

AN ANALYSIS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ‘MAX HAVELAAR’ MOVIE

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ABSTRACT

The aim of the study is to find out the types of racial discrimination in the film Max Havelaar and to find out the causes of racial discrimination in the film Max Havelaar. The study used a descriptive qualitative design. Descriptive qualitative design is used to describe and explain what has been interpreted from the research object. The researchers conducted the research by watching the film "Max Havelaar" several times and used a dictionary to check the data, identify, classify and conclude the data, and other tools used note taking. The researchers processed the data in the form of a dialogue. The data analysis process included data reduction, data presentation, inference/verification and triangulation. The data collected was then verified by an expert validator. The findings of this study are; 1) There are four types of racial discrimination found in the Max Havelaar film, namely; verbal antagonism discrimination, physical attack discrimination, extermination discrimination, and the last one is segregation. 2) There are four causes of racial discrimination in Max Havelaar film, namely; internal racism, institutional racism, systemic racism and interpersonal racism. In conclusion, the researchers hope they can expand the racial discrimination, such as structural discrimination, impact of racial discrimination, and the cases of racial discrimination in Indonesia today.

Keywords: Racial discrimination, movie, Max Havelaar

INTRODUCTION

Discrimination is a sensitive topic increasing every year and it happens in every country in the world. Problems in relations between different races are always present. Racial restrictions and conflicts are also common in Indonesia. Discrimination is a social phenomenon from the past to the present because people tend to be different from each other. There are some types of discrimination in this world based on the theory of Allport¹, there are: verbal antagonism discrimination, avoidance discrimination, physical attack discrimination, extermination discrimination and the last one is segregation. Racism is against human rights; it has caused great damage to certain countries and races. Discrimination that occurs is of course due to causes that occur in society. Based on the

¹ Allport. (2017). The nature of prejudice. *The Nature of Prejudice*, c, 1–84.
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theory of Gumilang², the causes of racial discrimination are internal racism, institutional racism, systemic racism and interpersonal racism.

Racial discrimination is defined as any person of any race who seeks to abolish or restrict the recognition, acquisition or realisation of human rights and fundamental freedoms with equality in civil, political, economic, social, cultural or any form of discrimination, exclusion, restriction or selection based on ethnicity Tully³. These beliefs are often manifested in discriminatory or abusive behaviours and practices towards members of races perceived as inferior. Often the expectations and characterisations of one race over another are based on biased beliefs. Sociology is the branch of social science that studies society and its influence on the development of human life. Therefore, sociology is referred to as the science of society, which means the science of the nature of society, human behaviour and community development.

In addition, the researchers used several previous studies on racism to support this study. In the first study by Kensler⁴, the researcher analysed Asian American discrimination in Harvard admissions. The racism that often occurs among American peoples. The purpose of this study is to analyse racism in the selection of applicants at Harvard University. They participated directly in Harvard conferences through observations, interviews and questionnaires while collecting data. This study shows that: discrimination based on race and ethnicity has a long and sordid history in the United States. Americans now look at the characteristics of typical Asian American and white applicants. Americans start by looking at family background. This shows that, on average, Asian American applicants come from poorer backgrounds than white applicants. Much better than their peers. Kensler then looked at how Asian Americans and whites are rated by Harvard University admissions officers and how these ratings correlate with academic readiness.

Research by Atmantika⁵, analysis of racial discrimination aspects based on Gordon Allport's theory depicted in the film *Fruitvale Station* (2013) found some types of racial discrimination, such as, verbal antagonism is the first discriminatory behaviour in this study, and the last avoidance is the behaviour to avoid a group of people of a certain race, this avoidance behaviour can take the form of avoiding casual contact (verbal or non-verbal) or long-term exclusion. This study focuses on analysing how racial discrimination occurs in the film *Fruitvale Station* (2013) and what types of discrimination are experienced by the characters in the film *Fruitvale Station* (2013).

Almatsier⁶, entitled "Reception Analysis Standing Against Racism in His 12 Years in Film *Budak*" found the commitments where racism is the main trigger. First is a struggle to regain their rights and become beings can respect this right. This film is a true story that happened hundreds of years ago. Black people belong to a lower caste than white people. Based on a true story, this film tells it simply: Solomon Northrup lives in New York and is a good violinist. Once upon a time he was offered a job with good money, Solomon took the job which turned out to be a rape and he was even sold into the slave trade. The film *12 Years A Slave* makes a lot of sense to an ethnic minority audience. Using the Coding-Decoding

² Gumilang. (2021). *Rasisme : Pengertian, Penyebab, Menanggulangnya*. 1–16.

