

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This study analyzes racial discrimination in *American Son* (2019) using McLemore's theory. *American Son* (2019) movie delivers a powerful narrative that unfolds in a confined space but explores complex racial tensions in American society. The movie captures the emotional struggles of biracial parents as they confront the possible fate of their missing son. Through intense dialogue and character dynamics, it reveals the lived realities of Black youth and interracial families. Through this lens, racial prejudice and racial discrimination are presented as ongoing social issues.

Racial prejudice in *American Son* (2019) is reflected through inherited attitudes and judgments made by white characters. Based on McLemore's prejudice theory, *American Son* (2019) illustrates how racial prejudice operates through the concept of cultural transmission and group identity. In this movie, group identity arises from ethnocentric attitudes, particularly through the character of Scott, a white father who indirectly judges other racial groups based on his own understanding and views his race as superior, especially in contrast to Black individuals. This perspective reinforces racial prejudice within the family dynamic. As a result, Jamal, the Black character, develops a sense of self-hate due to feeling consistently unaccepted by society, which evaluates him through the lens of group-based racial prejudice.

American Son (2019) movie openly explores the issue of race. In this movie, the dynamics between Black and white characters are strongly emphasized, shaping the interpersonal conflict and underlying themes throughout the story. Racial prejudice in *American Son* (2019) movie also can be seen through the lens of McLemore's concept of cultural transmission, in which stereotypes toward Black characters are passed down and reinforced by white character. These inherited attitudes result in social distance, where the Black character is treated as an outsider and judged not as an individual, but as a representative of a stereotyped group. In the *American Son* (2019), Scott labels his Black son and other Black individuals with racial stereotypes, reflecting how racism in the film is not merely expressed through hatred, but through normalized stereotypes passed through family and culture. This leads to social distance, where Jamal feels judged and shunned by society.

American Son (2019) reveals racial discrimination through situational pressures and institutional discrimination. Situational pressures happen when certain situations trigger unfair treatment, especially toward Black individuals. In the movie, the police officers seem indifferent to Jamal's case, even though he is missing, but they show little empathy toward Kendra. Their behavior changes depending on who they are dealing with, showing how interactions between Black characters and institutions are often filled with tension and unequal treatment. On the other hand, institutional discrimination is seen in more systemic ways. In this film, the police officer also use their authority to control Jamal's family, the biracial family, instead of providing genuine help.

In conclusion, *American Son* (2019) movie portrays how racial prejudice and discrimination are shaped through daily interactions, family dynamics, and institutional responses. The film shows that prejudice does not always appear in extreme forms, but can also emerge subtly through language, assumptions, and unequal treatment. By focusing on the experiences of a biracial family, the film allows the audience to see how race continues to influence justice, identity, and belonging. Through this narrative, the film powerfully shapes how we understand the ongoing impact of discrimination in both personal and structural contexts. Therefore, discrimination is not only about personal hatred or obvious violence, but also about the power structures we live in, the stereotypes we inherit, and the social roles we are expected to play.