REPRESENTATION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TOWARD

AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN IN *HIDDEN FIGURES* MOVIE

PROPOSAL WRITING

Presented as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirement

to Obtain the *Sarjana Sastra* Degree

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A Final Project entitled

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

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Hereby, I honestly declare that the undergraduate thesis I wrote does not contain the work of other people, except those which were cited in the quotation and the references, as a scientific paper should. 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 the paper.
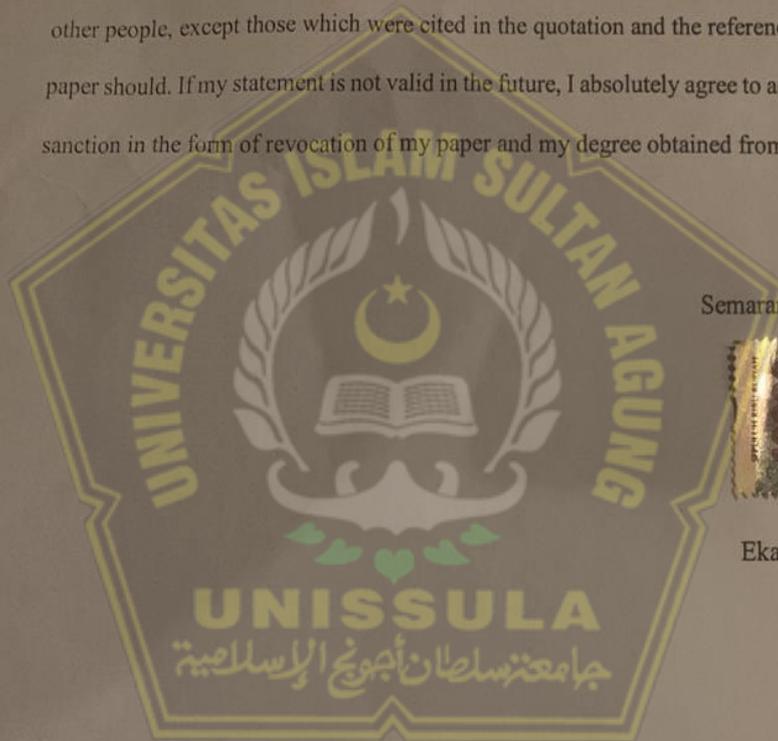
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Eka Setiyaningsih

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

MOTTO

"Gotta stay GOLD in this cold world"

DEDICATION

This final project is heartily dedicated to my fiancé and my parents who always

give their time, support, love, and prays for me.

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ABSTRACT

Setiyaningsih, Eka. 30801800013. Representation of Racial Discrimination Toward African American Women in *Hidden Figures* Movie. Final Project of Faculty of Language and Communication Science. English Literature study. Sultan Agung Islamic University Semarang. Advisor: Diyah Fitri Wulandari, S.S., M.Hum.

Hidden Figures is a movie which explores the racial discrimination experience by African American Women that living in the NASA company, US. This movie tells the story of Black women who work at Langley Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia, starting in the early 1940s. These women play an integral role in the development of American aviation and space technology.

This study focuses on the three main women characters in the movie. It used a qualitative descriptive method with several data collected, such as watched the movie and read the movie scripts, identified the data, and reduced the data.

This study aims at showing the racial discrimination portrayed in the movie and to identify the experience of prejudice that can be found in the film. The portrayal of racial discrimination in the NASA towards black women, as they are being treated differently compared to white workers, even if they actually are capable enough in the roles of working and become an engineer in NASA company. The

depiction of prejudice issue towards black women, due to the history of black people in America, as they were slaves by history and not educated.

Keywords: hidden figures movie, discrimination, unequal, black women, NASA.

INTISARI

Eka Setiyaningsih. 30801800013. Representasi Diskriminasi Rasial Terhadap Wanita Afrika Amerika Dalam Film *Hidden Figures*. Tugas Akhir Ilmu Bahasa dan Komunikasi. Program Sastra Inggris. Universitas Islam Sultan Agung Semarang. Pembimbing : Diyah Fitri Wulandari, S.S., M.Hum.

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengeksplorasi Diskriminasi Rasial yang dialami oleh Wanita Afrika Amerika Dalam Film *Hidden Figures*, berlatar tempat di perusahaan NASA, AS. Hidden Figures bercerita tentang wanita kulit hitam yang bekerja di Langley Aeronautical Laboratory di Hampton, Virginia, mulai awal 1940-an. Para wanita ini memainkan peran integral dalam pengembangan teknologi penerbangan dan luar angkasa Amerika. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menunjukkan diskriminasi rasial yang digambarkan dalam film *Hidden Figures* dan untuk mengidentifikasi pengalaman prasangka yang dapat ditemukan dalam film *Hidden Figures.*

Penelitian ini berfokus pada tiga karakter utama wanita dalam Film *Hidden Figures*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan metode pengumpulan data seperti menonton film dan membaca naskah film, mengidentifikasi data, dan mereduksi data.

Tujuan akhir dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menunjukkan jika tiga karakter utama wanita dalam film *Hidden Figures* mengalami perlakuan buruk oleh banyak orang pada saat itu terutama orang kulit putih, hanya karena perbedaan penampilan fisik. Penggambaran diskriminasi di NASA terhadap perempuan kulit hitam, diperlakukan berbeda dibandingkan dengan pekerja kulit putih, meskipun sebenarnya mereka cukup cakap dalam peran kerja mereka dan layak berada di perusahaan NASA. Penggambaran isu prasangka terhadap perempuan kulit hitam dalam film ini dikarena sejarah orang kulit hitam di Amerika, sebagai budak yang tidak berpendidikan dalam sejarah Amerika.

