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**RACISM AS MANIFESTATION OF WHITE SUPREMACY IN  
BLACKKLANSMAN AND 13<sup>TH</sup> FILMS**

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**ABSTRACT**

This research aimed to present how white supremacy was represented in 13<sup>th</sup> by Ava DuVernay and BlackKlansman by Spike Lee and to identify and analyse how the characters in 13<sup>th</sup> by Ava DuVernay and BlackKlansman by Spike Lee deal with the racist system. According to Abrams literary criticism is a method to describe events in the film. Seek to understand and interpret the meaning of an event of human behaviour interaction in a particular situation according to the researcher's perspective. Research that literary criticism aimed to understand the literary object under study in depth. The method used was to explore sources of information and data in the form of popular literature, which is films. Using a postcolonial approach, both films had a theme of racism, and also white supremacy in the USA. The issue of racism and white supremacy has resurfaced after more and more cases of racism by white people against black people. The characters in both films find racism from white people, they will try to fight against racism with various kinds of struggles.

**Keywords:** postcolonialism, racism, white supremacy

**INTRODUCTION**

In this globalization era, film is a combined mass communication of various technologies such as photography and sound recording, fine arts and fine arts theatre, literature and architecture, and music (Effendy, 1986). The film as a form of the cultural products takes a significant role in media. As it has become a part of society's life, film might lead to massive impacts in the community. These phenomena are seen as representing an aspect of

importance for humans as cultural products to understand a specific message that the films wish to express in media. The one of film can become mass media and a tool of entertainment, but the same time it has become a means to learn and understand things that happened in the past such as history, biography and community. This film is shown on *BlackkkKlansman* and 13<sup>th</sup> Films.

This film accidentally found an interesting film when the Black Lives Matter issue rose again in mid-2020 yesterday, namely the 13<sup>th</sup> film and also *BlacKkKlansman*. A lot of people think that their race is the most superior compared to others. Starting from this negative prejudice, the racism issue occurs and is harmful to a community of people. To reject this existence of racism, some people create a work of arts, for instance movie, advertisement, and music. One example of the work on racism is Spike Lee's *BlacKkKlansman* film, which became the object of this research. The researcher also focused on film with the theme of social issues, one of which is about racism. Currently, racism is still frequently encountered throughout the world, some are covered by the media, some are not covered by the media. Racism according to (Malik, 2017) also occurs in the United States, especially when the peak of the Law comes from Jim Crow (US local state legal entity that regulates the situation for Negroes) about the existence of racial segregation that must be carried out starting from restaurants, hotels, schools, hospitals, prisons, or even a burial place. Finally, when it was applied to law, it was also penetrated until there was a separation in the area of worship or church.

The research will appreciate the topic of racism in the United States, through 13<sup>th</sup> and *BlacKkKlansman* Films. The movie gives the audience an insight into how we should fight against racism. The Research hopefully can give the impact in making a more established definition and description of racism is still a serious issue in this world through the two films. The research is expected to give knowledge of how the minority in the world, specifically in the United States of America face the discrimination from the majorities and the government in the film, therefore the film has a moral value to the society.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Popular Literature**

Popular writings of literary works are translated as popular literature, but many disagree with this. Because translations of literature in the context of literature are worth writing and cannot be interpreted as literature in many ways. With the development of a more practical society. Related to popular literature This literature can be easily translated into popular literary concepts (Adi, 2011, p. 19). Literature about quality literature itself. This is a different concept from the popular language. As a result, literature is always associated with valuable writing, and many cannot call folk manuscripts folk literature. When the word English literature can be used to refer to any of the

valuable contributions, they are usually referred to as higher literature, literary elite or canon, or popular literature. Popular literature has a feature as a device for the literary language targets to speak the concept or the concept of a writer. Conative feature specifically the willpower of creator information in order that readers are certain of creator success and do now no longer doubt the consequences of the paintings feature of fatigue in famous literature seen from the factor of view, style, plot or character, background, detail problems and themes.

