

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Problem

Steven Rodney "Steve" McQueen, born October 9, 1969, is a British director, screenwriter, and video artist. She is the winner of the Caméra d'Or and BAFTA awards. His 2013 film, *12 Years a Slave*, won him the best director award at the New York Film Critics Circle, as well as winning Best Drama Film at the 71st Golden Globe. Steve McQueen has not only spearheaded the first black director to win an Oscar award, but has also given awards to every cast of the film *12 Years of a Slave* using film media as its noble goal: to evaluate, educate, make every viewer forget how to breathe by giving they are deep, honest, and surprisingly true to life. Despite Steve McQueen's statement who did not have a special style when he was a director, critics have identified himself as one of the directors who bravely showed the "real" situation from the facts that occurred at that time. She lives with her husband (a non-Steven), her daughter, Ella the Sprocket Spaniel, and an ever-growing hug of collectible teddy bears although, if Ella has her way, they'll be a collection of heads and limbs instead!

In this research, I am interested in analyzing this film because it describes a lot of social problems, especially slavery and racism at that time. Through characterization and story setting, it can clearly describe the social structure of the community. In this film, there is a depiction of the various gaps experienced by blacks because of the power that whites have.

In creating literary works, the author is influenced by the circumstances of the community. *12 Years a Slave* is a film adapted from a true story through a novel by Solomon Northup. With a background in slavery, Steve McQueen featured many scenes of torture that Solomon and his friends experienced in 1841 in the United States.

## **1.2. Identification of the Problem**

From the background that has been described and the title of the research I made, the problem identification of this research is slavery. Black slavery in that century was one of the darkest histories the United States has, and 12 Years a Slave captures the essence of this sad history through the narrative of the main character Solomon Northup, a previously happy free black man. who then had to experience a fate he had never imagined before, namely becoming a slave. Not only that, McQueen also described the plight of other black slaves who were employed in New Orleans in a vulgar way. In fact, slavery at that time was very natural and easy for blacks who were not educated and had low social status. They were turned into "property" that the white merchants bought and sold and were treated harshly.

I assume, the theme of this term paper is slavery caused by racism against blacks people.

## **1.3. Limitation of the Problem**

Based on the identification of the problems above, I limit my research to the study of the suffering of Solomon figures and black people and the slavery and racism that white figures will display. Theories and concepts used are literary approaches: the indirect characterization method, characterization, themes, plot, and setting. Through a sociological approach, I use the theory of genetic structuralism. As for a set of categories contained in the theory of genetic structuralism, namely: human facts, collective subjects, and the world view of the author.

## **1.4. Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the formulation of the research problem is as follows: what is the assumption of the theme of this film, slavery caused by racism? To answer this question, the next problem formulation is:

1. How the indirect method (showing) be used to analyze representations?
2. How the results of the analysis of social affairs and issues show the concept of slavery and racism?
3. How the theme of the film “12 Years a Slave” by Steve McQueen, which reflects the concept of slavery and racism, can be developed through analysis of characterization, the concept of slavery, and racism?

### **1.5.Objective of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the research objective is to show that the theme of this novel is Slavery Caused by the Factor of Racism Against Blacks in the film "12 Years a Slave" by Steve McQueen. To achieve this goal, the following research stages were carried out.

1. To use the indirect method (Showing) to analyze the leveling.
2. To analyze social characteristics and issues can reveal the concept of slavery and racism.
3. To demonstrate that the theme of this film is: Slavery Caused by the Factor of Racism Against Blacks in Steve McQueen's “12 Years a Slave” movie script can be developed through a demographic analysis, the concept of slavery and racism.

### **1.6.Method of the Research**

In this study, I used a qualitative research method with two models that focused on the sociological conditions experienced by the characters in the films I studied. In the first model, I use the showing method in characterization, in the showing method it requires the readers to analyze the character of the character themselves (Albertine Minderop, 2013: 22). In the second model, I use the concept of racial

discrimination and white supremacy to explain how racism is experienced by the main character in this film, and finally the concept of racism itself.

### **1.7. Benefit of the Research**

Based on the above matters, this study aims for those who wish to deepen their insights in literature. This research may be useful for those who are interested in analyzing literary works using the concepts mentioned above. This research is useful because it is carried out through a new perspective or it is also explained if the researcher is sure that he is doing something new and is not closed for further research.

### **1.8. Systematic Organization of the Research**

Based on the explanation above, the presentation system of this research is as follows:

#### **1. CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION**

Problem Background, Literature Review, Problem Identification, Problem Limitation, Problem Formulation, Research Objectives, Theory Basis, Research Methods, Research Benefits, Presentation System, Research Scheme, and Bibliography

#### **2. CHAPTER 2 : FRAMEWORK OF THE THEORIES**

1. Based on the background of the problems above, I used a literature review consisting of primary and secondary sources. The primary source I use is a movie Script called: "12 Years a Slave" by Steve McQueen. The secondary sources that I use are books that contain theoretical foundations and other supporting literature such as: Characterization Methods for Literary Fiction and Psychology Studies, Literary and Cultural Research Methods, and Sociology of Literature. In addition, paper sources from the internet are also used as a source of support for this research. (<https://elib.unikom.ac.id/download.php?id=248544>) In this

case, I will examine the issue of slavery as well as racism experienced by Solomon and other black people in the film adaptation of the novel.

2. Based on the research objectives above, the theories and concepts used cover the fields of literature and sociology. The literary theory used is

1. characterization
2. theme
3. plot
4. background

### **3. CHAPTER 3: *12 YEARS A SLAVE* MOVIE SCRIPT THROUGH INTRINSIC APPROACHES**

#### **1. Characterization**

The method used is an indirect method (showing): dialogue and behavior. This method is a dramatic method which ignores the presence of the author, so that the characters in literary works can present themselves directly through their behavior.

#### **2. Theme**

Theme is one of the critical terms and means different things to different people. For some, who regard literature primarily as a means of teaching, preaching, spreading favorite ideas, or encouraging some of the right behavior, themes can mean morals or lessons that can be extrapolated from work.

#### **3. Plot**

Plot or plot is the author's controlling ability which is useful for describing the writer's unanalyzed facts and incidents, then arranging the storyline to give suggestions or reveal the cause and effect relationship and the story. Plot can be

grouped into 3, namely forward plot, reverse plot (flashback), and mixed plot. The plot has several stages which are a series that make up a story.

#### **4. Background**

Background is information about space, time, events in a literary work. Or another definition of background is the intrinsic use of literary works including space, time and atmosphere that occur at an event in a literary work. Or it could be the setting, which is all names, distribution instructions related to space, time and atmosphere. The background includes a description of geographic location, the actor / character's activity, the time of the event, the religious environment, the season, morals, social intellectuals, and the emotional state of the actor / character.

#### **4. CHAPTER 4 : SLAVERY CAUSED BY RACISM AGAINTS BLACK PEOPLE IN STEVE MCQUEEN'S MOVIE SCRIPT “12 YEARS A SLAVE”**

It consists of a brief explanation of this chapter’s content, analysis of the supremacism, and racial discrimination that will be seen on the characters setting and plot. The concepts above appear in the number of sub-chapters.

#### **5. CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION**

Contains an evaluation of the previous chapters and the implications of the research results. (Keep in mind, the conclusion is not a repetition or summary of previous chapters, but something new that has not been mentioned before. The research conclusions are open because it is possible that these conclusions can be continued with further research).