

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter discusses the research context, research focus, research objectives, significance of study, definition of key terms, previous study, and review of related literature.

A. Research Context

Discrimination is a phenomenon that almost happened every years that could be found everywhere including Indonesia. Discrimination can happen to every element of society because of the differences. Factors that are usually the cause of discrimination are gender, religion, ethnicity, ethnicity, skin color and many more. The term discrimination comes from English: discriminate, and was first used in the 17th century. The root of the term comes from the Latin: discriminate. Since the American civil war in the 18th century, the term discrimination has developed as an English vocabulary to describe negative attitudes.¹ According to Banton, discrimination which is defined as different treatment of people belonging to certain categories creates what is called social distance. Meanwhile, Ransford distinguished between individual discrimination and institutional discrimination. Individual discrimination is the act of a prejudiced perpetrator. While institutional discrimination is an act of discrimination that has nothing to do with individual prejudice, but is the impact of certain policies or practices of various institutions in society.²

¹ <http://repository.radenfatah.ac.id>

² Sunarto, Kamanto, *Pengantar Sosiologi*: (JKT: Fakultas Ekonomi Universitas Indonesia, 2004)146

Discrimination, defined as follows: Discrimination is a prejudice or behavior that distinguishes a person only because he or she comes from a social identity (religion, ethnicity, race, gender, sexual orientation). Just because his social identity is different, he is viewed or treated worse. For example, he is prohibited or not given the same legal protection or legal rights as other citizens who come from different social identities.³ Moreover, according to the KBBI, the definition of discrimination is the difference in treatment of fellow citizens based on skin color, class, ethnicity, religion and so on.⁴ Some of them who discriminate do not feel guilty to do it and they think that what they do was a usual thing or even a joke, even though the victim might be depressed with what they got from them. Discrimination is not only happened in real life, there are a lot of movie that discuss about discrimination, one of them are Bomb City movie.

Bomb City is a movie that based on a true story in 1997 when the unlucky tragedy befell a young man from the United States, Brian Deneke. Bomb City is an American crime film directed by Jameson Brooks and written by living witness Jameson Brooks and assisted by Sheldon R. Chick. This film is the first feature film directed by Jameson Brooks. Brooks wrote the script with fellow Amarillo originals, Sheldon Chick, produced the film with Major Dodge. Scenes from this film were taken in Dallas, Amarillo, Rockwall, and Denton, Texas. This film was about Punk's life in Amarillo, Texas in 1997 and how Brian Deneke was killed by a hit with car and the suspect is Cody Cates. In this film, Punk has a bad stereotype to the other people who do not like the way they dress.

³ Denny J.A. *Menjadi Indonesia Tanpa Diskriminasi*, (Jakarta: Inspirasi.co, 2014). Page.6.

⁴ <https://kbbi.web.id/diskriminasi>

Jameson Brooks was influenced by the accident that happened on 6 December 1997 In Amarillo, Texas. Then he made this film and released it on 9 February 2018. This film made a profit of around 59.329 USD. Bomb City itself has won awards as well as multiple awards on International film awards in Dallas International Film Festival (2017) and many others.⁵ There are some previous research that discuss the discrimination in this movie and against punk itself.

It is not a new research discussing about discrimination. One of the previous research is *Representasi Diskriminasi Terhadap Punk* conducted by Romy Yohanis Teru Labu. This study aims to show and analyze the meaning of Denotation, Connotation and Myth as well as to show and analyze the forms of discrimination against punk in the Bomb City film. The type of research used by the researcher is a type of qualitative research using the semiotic analysis method of Roland Barthes which focuses on the idea of two orders of signification. The data collection technique was carried out using the documentation method, namely by collecting data in the form of screenshots of a number of scenes from the Bomb City film.⁶ The next researcher was conduct by Berlin Belmiro Diens and friends entitled *Representasi Ketidakadilan Dalam Film “ Bomb City”*. This research aim to collaborate and explore the injustices presented in the film "Bomb City" based on a true story that tells the social situation between poor punk kids and rugby club children who are considered to have top class socials. This study uses a qualitative approach with the semiotic method of Roland Barthes.

⁵ https://m.imdb.com/title/tt4351548/awards/?ref =tt_awd

⁶ R.Y.T Labu. *Representasi Diskriminasi Terhadap Punk: Analisis Semiotika Roland Barthes Pada Film Bomb City Karya Jameson Brooks*. (2021)

Data analysis in this study began by clarifying the scene in the film Bomb City.⁷ Results of the study show very prominently how discrimination against the punk subculture occurred at that time.

Based on the phenomenon above, the researcher feels interested to study about the discrimination of racism in Bomb City movie. The theory of Thomas Sowell will be used since it has correlation with this research. The researcher intends to conduct a research entitled “*The Discrimination in Bomb City Movie in the Perspective of Thomas Sowell*”.

A. Research Focus

John Craswell stated that research focus deals with the subject discussed by the research.⁸ It can be considered as something would be researched by a researcher. Research problem which represents the problems in the research is another term that could be used. Dealing with this case, the researcher formulates the problems as follows:

1. How the racism happened in Bomb City movie based on Thomas Sowell perspective?
2. What are the factors that influence the discrimination in Bomb City movie ?

B. Research Objective

Research objectives deal with aims that want to be achieved in the research.⁹ Based on the research focus, the research objective involve :

1. To analyze the racism happened in Bomb City movie on Thomas Sowell’s perspective.

⁷ ibid.

⁸ John W. Creswell, *Educational Research: Planning, Conducting and Evaluating Quantitative and Qualitative Research* (Boston: Pearson Education, 2012). Page. 60.

