



**EXPLICIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST MAIN
CHARACTER AND SOCIAL IMPACT OF SLAVERY
AS SEEN IN *12 YEARS A SLAVE* MOVIE**

A THESIS

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PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly state that this thesis is written by myself without taking any works from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, April 2021



Muhammad Bahy Fauzan

MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Many of life’s failures are people who did not realize how close they were to success when they gave up.”– **Thomas A. Edison**

This thesis is dedicated to
My beloved dad, mom,
and those who I love the most

APPROVAL

**EXPLICIT DISCRIMINATION AGAINST SOLOMON NORTHUP AND
SOCIAL IMPACT OF SLAVERY AS IN 12 YEARS A SLAVE MOVIE**


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Semarang, April 2021



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ABSTRACT

12 Years a Slave by Steve McQueen is a movie adapted from the true story of Solomon Northup, a freeman who was abducted and sold as a slave and should deal with racial discrimination during the slave period. This thesis analyzes the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of this movie. The writer collected the data by watching the movie, read the journal, and read the script of the movie to strengthen the analysis. The theory that the writer uses is Racial Discrimination by Rebecca M. Blank and the approaches are exponential and social psychology approaches. The result of data analysis shows that Solomon Northup suffers explicit racial discrimination such as verbal antagonism and physical attacks from his master. Because of the horrible experiences experienced by Solomon, he eagers to erase slavery from America.

Key Words: Racial Discrimination, Solomon Northup, African-American, *12 Years a Slave*, United States of America.

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Racism is one of the major issues in America. One of the acts of racism in America is slavery. Missy Sullivan from a web called *history.com* (Sullivan, 2009) stated that Slavery in America started when African slaves were brought to the North American colony in Jamestown, Virginia, in 1619, to assist in the production of profitable plants such as tobacco and the other plantation. Slavery was used throughout the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries, and African-American slaves were used to build the economic foundation of the new nation.

12 Years a Slave is a movie based on a true story related to Slavery, Racism, and Racial Discrimination in America. This movie told about the story of a Black Man (Solomon Northup) who lived as a freeman in one small city in Washington. He lives as a professional Violinist and also a farmer. His freeman is deprived by two guys who confessed as a circus agent and want to recruit him to join a circus. After the recruitment, these two guys are A Slavery Agent who wants to trade black people as a slave. For almost more or less than 12 years, The Violinist tried to find for justice and fight back to be a freeman again like he used to be before.

Therefore, the writer eagers to discussing and analyze the struggle of

Solomon Northup against racial discrimination during slavery in the *12 Years a Slave* movie because it is not following the spirit of democracy and liberty in America.

1.2 Research Problem

1. What types of racial discrimination that are experienced by the main character of *12 Years a Slave*?
2. What are the effects of racial discrimination in *12 Years a Slave*?
3. How is the struggle of the main character of *12 Years a Slave*?

1.3 Objectives of the study

The objective of the study are connected with the scope of the study above. The purposes of the study are:

1. To describe types of racial discrimination that are experienced by the main character (Solomon Northup) in *12 Years a Slave* movie.
2. To analyze the effects of racial discrimination in *12 Years a Slave* which is experienced by the main character (Solomon Northup).
3. To analyze the struggle of the main character (Solomon Northup) to fight against racism in the *12 Years a Slave* movie.

1.4 Previous Studies

To write this study, the writer refers to several previous study discussing racism and racial discrimination. The previous study that the writer used as reference is from undergraduate thesis and final project.

1. The first study is an Undergraduate thesis entitled "*Racism against American Blacks as portrayed in 12 Years a Slave.*" by Priska Adelia English Department, University of Muhammadiyah Malang, 2016.
2. "*The Struggle of Black People to Avoid Stereotypes in Angie Thomas' The Hate U Give*" written by Suryaningrum Ayu Irawati from the University of Diponegoro, 2018.
3. "*Anti-Racism on the Character of Herman Boone in Remember the Titans Directed by Boaz Yakin*" written by Winda Febiana P. from University of Diponegoro, 2014.
4. "*Racial Discrimination and Resistance as Potrayed in Mildred D. Taylor's The Roll Of Thunder Hear My Cry*" written by Debianandya Seiva Hanum Putri from University of Diponegoro, 2019.
5. "*Black Feminism Struggle Reflected by Female Slaves in 12 Years A Slave (2013) MOVIE*" written by Azhmi Luthfiana from University of Diponegoro
6. "*Prejudice and Discrimination toward Jewish Americans in the Movie School Ties*" written by Putri Bunga Larassaty from University of Diponegoro, 2018.

7. *Kebijakan Politik Abraham Lincoln Terhadap Penghapusan Perbudakan di Amerika Serikat*” written by Isaskhar Odon S. from University of Sanata Dharma Yogyakarta, 2018.
8. *“Slavery as Experienced by Dana, A Modern African American Female, in Octavia Butler’s Kindred”* written by Windah Nora Avelina Pasaribu from University of Diponegoro, 2018
9. *“Racial Discrimination towards N.W.A in F Gary Gray’s Straight Outta Compton”* written by Edo Ramadhan from University of Diponegoro, 2017.
10. *“An Analysis of Oppression Faced By Solomon Northup As a Black Slave In Steve McQueen’s Film “12 YEARS A SLAVE”* written by Listi Puji Astuti from University of Muhammadiyah Malang, 2014

1.5 Scope Of the Studies

This study focuses on the main character of *12 Years a Slave*, Solomon Northup, which is played by the reliable actor, Chiwetel Ejiofor. The writer tries to analyze the main character’s struggle against racism and racial discrimination.

1.6 Writing Organization

The thesis is organized with the following composition:

1. Chapter 1: Consist of Background of the study, the scope of the study, the purpose of the study, previous study, and methods of the study

which consist of a method of research and methods of approaches.

