

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH PROCEDURE

This study employs descriptive analysis, which is qualitative in nature. Descriptive analysis is a procedure conducted by describing facts, followed by analysis. Etymologically, description means elaborate. However, this term which is derived from a Greek *analysein* has been modified to not only elaborate, but also give understanding and sufficient explanation.

Qualitative research method is a method which applies interpretive ways by presenting the research in descriptive form. Ratna (2004: 47-48) suggests the most significant characteristics of qualitative method, which are:

1. Concerning its main subject on meaning and message as in the basics of objects, which is cultural studies.
2. Concerning more on the process rather than the outcome of the research, thus meanings always change.
3. There is no gap between the researcher subject and the objects of research. The researcher subject function as the main instrument therefore there is a direct interaction between them.
4. The research design and framework are temporary, that is why it is subject to change.
5. The research is natural; occurring in its own social context.

According to Creswell (1994: 148), the idea of qualitative research is to purposefully select informants (or documents or visual material) that will best answer the research question.

III.1. The Data Collection Technique

The data used for further analysis in this paper are collected through these following steps:

1. Making a printed copy of the original movie script to be read thoroughly and carefully.
2. Extracting the dialogues and screenplays which contain racial remarks.
3. Synthesizing reading material on Postcolonial Theory that corresponds to the topic being discussed.
4. Synthesizing additional literatures on racism, particularly those concerning racism in modern America, and literatures on white supremacy.

III.2. The Procedure of Analyzing the Data

To achieve the purpose of this paper, the research conducted involves these several steps:

1. Reading the movie script thoroughly and carefully to understand the overall context of the story.
2. Applying a close reading method by taking notes on the conflicts occurring between characters that indicate racial prejudice or discrimination.

3. Listing down both the major characters and the minors and their part in the story.
4. Draw a list of racially-motivated conflicts evidenced in the text.
5. Draw a list of resisting strategies of the oppressed characters.
6. Analyzing and interpreting the collected data in the framework of postcolonial perspective.
7. Drawing conclusion and recommendation.

III.3. The Context

The analysis of this research is focused on a movie script entitled *Crash* for the same-titled Hollywood movie released in 2004. The story was written by Paul Haggis, an Academy Award-winning director, and the screenplay was written by Paul Haggis and Bobby Moresco. The story raises a theme of extreme prejudice and stereotypes among people in America, particularly those who live in Los Angeles. The complexity of racism in the story, which has gone through almost every aspect of its society, attracts the researcher to further analyze the narrative of the text in the framework of postcolonial theory because it views a text mainly by the concept of binary opposition between two separate parties with different interests.

Crash tells a story about people with different ethnicities who live in Los Angeles, America. The exact setting of the story is America in the traumatic year of post WTC bombing tragedy. Most of the major characters are all strangers who unintentionally affect each other's life through series of social interaction, mostly

filled with racial remarks. There is a white policeman who hates black people and thinks that they are the source to every problem in the society. At times, he would take his hatred on any black person he meets by disrespecting them, in any way, with or without his given authority. Quite on the contrary with him, there is an African-American man who works as a TV director and ironically thinks that the society would treat black people who live the high-standard life as it did the white until destiny meets him with the racist white cop and turns his world upside down. In other occasion, there is a Persian store owner who has a problem with speaking English and thinks that his neighborhood is discriminative to him. More than a few people in his neighborhood think he's an Arabian and a terrorist. Despite the racial stereotypes that surrounds him, he himself could not help being prejudicial when a Latin-American locksmith told him that he should replace his broken door instead of fixing its lock by accusing the locksmith as a gang member who tried to cheat him. A lot other conflicts similar to them are also present in the movie script and this it somehow tells us about what is left of colonialism in modern day; the unfair treatment to particular groups of people because of their ethnicity, skin color, religion or other cultural background that define their origins goes by the name of racism.

The analysis of this movie script will be done through close reading methodology under four guiding research questions. The data that have been collected will be categorized into several parts, namely:

- The characters of the story, from which relationship between characters can be understood,

- evidences of racially-inflicted conflicts apparent in the script and,
- the resisting strategy of the oppressed characters.

The data interpretation of this study will be elaborated in the framework of postcolonial perspective.

The main concern of this study, which is to investigate the way racism constructed in modern multi-racial society like America, has a strong link with theories concerning race, ethnicity and national identity in cultural study. In addition to that, postcolonial perspective should tell which characters are opposing, what are their statuses in the binary relationship of the oppressed and the oppressor and explain the governing system that underlies it. The analysis is also done in relation to the theory concerning white supremacy to see the nature of its materialization in the text.

