

## **CHAPTER III**

### **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter provides the methodology process in creating the present study. It elaborates on the design of this research, data source, synopsis of the data, data collection, and data analysis.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This study used a descriptive qualitative method as the research design to analyze the data. Nassaji (2015) states that a descriptive research has a goal to describe a phenomenon and its characteristics. In his editorial, it is also stated that the descriptive method is used to answer the questions concerning the research subject. A qualitative analysis is also used in this research so the writer can gain an in-depth understanding of the issue. According to Creswell, “Qualitative research is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem.” (Creswell, 2014, p.32). The quote is in line with what Nassaji (2015) stated that the qualitative method generally involves an inductive exploration of the data to identify recurring themes, patterns, or concepts and then describe and interpret those categories. With this method, the writer first examined the data thoroughly to find the relevant themes and ideas and then converted them for further evaluation. Using these methods, the writer focused on describing what happened by taking a descriptive approach and analyzing the data qualitatively by identifying the qualitative features in the data.

As the data are in the form of dialogue and scenes collected from the episode, textual analysis and film analysis are suitable to analyze the data of this present study. Textual analysis is employed in this research to describe and interpret the message in the dialogue of the data (McKee, 2003). The use of textual analysis in this research helped the writer construct meaning out of the texts through their elements and contexts. The scenes of the episode were also analyzed using film analysis, focusing on the mise en scene and its cinematography.

### 3.2 Data Source

The data used in this study was the first episode out of four episodes of the television series entitled *When They See Us* by Ava DuVernay. The writer decided only to analyze the first episode because the first episode showcases the story of how the teenagers are mistreated and discriminated against by the authorities. The series can be found on the streaming platform Netflix. The writer used the dialogues and photos from scenes of the first episode as the main and supporting data which showcase the acts of racial discrimination intended to hurt the minority. *When They See Us*, released in 2019, is a Netflix series about an actual event in Central Park, New York, in 1988. The series retells five teenagers who were falsely accused of rape and assault of a woman in Central Park, New York. The series consists of 4 episodes; each of four episodes, including episode one, lasts for about an hour. Other data supporting this research is taken from books, e-books, dictionaries, articles, journals, the internet, and other sources related to the research.

### 3.3 Synopsis of the Data

*When They See Us* is an American series by Ava DuVernay which talks about the discrimination that the main characters experienced in 1989. This series is based on an actual case known as Central Park Jogger Case and explores the lives of the five teenagers who were suspected and prosecuted on charges related to the sexual assault of a female victim. The five main teenagers (Raymond, Kevin, Korey, Yusef, and Antron) are accused by the police because they are in the same place and time when the assault of a woman is reported. The detectives and polices pressures those five adolescents to confess; they interview, interrogate, and talk to them without any lawyer or parents present, setting them against one another and manipulating the evidence. After some wrongful accusations, the five innocent teenagers are convicted by juries of various charges related to the assault – four were convicted of rape – and sentenced to maximum terms for juveniles except for one person, Korey, who is admitted as an adult by the legal system.

### 3.4 Data Collection

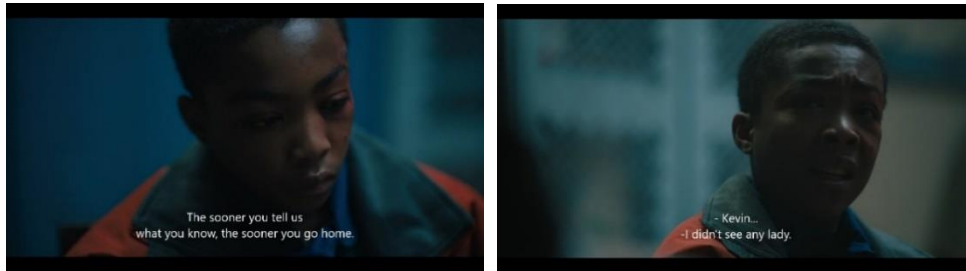
This section explains the steps of data collection. The first step was to access the Netflix website and watch the whole series. The writer watched the original series as the source data and then collected the dialogues and scenes with racial discrimination acts in them. The writer re-watched the series and focused more on the first episode to ensure that nothing important was left out for the research. Then, the writer collected the primary data by selecting some dialogues and scenes of the main characters in the series that portray racial discrimination. While doing that, the writer also pointed out the elements of framing that appear in the series and helped the series to highlight the discrimination acts. The writer classified the acts to different racial discrimination groups and determined what kind of discrimination exists in the series. In the next step, the writer looked out for the phenomena of racism in the United States condition in 1988 related to the series from several articles, references, and journals. The writer also looked out for related data to discrimination from many sources. For the last step, the writer emphasized the data to answer the formulated research questions.

