

**REPRESENTATION AND RESISTANCE OF RACIAL
DISCRIMINATION IN *DEAR WHITE PEOPLE* (2014) MOVIE
BY JUSTIN SIMIEN**

FINAL PROJECT

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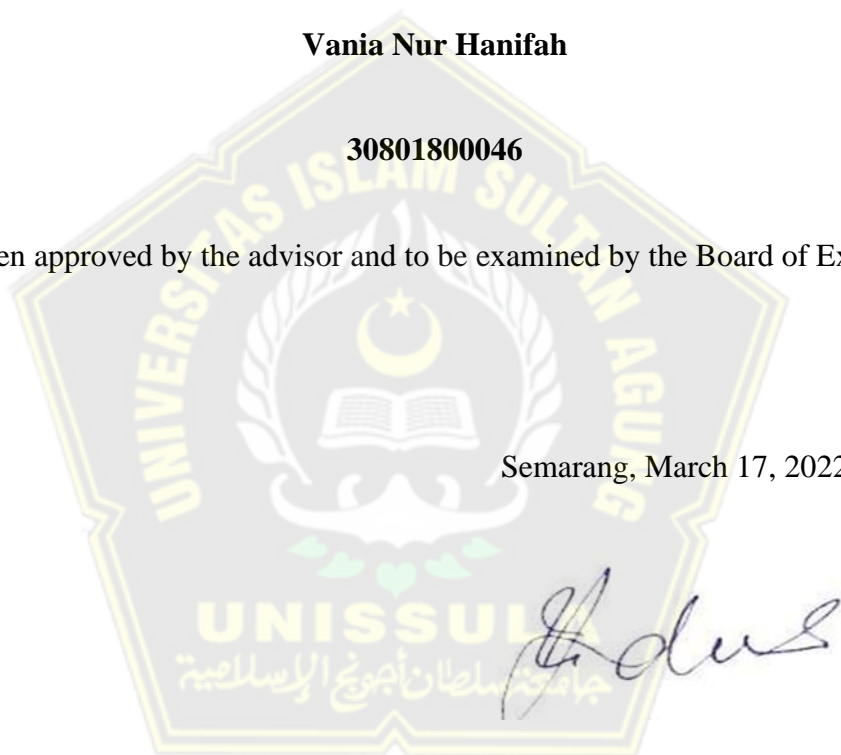
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STATEMENT OF WORK ORIGINALITY

As a result, I really claim that this undergraduate thesis I prepared does not contain the work of others, save those indicated in the quotations and references, as a scientific study should. If this statement is not made in the future, I fully agree to accept an academic consequence in the form of rejection of my thesis and the degree obtained from the paper.



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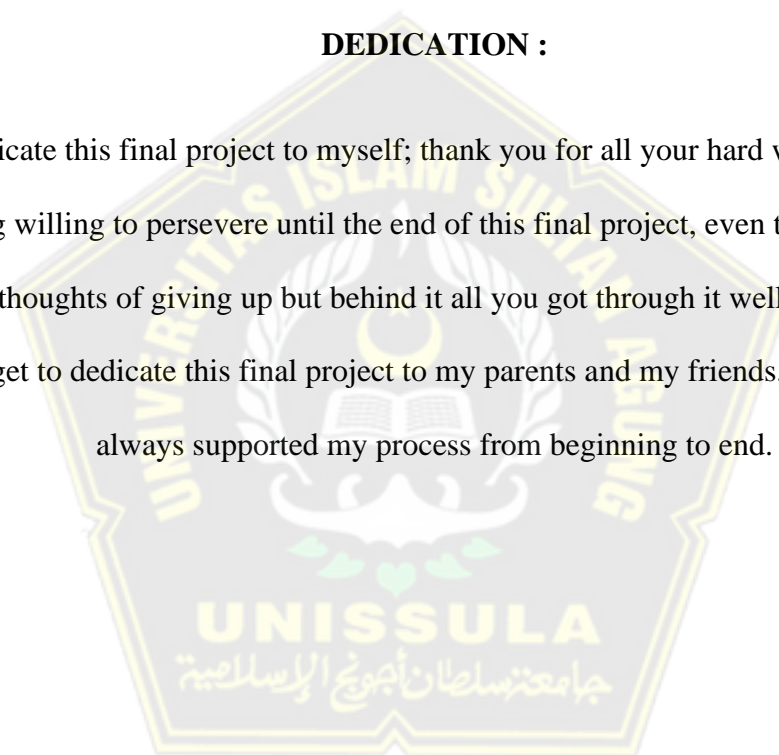
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MOTTO :

“ Success doesn't come from what you do occasionally. It comes from what you do consistently. “

DEDICATION :

I dedicate this final project to myself; thank you for all your hard work and for being willing to persevere until the end of this final project, even though there were thoughts of giving up but behind it all you got through it well. I also don't forget to dedicate this final project to my parents and my friends, who have always supported my process from beginning to end.



ABSTRACT

Hanifah, Vania Nur. 30801800046. Representation of Racial Discrimination in *Dear White People* (2014) Movie by Justin Simien. Final Project of Language and Communication Science. English Literature Program. Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang. Advisor: Idha Nurhamidah, S.S., M.Hum.

Dear White People (2014) movie by Justin Simien is the object of analysis in this study. This study intends to explain how racial discrimination portrayed through Samantha White perspective in the movie, as well as to analyze a resistance toward racial discrimination.

Qualitative descriptive was the method used in this study. There were two types of data, namely primary and secondary data. Primary data were taken from the movie, such as dialogues, narratives, and monologues. While secondary data were taken from journals, books, and articles which were related to this study. There were several steps to collect the data, such as watching the movie and reading the movie script, identifying the data, classifying the data, and reducing the data.

The results of this study proved that the characters in the movie experienced racial discrimination and struggled to maintain their freedom in the midst of the racial discrimination they experienced from white student. This resulted in the resistance carried out by black student against white student.

Keywords: racial discrimination, resistance, *Dear White People*

INTISARI

Hanifah, Vania Nur. 30801800046. Representasi Diskriminasi Rasial Dalam Film *Dear White People* (2014) Oleh Justin Simien. Tugas Akhir Ilmu Bahasa dan Komunikasi. Program Sastra Inggris. Universitas Islam Sultan Agung Semarang. Pembimbing : Idha Nurhamidah, , S.S., M.Hum.

Film *Dear White People* (2014) karya Justin Simien menjadi objek analisis dalam penelitian ini. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan bagaimana diskriminasi rasial yang digambarkan melalui perspektif Samantha White dalam film tersebut, serta menganalisis resistensi terhadap diskriminasi rasial.

Deskriptif kualitatif adalah metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Ada dua jenis data, yaitu data primer dan data sekunder. Data primer diambil dari film, seperti dialog, narasi, dan monolog. Sedangkan data sekunder diambil dari jurnal, buku, dan artikel yang berhubungan dengan penelitian ini. Ada beberapa langkah untuk mengumpulkan data, seperti menonton film dan membaca naskah film, mengidentifikasi data, mengklasifikasikan data, dan mereduksi data.

