

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Problem

Literary work is a picture of human thought that was poured into a media. They are divided into two kinds, informative literature and imaginative literature. Informative literature tell about facts, history, explanation, and great life figure, while imaginative literature are fantasy using connotative language and qualified aesthetic art (Marzal et al., 1990:22). According to Goodman (as cited in Marzal et al., 1990:22) Literature includes the writing experimented result within language form to produce creative images or ideas that involve the readers imagination deliberately and creatively.

Many writers put their literary works in written form, such as movie scripts. Movie scripts are the primary material in the form of written work, whose results are not perfect if they have not been staged. Movie scripts have the function of providing the dialogue and directions for the characters to make it easier to stage a performance. In addition, many writers raise the theme of social issues in their literary works. One of the social issues that is often raised in movie scripts is racism.

Racism is something that we often find in society. Racism itself is inequality based on skin color, race, ethnicity, origin, religion, gender, and social class that limits a person's rights and freedoms. Historically, racism developed when different races met in the context of colonization (Supratman & Wahyudin, 2019:1). Racism is also often interpreted as the belief that humans should be divided into separate groups based on biological characteristics.

America is a country inhabited by various races, this is because many people from different countries and races come and live in America. Many white races think of themselves as superior. This is because they are the largest population or the majority population in America. In addition, many Americans

from the white race still do not accept other races in their country, so there is a desire to oppress other races.

Racism is usually the most experienced by black people in America. Therefore, many black people use the theme of racism in their literary work. One of them includes the movie script *Sorry to Bother You*. *Sorry to Bother You* itself is released in 2017 and directed by Boots Riley who is an African-American. The main character of this movie script is Lakeith Stanfield. Lakeith Stanfield is an American actor and musician.

*Sorry to Bother You* is American comedy drama movie script. *Sorry to Bother You* tells the story of Cassius Green who is trying to find a job in order to earn money and be able to pay the rent for the place he lives. The Regalview telemarketing company finally accepts Cassius into their company. On Cassius's first day at work, he finds it difficult because all the clients turn off his call when he starts to talk. His co-worker, who sees Cassius, advises him to imitate a white man's voice so the client will not turn off the call. Cassius refuses it and does not believe what his co-worker says. Cassius starts thinking about what his co-worker says. Cassius feels desperate because there are no clients who want to pick up his call.

Cassius finally follows what his co-worker says. After following his co-worker's suggestion, Cassius finally became the best telemarketer in his company. Cassius has everything that he never had before. However, problems arise because his co-workers want to demand justice from the company. Because of the discrimination and low social status that he gets, Cassius chooses to defend the company, because they offer him a very good salary. However, Cassius realizes that the company makes him work like a tireless horse. Apart from working tirelessly, Cassius also sees the truth that one of the biggest customers in the telemarketing office employed people by force. Most of those who are forcibly employed are black people. In the end, Cassius chooses to follow his friends to demand justice from the company.

Therefore, I am very interested in analyzing the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script because of the issue of racism experienced by some black people, especially

the main character in this movie script. The issue of racism reflected in this movie script is that black people have to imitate the voices of white people in order to get customers in their company. In addition, they are also required to work so hard and not get the salary that they should get. The main character in this movie script also ends up getting racism and unfair treatment from the company.

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

Based on the background of the problem above, the problem identified in this movie script is the existence of racism against black people who have to imitate the voices of white people while working to get customers in telemarketing companies. Cassius as the main character must imitate a white voice so that the customer does not turn off the call. In addition, they are forced to work and are not paid unless they get a lot of customers and become power callers. Therefore, I assume that the issue of racism is reflected in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script.

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

Based on the identification of the problems above, the problem of this research is limited to the racism experienced by the main character and several black forced laborers in the movie script *Sorry to Bother You*. The problem in this movie script is that the main character has to imitate the white voice so that the customers do not hang up their calls and the main character has to use the white voice to become the power caller in his office in order to get a salary.

After becoming a power caller and being transferred to the top floor, where all of his co-workers are power callers and mostly white people, Cassius is forbidden from using his black voice and has to always use his white voice because customers will not pick up calls from black voices. After becoming a power caller, problems start to arise. The first is from Cassius' co-workers, who want to demand justice for the discrimination they received from the office and the truth about black forced labor from their biggest customers, Worryfree.

In addition, the concept that I use is through an intrinsic approach such as characterization through the showing method, plot and setting. I also use an

extrinsic approach, such as the sociology of literature, with the concept of representation of racism.

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

Based on the limitation of the problem above, the problem of this research can be formulated to prove the existence of racism in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script, which is the assumption of this research. Therefore, the problem in this research is formulated as follows:

1. What is the characterization, plot and setting in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script?
2. What is the concept of racism that revealed in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script?
3. What is the elaboration between intrinsic and extrinsic approaches appear in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script?

#### **1.5. Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the objective of this research is to prove the assumption of the racism in *Sorry to Bother You* movie script. To achieve this objective, there are several steps of research as follows:

1. To explain what is the characterization, plot and setting in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script.
2. To explain what is the concept of racism that revealed in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script.
3. To elaborate between intrinsic and extrinsic approaches appear in the *Sorry to Bother You* movie script.

#### **1.6. Benefit of the Research**

Research is usually done to improve our understanding of an object that we are studying. Research provides information and knowledge to solve a problem and make decisions related to the problem. The benefit of research is the use of research that will be used for the benefit of research development.

Based on the explanation above, this research is expected to be useful for those who are interested in deepening their knowledge about racism and discrimination against black people in society. This research can be useful because it uses a sociological approach to literature on the theory of racism. Practically, this research is expected to be a reference for other similar research for those who want to do the same research as me.

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

Based on the title of the research above, the systematic presentation of this research is as follows:

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

This chapter consists of: the background of the problem, the identification of the problem, the limitation of the problem, the formulation of the problem, the objective of the research, the benefit of the research, and the systematic organization of the research.

#### **CHAPTER 2: THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter consists of: intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. Intrinsic approach includes characterizations, plot and setting. The applied extrinsic approach is sociological of literature which includes to representation and racism explanation.

#### **CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHOD**

This chapter consists of: time and location, research approaches and method, research data and object, data collection technique, data analysis technique.

**CHAPTER 4: REPRESENTATION OF RACISM IN THE  
*SORRY TO BOTHER YOU* MOVIE SCRIPT BY  
BOOTS RILEY**

This chapter consists of: the elaboration of the representation of racism through characterization, the elaboration of the representation of racism through plot, the elaboration of the representation of racism through setting, and the summary of representation of racism. The concepts above must appear in the number of sub-chapters.

**CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION**

This chapter consists of: an evaluation from the previous chapters and the implication of the evaluated result. The final part contains the references that are used to support this research.

