action to be named as Colorism. In an experiment conducted in regards to prejudice and attitude dissimilarity, highly prejudiced subjects would assume themselves to be distant attitude wise compared to a stranger of different race that they meet compared to the one of the same race where they see that the stranger of the same race could be more relatable to begin with (Byrne & Wong, 253).

According to Maddox and Gray with their experimental research, it is evident that both Caucasians and African-Americans are more likely to assign negative traits such as bad attitude, connected to crime, aggression, laziness and stupidity to dark skinned people rather than light skinned ones (qtd in Dayal 253). Racial prejudice is not inherent in the nature of humanity, instead emerges and gathers strength only in certain social conditions. Prejudice could be based on because one is based on different group, residency, tribes, or religious background. Prejudice may also present between those of different skin colors such as; yellow, brown, black, and white (Biby, 41). The truth is that it is normal to see infants of different racial background play along and mingle with each other as they would only develop the thought of prejudice as they grow up and learn it either from their parents or social environments.

Racial prejudice remains a major problem in the United States society and higher institutions where it is entrenched and pervasive. The idea of racial prejudice is seen as the tendency to make an automatic connection between race and certain moral or behavioral traits. This holds true in today's standards where

people see that a young Afro-American are more likely to succeed in sport than a young Asian, and how we see that some racial groups possess stronger work ethic than others. More prejudiced people are unlikely to seek opportunities for contact with outgroup members and, indeed, may actively avoid them (Binder et al, 844). One of the most apparent prejudice materialize when an employee from a minority group manage to secure a higher position and people would be quick to judge and questions their qualifications, performance, competence and credibility where they would come under strong scrutiny in continuous period of time (Osa, 8).

The situations in the United States shows society hanging on a peculiar standing where Americans reliably shift blames and expect among those who are suffering to general responsibilities which justifies prejudice and discrimination. People have been victimized in some way because of social organization, history, and structural inequality. Victim blaming is a form of scapegoating and it can serve as the intensification and generalization of attribution of responsibility for a person's, groups, or society's ills, which can in turn justify the release of prejudice (Crandall & Eshleman, 428). Beliefs, values, and religion is widespread in the United States and they do promote the suppression of prejudice, but they can also promote the release of prejudice as justifications. These justification beliefs could be in a form or religious ethics, individual responsibility, social dominance, and political orientation (Crandall & Eshleman, 429).

B.2.2. Racial Stereotype

The term “stereotype” that is widely accepted by the masses was introduced by Lippmann back in 1922 and he explains that stereotype is when one refer to the typical picture that comes to mind when thinking about a particular social or racial group. Socially, people's behavior may unconsciously evoke stereotype confirming reactions, as what people call as self-fulfilling prophecies. In addition, language and how people bring themselves in the way of communicating with each other plays an important role in the transmission of stereotype (Dovidio et al, 8). According to a recent study conducted by Hoffman & Hurst, stereotypes can not only promote discrimination by systematically influencing perceptions, interpretations, and judgements, but they also arise from and are reinforced by discrimination, justifying disparities between groups. In particular, people infer the characteristics of groups based on the social roles they occupy (qtd in Dovidio et al, 7).

Stereotypes not only contain the expected traits of a typical group members but it also include information about other qualities such as social roles, the degree to which members of the group share specific qualities, and influence emotional reactions to group members (Dovidio et al, 7). Not only negative, stereotype may include some positive expectations and idea towards certain group of people. Although, in modern time racial stereotype, instead of fading has become something that is more subtle, complex, and perhaps less overtly negative. As recent studies shows that the intergroup bias between different groups is more often pro-ingroup where they glorify their own racial group rather

than anti-outgroup where they clearly despise the other side (Gaertner & McLaughlin, 29).

It is true that with the presence of stereotypes, it helps simplify the process of social perception and not all of them are negative. However recent studies show that there is a significantly detrimental cost to the holders of unfavorable stereotypes, mainly being Afro-American. In daily lives, the stigmatized group that people have widely stereotype about might have a pressure that is created by the fear of confirming to negative stereotype. This lead to strange thought to get into their mind, decreasing performance and leading to disidentification with their focus. Consequently even confirms the very stereotype that one attempted to avoid(Wheeler et al, 174). A research sees that one of Afro-American race member made salient, the stereotypes come in such a way that it decrease its overall performance which the researchers see as stereotype threat mechanism or self-fulfilling prophecy (Wheeler et al, 179).

The effect of negative stereotype is extensive and not only felt by one group of people. This is because stereotype traps us in a frame that filters information that is not consistent with our assumption. Negative stereotype can be straightforward dangerous as it may stigmatized millions of people by simple phrase. With examples such as: some Afro-American commit a crime so Afro-American are criminals, and being criminal is the typical trait of the Afro-American culture; some Muslims are terrorists so Muslims are terrorists, and being terrorist is a typical Islamic way; I met some arrogant Canadians so Canadians are arrogant, and being arrogant is a typical Canadian value,

etc(Phuong Mai, 4).Public opinion on crime is very prominent and it matters. Public attitudes and outcries are consequential and it may drives the authority's reactive measures regarding said crime once it receives media coverage. With the existing public stereotypical perceptions of race and crime, violent crimes committed by Afro-Americans would compromise substantial portion of coverage of news stories centrally featuring those of Afro-American descent. Different from Caucasian criminal, they are more likely to remain unnamed, be seen in handcuffs and given more communicative freedom (Hurwitz & Peffley, 376).