Hasil penelitian ini membuktikan bahwa tokoh-tokoh dalam film tersebut mengalami diskriminasi rasial dan berjuang untuk mempertahankan kebebasannya di tengah diskriminasi rasial yang mereka alami dari siswa kulit putih. Hal ini mengakibatkan perlawanan yang dilakukan oleh mahasiswa kulit hitam terhadap mahasiswa kulit putih.

Kata Kunci : rasial diskriminasi, perlawanan, *Dear White People*

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First of all, I would like to express my gratitude for the presence of Allah SWT, the Lord of the Universe, for all the graces and gifts that Allah has given me so that I can complete this Final Project. Sholawat and greetings may be poured out to the holy prophet Muhammad SAW and his family, his loyal companions, and also his loyal followers until the end of his life.

In addition, I realize that this final project will never be completed without the help, guidance, and support of several parties involved in it. Therefore, through this opportunity, I would like to say many thanks to the following people who are always there in every process that I go through from beginning to end.

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2. Idha Nurhamidah, S.S., M. Hum. as the head of the Department of English Literature, Language and Communication Science, Sultan Agung Islamic University, Semarang, who is always there for English Literature students including myself whenever I need his help to solve my problems. And also as my supervisor who never gets tired of giving all his guidance, support, and enthusiasm to me in doing this Final Project.
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I realize that this final project is still far from perfect. Thus, any suggestions and criticisms will be very meaningful for this final project. Finally, I hope that my final project can still be useful for anyone who reads it.

Semarang, June 28th 2022



Vania Nur Hanifah

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this introduction, there are six parts written in this chapter. There are; background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study.

A. Background of the Study

In fact, every human being scattered all over the face of this earth. They all live in various realms around them and display a variety of physical colors that look so real. This means, the physical color can be based on physical characteristics such as skin color, eye color, hair shape, face shape and others. Basically, every human being who is born does not have the right to choose their skin color and physical appearance. Taking a spiritual sight about how humans are created, God has created them along with different characteristics, both mentally and physically within different races. By this mean, God does not create a person with higher status or better race, since they were born the same or equal. America is a country that is used as a benchmark and an ideal standard of state life. In addition, America is also referred to as a multicultural country that adheres to the understanding of multiculturalism. Multiculturalism is an ideology that recognizes and glorifies differences (Berdichewsky). Differences here are differences between individuals and differences within a culture as well as differences in values, systems, customs, and politics. This is done to solve a

problem that exists in social life as a result of differences in the background of a culture.

One of them is racial discrimination. Racial discrimination occurs when one person is treated less favourably than another because of race, color, national or ethnic origin. The journal entitled *National Action Plan to Combat Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance* defines racial discrimination as follows:

Racial discrimination is any distinction, exclusion, limitation or preference based on race, color, descent or national origin, ethnicity which has the purpose or effect of nullifying, impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing and human rights. Fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural, or other areas of public life (6).

The targets of racial discrimination are often minorities, but they can also include the majority, as black people are under apartheid in the South African country. Racial discrimination can happen at any time, to anyone regardless of age. Of course, racial discrimination is neither a problem nor a new case in the world. Cases of racial discrimination are so close and still exist in social life. Moreover, racial discrimination can be said to be one of the worst social problems that still exists today. Racial discrimination can also be interpreted as a belief that a race is responsible for the differences in the character of every human being and that certain races are superior to others. Racial discrimination

issues are very serious because they always lead to destruction, not only for certain humans but also for the surrounding community. A person who discriminates against another person usually has a very bad temper or behavior, as is a black person who has been seriously injured and treated unfairly.

In America, black people were treated unfairly and so cruelly by white people just because of their racial identity. Where there are black people who are insulted, oppressed, even killed by white people. White people against black people as a minority group which resulted in white people being so dominant and feeling racial differences between blacks and whites as a symbol of hostility. The African-American country is said to be one of the largest ethnic group countries in the United States. As a ported British colony, the people of the African-American country were not treated as well as humans in general. According to Bailer, people in America, especially white people, think of African Americans and black people as secondary. There are many black people in this remote South American country. African Americans are dissatisfied that white people never offer them complete freedom (19). The atrocities perpetrated against African-Americans are a problem, especially in the South. White people often go unpunished after they have committed crimes against African Americans. Murders that occur in African Americans are common. Sometimes even African Americans also face violence and harassment by local police. Rissman said that violence against African Americans was never taken seriously by the courts (8).

Racial discrimination is part of the act of racism. If we talk about racial discrimination, we will also talk about racism because racial discrimination and racism are related to each other. Racial discrimination and racism are two problems that can never be separated. The definition of racism is discrimination or prejudice based on race. Prejudice is a form of racism. Prejudice can be interpreted as an affective feeling towards a person or towards group members. An article entitled *Prejudice in Society Sociological Perspectives* written by Richard T. Schaefer mentioned that prejudice not only exists between dominant and subordinate groups, but also exists between certain subordinate groups. One of them is skin color. Skin color is the cause of prejudice between subordinate groups. For example, dark blacks are considered inferior to light blacks. Prejudice includes cultural attitudes that rely on negative stereotypes about the existence of individuals or groups because of their cultural, religious, racial or ethnic background. Prejudice itself is often motivated by the hatred of white people towards black people.

Apart from being based on race, racism can also be interpreted as a social issue in social life that is always interesting, although sometimes controversial to discuss. One of the factors they usually use to determine their superiority is the problem of skin color. People with white skin color are believed to be the best. That was why they thought that their race was far superior to others. As Grosfoguel stated:

“Racism is a global hierarchy of superiority, inferiority along human lines politically, culturally and economically. Produced and reproduced over the centuries by the capitalist, patriarchal western-centric, christian-centric institutions of the modern, colonial world system.” (p.10)

Racism from time to time has always been used as an ideological basis for aggressive behavior, expansion, domination, and exploitation. Racism is based on the fact that racism assumes certain or stable differences within a group of people and uses those differences to justify how that group is treated. With the existence of racism in the form of differences in the treatment of someone who is considered different by providing an assessment that is measured based on the concept of race, social and mental self. Racism is defined as a belief that genetic factors can influence race, ethnicity, and nationality. These ethnic differences result in the inherent superiority of a particular race. According to Berdichevsky, racism is used to mean acts of racial discrimination based on racial prejudice (27).

The United States has understood the concept of a Bill of Rights, where the concept puts Human Rights into its government system. This Bill of Rights concept is known as the British Bill of Rights, which is an Act of the British Parliament that deals with a constitutional issue and establishes certain basic civil rights. The content of the Bill of Rights concept is that a country prohibits slavery, the state must protect the rights of citizens to choose and oppose all

forms of denial of race, color and gender. Even so, the majority of white people in America are consistent with racial discrimination against black people. The more frequent acts of racial discrimination carried out by white people against black people, the emerging movements led by negro activists demanding equal civil rights. The human rights movement that exists in the United States has become a nonviolent struggle. This human rights movement had a lasting impact on American society. In addition, the following human rights movements refer to the political struggle and reform movement to eliminate racial discrimination that occurred between 1945 and 1970.

