

Consciousness of Racial Equality as Reflected in Michael Jackson's "Black or White"

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ABSTRACT

In a revealing expression and feeling, the author uses an analysis with the meaning of the lyrics of the song created. This final paper contains about racial equality described in the lyrics of Michael Jackson's "Black or White". The writer interests in discussing racial equality because this topic is very important among people of color, especially this has been experienced by such famous pop singer Michael Jackson who used to be blacks. This discussion intends to illustrate the points of race equality expressed by Michael Jackson through the lyrics of the song "Black or White". The writer uses a method of library research, so the writer uses books or libraries, music and lyric scrutinizing, recording, articles, flash media interviews and additional references in the search on the internet to collect data. The analysis in this final paper raises the Popular Culture of Culturalism theory presented by John Storey. The result shows that Michael Jackson expresses his feelings against the differences between races, especially African-Americans in her private life through a piece of song lyrics.

Keywords: Michael Jackson, Black or White, Race, Racial Equality.

1. Introduction

Racism is the belief that the genetic factors which constitute race, ethnicity, nationality are a primary determinant of human traits and capacities and that ethnic differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race. People who cried in suffer of racial discrimination tried to get equality acknowledge from whole society with messages. In expressing the emotion, literary work can be a reference as the entirety of written message with the restriction which is not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. Pierre Macherey (1978: 40) states that the literary work turns into a theoretical object. Through music, people could make a movement to fight against racism. There are so many kinds of songs created and sung by many great talents in this world, and one of them is the legendary Michael Jackson. One of his works which has become a controversy in his career was "Black or White". "Black or White" was released in

November 11, 1991. The song was written, composed, and arranged by Michael Jackson and with the rap lyrics by Bill Bottrell. It is a song that promotes racial harmony.

The reason why the writer chose the topic with the media of song lyric is finding out the real expression of someone, or especially Michael Joseph Jackson, and revealing his feelings through the lyric he made. On the other hand, the writer can determine the event happened in the postmodern era in the surface of the earth. Beside of its content, the writer is interested in how the lyricist chose the words or diction in "Black or White". Singing the song, Michael seemed to convince the listener and the world to know that he does not mind to interact with whether he/she is black or white people. Michael Jackson was born in a black family. However, he changed his skin into white while he had become a famous pop singer with the name of "King of Pop". Many people responded and asked lots of questions why he turned into white before he wrote a song as if he agrees the equality.

In the thesis, the writer describes the intrinsic elements, the extrinsic elements in the view of the John Storey's cultural theory related to the concept of Popular Arts and Anti Racism theory by Stuart Hall (2009), and the relation between the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of the lyric. The writer focuses only on the intrinsic and the extrinsic elements of the poetry which refer to the lyric. For limitation of the reasearch, the writer focuses on Michael Jackson's thought through the lyric using the chosen theory and collected data.

The writer uses the library research and take readership and method to collect the data. The sources that the writer used are books, e-books, articles, journal, supporting materials, and other references such as *New York Post*, *Jet*, and *Ebony* magazines. The writer links the case issue to the title of this thesis related to the Culturalism of popular arts by Stuart Hall and Paddy Whannel (1964) and anti racism by John Storey (2009).

2. Research Question

There will be two aspects explained in the research question, which are intrinsic elements and extrinsic aspect. In additional, the relation between intrinsic and extrinsic are also explained.

2.1 Intrinsic Aspects of the Lyric

Diction can additionally be described as the accent, inflection, intonation, and speech-sound quality showed by an individual speaker, generally judged in terms of predominating standards of agreeableness (*Quizlet*, 2012). Diction is divided into two term: denotative and connotative. Denotation refers to the literal meaning of a word and it can be called as the dictionary definition (*Quizlet*, 2012) and conotation refers to the associations that are connected to a certain word or the emotional suggestions related to that word.

Tone is a literary technique which encompasses the attitudes toward the subject and toward the audience implied in a literary work that is compatible with the other drive like sound or music. Zbikowsky (2002: 317) mentions that each tone inside the musical area is had of the urge to produce unlimited overtones, much as living beings have procreative urges.

Abrams (1999: 96) defines that figurative language is one of the obvious escape from what users of a language capture as the standard significance of words, or else the standard order of words, keeping in mind the end goal to attain some unique meaning or impact. There are many different kinds of figures of speech, such as metaphors and imagery.