Racial stereotypes also plays role in residential and housings field as it is evident that across all socioeconomic spectrum, Afro-American remain more segregated more often than not in their own residential isolation across the United States. Such segregation may happen due to the idea that comes to people's mind that when one have an Afro-American neighbor, there would be more crime in the neighbourhood. It is known that Afro-American are more likely to have violent and criminal dispositions compared to somebody of other racial background and thus the stereotype writes itself (Quillian & Pager, 721). It might not help that there is a possibility that the law enforcer is plagued by the racial stereotypical and prejudice thoughts too. Whereas it can be traced that Afro-American adolescents are more likely to be arrested than Caucasian for convicted crimes, there is evidence of racial bias because an Afro-American offender often receive harsher sentence. Although racial stereotyping by the law enforcer could be done unconsciously in nature, that is they are unintentional because they are not planned response; involuntary, because they occur automatically in the presence

of an environmental cue, it is learnt that what started as unconscious racial stereotype once activated may then influence conscious processes (Graham & Lowery, 486).



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

A. Types of Research

The type of research in this study is qualitative type. In this study, descriptive qualitative methods are used because the data collected are sentences and utterances, not numbers. As the number of qualitative research related to human protection and the environment is increasing, the researcher seen it as a good opportunity to utilise such research method in this particular study. This study used explicit methods for identifying and analysing the study based on research question and they can combine findings from various studies to support the collected data.

B. Data Organizing

In this study, there are two points of data organizing, those are;

B.1. Data Collecting Method

In this process, there are five steps in collecting and analysing the data.

The steps as follows;

B.1.1. Watching the Movie

The object of the study is *Crash* movie by Paul Haggis, so the first basic analysis of collecting data is watching the movie. The researcher has watched the movie multiple times to get deep

understanding of the whole storyline. This step also aims for getting the initial elements that will be needed for more analysis down the line.

B.1.2. Reading the Movie Script

The second step is reading the movie script. The researcher has read the movie script thoughtfully after watching the *Crash* movie for numerous times. The aim of this step is to get the deeper understanding of each dialogue and interactions.

B.1.3. Identifying the Data

The third step of data collecting method is identifying the data. After watching the movie for several times to find parts of the movie to be analysed, then reading the movie script and taking notes of important points by underlining the movie script. The data were identified in form of dialogues and movie script.

B.1.4. Classifying the Data

The fourth step is classifying the data. Classifying the data means identifying data based on question to make it easier in answering the problem(s) presented in the study. After the data is identified, then the data are classified into groups in a form of table called appendices. The appendices consist of all the identified aspects, such as data from the movie, form of data, problem formulation, comments and references.

B.1.5. Reducing the Data

The last step is reducing the data. The data is reduced via process of choosing the most important data from the movie that have been collected to answer the problem of this study.

B.2. Types of the Data

The data of this study are divided into two. There are primary data as the main source and secondary data as the supporting for the main source. The explanation of the data as follows;

1. Primary Data

The primary data as the main source are taken from the movie entitled *Crash* by Paul Haggis as the object of the study. The movie provides data in form of dialogues and monologues which will be taken as the evidences. This includes the movie and the movie script.

2. Secondary Data

The secondary data is another data of this study which become the supporting data for primary data. These were taken from various sources such as journals, online articles, books, and thesis that are related to the theory of this study.

C. Analysing the Data

Analysis is needed in this research as a process in order to cope between the object of the study and the result of analysis in purpose to finding the answer of

the problem formulation in this study. The analysis is reported in Chapter IV:
Finding and Discussion.



CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

A. Racial Discrimination Experienced by the Characters in *Crash* Movie

This sub-chapter focuses on the analysis to answer the first problem formulation, which is the depiction of racial discrimination experienced by various characters in Paul Haggis's *Crash* movie. The intention of this study is to find the depiction of racism experienced by the characters in the movie.

Lee and Boykin argue that "Racism can start from small things the likes of denied a loan, turned down from a job, or given unequal opportunity in public settings solely because of one's background or identity." (Lee et al, 3). It means that racial discrimination that people experience may arise from the smallest thing and it boils down to the perpetrator or the racist person to not provide equal opportunity or treatment towards the victim simply because of their racial background. In this case the main characters of Paul Haggis's *Crash* would all take part in this study as objects. The first two characters that will discuss are Anthony and Peter, both African-American teenagers. The two plans to have their dinner in a restaurant only to receive an unequal treatment while being there. The teenagers discuss their encounter in the following dialogue:

[07:50 - 08:04]

Anthony : "You see any white people in there waiting an hour and thirty two minutes for a plate of spaghetti? Huh? And how many cups of coffee did we get?"

Peter : “You don't drink coffee and I didn't want any.”

Anthony : “That woman poured cup after cup to every white person around us. Did she even ask you if you wanted any?”

The dialogue above shows that Anthony and Peter receive lousy and unacceptable service as they were having meal at the restaurant. It can be identified as they are not getting the same treatment as Caucasian customers with the long wait, over an hour for their meal without being offered cup of coffee just like how the Caucasian customers receive theirs cements a proof that racism definitely takes parts in their run-in. Later on Anthony asserts that the waitress did not tend to them as much because they are of African-American descent and is less likely to give tips to the waitress. Lee and Boykin added that “it is believed that the existence of racism could be indicated how its manifestations would effects the beliefs, attitudes, and feelings of those believing it.” (Lee et al, 13). It talks on how the thought of the two African-American teenagers are less likely to give tips to the waitress, they decided not to help them due to the deep rooted negative stigma that the African-American community possess.

Peter and Anthony are not the only African-American who suffers from racism. While the two of them comes from civilian background, there is Joe Dixon an African-American who is part of the law enforcer and is in fact a supervisor but still fears for racism itself when confronted by a Caucasian officer regarding a recent incident.

[33:26 - 34:48]

Hansen : “I don't want to cause any trouble, Lieutenant; I just want a new partner.”

Dixon : “I understand; your partner is a racist prick, but you don't want to stir up any bad feelings with him.”

Hansen : “He’s been in the force for a long time.”

Dixon : “Seventeen years.”

Hansen : “and I still have to work here sir.”