African-American countries, as citizens of the United States, also joined the struggle because their race played a very active role in history as former slaves. According to Bonnie, racism can take many forms, such as threats or written insults or verbal insults. Attacks of any kind include violence, being treated differently or ostracized because of a person's race or culture, and people making racist jokes. Race is one of the many terms used to define oneself in society. The emergence of a race as a form of dominant identity in society, where race functions to classify humans into social groups. As Sussman (p. 207), where he said that race is simply a population with a certain set of gene frequencies that are constantly changing due to migration, natural selection, social selection, and random genetic drift. From this definition, it can be concluded that race is a group of people who are categorized into certain classifications based on the similarity of their historical culture, nationality, or place of birth.

Until now, there are still many people who believe that everyone has a different social class, which was applied during the colonial period long ago. This will certainly result in racial discrimination between individuals and groups in society. In the end, social inequality between different races will result in social deviation. Differences between races can actually bring positivity and diversity if each individual respects each other. However, these racial differences are not always perceived positively by most people. Some people still think that their own race is better than other races. It was this way of thinking that could make people act harshly towards people who were not of the same race as them. Race itself has been the basis of development in the United States since the United States was founded. People of color were brought to the United States and they were used to satisfy the need for cheap and exploitable labor (25). Race is indeed a preeminent social historical concept. So, it is possible that skin color creates space between humans which leads to the emergence of racial discrimination.

The issues described above are often found in a movie. Where a movie can have a purpose, such as showing a certain event in life, conveying hope for a better life by showing what has happened in real life into a movie, and others. One of them is the movie *Dear White People*. *Dear White People* movie written, directed and co-produced by Justin Simien. *Dear White People* is an American satirical comedy-drama movie. The University Winchester is an Ivy League college. This movie tells the story of a group of black African-American students who control campus life and racial politics on a campus dominated by

white students. The main character in the movie is a black student named Samantha White or commonly called Sam White or Sam, who so loudly voices the oppression of white student. Therefore, this study focuses on how the racial discrimination portrayed by Samantha White perspective in *Dear White People* movie and to analyse the main character represent the resistance toward racial discrimination in the movie. With this analysis, readers can easily understand the behaviour of each character. Both from dialogue, narratives or monologue.

B. Problem Formulation

There are two problem formulations that were analyzed within this study:

1. How is racial discrimination depicted through Samantha White's perspective in *Dear White People* (2014) movie?
2. How does the main character represent the resistance toward racial discrimination in *Dear White People* (2014) movie?

C. Limitations of the Study

This study focuses on how racial discrimination portrayed by Samantha White perspective in *Dear White People* (2014) movie.

This study also analyzed the main character represent the resistance toward racial discrimination in *Dear White People* (2014) movie.

The main character in this movie is Samantha White.

D. Objectives of the Study

The objectives of the study is based on the problem formulations, there are two objectives of the study:

1. To explain racial discrimination depicted through Samantha White perspective in *Dear White People* (2014) movie.
2. To analyze the main character represent the resistance toward racial discrimination in *Dear White People* (2014) movie.

E. Significance of the Study

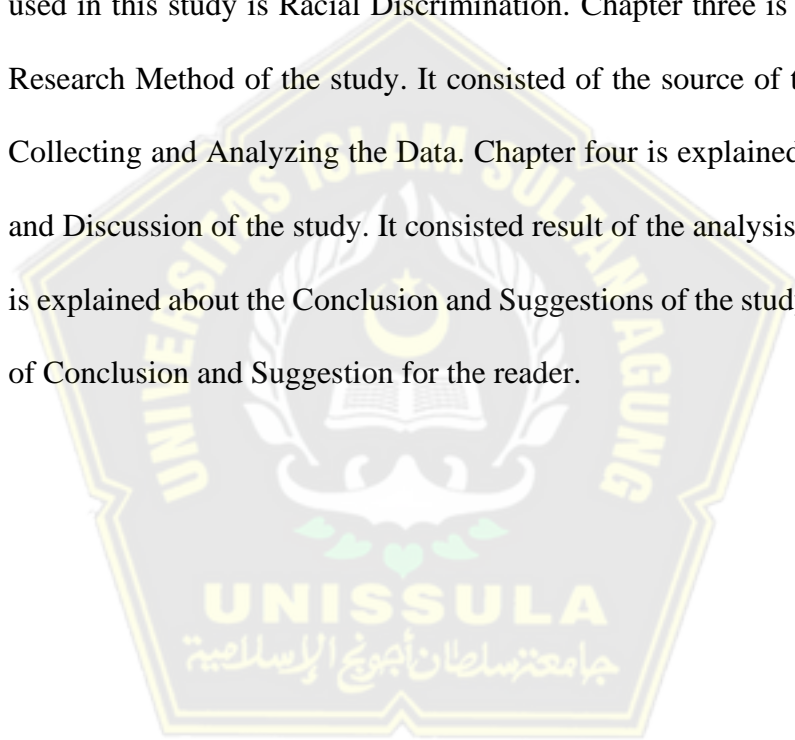
There are two significance of the study implied in this research:

1. It hopefully can help students to deeply understand about racial discrimination and represent the resistance toward racial discrimination.
2. It hopefully can be used as references to English Literature students of Languages and Communication Science Faculty in Sultan Agung Islamic University for analyzing literary works that are related to racial discrimination.

F. Outline of the Study

The outline of the study provided an outline of what will be explored in this study. So, there are five chapters:

Chapter one is provided with an Introduction to this study. It consisted of the Background of the Study, Limitation of the Study, Problem Formulation, Objectives of the Study, Significance of the Study, and also the Outline of the Study. Chapter two is provided with a Theory and Literature Review related to the points discussed in this study. It consisted of the Synopsis of the object of this study which is *Dear White People* movie and the theory used in this study is Racial Discrimination. Chapter three is explained the Research Method of the study. It consisted of the source of the data, Data Collecting and Analyzing the Data. Chapter four is explained the Findings and Discussion of the study. It consisted result of the analysis. Chapter five is explained about the Conclusion and Suggestions of the study. It consisted of Conclusion and Suggestion for the reader.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter explained the literature review which is related to the points discussed in this study, there are two sub-chapters. The first sub-chapters is the synopsis of *Dear White People* (2014) movie, the second sub-chapter is a review of related literature which consist of racial discrimination, the definition of race, racism, racial discrimination and resistance.

A. Synopsis of *Dear White People* Movie

Dear White People is an American satirical comedy-drama movie. A movie written, directed and co-produced by Justin Simien. The movie stars Tyler James Williams, Tessa Thompson, Kyle Gallner, Teyonah Parris, Brandon P Bell, Brittany Curran and Justin Dobies. *Dear White People* movie premiered in competition in the US Drama Category at the 2014 Sundance Film Festival on January 18, 2014. It was released in theatres in the United States on October 17, 2014. A commercial and critical success, the movie also grossed at the box office and received positive reviews from many professional critics. It has also been nominated and has received several awards.