2. Chapter 2: Theoretical framework which consists of narrative elements that surround Intrinsic Aspect such as character, setting, conflict. And also Extrinsic Aspect. There are also Cinematography Element.
3. Chapter 3: Discussion and Analysis. This chapter consists of the result and findings of the research.
4. Chapter 4: Conclusion which contains the conclusion of findings and the results.

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Narratives Elements

In a book written by M.H Abraham and Geoffrey Galt Harpham entitled “A Glossary of Literary Terms”, a Narrative is a story that involving events, characters, setting, and everything that the characters do inside the story. (2011, p. 233). In this thesis, the writer analyzes the Narrative Elements that consist of Intrinsic and Extrinsic Aspects. Intrinsic will analyze the character, characterization, conflict, and setting. On the Extrinsic aspect, the writer wants to analyze the racial discrimination and racism towards Solomon Northup in the *12 Years a Slave* movie.

2.1.1 Intrinsic Aspect

Semi (1988; 35) stated that intrinsic aspects are including character, conflict, and setting. In an intrinsic aspect, the writer will discuss character, conflict, and setting in-depth about the movie *12 Years a Slave*. The intrinsic aspect will be discussed to knowing more about the movie.

2.1.1.1 Character

Character is something important in a story. Without character, a story won't be more interesting. Perrine (1974:84-86) stated that Major characters are divided into two types, protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is consists of the main character who has a strong and big influence on the story.

But Antagonist also has a chance to be the main character. The antagonist is a character that is opposed to the protagonist. The antagonist usually an evil character in the movie.

2.1.1.2 Conflict

Conflict is the struggle of two sides (Protagonist and Antagonist) that are opposed in a plot (C. Hugh Holman 1960: 105). The conflict made the story more colorful. Conflict helps deliver the message inside the story. The Audience or reader of a book will know which good or bad using conflict as the medium. It also could be used as the purpose of the character.

2.1.1.3 Setting

Sylvan Barnet stated that setting not only a place but also the time (Barnet, 2008: 152). There are three types of setting, there are Setting of time, Setting of place, and setting of the social environment. The setting of time is when the story happened. The setting of the place is where the story took place. And the setting of the social environment is the social condition in the place that the story happened. The setting is usually used to help the audience identify the story from the place and time.

2.1.2 Extrinsic Element

Extrinsic Element is an element that comes from outside the literary work, but indirectly affects the literary organism (Nurgiyantoro, 2010; 23). Extrinsic elements that will be discussed in this paper are Racial Discrimination and social influence.

2.1.2.1 Racism and Racial Discrimination

The theory that will be used to analyze the racial discrimination which occurs in the movie is explicit discrimination by Rebecca M. Blank (Blank, 2004, p. 56). In her book *Measuring Racial Discrimination* stated that in explicit discrimination, there are Verbal antagonism and Physical attack as one of the types of discrimination. Verbal antagonism and Physical attack appear on the movie quite often.

Verbal antagonism includes in common racial discrimination act. It could happen either in or out of the target's presence. Verbal antagonism can make a hostile environment. This type of discrimination is usually followed by anger or mock expression and high intonation such as yelling.

Whereas Physical attack is the act of racial discrimination by harming people with physical offensive action. This act usually happens while the verbal antagonism happened. An example of a physical attack in *12 Years a Slave* is when Solomon Northup received lashes and whip from his master.

2.1.2.2 Social Impact

Social impact is an effort to change attitude, belief, perception, or behavior. (Sarwono, 2012, pp. 105-118). There is terms in social impact called conformity that a person or individual changes the attitude and behavior accordance with the social norms. It could be means that, there are an impact that comes from other person.

2.2 Cinematography Elements

2.2.1 Distance

In a book entitled “*Film Art: An Introduction*” written by David Bordwell and Kristin Thompson, Distance is a framing position where the scene looks away or close. It depends on the necessity of the shot. Distance usually known as shot in terms of cinematography.

2.2.1.1 Extreme Long Shot



Picture Extreme Long Shot

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/video/tips-and-solutions/filmmaking-101-camera-shot-types>

The extreme long shot is a shot that is usually used to taking a panoramic scene or wide scene. In the ELS scene, the human body is depicted from far away and almost disappears. (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). Long ELS scene mostly on cinematography uses a drone to take a wider shot or use a wide lens to making a round shot.

2.2.1.2 Long Shot



Picture Long Shot

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/video/tips-and-solutions/filmmaking-101-camera-shot-types>

Long Shot is a shot where the characters showed in the scene but the background is more dominant (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). The character shows on the full body from head to toe but is dominated by the background.

2.2.1.3 Medium Long Shot



Picture Medium Long Shot

<https://www.keeindonesia.com/blogs/keelesson/beberapa-macam-teknik-pengambilan-gambar>

A medium Long shot depicted characters from knees up beyond (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). This shot is used to shows body language and also the emotion of the characters in the scene. This type of shot is also used to shot multiple characters in a scene.

2.2.1.4 Medium Shot



Picture Medium Shot

<https://www.keeindonesia.com/blogs/keelesson/beberapa-macam-teknik-pengambilan-gambar>

A medium shot is a shooting character from the middle (waist) up to the head (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). The medium shot is usually used to shoot a more specific shot of body language and emotion. This kind of shot often used on the movie.

2.2.1.5 Medium Close Up



Picture Medium Close Up

https://www.asu.edu/alti/lflab/tutorials/video/basics/type5_mcu.htm

A medium close-up is a type of shot that depicting body parts from the chest up to the head (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). This is kind of shot is used in a regular dialogue scene. And used to show a detailed expression.