A metaphor is a comparison of two different things to show a likeness between them. In a metaphor, a word or expression that in literal usage denotes one kind of thing is applied to a distinctly different kind of thing, without asserting a comparison. Metaphors do not use the words *like* or *as* when making comparisons, as do similes. The example of metaphor is “broken heart”. It means someone’s heart is not literally broken into pieces, it just feel hurt and sad (Abrams, 1999). Imagery is the figurative or descriptive language in a literary work (Childs and Fowler, 2006). He says that Imagery is a descriptive language that appeals to one or more of the senses (sight, hearing, touch, smell, and taste). Imagery divides into visual, auditory, olfactory, gustatory, tactile, kinesthetic and organic imagery. Visual imagery invokes colors, shapes, or things that can be seen. Auditory imagery is a descriptive language that evokes noise, music, or other sounds. Kinesthetic imagery can be described as sense of movement. Lastly, organic imagery can refer to the internal sensation. Nowadays, this imagery can lead into the feeling, emotion or something exists in the life but at least we can feel the impact.

Quinn (2006: 417) states that, universally, theme is a significant idea in a literary text, sometimes used interchangeably with a certain motif or purpose. It is not usually considered to the event of a work of art, but rather an extension of the subject which is implication communicated through the repeat of certain events, images or symbols. Additionally, Childs and Fowler (2006: 239) define that theme traditionally implies a recurrent component of topic, yet the modern emphasis on concurrent reference to form and content emphasizes the formal measurement of the term. A theme is always a subject, but a subject is not always a theme.

2.2 Extrinsic Aspects of the Lyric

Storey (2009: 167) states that racism is more about particularity than physical features. Racism can be defined as an ethnic group's assertion or maintenance of a privileged and protected status members of another group or groups who are thought, because of defective ancestry, to possess a set of socially relevant characteristics that disqualify them from full membership in a community or citizenship in a nation-state. Racial separatism is the belief, most of the time based on racism, that different races should remain segregated and apart from one another.

Hylton (2008: 10) says that racism have highly emotive, complex and perplexing concept. For many it is an experience that despite its various definition is known and shared by populations with particular perceptions of group identities to the point that an empathy exists between individuals and group. As a result, racism means different things to different people. For some reason, racism is something that is created by white people on black people, for other racist is a popular adjective that describes a criticism process.

Fredrickson (1997: 79) determines that when sociologists and historians first wrote about racism in the period between World War II and the 1960s, they generally meant an explicit ideology based on the putative scientific truth that population groups distinguishable from each other in physical appearance or ancestry were different and unequal in genetically determined mental and behavioral capabilities.

As racial or ethnic complexity evolves with a increasingly multiethnic population, the relevance of the inequality issues occurred and in some ways increases. Many different sorts of factors political, economic, social, demographic, ideological, international, and legal account for the transformation in American racial attitudes and practices over time. For Americans, race is a fictional political narrative that has psychological and sociological

elements, as an example, appearing in the life and appearance of Michael Jackson with racially ambiguous expression. The writer believes that Michael challenged the world to be change, identify with the poor and needy, and in a color-conscious, racist world he dared to utter that social relations should not be affected by skin colour through his songs.

In Oprah's 1993 interview, Michael made a point to declare his pride in being black (Scriven, 2010). However, this is an option for Michael to transform itself into a white man as an escape from the darkness, creating the life of the outside world and let go of hatred in him. In 1991, the year when the song "Black or White" was launched, a conflict happened to Michael Jackson with his brother Jermaine Jackson. The brother that wrote "Word to the Badd" was the very brother who is in the forefront fighting the same legion that sought to ravenously devour Michael. The lyrics to this song tell the story of a brother frightened about what happened to his brother. The story was made up from the picture of a jealous older brother who wrote a song out of frustration after losing two album collaborators to Michael who was working on songs for "Dangerous" at the time. Michael responded Jermaine judgement with releasing the song of "Black or White" (Brown, 2013). In *Ebony* magazine interview in 1984, Michael emphasized that he againsts the prejudice and ignorance.

