

The Racism Resistance in Django Unchained Movie: Main Character Analysis

¹ Cicih Nuraeni

¹Universitas Bina Sarana Informatika

*cicih@bsi.ac.id

² Adhytia Nugraha Aria S.A

²Universitas Bina Sarana Informatika

* adhityanugraha66@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this paper is to determine the types of racism that occur in the Django Unchained movie and the impact of racism on black people. Racism is defined as a physical, verbal, or emotional act by a white person who feels superior to black people and uses them as slaves. The writers collect data using a descriptive qualitative method with sources from dialogues and scenes the original Django Unchained Movie. The writers watched this movie several times to strengthen the analysis and conducted library and internet research to add supporting data. The findings of this study are as follows: (1) Individual Racism-Level and Cultural Racism are the types of racism cases found in the film Django Unchained. (2) The effects of racism on black people include feelings of fear, vengeance, anger, and depression. The moral messages conveyed by this film are as follows: human race equality, the importance of mental health, and solidarity or respect for one another. This study reveals that racism in the film Django Unchained can occur anywhere and at any time, and that there are currently many racism cases in many countries.

Keywords: Racism, Character Analysis, Movie, Literature

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menentukan jenis rasisme yang terjadi dalam film Django Unchained, dampak rasisme pada orang kulit hitam, dan pesan moral apa yang dapat diturunkan. Rasisme didefinisikan sebagai tindakan fisik, verbal, atau emosional oleh orang kulit putih yang merasa lebih unggul dari orang kulit hitam dan menggunakannya sebagai budak. Penulis mengumpulkan data menggunakan metode kualitatif deskriptif dengan sumber dari dialog dan adegan pada film Django Unchained. Penulis menonton film ini beberapa kali untuk memperkuat analisis dan melakukan penelitian perpustakaan dan internet untuk menambahkan data pendukung. Temuan penelitian ini adalah sebagai berikut: (1) Individual Racism-Level dan Cultural Racism adalah jenis kasus rasisme yang ditemukan dalam film Django Unchained. (2) Efek rasisme pada orang kulit hitam termasuk perasaan takut, balas dendam, kemarahan, dan depresi. Pesan moral yang disampaikan oleh film ini adalah sebagai berikut: kesetaraan ras manusia, pentingnya kesehatan mental, dan solidaritas atau saling menghormati. Studi ini mengungkapkan bahwa rasisme dalam film Django Unchained dapat terjadi di mana saja dan kapan saja, dan bahwa saat ini ada banyak kasus rasisme di banyak negara.

Kata Kunci: rasisme, analisis karakter, film, sastra

I. INTRODUCTION

Racism is a belief system or doctrine that states biological differences in which people place characteristics such as skin color, hair type, face shape, and eye shape. It is also the belief that humans are divided into different groups based on genetic physical and behavioral differences. It is an organized social system in which the dominant racial group based on an ideology of inferiority, skin color, body physique, religion, morality, cultural features, and other behaviors, usually minorities who are victims of racism, can be said to be the one big problem in human life and has a negative impact on the people (Maher & Parker, 2018), (Williams et al., 2004). In addition, it impacts on people's daily lives because it exposes them to discrimination, violence, and limitations with others (Bowden & Buie, 2021). Additionally, those who receive racism treatment may experience stress and mental health problems; the majority of those affected are children and adolescents (Trent et al., 2019), (Varzally, 2017), (Ali et al., 2021).