Dixon : “So now you don’t mind there is a racist prick on the force you just don’t want him in your car.”

Hansen : “you need me to go on the record about this, sir, I will.”

Dixon : “That'd be great, write a full report. Because I am anxious to understand how such an obvious bigot could have gone undetected in this department for seventeen years, eleven of which he was personally supervised by me. of course that doesn't speak highly of my managerial skills, but that's not your concern. Can't wait to read it.”

Hansen : “Then I should think of a better one and get back to you.”

Dixon : “I understand your need for privacy. Just like you probably understand how hard is a black man has to

work to get to, say, where I am, in a racist fucking organization like the LAPD, and how easily that can all be taken away.”

Hansen, a young Caucasian man who is a new officer in the LAPD intends to file a complaint to his supervisor Dixon an African-American man regarding a partner of his after Hansen witness his partner whose name was not mentioned in the dialogue above but is actually named Ryan, being racist to people that they stopped on the road. Meanwhile Dixon feels powerless to stop anything despite being a supervisor as he might be under scrutiny if he was to proceed with Hansen’s report.

According to Bell, “whites of widely varying socio-economic status employ white supremacy as a catalyst to negotiate policy differences, often through compromises that sacrifice the rights of blacks” (Bell, 768). It explains how the African-American representatives lose their waver with the sheer amount of Caucasian control in the community, institute or department where they belong and thus they fear of the possibility of losing their status or ranks at the slightest mistake and wrong step of decisions that they make. In the case of Dixon, he is sure that he could not win due to the pressure all around him and worries that he loses his job if he is to help Hansen with his report.

Another incident with the same matter at hand is displayed when Ryan, a Caucasian police officer of LAPD encounters Shaniqua, an African-American essential medical worker at her office.

[47:33 - 48:14]

Shaniqua : “If you are unhappy, your father is welcome to see a doctor outside the network.”

Ryan : “And if this new doctor says it isn’t an infection, says it’s his prostate and it needs to be operated on, is that covered?”

Shaniqua : “No, not unless Dr. Robinson--”

Ryan : “So what good would that do?”

Shaniqua : “I’m sorry but there is nothing I can do.”

Ryan : “Do you know what I can’t do? I can’t look at you without thinking of the five or six better qualified white men who didn’t get your job.”

Shaniqua : “Time for you to be going.”

Ryan decides to meet Shaniqua at her office to discuss the medical needs of Ryan’s father. After a brief argument between the two, Ryan cannot help to insult Shaniqua by bringing up how she does not fit her job and that some other Caucasian men would be a better replacement for her simply because she does not approve his request.

Shaniqua is forced to call the security to escort Ryan out of her office as she fears for her safety while Ryan turning more aggressive. “Minority members, in contrast, are likely to be most concerned with being discriminated against by majority members. Any perceived discrimination can be interpreted as an

affirmation of their lower status” (Binder et al, 845).Shaniqua prefers to rush Ryan out of her office as she feels very concerned of her safety and all the perceived racism that is blasted towards her before and after Ryan comes to her office.

Despite the amount of people of African-American descent being the number one victim on the discussions so far, the group is not invincible as they would display their own fair share of undesired action in the form of racism.

[1:49:40 - 1:50:00]

A CAR brakes hard in the extreme foreground and is immediately REAR ENDED.

THE DRIVER of the first car climbs out. It's Shaniqua.

Shaniqua : “What in the hell is wrong with you people?”

The two HISPANIC OCCUPANTS of the second car step out and argue with her in Spanish

Shaniqua : “Don't talk to me unless you can speak American.”

A CHINESE STORE OWNER decides to set her straight.

Shaniqua : “You mind your own business and--” (to shop owner)

Shaniqua : “You show me your insurance.” (to Hispanic Driver)

Shaniqua : “Don't pretend you don't know what I'm talking about: the word starts with the letters I-N-S, which is who I'm gonna call if you don't hand it over pronto.”

Shaniqua an African-American nurse is having a car accident and get really quick on calling out the person who rear ended her and mocking them for not being able to speak English as they look Hispanic.

Furthermore, according to Dayal, “racism can be defined as treating people differently, negatively or adversely without having a good reason. It is the unjust or prejudicial treatment of different categories of people or things especially on grounds of race” (Dayal, 249). It adds up as Shaniqua goes forward to mention the INS which stands for Immigration and Naturalization Service. The INS is a department of the United States government dealing with all kinds of immigration matter and affairs. By mentioning the INS, Shaniqua is quick on pointing out that because they are Hispanic, they might as well be an illegal immigrant.

Supplementary to Shaniqua’s action, another female African-American character in the movie namely Christine conjointly demonstrates their use of racial remarks too, albeit being way harsher.

[19:56 - 20:09]

Ryan takes her wrist and twists her into the car face first, kicking her feet out from under her.

Christine : “Ow! You fucking pig!”

Cameroon : “Christine, stop talking.”

Ryan : “That’s quite a mouth you have, of course you know that.”

Christine : “Fuck you. That's why you're doing this, isn't it? You thought you saw a white woman blowing a black man and that just drove your little cracker ass crazy!”

While being searched by Ryan a white police officer after they were being chased, Christine an African-American woman along with her husband is being searched for no exact reasoning beforehand. This time around Christine throws racial slur which is “cracker” towards Ryan because of her discomfort after being insulted by Ryan for performing felatio for her husband. The term cracker is a racial remark aimed towards people of Caucasian descent and it is believed that it originated at a time where white slave foremen of southern USA owns slaves and often observe the practice of cracking the whip to punish their slaves (Philip, 61).

Although, Cepollaro argues that “slurs as opposed to other expressive specifically fulfill is to dehumanize the targets” (Cepollaro, 53). Christine’s decision to hurl the insult was not for no reason at all as she felt like she was being humiliated by Ryan as the following dialogue shows.

