



RACIAL PROFILING ON POLICE STOP AND SEARCH PRACTICE AS PORTRAYED IN THE GEORGE TILLMAN'S MOVIE *THE HATE U GIVE*

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Abstract

Racial profiling becomes public spotlight over the past two decades in America that creates right devastation and discrimination. Therefore, this thesis aims to find racial profiling on police stop and search as portrayed in the movie *The Hate U Give* by George Tillman which the movie tells about the life of Afro-American people who lived discriminated by state institutions. The objectives of this study are to describe the portrayal of racial profiling in Angie Thomas *The Hate U Give* movie and to find the motive of Racial profiling in Angie Thomas *The Hate U Give* movie. This study is typical library research with descriptive qualitative method. This study used critical race theory by Delgado and Stefancic (2001), racial profiling theory by Filimon (2015), and also movie theory by Boggs and Petrie. At the end of this study, the writer finds that the racial profiling practice in the movie is portrayed through events and experiences in the form of discrimination in police service and bias in news media. Meanwhile, the motives of racial profiling are police strategy specifically enforcement, prejudice and law bias.

Keywords: Critical race theory, George Tillman, *The Hate U Give*, racial profiling

INTRODUCTION

Racial Profiling refers to the use of race or skin colour as an indicator in Police decisions to stop and interrogate citizens, most of the cases of Racial profiling focuses of how Police initiated traffic stops, although it can also occur in other context like searchers, arrests, detention and charges. Racial profiling that mostly happen and faced by african afro American people begin in childhood and the damage occurred of profiling can be very devastated to the one who suffer it. The damages including the system and also discrimination when there is contact with child welfare agencies or when facing the rules in educational institute such as school (Istiani and Puspita, 2020). As they grew adult, it may involve more intervention from Police or security officer in mall, or public places and the damage continues as Racialized and black people are caught and investigated and charged more than white people.

This research uses critical race theory as the most appropriate to be used in order to conduct the analysis regarding to racial profiling practice. CRT focuses on the experiential knowledge of ethnic minorities and their communities of origin with respect to race and race relations (Delgado and Stefancic, 2001). Meanwhile, racial profiling consists of practice or strategy that used to targeting person based on their skin color, origin, religion, or place of birth because of stereotype that are linked with specific suspicion or evidence of criminal behavior. Therefore, referring to previous definition of critical race theory and racial profiling theory, the researcher wants to highlight the issue of racial profiling includes the motives of it in today's era because racial profiling is happen every day through the movie *The Hate You Give* that portrays the racial profiling practice by white police towards black people.

Racial Profiling

Racial profiling is known as the use of race or skin colour as an indicator for Police officer to stop and interrogate black people. It is a strategy of identifying or detaining person based on race rather than specific case of criminal activity and evidence (Jones D. P., 2017). Filimon stated that racial profiling is a practice that disproportionately affects people of color, poor or homeless in several ways. It leads to discrimination and brutality towards minority through white supremacy system of control and domination. Refers to him, racial profiling is considered as police abuses that could perceive as state violence. According to the data provided in the study based on Bureau of Justice Statistics' report on the "*Prevalence of Imprisonment in the U.S. Population, 1974-2001*" that one of three young African-American men will serve time in prison, and if the current trends continue, and happen in some cities, thus, more than half of all young black men are currently under correctional control in prison or jail, on probation or parole (Filimon, 2015).

Movie Analysis

Movie could be a tool to learn and understand things surround the society such as history and biography. According to Jowet in Alviniyanti (Alviniyanti, 2019) movie has such powerful instrument to spread and generate ideas and messages. It could portrayed the landscape of reality. It is supported by Del Casino and Hanna (Del Casino and Hanna, 2000) that movie could representation form of certain national identity. Therefore, analyzing movie is important to see portrayal of racial profiling that commonly happen in the US since movie could be form of mass media that conveying certain picture of reality. Moreover, Diawara in Alviniyanti (Alviniyanti, 2019) stated that several movies often assigned black people as slaves, people in the kitchen, or criminals on the screen. Meanwhile white people act as the main characters who commit racism (Mahendra and Amelia, 2020). This racism issue could be said it can raise both in reality and movie since movie is a depiction of reality (Suprayogi and Pranoto, 2020).

