

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This chapter present the research background, research problem, research objective, scope of study, research significance, definition of key terms.

A. Research Background

Humans are naturally created differently from other individuals. This difference is a special gift given by God in life. However, humans are divided into several groups, religions, races, genders, and ethnicities. This grouping gives rise to many phenomena in Society, either positive or negative. One form of the phenomenon in Society that is the center of attention is the grouping of the majority and the minority. This grouping has changed many systems in life. Being a minority in the majority is not easy. Many things must be fought for as a minority to be equal to the majority. The struggle is not without cause because many minorities experience a lot of bad treatment from the majority in a region.

One of these phenomena is the emergence of discrimination against minorities by the majority group. The phenomenon of central issue discrimination in multi-cultural countries such as in the United States of America. American history deals with racial discrimination in many aspects of life, which is also portrayed in their literature. Racial discrimination also becomes an essential theme in some works, right from the beginning of this nation. The term racial discrimination means

mistreating someone based on their race. Racial discriminatory behavior can arise from conscious or unconscious attitudes that place a person lower based on their race

Representation of racial discrimination has occurred against minorities such as blacks (African-Americans) for more than three centuries. The struggle for equality with the majority has created friction between the majority and the minority, in the context of discrimination, discrimination is the act of discriminating against someone to distinguish differences of showing favoritism or prejudice in treatment (Howells 1984:54).

The real form of discrimination especially race discrimination happened to the African-American in many cases: on February, 26 2012. Trayvon Martin is an African-American while walking home was shot by a white George Zimmerman. This was done because George Zimmerman defended himself because of Martin's prejudice using a headgear which was considered suspicious and dangerous, from this case became the origin of Black Live Matter movement. on July 2014, police arrested Eric Garner for selling cigarettes illegally on the corner of Staten Island, New York. The police then released Garner and only gave him a warning. Two weeks later on July 1, police arrested Garner again on the same charges. Refused to be handcuffed, police pulled Garner onto the sidewalk before Daniel Pantaleo

(White race) put his arm around Gerner's neck until he was difficult to breath and die. On August 9, 2014, in Ferguson Missouri, Michael Brown and officer Darren Wilson crossed paths on a residential street in the suburbs of St. Louis.

Police said Brown was a suspect in the robbery of a cigar from a shop. Wilson shot and killed.

the unarmed teenager. Brown's friend Dorian Johnson, who was also at the scene, testified that Brown raised his hands and began to kneel. But the officer continued to approach with the gun pointed, before finally shooting Brown. Brown's murder sparked months of protest in Ferguson and prompted a national movement for police accountability. From the racial discrimination cases above, there are still many discrimination cases that occur to the African-American race, which in the end are not resolved with justice.

The phenomenon of discrimination has inspired many literary works such as movie titles. Until now, movie is also used to voice the community's aspirations, Either individual or group opinion. Movies also continue to follow issues that develop in Society, such as the issue of discrimination against minorities. Not infrequently, movies like this get good appreciation from the audience. One of the movies that raise the issue of discrimination is the Hidden Figures movie produced in 2016.

"Hidden Figures movie" was released on 25 December 2016 and directed by Theodore Melfi. The movie was made in the United States of America and produced by 20th Century Fox, and *"Hidden Figure movies"* have won 32 awards and 78 nominations. Hidden Figures movie is an American biographical movie with history and drama. The Movie 127 minutes has a limited released on December 25,

2016, by 20th Century Fox, before spreading wide in the United States on January 6, 2017.

Hidden Figures movie tells about three African-American women who worked in the computing of NASA (US Space agency), to be exact in the west area building specifically for “colored” female employees (a euphemism for blacks). Hidden Figures movie shows the struggle of three African-American women (who are the minority in the United States), at NASA in 1961 which was then known to be familiar with the climate of segregation (separation based on race or skin color).