2.2.1.6 Close Up



Picture of Close Up

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/video/tips-and-solutions/filmmaking-101-camera-shot-types>

A close-up shot is a shot on the body part which needs a close look to shows the detail. The body part that probably needs more detail such as head, hand, feet, face. This shot is used often to express a gesture and expression (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191).

2.2.1.7 Extreme Close Up



Picture Extreme Close Up

<https://www.bhphotovideo.com/explora/video/tips-and-solutions/filmmaking-101-camera-shot-types>

Extreme Close Up is a shot that usually took to depict a small part of the body closer such as eyes, hair, and lips. (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191).

2.2.2 Angle

Angle is framing position. (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 190). The angle is one of the important things in a movie because it can affect the beauty of the cinematography. Angle could be divided into a couple of types such as The Straight-on Angle, High Angle, and Low.

2.2.2.1 The Straight-on Angle



Picture Straight-on Angle

[soma.sbccc.edu/users/davega/FILMPRO_170_CINEMATOGRAPHY_I/FILMPRO_170_03_Lecture_Notes/04_Angles/Angle Images/Camera Angle/](https://soma.sbccc.edu/users/davega/FILMPRO_170_CINEMATOGRAPHY_I/FILMPRO_170_03_Lecture_Notes/04_Angles/Angle%20Images/Camera%20Angle/)

The Straight-on Angle is an angle of taking a shot that always is used on a movie scene. A straight-on Angle is an angle at eye line level that appears straight to the front (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 190).

2.2.2.2 High Angle



Picture High Angle

<https://www.facebook.com/nikonindonesia/photos/high-angle-adalah-pandangan-tinggi-kamera-ditempatkan-lebih-tinggi-dari-objek-se/408729149265731/>

High Angle is something known as bird's eye angle. The camera makes the character look from above the head or higher than the character (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 190). It is used to show that there is a bigger thing in front of the characters.

2.2.2.3 Low Angle



Picture of Low Angle

https://the-take.com/images/uploads/screenprism/_constrain-480w/257944080_1280x720.jpg

Low Angle makes the character look higher than take camera view (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 190). It used to make the scene more dramatized. This shot is used on movie quite often.

2.2.3 Sounds

2.2.3.1 Dialogue

We know that there will always be a dialogue in a drama or movie and it becomes one of the major parts of a movie. Dialogue is a multi-agent activity and this makes conversational language markedly different from the kind of language found in texts (Fernandez, 2013). Dialogue is used to deliver message and emotion in the movie and drama.

2.4 Methods of Research

2.3.1 Method of Collecting Data

The method of collecting data that the writer will use to compile the data is Library Research. Jorge Marx Gomez and Sulaiman Mouselli stated that Library Research is a type of research that is using written material located in libraries, World Wide Web (WWW), and internet database material (Gomez &

Mouselli, 2018, p. 8). There is some step before the writers start to analyze and collecting data. The Steps are to watch the movie (*12 Years a Slave*) to understanding the story, after that, the writers will identify the movie by re-watch the movie one or two times, then analyze the movie and main character in the movie. After all those steps are done, the writer will collect data from the previous study such as thesis, journal, article about 12 Years a Slave to have a comparison within the theory and the research. Those steps hopefully can fulfill the needs of data that the writer needs to analyze the movie and find the answer to the purpose of the study.

2.3.2 Methods of Approaches

Approaches that the writer will use in the study are exponential and social psychology approaches. The exponential approach in literature will be used to analyze the intrinsic aspect. The exponential Approach in literature is a method that pointing to several meanings like motif, image, symbol, and archetype (Guerin, 1992, p. 197).

The social psychology approach in literature will be used to analyze the extrinsic aspect of the movie. Real-life and a story is connecting each other. The story is written or made by the Author/Writer from their imagination which appears from a real-life story. Human behavior is influenced and generated by social conditions. And using Social Psychology, the writer analyzes the character as a human which can be learned since the character is created by the writer, use a psychological trait to liven up the characters. (Endraswara, 2003,

p. 96). This approach is used by the writer to determine the impact of the racial discrimination attitude experienced by Solomon Northup in the surrounding social environment.

The theory of racial discrimination will be used in this paper to analyze the movie. Based on a book entitled *Measuring Racial Discrimination* by Rebecca M. Blank, one type of racial discrimination is Explicit Discrimination. And in Explicit discrimination, there are a type of acts which considered as a discrimination act, Verbal Antagonism and Physical Attack (Blank, 2004, p. 56)

CHAPTER III

ANALYSIS

3.1 Characters

Two types of characters will be elaborate in this chapter is Protagonists and antagonists. There is Solomon Northup as the protagonist. And there are Mr. Epps, Mr. Brown, and Mr. Hamilton as an antagonist.

3.1.1 Solomon Northup

Based on a book entitled *12 Years a Slave* by Solomon Northup that contains more in-depth information about Solomon Northup, Solomon Northup is born as a freeman. He was born on July 1808 in Minerva, Essex County, New York. Solomon Northup loved to play violin in his free time as an amusement. In 1829, Solomon married Anna Hampton and have a daughter, Margareth, and a son, Alonzo. They live in Saratoga, New York. He is a violinist and gets paid by performing at a party. Part of the scenes below is using a medium close-up shot to expressing emotion.



Pict 3.1 (00:06:43)



Pict. 3.2 (00:07:00)



Picture 3.3 (00:10:19)

In 1841, Solomon Northup walking around and met Mr. Brown and Mr. Hamilton who introduced themselves as a magician from a Circus company that looking for a musician to play on their circus. Depicted on a scene, Solomon Northup is a person who loyal and very much loves his family. To fulfill his family's needs, he wants to travel to Washington D.C with Mr. Brown and Mr. Hamilton and get paid by playing violin in that circus.