2.1 Relation between the Intrinsic and Extrinsic Aspects

The objective of revealing an internal problem in the literature is how to link the intrinsic elements, which builds the literary work from the inner aspect, and extrinsic elements, which create the literary work with the outer aspect, become more coherent and connected each other. Structural analysis aimed carefully explained the functions and interrelationships of various literary elements that collectively produce a comprehensiveness. Analysis of structural is a relationships between elements of a reciprocal, mutually determining, influence which is with together forming a unified whole. Michael Jackson's vocabulary in the song "Black or White" can be interpreted through the experiences and feelings felt by Michael Jackson throughout his life.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research Method

This final paper used library research to collect data. This library research applied qualitative method to analyze the data. The qualitative method is aimed at gaining a deep understanding through first hand experience, truthful reporting, and documented quotations of actual conversation. It relies primarily on the collection of non-numeric data such as words and picture. The data and information was collected by reading several books, journals, blog media or any other references during the research process.

In this research, the writer used secondary sources to be analyzed. Secondary sources offer the commentary and documentary events after the facts. Most information was published as standard books, literary works, journals, or articles. Based on the discription above, the author will use the written lyric of "Black or White" from album the album "Dangerous", documented highlights of interviews by *Ebony*, *JET*, journal of *Michael Jackson and the Psycho/Biology of Race* by Darryl Scriven and *Michael Jackson's Kingdom: Race, Music, and the Sound of the Mainstream* by Tamara Roberts, and an article from *New York Post* about *Jackson's family's Sick Rivalries and Stolen Love*.

3.2 Method of Approach

In this research, the writer focused on the chosen theory to support the analysis. Based on cultural theory and popular culture by John Storey (2009), the writer particularly explained the the popular arts by Hall and Whannel (1964), and the theory of anti racism. Hall and Whannel (1964: 15) believe that the quality point of popular arts lies on something that espouses for the useful advantages and sets aside the underestimated disadvantages, not opposing the modern communication forms but the media conflicts. It is on the textual qualities of popular culture. A good popular culture is able to re-establish the relationship between performer and audience. It re-states values and attitudes already known. It has in common with folk art, but it is individualized art. However, Hall and Whannel (1964: 276) state that they turn to questions of common popular culture, they find it necessary to discuss the interaction between text and audience. Moreover, they recognize that to do full justice to the relationship, they have to include other aspects of people life: occupation, politics, the relation to the family, social and moral beliefs and so on. Pop songs describe the individual difficulties in terms of feelings and sexuality. Those songs need experience life directly and intensely (Hall and Whannel, 1964). This point related to how Michael Jackson put his feeling, the essential value and messages into his pop music desires.

Essentially, the writer believes that anti-racism is an act or attitude of individual, group, community or society that againsts the existence of differences among the human races. Most people typically interpret that racism is intended only for the black race. It is seemly underlined that racism rests on the ability to contain blacks in the past and present. However, this is actually done and solely influenced by black people itself. According to Storey (2009: 270), previous subculture has given a recognition of the history of ethnic inequality and racism, and the struggle for collective self-representation by blacks.

3.3 Discussion Plan

the writer used the descriptive data analysis strategy which is this approach will summarize the findings and describe the data. The sequence of discussion plan is divided into:

1. The Lyric and the Paraphrase of the “Black or White”
The lyric and its paraphase of “Black or White” lyric would describe about its content implicitly and, at a same time, explicitly.
2. The Slight of Michael Jackson and Bill Bottrell’s Biography
Identity and personal history in biography of lyricist Michael Jackson and Bill Bottrell add a few details to complete the data analysis in this research.
3. Intrinsic Aspects
In this section, the whole intrinsic elements of the lyric will be revealed with diction and tone, figurative language, and theme.
4. Extrinsic Aspects
In addition intrinsic aspects, extrinsic aspects describe the the point of view for the outside of the literary work. It is concerned with the social and environmental aspects related to the personal life of Michael Jackson. In this case, the writer exposed the fact behind the statement in Michael jackson’s songwriting background for the data analysis. These aspects will be linked with the intrinsic aspects of vocabulary selected by Michael and Bill in creating strains and the expressions that represent Michael’s feeling in the lyric.
5. Relation Between the Aspects

The writer connected the elements intrinsic with the extrinsic elements associated with the song "Black or White". The link between the both elements that are intrinsic meaning of the message the song literally and extrinsic elements which constitute the background of Michael Jackson's life will be presented in this section.