The movie *Dear White People* is set in a prestigious college, University Winchester. The University Winchester is an Ivy League college. This movie tells the story of a group of black African-American students who control campus life and racial politics on a campus dominated by white students. The main character in the movie is a black student named Samantha White or

commonly called Samantha White or Sam, who so loudly voices the oppression of white people. Samantha White has a radio show called "Dear White People" and she is also the author of a book called "Ebony and Ivy; A Survival Guide to keep from Drowning in the Sea of White.

One day Samantha White was elected as leader of Armstrong Parker House. Armstrong Parker House is one of the four large student residences at the University Winchester. In the election, Samantha White defeated her ex-boyfriend, Troy Fairbanks. Troy Fairbanks is the son of the college dean. Although Troy Fairbanks aspires to be a comedian, he is forced to follow his father's desire to become a lawyer as well as be active in student organizations. Then there is a character named Coco, Coco is a black student. She dreams of becoming a reality show actress. But that dream got hit when the television was more interested in telling the story of Samantha White as the leader of Armstrong Parker House. The last one is Lionel Higgins, he is a gay black student who struggles to adjust to white students. Lionel Higgins reasoned that black people would never accept him. The four black characters in this movie are to tackle issues about black appearance, class, privilege and assert that black people engage in racial discrimination.

At the University Winchester white and black students had separate residences. White students have a larger area than black students. White students owned three large houses: Bechet, Webster, and Garmin. Black students only owned Armstrong Parker House. This shows that the division of

residence is still based on race and skin color. Segregation of residence at the University Winchester was advantageous for whites. Where the large number of dormitories for white people shows that the number of white students is more than the number of black students. In addition, the large number of white students from black students led to a new admissions system at the University Winchester. The system refers to the ability of students to be accepted both economically and academically. This shows that whites are more dominant and also superior to blacks. Samantha White and other friends live in the Armstrong Parker House. Which is where the Armstrong Parker House is inhabited by black students.

Then, the white President of University Winchester named Fletcher passed an ordinance. The rule is house randomization. The house randomization rule was to mix black students with white students in one house. The regulation of the randomization movement group was rejected, especially from black students who felt afraid and disadvantaged by the existence of the regulation. Resistance action led by Samantha White. Samantha White who spoke out loud about the issue of racial discrimination that must be stopped at the University Winchester. In this action, Samantha White received support and rejection from white students and black students. The rejection of these regulatory efforts leads to acts of racial discrimination that are manifested in the form of satire.

The campus culture war between white students and black students dominated by white students culminated in a Halloween party. Where the

Halloween party takes a theme about African-American. The Halloween party was hosted by Pastiche and chaired by Kurt Fletcher, who is also a student at the University Winchester. When the black students found out about the Halloween party, they all immediately gathered and stormed the Garmin House. They were very angry and damaged the existing party property. Seeing this, white students in the party did not remain silent. They tried to contain the anger of the black students. There was a fight between black and white students at Garmin House. Black college students fight to stop racial discrimination at their Halloween Party, and white college students fight to stop the rioting at their party. And in the end, the fighting stopped when the police arrived. This case made national news and forced the campus president of University Winchester to repeal the house randomization rule.

B. Related Literature

B.1 Definition of Race

Bobo and Fox in their paper, "*Race, Racism and Discrimination: Bridging Problems, Methods, and Theory in Social Psychological Research*" define race as a social construction that historically depends on social construction. Race is defined as a group of people who are distinguished from other groups on the basis of certain biological characteristics (Laurer & Laurer 224). Although many define race as a category of biological characteristics, it cannot be denied that race is a social category. Race has emerged as a form of dominant identity in society in

which race functions to define humans into social groups. This is what makes social groups label themselves as groups that have more or less power. With this kind of social system, those who hold power are better able to build, maintain privileges and also power dynamics in society. In terms of race, people tend to see themselves based on skin color, hair color, eye shape, nose shape, nationality, and language.

According to what Benedict said in his essay entitled "*Race: What Is Not*", it was explained that what people know about race is the difference in physical characteristics such as the example of the Chinese who have yellowish skin and slanted eyes, the Negro has dark skin, nose who are snub and wide, Caucasians have lighter skin, sharp noses and tall stature. That's what comes to people's minds when they hear about race (113). Race is considered a biological concept. Recently the social sciences deny that race is just a biological concept; they propose that race is a social concept. Race is assumed to be a variable form shaped by broader societal forces. Race is defined as a superior socio-historical concept (Omi & Winant 10-11). In addition, race can also be interpreted as a construction that artificially divides humans into different groups based on characteristics such as physical appearance (especially skin color), ancestral heritage, cultural history, ethnic classification, socioeconomic needs.

According to Silva, such differences or categorizations vary greatly in configuration over time as well as by important intersections with age, class,

gender, and sexuality. Similarly, government practices and politics play a major role in the understanding and social effects of this category. The consideration of people in distinguishing races to the formation of races. The ideas in racialization and the formation of race are based on the argument that race is a social construct and not a universal or essential biological category (Barker 247).

As Sussman (p. 207), where he said that race is simply a population with a certain set of gene frequencies that are constantly changing due to migration, natural selection, social selection, and random genetic drift. From this definition, it can be concluded that race is a group of people who are categorized into certain classifications based on the similarity of their historical culture, nationality, or place of birth. Until now, there are still many people who believe that everyone has a different social class, which was applied during the colonial period long ago. This will certainly result in racial discrimination between individuals and groups in society. In the end, social inequality between different races will result in social deviation.

Differences between races can actually bring positivity and diversity if each individual respects each other. However, these racial differences are not always perceived positively by most people. Some people still think that their own race is better than other races. It was this way of thinking that could make people act harshly towards people who were not of the same race as them. Race itself has been the basis of development in the United

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B.2 Racism`

Racism is a term that is commonly debated among people all over the world. The emergence of racism often results in people's fanaticism towards members of their race. Such fanaticism will make people treat so differently among the people of the world. As for some people who consider their group as a group that is better than other groups. After that, they would all consider their group to be superior to the others. People who think themselves to be superior, think that they have special rights among the races that are inferior to them. This condition is known as racism. George M. Fredrickson in his book, contains the term "racism", where the term "racism" is often used loosely and non-reflectively to describe the hostile or negative feelings of one ethnic group or "people" towards another, and an act that resulting from this attitude.

Racism from time to time has always been used as an ideological basis for aggressive behavior, expansion, domination, and exploitation. Racism is based on the fact that racism assumes certain or stable differences within a group of people and uses those differences to justify how that group is

treated. According to Sukmono and Junaedi, racism has created a social history shaped by racial stereotypes and discrimination. It does extermination for black people. The notion of racism itself is also supported by racial discrimination against a person or group of people because of their race (60).