Kata kunci: **film hidden figures, diskriminasi, ketidaksetaraan, wanita kulit hitam, nasa**

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter conducts the introduction of the study which includes; background of the study, limitation of the study, problems formulation, objective of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study.

A. Background of the Study

Literature is varied with its own types, it is used to express feelings, imaginations, thoughts, critics and et cetera. For example, in a printed work like novel, usually the authors try to write in order to express their true feelings, attitude and life of human in society. Literature represents life as a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary imitations'(Wellek and Warren 94) . Through literature, an author tries to express his or her idea about what he or she ever experienced in life time or what was happening around them from natural phenomenon to the life of the people in their community.

However now in 21st century, movie is quite trendy to be seen as a medium for people to express thoughts, a film, in an artistic report is a genuine delineation of issues and encounters through the introduction of genuine data about individuals, spots, and occasions; for the most part depicted using verifiable pictures and talk. A narrative is how a producer manages "real components, meshing them into a

general story that endeavors to be however convincing as it could be honest and is regularly more noteworthy than the amount of its parts" (Mliless and Azzouzi 199).

Recently, numerous data about racial discrimination has spread on TV, paper, or even on social media. The difference of social class, skin tone, and race can make an issue in our lives. Furthermore, the problems above may turn into difficult issues for certain people who undergo those treatments. As it is explained by a scholar that in society, actually all people have the same right to pursue liberty and the right to be free to fit in a certain position as they wish. "Every human being in this world has the same right to be treated equally and has the privilege to ask that life is temporary, so humans must use every opportunity to get what they want". (qtd. In Menggalomo, et all 13). Unfortunately, there are groups of people who hate the idea of treating some individuals from a certain group of people or race in a good way. The different of appearance, skin colour, education, belief and intelligence are reasons which cause racial discrimination practice in society.

In addition, some types of discrimination experienced by people now days in the society as explained in Zatira and Prakoso's article (243): First, economics such as the decline in income of gender difference. Second, socio-culture such as harassment is targeted at colored communities due to extreme differences by skin color such as bullying in schools and isolation of people. Third, bullying on social media as reported by the Daily Mail, a report from L1ght, an organization that used to measure the level of toxicity in cyberspace, shows the expressions of hatred in social media. Those are examples of the racism attitudes that appear in society. Even in literary works, the issues of racism are often found as experienced by black

people, or the lower class as the opposite of the patriarchal system; where it is believed that white people are the superior.

Moreover, in this literary study, *Hidden Figures* tells the story of Black women who work at Langley Aeronautical Laboratory in Hampton, Virginia, starting in the early 1940s. These women play an integral role in the development of American aviation and space technology. This movie centers around three ladies and the issue brought in the movie is about racial discrimination, which that refers to unequal treatment of persons or group on the basis of their race or ethnicity. Many scholars and legal advocates distinguish between differential treatment and disparate impact, differential treatment occurs when individuals are treated unequally because of their race. Races are distinguished from one another by such characteristics as hair color and texture, skin color, eye color and shape, size of body parts, and facial organs (Bennett, et all 14). In racial discrimination, there are some kinds of discriminations, such as stereotype, prejudice, rejection, segregation, and etc. The writer wants to do this literary study which uses stereotype and prejudice, as the problems that will be analyzed in the movie and also the writer chooses this topic to be analyzed because the writer found that the main idea of this film is about the racial discrimination among the race in the NASA company, US.

According to the movie *Hidden Figures* (2016), African-American women were never treated well and always became the victim of white people's bad treatment. This movie shows us the individual experiences which may portray the life experience of the African-American women living in the NASA company, US. They were always intimidated by white people, who are Men. It describes the reality

that happened toward African-American women in the NASA company, US, That the women were actually being discriminated. Furthermore, this literary study will reveal how the representation of the racial discrimination toward African-American Women on the film *Hidden Figures* (2016).

B. Limitation of the Study

The study centered around the three black women as the main characters in the *Hidden Figures* movie, particularly the racial separation character figures with the traits of racial discrimination experienced by the three black women main characters. The characters will be investigated in light of the portrayal of the characters in the movie.

C. Problems Formulation

There are two problem formulations in this study as follow,

1. What is the racial discrimination experience by black main women characters reflected in the movie *Hidden Figures*?

2. How is the racial prejudice experienced by black main women characters reflected in the movie *Hidden Figures*?

D. Objectives of the Study

Objective of the study is a statement about the activities and objects that are analyzed based on the problem of the study. This literary study holds on to these objectives in doing the study. The objectives are represented below:

1. To show the racial discrimination experienced by black main women characters reflected in the movie *Hidden Figures*.

2. To identify the depiction of racial prejudice experienced by black main women characters reflected in the movie *Hidden Figures*,

E. Significance of the Study

The result of this literary study is expected to be able to contribute to the following benefits:

1. This literary study can help the readers in learning the racial discrimination issues as found in the movie *Hidden Figures*

2. This literary study can help the readers in learning the racial prejudice issues as found in the movie *Hidden Figures*

3. Moreover, this study can be used as reference for the readers who want to study racial discrimination in depth.

3. Outline of the Study

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter consists of an introduction in which the study gives the illustration of the background and a significant reason in choosing the topic, limitations of the study, problems formulation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and outlines of the study. Meanwhile, the second chapter consists of review related literature, synopsis of the movie *Hidden Figures*, and the related theories which are used in this study. The third discusses the research method, the description of the method and the procedure of the analysis in this study.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURES

This chapter will discuss the synopsis of the movie *Hidden Figures* along with the related theories used to draw the analysis in the discussion part at Chapter IV. The related theories are the introduction of Sociology of Literature as well as the explanation of Racial Discrimination and Racial Prejudice.