4. Discussion

4.1 Intrinsic Aspects Discussion

4.1.1 Diction and Tone

In "Black or White" Michael Jackson uses the directly words referred that he is against the racism. The words can be quoted from the third and fifth stanza. In third stanza, it is obvious that Michael shows his sense directly that in each choosing a mate or somebody close to, he does not care about her partner are included in the white or black race.

*But, if
You're thinkin'
About my baby
It don't matter if you're
Black or white*

The stanza above also states that Michael is a very broad minded person and is able to establish relationships with many people, it does not matter if those people are black or white or from a race other than his. In the fifth stanza, It means that everyone should be treated equally, that is the only thing that is right. If people do not think this way, then they are wrong, because they will encourage discrimination, saying that some or any group of people should not be treated as equals. The following quotation explains:

*And i told about equality
And it's true
Either you're wrong
Or you're right*

Based on the stanza above, he also states that people do not have to wait until the world magically changes, it starts with an individual in his/her life and with the choices he/she makes daily choices of how to treat others, how to view other people that are different from themselves.

There are lots of the indirect meaning of words in this lyric. Michael wants to tell his audience that he is tired of the idea of racism, which he describes it as "devil", "stuff", and "business" which can be seen on the seven stanza:

*I am tired of this devil
I am tired of this stuff
I am tired of this business
So when the
Going gets rough
I ain't scared of
Your brother
I ain't scared of no sheets
I ain't scare of nobody*

On the stanza above, Michael also describes about being scared with "your brother", "no sheets" and "nobody". These give interpretation referring to individual, community, or

none. Especially for the word “no sheets”, Michael denounces that he refers to the Ku Klux Klan community. This is also expressed by Roberts’s journal article:

... Jackson denounces the legacy of intolerance and racial violence in an exasperated tone. This long-standing vexation, though, gives him the strength to say that he is no longer afraid of tactics of racial intimidation such those used by as the Ku Klux Klan. (Roberts, 2011: 34)

For the rap performance eighth stanza, Bill mentions “gangs”, “clubs” and “nations” as examples of causes of misery among human relations. He also says “that I am not going to spend my life being a color”, through which he tries to tell his audience that he does not want to be labeled as belonging to one and only race. Color or race that separates the world and he will prefer that the world not be that way.

Not only for the music, same with the various melody, Michael chooses various meaning of words, too. Michael conveys his message with the strains of different words and impression giving a specific purpose for the audience.

*I am tired of this devil
I am tired of this stuff
I am tired of this business*

Michael sings in high modality with strong or powerful tone. He even repeats the word “I am tired” three times with different objects. This repetition implies that he gives a notification to remember what is told in the song. It is a strong emphasis that he really has no response or any comments about the bad things in this world. In contrast, Michael also uses low modality in the second stanza in which the word “believe” gives a weak or powerless tone:

*Now I believe in miracles
And a miracle
Has happened tonight*

4.1.2 Figurative Language

4.1.2.1 Metaphor

Metaphors are characterized as either direct or indirect. An indirect metaphor is one in which the comparison is implied but not stated directly. The words “devil”, “stuff”, and “business” suggest the meaning that leads to racism. Overall, in this stanza, it means that Michael Jackson does not care and is not afraid of the power of culture that separates the distance between the different races. However, if the situation is getting raged and miserable, Michael expresses that he will not give up to face the reality. Michael depends on the principle that the difference in the race should be eliminated. Michael also uses a direct metaphor for his lyric. This can be seen in the fourth stanza:

*They print my message
In the Saturday Sun
I had to tell them
I ain't second to none*

*And i told about equality
And it's true
Either you're wrong
Or you're right*

The direct metaphor applies on “In the Saturday Sun”. The writer found out that the word “Sun” refers to the newspaper agency named *The Sun*. He says that he believes in miracles because reporters have printed his message in a newspaper about his message about equality, even if he is different because he is of another color. The “miracle” is intended to on words “I believe in miracle” in second stanza.

4.1.2.2 Imagery

1. Visual Imagery

This lyric is a poem written by Michael Jackson and Bill Bottrell. In the lyric, there is imagery used to describe the aesthetic sense. A visual imagery is imagery that relies on the sense of sight. Childs and Fowler (2006:115) say that everything that can be viewed or subject that appears is one of the elements of visual imagery. Subject used in poetry in the lyric is the “baby”, “black” and “white” in third stanza, and so the "message" and “sun” in the fourth stanza. Then in the seventh stanza, "stuff", "business", "brother", "sheets" and "girl" are included in visual imagery. In rap lyric performance by Bill Bottrell’s, is using a lot of visual imagery in it.