[20:18 - 20:42]

Ryan runs his hands up the sides of her torso

Ryan : “Do you have any guns or knives on you, anything I'm going to get stuck with?”

Christine : “I'm wearing a cocktail dress, what do you think?”

Ryan : “You'd be surprised the places I've found weapons.”

He slides his hands over the sides of her breasts. Hansen pretends not to see, as he quickly frisks Cameron. Christine turns her head so she catches her husband's eyes.

Hansen : “Clean.”

But Ryan is nowhere near finished.

Ryan : “So, what do you think we should do about this, Mr. Thayer?”

Ryan squats and runs his hands down to her ankles

Ryan : “My partner and I just witnessed your wife performing fellation on you while you were operating a motor vehicle. That's a reckless endangerment.”

His hands reach up her thighs into her dress and linger there. Christine looks away from her husband, her rage replaced by humiliation.

Ryan a white police officer proceeds to search and frisk Christine an African American while his partner Hansen is searching Christine's husband. While frisking Christine, officer Ryan decides to grope and sexually assaults her as it was his real intention instead of actually trying to investigate a real crime. McNair and Neville explains that “African American women have been described as at higher risk of being raped than White women particularly for African American

women, race and class are embedded in their lives and provide the framework for their social experiences” (McNair & Nevile, 108).

B. Racial Prejudice Experienced by the Characters in *Crash* Movie

This sub-chapter focuses on the analysis to answer the second problem formulation that is the racial prejudice experienced by the main characters as portrayed in *Crash* movie. This study finds that various characters involved in the collections of scenes of the movie are affected by racial prejudice regardless of their racial background. The evidence shows almost in the whole story of the *Crash* movie.

In *Crash* movie by Paul Haggis, display of racial prejudice is a common recurring theme that afflicts the main characters. “Prejudice is a strong feeling, almost consistently negative and it always refers to a group of people” (Bridges, 24). As Bridges explained, prejudice predisposes us to behave negatively toward certain people because of a group which they belong and if it grows into certain level of magnitude, it could push somebody to act in a hatred fuelled rampage as shown in the dialogue below.

[1:28:30 - 1:31:26]

Peter : “Really appreciate this.”

Hansen : “No problem.”

Being a cop, Hansen can't help checking Peter out.

Hansen : “Don't usually stop.”

Peter : “Don't usually hitch.”

Hansen : “How long have you been out there?”

Peter : “Hour maybe.”

Hansen : “Where are you heading?”

Peter : “Anywhere the other side of the hill.”

Hansen : “I’m going to El Segundo.”

Peter : “El Segundo is cool.”

Hansen : “You been there?”

Peter : “Fuck no. . . Good music.”

Hansen gives him a look. He doesn’t believe that either.

Peter : “No, really. I’m starting to understand it. Wrote a country song myself just yesterday.”

Hansen : “I’ll bet you did.”

Peter : “My hand to God.”

We notice Hansen is tapping his left leg double time to the music, a little too fast. The adrenaline is still pumping through him, and he’s fighting it.

Peter : “That’s some rhythm you got working.”

Hansen gives him a sideways glance; pays a little more attention to his clothing now, particularly the small tear in his baggy coat.

Hansen : “So, what’s happening in the Valley tonight?”

Hansen notices the mud coating Peter’s sneakers.

Peter : “Ice skating.”

Hansen : “Ice skating?”

Peter : “Love to skate. Always wanted to be a goalie.”

Hansen forces a chuckle.

Peter : “You think that’s funny?”

Hansen : “I think you’re having fun.”

Peter : “Whatever.”

Peter lets it go, but it still digs at him. Then he notices the plastic statue of St. Christopher on the dash. And he starts to laugh.

Hansen : “Something else funny?”

Peter : “Oh yeah.” *Still laughing*

Hansen : “So, what’s that?”

Peter : “Just people, man.”

Hansen : “People like me?”

Peter : “No, man, I’m not laughing at you.”

Hansen : “Yeah, I can see that. How about you laugh outside?”

Peter : “Why you getting all bent outta shape?”

Hansen : “I’m not getting bent, just pulling over.”

Peter : “Come on man, keep driving, I said I’m not laughing at you.”

Hansen : “And I’m not telling you to get out of my car.”

Peter : “Why you being a jerk? Drive the car.”

Hansen : “I gotta better idea, Why don’t you get out right now.”

Peter : “Fine. You want me to show you? I’ll show you.”

Peter thrust his hand deep into his jacket pocket. Hansen reacts instinctively:

Hansen : “Take your hand out of your pocket!”

Peter : “Fuck you.”

Hansen : “Put your hands where I can see them!”

Peter : “Who the fuck do you think you are?”

Hansen : “Hands in plain sight!”

Peter : “You wanna see what’s in my hand?! I’ll show you what’s in my fucking hand.”

Peter jerks his hand up out of his pocket and Hansen swings his revolver out with his left hand and fires. . . . hitting Peter dead in the chest. Peter looks down at the hole in his chest, looks at his right hand, opens it to reveal the plastic statuette.

The scene plays out with Hansen an off duty police officer of Caucasian descent who meets Peter, an African-American teenager intending to hitch-hike. Hansen grows more cautious and distrustful towards his guest as their small talk heads south. The off duty police officer feels anxious as his experience in the police force has taught him a lot in common occurrences, specially with how nonsensical Peter’s answers are. Later on they argues and out of the arguments, Peter pulled a move that he should never had shown in front of a police officer except the fact that Peter does not know that Hansen is a police officer. Hansen feels threatened when Peter put his hand in his pocket and Hansen quickly shoots him. An act

which can easily be brushed off as self-defence yet Hansen does not even see any presence of weapons and just thinking that this person who is from other racial group might be onto something bad. Hansen's impulse to act in such a way is in accordance to the journal released by Council on Crime and Justice where African-American citizens of the United States commits up to 60% of the crime compared to the Caucasian's 30% despite of African-American being a minority (Mauer&Huling, 20). One could also argue that there is a lot at stake in contempt of the uncertainty of the situations that Hansen should not rush his actions.

