

Racism In *Mississippi Burning* Film

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ABSTRACT

The purpose of this research is to reveal what happened toward black people in Mississippi in 19th century, the researcher used qualitative research and mimetic approach to analyse this research. The researcher used Jones theory about levels of racism and effects of racism. The researcher found there are three levels of racism in the film: institutionalized racism, personally mediated racism and internalized racism. And the researcher also found positive and negative effects of racism, positive effect: motivation and feeling responsible and negative effects: disfavour society and violence. Yet, inferiority complex is not found in this research. This research is expected to provide deeper understanding to the readers about racial issue and this research will also raise awareness about racial issue.

Keywords: *Mississippi Burning* film, levels of racism, effects of racism.

ABSTRAK

Tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu untuk mengungkapkan apa yang terjadi pada masyarakat kuli hitam di Mississippi pada abad ke 19, peneliti menggunakan metode penelitian kualitatif dan pendekatan mimetik untuk melakukan penelitian ini dengan menggunakan teori tingkatan rasisme dan efek dari rasisme. Peneliti menemukan ada tiga tingkatan rasisme dalam film: rasisme institusional, rasisme pribadi dan rasisme internal. Dan peneliti juga menemukan efek positif dan negatif dari rasisme itu, efek positifnya yaitu: termotivasi dan merasa bertanggung jawab dan efek negatifnya yaitu: tidak disukai oleh masyarakat dan kekerasan. Tetapi, rasa rendah diri tidak ditemukan dalam penelitian ini. Penelitian ini diharapkan bisa memberikan pemahaman lebih kepada pembaca mengenai isu rasisme dan penelitian ini juga bisa membangkitkan kesadaran pembaca mengenai isu rasisme.

Kata kunci: *film Mississippi Burning, tingkatan rasisme, efek rasisme.*

A. INTRODUCTION

Literary works appear in any form, one of the literary works is a film. Film is one of the audiovisual mass media. It is a series of motion images with sounds and colors. Film is a part of media that remains quite capable of either producing worthy products or pondering society's worst, desires, prejudices, and stereotypes (Campbell, Martin, and Fabos, 8). The film has become the device to express feelings by using audiovisual, and film can become mass media and a tool of entertainment but at the same time, it has become a means to learn and understand things that happened in the past such as history and biography.

According to Smedley, racism refers to the action, practice, or belief that humans are divided according to their races. Further, there is a causal link between inherited physical

traits and traits of personality which made some races were treated deferentially because of the superior sentiment to others. Racism can be concluded as the ideology where one group is superior to the others. Many films portray racism one of them is *Mississippi Burning*, this film based on true story about the racism issue that happen to African American, the film showed struggle of African American characters in Mississippi at 19th century that is why the researcher interested to analyzing this film, the researcher wants to explore the levels of racism and also the effects of racism that happened to African American characters depicted in the film.

B. REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

1. Film as Literary Work

According to Turner, the film has become popular art recently because it has pleasure in familiarizing, recognizing, and relishing their repetition and statement (100). It means that a film can express and visualize a story in literary work clearly because it has audio and video which can help the people understand what the point is conveyed by the literary text. Klarer also stated that "Film is predetermined by literary techniques; conversely, a literary practice developed particular features under the impact of the film" and "film also can be analyzed by using literary criticism" (56-57). Based on the explanation before, the researcher can get the correlation between a film and literature. Literature is reflection and images of society. From the film, the audience can see what is happening in society any particular time by seeing the atmosphere that the director tries to build in the film through the movements, dialogues, and events.

2. Intrinsic Element of Film

Intrinsic elements are the element that build the literary work, there are only three elements that are used in this research which are character, characterization, and setting.

A. Character and Characterization

In a literary work, a character has an important role to deliver the storyline to the audience. It could be categorized into minor characters (antagonist) and major characters (protagonist). An antagonist is a type of character who is considered to evil or has bad traits, antagonist character is the opposite of the protagonist character. The protagonist character is considered as a good heart and has nice traits and usually, the protagonist is the main character in the story. To understand the characters we have to know characterization. There are two characterizations which are directly (explicit) and indirectly (implicit) characterization. Explicit Characterization takes a direct approach to build the character, for instance, using another character, narrator, or protagonist to tell the audience. However, implicit characterization invites the audience to try to know the character by observing the character's thought process, behavior, body language, speech, the way of communication to the other characters, and their response to another character.

