

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Stigma has become a very common phenomenon in society. According to Link & Phelan (2001:368), there has been a significant increase in our understanding of stigma, especially in the field of social psychology over the last 20 years. Researchers have been studying how people create mental groups or categories, and how they connect these categories to unfair and biased beliefs about those groups. In this film, biased beliefs about mental groups lead to systemic racism and marginalization of African Americans. This film also illustrates Major & O'Brien's depiction of stigma as a negative phenomenon that has a harsh tone toward its target and associated with mental health issues, academic struggles, lower social standing, indigence, and limited opportunities for housing, education, and employment (2005:394), by showcasing the racial segregation, discrimination, and violence Malcolm X and other African Americans face. Malcolm's journey from a small-time criminal to a prominent civil rights leader highlights the pervasive impact of stigma, demonstrating how it contributes to lower social standing and indigence, while also showing the transformative power of education and self-awareness in overcoming these societal barriers.

A light-coloured or white attachment is characterized as pure and clean. Because it triggers racism, this interpretation of colour is dangerous. The phrase "the lighter the better" is even used in America. Racism still exists today. In actuality, the idea that white people are virtuous predates colonialism. The idea of whiteness in American society has, in fact, been made worse by the rise of colonialism. Prior to colonization, white people were not yet connected to race.

Stereotypes and myths about Black Americans persist, often inaccurately portraying them based on generalized and unfounded beliefs. For instance, some people might think that all Black individuals are born with a natural sense of rhythm or are inherently athletic. These stereotypes, even though sometimes stemming from well-meaning people influenced by their experiences or cultural background, are not based on actual science and can be harmful. They oversimplify and generalize the diverse abilities and characteristics within the Black community. In reality, individuals' skills and talents vary widely, and attributing specific traits to an entire group based on race is misleading and unjust. It is crucial to treat every person with respect and avoid drawing conclusions based on preconceived notions.

Stigma is a very common thing and often occurs in society. In this study, the writer chose to examine the negative perspectives of black people towards white people through stigma theory. Stigma is something related to labelling, discrimination, exclusion, negative stereotyping, and low status coexist in a power dynamic that permits these processes to occur (Major & O'Brien, 2005:3).

This study explores racial stigmatization in American society, from the 1920s to the 1960s from the film "Malcolm X" using Major & O'Brien's stigma theory and its four mechanisms. Even though the primary focus is on how white people stigmatized Black people, the study also considers the negative views Black people developed towards white people. The goal is to understand why and how these negative perspectives emerged and persisted.

1.2 Research Questions

1. How are the intrinsic and extrinsic aspects of Malcolm X depicted?
2. What factors do trigger the negative stigma against black people in the movie Malcolm X?
3. How are the white people negative stigma toward the black people in Malcolm X?

1.3 Scope of the Study

This study uses stigma theory. This approach is used to analyse the negative perspective that appears among white people towards black people as a result of discrimination carried out by white people that occurred in America in the 60s until 90s based on Major & O'Brien's theory of stigma and four stigma mechanisms.

This research limits the stigma approach to Major & O'Brien's four parts of the stigma mechanism. The writer also uses narrative and cinematography analysis to see how these parts reflect the perspective of black Americans towards

white Americans in the 60s to 90s based on what happened in the film "Malcolm X".

1.4 Aims of the Study

This study is useful to perceive the phenomena of white people negative perspective towards black people in American society reflected in the movie *Malcolm X*. This study examines the existing stigma, stereotypes and discrimination.

1.5 Previous Studies

The writer has found several previous studies that related to this research. The following are some of the results of previous studies that the writer found:

From *Whistling Vivaldi: And Other Clues to How Stereotypes Affect Us* by Claude M. Steele (2010). The psychological idea of stereotype danger is the main topic of this book, especially as it relates to African Americans and other excluded groups. Steele investigates the effects of negative stereotype awareness on people's conduct and performance in academic and professional contexts, with a focus on African Americans in the United States.

If we talk about stigma, of course we also have to learn about discrimination. In *The White Space* by Elijah Anderson (2015), he addresses the idea of "white space," a place where Black people frequently experience prejudice and unfavourable stereotypes, making them feel like outsiders. The main topic of discussion is the social dynamics that exist in American cities and how they support racial stigma and inequality against Black people.

There is also *Peranan Malcolm X Dalam Perjuangan Hak-Hak Sipil Orang Kulit Hitam di Amerika Serikat Tahun 1957-1965* that is written by Ari Kamal Malik (2016), it is explained that in fact black people in the United States were not able to experience a decent and prosperous life until the 1960s. The origin of their arrival at that time as slaves was one of the factors that caused the assimilation process to be hampered. Most of white people cannot accept the existence of black people for this reason

And the last is *American Civil Rights Movement* by Clayborne Carson from Britanica (2024). The civil rights movement aimed to end racial segregation and achieve equal rights for black Americans through nonviolent protest, gaining momentum from the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education* decision and Rosa Parks' 1955 arrest. Major efforts included sit-ins, boycotts, and the 1963 march on Washington, leading to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Post-1965, militant groups like the Black Panther Party emerged, and the focus shifted to political power and economic advancement following Martin Luther King Assassination.

This research differs from other studies because this study explains the black people negative perspective toward white people in the movie "Malcolm X" while the other studies is focused on how the black people are always getting negative stigma and discrimination in the United States.

1.6 Research Methods

1.6.1. Method of Data Collection

This study employs library research, a technique for gathering data from a variety of sources, including, journals, articles, and books pertinent to the study as well as the writer's identification of the movie. Library research is a type of systematic research that uses certain tools, rules and techniques. (George, 2008:1). This study's primary source is the movie "Malcolm X," which is backed up by a number of reputable journal publications and books. This study was organized by the writer into many stages.

1.6.2. Method of Approach

In this study, the writer uses the social psychology by Gordon Allport (1954). Stated from Springer.com, there is an expert named Gordon Allport that explained the definition of social psychology. Social psychology is the scientific attempt to understand and explain how the thought, feeling, and behaviour of individuals are influenced by the actual, imagined, or implied presence of others.

1.7 Organization of the Writing

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter describes the background of the study, research questions, scope of the study, aims of the study, previous studies and method of the study.

CHAPTER II THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter explains the theories used to analyse the movie Malcolm X for the data of this research.

CHAPTER III RESULT & DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer presents the result of the analysis in the data. Those analyses include general description, analysis of theme, character, settings, conflicts, plot, cinematography, and the result of analysis using the stigma theory.

CHAPTER IV CONCLUSION

This chapter contains the writer's conclusion and suggestions.

BIBLIOGRAPHY