The definition of racism is discrimination or prejudice based on race. Prejudice is a form of racism. Prejudice can be interpreted as an affective feeling towards a person or towards group members. Prejudice includes cultural attitudes that rely on negative stereotypes about the existence of individuals or groups because of their cultural, religious, racial or ethnic background. Prejudice itself is often motivated by the hatred of white people towards black people. It is possible that they give prejudice without a reasonable reason. Apart from being based on race, racism can also be interpreted as a social issue in social life that is always interesting, although sometimes controversial to discuss. One of the factors they usually use to determine their superiority is the problem of skin color. People with white skin color are believed to be the best. That was why they thought that their race was far superior to others. As Grosfoguel stated,

“Racism is a global hierarchy of superiority, inferiority along human lines politically, culturally and economically. Produced and reproduced over the centuries by the capitalist,

patriarchal western-centric, christian-centric institutions of the modern, colonial world system.” (p.10)

Another definition of racism, racism is an attitude or social idea that cannot be tolerated. Racism is a practice or action, institution and structure based on a very different view on a particular object. This is what can create a kind of social order in society, which is not only about differences in human form. Racism can be committed by anyone, either individually or as part of a group. If there is no race, then some judgments and assumptions about racists are incorrect. This means that in this case racism issues arise in racial relations between humans.

B.3 Racial Discrimination

Racial discrimination can occur when one person is treated less favorably than another because of race, color, national or ethnic origin. According to Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, and Esses that racial discrimination refers to biased behavior, where racial discrimination includes an action that can directly harm or unfairly benefit one's own group. This may involve negative or less positive behavior toward group members than toward ingroup members under comparable circumstances (p. 9).

The definition of racial discrimination by national unity is as follows:

“.....the term “racial discrimination” shall mean any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on

race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.”

The following definition of racial discrimination was issued by the United Nations in its convention, which contains the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is used in many fields of the social sciences (eg economics, psychology, sociology) to refer to unequal treatment because of race. Racial discrimination as behavior, repetition of actions that are so different and also unequal from other groups, this usually includes race, religion or culture (Parillo 78).

This clearly shows that racial discrimination can eliminate equality between groups. In addition, racial discrimination against a group can increase the threat to any individual or group similar to what Dovidio and Hebl say that “the impact of racial discrimination against groups can result in threats to individuals and organizations” (qtd. in Goldman et al. 802). One form of racial discrimination that occurs in America. In America, black people were treated unfairly and so cruelly by white people just because of their racial identity. Where there are black people who insulted, oppressed, even killed by white people. White people against black people as a minority group which resulted in white people being so dominant and feeling racial

differences between blacks and whites as a symbol of hostility. According to Elias and Feagin (2) that:

"The long historical epoch of slavery and Jim Crow (near-slavery) segregation generated a racialized socio-economic system that rigidly divided white and black American according to physical characteristics and still socially positions and frames whites as socially superior and powerful, and blacks and other people of color as inferior and powerless."

Racial discrimination is defined as an act of separating one person from another. An act of racial discrimination usually eliminates a person's right to be responsible as a human being. Racial discrimination is intended or achieved to treat a person or social group in a different way for reasons of certain general characteristics. The targets of racial discrimination are often minorities, but they can also include the majority, as black people are under apartheid in the South African country. Racial discrimination can happen at any time, to anyone and regardless of age. Of course, racial discrimination is neither a problem nor a new case in the world. Cases of racial discrimination are so close and still exist in social life. Moreover, racial discrimination can be said to be one of the worst social problems that still exists today.

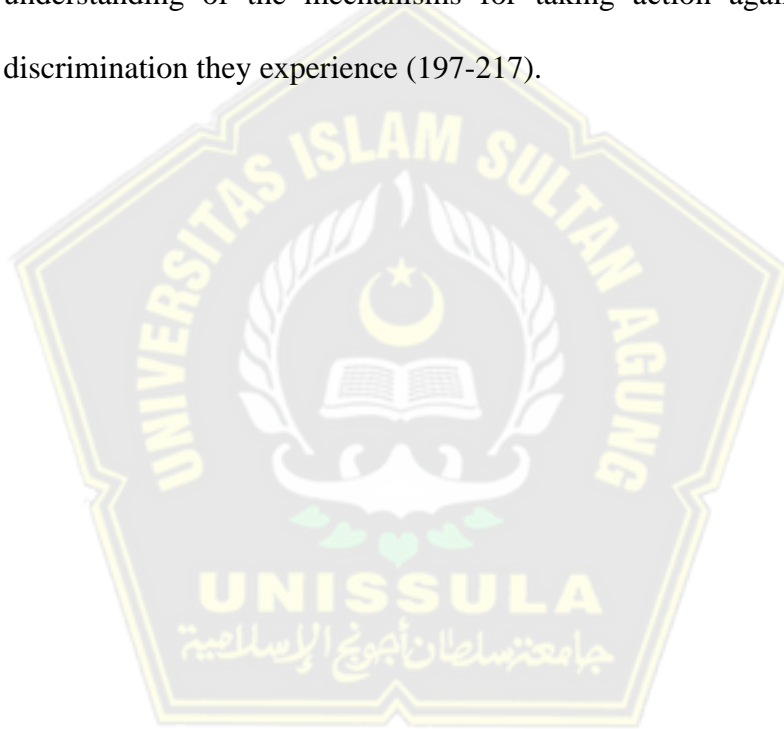
Racial discrimination can also be interpreted as a belief that a race is responsible for the differences in the character of every human being and that certain races are superior to others. Racial discrimination issues are very serious because they always lead to destruction, not only for certain humans but also for the surrounding community. A person who discriminates against others usually has a very bad temper or behavior, as is a black person who has been seriously injured and treated unfairly.

B.4 Resistance of Racial Discrimination

African Americans have been discriminated by white people for a very long time. The unfair treatment of white people aroused the spirit of African Americans to fight against these unfair conditions. The spirit of black people to free themselves from the authority of white people grew because they felt they could not just sit back and follow the rules made by white people. They felt that this discrimination had to stop and that's why they rebelled. As Michael Foucault describes power as those systems of control or dominance. It implies that people who have a self-reflection moment, have the possibility to submit to normalization or to resist the power structures that normalize (95-96).

As stated in the study entitled *Standing up to Intersectional Discrimination: a Multidimensional Approach to the Case of Spain* written by Jubany, Guell and Davis, it is said that in order to be able to recognize and understand all forms of resistance from an act of racial discrimination,

it is necessary to understand the extent to which racial discrimination is built and also the role of several characters that are considered to have relevance to experience. The need for a conceptual but subjective approach and perspective in everyday life to understand the form of resistance. Adopting this paradigm to understand everyday life will lead to a greater understanding of the various forms of racial discrimination and an understanding of the mechanisms for taking action against the racial discrimination they experience (197-217).



CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter presented the research method of the study. There are three-parts to be explained in this part such as type of the research, type of data and data organizing including data collecting and analysing the data.

A. Type of Research

There are many types of research methods used in a study. The type of research for this research is qualitative. Qualitative research is focused on collecting non-numeric data through observation. This means that the analysis focuses on finding content, meaning, structure, and discourse in a text. As stated by Bodgan and Taylor, the qualitative method is a research procedure that produces qualitative descriptive data, in which the data is in the form of written words and spoken language of the people being observed. This study is a study that aims to describe a phenomenon accurately based on the characteristics of the study, where data is analysed through interpretation, not statistical analysis.

B. Data Organizing

This data organizing consists of the steps in collecting the data and types of the data.