B. Setting

Timmer and Jennings stated that "Setting is the time, place on social reality within which a story takes place. The setting seems to be an insignificant element in the same stories; they could take place just as well at any time or place in other stones. Most the setting is more important. We have to understand where the character is, at which level in that society if we interpret correctly the other element in the story (4).

Setting place is meant as an explanation about where the events in the story take place. Setting of time means everything about the time or age of events in the story, and social

setting means about the social condition of a social group. Hence, the setting of time is employed by the researcher to delineate further and understand deeper how the black characters were treated during one particular time in some specific contexts in the film.

3. Racism

According to Tyson, "Racism is the oppression of individuals or groups based on the race. Racism can happen in many aspects including economic, political, social, or psychological. Racism is the myth or the belief that oppressed race is inferior to the "dominant" race" (211). Basically, people in dominant races are expected to be superior, while minorities are thought to be inferior. These dominant races will hate and avoid certain groups of people that belong to different races. According to Jones, the term racism is divided into three different levels there are institutionalized racism, personally mediated racism, and internalized racism. And each level will be explained below;

A. Institutionalized Racism

According to Jones, "Institutionalized racism manifests itself both in material condition and in access to power. Concerning material conditions, examples include differential access to quality education, sound housing, gainful employment, appropriate medical facilities, and a clean environment. About access to power, examples include differential access to information (including one's history), resources (including wealth and organizational infrastructure), voice (including voting rights, representation in government, and control of the media)" (1212).

B. Personally Mediated Racism

According to Jones, "Personally mediated racism is defined as prejudice and discrimination, where prejudice means differential assumptions about the abilities, motives, and intentions of others according to their race, and discrimination means differential actions toward others according to their race" (1213).

C. Internalized Racism

According to Jones, Internalized racism "defined as acceptance by members of the stigmatized races of negative messages about their abilities and intrinsic worth. It is characterized by their not believing in others who look like them, and not believing in themselves" (Jones 1213).

4. Effects of Racism

A. Positive Effect

1) Motivation and Feeling Responsibility

The positive effect of being the victim of racism makes them feel motivated and responsible to make sure other people do not experience racism anymore. As quoted in the essay Effects of Racial Discrimination on Society 'the racial discrimination forces the victim to carry the responsibilities for the benefits of the upcoming generation.'

2) Fights for Equal Rights

When the victim often got racism or unequal treatment from white people that makes them have the courage to fight for their right to protect their generation from racism so that their generation would have the same rights, same chance, the same sound as the white people. The issue came along with the colored people feeling that they need to take action in taking their rights back. And also to make changes and to end the discrimination that has been experienced by colored people.

B. Negative Effect

1) Disfavour the Society

Based on the essay entitled Effects of Racial Discrimination on Society, racism could disfavour society because it can be affected the victim's health status. Racial discrimination adds to the costs of a country's non-dominant population by establishing a "stigma of inferiority" that has a negative impact on health through limiting socioeconomic prospects and mobility. It means, racism causes disfavor society because it can be effected to the victim's mental health because racism causes trauma and trauma paints a direct line to mental illnesses and depression which need to be taken seriously.

2) Violence

Violence became a big negative effect of racism which causes an affliction to its victim. Violence could be a tool for oppressing and dominating individuals who are perceived to be weak and powerless. Racial violence is a type of violence that is driven by issues of race, ethnicity, and nationality. Racial violence comes from the assumption of superiority which is deemed that another person is inferior because of their identity, ethnicity, or race and because of their appearance and physical characteristic such as skin color. There are four types of violence: 1) physical violence, 2) sexual violence, 3) psychological violence, 4) spiritual violence.