He wears a very proper outfit while playing music at a party or even walks around the neighborhood as a mark that he comes from an educated people or at least shows his status as a freeman. Because his costume and appearance are different than a slave's.



Picture 3.4 (00:04:55)



Picture 3.5 (2) 00:07:59

In picture 3.5, with a high angle medium close up and low-key lighting that shows the condition of that year with minimum light depicted a moment where Anne has to go work because she will get a high wage. And when Anne asks Solomon what kind of activity that he would do when they are apart. Solomon says that he will not stay idle.

Solomon: *“Three weeks and two days.”*

Anne: *“It is the custom. I wonder what you will do without me.”*

Solomon: *“I won't stay idle.”*

That conversation seems like both Anne and Solomon loving each other

and want to make a happy family by doing whatever they could. This scene uses a high angle and medium close-up shot to show the expression between Solomon and Anne loving each other as husband and wife. They both wear proper clothes like a normal family. They do not look like a poor family in that year.

On picture 3.4, with low-key lighting, depicted that Solomon with another girl when they still are a slave. The woman tried to get Solomon to have sex. But it ends with Solomon did not react the woman's act because after that scene, depicted Solomon with his wife's romance. It shows that Solomon is a loyal person and wants to keep his heart and love only for his wife. This scene uses a high angle and medium close-up shot to show both Solomon's and the woman's expressions.

Solomon Northup is smarter if compared with other black people in the slavery period. He can read and write. On a night, Solomon asks Armsby, one of a white slave, to send a letter that he wrote to his friend to get him his liberation. It is a clever way to get his liberty again.



Picture 3.6 (01:33:00)



Picture 3.7 (01:33:56)

Solomon: "I only ask that you deposit a letter, at the post office in Marksville... and that you keep the action an inviolable secret forever"

Armsby: *“I’ll do it. And I’ll accept whatever payments offered. To assist you, I put myself at risk.”*

Solomon: *“I will do so...”*

Armsby: *“Draw up your letter. We’ll meet again in two days?”*

Solomon: *“Thank you.”(01:32:15)*

Even on this attempt, Solomon is betrayed by Armsby. Armsby says what Solomon will do with the letter to their master. Which means that Solomon will get a punishment for being smart and clever.

On his second attempt, Solomon meets Mr. Bass. A White Man that does not agree with slavery. Solomon asks Mr. Bass to send his letter to the post office to get his liberty. Solomon believes Mr. Bass because both of them agree on justice and slavery is an evil act.

Solomon: *“Do you believe, sir, injustice, as you said?”*

Mr. Bass: *“I do.”*

Solomon: *“That slavery is an evil that should befall none?”*

Mr. Bass: *“I believe so.”*

Solomon: *“If you truly do, then I ask, I beg that you write my friends in the north...” (01:56:00-01:57:00)*

After this conversation, Solomon finally gets his liberty because of Mr. Bass. This is evidence that Solomon is an educated person. He can even write and read a letter, asking for help from his family to get his liberty. It is such a clever thought that the others slaver will not do.

From the sources above, it could be said that Solomon is also a tough person. He lasted for 12 years as a slave, tormented body and soul, separate from his family but he still has a trust that he could back to his family and get his liberty back.



Picture 3.8 (00:18:04)



Picture 3.9 (01:04:44)

Depicted in picture 3.8 with straight-on angle that Solomon has a scar on his body which looks very pathetic. That is a scar from every whip that he got every time he contrary to the white people.

In Picture 3.9, with straight-on angle, depicted that Solomon Northup meets a bunch of guys seems like they will execute two black slaves that probably breaking a rule or maybe cannot satisfy their master. From those scenes, we probably should know how bad it is his life during the slavery period. Watching other people dying, cannot helping anyone, meanwhile, he also trying to get out of all of this.

Pictures 3.8 and 3.9 are using a similar shot which is a medium shot. While using medium shots, the audience could see the figures and also what is happening in the background of the figures. Both of those scenes use high-key lighting which comes from natural lighting.

3.1.2 Mr. Brown and Mr. Hamilton

Mr. Brown and Mr. Hamilton are a slavery agent that comes to Saratoga and meets Solomon Northup pretending that they are a circus player. They pretend that they come from a circus company that supervised many talented players to play on their circus. These two characters are important in the story because if these two guys did not show up, Solomon Northup will not suffer

a bad experience 12 years as a slave.



Picture 3.10 (00:09:39)

These two gentlemen are expert agents. They seem like have a bunch of experiences convincing people to agree or interest in their offer. It is such a camouflage that is covered with well-prepared. In Solomon's case, Solomon is being abducted by these two guys after dinner and drink wine together. Their act starts when they meet Solomon in Saratoga. After that, with some conversation, they convince Solomon to travel with them to Washington D.C. Depicted from their dialogue these gentlemen are very canny. Their convincing skill is absolutely expert.

Solomon: "A circus?"

Mr. Brown: "Circus is too constricting a word... to describe the talented and merry band with which we travel. It is a spectacle unlike most have ever witnessed." Talk in excitement.

Mr: Brown: "If we could persuade you to accompany us as far as Washington... We could give you one dollar for each day's services... and three dollars for every night played at our performances. In addition, we would provide sufficient pay..." (00:09:39)

Even Mr. Hamilton does not talk too much, but the way he responds to Mr. Brown's conversation is very reassuring which is depicted from both Mr. Brown and Hamilton's expression of excitement.



Picture 3.11 (00:10:44)

Now, depicted on the scene in picture 3.11, that Mr. Brown and Mr. Hamilton already give Solomon's drink such a poison or drug which could make Solomon fall asleep. Their expression and eyes seem like they both succeed in poisoning Solomon.

Picture 3.10 and 3.11 use a straight angle and medium shot. Those shots are used in order to frame those three characters on one frame in a way to show the interaction between them and also shows the expression clearly. This scene also uses high lighting to show the ambiance of a restaurant.