A. Synopsis of *Hidden Figures* Movie

Hidden Figures is a 2016 movie that depends on a genuine tale around three ladies, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who worked at NASA managing racial bias. This movie was set in the 1960's the point at which it was exceptionally intriguing to see non-white individuals in the jobs these three ladies had; it was considerably more improbable to see ladies in them. These women were working in segregated areas and it was very difficult for their talents to be seen by other people due to the barriers of their gender and race. Taraji P. Henson played the role of Katherine G. Johnson, who was the star of the film. Katherine's role was to create a new field of science for space with her group. The film also does a great job balancing the personal lives of these women while at the same time presenting their crucial roles in NASA.

These ladies generally made light of urgent jobs in taking prejudice in the area of science. These ladies were all shrewd and had a ton to carry with the positions they held. Katherine demonstrates to the main how savvy she was in a

scene where she introduced her discoveries of an equation and her insight into an ordered snippet of data. The central's fundamental concern was the means by which she figured out this significant snippet of data since he was sure that science could never have brought about her knowing; she let him know she held the paper up to the light, when he did as such, he additionally saw the evidence. His first inquiry to this lady, because of her obvious knowledge, was assuming she was a Russian government agent; indeed, he inquired as to whether she was Russian as a result of all that she knew. Clearly, she was not Russian, but rather it was the main thing that the man could connect with her degree of information. To be a lady during those times was hard, and to be Black was much harder. These ladies needed to work two times as difficult to be heard because of their orientation, and, surprisingly, harder to be heard because of their shade of skin.

Dorothy Vaughan's role began working with computers in her position at NASA, due to her knowledge was promoted to supervisor. Her role was pivotal because she not only kept the women working under her productive at their jobs, but she also wrote handbooks and help tools to help these women compute difficult equations mentally or by hand. She not only created these help tools for the Black women she was in charge of, but also for the White women. She created sharing space amongst all of her colleagues for the sake of uplifting women. This speaks volume to the role women play in helping each other, even though she did not receive help from her White counterparts, she still sought to make their jobs easier by sharing tools to make their jobs more efficient and productive.

Mary Jackson additionally assumed a significant part. She worked under Dorothy, yet she additionally had goals to turn into a specialist. She worked with NASA the entire day, then, at that point, went to classes around evening time to turn into a designer. She expected to take a few classes which were just presented in the white isolated region of the college, which was taboo for her to do in those times. She battled her case in court with the goal that she, and many like her, could manage the cost of total instruction and she won. As a result of her battle, isolation in schools was completely finished. Later in the film she turned into a specialist. By and by, we see a lady breaking obstructions and clearing establishments for different ladies and minorities to have the option to stroll on.

However, these ladies had their own positions and weight to convey at their positions, they actually tracked down ways of adjusting their own lives. These ladies made an opportunity to hold their families together, balance their public activities, and prevail in their fields of work all simultaneously. These ladies cooperated, in a real sense, and never left each other behind. They generally shared one ride to and from work since they generally lived in a similar local area and their main wellspring of transportation was that one ride. Indeed, even on days when one of the others needed to burn the midnight oil, they would stand by outside until she was finished so they would generally return home. These ladies saved responsibility for one another. The movie makes a supernatural showing by introducing the force of the solidarity of ladies.

The title *"Hidden Figures"* represents the mathematics that made this mission possible and the figures of the women behind the scene. These stories that

the movie presents tells us that these are hidden stories made space for bigger conversations about women. This movie shows how women have to endure so much just to have some form of recognition. Though women are usually the backbones to many of the successes that the world may see, in most cases, men receive the most recognition.

This movie was very interesting, even to those who are not interested in mathematics or science. The film had a very unique sense of telling its story in a way that makes one want to engage. The movie is enjoyable and welcome. Spirituality was felt through this movie as it evokes feelings of inspiration and causes one to be uplifted after watching. Spirituality was also expressed through the connection these three women shared. They all protected each other and helped one another where they could've. This powerful movie is necessary as it relates to the progression of women and diversity. It brought awareness to women and discrimination, not only in the field of science, but in the reality of the corporate world. This movie forces one to imagine how many other hidden figures, women, were behind the scenes of the many great inventions and assignments that we see, who have received no recognition due to their genders and possibly race.

B.   Review of Related Literature

Below are some researches explaining about the racism treatment experienced by the characters in the movie. The scholars below as listed are only explaining racism in general; such as they are judged by their skin tones, gender equality, etc. However, in this study, three will be racial discrimination and prejudice that will be explain. Regardless, the explanations from them help this

research in elaborating the issues of racial discrimination. The first scholar who wrote about the issues of discrimination is from Burt, Ronald and Gibbons (2012) with the journal entitled "Racial Discrimination, Ethnic-Racial Socialization, and Crime: A Micro-sociological Model of Risk and Resilience", focuses on dominant theoretical explanations of racial disparities in criminal offending overlook a key risk factor associated with race: interpersonal racial discrimination. Building on recent studies that analyze race and crime at the micro-level, they specify a social psychological model linking personal experiences with racial discrimination to an increased risk of offending.

Second is from Wijayanti and Wulandari (2019) with the article *"The Negative Impact of Racial Discrimination Experienced by African-American People Reflected in Angie Thomas' The Hate You Give",* explaining the negative Impact of racial discrimination experienced by African-American people as portrayed in Angie Thomas' The Hate You Give using Racial Discrimination approach. It shows some forms of negative impact from racial discrimination experienced by them.