3) Inferiority Complex

As quoted by Wits in Effects of Racial Discrimination on Society "The building up of inferiority complex results in conflicts where it develops hate among different racial circles which limits the sharing of ideas between colleagues of different races". Inferiority complex is a psychological condition in the subconscious nature levels when a person or race feels inferior, weak, or lower than others. Or when he felt insufficient for a standard in a system and it shows how inferiority complex affects the victim of racism.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used qualitative research methodology to conduct this research because the data is written in words or images rather than number. According to Moriarty "Qualitative research is concerned with the developing explanation of social phenomena. So that, it aims to help us understand the world in which we live and why things are the way they are stated" (6). Qualitative research is used to show and help the other researcher to see the social phenomenon which is racism that is reflected in the literary work. According to Potolsky, mimesis can be said an imitation of reality such as nature, truth, beauty, mannerism, actions, or person. The word has been used to describe the relationship between art and life (1). The researcher used a mimetic approach to analyze the research because the mimetic approach can be represented real human life in literary works. Using a mimetic approach, the film actually portrays the real situation at the time when racism has been practiced as portrayed in the *Mississippi Burning* film.

1. Data and Data Source

The data was taken from all the events that depicted the racism and also supported with conversation and screenshots from the film. The source of the data are the literary itself which is the *Mississippi Burning* film.

2. Data Collection

According to Marshall (97) in "*Designing Qualitative Research*" book, data collection methods usually rely on four methods, namely; 1) Participating on setting, 2) Directly observing, 3) In-depth interviewing, 4) Analyzing documents and material culture.

Based on Marshall's theory, the researcher did a direct observation and analyzed the document to understand the racism which was presented in the film. The direct observation in this instance is by watching the film repetitively. While the document analysis is done by reading the subtitles and the transcript of the film.

3. Data Analysis

In this section the researcher did several steps to analyze the data: 1) After the researcher watched the film, the researcher start analyzing the *Mississippi Burning* film used theory level of racism and effect of racism. 2) The researcher checked all the notes that have collected before and focus to the information that could help the researcher to answer the research question. 3) The researcher categorized the data that include the level of racism and the effect of racism depicted in the film. 4) The researcher selected the specific data according to levels of racism that related to the real condition at that time and also the effect of racism on the victim. 5) The last step, the researcher drew the conclusion.

D. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1. Findings

A. Levels of Racism

a. Institutionalized Racism

Data 1

According to Jones institutionalized racism is discriminatory treatment toward certain races made by the institution for example inequality of public facilities, quality of education, medical facilities, voting rights, etc (1212). Based on Jones's statement about institutionalized racism, relate to the film because this film showed social inequality between white people and black people (African American) that lived in Mississippi, America which took place in the 1960s. At the beginning of the film there were basins that located in front of the institutions office, two basins were marked as white and colored with different qualities.



Figure 1. Representation of basin in Mississippi/(00:00:58-00:01:04/*Mississippi Burning*)

The quality of the colored basin was shown not as good as white people, the white basin looked more decent, clean, and updated. While the black basin looked old, and dirty. The quality of each basin can be seen in the film from the water that came out from each basin. The different quality of public facilities such as basin reflects how the institution treated African American people in Mississippi differently. This depiction is in line with what Jones (1212) stated about institutionalized racism, the black and white people are distinguished by the institution which legalizes the distinctions of public facilities. Further, in the film shown that the house of black people are located far away from white people, the houses of the white people look clean and near to the street but the black people houses look dirty and old in the alleys. Also the difference materials of house seen in the film, the

materials house of white people used concrete/brick but the materials house of black people used basic woods.

Data 2

Mr. Ward : **“The civil rights boys came to propose setting up a voter registration clinic. Before the locals got a chance to say yes, the Klan burned 'em down”**

Mr. Anderson : **“You give a man a vote but he can't use it”.**

Mr. Ward : **“Yeah, that's the way it works”.**

Mr. Anderson : **“What did their office in Rossville say?**

Mr. Ward : **“That the boys came back here to apologize to the congregation.”**

Mr. Anderson : **“Sorry you folks didn't get to vote.” “I suppose most of you never knew you even had one.”** (00:16:42-00:17:06/*Mississippi Burning*)

Another institutionalized racism shown at the conversation between FBI agents; Mr. Ward and Mr. Anderson, they talked about the racism history that ever happen in Mississippi. They both know that in Mississippi racism had happened so long, but in Mississippi racism became a common thing because black people's rights are usually not protected by the law.