METHOD

In this study, the researcher applies descriptive qualitative method since the data are in the form of sentence not numeric. Descriptive research is data collected in the form of written or spoken words, pictures, and does not use numbers (Cenita and Nurmaily, 2020). According to Kardiansyah (2016) that the data in qualitative research are texts including narrations and dialogues. This research focuses on the object of the analysis as the main source of data (Kuswoyo and Siregar, 2019). It is supported by Rido (2015) that descriptive qualitative method is not focus in number. In the other word, the data are derived from the words, sentences, dialogues, and statements of the novel, which concern the objectives of the study since according to Mohajan in Setri and Setiawan (2020) qualitative research consists of process to make world visible as stated by. It is also stated by Aryangga & Nurmaily (2017), qualitative is the analysis based on constructivist perspective that involves human experience that has been historically or socially constructed. Descriptive research only describes situations or events, this research does not seek or explain relationships, test hypotheses or make predictions (Farras and Nurmaily, 2020). In this research, dialogue and narration are collected through movie script. The script is useful to facilitate the researcher in collecting the data (Pranoto and Afrilita, 2018). Besides script, based on Afrianto (2018) that books, articles, and journal also included as text source of data. Further, the data can be synthesized with the theory to find and define the pattern, and to define significant points (Samanik and Lianasari, 2016). This research is library research as the data collecting technique by reading the data source comprehensively and identifying the data related to the racial profiling discrimination (Amelia and Dintasi, 2017). This method is used to draw understanding about literary work and its correlation with the existing phenomenon in society includes psychology issue (Heaverly and Kasih, 2020).

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Based on the CRT and racial profiling theory, the findings are divided into two: the portrayal of racial profiling and the motives of racial profiling. Each finding category is divided into several parts as it is explained above.

The Portrayal of Racial Profiling Practice Discrimination in Police Service

In the minute of 00.01.25, the racial profiling is portrayed through the main character's family, Starr's family, when her father tried to explain to his children about their social position as black among society, especially in front of police. Police treat black people harshly although they do not really doing mistakes. The way Starr's father educated his children indicating that racial profiling frequently experienced by black people. It is in line with Filimon (2015) that stated racial profiling is unconstitutional policing strategy since it violates victims' constitutional rights against unreasonable search and arrest.

Racial Bias in Media

In the minute of 01.17.23, the racial profiling is portrayed through the news scene in the movie that reported about the racial profiling done by the cops. The news maker created the news line as the police was the victim. The news subjected black people were the crime sources just because criminal statistics data that shows certain minorities are often disproportionately arrested or convicted for crime (Cleary, 2002).

The Motives of Racial Profiling Police Strategy: Enforcement

This enforcement strategy includes the way police forced black people to admit something that they did not do, and their arrogances when arresting black people. The movie clip below portrays the incident when Khalil interrogated by the police about what he did at that night. In the minutes of 01.12.22 shows Starr's father almost arrested because he almost fought with King Lord. Without asking he complete condition and listen to Starr's father explanation, the police directly pushed Starr's father against the wall without a fight from Starr's father. It is in accordance with theory racial profiling based on Jones (2017) that stated racial profiling consists of practice or strategy that used to targeting person based on their skin color because of stereotype that are linked with specific suspicion or evidence of criminal behavior rather than investigating it with evidence.

Racial Prejudice

In another scene it is explained the motive of racial profiling practice done by police towards black people that regarding to police rules and regulation to handle black people who are arrested on the road. It is closely related to the applicable law in their institution. It is clearly seen through the scene in the minute 01.34.16. The way Uncle Carlos mentioned the word **"if"** in **A lot goes through a cop's mind when they pull someone over. Especially if they have to get into a pissing contest with the driver about why the stopped him. If sets off an alarm. The officer thinks "are they hiding something? Is the car stolen?" (The Hate U Give Movie Script, 2018)**, indicating that police taking the decision to pull over someone is not based on evidence but it more likely based on their approximation instinct, and it is called as racial prejudice motive because black people are minority community that associated with criminal behavior (Cleary, 2002).

Law Bias

In this part, law bias acts to discriminate black people in front of the law institution. In which government law protects white people no matter what crime they had done before. At the end of the story, the police who murdered Khalil was free and did not get any punishment from the police institution. It is seen through the scene when black people did long march to protest for Khalil's justice in the minute of 01.45.56.

CONCLUSION

The portrayal of racial profiling in *The Hate U Give* movie is portrayed through characters' point of view and the events experienced by the characters. From the characters' point of view, the racial profiling practice is explained through discrimination in police service. It is portrayed when Starr's father socialized how to do when his children later on face a moment of police stop and search. It is indirectly explained that Starr's father had ever experience that kind of racial profiling before and he did not want his children became the victims of police brutality in the police search and stop. The racial profiling practices are also portrayed through racial bias in media, when a News channel reported how they took aside to the white people such as police and law institution. Meanwhile, the motives of racial profiling done by the police in the movie are because police strategy in handling black people through enforcement, since black people are often associated with criminal behaviors such as drug dealers. Besides, racial prejudice also treated black people different than white people. Lastly, law bias became the motive of racial profiling that injured black people as minority.

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