Although researchers explains that "in the condition of situational ambiguity, when a discriminatory or racist behaviour might be mistaken for a neutral or socially acceptable action, it could be masquerade as a more benignly motivated act, when in actuality it is their way to release prejudice" (Crandall &Eshleman, 428). In a circumstance that appears with the same fashion revolving around situational ambiguity to mask one's prejudice is also shown on the scene below.

[08:38 - 09:30]

RICK & JEAN CABOT, white, early 40s, step out of the Blockbuster and head for their car.

Jean pulls her jacket closed as they walk.

Rick : "You're seriously jealous of Karen??"

Jean : "Hardly. I'd just like to see you get through a meal without calling her, or someone else at your office."

Rick : “See this? Off. No more calls tonight.”*Re: cell phone.*

Jean notices Anthony and Peter and takes Rick's arm.

Jean : “Ten bucks says she calls on the car phone.”

BACK WITH ANTHONY AND PETER

Anthony : “You see what that woman just did?”

Peter : “She’s cold, man.”

Anthony : “She got colder as soon as she saw us.”

Peter : “Here it comes.”

Anthony : “Look around! You couldn't find a whiter, safer or better lit part of this city. But this white woman sees two black guys, who look like UCLA students, strolling down the sidewalk and her reaction is blind fear. I mean, look at us! Are we dressed like gangbangers? Do we look threatening? No. Fact, if anybody should be scared, it's us: the only two black faces surrounded by a sea of over-caffeinated white people, patrolled by the trigger-happy LAPD. So, why aren't we scared?”

Jean, a Caucasian female quickly rushed to her husband’s arm as soon as she sees the two African-American teen as she gets scared of them. Another precedent of situational ambiguity that camouflage the intents of prejudice, Jean is seen

wearing coat in the scene yet she acts like she feels cold that she needs to reach for Rick's arms as soon as she sees the two teenagers fearing that they might commit a horrible crime. Upon realizing this, it sends Anthony, one of the African-American teen into a rant.

In another dialogue involving an African-American and Caucasian having conflict of prejudice sets with Shaniqua and Ryan can be seen below.

[15:37 - 16:10]

OFFICER RYAN on the pay phone He's white, in uniform, and angry.

Shaniqua : "I told you the clinic is only open after hours for emergencies--"

Ryan : "--this is an emergency--"

SHANIQUA, a very tired black administrator is on the other end of the line.

Shaniqua : "--Mr. Ryan, your father has been to the clinic three times in the last month. He's being treated for urinary tract infection that is by no means an emergency. If you have any more questions about your HMO plan, you can make an appointment to come in from ten to four, Monday through Friday."

Ryan : "What does my father do about sleeping tonight?"

Shaniqua : "I don't know. I'm not a doctor."

Ryan : "I want to speak to your supervisor."

Shaniqua : "I am my supervisor."

Ryan : “What’s your name?”
 Shaniqua : “Shaniqua Johnson.”
 Ryan : “Big fucking surprise that is.”

Ryan hears the click and hangs up.

Ryan called Shaniqua to get further information regarding his father who is under treatment. Not happy with the conditions and answers that is given by Shaniqua, Ryan asks her name. Upon knowing that her name is Shaniqua, a common name in the African American community, Ryan hinted that he knows that an African American like Shaniqua would not do a good job. “More prejudiced people are unlikely to seek opportunities for contact with outgroup members and, indeed, may actively avoid them” (Binder et al, 844). This prompted Shaniqua to end the call before he could say anything worse to her.

It is explained by Bell that a major function of racism is to facilitate the exploitation of black labour while denying access to benefits and opportunities towards them and blaming all manifestations of faults and problems against them too (767).

C. Racial Stereotype Experienced by the Characters in *Crash* Movie

This sub-chapter focuses on the analysis to answer the third problem formulation which is racial stereotype experienced by characters. Racial stereotype is also presents in Paul Haggis’s *Crash*.

Stereotype is when one refer to the typical picture that comes to mind when thinking about a particular social or racial group where the assumption is treated as fact by those with the thoughts. Notwithstanding that stereotype does not only comes in negatively and some are positive, the ones being showcased in this movie seems to highlight the negative ones the most. One of the case is an interaction between Dirk who is a gun store owner and Farhad and Dorri, a middle eastern man and his daughter shown in the dialogue below.

[06:03 - 06:31]

Dirk : “You get one free box ofammunition, what kind you want?”

Farhad : “What did he say ‘ammunition’?”*In Farsi*

Dorri : “He asked what kind of bullets you want.”*In Farsi*

Farhad : “The kind that fit in the gun!”*In Farsi*

Dorri : “There’s more than one type.”*In Farsi*

Farhad : “How do I know? I don’t know anything about bullets.”*In Farsi*

Dorri : “Which is a really good reason not to be buying a gun.”*In Farsi*

Farhad : “You don’t use that tone of voice with me.”*In Farsi*

Dirk : “Yo, Osama, plan the Jihad on your own time; what do you want?”

Farhad : “What is he saying about Jihad?”*In Farsi*

- Farhad : “Are you making insult at me?”
- Dirk : “Am I making insults at you?? That's the closest you get to English?”
- Farhad : “I am American citizen!”

Dirk sees that Farhad is using a middle-eastern language to communicate with her daughter and is quick to call out on him to be a potential jihadist simply because of using a middle-eastern language. Sentiments and attitudes have changed negatively towards Arab, Americans, Muslims, and South Asians since the September 11 (Semaan, 27). Semaan believes that the attack seems to reinforces their racism and treat it as a rhetorical justification for their attitude which fits well with this dialogue as later on, Dirk would bring up the infamous WTC September 11 tragedy to back up argument.