B.1. Data Collecting Method

In this research, there are five steps in collecting data:

B.1.1 Watching the Movie and Reading the Movie Script

The first steps of this data collection method was watching movies and reading movie scripts several times. In this first steps, the main purpose of watching movies and reading movie scripts was to gain general knowledge such as identifying a character, understanding the themes, conflicts, and plots that exist. The next step was the pleasure of watching and reading, this aimed to enjoy the author's style, feel emotions, and understand the issues in the movie. Then, the last step at this step was observing and reading closely, which included observing and reading carefully. This last step aimed to develop a sense of connectedness between the movie and its background context, watching movies and critically reading movie scripts in order to present a more objective perspective.

B.1.2 Identifying the Data

After watching the movie and reading the movie script several times, then identifying potential data by sequentially became the necessary steps in this research. At this step, special attention was paid to dialogue, description, and exposition related to the formulation of the problem. The sentences that were suspected of being potential data were then underlined to facilitate data identification at the next step. This step aimed to separate data and non-data. It was clear that only potential data related to the two problem formulations that were considered in this process.

B.1.3 Classifying the Data

The next step of the data collection method was classifying the data. Data classification was done by grouping the data based on the appropriate problem formulation. After the data had been compiled, then the data would be made into a table. The table was made based on the problem formulation. The table is known as an appendix which contains column numbers, excerpts from the manuscript, minutes, comments, and references.

B.1.4 Reducing the Data

The last step of collecting data was reducing the data from the general to get more specific. The selection strategies, this phase aimed to finalize classified data. This ensured that to optimize and simplify the data, identical or bad data was omitted. In this step, only the strong and the most important knowledge were used to resolve the problem formulation. Final data supporting issue formulation were stored in the finalized data, where suitable secondary data were applied accordingly.

B.2. Type of the Data

The types of data are divided into two types:

1. The Primary Data

The primary data was the main data used in research. The main data used was collected directly from the subject of the analysis. The primary data of this research was taken from the movie *Dear White People* (2014) by Justin Simien.

2. The Secondary Data

The secondary data were taken from journals, books, articles which are related to this study.

C. Analysing the Data

The last step of this research was to analyse the final data and report the data analysis. In analysing the data, this research used qualitative research methods. This research used Racial Discrimination theory in analysing the data. The data was taken from the movie as well as dialogue, narration, and monologue. The analysis and findings were reported in chapter IV.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

This chapter explains findings and discussions, the researcher intends to make a clear explanation about the problem formulation that was stated in chapter one.

A. Racial Discrimination Depicted through Samantha White Perspective in *Dear White People* (2014) Movie

Racial discrimination can occur when one person is treated less favorably than another because of race, color, national or ethnic origin. According to Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, and Esses that racial discrimination refers to biased behavior, where racial discrimination includes an action that can directly harm or unfairly benefit one's own group. This may involve negative or less positive behavior toward ingroup members under comparable circumstances (p. 9).

The racial discrimination depicted through Samantha White's perspective can initially be seen through the end of the movie in which Samantha tells about her childhood. In her story, Samantha was being stared strangely by other white folks when she and her white dad were going to enter her school. This can be seen through reference below.

Gabe : “ Want to talk about it? ”

Samantha White : “ My mother worked nights so he would take me to school. And it pissed me off because he would follow me all the way to homeroom. Every time he tried to hold my hand I'd scream and pull away. He thought I was just being ... difficult. ”

...

Samantha White (continued) : “ **But it was the kids. And the parents and the teachers. They’d see this Black girl and this white man and wonder what we were doing together. Even at nine I could feel their eyes on me. Especially at nine. It brought tears to my eyes. ”**

(01:41:30 – 01:42:06)

From the above reference, specifically the bolded passage shows how Samantha White was put in a situation that was related to her comfortable as a kid. She was being stared because she was different with her father. This event raised Samantha’s life in her college, and unconsciously became a traumatized experience in her life that it might give her pain every time she remembers it. As stated by National Research Council, “verbal abuse and nonverbal rejection are reliable indicators of discriminatory effects, in that they disadvantage the targets of such behavior, creating a hostile environment” (57). This means that the nonverbal hostility in such gesture and posture can be considered as a form of racism that it can create uncomfortable feeling of the victim throughout their life within a society.

People from different races may have a perspective and prejudice towards other people based on their race. These attitudes can lead to racial discrimination. The prejudice depicted through white people within the movie is being drawn by Samantha’s perspective about how white sees them as colored people. This can be shown through the passage below.

Samantha White : “ Talk to me. ”

Gabe : “ Hello, there. First time caller and longtime listener. ”

Gabe (continued): “ So Sam, how would you feel if someone started a Dear Black People? ”

Samantha White : “ **No need. Mass media from Fox News to reality tv on VH1 makes it clear what white people think of us.**

Thanks for calling. ”

(00:03:59 – 00:04:14)

From the reference above, it seems very clear for Samantha White about how white people think about her race that is Black people. Samantha White is well aware about the prejudice and perspective given by the major society. Through her statement, Samantha implies to her white folks that they do not need to speak blatantly about how they see colored people, since their actions have represented their perspective. Especially, the issue of racism toward Black people has happened a long time ago that it becomes a thing that everyone unconsciously acknowledges within their society. The root of racial discrimination can be said that it was from its history about Black people, such as Jim Crow law and slavery. It is mentioned in an article entitled *Discrimination Comes in Many Forms: Individual, Institutional, and Structural* written by Fred L. Pincus that, based on its history, discrimination has become the major cause of this lack of diversity within education and society.

Racial discrimination is an attitude where some races see themselves as more powerful and better than the other (Ogene, Anyanwu, Ojiaku, p. 344). This situation put the minority group in a disadvantaged position where they often experienced unequal treatments and injustice from society. This can be seen through the scene

in which Samantha White and Troy are having a conversation about what she should do as the new head of the house. It is shown through the passage below.

Samantha White : “ Troy, I didn’t think I was going to win. ”

Troy : “ And by the way petitioning the President on the Randomization of Housing Act isn’t gonna do shit. None of the other houses are concerned. ”

Samantha White : “ **Because they all have a legacy of rich and powerful allies on the board who will make sure that “random” works out to their advantage.** ”

Troy : “ And you think a petition is going to change that? ”

(00:18:25 – 00:18:51)

The reference explains that racial discrimination is an attitude in which some races see themselves as stronger, and better than others. Situations like this put minority groups at a disadvantage where they often experience unequal treatment and injustice. This is related to the dialogue that Samantha’s intention to protest the idea of randomizing housing is considered futile because the power the other houses hold. It should be made clear that the other houses are consisted with White students and President. With the power held by most White people in university, Troy is trying to warn Samantha White to be complied with the plan of randomizing housing that is also considered to be wrong and unjust. This clearly shows the existence of racial discrimination regarding unfair treatment just because of their ethnic background.

