

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

Racism has always been a pressing issue because it is one of the factors contributing to societal inequalities. Racism happens in many parts of the world, creating racial tensions. In the United States of America, racial tensions happen primarily between the White and the Black or African American. A research conducted by Pew Research Center in October 2021 shows that 65% of the Black population in the USA think that racial inequality has not changed, despite the increased national focus on it. In addition, 44% of the respondents, all of whom declare to be Black and non-Hispanic, believe that equality for Black people in the United States is not likely to be attained (“Black American”). It means that many Black Americans are worried about racial prejudice and its effects. Furthermore, most of them believe that discrimination is the biggest barrier to Black people's success.

Discrimination, in this case, is often related to racism because the discrimination happens based on one's race. Some people believe that there is a causal relationship between inherited physical qualities and psychological traits, which leads to the differential treatment of some races due to the perceived superiority of some races over the others. Racism in the USA mostly results from the white people's superior attitude toward black individuals of African American descent.

People react to racism differently in different stages of their lives. Old people are different from teenagers in dealing with racism. They tend to react wisely and more maturely when facing racism or oppression. However, it is certainly difficult for teenagers to do this because they are still not mature enough and unstable. Harrison et al. argue that teenager will have the ability to engage with others and manage their own emotions when they are in social-emotional development, between the age 15 and 17, known as middle adolescence (18). It means that in this range of age, teenager are able to control their emotion and comparing things before making decision. Black teenagers would begin to question their identity in this stage. Questions like “Who am I?” and “Who can I be?” begin to appear in their minds. According to Tatum, black teenagers become aware of obstacles that have an impact on their mental and emotional health, such as racial discrimination (9). They pose such questions because they see and face the racial discrimination in their environment.

Apart from it, black teenagers also eager to demonstrate rebellious behavior as other teenagers do. The threats or challenges they encounter in their era of searching for identity will make them rebel and try to find a way out to solve these challenges. Some of them will demonstrate grit. *Cambridge Dictionary* defines grit as “the courage and strength of mind that makes it possible for somebody to continue doing something difficult or unpleasant.” (“Grit,” [Cambridge Dictionary]). It means that a gritty person is highly driven and works extremely hard and resolutely to overcome obstacles in order to accomplish their goal especially their long term goal.

Black teenagers demonstrate gritty behaviors when they take part in the Black Pride movement. They show their pride of their skin color, culture, and heritage as a gift from God. Mary Vargas records such pride in the figure of Annabelle Beaker, one of the first teenagers involved in the Black Pride movement. She let her hair grow naturally, what people call Afro style (4). Through her action, she conveys that black people must be proud of who they are, especially African Americans, who must be proud of their race and confident in themselves.

One of the literary works that portray black pride is *The Hate You Give* (2018) movie by George Tillman Jr. The movie is about Starr Carter, a 16-year-old black teenager who lives in a black district, mostly poor Garden Heights (a fictional town who has high rate of racism) but attends a rich, mostly white, private school, Williamson Prep. Starr gets unpleasant treatment from her friends at school and from white society, including civil servants. Starr and the black people are often treated unevenly and even scorned by the law. Not committing any crime and without being proven guilty, Starr's friend, Khalil is shot by a white policeman, but the law blames Khalil and acquits the police. Starr is angry and fights for justice.

In her journey to fight for justice and show her pride as a black teenager, Starr faces many obstacles. King Lord, the leader of drug dealer in Garden Heights, threatens Starr's family not to let her testify before the Grand Jury. Starr's white friends at schools, including her two close friends, Maya and Hailey, do not support her to fight for Khalil's justice, believing Khalil deserves the

accident. Worrying about her daughter's safety, Starr's mother is also not supportive initially. However, Starr is unafraid and determined to face all the blasphemy and insults. With the support from Chris, her boyfriend, and the help from Oprah, a human justice activist, Starr decides to be the witness and do everything she needs to do in order to prove that Khalil deserve a justice.

## **1.2. Research Problems**

Based on the description above, three questions emerge for this study.

- 1) How is the racism portrayed in George Tillman Jr's *The Hate You Give* movie?
- 2) How Starr's efforts to overcome the challenges in her journey of pursuing her Black pride represent grit?
- 3) How is Black pride portrayed in George Tillman Jr's *The Hate You Give* movie?

## **1.3.Objective of the Study**

The objective of the study for this thesis are :

- 1) To analyze racism portrayed in George Tillman Jr's *The Hate You Give* movie,
- 2) To analyze Starr's gritty behavior while overcoming the challenges in the journey of pursuing justice and showing her Black pride in George Tillman Jr's *The Hate You Give*.
- 3) To analyze Black pride represented in George Tillman Jr's *The Hate You Give* movie.

#### **1.4.Previous Studies**

There are previous researches related to this study. One of them is from an undergraduate thesis written by Indy Arani (2018), entitled “*Opposing Racism in George Tillman’s The Hate You Give Movie (2018: A Sociological Perspective*”. Arani argues there are three indicators of racism in *The Hate You Give*, which are unmasking color blindness, race, and globalization.

Another study is undergraduate thesis written by Iksal Rekasatmaja entitled “*Representation of Racism in the film The Hate You Give*”. In his study, Rekasatmaja added that there were another kind of racism in the movie if analyze by using John Fiske semiotic theory. It revealed the code such as conversation, environment, behavior and expression that shows racism in the movie by each character. This study conveyed that the forms of racism seen through a conversation and statements made in the film. Fiske's semiotic theory attempts to describe the racism that black people experience and want to fight against justice for blacks. If Rekasatmaja analyze the code that shows racism, thesis conducted by Richatul Mas’udah entitled “*An Analysis Of Offensive Language Found In The Hate You Give Movie Script*”, take a different thing by analyzing the language use in the movie. The study use linguistics impoliteness theory by Jonathan Culpeper. Mas’udah found five strategies of offensive language based on the Linguistic Impoliteness theory, which are bald strategy, positive strategy, negative strategy, mock strategy, and withhold strategy. Starr, Hailey, King, and Maverick are people who mostly use those five strategies. Thus, this study contributes to the

discussion about racism in *The Hate You Give* by adding the analysis of black pride and grit.

### **1.5. Scope of the Study**

This study does not analyze all of the narrative and extrinsic elements of the movie *The Hate You Give*. This study focuses on character and characterization, conflict, and setting as the elements of narrative. However, the extrinsic elements are racism, gritty behavior and black pride. This study employs theory of grit by Angela Duckworth and theory of Black Pride by Delgado and Stenfancic. The theory is used to prove that Starr's gritty behavior really help her to deal with racism also other challenges coming from their environment to finally conveys her Black pride to the public.

### **1.6. Writing Organization**

This undergraduate thesis contains five chapters. Chapter I contains background of the study, research problem, objectives of the study, previous studies, scope of the studies and writing organization. Chapter II contains theoretical framework, consist of narrative elements, camera shot and extrinsic elements which are theory of racism, grit and black pride. Beside, chapter II also contains the research methodology used to analyze the problem. The next chapter, chapter III, carries the main result and discussion of the problem stated. It shows the narrative and extrinsic elements discuss in this study. The last chapter, which is chapter IV, contains the conclusion of the study.