In addition, Dewi and Martha also have an article about the racism, they highlight the issue of the black lives in poverty, slavery, human trafficking and physically abused as many of the black people struggle against the condition of poverty, physically abused and many pressure of life, on their article in 2019 entitled *"Analysis of Racial Discrimination towards Uncle TomiIn Harriet Beecher Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin".*Moreover, there is one similar object of the analysis which in the same use of film Hidden Figures, a scholar Menggalomo, et all (2020),

"Racial Discrimination as Seen in Hidden Figures", also highlights the issues of discrimination in this novel. However, they are more into the explanation psychology of black women with experience of discrimination. They explain the women's actualization throughout the cycle of discrimination among the patriarchal society.

B.1. Sociology of Literature

Writing is the after effect of human culture, which shows up through the language framework as the actual language is a component of culture. Fitri(3) clarifies that writing is the consequence of the production of "thought" and "taste" as antiques, which are by and large the epitome of culture. Social appearances as worth frameworks, thought frameworks and activity frameworks exist in writing.

In depth, sociology of literature is a field of multidisciplinary studies which examines the impact of social structures on the production of literary texts. It is explained that,

> The premise of those involved in this type of research is that the creation of literary works is the result of certain social situations, and the mystery of literature cannot be properly understood unless we first carefully analyze its relationship with these situations. In this research, theoretical concepts and methodological principles of sociology serve as a tool for reading and evaluating the social functions of literary texts (Ahmadi 132)

It tends to be perceived that, social science is a field of sociology that looks at human public activity as well as from the clarification above, it additionally tells that the sociologists are attempting to investigate human culture according to the point of view of the construction of human aggregate conduct. It might be said, a social scientist is somebody who concentrates on how the social framework functions and how it connects with the manner by which the measurements of society are lived. Breaks down by sociologists on the effect of social, political, topographical and financial variables aesthetics and so forth talk about the connection between friendly insights and their gatherings and interior regulation.

Still related to the previous explanation, one matter that cannot be separated is that literature is a cultural artifact described as humans' thoughts and feelings as to social beings. Literature has a distinctive relationship with the social and cultural system based on the author's life. Therefore, literature is always alive and lived by the community and society as objects of sociology. The following explanation will discuss the notion of sociology as a field of science:

Abercrombie (Qtd. In Fitri 5) contends that humanism examines the design of social relations framed through friendly communication. Along these lines, social science is the investigation of society that communicates human conduct in bunches with every current action. Human science and writing have a similar object of study, which is society. Human science talks about society, all things considered, while writing concentrates on society made by the writer's creative mind. Human science is valuable to comprehend the social peculiarities in the writing, both

individuals portrayed in artistic works and pursuers with current circumstances reflected in the public arena.

By looking at the relationship between sociology and literature, (Wellek, et all 100) portrays three classifications (paradigms) in literary sociology:

1. Sociology of the author; the problems related here are; The basic economy of literary production, the social background, the Author's status, and The Author's ideology as seen from author activities outside of literary works.

2. Sociology of literary works; the second sociological analysis departs from literary works; The contents of the literary work, The objectives and implicit things in literary work itself are related to social issues.

3. Sociology of the reader includes problems of readers and the social impact of literary works. This study leads to the sociology of readers.

Additionally, the humanism worldview incorporates the writer's methodology, abstract works, and pursuers as a local area from the social science worldview portrayal. In con-ducting this examination, the researcher will use the second place of the human science worldview, the social science of abstract works. The humanistic methodology of this abstract work concentrates on writing as a record as a social representation in the public eye. Wellek and Warren (122) clarify that writing can record the qualities of the period. Through the social science of artistic works, the worldview that will be used is the humanism of abstract works.

B.2. Racial Discrimination

America becomes the country which has the issue of racism due to the existence of multicultural culture in the country. It is done to decide issues in the public eye because of different social establishments. One of them is racial isolation. Blacks experience racial discrimination because of their complexion. As cited in Wijayanti and Wulandari, clarifying the racial discrimination, they notice:

> Racial discrimination concerns the unequal treatment of races, whereas racial inequality concerns unequal outcomes (in income, education, health, etc. . . . it can be concluded that racial discrimination is unfair treatment based on race, color, ethnic, descent or national origin that aims to nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the social, political, economic and so forth (1).

Moreover, this can be understood that racial discrimination somehow refers to unequal treatment of persons or group on the basis of their race or ethnicity. Also, a few scholars also explain the differential treatment and disparate impact, differential treatment occurs when individuals are treated unequally because of their race. Races are distinguished from one another by such characteristics as hair colour and texture, skin colour, eye colour and shape, size of body parts, and facial organs (Fitri2).

Racial discrimination is the conviction that race is the essential determinant of human characteristics and limits and those racial contrasts produce an intrinsic

prevalence of a specific race. Therefore, abuse of a gathering of individuals based on race, shading, and religion are regularly found in the name predominance. The assertion above likewise upheld by Bowling (21) that expressed racism is the conviction that specific gathering is naturally, organically, socially ethically better than different gatherings, in light of what is ascribed to be their racial organization. White individuals can't acknowledge the presence of individuals of colour, as a result they never treat individuals of colour as the genuine people because of the various sorts of actual trademark.

Another example of direct discrimination from Bowling (22) had mention from the quotation above would be not offering a job a woman because she is likely to take maternity leave where as a man is not, or given a specific job with more high paid salary to a certain ethnic due to the common perception that they will likely to present better output and more efficient than others.

B.3. Racial Prejudice

According to Simanjuntak(5) prejudice is the negative (oppositive) evaluations or judgments of members of a group that are based primarily on membership in the group and not necessarily on the particular characteristics of individual members. Usually prejudice in racism towards minority groups, their right has been destroyed by the majority groups. Moreover, it also can be understood that minority group means a group in which the members have significantly less power, control, and influence over their own lives than the members of a dominant group.