White Student : “ Party’s not over. “

(holding Lionel Higgins from entering the house)

Lionel Higgins : “ I live here. “

White Student : “ Sorry, bro. Invitation only. “

Lionel Higgins : “ It’s two in the morning. “

(00:54:01 – 00:54:41)

The dialogue above explains that when Lionel Higgins wanted to enter Garmin House but he was detained by two white students. The two white students forbade Lionel Higgins to enter because at Garmin House an event was being held by white students. Although Lionel Higgins said that he was a student living in Garmin House, Lionel Higgins was still not allowed to enter. This includes racial discrimination. Lionel Higgins was treated badly. Just because he's a black student. And here only white students can participate in Garmin House events while black students cannot. María José Añón argues that, “The aim or result of an act of racial discrimination is the loss of recognition or enjoyment, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms” (233). Through the action done by the two students described above, Lionel Higgins cannot enjoy his rest time properly. He is forbidden to come to his own house because he is being discriminated by other White students. This leads to his feeling loss of enjoyment as well as recognition as one of the members of the house. It has the similarity that he is being banished by his own society.

INT. ARMSTRONG PARKER HALL

Samantha White : “ Want to know how this world sees you? Go to a Young Republican’s meeting and bring up Welfare. “

(0.20.35 – 0.20.38)

...

Lionel Higgins : “ Or gay equality. “

Kurt Fletcher : “ Bullshit. “

(0.20.41 – 0.20.43)

...

Kurt Fletcher : “ The biggest athletes, movie stars, hell your president is Black. Sometimes I think the hardest thing to be in the American work force right now is an educated white guy. “

Samantha White : “ What are you doing in here? “

(0.20.50 – 0.21.12)

In the conversation above, it can be seen that black students experience racial discrimination by whites. Where when the blacks were gathering in the Armstrong Parker Hall, then the white students came and cut off the conversation of the black students. Moreover, Armstrong Parker Hall itself is a place for black students. This situation places minority groups at a disadvantage where they often experience unequal treatment and injustice from society.

B. The Main Character Represents the Resistance toward Racial Discrimination in *Dear White People* (2014) Movie

Nothing is done without resistance racial discrimination. The unfair treatment of white people aroused the spirit of African Americans to fight against these unfair conditions. The spirit of black people to free themselves from the authority of white people grew because they felt they could not just sit back and follow the rules made by white people. They felt that this discrimination had to stop and that's why they rebelled. The resistance carried out by Samantha White as the main character can be seen through the narration and dialogue below.

Samantha White (Voice on Radio) : “ Dear white people, apparently Morgan Freeman in “Deep Impact” wasn’t enough. Despite two terms Obama could cure Cancer and somewhere White folks will be embroiled in protest. And he’s only half Black. ”

(00:03:44-00:03:55)

Samantha White was discriminated against by white students at the University of Winchester. She made propaganda with statements made by herself. Where the propaganda has its own purpose to reject the existence of random house rules on campus. There was some helps from the media that spread Samantha White's idea of rejecting the random house rule. The media played an important role in Samantha White's efforts to overturn the Random House Rule. One of them is through a radio. Incidentally, Samantha White is a radio announcer on campus. And she always started her broadcasts with the slogan "*Dear White People.*" Through radio

broadcasts, she said that what the racist fighters were doing was not enough to eliminate racial discrimination. She compares what famous black actors like Morgan Freeman and powerful politicians like Obama have done, have not been able to eliminate chronic diseases that occur in American society. Through his free health care program, Obama is trying to erase the differences between whites and blacks. The free health care program did not find support, and it also drew protests from some white people.

Samantha White : “ Troy, my brother, It’s broke. Troy is a legacy student, and yet it’s under his watch, that Armstrong-Parker, the bastion of black culture here, was gutted by the randomization of housing act. Now, second years of color no longer have a say in where they go. The culture that’s been fostered in this house for two decades will be wiped out in two years. This wasn’t motivated by a desire to mix things up. Bring about racial and socioeconomic harmony, no. The black student are sitting together in the proverbial cafeteria so they must be up to no good. “

(00:10:51- 00:11:50)

Samantha White's way of fighting racial discrimination is by giving black students another perception of the effects of the random house rule at Armstrong Parker House. Based on Samantha White's statement, where she said that black culture was destroyed by the new rules. It seems that the word “broken” here can refer to the randomization effect. Samantha White reconstructs the way housing

randomization acts as a white attempt to destroy black culture. Then, Samantha White also reconstructs the meaning of the randomization of the house as a rule to mix a culture, erase race and also create socio-economic harmony as a white control for blacks by incorporating whites into the black community. Black students can slowly forget their culture and lose their identity as African-American. Because if they can't blend in with each other, black people can easily be controlled and manipulated by white people.

Another form of resistance showed by Samantha White is doing some little rally with her friends. This is a classic and common way for Black people, and normally other groups that want their voice to be heard. Through rally, Samantha White intended to make other people aware of their existence and their willing to live freely on earth. This can be seen through her dialogue with one of her lecturer below.

Dean Fairbanks : “ Running late? For your little rally? ”

Samantha White : “ Forget your sign, Dean? ”

Dean Fairbanks : “ Do you honestly think this is the spirit of Armstrong Parker house? ”

Samantha White : “ **The role of the counter culture is to wake up the mainstream.** ”

Dean Fairbanks : “ I’ve got furniture older than you. Counter culture? Is that what you think this is? That show of yours?”

Sam: “What about my show? ”

...

Dean Fairbanks : “ Your show is racist. ”

Samantha White : “ **Black people can’t be racist. Prejudice? Yes. But, not racist. Racism describes a system of disadvantage based on race. Black people can’t be racist since they don’t benefit from such a system. ”**

(01:02:40 – 01:03:26)

By conducting a little rally around her university, Samantha White intends to deliver her voice about the idea of randomizing housing. She believes that doing rally with her friends can help them to achieve the equality among the students or university. However, her lecture, Fairbanks, does not approve her action saying that it can be racism by attempting to refuse randomizing housing. Yet, Samantha White disproves with the dean saying *Black people can’t be racist* with strong and actual reason. It is supported by an article written by Fred L. Pincus that states the definition of racism is related to the design of maintaining white superiority.

By this means, black people cannot be racist since they lack of power and are the victims of racism (190). It explains the term racism is being used to point Black people as the party that do not feel the advantage of the system. This is why Samantha White attempts to hold a radio, rally, and create movie as a way to resist and fight the white supremacy. These attempts are consisting and pushing white people to ‘the corner’ in such a way that if these attempts are done by whites, it would be considered as racism. Hence, those attempts are the ways that Samantha White can do to stop the inequality treatments performed by racists.

Another form of resistance can also be seen through these dialogues between Samantha White and Kurt Fletcher, in which they are having some debates about one's territory.

