CHAPTER 1
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Discrimination is defined as treating certain people unfairly because of who they are or because they have certain characteristics. Discrimination persists in many parts of the world due to people's diverse origins and backgrounds. White people treat them unfairly because of their skin color. According to Pasaribu, B. U & Letters, F. O. (2019), the idea that people can be classified into distinct groups according to biological characteristics known as "race" is another common interpretation of racism. This also contends that some races are 'innately' superior to others because to a causal relationship between a race's physical qualities and its personality, intelligence, morality, and other cultural and behavioral traits. Some people are being prejudicial with others because they make their own categories of people. It makes people become left out or not considered as their kind of people.

According to Aguirre and Tuner (2011), "In general, discrimination is the act of denying an individual, group or subpopulation individual by another individual, group and subpopulation access to valued resources" (p.7). The unfair treatment are commonly done by the group or people with more power or domination in the society. Discrimination usually no need to be harmed physically, but they get worse treatment in society. Aguire and Tuner also state in relation to ethnic, discrimination is the process by which the members of more powerful and dominant ethnic subpopulation deny the members from less powerful and inferior ethnic subpopulation full access to society value (p.6). It means that this action recognizes someone or people as different. Most people are treated inhumanly and degraded. According to Bowling, B. & Phillips, C (2002), race or color discrimination: Involves treating someone unfairly because of personal characteristics associated with race, such as skin color, hair texture or certain facial features. People are nowadays considering skin color and hair texture as important matter because they feel that people who have a bright skin color and smooth hair texture are the most valued in society.

According to Fremon (2014), while the United States and the Soviet Union were engaged in a bitter Cold War competition, particularly in the field of aviation. Not only during the Cold War. Jim Crow laws, which divided white and colored citizens, were still in effect in the United States at the time. In the United States of America before, citizens are made a level based on skin colour. The white skin color is the highest level and coloured or black skin color is in the bottom of the level. They consider that coloured skin is affects their families, such as infectious diseases. Fremon (2014) said that since the era of the end of the Civil War, there has been a caste system called The Jim Crow Laws. The system is arranged to separate almost public places by race, such as waiting rooms, schools, hospitals, cemeteries, etc. for whites and blacks. This racial segregation uses the notion of "separate but equal" to give different treatments and rights for Afro-Americans. Coloured citizens often get a bad treatment from white skin, such as colored citizens like to use them as a maid.

The representations of discrimination can be seen in *The Best of Enemies* movie script. *The Best of Enemies* is a 2019 Social Drama film directed by debut director Robin Bissell. It is based on a true story adapted from the book *The Best of Enemies: Race and Redemption in the New South* by Osha Gray Davidson. It stars Taraji P. Hanson, B. Henson, Sam Rockwell, and Babou Ceesay in important roles. It tells the story of a human rights activist named Ann Atwater who clashes with C.P Ellis, a leader of the Ku Klux Klan because of a racial case experienced by a school in Durham, North California in 1971. A black activist named Ann Atwater opposes Clairbone Paul Ellis, a white man who is the leader of the highest racial group of the Ku Klux Klan, over a case of racial inequality that occurred in Durham. There was no other way for Ann Atwater to fight for the right of black people in Durham to live in dignity and safety, so she chose to find a peaceful solution by calling a conference with the white members of the Ku Klux Klan, led by Ellis. The 10-day meeting's goal was to bring the two sides together. This meeting was successful in improving Durham as a result.

The Best of Enemies falls short of conveying just how much the group was once a genuine source of dread for African Americans — a terrorist organization that wielded real power and influence during the Jim Crow era. While satire can be an

effective way to disempower an ideology, white supremacy is not a punchline, especially at a time when such hate crimes are on the rise once more.

I chose this movie script as my research object because I am interested tin analyzing the discrimination that happens with colored skin or black people. This movie script also reflects the reality of today's modern society, where the discrimination committed by white people against black people still exists around the world, especially in America.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem explained above, I identify the problem about discrimination committed by white people against black people. Ann Atwater to fight for the right of black people in Durham to live in dignity and safety, so she chose to find a peaceful solution by calling a conference with the white members of the Ku Klux Klan, led by Ellis. I assume that the discrimination of this movie script is how the discrimination against black people happens.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on the identification of the problem explained above, I limit the problem by focusing on the individual discrimination and institutional discrimination experienced by black people in *The Best of Enemies* movie script with theories and concepts that I will apply in this analysis, by using intrinsic approaches such as characterization, setting, plot and theme. Meanwhile, through extrinsic approach using-sociology of literature concept of discrimination.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem that has been explained, there are three questions formulated in this research. They are as follows.

1. How is discrimination portrayed in the characterization of *The Best Of Enemies* movie script?
2. How are the functions of the plot and setting in building the theme in *The Best Of Enemies* movie script?
3. How is the discrimination reflected in *The Best Of Enemies* movie script?

4. How does the theme elaborate through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches in *The Best Of Enemies* movie script?

1.5 Objective of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, there are three objectives in this research:

1. To analyze the characterization by using the dramatic method to study the characters.
2. To analyze the plot and setting that support the theme of the movie script.
3. To analyze the concept of discrimination in *The Best Of Enemies* movie script.
4. To develop *The Best Of Enemies* movie script by using intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

1.6 Benefit of the Research

Based on the method of the research, I hope that my research can be beneficial for students who are interested in literature, especially about discrimination. The discrimination is considered as a huge topic in this thesis. Therefore, they may use it as a source of information and reference to their study.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

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

CHAPTER I: **INTRODUCTION**

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

CHAPTER II: **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

This chapter consists of an explanation of the theories by several experts and the concept of sociology literature.

CHAPTER III: **RESEARCH METHOD**

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

CHAPTER IV: **RESULT AND DISCUSSION**

This chapter consists of data analysis of the research based on formulation of the problem.

CHAPTER V: **CONCLUSION**

This chapter consists of all the conclusions from the discussion about *The Discrimination Against Black People in The Best of Enemies Movie Script (2019).*