Negative stereotypes traps us with an assumption that easily stigmatized millions of people with a simple phrase with the example being; some muslims are terrorists so muslims are terrorists (Phuong Mai, 5). Another middle-eastern man also becomes a victim on stereotyping in this movie in more akin way to Phuong Mai’s explanations on the dialogue below.

[14:48 - 15:18]

- Rick : “Check the LA Weekly tomorrow; I'll be the one with the gun in my hand. If we can't duck this thing we have to neutralize it. You know what I need? I need a black man I can pin a medal on. I need a

picture of me pinning a medal on a fucking black man. What about that fire fighter who saved those campers in--”

Bruce : “He's Iraqi.”

Rick : “He's Iraqi? He looked black.”

Bruce : “Iraqi, Saddam Khahum.”

Rick : “Saddam? You want me to pin a medal on an Iraqi named Saddam? Are you out of your fucking mind?”

Rick a Caucasian politician is in need of support from the African-American community, upon proposing a person to be their new partner and he is revealed to be an Iraqi named Saddam by his advisor Bruce, Rick quickly declines because he has the name of a prominently stigmatized Arabic name even though the man himself is a hardworking fire fighter that has saved life's.

Continuing the discussion on Stereotype, Dovidio explains that Stereotypes impose a substantial amount of information about people beyond their immediately apparent surface qualities and generate expectations about group members' anticipated behaviour in new situations (Dovidio, 7). Returning to our African-American main characters, Cameron caught up in a situation where his executive producer sees the movie that Cameron is producing does not adhere to the usual stereotype and is complaining.

[45:19 - 46:27]

Fred : “Hold on-hold on! Cam, you got a second?”

Cameron : “Yeah, Fred?”

Fred : “I think we need another take, buddy.”

Cameron : “I don't know, Fred, that last one was pretty terrific.”*Restraining himself*

Fred : “This is gonna sound strange, but. . . is Jamal seeing a speech coach or something?”

Cameron : “What do you mean?”

Fred : “Have you noticed--this is weird for a white guy to say--but have you noticed that he's talking a lot less black lately?”

Cameron : “I'm afraid I haven't noticed”

Fred : “Really? This last scene, he was supposed to say, "Don't be talkin' 'bout dat." And he changed it to "Don't talk to me about that."”

Cameron : “And you think, because of that, people won't recognize him to be a black man?”

Fred : “. . . is there a problem here Cam?”

Cameron : “No Problem.”

Fred : “Because all I'm saying is it's not his character. I mean, Eddie is supposed to be the smart one. Not

Jamal, right? I mean, you're the expert here, but to me it rings false.”

Cameron : “Okay Fred.” *Decides to eat it*

Cameron, an African-American film producer is reminded by his higher up Fred who is a Caucasian, he complains that the character in the film is not black enough because of different style of speech was used on the film. Fred prompted Cameron to re-shoot the scene. Even though Cameron tries to question Fred’s decision, ultimately there is nothing that he can do.

The stereotype surrounding African-American not having the sizeable knowledge and is seen as the group whom are less smart is due to a study conducted to calculate the average IQ and it is found that African-American have substantially less IQ in average with 85 compared to other races such as Latino, Caucasian, Asian and Jewish with 89, 103, 106 and 113 respectively (Rushton & Jensen, 236).

As a recurring theme in the movie, racism in all kind of manners is shared by every character regardless of their racial background. It is once again demonstrated by the two African-American teenagers we have mentioned beforehand.

[32:18 - 32:29]

Peter : “Holy Shit, we run over a Chinaman!”

Anthony : “You’re saying there’s a Chinaman under this truck?”

Peter : “What do you not understand? There’s a Chinaman under this truck!”

Anthony bends down, looks right into the bleeding face of the Korean man. Anthony pops up like he's just been shot.

Anthony : “Where the hell did he come from?!”

Peter : “Fuckin’ China! What do you mean where’d he come from?!”

Anthony and Peter two African-American teens hit an Asian man with their stolen car. Knowing that he is an Asian, they are quick on calling him out as a Chinaman even though later on he is revealed to be a Korean. This stereotype comes to be due to the cross-race effect where people tend to perceive others of different races than themselves to all look alike (Feingold, 50). This rings true to Peter and Anthony who assumes the Korean man named Choi to be somebody from China due to them being from the same region of East Asia.

Progressing with the discussion on stereotype, a heated and racially charged exchange is displayed, furthermore reinforcing on Dovidio’s explanation.

[04:05 - 04:21]

Kim Lee : “Stop in middle of street! Mexicans! No know how to drive! She blake too fast!”

Ria : “I 'blake' too fast?? oh, sorry you, you no see my 'blake lights?’”

Kim Lee : “Crazy Mexican! I call immigration on you! Look you do my car!”

As traffic accident occurred between Korean woman Kim Lee and Hispanic woman Ria, both side shares their own racial stereotype remarks towards the others. Where Ria was mocking Kim's broken English and grammar while Kim assumes that Ria who looks Hispanic are Mexican and automatically an illegal immigrant. The notion that all Mexican are illegal immigrants is due to the sheer amount of unauthorised immigrant population coming from Mexico into the US (Budiman, 3).

The same impression happens not only once where Ria, who is not even from Mexico is quickly assumed to be somebody from Mexico. The dialogue can be seen below.

[38:51 - 39:50]

Graham : "Ma? I gotta go, I'm with a white woman."

This gets Ria's attention. She gets up searches for her clothes.

Graham : "Ma, I'll call you tomorrow. Bye."

Graham hangs up

Graham : "Sorry. Where were we?"

Ria : "I was white and you were going to shower."