3.1.3 Mr. Epps

In the early slavery period, Solomon being bought by Mr. Ford from the slavery market. Mr. Ford loves Solomon because he is talented. But there is a problem when Solomon works for Mr. Ford. Solomon impresses Mr. Ford with his idea of delivering things across the river by riding a small boat. But, Mr. Ford's guy does not like Solomon's works. So they try to kill Solomon, but Mr. Ford helps Solomon to get out of this problem by selling Solomon to another Master. Mr. Ford sells Solomon to Edwin Epps or Mr. Epps.

Mr. Epps is known as a cruel person, moreover to his slave. Even Mr. Ford says that Mr. Epps is a person that loves to torture his slave. In picture 3.12 there is a dialogue as an evidence of Mr. Epps's character.



Picture 3.12 (00:53:52)

Mr. Ford: *“I have a debt to be mindful of... And that is to Edwin Epps now... And he is a hard man. Prides himself on being a nigger breaker.”(00:53:52)*

As cited from the dialogue above, it is evidence that Mr. Epps is a cruel person depicted by another person. Having a slave and make them as a worker without a proper wage is inhuman. And he also tortures his slave, it shows how cruel and inhuman is he.

The act that shows how inhuman is Mr. Epps is when there are slaves that cannot make him happy or make a mistake. Those slaves should pick cotton from his plantation, and must reach 200 pounds a day. If they could not do that, he will whip every slave who cannot reach a target each day.



Pict 3.15 (00:56:32)



Pict 3.16 (00:58:22)

Mr. Epps: *“That nigger that don't obey his lord... That there nigger shall be beaten with many stripes... 40, 100, 150 lashes” (00:55:13)*

It describes how cruel, ruthless, and inhuman Mr. Epps is. He wants to be recognized as a lord and everyone should obey him. Besides torturing his slave, Mr. Epps has a different treatment from his woman slave. One of Mr. Epps's woman slaves, Patsey, was raped by Mr. Epps and should serve his lust.



Picture 3.17 (01:13:44)

In Picture 3.17, depicted in a close-up shot with low-key lighting that

shows Patsey's expression is surrender to the situation. And Mr. Epps shows his desire and lust while rapes Patsey. It seems that it is not the first time Mr. Epps rapes his slave. Patsey's expression shows that Mr. Epps already did this to her, or maybe to another slave. But only Patsey that showed in the movie. Even Mr. Epps already has a wife, he still having sex with another woman.

3.2 Setting

3.2.1 Setting of Place

The early scene of the movie shows Solomon lives in Saratoga, New York in 1841. Solomon lives with his wife, Anne, and his children. He has a house that is good and livable for a family. Picture 3.18 shows with medium shot and high-key lighting, Solomon and his house in the background.



Picture 3.18 (00:08:35)

The next place is Washington D.C. Those circus agents persuade Solomon Northrup to join their circus in Washington D.C and it makes them travel there. They eat dinner at a restaurant and ended up with Solomon throw up and fall asleep after drink wine too much.



Picture 3.19 (00:10:19)



Picture 3.20 (00:10:44)

Depicted from both pictures with a straight angle and medium shot above that Solomon and the circus agent arrived in Washington and having dinner together. After a night in Washington, Solomon, and others slaves heading south to the Slavery Market in New Orleans. There a scene that showing many Black People chained in a place such as a market to make those slaves do not resist.



Picture 3.21 (00:25:20) Picture 3.22 (00:25:51) Picture 3.23 (00:28:45)

On pictures above show, there is a harbor as a place of many slaves gathered before they go to the slave market. Picture 3.21 uses medium-long shots with high-key lighting from natural light to shows that there are many slaves on a ship who ready for sale to the market. Picture 3.22 with a medium close-up shot shows two Black Man chained like a cow to still shut their mouth and do not make a noise. In picture 3.23, a scene with a medium-long shot showing how big a harbor is, as a place of slavery market.

Depicted in pictures 3.21 and 3.22 the difference appearance between slave master and slaves. Picture 3.21 shows that the slave master wears proper clothes while the slaves only wear a pant without a shirt on it.



Pict. 3.24 (00:29:37) Pict. 3.25 (00:31:55) Pict 3.26 (00:29:18)

Picture 3.24 until 3.26 with a medium shot depicted that the slaves brought to Slavery Market hosted by a freeman. He sells many black people by displayed them naked without clothes to proving that his slave is strong and worth selling. Those pictures above also show a difference between a slave master and a slave based on their clothes.

The next place is the plantation. The slaves used to work in plantations such as cotton plantations. Here is a picture of Solomon picking up cotton on Mr. Epps's plantation.



Picture 3.27 (00:56:01)



Picture 3.28(01:26:41)



Picture 3.29 (00:41:48)



Picture 3.30 (01:23:19)

With medium close up and long shot helped by high-key lighting from natural light, depicted in pictures 3.27 and 3.28 that the slaves work on Plantation. Pictures 3.29 and 3.30 show that the slaves have a small house to sleep in. Picture 3.29 is Mr. Ford's slave's house.

3.2.2 Setting of Time

Based on the movie, the year that appears as a timeline is 1841. On 12 years a slave script, Solomon was abducted in 1841 and exiled far from his home. In

mid-late April 1841, Solomon is a free man until he is abducted by the two slavery agents. In the middle of May 1841, Solomon arrives in New Orleans on the harbor and the slavery market. In June 1841, Solomon works in Mr. Ford until January 1842. But in late January 1842, Mr. Ford sells Solomon to Mr. Epps. Solomon works on Mr. Epps from 1842 until 1853. There is only one hint of time that shows the year of Solomon's slavery period, which is in 1841.