Data 3

Frank : **“All I know is we got 5,000 niggers in this county who ain't registered to vote yet. And, as far as I'm concerned, they never will. So tell your stiff suits up in Washington, DC, they ain't gonna change us one bit. Unless it's over my dead body. Or a lot of dead niggers”.**

Anderson : **“You'd kill, Frank? Is that what you're sayin'?”**

Frank : **“I wouldn't give it no more thought than wringin' a cat's neck. And there ain't a court in Mississippi that'd convict me for it”.** (01:00:25-01:00:57/*Mississippi Burning*).

Above was a conversation between a cop in Mississippi with the FBI agent, the cops emphasize Anderson about voting rights toward black people in the country the fact was African Americans in the country did not have voting rights for a long time.

Data 4

Moreover, the researcher also found the racism that happens to the black people in Mississippi. It was about the difference cemetery between white and black people in the country they always had different treatment under the law. As the Eulogist said below:

Eulogist : **“.... But the state of Mississippi won't even allow these white boys to be buried in the same cemetery as this Negro boy. What is an "inalienable right" if you are a Negro? What does it mean, "equal treatment under the law"? What does it mean, "Liberty and justice for all"?”** (01:37:12-01:38:42/*Mississippi Burning*)

Based on several events that the researcher had explained above, the first level of racism which institutionalized racism was depicted in the *Mississippi Burning* film. Black people in Mississippi were struggling with the ordinance of the law, they were treated differently, they did not have voting rights, they often got segregation by the law, and they did not have the same opportunities as others because of their skin color.

b. Personally Mediated Racism

Data 1

Personally mediated racism is a level of racism that happens when the other race had stereotypes and discrimination toward a certain race because of their personal belief about

physical appearance or color of skin. In *Mississippi Burning* film, the researcher found there were several scenes in the film that contained the second level of racism which is personally mediated racism with using the idea of Jones, and explain as follows:

Clayton Townley : **“Communities in which Negroes run riot, unrestrained and unpunished...”** (01:27:34-01:27:43/*Mississippi Burning*)

In Clayton Townley’s speech, the researcher found that there was a sentence that indicated personally mediated racism in the political meeting that they have been done. Townley described the communities of black people as bad communities and Townley also influenced the audience in the meeting to have the same thought with him about the bad image of black people communities.

Data 2

Reporter : “How are Negroes treated in Mississippi?”

Interviewee : “They're treated about fair.”

Interviewee : “About as good as they oughta be.”

Interviewee : **“The niggers around here have been treated awful bad for a long time”.**

Interviewee : “I think Martin Luther King's one of the leaders. **I mean, Edgar Hoover said that he was a communist** and they had proof to that effect. But I don't know that for sure. I hadn't seen it myself, but that's what they say.

Reporter : “Hey, you really wanna find that nigger?”

Interviewee : **“They say we've got to eat together and use the same bathroom as the niggers. And that's awful hard for some Mississippi folks to do. They're not like us. They don't take baths. They stink, they... they're nasty, they're just not like white people.”** (00:54:26-00:55:24/*Mississippi Burning*)

One of the interviewees had done bad stereotypes about black people, she describes black people as stink and nasty people. Actually the film depicted many white people doing the same thing as the interviewees did, they even discriminated against black people.

Data 3

Next is the scene when the cops kill the three civil workers named James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Micheal Schwerner, there were cops that forced to stop the car of three civil workers when they were on the way to return home after work, actually they could continue their way to go home but they had to stop because the people who tried to stop their car were police and when they stopped the car suddenly the police shot them all just because they saw that there was a black Americans in the car and the police assumed that the two people in the car were nigger lover. Before the police started shooting, they even yelled at those three workers and said something bad to three of them.



Figure 5 (00:07:55/*Mississippi Buning* Film)

The cop : **“Hell, you even startin' to smell like a nigger, Jew-boy”**

Civil workers : “Take it easy. We'll be all right.”

The cop : “Sure you will, **nigger-lover**, ... Oh, it don't make no difference no more.”

The cop : “Whoa, shit! We into it now, boys.”