*Protection
For gangs, clubs
And nations
Causing grief in
Human relations
It's a turf war
On a global scale
I'd rather hear both sides
Of the tale
See, it's not about races
Just places
Faces
Where your blood
Comes from
Is where your space is
I've seen the bright
Get duller
I'm not going to spend
My life being a color*

A visual Imagery involves not only the subject or object looks, but also a verb that involves an element of vision. In this case the word "see" and “seen” are also included in the visual imagery. Furthermore, in the ninth stanza, there is a verb "saw" and the noun "dirt" and "eye".

2. Auditory Imagery

The writer believes that an auditory imagery is an image that relies on the sense of hearing. In this lyric, Michael and Bottrell has little use of auditory imagery in it. The word “bang” is one of the auditory imagery. Literally, "bang" is defined as a pop or a very loud explosion. But in a real sense in this lyric, the word is interpreted as the meaning in other meaning as Saturday night in which young people in general go out to hang out. In the lyric "I'd rather hear both sides", the word "hear" is a verb that is included in the senses of hearing, and it is in the category of auditory imagery.

3. Kinesthetic Imagery

Kinesthetic imagery refers to an image that represents the movement, physical tension. All activities undertaken by the body are the element that is included in the sense movement. In this imagery, the verb is mostly already included. All verbs in this “Black or

White” lyric are included in the kinesthetic imagery. There are “took”, “with”, “print”, “tell”, “told”, “get” or “gets”, “spend”, “going” and “kicking”. These verbs provide clearer information to the audience which Michael gives the action that he does not fully support racism.

4. Organic Imagery

An organic imagery refers to an imagery that represents about feelings and thoughts experienced by the subject. It involves internal sensation, hunger, thirst, fatigue, nausea and so on. The organic imagery can be interpreted as the image of an element in the worldly life. In other words, the image is linked to elements in the form of common things that are existed in environment surrounding. In this lyric, outside the subject of visual, auditory, kinesthetic and organic imagery, all of the words are included in the category of organic imagery.

*Now I believe in miracle
And a miracle
Has happened tonight*

From this stanza, we can tell that this imagery is the most in an abstract form, which cannot be described in a form that can be seen, but can be felt and recognized by feeling. “equality”, “business”, “protection”, “relations”, “life” and “races” are the pointed imageries. The Imagery words are belonged the feeling of emotion or something that we can feel are “believe”, “thinking”, “tired”, “rough”, “scared”, “mean”, “grief”, “duller” and “agree”. The other words that are included as organic imagery are: “matter”, “second”, “wrong”, “right” and “true”. These vocabularies gives Michael the views and opinions toward racism and supports racial equality.

4.1.3 Theme

“Black or White” by Michael Jackson is about a person talking about the society in life where racial inequality between black people or white people occurs. The composer has added this quote into the song so people will understand the idea about racism in society. As one listens to this song, she or he will make people realize that Michael is expecting his audience to be both white or of color ethnicities.

The writers believes that the most common problem between many ethnicities is racism. One of the common problems, which affect all human beings, is the idea of racism. The lyrics of this song describes Michael’s opinion about racism. He tries to tell his audience that there is no difference for him whether somebody is black or white. This lyric also described his opinion on racism and how they have affected him and the society he lives in.

4.2 Extrinsic Aspects Discussion

4.2.1 Concept of Racism

The *Oxford English Dictionary* (2008: 39) gives the meaning that black is “the very darkest color” or “the opposite of white”. Blackness and whiteness become the objects of interrogation for each individual to identify the physical characteristics biologically in humans and eventually it becomes a marker of racial justification for the view of the human body. This statement is determined by Cannon (2010: 28). He believes that blackface functions as a statement of social imperfection, inferiority, and mimicry that is placed in isolation with an absent whiteness as its ideal opposite. This point of view tragically causes the differences of the human race called racism. Many of the theories, however, say that skin color is not just being as a reference or benchmark for classifying the human race. Various specifications of the human physical expectationally become a reference for

dividing the different classes of the race. This is stated also by Storey (2009: 167) that racism is more than physical refers to the specialty features.

