
SAMANNTHA WHITE'S STRUGGLE IN JUSTIN SIMIEN'S *DEAR WHITE PEOPLE* (2014) FILM

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ABSTRACT

Racism is still common in human life today. Racism usually occurs when blacks are bullied or otherwise mistreated by whites. This can make blacks strong enough and claim equal rights in public. As a reflection of real life, one of the films that fight for equal rights (anti-racism) is the *Dear White People* film. This research aims to analyze the struggles of the characters in the *Dear White People* film, where blacks demand that there is no mixing of whites and blacks because the environment on the Wenchester campus is mostly black. In this research, researcher used qualitative methods. In this research, researcher took data through conversations carried out by characters in the *Dear White People* film. The results of the research were the data collected by the researcher only obtained three of the five analyzes.

Keywords: racism, struggle, film

ABSTRAK

Rasisme masih sering terjadi di kehidupan manusia hingga saat ini. Rasisme biasanya terjadi ketika kulit hitam ditindas atau perlakuan yang tidak pantas dari kulit putih. Hal itu yang dapat membuat kaum kulit hitam cukup kuat dan menuntut hak kesetaraanya di publik. Sebagai refleksi kehidupan nyata, salah satu film yang memperjuangkan hak-hak kesetaraan (anti-rasisme) adalah film *Dear White People*. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisa perjuangan karakter-karakter yang ada di film *Dear White People* yang dimana kulit hitam menuntut agar tidak ada percampuran kulit putih dan kulit hitam karena lingkungan di kampus Wenchester mayoritas berkulit hitam. Dalam penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metode kualitatif. Pada penelitian ini, peneliti mengambil data melalui percakapan yang dilakukan oleh karakter-karater yang ada di film *Dear White People*. Hasil penelitian data yang dikumpulkan oleh peneliti hanya memperoleh tiga dari lima analisis.

Kata Kunci: rasisme, perjuangan, film

A. INTRODUCTION

In social life there are still many people who differentiate between races, ethnicities and religions. In this case, discriminating against a race, ethnicity or religion is called racism. Racism calls on all like-minded individuals to stand in solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees and rejects efforts made to arouse racist feelings in the country (Mc Veigh 13). The phenomenon of racism inspires researchers in literary works.

Literary works have several types ranging from poetry, short stories, drama and novels. Over time, several literary works have developed, one of which is drama. Dramas with advances in technology and lighting today, dramas are also developing not only to be watched live, but also with visuals, namely films.

Film is visual literacy (as opposed to verbal literacy), a new medium which is an extension of the idea of literacy itself. In contemporary science, everything written, for example a film script, is part of literary studies, so film is a branch of literature (Masira 1). One of the films that the researcher will discuss is the *Dear White People* film. *Dear White People* tells a story where blacks demand that there is no mixing of whites and blacks because the environment on the Wenchester campus is predominantly black.

In short, the researcher wants to analyze how the struggles of characters who fight for the rights of blacks so that they are not combined with whites because they know that if they are combined with whites they will get oppression. Therefore they (blacks) plan to strongly reject the mixing of blacks and whites.

B. RELATED LITERATURE

A. Character

Characters are people who are featured in a literary work. This can be interpreted by readers as an expression of moral and dispositional qualities which are expressed in what they say in dialogue and by what they do in action (Abraham 20). Robert also said that character is person that lives in a literary (1447).

B. Characterization

In order for a character to appear and have its own characteristics in each literary work, the literary technique used is called characterization. There are many ways to analyze a characteristic, one of which is using the theory of Joseph M. Boggs(50-54). Joseph Boggs explained that there are five types of characteristics, namely:

a. Characterization through Appearance

Characterization through appearance is what is drawn or known through the appearance or clothing of the character. These aspects are also one of the *mise-en-scene* (which is French language). *Mise-en-scene* aspects include

background, costume color, lighting, character behavior and make-up (Joseph 50).

b. Characterization through Dialogue

Characterization through dialogue is a characteristic in which the character can be identified by how the character speaks alone or with the other person. Characterization through dialogue can be known through intonation, choice of words, tone of voice, dialect and also the emotional attitude of the character (Joseph 51).

c. Characterization through External Action

Characterization through external action is a characteristic that has the main purpose in the story. This characterization will do anything or any action to get the goal of the character (Joseph 52).

d. Characterization through Internal Action

Characterization through internal action is the characteristic that the character reveals in secret. Usually this action is performed by the character through thoughts, daydreams, fantasy memories and also fears (Joseph 53).

e. Characterization through Other Character

Characterization through other character is a characterization in which the characteristic of the character is known from the point of view of others (Joseph 54).