### **Film**

The film is not handy to study, unlike any other literary works such as poetry, short stories, novel, or any other works. It is because short story or poetry are relatively easy to study because they are written to be read. Boggs (2008, p. 41) said the film itself was actually a stage play and written for the show, therefore it was a bit tricky to investigate. However, because the work is in print and relies heavily on spoken language, imaginative readers can at least imagine the faint imitations they might experience upon viewing the work. The most popular and powerful form of storytelling media that shares many elements with short stories and novels. During production, the film actually required some process. "Production", "distribution", and "exhibition", are the three major arms of industrial film. Villarejo (2007, p. 81) has provided an explanation of these three points. For large-scale industrial filmmaking, the highly differentiated workforce with the strict and hierarchical division of labour brings some special elements. Production can also refer to the act of imagining, shooting, and editing a one-minute film.

Apparently, nothing has changed, Geuens (2000, pp. 1-2) describes as usual (films in the cinema). More than ever, the film industry is part of our everyday cultural scene. Media historians also regularly publish new editions that cover the latest developments in this area. Monaco (2000, p. 389) also adds that in order to describe and evaluate a film, the film must present an important element that supports it: the audience. Explain and evaluate two relatively simple tasks. In relation to formal language, here is the theory of "opinion". Prescription theorists are interested in what a film should look like. The normative theory is inductive.

### **Postcolonialism**

The postcolonial is something like the counteracting of colonialism. According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the word colonialism comes from the Latin 'colony', which means 'agricultural settlement', and originally refers to Romans who settled in foreign lands but still retained their citizenship. Edward Said (1993, p. 9) defines it as the "implantation of settlements in a distant territory". For Ania Loomba (1998, p. 2) it refers to "the conquest and control of the land and goods of others". Philip McMichael (2000, p. 5)

considers it as "the submission of the physical and psychological power of one culture to another, a colonizing power through the military conquest of territories". For Enseng Ho (2004, p. 225), colonialism consists of "the occupation of territories by foreign settlers, soldiers or administrators".

As Boehmer (Boehmer, 1995, p. 3) has shown, colonial literature is often described as literature written by European colonizers about non-European lands that were (European) dominated by them. This assertion broadens the authority of the settlers, who not only take over indigenous lands and exploit them but also give the settlers the confidence to establish the spirit of their colony or "spread" their ideology (Loomba, 1998, p. 21). The author assumes that literature is a very important medium for colonizers to convey their perspective to insist on their power and authority. It is also important to present a colonized voice on the colonial experience to resist colonialism. The ideology is then propagated and validated through literature, as it can be accessed and read at any time and at any time.

### **Racism**

Race is a classification system that classifies the population based on references to physical attributes such as skin colour (Hartley, 2010). Furthermore, this classification often indicates racial dominance. It means that people of one race always feel better than others. The concept of race is inherently similar to the concept of nation, and each race is the product of a degree of difference from the other races in the system. Racism is classified as both verbal and non-verbal everyday practices and behaviours, stereotypes, discriminatory practices, systematic institutional policies or racist behaviour (Hartley, 2010). Whether racism is discrimination based on individuals or skin colour, race, or ethnicity. Racism is associated with racism. Here's a brief explanation, racism is irrational and evil. Because some races feel better than others, and older races deserve to command lower races.

Mark Halstead's theory includes three types of racism which are the first, Pre-reflected Gut Racism, the second is Cultural Racism and the last is Institutional Racism. Each type of racism has its own characteristics based on the unique aspects of people's thinking, which poses a major social problem. Pre-reflected Gut Racism is used in place of the now redundant term "racism," which means racism. The name suggests that it has an emotional origin rather than a rational origin or content. It can be observed both individually and in groups (Halstead, 2008). Cultural racism is a term for the many facets of racism based on bodily characteristics such as social customs, manners and behaviours, religious and moral beliefs and customs, language, aesthetic values and recreational activities. Institutional Racism is the racism in the institution of a business regarding a product and part of its culture. However, cultural racism draws attention to the differences in questionable defects in

the cultures of minorities that may justify their poor treatment, while institutional racism often serves them. resource allocation in our society.