“Black or White” mostly talks about racism, more precisely, racial equality. Michael shows his whole expression against the racism. In 1979, Michael firstly gives his confession about his opposition to the difference of the human race in *JET* magazine interview:

The people told us 'Just deal with it' (racism), because that's how the South is. That's ignorance and it's taught, because it's not genetic at all. The little children in those (countries) aren't prejudiced. I would like for you to put this in quotes, too. I'm really not a prejudiced person at all. I believe that people should think about God more and creation. Look at the many wonders inside the human bodies — the different colors of organs, colors of blood — and all these colors do different things in the human body. It's the most incredible system in the world; it makes an incredible building, the human being. And if this can happen with the human body, why can't we do it as people? And that's how I feel. And that's why I wish the world could do more. That (racism) is the only thing I hate. I really do.

And that's why I try to write, put it in songs, put it in dance, put it in my art – to teach the world. If politicians can't do it, poets should put it in poetry and writers should put it in novels. That's what we have to do and I think it's so important to save the world. (Johnson, 1979)

Based on the above statement, Michael mentions the south, which refers to the area of South America (Johnson, 1984), which there was once quite a lot of slavery incidents happened in the 17th century. He also believes that whether a black or white, it is still a human being as same as the other ordinary people. He says so as a protest in self experience for being a black. As a representative of his disagreement toward racism, Michael says that he is trying to write and pour it into his songs, dance, and his art in order to convey his message reaching the world. He even repeats the same statement in the *Ebony* Interview in 1984:

EBONY: Did your travels have any influence on the way you think about races of people?

MICHAEL: The main thing that I hate most is ignorance, like the prejudice problems of America. I know it is worse in some other countries. But I wish I could borrow, like from Venezuela or Trinidad, the real love of color-blind people and bring it to America...

EBONY: You are making some observations with intense feelings. Please continue.

MICHAEL: I'm prejudiced against ignorance. That's what I'm mainly prejudiced against. It's only ignorance and it's taught because it's not genetic at all. The little children in those [countries] aren't prejudiced. I would like for you to put this in quotes, too. I'm really not a prejudiced person at all. I believe that people should think about God more and creation....Look at the many wonders inside the human body the different colors of organs, colors of blood and all these different colors do a different thing in the human body. It's the most incredible system in the world; it makes an incredible building, the human being. And if this can happen with the human body, why can't we do it as people? And that's how I feel. And that's why I wish the world could do more. That's the only thing I hate. I really do.” (Johnson, 1984)

In this Interview, it is found that Michael Jackson was also against prejudice and ignorance. He believes that in Venezuela and Trinidad were one of countries with people which did not discriminate between races, unlike in the America which still has problems against prejudice. America is a multiculturalist country. Many immigrants have moved to America with varied reasons. Since that time, different skin colors, different language, different blood and different lifestyle can be found in the town or countryside. Michael considers this thing as a wonderful human being system.

Not only Michael, Bill, a rap lyricist, also supports racial equality through his rap lyric. In Willa and Joie's blog , it is described what Bill's opinion about writing "Black or White":

...the white rap section in Black or White uses black hip hop, but runs it through a white perspective, Bill Bottrell's feel good lyrics and performance. The previous section, "I am tired of this devil" uses white hard rock and heavy metal but runs it through a black perspective and the frustration of racial injustice. He is deliberately confusing musical codes here, attempting to integrate all these perspectives into a single view in a very trans-ethnic way (the way he uses his body). He is autonomously choosing the perspectives he wishes to use, ingeniously expressing the Black or White theme in the song (Willa and Joie, 2012).

In the statement above, he says that he wrote the the lyric on his white perspective and black persperctive. By this revelation, Bill gave recognition to his audience that he definitely support Michael's emotion with writing white rap lyric about racial equality.

Michael says that he wanted to put his feeling against racism into his songs. His emotions led him to pour everything what was his desire for the acknowledge from the whole world. This is exactly what Hall and Whannel (1964: 280) say that pop songs reflect people especially teenager challenges in managing a tangle of passionate and sex issues. Those people ask the need to experience life straightforwardly and seriously. They express the drive for security in uncertain and variably enthusiastic world. Hall and Whannel (1964: 296) believes that pop music exhibits emotional realism. Through "Black or White", Michael's anger is confined and antiracism became the safer and more polite expression.