Seeing racism as a culture comes from western society is not surprised if racism is often shown through the media, one of them is Hollywood movie, in some Hollywood movies a lot of racist scenes and one thing that cannot be example because simply by watching the movie, audience can be affected by what they see. This study employs the movie as one of the primary data, especially from Django Unchained movie. A movie is an audio-visual communication medium in which actors and actresses perform elements of a story in the form of imagination, and it is also a research tool from the literature. Many people enjoy movies; it is a good art form in which there is a story and the cast acts out an imaginary story, and it is a tool for conveying a moral message that is very simple for the audience to understand (Hung & Guan, 2020). In a movie, there are characters which are an intrinsic element in movies; they are important because they build the stories so that the audience understands how the storyline of a movie works; there are two or more characters in the movie (Bennett & Royle, 2016),(Stobaugh, 2013). Character is a narrative and storytelling constructs which refers to those figures (humans, animals, communities, animate objects) that play specific roles in a story and are designated by specific terms that donate characteristic traits. It means that character is not only possessed by humans but all animate objects, have different characteristics and certain role (Williamson, 2015), (Rahmah et al., n.d.2021).

The writers chose the title "The Racism Resistance in Django Unchained Movie" for this study because the writers still see cases where many people experience racism and it is difficult to understand these actions, which can have a negative impact on the perpetrators and victims, as well as those around them. Racist acts often make a person feel different from others, which can lead to depression. This is a classic problem that arises in society as a result of the stigma of society that is the majority against the minority population in the environment and the country. As a result, the

writers chose the film *Django Unchained* to provide education and fight racist acts. But the focus of the study was to discover the types of racism and the impact of racism.

II. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This study employs descriptive qualitative methods as the writer's method for completing and analyzing the research; thus, the writing employs primary data from the original *Django Unchained* movie. Qualitative work in natural language, work with a small sample size, and work that is frequently focused on specific individuals, events, or contexts, lending itself to an idiographic style of analysis (Crowther & Lauesen, 2017). The main source of information used by the writers was dialogue and scenes from the film *Django Unchained*. To complete the data and information in this paper, the writer employs several procedures, including:

1. Watch *Django Unchained* movie repeatedly in order to find the main points as a process of solving the problem that will be discussed.
2. Complete the data by using theory from reference journals, books, and internet sources as the analysis to process of this research.
3. Analyze the movie's scene, dialogues, time, and location as the final procedure

III. DISCUSSION

In the discussion part about types of racism and impact of racism in *Django Unchained* movie, the writers used the theory from (Belgrave, F & Allison, 2018). The writers found three types of racists in *Django Unchained* movie such as Individual-Racism level, and Cultural Racism. Below are the explanation about types of the racism in *Django Unchained* movie:

1. Individual-Racism Level



Figure 3. 1 Mr. Bennet do not accept slaves riding horses
(At Gatlinburg plantation Mr. Bennet house, 0:28:45-0:29:30)

Mr. Bennet : "It is against at the law of niggers to ride horses in this territory."
Schultz : "This is my valet; my valet does not walk."

Mr. Bennet : “I said niggers on horses...”
 Schultz : “His name is Django; he is free man. He can ride what he please.”
 Mr. Bennet : “Not on my property, not around my niggers, he can’t.”

In this scene, Django and Schultz come to a garden in Gatlinburg where the owner of the garden named John “Big Daddy” Bennet strictly forbids black people to act like white people, Mr. Bennet asks Django not to ride his horse but to walk and is denied by Schultz that Django is his valet and he is a freeman unlike other black people. Django rides a horse when Schultz’s request because Schultz valet is doesn’t walk.



Figure 3. 2 Where Django gets Ridiculed by white people
 (At around plantation, 01:14:00-01:15:07)

White People : “The name of the game is keep up, not catch up, nigger.”
 Django : “Touch your guns, you die.”
 Candie : “everybody calms down, now I saw the whole thing, no harm done.”
 White people : “Are you kidding me? This nigger just--.”
 Candie : “I said no harm done! Now take your hand of your pistol. Butch, that’s mean you too. Everybody stops antagonizing my guest.
 White people : “Oh, now you are one lucky nigger.”
 Django : “Better listen to your boss, white boy”
 White people : “I’m gonna go walking in the moonlight with you”
 Django : “you wanna hold my hand?”
 White people : “(Laugh)”

The scene occurred while on the way to the Candie’s house, one of the white’s from the Candie group was mocking Django, Django was not happy with the white man’s words, Django pulled the white man from his horse and broke his collarbone. The others immediately grabbed a gun but were quickly defeated by Django, Django has pointed his gun at one of the white man, Candie immediately intervened and blocked his men to point the gun at the Django, he ordered his mend to respect his guest, and ordered his man that broke it’s collarbone got on his horse and continue a journey.



