

RACISM IN TERRY GEORGE'S MOVIE HOTEL RWANDA

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Abstract

The title of this thesis is Racism in Terry George's Movie Hotel Rwanda. This study is aimed to analyze what kinds of Hutu's oppressions occurred in the movie, and what are linguistically realized toward racism. The writer applies the theories from Iris Marion Young about oppression in black America society (1990). Based on its form, Young was divided oppression into 5 types, they are (1) exploitation, (2) marginalization, (3) powerlessness, (4) culture imperialism, and (5) violence. Racism is a belief or doctrine that inherent differences among the various human races determine cultural or individual achievement. Oppression is when a person or group in a position of power controls the powerless in cruel and unfair ways. The writer focuses on the analysis of oppression based on Hotel Rwanda script, and finally oppression is found as the most dominant thing that the depict racism in the movie..

Keywords: *oppression, racism*

INTRODUCTION

Racism is the belief that a particular race is superior or inferior to another, that a person's social and moral traits are predetermined by his or her inborn biological characteristics. Racial separatism is the belief, most of the time based on racism, that different races should remain segregated and apart from one another. Racism is discussed as a dehumanization related to the materiality of domination used by the world-system in the zone of non-being (violence and dispossession) as opposed to the materiality of domination in the zone of being (regulation and emancipation) (Grosfoguel:2016). Racism will be the main topic in this research. Racism usually happen in countries which the majority of the citizen is white skinned people towards black people the countries such as America, Europe and Australia. Racism has existed throughout human history. It may be defined as the hatred of one person by another — or the belief that another person is less than human — because of skin color, language, customs, place of birth or any factor that supposedly reveals the basic nature of that person. It has influenced wars, slavery, the formation of nations, and legal codes.

The examples of racism such as the police stops that happened in America. People Who is stopped by the police, either in cars or on foot, continues to be highly racial zed as proof of racial profiling continues to accumulate. University of Kansas professors found the police

conducted investigatory stops of African American males at twice the rate of whites. A black man in Kansas City, 25 or younger, has a 28 percent chance of being stopped, while a similar white male has only a 12 percent chance.

Hotel Rwanda is about tensions between the Hutu and Tutsi peoples lead to a civil war, in a country where corruption and bribes are routine. Paul Rusesabagina (Don Cheadle), the manager of Sabena Hôtel des Mille Collines, is Hutu but his wife, Tatiana (Sophie Okonedo), is Tutsi. His marriage is a source of friction with Hutu extremists, most prominently George Rutaganda, a friendly supplier to the hotel who also is the local leader of Interahamwe, a brutal anti-Tutsi militia.

As the political situation in the country deteriorates, Paul and his family observe neighbors being dragged from their homes and openly beaten in the streets. Paul curries favor with people of influence, bribing them with money and alcohol, seeking to maintain sufficient influence to keep his family safe. When civil war erupts and a Rwandan Army officer threatens Paul and his neighbors, Paul barely negotiates their safety, and brings everyone to the hotel. More refugees come to the hotel from the overburdened United Nations camp, the Red Cross, and orphanages. Paul must divert the Hutu soldiers, care for the refugees, be a source of strength to his family, and maintain the appearance of a functioning high-class hotel, as the situation becomes more and more violent, with mobs in the streets just outside the gates.

Hotel Rwanda tells the true story of one man's courage in the midst of this genocide. By 1994, Rwanda's population stood at more than 7 million people comprising three ethnic groups: the Hutu (who made up roughly 85% of the population), the Tutsi (14%) and the Twa (1%).

Prior to the colonial era, Tutsis generally occupied the higher strata in the social system and the Hutus the lower. However, social mobility was possible, a Hutu who acquired a large number of cattle or other wealth could be assimilated into the Tutsi group and impoverished Tutsi would be regarded as Hutu. A clan system also functioned, with the Tutsi clan known as the Nyinginya being the most powerful. Throughout the 1800s, the Nyingiya expanded their influence by conquest and by offering protection in return for tribute.

The reason why the writers choose to research about is topic, because until today there are so many discrimination to certain ethnic all around the world where the society of the world doesn't know it. That's the reason why the writer chose to analyze Hotel Rwanda by Terry George. The topic of the movie is powerful and moving, but that's got more to do with knowing the horrible events actually took place -- not because of anything special about the film making. Cheadle's acting was exceptional, and everyone else was good with the notable exception of Nolte who played his role as if he were a caricature of a gruff-but-lovable military careerist. It's worth seeing to remind yourself that this genocide really happened and the rest of the world

really didn't care that much. It has a genuine power: the ability of film to beam light onto dark days of history, making it impossible for us to look away, reminding us of what we should never forget.

1.1 Racism

Racism is discussed as a dehumanization related to the materiality of domination used by the world-system in the zone of non-being (violence and dispossession) as opposed to the materiality of domination in the zone of being (regulation and emancipation) (Grosfoguel:2016). According to Berman &Paradies (2010, p. 228), Racism is promulgated on a number of fronts. Definitions of racism include “a mix of prejudice, power, ideology, stereotypes, domination, disparities and unequal treatment”.