4.2.2 Racial Equality Issues in Michael's Life

The previous interviews shows that Michael jackson definitely disagree racism, prejudice and ignorance when he was a black. Yet, the magical changing of the color skin happened to him in time after time. People at first were negatively wondering why Michael changed his skin color into white since he was a prejudiced against racism and provoke him had a plastic surgery in a certain purpose. From the journal of Darryl Scriven (2010), it is revealed that Michael declared in 1993 during interview with Oprah that he had Lupus:

...So Michael's declaration of having Lupus during a 1993 interview with Oprah, while unfamiliar, was nevertheless believable because of the kind of illness it is understood to be...

Lupus is an autoimmune disorder that is often hereditary, manifesting frequently in African Americans and Asian women. The disease attacks healthy tissue and can damage multiple organs including the joints, skin, liver, heart, blood vessels, lungs, and brain. There are various forms of Lupus but Discoid Lupus affects only the skin and causes rashes on the face neck and scalp. Regarding Michael, there are many pictures that show what appear to be preskin lightening rashes on his neck and face. Additionally, there is footage of a younger Michael

where prolonged bouts with acne are visible. So if all of this was somehow connected to Lupus... (Scriven, 2010: 101)

Not only Lupus, Michael was convicted that he was also affected by the disease of vitiligo that made white patches of discoloration all over his skin. However, people seemed to not believe that this disease infected Michael. Scriven, a journalist, says that vitiligo is the disease caused by the primarily genetic and environmental factors with thyroid disorders:

...But when you couple Lupus with an additional disease that turns brown skin into white skin, it was a bit too much for black people to emotionally accept.

Vitiligo is a dermatological disorder that destroys pigment in patches of skin and becomes progressively worse over time. The exact cause of Vitiligo is unknown; however, it is primarily genetic and sometimes affected by environmental factors. The condition is also highly represented in people with thyroid disorders. It causes milky white splotches to appear on the skin near body orifices and is commonly seen on the extremities as evolving discoloration. When Michael confessed to Oprah Winfrey in a 1993 interview that he suffered from Vitiligo, he was responding to the question of his skin becoming gradually lighter since the mid 1980's. After Michael's death, Arnold Klein, his Dermatologist, confirmed the condition on Larry King Live. There is even speculation that the genesis of his sequined glove, besides his brother Marlon's urging, was to cover his right hand in the early stages of Vitiligo" (Scriven, 2010: 102).

According to Scriven (2010), the distrust from society is denied by Arnold Klein, Michael's personal dermatologist. After Michael's death he states that Michael's skin gradually enlightened as a marker of disease symptoms of vitiligo since 1980 which was also experienced by Larry King Live.

Within media, there has been a sharply awareness of his racial status. Michael seems denying his blackness as he was. Although he continues to present himself as a black man in his music and other projects, it cannot be said that he has been completely against racism simply because he is proud to be white out of his awareness. He made reasons that it was only due to his illness, so that his skin becomes white.

Michael's career began when joining his brothers in the Jackson 5. But then, in the mid 1970s Michael left Motown, where the Jackson's residence was in, and transitioned into solo career, continued to court a multiracial and international fans. Through his songs, Michael successfully passes his emotions and messages to the world. Many people admires the struggle and character of the *King of Pop*. By 1983, Michael was at the top of his career with "Thriller" well on its way to becoming the best selling album of all the time. But then in 1991, the unfortunate news heading to Michael related to his family. One of his brother, Jermaine Jackson, was surprisingly revealed that he is jealous of Michael's suddenly fame. This is clearly reported by Stacy Brown in *New York Post* 2013:

... Stacy Brown became friends with the bizarre family of Michael Jackson. For 25 years, he hung out at their Hayvenhurst estate in Encino, Calif., and even ghostwrote their memoirs. He previously wrote about Katherine Jackson's letters to her son, in which she called Michael a homophobic slur. Here, in Part Two of his memories of life among the Jacksons, he talks about the family member he knows best — Jermaine, the jealous older brother of Michael.

“That was supposed to be me,” Jermaine Jackson said, for the 100th time, talking about the superstardom his younger brother enjoyed..... In 1991, Jermaine released the song “Word to the Badd” that accused Michael of “changing his shade” (Brown, 2013).