³ Tully, S. (2013). UN: International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, 1965. International Documents on Corporate Responsibility, 1–17. <https://doi.org/10.4337/9781845428297.00027>

⁴ Kensler. (2020). analyzed Asian American Discrimination in Harvard Admissions. *Jhos Kensler*, 8(75), 147–154. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jnc.2020.125798><https://doi.org/10.1016/j.smr.2020.02.002><http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/810049><https://doi.wiley.com/10.1002/anie.197505391><http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/B9780857090409500205>

⁵ Atmantika. (2022). Analisis of Racial Discrimination Aspects Based on Gordon Allport ' s Theory Depicdet in *Fruitvale Station* Movie (2013). *Jurnal Internasional*, 9(2), 123–137.

⁶ Almatsier. (2011). *Racism in 12 Years A Slave* movie. 45(July), 1–7.

Stuart Hall method of recipe analysis, this study also uses this type of research is qualitative and the primary focus is on racism occurring in the United States.

The phenomenon of discrimination has inspired many literary works and film titles. The film has also been used to express community aspirations. It can be an individual opinion or a group opinion. The film deals with issues that arise in society, such as discrimination against minorities. Such films are rarely appreciated by the audience. According to Wardiana (2015), a film is a series of still images. An image that appears to move when viewed on a screen. Movies or films are one of the most effective and efficient ways to understand the content. One of the films that raises the issue of discrimination is a film produced by Max Havelaar in 1976 with a duration of 2 hours and 41 minutes. This film is based on the novel of the same name by Multatuli's. The film was directed by Rademakers and starred Indonesian actresses such as Rima Melati. The film was relatively unpopular in Indonesia and was banned by the New Order government after its release.

Based on the above explanation, the reason for researching the film "Max Havelaar" regarding racial discrimination is based on two reasons. The first reason is that racial discrimination is an important topic to analyse because it is an old problem that has no solution to avoid and reduce it. The second reason is that this film shows racial discrimination and the causes of discrimination that still exist in human relations today. This film presents racial discrimination as one of the saddest and most similar social phenomena in the world. Against the background of the above study, the problems of the study are:

1. What types of racial discrimination can be found in Max Havelaar's film?
2. What are the causes of racial discrimination in Max Havelaar's film?.

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METHOD

This study uses the descriptive-qualitative method because the aim of this study is to examine the types of racial discrimination and the causes of racial discrimination in the film "Max Havelaar". Qualitative research is concerned with the subjective meaning of an experience to an individual and can be used to generate hypotheses and theories from the data. Since the descriptive-qualitative design was used in this study, the data was taken from the 1976 film "Max Havelaar" with a duration of 2 hours and 41 minutes. This film is based on the novel of the same name by Multatuli. The film was directed by Rademakers and featured Indonesian actresses such as Rima Melati. The object of this research was taken from the types and causes of racial discrimination in the film "Max Havelaar". Data analysis was conducted based on the steps suggested by Miles Huberman (2011), namely data condensation, data display, conclusion and data verification. In order to analyse the data, the researcher uses a corpus process to make notes when classifying the types of racial discrimination and the causes of racial discrimination in a film. The purpose of the corpus is to make the analysis easier for the researcher. After the data is tabulated, it will be examined by observing the dialogues, actions and words and then applying the theory used by the researchers to find the types of racial discrimination and causes of racial discrimination during the Dutch colonial period found in the film Max Havelaar.

FINDING

Types of racial discrimination Found in Max Havelaar Movie

Verbal Antagonism

Verbal antagonism is racism expressed as an insult through words. This includes casual insults and degrading racist comments inside and outside the target's existence. Verbal antagonism is the first discrimination in the Max Havelaar film, the natives were often discriminated against by the white (Dutch) people.

Dialogue:

Captain : Can you do nothing right, you monkey? Goddammit, a whole bale of coffee down the bloody drain. Lazy monkeys clear off, you sod. Sweep the coffee up into the bag and sew it up again. Nothing would go right in this country if it weren't for us.

Lieutenant : They are like children. No sense of responsibility.

Based on the dialogue, the Dutch called the natives animals (monkeys). In the dialogue, it can be seen that the Dutch Captain is very angry and disgusted with native people.

Physical Attack

Under conditions of heightened emotion, prejudice can lead to acts of violence or semi-violence, and sexism occurs when prejudice and acts of discrimination are perpetrated against individuals or other groups on the basis of their gender differences.

Dialogue:

Captain : Have you seen her before?

Lieutenant : Yes, they all look the same to me.

Captain : You're not using your eyes. Well, well look at that.

Lieutenant : You're not her sort, see? Too slippery.

Captain : who does that bitch think she is? The effrontery, she's not making a fool of me.

The dialogue is evidence that local women did not allow Dutch males to play with them in a way that was demeaning to them. Supported by this dialogue who does that bitch think she is? The effrontery. She's not making a fool of me; the Dutch captain was furious for not letting him satisfy his lust.

Extermination Discrimination.