1.2 Oppression

Oppression refers to both the system of obstacles and the individual acts that maintain the privilege and authority of the dominant group (Bankston 2000; Jaggar and Young 2000; Johnson 2000; Roth 2005).Oppression (Deutsch 2006: 10): “Oppression is the experience of repeated, widespread, systemic injustice. It need not be extreme and involve the legal system (as in slavery, apartheid, or the lack of a right to vote) nor violent (as in tyrannical societies). According to Young (1990:48) there are five kinds of oppression, they are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, culture imperialism, and violence.

a. Exploitation

Exploitation is when the superior class have a close interaction to the inferior class in order to take some benefits from them. Young states (1990:48) exploitation is how class structure can exist in the absence of legally and normatively sanctioned class distinctions. In precapitalist societies domination is overt and accomplished through directly political means. In both slave society and feudal society the right to appropriate the product of the labor of others partly defines class privilege, and these societies legitimate class distinctions with ideologies of natural superiority and inferiority.

b. Marginalization

Young (1990:53) defines that marginal are people the system of labor cannot or will not use. Marginalization in some ways is much worse than exploitation since society has decided that it cannot or will not use these people even for labor. Young categorized that there is a growing underclass of people permanently confined to lives or social marginality, most of whom are racially marked Black or Latinos America, and Blacks, East Indians, Eastern Europeans, or North Africans in Europe. This means that marginalization is by no means the

fate only of racially marked group.

c. Powerlessness

As noted by Young (1990:56), in powerlessness structure, that are some people have their power and wealth because they profit from the labor of others. Powerlessness are those who lack authority or power even in this mediated sense, those over whom power is situated so that they must take orders and rarely have the right to give them.

Powerlessness can be said as some people or groups have no authority to protest or being marginalized and can do nothing about it. As what Young also claims that the powerlessness have little or no work autonomy, exercise little creativity of judgment in their work, have no technical expertise or authority, express themselves awkwardly, especially in public or bureaucratic settings, and do not command respect (Young, 1990:57).

d. Culture Imperialism

Culture imperialism is bit different with three kinds of oppression above. Exploitation, marginalization and powerlessness are matter of concrete power in relation to others since it matters of who benefits from whom, and who is dispensable, in fact culture imperialism tends toward abstract oppression. Barker (2003:3) defines Cultural imperialism is said to involve the domination of one culture by another and is usually thought of as a set of processes involving the ascendancy of one nation and/or the global domination of consumer capitalism.

e. Violence

Violence is behavior involving physical force intended to hurt, damage, or kill someone or something. Many groups suffer the oppression of systematic violence. Members of some groups live with the knowledge that they must fear random, unprovoked attacks on their persons or property, which have no motive, but to damage, humiliate, or destroy the person. Violence is probably the most obvious and visible oppression from those oppression. Those groups who have power however often oppressed or humiliate lower class. Young (1990:61) includes the category less severe incidents of harassment, intimidation, or ridicule simply for the purpose of degrading, humiliating or stigmatizing group members.

METHODOLOGY

In accomplishing this research, the writer used descriptive qualitative method. Centralized to Hancock (2009:7), qualitative research is concerned with developing explanations of social phenomena. That is to say, it aims to help us to understand the social world in which we live and why things are the way they are. It is concerned with the social aspects of our world. Qualitative research also tends to focus on how people or groups of people can have different ways of looking at reality. The method was applied by describing the data

and analyzing them through some steps that related to the focus of analysis. The reason why the writer choosed this method was to explain the problem and its analysis through the theory and show the quality through the findings.

3.1 Techniques of Analyzing the Data

The data are collected in this research must be analyzed. The writer uses descriptive qualitative design. There are steps as follow.

1. Classifying the utterances which were involved into 5 kinds of oppression, those are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, culture imperialism, and violence.
2. Explaining what oppression linguistically realize shown by some characters toward those oppression that Tutsi faced.

FINDINGS

Having analyzed the data in the aspect of racism that realized in *The Pianist* movie, the results were below:

1. In *Hotel Rwanda* movie, there were 50 statements and dialogues which was shown oppression.
2. According to 5 types of oppression (exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, culture imperialism, and violence), violence was the dominant with total number 31 statements and dialogues.

CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

5.1 Conclusion

After analyzing the movie, finally writer went to the conclusions that presented as follows:

The five types of oppression were occurred in the *Hotel Rwanda* movie. They are exploitation, marginalization, powerlessness, culture imperialism, and violence.

5.2 Suggestions

There are several suggestions that writer could offer to readers towards racism, they are:

1. Racism is real, it's not only happened in the past but also in present day and very possible to be exist in future. Learn from the history, we can be more aware that racist would give bad impact, not only for individualism, but for one group of society as well.
2. Racism issue was quite important to study since it would enlarge someone's mind about being racist and judge someone upon it. Everybody should be aware to this global issue.
3. Those who ever experienced racism should not let the oppressor ruin their mind, they should be brave to open their mind, keep their head up against those oppression. They should believe

that there is a light to get them free.

4. Indonesia is one of multiethnic countries. Many cultures, races, and religions live in the name of Unity in Diversity. Even though mostly Indonesia citizens already accept each other, racist remains exist in this unique society. As a good and modern people, we have to be more appreciate each other. Admiring other's religion, culture and also rights.

5. Social norms are unclear rule and people could break it as much as they want. Racist has existed, but many of us just keep silent and don't care in behalf of individual business. Those who have a throne should have a clear rule about racist in order to make the minorities save.

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