Picture 3.31 (00:08:35)

3.2.3 Setting of Social Environment

Solomon Northup's experience in slavery happens before the Civil War in America. Civil War happened in 1861-1865. Civil War has an impact on slavery in America. Before the civil war, no constitution completely prohibited slavery. That is why there are people, especially White people, use Black People as their slave to work in their plantation.

The plantation economy system uses slavery as a solution within addressing labor requirements. By buying a slave, the slave master could be more pressing the numbers of spending, because the slaves do not get enough paid. The Slave also considered as property that is fully controlled by their Slaves Master, so that they could do whatever they want.

Abraham Lincoln, the former president of America, and also a person who fights for the fate of the slave in America, make a proclamation of

emancipation which liberates slaves, followed with made of Amendment XIV to liberate and get their liberty again.

Based on the movie, in an early scene that Solomon and Mr. Moon, one of the White People, seemingly having a good relationship. It is like showing that Solomon Northup is respected by his neighborhood because of his skill in playing violin.



Picture 3.32 (00:09:05)

Mr. Moon: " Mr. Northup, these two gentlemen were inquiring about distinguished individuals... I was just this very moment saying Solomon Northup is an expert player on the violin. "(00:09:05)

Picture 3.32 uses a medium-long shot and straight-on angle to show the interaction between these four persons. And from the dialogue above by Mr. Moon, it could be said that Solomon Northup is a reputable person. On a first scene depicted that Solomon playing violin for a party and praised because of his skills.

3.3 Conflict

3.3.1 Conflict between Solomon and John Tibeats

John Tibeats is Mr. Ford's guy. He works for Mr. Ford as a chief carpenter on Mr. Ford's plantation. After Solomon arrives on the plantation, Tibeats is the first person who did racism against the slaves. He sings a song accompanied by slave claps. He asks every slave on the plantation to call him

Master because he has authority on the plantation.



Picture 3.33 (00:33:28)

Tibeats: “My name is John Tibeats, Mr. Ford's chief carpenter. You will refer to me as "Master. So, clap your hands." (00:33:21)

Tibeats: “Nigger run, Nigger flew, Nigger tore his shirt in two, Run, run The patroller will get you, Run, nigger, run... Well, you better getaway”

One day, Solomon had an idea about crossing the river with a boat to

delivering things, but Tibeats disagree with the idea and underestimating

Solomon. But Solomon argues that it could save spending, and reassuring Mr.

Ford.



Pict 3.34 (00:36:42) Pict 3.35 (00:38:06) Pict 3.36 (00:38:34)

Solomon: “The creek is plenty deep enough to sail. Even with a boat full of load... The distance from the work area to the point on the latter bayou... is several miles by water fewer than land... would be materially diminished...”

Tibeats: “Materially diminished? Are you an engineer, or a nigger!? It's a scheme. Plenty of engineers have schemed similarly.”(00:36:42)

The dialogue continues with Solomon telling Mr. Ford his idea and ends

with Approval by Mr. Ford. Picture 3.36 with medium shot and straight on-angle

shows that Tibeats expression expressing shock and got rid of by Solomon. It is

also evidence that slaves and slave masters could be distinguished by their

costumes. The Slave master wears more good and proper clothes if compared

with the slave. On the next day, Tibeats talks to Solomon while he working. It seems like Tibeats intentionally wants to give Solomon a lesson of respect to the master.



Picture 3.37 (00:42:50)

Tibeats: "Make them boards flush"

Solomon: "They are, sir"

Tibeats: "No, they are no such thing."

Solomon: "They are as smooth to the touch as a yearling's coat."

Tibeats: "Are you calling me a liar, boy? Oh, my, you are a brute... You are a dog. (SHOUTS)" (00:42:50)

Tibeats is angry towards Solomon because Solomon always answering him.

Tibeats then asks Solomon to go buying some nails in the store.



Pict 3.38 (00:45:48) Pict 3.39 (00:46:12) Pict 3.40 (00:46:46)

Tibeats: "I thought I told you to commence to putting on clapboards."

Solomon: "Yes, Master, I'm about it. These have all been replaced."

Tibeats: "And didn't I tell you to get a keg of nails?"

Solomon: "And so, I did."

With anger, Tibeats yells at Solomon and blaming him because did not do the works well. But Solomon arguing Tibeats.

Solomon: "I did as instructed. If there's something wrong, it's wrong with the instruction."

Tibeats: "You black bastard. You goddamn black bastard."(00:46:03)

Because Solomon does not want to be blamed, he fights Tibeats. They are fighting on the ground until Mr. John comes and intervenes them. Tibeats seems very angry.



Pict 3.41 (00:48:16)

As seen in the scene, Tibeats comes to Solomon with his friends, drags him, and hangs him up on the tree as he wants to kill him. Solomon hanged on the tree until dusk and Mr. Ford comes to rescue him. After the conflict between Solomon and Tibeats, Mr. Ford decides to sell Solomon to Mr. Epps to save Solomon from Tibeats.

3.3.2 Conflict between Solomon and Mr. Epps

Solomon works for Mr. Epps moreover 10 years long. He was sold by Mr. Ford his previous master because Mr. Ford's right hand, Tibeats, would like to kill him. But being sold to Mr. Epps is not good news.

While works with Mr. Epps, Solomon actually cannot dispute with him. Because Solomon chose to survive and live rather than fight but die. Mr. Epps does not care about his slave. He makes his slave works like a machine, not paying attention to their health and condition. That is a reason why Solomon chose to not fight rather than die. Or it could be said, Solomon has a conflict with himself.