Extermination discrimination is lynching massacres, and Hitler's program of genocide marks the ultimate degree of violent expression of prejudice.

Dialogue :

Saijah father : Are you afraid of the soldiers?

Saijah : No, father.

Saijah Father : No need to be. Look at your brother, he's not afraid.

Demang : The Regent is displeased. You have not paid him tribute. The tribute e is due.

Native people : Demang, all we have is chickens and rice.

Demang : Chickens? Rice? You call that a tribute? Do you mean to insult the Regent?

Native people : Demang, your highness, we have nothing else. We have no money.

Demang : Is that so? What about that animal?

Native people : Demang, without my buffalo we cannot plough the rice field.

Demang : Do you want to make the regent ashamed of his subjects? Hand over the buffalo and quickly.

Saijah Brother : Come back, come back Pantang, come back. (Pantang is the name of buffalo)

The dialogue shows that Saijah's brother was shot by Demang (the assistant to the Regent of Lebak) for rebelling (wanting the buffalo back), but met a tragic fate. Saijah holds a grudge against herself and the government of Lebak Regency. The Regent always asks too much of the people: too many taxes, too many buffaloes (taken by force) and too many cruel killings of the people.

d. Segregation

Segregation is an institutionalized form of discrimination, enforced legally or by common custom. The scene shows that Batavus Doorstopper looked arrogant and ambitious to spread Christianity on the island of Java and change the fate of the poor people who worship their ancestors. He is so religious in the implementation of ritual worship, but far from religious values in the ritual when seeing fellow human beings—especially the poor.

The Causes of Racial Discrimination Found in Max Havelaar Movie.

Internal Racism

Internal racism refers to thoughts, feelings, and actions from within ourselves, consciously or unconsciously, as individuals. For example, believing that there are negative racial stereotypes or even denying that racism does not exist.

Dialogue

Max Havelaar : Tuan Demang, what are you doing?

Demang : I am buying buffaloes, Tuan.

Max Havelaar : For money? Without compulsion?

Demang : Of course, Tuan. Ask anyone and they'll confirm it.

Max Havelaar : You have all heard that I promised to protect you. Nobody need be afraid to answer this question honestly. Are you selling your buffaloes freely? You. You bartered your father's Kris for a buffalo. Are you also selling your buffalo to the Demang?

Saijah father : Yes, Tuan.

Max Havelaar : For how much? Where is the money? Show me the money. I don't see money. Where is it?

Saijah Father: I have no money. But if the Demang says he will pay. I believe his word of honour.

Max havelaar : Anyone not willing to sell his buffalo can tell me so now. This instant.

The dialogue, show's Demang brutally took buffalo belonging to residents by force. This was known to Max Havelaar. However, no one dared to tell the truth if the Demang took the buffalo by force and was not paid. The people were threatened by the staff of the Lebak regent. If they dared to complain or give testimony, they would be cruelly killed or mistreated by the Demang and his staff.

b. Interpersonal Racism

Interpersonal racism is the act of racism from an individual or group to another individual or group and can affect their public interactions. For example, by carrying out negative behaviour such as discrimination, harassment and also saying racist words.



Figure 1. An example of interpersonal racism

The scene in Figure 1 shows that Demang mistreated and abused Saijah and Saijah's father, even stripped them naked and burned their clothes. Saijah and his father were treated like dogs by Demang and his staff. They considered Saijah and his father to be rebellious and complained to the assistant Resident.

Institutional Racism

Institutional racism is generally present in institutions as well as political, legal and economic systems which can directly or indirectly foster discrimination based on racial differences.

This leads to inequalities in wealth, education, income, health care, civil rights, as well as in many other institutional areas.

Dialogue:

Mr. Pierre : You ask to much from your people. Too many taxes. Too many bufaloes. Too muc work.

Regent of Lebak: Do I ask more from my people than the Duchth do? The people work for me, that is true. But for you they build prisons, and they contrucst roads for you. They work in the coffee plantations and your suger plantations, and what do they get for it? They get nothng it all from the Duchth.

Mr. Pierre : That's diferent.

Regent of Lebak: Of course, it is.

Mr. Pierre : I am warning you.

The dialogue above showed that it was the Indonesian people themselves who colonised the Indonesian nation. Indonesians like the Regent Bees and his staff extort the people to enrich themselves, while the Dutch employ the natives to build roads and prisons for shared facilities.

Systemic Racism

Systemic racism involves bodies or institutions that have the power to enforce racist policies, whether in education, government, health care, housing or other similar areas. It is a consequence of hundreds of years of racist and discriminatory practices that continue today.



Figure 2. An action of Systemic Racism

The scene shows the Resident and the Assistant Resident discussing the condition of the people of Lebak, with a very sad situation. However, the Resident warns Max Havelaar (the Assistant Resident) not to interfere in the affairs of the Regent and the people, as this is the custom and practice of the people of Lebak, where the people work for their Empress.