The cop : “**You only left me a nigger, but at least I shot me a nigger.**” (00:07:39-00:08:02/*Mississippi Burning*)

After they shot the civil workers, they buried the corpse on the earthen dam on the farm with a bulldozer and also pushed the car to the lake. The murder of three civil workers reflects the internalized racism because the action that had done by the cops based on their self and there is no directive from their boss to shot the civil workers, even though they were wearing police uniform. But racism in Mississippi was still done by white people, they still terrorize and bully all the black people to cover the case. Though there was an effort done by the FBI, the people who worked in the police station did the same thing, their hatred for the African American people was showed vividly which led them to keep treating all the black people to shut up and give no further information to the FBI agents if they said something they would get terror until their houses were burned by the Ku Klux Klan. Ku Klux Klan was a group made by white people in Mississippi. In addition, this group was backed up by the police to terrorize and bully the black people who tried to speak up to the FBI agents. Sometimes police in Mississippi became the Ku Klux Klan and terror the black people by wearing masks on their faces.



Figure 6&Figure 7

Representation of The Ku Klux Klan group in Mississippi/(00-52:29-00:52:40 *Mississippi Burning* film)

Several event above was in line with the idea of Jones (1212) “Personally mediated racism is defined as prejudice and discrimination, where prejudice means differential assumptions about the abilities, motives, and intentions of the others according to their race, and discrimination means differential actions toward others according to their race”. The researcher found that the *Mississippi Burning* film contained the second level of racism which was personally mediated racism. It was seen by the way white people treated black people, they did stereotype and also discriminated the black people because they thought they were better human beings than black people.

c. Internalized Racism

Data 1

The third level of racism depicted in the film was internalized racism, this kind of racism happened when the victim of racist action had a crisis of personal beliefs about their ability because they accepted what society had assumed about them. If the minority group often got racial treatment, the racist action could make them have low self-esteem, how the

dominant group treated them was impacted their confidence, it could bring out self-hatred to them. The researcher found there was a scene in the film that supported the internalized racism, first is when the colored people make a distance from the white people, as seen when the white people accosted them, they would stay away.



Figure 8&9 (00:16:23-00:16:26/*Mississippi Burning* Film)

Based on action that happen in the restaurant above the researcher found that internalized racism depicted in the film. It is related to the ideas of Jones (1213) internalized racism is defined as acceptance by members of the stigmatized races of negative messages about their abilities and intrinsic word. They were not believing themselves.

B. Effects of Racism

a. Positive Effects

1. Motivation and feeling Responsibility

The first was a positive effect of being a victim of racism, the victim would feel motivated and responsible to protect their generation, and make sure that their generation would not experience the same thing as them. In the *Mississippi Burning* film, the researcher found some scenes that showed motivation and feelings of responsibility that had been done by black people.

Data 1

The first was the action that had been done by one of the black kids called Aaron who persuades his brother named Willie to talk to an FBI agent about the burning house that had been done by white people as an action to terror the owner of the house even though they knew that whoever would get terror when they courage to talk about racism and everything about the crime that happens in the country, but they were still doing it because deep down they still want the racist and terror gone from their country.

Aaron : **It's OK to be afraid. Go on, Willie. Tell 'em what you saw.** (01:17:02/*Mississippi Burning*)

Data 2

Also as Eulogist said in his speech, he influenced the black people in the church to have the same motivation as him, to feel the way that he felt about the crime that usually happened to them caused by white people.

Eulogist : **.... I say I have no more love to give. I have only anger in my heart today, and I want you to be angry with me! Now, I am sick and I am tired, and I want you to be sick and tired with me! I... I... I am sick and tired of going to the funerals....of black men who have been murdered by white men! I... I am sick and tired of the people of this country.....** (01:37:12-01:38:42/*Mississippi Burning*)

Based on several events above, racism could bring positive effects to the black people in Mississippi. They are motivated to collect their bravery and courage to protect their generation, they did not just sit and accept everything that the white people had done. Even

though it was hard to be brave and resist as a minority besides that, they realized that they still had the power and chance to break the stigma that society had given to them.

2. Fights for Equal Rights

The action that they do to fight racism was doing a parade, in doing the parade they were hopeful that the government could see their voice about freedom and equal treatment and change between black and white people in the country. The researcher presented the situation in the film as below:

Data 1



Figure 11&12 Parade in Mississippi(01:03:28-01:03:46/*Mississippi Burning* film)

Crowd : **Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!**
Freedom! Freedom! Freedom!