Based on the Brown’s report above, it is known that Jermaine released his song “Word of the Badd”, and at a same year, Michael released “Black or White” too. The lyrics of “Word of the Badd” told the story of a brother frightened about what has happened to his brother. The story painted a picture of a jealous older brother who wrote a song out of frustration after losing two collaborators to Michael who was working on songs for “Dangerous” album. On the report above, Brown said that Jermaine accused Michael of “changing his shade”. The phrase meant that Jermaine denied of Michael’s prejudice against him since he was changing his skin tone to white. Jermaine doubted Michael’s determination of his racial equality.

4.3 Relation Between the Intrinsic and Extrinsic Aspects

The fourth stanza that catches an attention is "They printed my message, In the Saturday *Sun*, I had to tell them, I ain't second to none." Here Michael states that he is a person who supports equalities. He explains that to his audience because *Sun* printed his message that if he was different because he was of another color. This is what Roberts, a journalist, says on her journal:

...He then turns the spotlight on his own identity, singing, “They print my message in the Saturday Sun / I had to tell them I ain’t second to none / And I told about equality / And it’s true, either you’re wrong or you’re right.” In a moment of racial pride, Jackson tells the papers he is equal to the rest of humanity and that the verity of this fact is indisputable.... (Roberts, 2011:32)

Based on his statement above, Roberts explains that Michael gives a moment of racial pride to “paper” which refers to *Sun* newspaper that he is an equality person so any society will acknowledge him.

Next, Michael writes "I told about equality, And it's true, Either you're wrong or you're right." In these lines Michael is trying to say that everyone has their own opinion about what equality is. If someone has a different opinion on equality, each person is right. Later in the lyric, Michael states "I am tired of this devil, I am tired of this stuff, I am tired of this business, So when the going gets rough, I ain't scared of your brother, I ain't scared of no sheets, I ain't scare of nobody, girl when the goin' gets mean." Michael states that he is tired of the people who are racist, whom are described as devils. Also, he states that he is not scared of anyone when things get bad and will not let racism: that the people from different ethnicity, affect him.

In “Black Or White”, Michael incorporates rap, which is performed by Bill. Within this rap he mentions how gangs, clubs and nations are protected for their beliefs even though it causes grief in human relations. Racism is a war of races, land or turf as Michael describes, and Michael prefers both sides of people's opinions to one sidedness. Michael describes that racism is about places, faces, where people’s blood comes from and where people’s space are. He also states that he is not going to spend his life being a color: that he is a black man and he only fully supports by his own race on his life. Jackson does not want the label of a different race, he wants people to see him for his artistic abilities. His features changes, and the color of his skin is lightened significantly over the last two decades of his life.

One of the last few phrase of “Black or White”, he states "I said if you're thinking of being my brother, it don't matter if you're black or white" with high motivation tone.

Michael is a very open minded person and is willing to accept many people. In his part, Michael emphasizes that he is really an anti-racist to his brother, Jermaine indirectly. In their complicated relationship time, Jermaine says that Michael has changed his shade, it means that Michael is becoming a bossy person who boast his throne of King of Pop, including changing his color skin. However, Michael does not give any feedback for his brother's insults and releases what he believes on the lyric of "Black or White" about still being the same previous Michael Jackson in Jermaine's eyes.

5. Conclusion

"Black or White" by Michael Jackson is about a person talking about the society in life where racial equality between black people or white people is involved. Along with his partners, Bill, Michael opens up gates for many people to realize it no matter what skin tone people have, they are still human beings. The fact also encloses that Bill fully supports Michael's perspective about racial equality with writing rap lyric, although he is a white man. Michael and Bill states that everyone is equal, but if one is racist it is alright because that is their choice as human beings. "Black or White" shows that Michael has many artistic abilities. It also gives a strong message of antiracism and opposition to discrimination. Not only for the society, "Black or white" is dedicated to Michael's brother Jermaine who opposes Michael's thought as the answers. It tells everyone not to judge other people or regard their ethnicities based upon to their skin color and all the people are equally created. Michael and Bill intend to spread the message of love, friendship and peace.

After around two decades from the production of "Black or White", many people around the world because of its touching lyrics and fantastic music still listen to this song. Even though he has passed away, Michael's music has been one of the most successful and well-known artwork produced by himself. Some of his words are for entertainment but others are to get a point or belief for his fans.

The amazing techniques of the song can motivate people to listen the song repeatedly. Aside from containing moral values that can provide some inspiration for everyone, this energetic music can increase metabolism physically as well as a passion for life. Overall, this song really deserves to be listened.

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