Prejudice is an unfair, intolerant, or unfavorable attitude toward a group of people. Prejudice as the possession of negative attitudes targeted against members of a particular religious, racial, ethnic, social, and/or political group. These attitudes give rise to negative or unfavorable evaluations of individuals seen as belonging to that group. Baron explains that Individuals that have a prejudice against specific groups will tend to experience intense negative feelings when they come into contact with these groups, either directly or indirectly (177).

Prejudice can result from ethnocentrism, the tendency to assume that one culture and way of life is superior to all others. Ethnocentric people judge other cultures by the standards of their own group, which leads quite easily to prejudice against cultures viewed as inferior, Schejbal and Laurakas in Brand's Ethnical Theory (qtd. In Marx and Ko 217) find out that one important and widespread form of prejudice is racism, the belief that one race is superior to others who are innately inferior. When racism prevails in a society, members of subordinate groups generally experience prejudice, discrimination, and exploitation. Racism is the doctrine that some races are inherently inferior and some are inherently superior. In the colonial period, racial ideology served as a rationalization for the conquest, subjugation, exploitation, and brutalization excuse for both official segregation and unofficial discrimination in America. Moreover, racist ideology promotes belief in sharp divisions and boundaries.

Prejudice often drives to a discriminatory behavior such as discrimination, because prejudice is the process of denying opportunities and equal

right to individual. Discrimination also means as an exclusion or exploitation on the basis of group membership. While sometimes intentional, discrimination may also be institutional; that is, caused by a product of the regular operation of social institutions which affects groups unequally. Prejudiced attitude should not be equated with discriminatory behavior. Although they both are not related in terms of the treatment; discrimination leads to the result of the behavior, meanwhile prejudice is the perspective towards certain group itself. They are not identical, and either condition can be present without the other.

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter elaborated the method applied in this literary study as well as the procedures in conducting the research: type of the data used, the data collecting and analyzing method.

A. Types of Research

This literary study was under descriptive qualitative research, in customary exploration, the scientist is required to keep one's voice separate from the information and setting considered. This type of deep research asked questions about the nature incidence, or distribution research declared something naturally, and so in this literary research only measured what already exist (Seixas and Smith, 9). Therefore, it can be understood that this type of research relies on the collection of qualitative data. It is explained that the characteristics of qualitative research are: data collected expressed in form of relative value and in general which allows the author to have an interpretation.

Moreover, the information used in this study displayed in words, phrases or sentences, prologues, monologues, or dialogues, not in the form of numbers. In this case, qualitative research analyzed a movie entitled *Hidden Figures*.

B. Data Organizing

B.1. Data Collecting Method

In this research, in order to collect the data, there are several steps used by the researcher. The first is to watched the movie, followed by reading the movie script,

classified the data, and reduced the data. These techniques are applied in order to obtain the data and accomplish the goals of the research, which is to explained the portrayal of racial discrimination reflected in the movie. Moreover, the main source of this research is based on the movie script, below are the further steps of the data collecting method:

B.1.1. Watching the Movie

The first step was watching the movie. Watching the movie was significant in this step as it would be the first start in order to be able to analyzed the data. The movie entitled *Hidden Figure*s the object of this study has been watched several times. The researcher thoroughly watched the movie to know the general description and understand the story. After that, the researcher carefully rewatched the movie in order to get a deep understanding of the information, content, and data from the story as well as the issues that appeared in the movie. In essence, this process leaded to the discovery of certain issues or topics that are used to answer problem formulations 1 and 2 in this literary study.

B.1.2. Reading the Movie Script

The second step was to read the movie script after watched the movie. Reading a movie script was significant in order to know the issues brought into the analysis as well as taking the data. In essence, this step will also be done for understanding the story lines, utterances and issues that are occurred in the movie. Besides, movie script became the primary data in this literary study, thus, it required the researcher to have a close reading towards the script.

B.1.3. Identifying the Data

The third step was identifying the data. Identified the data used to collect important data that will be analyzed. This could be done by underlining, highlighting, and numbering important data related to the topics analyzed and discussed and identified data in the form of monologues, dialogue, and narration.

B.1.4. Classifying the Data

The next step was data classification. This used for data classification, simplifying, answering problem formulations, and helping analysis in chapter four. Data that has been identified from the movie by being underlined and numbered should be classified into a table called an appendix. Attachments are table forms containing numbers, quotes, minutes/pages, the form of the data, references, and comments related to quotes and references.

B.1.5. Reducing the Data

Moreover, the last way was to reducing the data. This is the last process of data collecting methods. Data reduction simplifies data and reduced some less important or weak data in answering problem formulations 1 and 2.

B.2. Types of the Data

There are two types of data used in this literary study:

1. Primary data is the main data used in this research taken from the movie script with the title *Hidden Figures*. "Primary source is the result of firsthand

knowledge of the topic"(Hamilton 6). *Hidden Figures* directed by Thedore Melfi, released in 2017, with the length of the movie is two hours and seven minutes.

2. Secondary data is directly collected data from the existing sources as support from the first source used in this research. "Secondary data source is research that someone else has already done on a subject" (Hamilton 8). Secondary data used in this research is in the forms of articles, books, journals, related studies as well as textbooks will be used in this literary study.

Regarding to the primary and secondary data above, it is explained that primary data is one which is collected for the first time by the researcher while secondary data is the data already collected or produced by others. There are many differences between primary and secondary data, which are discussed in this work. But the most important difference is that primary data is factual and original whereas secondary data is just the analysis and interpretation of the primary data. While primary data is collected with an aim for getting a solution to the problem at hand, secondary data is collected for other purposes (Ajayi, 2). Moreover, the fundamental differences between primary and secondary data are; the term primary data refers to the data originated by the researcher for the first time while secondary data is the already existing data collected by the investigator agencies and organizations earlier.