Figure 3. 3 Stephen tries to understand why Django on the horse
(At Candie House, 01:28:26-01:29:30)

- Stephen : "Who this nigger up on that nag?"
 Django : "Hey, Snowball? Wanna know my name or the name of my horse you ask me."
 Stephen : "Just who the hell you calling snowball, horse boy? I will snatch your black *** of that nag so fast, make your head spin"
 Candie : "Stephen, Stephen, Stephen, Let's keep it funny Django here is a free man
 Stephen : "This nigger here?"
 Candie : "That nigger there, let me at least introduce the two of you. Django, this is another cheeky black bugger like yourself, Stephen. Stephen, this here is Django you two ought to hate each other.
 Stephen : "Calvin, just who the hell is this nigger you feels the need to entertain?"
 Candie : "Django and his friend in grey here Dr. Schultz, are customers. And they are our guests Stephen. And you, you old decrepit bastard, ought to show them hospitality."

This is scene when Django and Schultz arrive at Candie's house in the middle of his very large garden, then the Candie's waiter named Stephen ask who the black man riding the horse is, he doesn't accept it because no black people have ridden horses before and Candie asks Stephen to serve Django like other white people not as black slaves, because Django freeman he and Schultz are our customers who want to buy Candie's slave. However, Stephen felt disapproved of Candie's request forcing him to serve Django like white person. Finally, he was forced to serve Django because of his boss request with many questions in his mind as to who is black man.

From those three scenes and dialogues above, it can be proof that individual racism level appears here. In other words, individual racism means overt and direct forms of racism in which individuals hold extreme prejudices and act discriminatorily.

2. Cultural Racism

According to (Belgrave, F & Allison, 2018), Cultural Racism is seen the assumed superiority of language or dialect, values, belief, word views and cultural artifacts dominant in society. In the

Django Unchained movie also found several scenes that refer to cultural racism. Here is the explanation:



Figure 3. 4 Doctor and white girls confused to see black people riding horse
(At Daughtrey, Texas, 00:13:30-00:13:47)

Doctor : "All right now, I'd like you to take two of these tonight and then the morning"
 White girl : "All right"
 Doctor : "that's a nigger on a horse"

Based on this scene a doctor and white girl are talking and when they see Django riding horse, they feel confused, because at that time it was a period of black slavery where the culture of white, black were made slaves, they could not ride horses unless they were freeman. Being freeman means not making him a slave and not having a boss, not many black people at that time were free, because white culture still considered black people to be a slave and not the same as descendants of white people usually.



Figure 3. 5 While watching Mandigo Fight, Fred vs Luigi.
(At the Cleopatra club, 01:05:30-01:06:22)

Candie : "Use your weigh, boy use your weight, there you go"
 French man : "He much bigger and stronger!"
 Candie : "He is not doing what I told him, for God's sakes"
 French man : "Bravo, Bravo, Bravo"
 Candie : "Come on now boy, it is fight to the death"

French man : “Use your strength!”
 Candie : “Blind him black, boy! Blind him black! Finish him boy finish him”
 Moguy : “That’s why they call him big fred. Worth every penny.”

In this scene, they are watching Mandigo fight. It is a gaming culture created by white people, with the stakes being that black slaves are used as tools as fighters. The Mandigo fight is used as a culture to show which slaves are the strongest during the fight. The rule for this fight is fight until death, and the slave who wins will be given a decent life as a white man, but his status as a slave will be maintained for the Mandigo fight. The image above depicts Candie and his business partner, a Frenchman, betting on the Mandigo fight. The arrival of Schultz and Django to buy Candie's strongest Mandigo fight slave, which was offered for \$12,000, with the goal of attracting Candie's attention and meeting Django's wife, who was at Candie's house.