Besides that, Solomon who knows about Mr. Epps and Patsey's relation wants to help Patsey lighten up her suffer. It is depicted in a scene when Solomon is asked by Mr. Epps to find Patsey. After arrived at Mr. Epps's home, Solomon instructs Patsey to go to her room, and no need to face Mr. Epps because he knows that Mr. Epps will punish her. But Mr. Epps seemingly hears what Solomon said and angry toward him. Mr. Epps angry because Solomon helps Patsey. But Mr. Epps and Solomon being separated by Mrs. Epps.

3.3.3 Conflict Mr. Epps with Mr. Bass

Mr. Epps and Mr. Bass in conversation talk about the equality between White and Black people. Mr. Bass disagree with Mr. Epps who regards Black People like an animal.



Picture 3.42 (01:44:36) Picture 3.43 (01:45:00)

While Mr. Bass working, Mr. Epps asks him to join to drink with him, but Mr. Bass refuses. Mr. Epps asks Mr. Bass why he refuses. End the conversation ended with the argument between Mr. Epps and Mr. Bass.

Mr. Bass: “What amused me just then was your concern for my well-being in this heat... when, quite frankly, the condition of your laborers...”

Mr. Epps: “The condition of my laborers?”

Mr. Bass: “It is horrid. It's all wrong.”

Mr. Epps: “They ain't hired help. They're my property.”

Mr. Bass: “You said that with pride”

Mr. Epps: “I bought them. I paid for them.

Mr. Bass: “True and right is true and right for all. White and black alike.”

Mr. Epps: "You comparing me to a nigger, Bass?"

Mr. Bass: "I'm only asking, in the eyes of God, what is the difference?"

Mr. Epps: "You might as well ask what the difference is between a white man and a baboon."

Mr. Bass: "Listen, Epps, These niggers are human beings." (01:44:00)

Those conversations ended with Mr. Epps leaves Mr. Bass behind. But Solomon heard all of the conversations between them. Knowing Mr. Bass care about humanity, Solomon asks Mr. Bass to help him out of his condition by sending a letter to his friend to give him his liberation. And it works, Mr. Bass helps Solomon and could set Solomon free.

3.4 Racial Discrimination towards Solomon Northup

As written in chapter 2, Racism is grouping people based on their physical appearance. This type of discrimination is experienced by Solomon Northup as the main character which is carried out by his social environment where the majority are white people. And also the White people are more superior in that period.

Solomon is considered as an uneducated person, similar to an animal, etc. Solomon proved that he had intelligence and even had a mindset that he still worth to live and get his liberty back. These attitudes make Solomon's character "alive" and stand out rather than another character. Therefore, the authors focus on discrimination against Solomon. Here are the types of discrimination that are divided according to Rebecca's theory.

3.4.1 Explicit Discrimination

3.4.1.1 Verbal Antagonism

One of verbal antagonism act which faced by Solomon is when he argues to a white people that he is a freeman. And then the white people say that he only a runaway nigger.

Solomon: "My name... My name is Solomon Northup. I'm a free man. A resident of Saratoga, New York."

White People: "You're not any free man...And you ain't from Saratoga...You're from Georgia...You're nothing but a Georgia runaway...You're just a runaway nigger..." (00:13:15) (00:14:10)



Picture 3.44 (00:13:37)

Picture 3.44 with a low-key lighting and medium close-up shot shows his expression and act, and what white people said in the dialogue, he is like discriminating and suppressing Solomon by mentioning that Solomon is a runaway nigger and his freeman right was not recognized.

In this situation, Solomon is having no power to prove and fight for his right. This situation makes Solomon's behavior and attitudes become obedient and abide to the White People. His attitude appears because in this situation, he is surrounded by superior white people which is slave master and he knew when he tried to fight on the white people, he will get smashed or lashed by the white so he pushes his self to calm down.

Another verbal antagonism that occurs in the movie is in a scene where Tibbeats sings a song about the nigger. He sings a song with lyrics that insulting the slave. The lyrics are very inappropriate. The song in the scene sounds like a country song from America but with customized lyrics. Here are the lyrics of Tibbeats's song.



Picture 3.45 (00:33:49)

Tibbeats: "Nigger run, Nigger flew, Nigger tore his shirt in two. Run, run, the patroller will get you, Run, nigger, run, Well, you better getaway. Nigger run runs so fast, stoves his head in a hornet's nest. Run, nigger, run, well, you better getaway. Some folk says a nigger doesn't steal. I caught three in my cornfield. One has a bushel and one has a peck. One has a rope it was hung around his neck Run, nigger, run well, you better getaway."(00:33:54)

Because of John Tibbeats's act, it eagers Solomon Northup to prove to his master that he is not like the others slave. So Solomon proves it with his ingenuity by making a new way to load a block of wood from one point to another point with a boat and it works. Solomon could impress his slave master.

Another case of explicit discrimination in verbal antagonism is when Mr. Epps says that Solomon is a damn nigger and similar to a baboon. Here is the dialogue with Mr. Epps saying Solomon is a Damn nigger.

Mr. Epps: "You lying nigger, Platt. Damn nigger." (01:12:27)

And then Mr. Epps says that Solomon is similar to a baboon. This conversation happens while Mr. Epps and Mr. Bass talking.

Mr. Bass: “White and black alike.”

Mr. Epps: “You comparing me to a nigger, Bass?”

Mr. Bass: “I’m only asking, in the eyes of God, what is the difference?”

Mr. Epps: “You might as well ask what the difference is between a white man and a baboon. (01:44:06)

Solomon who never could fight back on Mr. Epps’s racial discrimination finally found a way. Mr. Bass who disagrees with the slavery system is Solomon’s savior. Solomon when knows about Mr. Bass’s thought, he tries to approach Mr. Bass to help him get his liberty back. And it ends with Mr. Bass sent a letter from Solomon to his guardian to pick up Solomon and bring his freeman letter.

