

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Problem

Nowadays, movie is considered to be a powerful communication media to convey messages, because of its audio-visual nature with images and sound, movie are able to tell a lot in a short time. Many people learn and know something from movies, movies are also guide to increase knowledge and insight. Generally a movie can include variety of messages, be it educational, entertainment, and information messages.

Movie is a combination of efforts to deliver messages through media moving images, the use of camera technology, color and sound. Elements is in the background by a story that contains a message that delivered by the director to the film audience (Susanto, 1982:60).

According to Ayoana (2010), movie are life-images. Movie, collectively, is often called cinema. Cinema itself comes from kinematic or motion words. Understanding by literally movie (cinema) and tho equals phytos (light) graphie equals grhap (text or picture or image), so the meaning is to paint motion with light. So that we can paint motion with light, we have to use a special tool, the usual one we call the camera. Movies are one of the most popular types of entertainment. Even today, everyone has a television to watch movie. In movies, there are also movie scripts. Movie script is written by screenwriters for a movie, television program, or video game. Movie script can be original works or adaptations from existing pieces of writing. In them, the movement, actions, expression and dialogues of the characters are also narrated.

I use “Just Mercy” movie script, because it presents is a American biographical drama that tells the true story of Walter McMillian who with the help of a young lawyer Bryan Stevenson is appealing his murder charges. The movie is based on the same memoir, written by Stevenson. The movie directed by Destin Daniel Cretton tells the story of a laywer who graduated from Harvard University, Bryan Stevenson, in fighting for justice, especially for black people who are threatened with the death penalty without a clear justice process. Bryan comitted

himself to helping death row convicts. This struggle started when Stevenson graduated from college. At that time, Stevenson immediately founded the Equal Justice Initiative with Eva Ansley. He became increasingly famous when he handled the case of Walter McMillian or called Johnny D, an African-American people. Without a clear trial process, Johnny D was immediately sentenced to death on charges of murdering a white woman in 1986. The conviction took place in 1987. Just looking at the case file, Stevenson has noticed the irregularities because the indictment is based on the evidence of only one witness. There is a lot of evidence that shows Johnny D's innocence, while the only evidence come from criminals with a motive for lying. In the following years, Bryan became involved in the complexities of legal and political cases and racism that became so obvious as he fought for the Johnny D justice case. In the case racial discrimination in the movie script "Just Mercy" here we will analyze by semiotic studies.

The definition of semiotics can be understood through the meaning of semiotics comes from the word *semeion*, the Greek word for sign. Semiotics specified as a branch of science that deals with signs, starting from the system signs, and the processes applicable to sign use in the late 18th century, (Alex sobur, 2014). According to J.H. Lambert (1764) a briefly forgotten German philosopher, uses the word semiotics as a designation for a sign. For some time, talk about semiotics had sunk and did not attract the attention of philosophers or other observers linguistics and literature. Only after a philosopher the first American logic, C.S. Peirce (1834-1914) wrote down his thoughts in order gaining attention in the 30s, semiotics is back in the centuries new. This was introduced by Charles Morris (America) and Max Bense (Europe). The development of semiotics as a branch of science indeed classified as a new old science. The development of theory of semiotic cannot said to be fast. Sign science, sign system, and processes in the use of signs to the level of understanding through meaning requires great sensitivity. The meaning behind every literary or language work, with sensitivity it will be well disclosed and understood.

I use this “Just Mercy” movie script by Destin Daniel Cretton & Andrew Lanham to be analyze in my research because this movie presents about the racial discrimination that black people receive. I analyze using semiotic theory to determine the racial discrimination againts black people. According to Theodorson&Theodorson (1979: 115), discrimination is the unequal treatment of individual or groups based on something, usually categorical or distinctive attributes such as race, ethnicity, religion or membership of social classes. The meaning of discrimination is unequal treatment against groups of people, which is essentially the same as the perpetrators of discrimination. The object of discrimination actually has some of the same capacity and services. The term of discrimination is usually to describe, an act of the majority of the more dominant than minority to act arbitrarily, according to Theodorson&Theodorson (1979: 258), minorities are the groups that are recognized based on race, religion or ethnicity, who suffered losses as a result of prejudice.

1.2. Identification of the Problem

In reality, there are lot kinds of discrimination happened in the society. People who are in the lower status, sometimes use that perk to do discrimination, for example, looking down on them. The discrimination happened because there is gap between people in our society. And the fact is, many authors have voiced out about this phenomenon into their writings, for example in novels and movie script. It means that, the potrayal of the concept of discrimination nowadays can be seen through fictional stories, such as novels and movie script.

1.3. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit this research to explain about the racial discrimination among black people, which is a lot of irregularities especially in the area of case law. Bryan Stevenson a lawyer who will investigate the case of Johnny D. Johnny D was sentenced to death without a clear trial process, he was charged with the murder of a white woman. This research will be analyzed to answer the research question and will analyze using semiotics by C.S Peirce.

1.4. Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem mentioned above, so the formulation of the problems in this research is as follows:

1. What kind of racial discrimination experienced by black people in “Just Mercy” movie script?
2. What are the struggles experienced by black people because of racial discrimination in “Just Mercy” movie script?
3. How the black people survive from the discrimination in the “Just Mercy” movie script?

1.5. Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problems mentioned above, the objectives of this research are as follows:

1. To analyze how racial discrimination experienced by black people
2. To explain how black people struggles experienced by black people because of racial discrimination.
3. To explain how black people survive the racial discrimination in their life.

1.6. Method of the Research

This research will be conducted in qualitative approach. Bogdan and Biklen, S. (1992: 21-22) explains that qualitative research is a research procedure that produces descriptive data in the form of words or writings and the behavior of the people being observed. The qualitative approach is expected to be able to produce indepth descriptions of speech, writing, and or observable behavior of a particular individual, group, community, and organization in a particular context setting studied from a complete, comprehensive, and holistic point of view. I use content analysis method with analyzing movie transcript.

My research object is movie script “Just Mercy” by Destin Daniel Cretton & Andrew Lanham (2018) and the data would be used in this research are the dialogues of the characters.

1.7. Benefit of the Research

Benefit of this research is to inform about the semiotic study in the movie script “Just Mercy”, and this research helpful to know the hidden meaning in this movie script. The purpose of this research is also to find out how racial discrimination still occurs and to make people aware about the racial discrimination.

1.8. Systematic Organization of the Research

According to the research above, the order of the research is written as follow:

- Chapter 1: Introduction
In this chapter, introduction explains about the background of the research, identification of the problem, limitation of the problem, formulation the problem, objective of the research, method of the research, and benefit of the research about the semiotic analysis of racial discrimination in the film *Just Mercy*.
- Chapter 2: Framework of the Theories
In this chapter is explain about the theories I use. I use the semiotic theory by C.S. Peirce.
- Chapter 3: Method of the research
This research was conducted in March and took place at Darma Persada University. This study uses *Just Mercy* film as research material. In this chapter, i explain and analyze the data using a semiotic by C.S. Peirce theory in the film *Just Mercy*.
- Chapter 4: Conclusion
In this chapter consists the conclusion on the analysis of the research.

Enclosures

Attachments

This chapters above are followed by references, scheme of the research, poster of the research, curriculum vitae, and other important attachments.

