

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the research

In the order of social life, everyone has the right to make choices over their own lives and has the right to fair treatment regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, or religion. The rapid development of the world over time can change the lives of social people in accepting technological advances in new circumstances. For example, everyone has the same right to use public facilities, and gets equal opportunities in both the employment and education sectors. However, unfortunately, this is in contrast to the existing reality, where not everyone gets the freedom to enjoy their own lives, even to get equal treatment in society.

Unfair or prejudicial treatment of an individuals or group based on their different background is referred to as discrimination. This unfair treatment or discrimination is carried out by groups of people who tend to have powerful and dominant in society than a group of people who are powerless. Where they can manifest in many ways, including harassment, exclusion, differential treatment, and stereotypes. Moreover, they also have a detrimental impact on individuals and communities, resulting in unequal access to resources, leading to self-confidence, and a distrust of institutions and society. It is critical to acknowledge and combat all forms of discrimination, and strive to establish a more equitable and fair society.

Discrimination still occurs and always exists in every sector of life in the world, the problem is always due to a difference that are not in line with the majority. In America, discrimination is common against black people. The difference in skin colour makes them get unfair treatment and even worse. “*Internalized racism* results from the psychological programming by which a racist society indoctrinates people of colour to believe in white superiority.” (Louis Tyson, 2006, p. 362).

Other forms of colonization also come in the form of discrimination aimed at black women, especially in the United States. As African-American women, the discrimination they received dates back to the 19th and 20th centuries, where people with African-American ancestry were often treated like slaves. This slavery was carried out by some white ethnic people who held the principle that whites had higher powers and degrees than other ethnicities.

Even at a time when this system of slavery had been abolished, the law at the state level of the United States imposed racial segregation referred to as Jim Crow Laws by applying the doctrine of "Separated but equal", where this policy regulates restrictions between white Americans and also blacks or African-American and is carried out both formally and non-formally. In practice, Jim Crow law has harmed African-Americans living in the United States economically, educationally, and politically socially and made them second-class citizens.

The historical and ongoing oppression of black people in the United States is the core of cause of the widespread and ongoing problem of anti-black racism. There are many other ways that prejudice can manifest itself, including unequal access to housing, healthcare, work prospects, and other resources. It can also manifest in interpersonal interactions, such as racial slurs, micro aggressions, and acts of violence. This effects of discrimination towards African -Americans can be seen in many aspects of their lives.

Black individuals are disproportionately affected by poverty, incarceration, and police brutality. According to a survey conducted by the Paw Resource Centre, nearly half of Americans 46%, see that black people are "a lot" of discrimination against in society, as for whites, only 14% said they experienced discrimination. As an example, the racism experienced by a retired deputy chief of metro transit police Tracy Simmons, in an interview with VOA (Voice of America) Indonesia she revealed that "The work atmosphere is very intimidating for young women, let alone blacks. My work environment is mostly Anglo (white) men, we have to try hard to be accepted. To be able to blend in, in fact, we could never be a part of them. This must be understood. Police, sexism and racism happen anytime, very often." She spoke.

The outcomes of the stated interview above, it can be seen that as black ethnicity, especially as women, it is still very difficult for them to be able to compete in the world of work because of the discrimination and racism

that occurs in it. This suggests that the climate of oppression and social injustice will never results in the empowerment of African-American women.

Many literary works highlight the theme of prejudice and also the issue of injustice that occurs in the middle of society, which may be observed in the representation of discrimination cases. A biographical drama movie is used in this study investigation by Theodore Melfi entitled '*Hidden Figures*', which aired in 2016 as research material. The movie is based on the non-fiction work of the same title, written by Morgot Lee Shetterly. Where this movie tells the story of discrimination experienced by three African-American women they are Katherine, Mary, and Dorothy as the major characters who working at NASA (National Aeronautics and Space Administration). There is no opportunity for the main characters to get the higher position they want at work place. The separation and difference in facilities between White people and Black people create difficulties for the main character to give their contribution at work.