Mary Jackson is one of those women, the engineer, who because of her skin and gender get rejected to be technical at NASA unless she successfully graduated from for whites. Apart from Mary, Dorothy Vaughan had the role of executor and the duties of supervisor in the west building. But the duties of the position were never obtained by her permanently because of her skin color problems. Apart from Mary and Dorothy, there is also Katherine Goble, who is the central character of the movie 127 minutes long. From the beginning of the movie, a genius figure is shown, Little Katherine, who can solve arithmetic equation problems that children her agedid not meet. Her intelligence is brilliantly got a scholarship, and she was also accepted at NASA as one of the employees in the west building of the space agency. Dorothy works in a different department. It's been a long time since she proposed as a supervisor, but she never got it, regarding position and salary like any other supervisor. Even though she often complains to the boss who employs her. As well as experienced Mary Jackson, when she wanted to apply for the position of engineer

space, but she couldn't do anything because Mary was a black person who was strictly forbidden to experiment that most of the students were white.

But when compared to Mary and Dorothy, Katherine feels the most bitter and difficult to work with. Since the beginning of her arrival at her new job, Katherine often gets racist treatment from her co-workers. Even Katherine rarely has to work harder than the other workers because she had to calculate the results of other people's calculations, which shouldn't be her job. Katherine had to walk 1 kilometer just to the bathroom because where Katherine worked, there was no bathroom reserved for black women. Because of that, Katherine had to be scolded by her boss Al-Harrison because Katherine was always not available needed. Because she has to walk 1 kilometer away to go to the bathroom. Such is the strict segregation of races that was in Virginia in 1961 when John F. Kennedy served as a president in the United States

The characters in this movie often get discrimination, such as race and gender. In this movie, there are many scenes of discrimination against black women. So from the phenomenon of the gap between the majority and the minority in the representation of discrimination raised in a movie by Theodore Melfi, researchers are interested in examining the discrimination faced by the three African-American women and what they do when they are discriminated against. Based on previous problem above the researcher is interested in examining more deeply about discrimination against African-American in Hidden Figures movie with thesis entitled “*An Analysis on the Discrimination Faced by Three African-American Women in ‘Hidden Figures’ Movie by Theodore Melfi*”

B. Research Problems

The problem are related to the research an analysis on the discrimination faced by three African-American woman in Hidden Figures movie by Theodore Melfie are:

- a. What are the discrimination faced by three African-American women in the Hidden Figures Movie?
- b. What are the three African-American women do when they get discrimination in the Hidden Figures Movie?

C. Research Objective

Based on the Problem of the research, the objective of the research are presented below:

- a. To analyze on the discrimination faced by three African-Americans women in the Hidden Figures movie.
- b. To find out what three African-Americans do when they get discrimination in the Hidden Figures movie.

D. Scope of the Study

Many research points can be used to analyze the movie. However, in this research, the researcher only focuses on the following:

- a. The three characters in the movie are Katherine Goble, Dorothy Vaughan, and Mary Jackson.
- b. The limitation of discrimination referred to discrimination race and gender in Hidden Figures Movie.
- c. The limitation of what are African-American women do when they get discrimination in Hidden Figures movie.

E. Research Significance

Hopefully, the research can contribute to:

- a. Reader

The researcher hopefully this thesis will give reading references material for readers, who want to know about issues of race and discrimination against minorities. And is also expected to foster character building, namely respecting the differences.

- b. Researcher

This research hopefully gives learning and give more knowledge for the researcher itself. Which will be useful for the future and form an open-minded mindset about differences

- c. Next Researcher

This research hopefully will give contribute and an idea for the next researcher and can provide a reference for this research.

F. Definition of the Key Terms

We can take some keys to be explained. There is Discrimination, movies, Katherine Goble, Merry Jackson, Dorothy Vaughan, Hidden Figures

- a. Discrimination : unequal treatment of individuals or groups on the basis of some, usually categorical, attribute, such as ethnicity, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and age.
- b. Movie : a story or event recorded by a camera as a set of moving images and shown in a theatre or on the television motion picture.
- c. Katherine Goble : a central character in the Hidden Figures movie she is an African-American woman who helped NASA calculate flight trajectories in the Mercury and Apollo 11 projects in the 1960s.
- d. Colored : the term white race for the black race in America
- e. Merry Jackson : an African-American woman who works at NASA as an engineer in the west building.
- f. Dorothy Vaughan : an African-American woman who works at NASA as a supervisor in the west building.
- g. Hidden Figures : movies directed by Theodore Melfi and produced by Donna Digliotti, Peter Chernin, Jenno Topping, and Parrell Williams. The movie takes around the year 1960- in Hampton, Virginia, and tells about social Discrimination against African-American women.