B.3. Analyzing the Data

The final step was analyzing the data. This study consists of analyzing and reporting the data from the movie. The study analysis is concluded from the movie data and related references. The final analysis resulting from this study will be reported in chapter IV. The supporting data, such as the case in the movie script and related references, are placed in the appendix.

CHAPTER IV

DISCUSSION

This chapter explains the reflection of the racial discriminations as experienced by the women characters from the movie *The Hidden Figures* along with the other treatment, such as prejudice in their working place, NASA.

A. The Portrayal of Racial Discrimination

Hidden Figures depends on a genuine tale around three ladies, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who worked at NASA managing racial bias. America is a multicultural country which embraces multiculturalism. It is done to decide issues in the public eye because of different social establishments. One of them is racial discrimination, Blacks experience racial discrimination because of their complexion. As cited in Wijayanti and Wulandari, clarifying the racial discrimination, they notice:

> Racial discrimination concerns the unequal treatment of races, whereas racial inequality concerns unequal outcomes (in income, education, health, etc. . . it can be concluded that racial discrimination is unfair treatment based on race, color, ethnic, descent or national origin that aims to nullifying the recognition, enjoyment, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the social, political, economic and so forth (1)

As it is tough to compete with the men in NASA, specifically for the black women, they are faced with some gender inequality's perception, due to them being a woman, as well as black. Some of the quotes from the movie, can be seen as follow:

"West Virginia Collegiate Institute is the best school for . . . (black people) in the state." ('00:43:13').

It explains that even a school is being determined by the dominants of color in the US, that the black Women in the movie, especially Katherine, wishes to go for a white school in order to advance her knowledge on Space. Even if so, she keeps remaining to stay in Collegiate Institute, as the society assume, it is the best place for a black people in the US to study at. Again, it is also spoken that,

"Separate and equal are two different things. Just cause it's the way, doesn't make it right, understand?" ('00:56'12')

This monologue from the male towards Katherine implies the racial discrimination because of her race as a black. People always think that the African-American is left behind in terms of knowledge and understanding in any ways. Also, with the right to speak up their voice in the company, there are limited in anyways.

To support the analysis above, to classify those quotes reflect the phenomena of racial discrimination can be seen from the thought of Sacknel:

Racial discrimination refers to unequal treatment of persons or group on the basis of their race or ethnicity. Many scholars and legal advocates distinguish between differential treatment and disparate

impact, differential treatment occurs when individuals are treated unequally because of their race. Races are distinguished from one another by such characteristics as hair colour and texture, skin colour, eye colour and shape, size of body parts, and facial organs (Sacknel 2).

The characteristics of racial discrimination are based on colour and gender. Those two elements are the traits of how the men judge the women in the *Hidden Figures* movie. In addition, it also can be inferred that Sacknel explains, ethnicity, here refers to the black women, their race (black) in America, based on their history; slavery, becomes to the consideration of how the racial discrimination grows.

Related to the explanation above, there are still many racial discriminations portrayed in the movie.

It is stated, "Even a woman who had worked closely with an engineer on the content of a research report was rarely rewarded by seeing her name alongside his on the final publication."('01:20:13')

This monologue reflects the thought from Bowling (22) discusses, in the working place, just like NASA, they would be not offering a job to a black woman because she is a black, and not be treated the same in terms of receiving rewards and so forth after they have done the duties, and clearly, these differences reflect the discrimination towards black people.

Moreover, this is clearly that racial discrimination experienced by the black women, Khaterine and the colleagues, their great job in company, is seen less

important by rarely putting on their names on the report, compare to other colours, White people.

Racial discrimination or racism is the belief that race is the primary determinant of human qualities and capacities and those racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. As a result, mistreatment of a group of people on the basis of race, colour, and religion are often found in the name superiority. The statement above is also supported by Bowling (21) that stated ―Racism is the belief that certain groups are innately, biologically, socially morally superior to other groups, based upon what is attributed to be their racial composition. In the movie, it can be seen from the dialogue between Colonel Jim Johnson and Katherine:

> Colonel Jim Johnson: I'm sorry, Katherine.
>
> Katherine G. Johnson: For what, Jim?
>
> Colonel Jim Johnson: Underestimating you, and any other woman like you, though I don't imagine there's many.
>
> Katherine G. Johnson: That's good practice, right there.('01:26:11')

It can be understood from the quote that, from the first time Colonel Jim doesn't give his full attention fully to see a black woman's work in the company, as he thinks that they are not that capable to work better than any other engineers, they are men, white American. However, he makes a mistake to finally realized that Katherine is a capable woman.

In other evidence, "Women, on the other hand, had to wield their intellect like a scythe, hacking away against the stubborn underbrush of low expectations." ('01:30:11').

Not just being a woman, being black here is also the issue, that being both, are the same as a disaster, that is the lowest people by capability and knowledge as they assume, the White Americans.

Other evidence as follows also describe that, black women frequently sought a discourteous treatment and even had a title 'human PC'. In NASA, white individuals frequently got the best position. They even had a different washroom, cafeteria, library, etc. These ladies buckled down despite the fact that they didn't get what they merited.

> Dorothy: "Mrs. Mitchell? If I could my application for supervisor ma'am, are they still considering me to fill that position?"
>
> Mrs. Mitchell: "Yes? The official word is no. They're not assigning a permanent supervisor for a coloured group."
>
> Dorothy: "May I ask why?"
>
> Mrs. Mitchell: "I don't know why." ('01:42:15')

Data one shows how racial discrimination show up in the place of a task. Minorities individuals cannot have a place that coordinates with their capacity. All they set was being up in a low way. As minority individuals of colour can't get an advancement on the off chance that they get advancement, they can't have the

situation for quite a while. "Shaded" alludes to the person of colour which presume that this exchange is one of an illustration of prejudice.