Man : **Are you willing to stand and fight?**

Crowd : **YES!** (01:03:28-01:05:45/*Mississippi Burning*)

The parade depicted in the film as above showed that the racism that they felt so far could bring a positive effect to them.

b. Negatives Effects

1. Disfavour the Society

Data 1

The first negative effect of racism was disfavour society. Racism caused disfavor to society because racist actions could affect victims' mental health. Such as when the victim got discrimination, bullying, wickedness, etc, the action bothers their mental health a lot. As the researcher found in the *Mississippi Burning* film, there was a scene that appeared in the film about one of the victims of racism got trauma because he had become the victim of violence that had done by white people until he did not want to talk with anybody including his family and not only the victim that got trauma but also the family to.

Mr. Ward : "Mrs Walker, I know this is difficult for you, but I really need your help. If you could just persuade your son to press charges, then we could pick up the deputy at least, right away."

Mrs. Walker : "**He won't talk to no one.** And it won't do no good anyway."

Mr. Ward : "I promise you, it will."

Mr. Walker : "Leave him alone. Maybe then they'll let us alone."

(01:09:39-01:10:03/ *Mississippi Burning*)

Based on the conversation that appears in the film above, the researcher found that becoming a victim of racism made them feel traumatic such as what was felt by Mr. Walker's

child. The child had got bullied by members of the Ku Klux Klan, and the bullying had affected his mental health. The effect was also felt by Mr. and Mrs. Walker as a family.

2. Violence

a) Physical violence

Data 1

The researcher found the first violence depicted in the film was at the beginning of the film showed a scene that where were murders of three civil workers named James Chaney, Andrew Goodman, and Micheal Schwerner, the murder was motivated by a racist. Because they saw that there was a black man in the car and thought that the two white men inside the car were nigger lovers. They shot them all because if they only shoot the black one, the two of his friend would become a witness.



Fig. 13&14 Civil worker murdered by several police officers / (00:19:44-00:19:47 *Mississippi Burning*)

Data 2

The second violence that was depicted in the film was about a young kid named Homer Wilkes who got terror by the Ku Klux Klan, the Ku Klux Klan threaten him to shut up when the federal men asked about the murder and the racism in the country.



Figure 15 Homer Wilkes, violence of racism in Mississippi/(01:09:12-01:09:31 *Mississippi Burning*)

Data 3

Black man : "I'm gonna tell you a story. A young kid named Homer Wilkes lives about 30 miles north of here. He'd just taken his girlfriend home and was walkin' back along the road when a car pulled up. Three white boys took him for a ride. Now he hadn't done anything, except be a Negro. And they took him to a shack. A shack like... like this one. And they took out a razor blade, a regular old razor blade, like this one, and they pulled down his pants and they spread his legs and they sliced off his scrotum. Put it in a coffee cup. And do you know how much you bleed when somebody cuts off your balls? Huh?! When they found Homer, he looked like he'd been dipped in blood up to his waist. He was barely alive when they got him

to the hospital. He can hardly walk
Burning)

now.” (01:40:21-01:42:00/*Mississippi*

Data 4



Figure. 16&17

Aaron, violence of racism/ (00:53:05-00:54:01 Mississippi Burning)

A kid name Aaron became victim of terror that had done by the Ku Klux Klan because they saw the kid talked to the federal men, actually the member of the Ku Klux Klan had attacked all the black people that come out from the church but the Ku Klux Klan sight on to Aaron and threaten him so that he could not tell the federal men about the truth. The threaten as follows:

Klansmen : “You already been told once, nigger. We don't wanna have to tell you again. You make any more trouble by flappin' them boot-lips off to them federal men, we'll sure as hell put you in the ground, boy, and that's without a pine box! You understand me?” (00:53:40-00:53:57/*Mississippi Burning*)

Data 5

After the member of the Ku Klux Klan attacked Aaron in front of the church, his brother named Willie talked to the federal men about the people who had burned the house in front of their house. Actually, Willie was afraid to talk to the federal but Aaron try to persuade Willie to tell the truth because the federal promised to take care of Willie, Willie would be safe with them. But at night, the member of the Ku Klux Klan attacked Aaron's house, they burnt Aaron's house and the animal farm and they also beat his father and hung the father in the tree until the father could not breathe, after the Ku Klux Klan member had gone Aaron saved his father.