Mrs. Epps in a moment also did a verbal antagonism by mocking the black slave as a black animal.



Picture 3.46 (01:17:30)

Picture 3.46 with a medium close-up shot and straight-on angle, is the moment when Mrs. Epps did a verbal antagonism. She says the word specifically for Patsey. But it said in the front of other black slaves and also Solomon.

Mrs. Epps: “Look at them. They foul with their hate. You let it be, it’s gonna come back to us in the dark of night. You want them black animals to leave us, gut like pigs in our sleep?”(01:17:30)

According to the three cases above, the way white people describe the black man especially Solomon could be categorized as explicit discrimination in verbal antagonism. The verbal antagonism in this movie, apparently happened to the black slaves especially Solomon Northup when they do some mistakes or

cannot fulfill the master's needs. And because of those verbal antagonism acts, appear some behavior and interaction that caused by social interaction between Black people and White people.

3.4.1.2 Physical Attack

As could be seen from the scene, Solomon Northup receiving verbal and also physical discrimination. Mostly the physical attack is in form of lash and hit on the back.

Solomon Northup in an early scene being attacked by white people in a small room like a prison, being chained and lashed with a whip. The dialogue on the scene is when Solomon being asked is he a slave, but Solomon answers no and still admits that he is a freeman. And it makes the white people unhappy about the answer and lashed Solomon on the back a couple of times.



Pict 3.47 (00:14:54) Pict 3.48(00:15:50) Pict 3.49 (00:18:04)

Depicted in the pictures above, Solomon expresses pain and misery. And picture 3.47 until 3.49 with a medium shot, straight-on angle, and low-key lighting showed that Solomon has many lashes wound on his back. The Low-key light in the picture above is used to show the ambiance of the places where the slave belong.

Not only in this scene, but Solomon also got his lashes wound when he worked on Mr. Epps's plantation. He gets many lashes when he could not accomplish daily targets on the minimum weight of picking cotton.

Because of the physical attack that he got, Solomon behave like a real slave who obedient to his master and never had the braveness to fight back or even had a thought to run away from his master. This behavior is an outcome of a social condition that is formed by white people to the black people. Where white people always torture their slaves who do not obey them. So Solomon's obedient nature appears because he still wanted to survive and refuses to die as a slave and wants to get his liberty back.

3.4.2 Social Impact of Discrimination towards Solomon Northup

Solomon Northup has been through a slavery period of almost 12 years. He is suffered many horrible experiences during slavery. And because of his experiences, after he got his liberty back, he wrote a book entitled "*12 Years a Slave*" and shared his story with the public.

At the end of the movie, stated in the last clip that upon gaining his liberty, Solomon Northup located and attempted to seek legal justice against the men who kidnapped him. The case was tried in Washington, DC where blacks were prohibited by law from testifying against whites. But the charges against the kidnappers were eventually dismissed because he could not prove them wrong.

Another effort and struggle that he did to end slavery are quite strong. He became active in the abolitionist movement, lecture on slavery throughout the Northeastern United States, and aided fugitive slaves on the underground railroad. *(02:08:10)*

With his book, Solomon opens up the visualization of the slavery era in his period. And the impact of his book could eagere many people to erase slavery from the earth, especially in the United States. That is an effort that Solomon do to erase slavery from America.

BAB IV

CONCLUSION

According to analysis of the research, the writer concludes that the protagonist character of the movie or the main character of the movie is Solomon Northup. The antagonist on this movie is Mr. Brown and Mr. Hamilton as a slave agent who sells Solomon, and Mr. Epps as his master. But there is an additional character who could be considered as antagonist character, he is John Tibcats.

Solomon Northup as a violinist abducted and sold as a slave. When his period as a slave, he experiences a racial discrimination act from his master and also white people who still using black people as a slave. The type of discrimination is explicit discrimination. He got verbal antagonism and physical attacks from his master.

The kind of verbal antagonism that he suffered is being mock as a damn nigger, as a black animal, baboon and he is not recognized as a freeman. And the kind of physical attack that he suffered is lashed on his back, hanging on the tree, and chained like an animal.

Based on Solomon's experiences, It eagers him to erase slavery and help other slavery to get their rights as human beings. And with his story, he shares his story to influence people and open up people's minds about slavery and racial discrimination.

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APPENDIX 1

- **Summary of 12 Years a Slave**

12 Years a Slave (2013) is a movie based on a book wrote by Solomon Northup. Solomon Northup is an African-American Black Free-man, lived in Saratoga, New York. One day, there are two fake circus agents coming to Northup to recruit him. But, those agent kidnapped him and sell him to slave master. 12 years Solomon Northup lives his life as a slave and couldn't fight his right as a free man. Until there is a kind person who helped him and want to help Northup to get his liberation. In his 12 years as slave, he suffered so much pain and struggle.

APPENDIX 2

- **Biography of Steve McQueen**

Steven Rodney McQueen was born in Ealing, England on October 9th, 1969. He is a film director, producer, screenwriter, and video artist. The 12 Years a Slave movie who directed by him, win three OSCAR nominations. 12 Years a Slave also won an Academy Award, BAFTA Award for Best Film, and Golden Globe for Best Motion Picture Drama. He also awarded for best director from the New York Film Critics Circle. As the first black filmmaker to win an Academy Award for Best Picture. There is many more achievement that he has.

12 Years a Slave is a movie directed by Steve McQueen. McQueen in an interview with Henry Louis Gate, Historical Consultant, wants to bring Solomon Northup's story to the big screen because on a moment, McQueen wanted to tell a story about slavery. McQueen felt that the discussion about slavery has disappeared. When McQueen read the book of Solomon Northup titled Twelve Years a Slave (1853) he felt quite angry and upset why he didn't know about Solomon Northup's story before. After that, he passionate to make the story on film.