

Literature Review

Racism

Racism, also known as racialism, is the belief that humans can be divided into separate, exclusive biological entities called “races” (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022). There is a causal relationship between inherited physical characteristics and characteristics of personality, intellect, morality and other cultural and behavioral characteristics (Oxford Dictionary, 2022). Also, some races are essentially better than others. The term is a political, economic, or legal system that practices or perpetuates racism or enhances racial inequality in wealth and income, education, medical care, civil rights, and other areas. And system. Such institutional, structural, or systematic racism became a special focus of academic research in the 1980s with the advent of critical racial theory, a derivative of the critical legal movement. Since the second half of the 20th century, the concept of biological race has been accepted as a cultural invention with no scientific basis.

Racism, is a disease of ignorance, a terrible part of society and has grown its ugly head throughout history, and continues to do so today. Racism manifests itself in different forms and is directed at different cultures. It can end life and tear the community apart. Often, there are people who see racism and are encouraged to write about it with the aim of changing and making a difference in social beliefs. Abel Meeropol (1933) and Harper Lee (1987) shared this goal when they wrote the poem *Strange Fruit* about Lynching and the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* about the persecuting Southerners.

Although most people in the world have heard and understood this term, let's go back to the basic understanding of what it means according to Oxford Dictionary:

Racism is a prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against a person or people on the basis of their membership in a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized.

Britannica understandings also implies:

The belief that different races possess distinct characteristics, abilities, or qualities, especially so as to distinguish them as inferior or superior to one another.

Also it can be defined as a belief that [race](#) is a fundamental [determinant](#) of human traits and capacities and that racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race, also behavior or attitudes that reflect and foster this belief : racial discrimination or [prejudice](#), and lastly “the [systemic](#) oppression of a racial group to the social, economic, and political advantage of another”

Racism in Film

How can a movie present a racism?

With the development of society, many concepts are added into ideology, such as ideas, texts, and representations and theories. Film is a good example as ideological form that reflects the ideologies and values of societies through its images, discourses, symbols, myths, and narratives. "Blackfaces" are now less common after prolonged criticism of customs (Encyclopedia Britannica, 2022). For example, *Dear White* fraternity members hold a blackface-themed party about racism at US universities. However, as Hollywood spawned more black characters and cast more black actors, it also emphasized other stereotypes. To date, black men are often portrayed as scary or angry, and black women are portrayed as big-mouthed and cheeky. If a black character appears in a movie, it's probably will likely be a black best friend. And when people die in the movie, probably black characters will die first. Hollywood clings to these metaphors even when awareness of racial stereotypes is rising. Hollywood's black stereotyped depictions primarily refer to black Americans or African-American. The metaphor for Africans is less common. This is because few Hollywood movies have African characters. However, the most common phrase about Africa is what *TV Tropes* users call "Darkest Africa." A film depicting Africa as a mysterious and dangerous isolated country with limited connections to "modern" civilization. However, this depiction is becoming rare.

Virtually every movie presents us with ways of behaving as a negative and positive attitude or action and therefore offers us an implied or explicit morality or ideology. Every film has a slant based on the director's sense of right and wrong as an ideological perspective that privileges certain characters, institutions, and cultures. Recognize that films are products marketed to the American public and that film-making may include a predisposition that many, if not most, Americans will respond in roughly parallel or identical ways to the material. Films are market derived art. As our national character changes, the western (for instance, as a film genre) must also change, reinvent itself or perish.

Following the theory of David Bordwell (1993) and Ed Pincus (1996) on cinema and cinematic ideology, we can identify some nature of racism in the *Candyman* movie, but as based on the movie's horror genre of an urban legend these hints are very subtle and hard to determine if it is a hint of racism or not.

Pincus (1996) proposes three types of racial discrimination: individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination. To grasp the concept of racism types easily, there are ways such as by identifying differences in the actor and the level of harmfulness in each type of discrimination. The three types may be difficult to distinguish due to their similarities, which is their goal of harming minorities. As a result, the purpose of this section is to show the various scenes of the three types of racial discrimination acts in three different contexts.

Related Previous Studies

Some studies of racism have been investigated by Rusnanila's (2019) study, which researched the racism faced by the protagonist of the movie "Help" The study also experiences individual discrimination by showing that the protagonist and her friends (both black) are banned from traveling on public transportation because they looked like threatening other

passengers. Several earlier films focused on racism such as *Get Out* (2017), written by Jordan Peele, and *The Hate U Give* (2018), a film based on the novel by Angie Thomas that concludes that the nature of racism exists in the form of a film, it is either direct or subtle. The film *Candyman* (2021) that we have analyzed here is one of the examples of the subtle and direct combination of racism that exists within the film, but is also considered to be a rare subject being displayed in the subject of discrimination. On that point: Discrimination is not only in one place, it is universal. One example of this is what is happening here in Indonesia. One of its examples are racism experienced by the Chinese Indonesians. Discrimination against overseas Chinese has been passed down for generations to generations and is rooted in many institutions and places in Indonesia. The 1998 incident in Jakarta is one of many examples that can started the discrimination experienced by Chinese and Indonesians. Many Chinese Indonesians were killed during the riots of 1998. As Tyson (2003) stated in his article, the prejudice against Chinese-Indonesian is deeply rooted in Indonesian society. He stated that discrimination against overseas Chinese in Indonesia was "mainly the result of mismanagement of the Dutch colonial heritage and the new order system" (Tyson, 2003, p.204). It remains a sensitive issue for many (even today), caused by the inheritance stigma and the history of violence and disorder experienced by overseas Chinese and native Indonesians.