Again, it is also Happening towards Marrie in the working place, who experiences the treatment of racial discrimination. The dialogue can be seen while Marrie has a conversation with Mr. Zielinski:

> Mr. Zielinski: "Marry, a person with engineer mind should be an engineer. You can't be a computer for the rest of your life."
>
> Marry: "Mr. Zielinski, I am a Negro woman. I'm not gonna entertain the impossible."
>
> Mr. Zielinski: "Let me ask you. If you were a white male, would you wish to be an engineer?"
>
> Marry: "I wouldn't have to. I'd already the one." ('01:55:49')

The dialogue above shows how awful the reality is that time. The one that have a capacity like a engineer cannot be an engineer in light of their skin tone. The people of colour generally believe that white will constantly have an honor to have a superior life. She realizes without a doubt that she can't be a specialist since there is nobody dark female designer. Moreover, to support the analysis above, it is true that, according to Wilson in which the presumed biological or cultural superiority of one or more racial groups is used to justify or prescribe the inferior treatment or social position(s) of other racial groups (Clair 9).

B.   Reflection of Prejudice Experienced by Black Women in the *Hidden Figures*

Different from the discrimination above, prejudice is an unfair, intolerant, or unfavourable attitude toward a group of people. Prejudice as the possession of negative attitudes targeted against members of a particular religious, racial, ethnic, social, and/or political group. These attitudes give rise to negative or unfavorable evaluations of individuals seen as belonging to that group. Baron explains that Individuals that have a prejudice against specific groups will tend to experience intense negative feelings when they come into contact with these groups, either directly or indirectly (177). Regarding to the negative feelings while people see the black people, especially women, the dialogue below is the depiction of hatred feeling towards the black women in Nasa:

> Jim Johnson: "Aeronautics. Pretty heady stuff. They let women handle that kinda stuff"
>
> Katherine: "Mr. Johnson, it may be best if you quit talking right now. I'll have you know, I was the first Negro female student at West Virginia University Graduate School. On any given day I analyze the manometer levels for air displacement, friction and velocity and compute over 10,000 calculations by cosine, square root and lately Analytic Geometry. By hand. There are 20 bright, highly capable Negro women in the West Computing Group. And we're proud to be doing our part for the country. So, yes. . .they let

women do some things over at NASA, Mr. Johnson." ('00:36:48 - 00:37: 34')

From the script above, it shows that Katherine was trying to show that as a black woman she deserved to get the same rights as the other white people get. Her response above is classified as a struggle to prove that she is not low, compared to others in the NASA, by mentioning the school that she had graduated from to Jim Johnson. This is a racial prejudice in seeing a black woman; underestimating their potential.

Other facts below also explain the racial prejudice towards the group of black women characters in the *Hidden Figures* movie when they are assumed weaker without knowing they are capable of in the first place:

Dorothy: "There are quite a few women working in the Space Program, sir." ('00:05:05 – 00:05-09').

This monologue spoke to Feagin and Sikes in the movie is meant to emphasize that their group, refers to black women group, is not that weak and even stupid, they are capable of operating machine and system in the NASA, just like the other white do.

Prejudice regarding to the bad assumption, or hatred towards certain group is getting tense reflected in the middle of the movie when the black women in the NASA is trying to lead and give their voice. According to Sanopa, Warman and et all:

Racial prejudice known as insidious moral and social disease affecting people and population all over the world. It is diagnosed by the cataloguing of its various symptoms and manifestations which include fear, intolerance, separation, segregation, discrimination, and hatred. While all of these symptoms of racial prejudice may be manifest, the single underlying cause of racial prejudice is ignorance. Historically, a race of people is defined as a population with distinguishable biological features. (44)

Different from the racial discrimination as explained previously, here the prejudice is a non-treatment physically proposed to certain people, prejudice stands to the nature of hate feelings, intolerance people, and label people due to she or he being black for example, that is historically they were a slave. Moreover, as follow, there are some other facts seen in the movie that reflect those hatred feelings

"I plan on being an engineer at NASA, but I cannot do that without taking them classes at that all-white high school, and I can't change the color of my skin. So, I have no choice, but to be the first, which I can't do without you, sir" ('00:22:43')

here it can be assumed that she knows that she can forget about her class, or ethnicity, that she is African-American, however she does not need to change her color but she needs to pursue her dreams and actualize herself. The reason of appearing to actualize herself is due to people are doubting on her, to see that all black women are not that capable of being powerful. Furthermore, even if in this

situation she does not experience the treatment of discrimination, but she is struggling to convince everyone that she is not as they think she is.

However, she almost gives up on people thought of her, being a black woman as stated above, all black women are not qualified in any ways due to their history of being slave. Here is reflected from the movie

"Mr. Zielinski...I'm not gonna entertain the impossible" ('01:40:34')

This dialogue implies that she means to convince everyone that she can actualize herself no matter what, by believing the impossible, in this case, that she is a black woman, believed with no capability to fly to the space in NASA, by she can prove everyone wrong, that black woman is also capable, neglecting the skin colors and others but ability.

Related to the prejudice, black women in NASA seem under a high struggle to convince every person that they are capable of doing anything regardless their skin tone or history as a black. Quotation below are the examples of their struggle:

Paul: And she is a black woman. There is no protocol for a black woman attending these meetings.

Mr. Harrison: Okay, I get that part, Paul. But within this wall, who makes the rules?