Samantha White : “ On behalf of the colored folks in the room, let me apologize for all the better qualified white students whose place we're taking up. “

Kurt Fletcher : “ a bit turned on by the argument. “

Samantha White : “ You get lost? Bechet is that way. “

Kurt Fletcher : “ Yeah but what other dinning hall gives you chicken and waffles? Funny stuff. How haven't we staffed you yet? “

Samantha White : “ On Pastiche? Your uninspired magazine? “

Kurt Fletcher : “ We're a lot more than a magazine sweetie. SNL staff is basically half Lampoon, half Pastiche. Just like the network comedies. A flash of envy comes over Troy and Coco. “

Samantha White : “ You don't live here. “

Kurt Fletcher : “ Who are you to put me out? “

Samantha White : (realizing) “ I'm the Head of this house. And I'm doing things my way. “

Kurt Fletcher : “ You got any idea who you're. “

Samantha White : “ Yeah, I know who your daddy is. The same one who's been pushing to break up this House for a decade. What's wrong? Is he scared letting the Negroes gather in groups

might start a rebellion on the plantation? You tell him from me..... he should be. “

(00.21.10 – 00.23.05)

In the dialogue above shows, Kurt Fletcher, a white student, son of the President of the University Winchester and his friends enter the black student hall and eat at his dining table. It is seen that white students harass black students in their halls. Samantha White asked Kurt Flecher the reason why they had come to the black student hall. The conversation between Samantha White and Kurt Fletcher can be represented as a negotiation of high tensions between blacks and whites. Where white people are eager to enjoy the rules by entering the halls of black student. Samantha White tries to break the rules by kicking them out of the black hall. According to her, President of University Winchester who created the Random House Rules was the one who wanted to dissolve the black student union at Armstrong Parker House.

By given the chance to be the head of the Armstrong Parker house, Samantha White possess a power to resist the racial discrimination she and her friends received from other white students. As Michael Foucault describes power as a system of control or domination. This implies that people who have moments of self-reflection, have the possibility to submit to normalization or reject normalized power structures. In this quote he claims that where there is strength, there is resistance (95-96). As described by Michael Foucault, Samantha White is aware the power she has as the head of the house.

She delivers her opinion and predetermined decision about the Random House Rules. Besides, throughout the movie, Samantha White also shows her resistance toward racial discrimination through her radio and silent-movie that she made. At the end of the movie, she intentionally invited students to the *African-American* theme party as another way to show her resistance. From the party incident, Samantha was filming everything, especially about her ‘black’ friends’ opinions toward white people, that she used it, as well, as a form of resistance which showed to her classmates and a lecturer at the end of the movie.

Samantha White : “Event though I’d been expressly forbidden to do so, I wanted to do one last show. Something to sum up the moment. To savor in the pop of the post racial bubble just burst. Dear White People, I wanted to react.”

...

Samantha White (continued) : “...**You know what? Never mind.**”

(01:35:24 – 01:35:35)

By ending her statement within her movie making, Samantha White says nothing but *never mind*. She intends to say a lot more than a phrase, however, the overwhelming feelings she has toward all the inequalities received by Black people have lost her the words that describe her disappointment to white people. She implies that she had put out her words throughout the movie, and the self-made movie presented at the end of the movie was the last effort or resistance she showed to her college friends and every one within the university. As the result, Samantha

White is appreciated for her movie, and she feels heard by everyone, especially white people beyond the university.



CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter presents the findings as they relate to the analysis. It also makes some suggestions relevant to the research. This study wraps up the analysis of the movie *Dear White People* (2014) in this sub-chapter, which are conclusion and suggestion.

A. CONCLUSION

In chapter four, findings and discussing the main character in the movie, *Dear White People*, is Samantha White, there are two problem formulations presented in the previous chapter. The first is about the racial discrimination and the second is represent resistance toward racial discrimination.

The depictions of racial discrimination perspective of the main character, Samantha White, are described through her friends as well within several events. They are when Samantha White learns that she and fellow black student Coco, Lionel Higgins are racially discriminated by white student. At that time Coco wanted to live in Bechet House but was not allowed because Bechet House was a residence for whites. Lionel Higgins who was about to enter Garmin House but was barred because there was a white party at Garmin House. Samantha White who was annoyed with the attitude of white students who easily entered Armstrong Parker Hall where Armstrong Parker Hall where black students gathered.

After mentioning and explaining the racial discrimination perspective by Samantha White, the second problem formulation is discussing the resistance

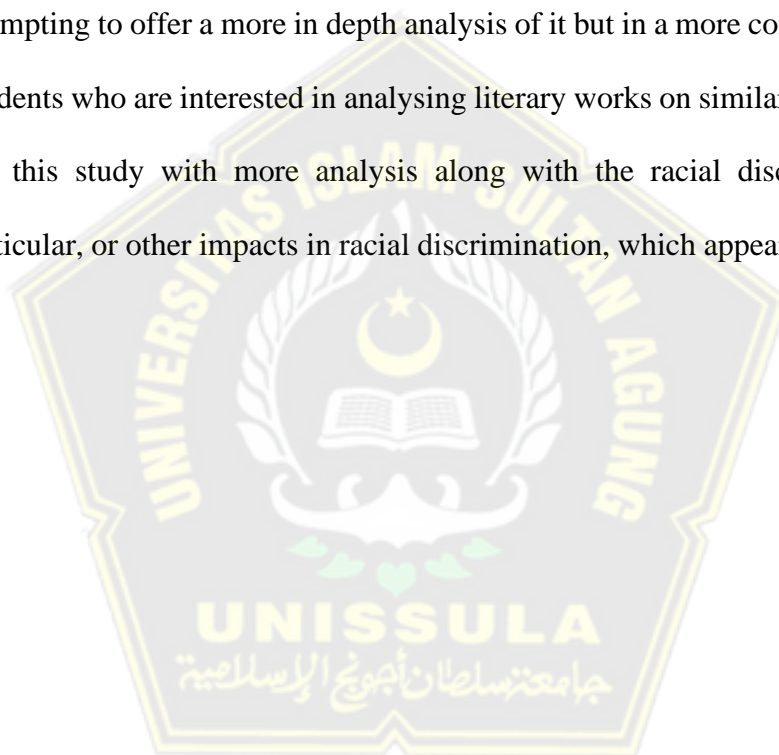
to racial discrimination by the main character, Samantha White. Samantha White created a piece of propaganda with the statements she made. Where the propaganda has its own purpose to reject the random house rules at the University Winchester. There was some help from the media who spread Samantha White's idea to reject the random house rule. The media played a very important role in Samantha White efforts to overturn the existing Random House Rules. One of them is by radio. Samantha White is a radio announcer on campus. And she always started her broadcasts with the slogan "Dear White People."

Represents the bravery of Samantha White in showing the black student condition. Samantha White puts the issue of the missing of black culture in Armstrong Parker House. She claims herself can bring the black culture to Armstrong Parker House and University Winchester back. Samantha White dared to display the issue to alert the blacks of their identity. Samantha White way of fighting racial discrimination is represented by giving another perception of the effects of random house rules to black students at Armstrong Parker. It seems from the word "broken" which refers to the randomization effect. She reconstructed the means of housing randomization acting as a white attempt to destroy black culture. It can be concluded that the perspective of racial discrimination has a relationship with resistance because it can identify all forms of racial discrimination and show resistance by Samantha White.

B. SUGGESTION

Dear White People (2014) movie is very interesting to be watched and analysed. The story in this movie gives the clear example of how racial discrimination portrayed by Samantha White perspective in the movie and also how the character represent the resistance toward racial discrimination happened.

This study is not finished yet, and it's far from ideal; the researcher is attempting to offer a more in depth analysis of it but in a more constrained area. Students who are interested in analysing literary works on similar topics should use this study with more analysis along with the racial discrimination in particular, or other impacts in racial discrimination, which appear in the movie.



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