The standard analysis of institutional racism has four stages: (1) the historic creation of an institution with a non-racist purpose, designed for a homogeneous society. If you have racist elements, you don't need to know them. If you only knew, this agency would be an example of type 2 racism; (2) due to the changing circumstances within the institution, a small number of new groups are disadvantaged due to the sustainability of the institution; (3) the power of the white majority over the institution. The organization has deliberately unrealistic reasons (for example, traditional and traditional procedures) for racist reasons (because white people believe it is in their best interests) It may exist intentionally; (4) the moral judgment is that when the discriminatory consequences of institutional practices are brought to light, anyone who seeks to perpetuate them is guilty of racism. A stronger version of institutional racism means the claim that simply doing business as usual in such a context would be complicit in racism (Halstead, 2008, p. 1119).

### **White Supremacy**

In literature, it's easy to find an example of a white supremacist depiction that perpetuates the notion that whites are superior to black. Morton (2017, p. 54), It is simple to locate examples of racist portrayals that uphold thoughts of whiteness as being advanced to blackness in literature via the advent of stereotypical characters. The reason why white people think that they are a superior race is that in the history of Christianity, Perkinson (2004, pp. 2-3) says that "The Christian supremacism, 'Theology', which historically gave birth to white supremacism, more accurately indicates the type of power that needs to be fought than the broader one". Hegemony arose from the Christian idealism that "white" people are followers of the church. The pastors at that time were "white-skinned" people. They always believe that "non-white" people are sneaky, not Christian.

### **Stereotype**

Stereotype according to Oxford Dictionary is static ideas and images that many people have about a particular type of person or thing, but they are often not (Hornby, 2006). Basically, stereotypes are often seen as overgeneralizations of the characteristics and behaviours of members of a particular group, often undesirable, and used to exaggerate the differences between groups. Most stereotypes are generally negative, not all stereotypes, but when it comes to the context of racism, it's always negative. The ego's justification function reveals that people are accepting stereotypes and prejudices, at least in part, because they feel better about themselves when they deviate from others. One point of view has emerged in Allport's

psychoanalytic theory, including the idea that stereotypes "act as projection screens for our individual conflicts (David L. Hamilton, 2005).

Presenting means explaining and presenting our imagination and putting things in our minds. Representing it can also mean symbolizing, modelling, or replacing. For example, in Christianity, there is a statue of Jesus on the cross, which explains this pain, such as the suffering of Jesus. This representation theory essentially has three approaches. The first is the reflective approach, intentional approach and the constructionist approach.

## **METHOD**

The layout of this study was literary criticism which was the general time period for research involved with defining, classifying, studying, interpreting, and comparing works of literature (Abrams, 1971, pp. 49-50). In his book *The Mirror and the Lamp*, Abrams (1971, pp. 3-21) divided the technique of literary grievance into four terms; first is mimetic literary paintings as an imitation, second is goal literary paintings as a self-reliant thing, third is pragmatic literary paintings because the impact that sourced of literary into the reader (reader response), and the last one is expressive which choice of the author or the impact of the author into literary (creative process). The researcher takes the mimetic as a technique in studying the content material of *BlackKlansman* by Spike Lee and the *13<sup>th</sup>* by Ava DuVernay. This research is a literary criticism in which the writer uses a postcolonial approach. In this study, the researcher conducts discussion on literature, including description, analysis, and interpretation of a literary work, that is, films entitled *BlackKlansman* and *13<sup>th</sup>*.

## **FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

This part present finding and discussing the object research. Furthermore, it can answer the research questions: a. How white supremacy is represented in *13<sup>th</sup>* and *BlackKlansman* Films, and b. How do the characters deal with racist people and government in the *13<sup>th</sup>* and *BlackKlansman* Films.