Graham : "Oh, come on. I woulda said Mexican but it wouldn't have pissed her off as much."

Ria : "My father is from Puerto Rico, my mother is from El Salvador, neither one is Mexico."

Graham an African-American detective talks with his partner from the police force, Ria a Hispanic. Graham said that Ria was white to her mum on the phone and later calls her Mexican even though she is not Mexican at all.

Another stereotyping falling into one of the Hispanic character in Paul Haggis's *Crash* movie is laid out before the audience at the scene where a Caucasian family hires a Hispanic locksmith.

[12:02 - 13:20]

Jean's feet descend the stairs to the expansive kitchen, where DANIEL, the Hispanic locksmith, re-keys the door. He's twentysish, close-cropped hair, baggy pants, tattoos Jean : "How much longer are you going to be?"

Daniel : "This is the last door."

Jean : "Thanks."

She exits, walking through the butler's pantry into the dining room, where several staff members work. She turns into the living room, where Rick and two aides work up strategy.

Jean : "I want the locks changed again in the morning."

Rick : "Jean."

Jean : "And you could mention that we'd appreciate it if next time they didn't send a gang member."

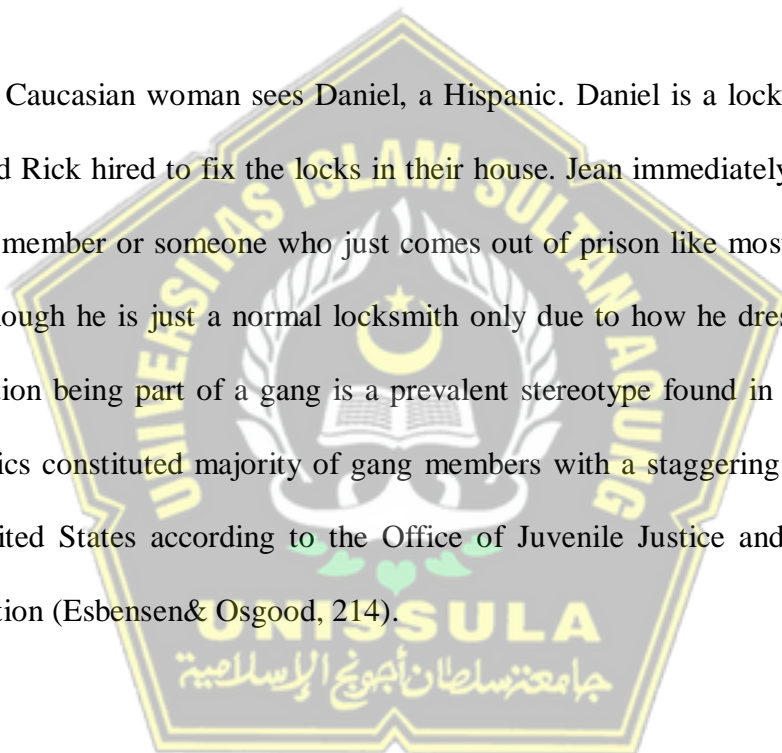
Rick : "You're talking about that kid in there?"

Jean : “Shaved head, pants down around his ass, prison tattoos?”

Rick : “Oh for Christ sakes, those aren't prison tattoos!”

Jean : “Right and he isn't going to sell our key to one of his gang-banger friends the moment he's out the door.”

Jean, a Caucasian woman sees Daniel, a Hispanic. Daniel is a locksmith that her husband Rick hired to fix the locks in their house. Jean immediately takes him as a gang member or someone who just comes out of prison like most Hispanic are even though he is just a normal locksmith only due to how he dresses. Hispanic population being part of a gang is a prevalent stereotype found in the society as Hispanics constituted majority of gang members with a staggering 44 percent in the United States according to the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (Esbensen& Osgood, 214).



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusion

After analyzing and interpreting *Crash* movie critically, with the thorough analysis, findings and the discussions, we are able to bring forth conclusions in consistent with the two objectives of studies that has previously been determined.

The characters of this Paul Haggis' movie alternately become object of racially discharge ridicules and slurs, certain level of segregation, prejudice and stereotypes regardless of the characters' racial background. The movie was able to capture the essence of how racism and racial discrimination may arise from the smallest of things; from a small unfairness in a restaurant, to a traffic accident. Although there is an apparent social pressure from the Caucasian dominated societies, these mistreatments are done not only by the Caucasian community, but everyone else of different racial background contributes to the on-going racism that continuously persists. So, not only that they are dealing with racism on regular basis, they are also performing it one way or another.

Moreover, the noticeable stigma of prejudice against particular race of minorities in the United States such as: African-American, Middle-eastern, Asian, and Hispanic, are visible in this movie. With the example of a young African-American Peter who were shot dead by a cop because he was holding a small statuette in his pocket while the cop thought that he was holding a gun.

The negativity also extends to racial stereotype. While stereotypes are not always painting people in bad light, the ones depicted in this movie are negatives. It is shown how a firefighter was not given a medal because he was of Iraqi descent with the name of Osama. The politician simply does not want to give recognition to somebody deserving because of them having the name of an infamous terrorist.

B. Suggestions

Based on the conclusion above, this study reveals three suggestions to the readers. First, it is hoped that readers can take the moral value of the story. The readers can learn from the characters of *Crash* on how they deal with racism. It teaches people that they must respect other culture, race, custom, and religion. People should not feel that their culture is superior and favourable than other. Second, it suggests for the next analysis to explore more focused analysis on racial prejudice and stereotype and its impacts of individuals. Beside its impacts on how they receive people of other racial background, there are still many practices of racial prejudice and stereotype which can be analysed from this movie. The third suggestion is another researcher may analyze that specialized and directed towards individual characters of this movie. The likes of: Peter, Hansen, Shaniqua and Ryan have quite an everchanging visions towards their surroundings on how they treat people of other racial background depending on their situation.