Aaron : “Everything's OK, Papa. Momma and the girls are fine. They just cracked your head some. You just keep on breathin'. Don't you go dyin' on me now. You hear me? You gonna be just fine.” (01:23:54-01:24:07/*Mississippi Burning*)



Figure 18&19 The terror action that had done by Ku Klux Klan/*Mississippi Burning* film

Based on the explanation above, the researcher found several events refer to physical violence that often happened toward black people caused by white people in the country. Most of the physical violence was caused by the Ku Klux Klan, the Ku Klux Klan did not want black people to tell the FBI agent the truth about racism in the country, it was the kind of terror to make the black people afraid of them.

b) Psychological violence

Data 1

The dominant race used psychological violence to oppress the victim when practicing racism. The researcher found psychological violence that appears in the *Mississippi Burning* film was when the white people kidnapped one of the black people named Hollis and put him into a cage in the middle of a field, that action makes him feel stupid and worthless and that action effect their psychology.



Figure 20. Representation of psychological violence that happen to Hollis/(00:25:24-00:25:31 *Mississippi Burning*)

In conclusion, racism caused serious effects such as violence. The researcher found that there were two types of violence depicted in the *Mississippi Burning* film which was physical violence and psychological violence. All the violence that appeared in the film was caused by the Ku Klux Klan, all the events that happened because of the hate that was owned by them toward black people, and the action made the black people felt threatened. All the violence was caused by a superior group that deemed the other group was inferior, violence was a method of control and domination of those who were deemed to be inferior and powerless. Ku Klux Klan felt that their group was superior, so they could control everything that they wanted even though their action could harm someone that reputed inferior.

2. DISCUSSION

After conducting this research, the researcher asserted that this research is different from the three previous research even though it employed similar theory. In the *Mississippi Burning* film, the researcher found that there were some racism actions done by white people toward black people. Thus, the researcher concluded that this film portrays vividly the racial actions based on Jones' theory of the levels of racism and the effects of racism. The levels of racism are institutionalized racism, personally mediated racism and internalized racism, while the effects of racism there are positive effects which are motivation and feeling responsible and for negative effects are disfavour society, violence and inferiority complex. But, inferiority complex is not found in this research because this film did not show black characters who felt inferiority complex about the physical abuse toward terror from Ku Klux Klan. Every action involving physical abuse belongs to violence. As for the similarity with the previous research, this research aimed at analyzing the same issue by employing theory of levels of racism and the effects of racism to the black characters. In addition, this research is

able to fill the gap of the previous research by seeing that in this research not all white characters practice racism. There are white characters that did not do racism such as the two FBI agent and Frank Bailey's wife, they tried to help the black characters from racism and they solved the racism problem by investigating the murder case that happened because of racism.

E. CONCLUSION

Based on the previous chapter, the researcher concludes that there were three levels of racism faced by African American society in the *Mississippi Burning* film. The setting in the film was in Jessup Country, Mississippi in the 19th century. The level of racism in the film appeared in the form of institutionalized racism, marked by different treatment toward black people by the government's staff including unequal quality of public facilities and did not have voting rights supported by the institution. Further, personally mediated racism was marked by how the white people in Mississippi treated black people very inhuman based on the bad stereotype that they had toward black people, and internalized racism was marked by the black people in the Mississippi withdrawing themselves from the society and they made a distance to white people. In addition, they also felt the serious effect because of the action. The effects are divided into two kinds, the positive and negative effects. The racism that they felt so far brought them to feel motivated to be responsible and also they were brave to fight for their equal right, they encourage themselves to stand for their race and finish the racism action that tortured their community all the time to have a better future and also to protect their generation from the racism. Also, there are negative effects that the victim felt so far such as disfavour society, and also violence. Racism action is represented clearly in the *Mississippi Burning* film because the film was based on a true event that happened to African American society in that era. But, after all the levels of racism and the effect that happened in the *Mississippi Burning* film, the researcher found that the government in America tried to stop the racism by sending the FBI agent to investigate the murder case and the hatred in Mississippi until the murder case was revealed by the FBI agents and all the perpetrator got punished. As time goes on, the white and black people in Mississippi tried to live together and tried to accept each other's differences.

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