### **How White Supremacy is Represented in *BlackKlansman* and *13<sup>th</sup>* Films**

Racism is often perpetrated by individuals or institutions. It is a form of racism that appears in the *BlackKlansman* and *13<sup>th</sup>* films that the producers have classified to present it.

### **Racial Prejudice**

Racism and prejudice are terms that are still used interchangeably. However, these two terms are distinct from each other. Bias refers to attitudes and beliefs that people in a group are somehow inferior to others. According to Nelson (2009), in his book "Handbook of Prejudice, Stereotypes, and

Discrimination", the word "prejudice" comes from the Latin roots "prae" (in advance) and "judicium" (judgement) and essentially means to judge before.



**Figure 1 (BlacKkKlansman, 2018) (Minute 78.39)**

The conversation in the scene above "*Negro pronounces it 'are-uh-.'*", is the proof there is degrading how Black people speak. David Duke (Grand Wizard of Ku Klux Klan) is here on the phone with Ron Stallworth, they're talking about how Black people speak, comparing them to white people (Figure 1). It is also categorized as racism. David Duke said that Black people are uneducated people, pointing out that Black people cannot speak as well as White people.

### **Racial Discrimination**

Racial discrimination is a form of racism. Racial discrimination is a form of racial relations in the form of exclusion. Racial discrimination includes actions and behaviours that prevent minorities from accessing certain facilities and activities such as education, work, housing and parks. This is an arbitrary denial of privilege, fame, and power given to members of a racial minority group (which may be based on race rather than individual characteristics) at the same level as members of the discriminated group.

Here is also the racial discrimination which said by Flip that the police officer in picture 6, his name is Landers, shot and killed a black kid a few years ago as what Flip told in the scene above (Figure 2). The Black people, especially those who become the minority cannot be free to determine their own lives. The police that killed a black kid a few years ago, Landers is the example of White supremacy in America in the early 1970s, White people taking rights and life from Black people with no reason. White people take the rights of Black people for no reason and even Black people who have done

nothing wrong have been humiliated and discriminated against by white people, especially if Black people make mistakes or commit crimes, the punishment will be worse than the White people who committed the crime.



**Figure 2 (BlacKkKlansman, 2018) (Minute 59.23)**

### **Segregation**

Racial segregation is signed through social centres and authorities services which include education is split into areas; for white people and black people. The centres for coloured humans are given low-fine centres. The facilities which include hospitals also separated between White people and Black people.



**Figure 3 (13th, 2016) (Minute 1.11.16)**



The picture above is of Kalief Browder, a black young man who was accused of committing a criminal act that he did not commit (Figure 3). This is one of the cruellest segregations because it deprives humans of their rights and freedoms. Kalief chose not to admit the act and was put in jail by local authorities.

### **How the Characters Deal with Racist People and Government in *BlacKkKlansman* and *13<sup>th</sup>* Films**

The characters in the film *BlacKkKlansman* and *13<sup>th</sup>* get racist treatment from people around, the system, and the government itself. Therefore, the characters in the two films above have their own actions in dealing with racist behaviour.



**Figure 4 (*BlacKkKlansman*, 2018) (minute 16.16)**

The Black Student Union held a meeting in order to fight racism against Afro-Americans (Black People) by the majority, white people. Black students from Colorado College held this meeting to express protest to the US government and officials at that time because blacks in the US did not get the same rights and even received inhumane behaviour from whites.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The effects of racism are clearly illustrated by the emergence of the character of a black man who is actually a victim of white racism. It emerges as a result of racism and colonized. Racism appearing in the text is not racism in the form of slavery as in the past. Both films have the topic of racism, but *BlacKkKlansman* and *13<sup>th</sup>* are packaged in different ways. *BlacKkKlansman* is packed with several supporting stories added in the history so that the plot of the film is fuller. While *13<sup>th</sup>* is a documentary film

with a timeline of racism carried out by white people and the US government, with added clips of evidence of racism that occurred and a narrator who tells the story of racism.

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