C. RESEARCH METHOD

a. Research Design

Qualitative is a research strategy which focuses more on words as well as pictures than through numerical data (Bryan 269).

b. Data and Data Sources

In this research, the data were taken from the conversations of the characters in the *Dear White People* film. Data also obtained through screenshots from the film in order to strengthen the data from the researcher.

c. Data and Data Sources

In this research, researcher observed conversations in the *Dear White People* film and captured the data through screenshots. The steps that researchers took are some of the following:

1. Researcher watch the film several times and then focus on the research data to be taken.
2. Then the researcher will focus on each character conversation in the film and then take the data through screenshots.
3. Then record data related to what the researcher examined, namely the character's struggle to get their rights.

d. Data Collection

In the analysis process, the study used five stages to obtain data analysis, namely:

1. Researchers understand the data because understanding the data can affect how well the analysis is so that researchers watch movies and read the script until they really understand.
2. The focus of the research to be studied is related to the research question
3. After reading, watching and re-reading until they understand, the researcher then categorizes the dialogues and also takes data from the related scene scenes.
4. Next, identify the data that has been collected by struggling for the characters to get their rights.
5. Finally, combine all the data that researchers have collected and then combine it with theories related to the struggles of characters who want to get their rights which are used to answer research questions (Ellen Taylor-Powell and Marcus Renner: 2-5).

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Samantha White's Struggle

a. Characterization through Appearance

Characterization through Appearance is a characterization that describes a characteristic or knowing a character through what the character uses or wears such as clothes, appearance, pants, etc.

Time	Name	Conversation
1:04:09- 1:04:22	Reggie	There you are. We start at 12 A.M, right?
	Sam	Yeah. I told you after the class
	Reggie	This will be Gillespie. Is it good, right? Oh what? Your not desperate, right?
	Sam	Oh no

This scene occurs when Samantha White and friends prepare to protest against the Shuffling Movement Group which wants to combine black and white together. Their clothes also wear clothes with the words protesting for Shuffling Movement Group.

b. Characterization through Dialogue

Characterization through dialogue is a characterization in which the characters convey their characterizations through voice, intonation of voice and choice of words.

Time	Name	Conversation
1:12:58- 1:13:05	Lecture	Your mentor said that you often miss join the class. Maybe it is your time to rethink.
	Sam	You try to afraid me. But I think you the one who scared.

This scene is when a lecturer from Samantha calls because of his disturbing protests. After meeting the lecturer, she was afraid or withdrawn from the action, but Samantha turned around to criticize "You try afraid me, but I think you the one who scared". This is meant by characterization through dialogue because the words delivered by Samantha describe never going backward to defend their people (black people).

c. Characterization through External Action

Characterization through external action is a characterization in which the character will do whatever character does to achieve the goals.

Time	Name	Conversation
12.00- 12.11	Sam	The Black Student Union and I brought a petition against the Group Shuffling Movement. I'm going to take this petition to the president and we'll bring some more blacks back to Winchester

This scene occurs when Samantha White stands in front of the stage and advocates for the rights of her people who do not want a mixture of blacks and whites and Samantha advised blacks to join their own group without white interference.

E. CONCLUSION

In the Dear White People film, it is identified that there are three characterization struggles of the five characterizations that exist in the theory of Joseph M. Boggs. Theories that can be collected and researched in this study are characterization through appearance, characterization through dialogue and characterization through external action. Two characterizations (through internal action and other characters) are not included in this study because the theory does not appear in the film.

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