Kathrine: You, sir. You are the boss. You just have to act like one, Sir. Mr. Harrison:

You keep quiet. ('01:21:50-01:22:1)

Actually, on Paul says, "And she is a black woman. There is no protocol for a woman attending these meetings"

above, implies that Katherine does not mean to give it a chance for Mr. Harrison to set up the rules in the meeting regarding to the protocols. Katherine actually feels underestimated, so in NASA, she just means to say that, in order to confirm people thought of her that being a women and black. Moreover, it is true Baron explains that Individuals that have a prejudice against specific groups will tend to experience intense negative feelings when they come into contact with these groups, either directly or indirectly (177).
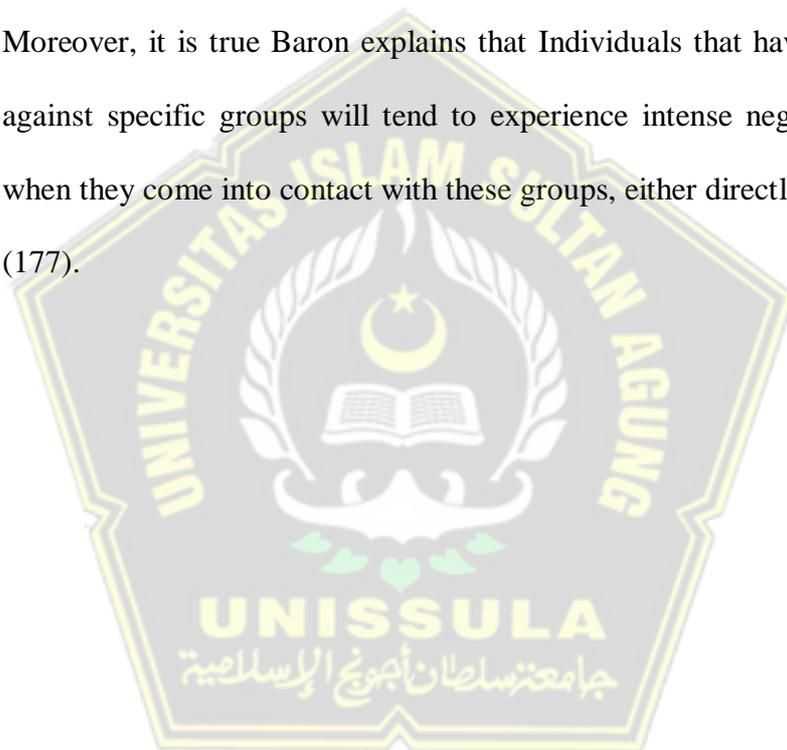
CHAPTER V

CONLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This chapter gives the conclusion of the analysis which elaborates the main points of the results as well as the suggestion for the further study related to racial discrimination or prejudice issue in a literary study.

A. Conclusion

Hidden Figures, talking about genuine tale around three ladies, Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson, who worked at NASA managing racial bias. As America is a multicultural country which embraces multiculturalism. It is done to decide issues in the public eye because of different social establishments. One of them is racial isolation. Blacks experience racial isolation because of their complexion; a discrimination and prejudice.

Moreover, in this literary study clarified that racial discrimination and racial prejudice are found in this movie. Two findings that become the center of analysis, the portrayal of racial discrimination in the NASA towards black women, as they are being treated differently compared to white workers, even if they actually are capable enough in the roles of working and become an engineer in NASA company. The depiction of prejudice issue towards black women, due to the history of black people in America, as they were slaves by history and not educated. Thus, those two issues are the issues that have been experienced by Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson throughout the situation in the movie.

B. Suggestion

The author aims to tell that there are many other types of discrimination treatments out of the discrimination itself and prejudice that can be discussed such as masculinity issue, gender oppression and et cetera that reflected by the black women character in the movie. In addition, this literary study is expected to contribute to the understanding of racial discrimination itself deeply, in hopes that the reader might get the value of them and implicate that to the daily lives; that doing racial discrimination is not the right attitude to do.
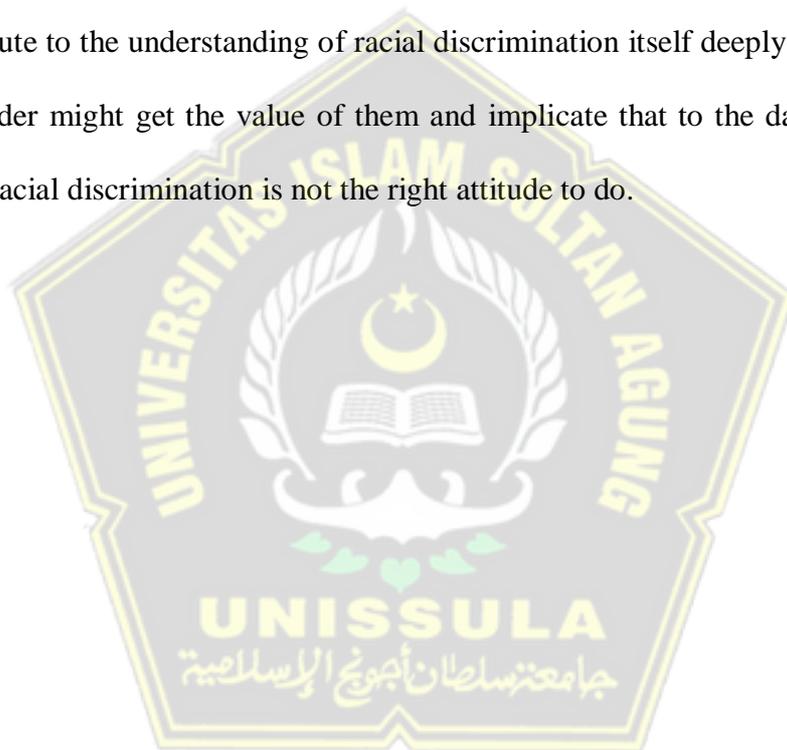
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