### 3.5 Data Analysis

In the process of analyzing the data, the writer did two essential steps. After the data was collected, the writer classified and analyzed the data using types of racial discrimination by Pincus (1996) to categorize the kinds of racial discrimination experienced by the main characters and Heintz and Stracey's film theory (2006) to give an insight of how the film aspects portray the acts of discrimination in each of the scenes. The result is presented in the table below:

*Table 3. 1 Data analysis of Racial Discrimination types*

*Figure 3. 1 Kevin's scared expression during interrogation*



Time description: Episode 1 (00:23:33 – 00:26:55)

Description	Analysis / Remarks	Type of Racial Discrimination
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative:</li> <li>- Plot: After the arrest of the teenagers, Kevin is being interviewed in an interrogation room by a detective and forced to admit to the crime.</li> <li>- Character(s): Kevin Richardson</li> </ul>	<p>The detective interrogated Kevin, one of the main characters, without the assistance of his parents, guardians, or lawyers. His statements become invalid and cannot be verified because no adults are witnessing the interrogation. Thus, Kevin might have been forced to confess to the crime by the detectives.</p>	<p>Institutional Discrimination</p>

The writer started to analyze the data by collecting all the information shown in the table above. The time description cell helps identify the episode and the sequence in the episode. The description cell gives general information about the plot of the scene and the character included in the scene. Then, the narrative data is elaborated in the analysis/remarks tab, which describes the narrative of each sequence and the reasoning why this particular scene has a racial discrimination act in it. Furthermore, the data is

explored by finding who and how the discrimination is acted and categorizing them into the correct type of discrimination using the theory of racial discrimination proposed by Pincus (2006). There are three levels of discrimination found in the series; personal, institutional, and structural. Those three levels indicate different acts of discrimination towards the main characters. For further details, see Chapter 4.

After collecting, analyzing, and categorizing the data into the types of racial discrimination, the writer started to identify the mise en scene and cinematography used in this particular scene according to the film theory by Heintz and Stracey (2006). The result is presented in the table below:

*Table 3. 2 Data analysis of film elements found in the episode*

*Figure 3. 2 Kevin's scared expression during interrogation*



Time description: Episode 1 (00:23:33 – 00:26:55)

Description	Analysis / Remarks
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Narrative: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Plot: Kevin is being interviewed in an interrogation room by a detective and forced to admit to the crime.</li> <li>- Character(s): Kevin</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Mise en Scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Setting: Interviewing Room</li> <li>- Prop: -</li> <li>- Costume: -</li> <li>- Make up: Beaten-up face</li> <li>- Lighting: Dim</li> <li>- Color: Dark colors (Blue, grey, orange, and brown)</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Cinematography: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Shot: Close up</li> <li>- Angle: High angle and over the shoulder</li> <li>- Movement: Still shot</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>The scene is shot from a close-up distance. It is used to showcase Kevin's facial expression when he is being intimidated by the detective. In figure A, the angle used is a high-angle, so that Kevin becomes small, implying his vulnerable situation. In figure B, the angle used is over the shoulder. The eyes of the detective are on the same level as the main character. However, the seemingly equal level of the characters has reinforced the frightened expression of the main character. The frightening situation is strengthened by the use of dim lighting and the beaten-up makeup of the main character.</p>

Similar to Table 3.1, this table also has a time description tab used to help identify the episode and the timestamps in the film. After choosing the scene to analyze, the writer broke down the film elements into the description tab. In this tab, elements of the film, according to Heintz and Stracey's film theory (2006), such as the mise en scene and the cinematography of the scene, are listed. This listing helped the writer analyze the scene, such as why they use a particular costume or camera angle. From the film perspective, it can be seen how the portrayal of discrimination is showcased in this series. For further details, see Chapter 4.

### **3.6 Concluding Remark**

This section covers the methods used in this study: descriptive and qualitative. It describes the source where the data can be found and how it is collected and analyzed to answer the problem. This chapter explains the synopsis of the series, a summary of the story of the main characters who experienced discrimination and were falsely accused of something that they did not do. It also explains how the data were analyzed and categorized using the theory of racial discrimination by Pincus (1996) and the film theory by Heintz and Stracey (2006). The next chapter will focus on analyzing and observing what type of racial discrimination the main characters in the series experienced and how it is portrayed in the series.