REFERENCES

- Bell, Derrick. "White Superiority in America: Its Legal Legacy, Its Economic Costs." *Villanova Law Review*, vol. 33, no. 5, 1988, pp. 767–79.
- Bibby, Cyril. *RACE, PREJUDICE AND EDUCATION*. WILLIAM HEINEMANN LTD, 2013.
- Binder, Jens, et al. "Does Contact Reduce Prejudice or Does Prejudice Reduce Contact? A Longitudinal Test of the Contact Hypothesis Among Majority and Minority Groups in Three European Countries." *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, vol. 96, no. 4, 2009, pp. 843–56, doi:10.1037/a0013470.
- Bridges, Harry. *Understanding Prejudice and Its Causes*. 2006, pp. 24–45.
- Byrne, Donn, and Terry J. Wong. "Racial Prejudice, Interpersonal Attraction, and Assumed Dissimilarity of Attitudes." *Journal of Abnormal and Social Psychology*, vol. 65, no. 4, 1962, pp. 246–53, doi:10.1037/h0047299.
- Cepollaro, Bianca. "Slurs as the Shortcut of Discrimination." *Rivista Di Estetica*, no. 64, 2017, pp. 53–65, doi:10.4000/estetica.2063.
- Crandall, Christian S., and Amy Eshleman. "A Justification-Suppression Model of the Expression and Experience of Prejudice." *Psychological Bulletin*, vol. 129, no. 3, 2003, pp. 414–46, doi:10.1037/0033-2909.129.3.414.
- Dayal, Deen. *Complexion Based Discriminations*. Notion Press, 2018.
- Dennis, Rutledge. *Socialization and Racism-The White Experience*. no. July,

2019.

Dovidio, John F., et al. "Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination: Theoretical and Empirical Overview." *The SAGE Handbook of Prejudice, Stereotyping and Discrimination*, SAGE Publications Ltd, 2010, doi:<http://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781446200919.n1>.

Gaertner, Samuel L., and John P. McLaughlin. "Racial Stereotypes: Associations and Ascriptions of Positive and Negative Characteristics." *Social Psychology Quarterly*, vol. 46, no. 1, 1983, p. 23, doi:10.2307/3033657.

Graham, Sandra, and Brian S. Lowery. "Priming Unconscious Racial Stereotypes about Adolescent Offenders." *Law and Human Behavior*, vol. 28, no. 5, 2004, pp. 483–504, doi:10.1023/B:LAHU.0000046430.65485.1f.

Haggis, Paul. *Crash*. Film script. 2004. 6 Dec, 2019. <https://www.awesomefilm.com/script/Crash.pdf>

Hurwitz, Jon, and Mark Peffley. "Public Perceptions of Race and Crime: The Role of Racial Stereotypes." *American Journal of Political Science*, vol. 41, no. 2, 1997, p. 375, doi:10.2307/2111769.

Kuper, Adam. *The Social Science Encyclopedia*. Routledge, 2008.

Lee, Randy T., et al. "On the Prevalence of Racial Discrimination in the United States." *PLoS ONE*, vol. 14, no. 1, 2019, doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0210698.

McNair, Lily D., and Helen Neville. "African American Women Survivors of Sexual Assault." *Women & Therapy*, vol. 18, no. 3–4, 1996, pp. 107–18,

doi:10.1300/j015v18n03_10.

Perry, Richard J. “‘Race’ and Racism: The Development of Modern Racism in America.” *“Race” and Racism: The Development of Modern Racism in America*, 2007, doi:10.1057/9780230609198.

Phuong Mai, Nguyen. “POTENTIAL PROBLEMS IN CROSS- CULTURAL COMMUNICATIONS: STEREOTYPES, PREJUDICES, AND RACISM.” *Intercultural Communication: An Interdisciplinary Approach: When Neurons, Genes, and Evolution Joined the Discourse*, Amsterdam University Press, 2017, www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt1xhr500.

Powell, Thomas. “The Persistence of Racism in America.” *Journal of American History*, 80th ed., Organization of American Historian, 1993, doi:10.2307/2079722.

Quillian, Lincoln. “Prejudice as a Response to Perceived Group Threat: Population Composition and Anti-Immigrant and Racial Prejudice in Europe.” *American Sociological Review*, vol. 60, no. 4, 1995, p. 586, doi:10.2307/2096296.

Quillian, Lincoln, and Devah Pager. “Black Neighbors, Higher Crime? The Role of Racial Stereotypes in Evaluations of Neighborhood Crime.” *Chicago Journals*, vol. 107, no. 3, 2014, pp. 717–67.

Wheeler, S. Christian, et al. “Think Unto Others: The Self-Destructive Impact of Negative Racial Stereotypes.” *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, vol. 37, no. 2, 2001, pp. 173–80, doi:10.1006/jesp.2000.1448.

Herbst, Philip. *The Color of Words: An Encyclopaedic Dictionary of Ethnic Bias in the United States*. Intercultural Press, 1997.

Gaby, Semaan. *Arab Americans: Stereotypes, Conflict, History, Cultural Identity and Post 9/11*. University of Toledo, 2014.

Philip, Rushton & Arthur, Jensen. *Thirty Years of Research on Race Differences in Cognitive Ability*. Psychology, Public Policy, and Law., 2005.

Gustave A. Feingold. *Influence of Environment on Identification of Persons and Things*. 5 J. Crim. L. & Criminology 39 (1914).

ESBENSEN, F.-A., & OSGOOD, D. W. (1999). *Gang Resistance Education and Training (Great): Results from the National Evaluation*. *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*, 36(2), 194–225.

Mauer, Marc & Huling, Tracey. *Young Black Americans and the Criminal Justice System: Five Years Later. The Sentencing Project*. 1995