DISCUSSION

The first discussion is about the types of racial discrimination in the film Max Havelaar, while the second discussion focuses on the causes of racial discrimination in the film Max Havelaar.

The Types of Racial Discrimination in Max havelaar Movie

The first research question, deals with the types of racial discrimination in Max Havelaar film by Allport (2017), which categorised five types of racial discrimination that find based on the theory, but in the Max Havelaar film, researchers found only a fourth type of racial discrimination in Max Havelaar film, and then is not found in Max Havelaar film is avoidance discrimination.

Verbal antagonism discrimination is shown by the Dutch captain calling the natives animals (monkeys), and the Dutch lieutenant again shows that racial discrimination occurs through verbal antagonism, which is a scene of a conversation between the captain and the

lieutenant who arrogantly watched over the natives. Discrimination through physical attacks was more dominant than other types of discrimination because during the Dutch colonial period, women, subordinates or natives were looked down upon by the authorities, whether they were Dutch or Indonesians who had power, who arbitrarily committed violence or harassment against natives and women. These researchers found some types of racial discrimination also included in the research. such as; verbal antagonism discrimination, physical attack discrimination, extermination discrimination and the last one is segregation.

In this research, the researchers found some of the types of racial discrimination, such as; verbal antagonism, avoidance, segregation, physical attack and extermination. In this research, she focuses on analysing how racial discrimination occurs in the film *Fruitvale Station* (2013), and what types of discrimination are experienced by the characters in the film *Fruitvale Station* (2013). In this research, she found some types of racial discrimination, such as; social issue, economic issue, and political issue. There are two types of racial discrimination described in the novel *Dear Martin*, which are individual discrimination and institutional discrimination. For this research, the researcher used the theory of Allport (2017) to find the results of the types of racial discrimination.

According to Allport (2017) about the types, there are 5 types of racial discrimination: verbal antagonism discrimination, avoidance discrimination, physical attack discrimination, extermination discrimination and the last one is segregation. Based on the theory, the researcher found 4 types of racial discrimination in *Max Havelaar* film, which is not found is avoidance discrimination. Meanwhile, the previous researcher, using the theory of Allport, and found 4 types of racial discrimination, and who was not found was verbal antagonism discrimination. Previous research focused on racial discrimination that occurred in American, while the researcher focused on examining racial discrimination that occurred in Indonesia during the Dutch colonial period in *Max Havelaar* film.

The Causes of Racial Discrimination in Max Havelaar Movie.

Based on the second research question, which deals with the causes of racial discrimination in *Max Havelaar* film by Gumilang⁷, were categorized into four causes of racial discrimination found in *Max Havelaar* film. The next cause is institutional racism is generally present in institutions as well as political, legal and economic systems that can directly or indirectly promote discrimination based on racial differences Gumilang⁸ Based on the data found in *Max Havelaar* film, the most dominant scenes are related to institutional discrimination. These researchers found some causes of racial discrimination also included in the research. Such as; internal racism, institutional racism, systemic racism and interpersonal racism. For this research, the researcher used the theory of Gumilang⁹ to find the results of the causes of racial discrimination.

According to Gumilang (2021) about the causes, there are 4 causes of racial discrimination; internal racism, institutional racism, systemic racism and interpersonal racism. Based on the theory, the researcher found 4 causes of racial discrimination in *Max Havelaar* film. Previous research focused on racial discrimination that occurred in American, and focused in the impact, factor and the causes in the education, housing, health, and the causes in the university of American, while this researcher focused on examining the causes of racial discrimination that occurred in Indonesia during the Dutch colonial period in *Max Havelaar* movie. This study focuses on the types of racial discrimination and the causes of

⁷ Gumilang. (2021). *Rasisme : Pengertian, Penyebab, Menanggulangnya*. 1–16.

racial discrimination in Max Havelaar film. It was found that the most dominant type of racial discrimination is physical attack of discrimination.

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

In this research, the number of scenes containing types of racial discrimination in Max Havelaar film is 30 scenes, and the number of scenes containing causes of racial discrimination in Max Havelaar film is 30 scenes. It was found that the more dominant type of racial discrimination is physical attack discrimination. This happened because during the Dutch colonial period, women, subordinates or natives were looked down upon by the authorities, whether they were Dutch or Indonesians who had power, who arbitrarily committed violence or harassment against natives and women. Meanwhile, in terms of the causes of racial discrimination, the most prominent is institutional racism, because it often happens between superiors and subordinates, where the natives are required to pay high taxes and the superiors seize the property rights of the natives.

This paper may have some weaknesses, such as the depth of its coverage, so further in-depth research should be carried out by providing other points of view, such as whether the discriminations in the films still exist in society.

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