The movie '*Hidden Figures*' has been selected for analysis as it portrays various forms of discrimination prevalent during the 1960s. The movie clearly depicts how Afro-Americans, despite their contribution towards the country's progress, were denied the same rights as white Americans, thus highlighting the injustice. Discrimination was not only shown by white Americans towards the main characters but also by colored Americans. However, the three main characters successfully achieved their dreams and emerged as vital figures in NASA's success. In theory, '*Hidden Figures*'

provides a vivid picture of racial discrimination that occurred in the United States during the civil rights movement. Therefore, this study contains various analyses of these issues using a structural approach in movie.

This study aims to observe the characters' struggles against discrimination, as their success was not achieved easily but required immense courage and resistance. In addition, the writer believes that acknowledgement is not granted automatically, but it is the result of the determination shown by the three characters against discrimination.

B. Question and Scopes of the Research

1. Question of the Research

Based on the background of the research, the problem of this study is divided into two questions, they are as follows:

- a. What are the multiple discriminations faced by African-American women in the '*Hidden Figures*' movie?
- b. How do the main characters fight against discrimination reflecting the value of Black Feminism in '*Hidden Figures*' movie?

2. Scopes of the Research

As for the scope of this study, the focus is in the struggle of main characters against discrimination that portrayal in 'Hidden Figure' movie (2016) in which they seek to fight for equality of their gender and race under the pressure of white supremacy, especially in United State. In this

study, the writer used Patricia Hill Colins' feminism theory from her book '*Black Feminism Thought*'.

C. Objective and Significant of the Research

1. Objective of the Research

The objective of this study based on the question presented above, is to:

- a. To find out the form of multiple discrimination received by African-American women in '*Hidden Figures*' movie.
- b. To analyze black feminism value that is represented in '*Hidden Figures*' movie.

2. Significant of the Research

From this study, the writer hopes that this study can provide benefits for many parties. For the field of literary theory, this study shows that the values of feminism will remain as relevant in every era as it is in the '*Hidden Figures*' (2016) movie.

Theoretically for people's lives, this study would show that woman also have the 'fuel' to achieve success. That woman are not weak creatures, who cannot compete with men, and women are not an object that is only used as a target by men with their power supremacy.

Practically for the field of humanity, this study illustrates that every human being has equal rights, regardless of ethnicity, religion, race and class. In addition, it also shows that discrimination will continue occur as

long as there are still people who do not respect the rights of others. Besides, they consider that their classes are better and higher in degree than other people or groups, even today in life there are can still found such things in the form of bullying.

D. Operational Definition

In this study, the writer employs two theories to analyze data or movies.

Here are the theories from various definition of experts:

1. Discrimination

Discrimination is an unfair treatment which done by majority to minority or powerful group to powerless group due to different background in society weather of race, ethnicity, gender, or religion.

2. Black Feminist

Black feminist is a black feminism movement that considers the experience of black woman to give rise to a certain understanding of their positions related to sexism, discrimination, and racism.

E. Systematization of the Research

In explaining this study, the writer divides it into five chapters. Each chapter discusses the related issues in this article, such as:

Chapter I is introduction. It introduces the background of the research, defines the question and scope of the research, presents the objective and

significance of the research, outlines the operational definition used in the research, and also describes the systematization of the research.

Chapter II consists of explanation of movie and kind of movie, plot analysis of the '*Hidden Figures*' Movie (2016). The analysis of several objects using the theory of Black Feminist, Character and Characterization, and also previous research related to this study.

Chapter III is research methodology. It describes the research methods used, the procedure of the research, technique of the data collection, data analysis technique and data source that used in this study.

Chapter IV is data analysis. In this chapter, the writer embarked on a thorough examination of the gathered data through a comprehensive process of data analysis. This extensive procedure commenced with a meticulous portrayal and depiction of the collected data, followed by an in-depth scrutiny and assessment of the data's various aspects. Finally, the writer proceeded to unravel and decipher the research findings, offering a comprehensive interpretation that shed light on the implications and significance of the conducted research.

Chapter V is conclusion and suggestion. In this chapter the writer gave a conclusion to the four chapters discussed earlier and gave suggestions on further research on the movie.