Figure 3. 6 French man insults Django is assumed he can't spell his name
 (At Cleopatra club, 01:07:40-01:01:08:04)

French man : “What’s your name?”
 Django : “Django”
 French man : “can you spell it?”
 Django : “D-J-A-N-G-O. The D is silent.”
 French man : “I know”

Django was taken in by a Frenchman after he finished watching the Mandigo fight. The man was confused to see Django because there were no black people drinking in the bar. The Frenchman questioned about his name and asked him to spell it. This is because white people believe that black people do not have an educated culture, as a result of which the average black person cannot read and does not receive a proper education.

After conducting research on the type of racism, then the writers looked into the impact of racism in this movie. The writers found several racism impacts include:

1. Afraid



Figure 3. 7 Slaves shock when meet new people
(At somewhere in Texas, 00:05:05-00:05:29)

Slaves in the image above are taken aback when they meet new people, particularly white ones. When they meet new individuals, they are terrified and have negative thoughts because they are always made slaves and treated badly. When they performed something that was not in accordance with the boss's wishes, they were lashed, gazed up in underground barrels, and spat upon, instilling terror in the slaves. Each slave has a distinct past boss, and the boss's behavior toward them differs, as does the slave's life experience. In a nutshell, racism has an influence on individual slaves by causing them to develop a deep sense of fear or afraid that impacts their daily life.

2. Vengeance



Figure 3. 8 Django shoot Rogger brittle

This scene depicts Django exacting vengeance on the Carrucan plantation gardeners who had previously tortured Django and his wife Broom Hilda. Big John, Roger brittle, and Elis brittle were the three gardeners that used to abuse Django. This trio of gardeners is well-known for torturing slaves. Those who create Django are vengeful, as shown in this scenario. Whipping, hanging, and other forms of torture that Django and his wife endure are marked with the letter "R" on their right cheeks and sold for a low price to anyone interested.

3. Anger



Figure 3. 9 Django angry with slave

(At Around plantation Candie, 01:16:07-01:16:30)

Django : “You got a problem with your eyeball, boy?”

Slave : “No sir”

Django : “You want a boot heel in it?”

Slave : “No sir”

Django : “Then you keep your goddamn eyeballs of me, flash that look at me again, I’ll give you a reason not to like me”

Django appears to be angry at the slaves who are observing him. Django fights back his anger when he realizes that his wife, Broom Hilda is a slave on the sugar land plantation in this picture. It reminded him of a time when he was a slave being tortured by his boss.

4. Depression



Figure 3. 10 Broom Hilda was depressed

(At Candie house, 02:34.02-02:32:10)

This scene represents Broom Hilda going through a series of events that cause her to become depressed. Her boss treats her with racism. She is mistreated not only by her boss, but also by others. Broom Hilda is frequently punished and imprisoned in an underground barrel because she wishes to flee. The desire to escape stems from bad treatment.

IV. CONCLUSION

Based on the discussion above, the writers found that there are two types of racism that are mostly found in Django Unchained movie based on the theory from (Belgrave, F & Allison, 2018). They are individual-level racism and cultural racism. Indicators of individual-level racism are manifested as prejudice, bias, or discrimination between two or more people. An example of individual-level racism in Django Unchained movie would be when Bennet strictly forbids black people to act like white people, Mr. Bennet asks Django not to ride his horse but to walk. Another type of racism that has been discovered is cultural racism. It manifests itself in society when different ethnic and racial groups believe they are superior to others. To put it another way, cultural racism discriminates against specific languages, customs, cultural traditions, or people. Cultural racism is also appearing in some scenes in the Django Unchained movie. The research also revealed information about the impacts of racism on main characters, such as fear, anger, vengeance, and depression.

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