⁹ Tim Penyusun, *Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah*, 2020, 17.

2. To know the factors that influence racism in Bomb City movie on Thomas Sowell's perspective

C. Significance of the Study

Significance of the study discusses the urgency of the research. It can be the theoretical significance which focuses on the development of science. It can also have practical significance as work to solve social problems. Specifically, this section contains reasons for the worthiness of the problem studied.¹⁰ The researcher formulates the significance of the study as follows:

1. Theoretical Significance

The researcher expects this research will be able to give contribution dealing with racism and what are the factors that influence racism in Bomb City movie.

2. Practical Significance

- a. For Readers

This research can be guidance for the readers in improving their understanding dealing with racism and including how the factors that influence racism in Bomb City movie.

- b. For Researcher

This research may lead the researcher to find out the racism by using a film entitled Bomb City related to racism that happened around us.

- c. For Next Researcher

This research may become a guidance or reference for the next researcher who have desire to conduct a research dealing with

¹⁰ Tim Penyusun, *Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah*, 2020, 17.

discrimination and racism.

D. Definition of Key Terms

Key terms refer to some words used as keys of research needed to be explained until there is the same interpretation and avoid inexplicable meaning or ambiguity.¹¹ Thus, the existence of key terms can keep the readers away from ambiguity and even misunderstanding of the words or ideas provided by the researcher.¹² In this case, the researcher provides the key terms as follows:

1. Discrimination is a phenomenon that might happen everywhere. especially in a region with ethnic majority and these issues can happen to everyone even if they are innocent.
2. Bomb City movie is Hollywood movie released in 2017 telling about true story about discrimination that happened in Texas on 1997. This tragedy is a murder to one members of Punk group.
3. Thomas Sowell perspective is theory that dealing with discrimination and racism used in this research.

E. Previous Study

Previous study is crucial to know since it will guide the researcher to determine the position of the research or its differences and similarity with other research conducted in previous time.¹³ In this research, the researcher has some previous study that was already used. The first is *Representasi Diskriminasi Terhadap Punk* conducted by Romy Yohanis Teru Labu. This study aims to show

¹¹ Tim Penyusun, *Pedoman Penulisan Karya Ilmiah*, 2020, 17.

¹² Martyn Denscombe. *Research Proposals: A Practical Guide*. (UK: McGraw-Hill Education, 2012). Page.68.

¹³ Tim Penyusun, *Pedoman Karya Tulis*. Page. 20.

and analyze the meaning of Denotation, Connotation and Myth as well as to show and analyze the forms of discrimination against punk in the Bomb City film. The type of research used by the researcher is a type of qualitative research using the semiotic analysis method of Roland Barthes which focuses on the idea of two orders of signification. The data collection technique was carried out using the documentation method, namely by collecting data in the form of screenshots of a number of scenes from the Bomb City film.¹⁴ The next research was conducted by Berlin Belmiro Diens and friends entitled *Representasi Ketidakadilan Dalam Film "Bomb City"*. This research aims to collaborate and explore the injustices presented in the film "Bomb City" based on a true story that tells the social situation between poor punk kids and rugby club children who are considered to have top class social status. This study uses a qualitative approach with the semiotic method of Roland Barthes. Data analysis in this study began by clarifying the scene in the film Bomb City.¹⁵ So, the similarity of this research with previous research was, using qualitative research, research the same film and looking for injustice or discrimination in the Bomb City film. The difference in this study with previous research conducted by Romy Yohanis Teru Labu, in his research he focused on exploring the meaning of Denotation, Connotation and Myth to show and analyze various kinds of discrimination against punks in the film Bomb City, this study used the method of Roland Barthes. While the difference with the research conducted by Berlin Belmiro Diens, in his research focused on collaborating and exploring the injustices that exist in the Bomb City film based on the social conditions between poor punk kids and rugby club

¹⁴ http://skripsi.undana.ac.id/index.php?p=show_detail&id=2059&keywords=

¹⁵ <http://repository.untag-sby.ac.id/3223/11/Jurnal.pdf>

children who are considered from high social circles and use the method from Roland Barthes.

F. Review of Related Literature

Review of related literature or literature review is important to consider in finding out the theories, concepts, and generalizations which can be used as theoretical basis for a research.¹⁶ In other words, this part involves theoretical description dealing with the object researched.

1. Discrimination

Discrimination usually begins with prejudice, with prejudice we make a difference between ourselves and others. This distinction occurs because we are social beings who naturally want to hang out with people who are similar to us. Prejudice is often based on ignorance, indifference to groups outside the group or fear of differences.¹⁷ Prejudice can be interpreted as a negative attitude towards certain groups or group members without a valid reason. Prejudice which is considered an attitude has two implications, first, attitude is often a function of schema, namely a cognitive framework for organizing, interpreting and recalling information. This means that when an individual is prejudiced, that individual has a tendency to process information that other individuals or groups are different.¹⁸

¹⁶Tim Penyusun. *Pedoman Karya Tulis*. Page. 32.

¹⁷Awan, Ilham, and Muhammad Ali Sodik. "Diskriminasi dan Kesehatan Mental." (2018).

¹⁸ *ibid*.

After there is bad prejudice against a person or group, there will be a discrimination against the person or the group. Thomas Sowell also explain about the discrimination itself.

The main things that Sowell discusses in his book is discrimination. According to Thomas Sowell on his book, discrimination is sorting individuals based on group averages, this is what economists call 'statistical discrimination.' This type of discrimination is used when gathering enough information on an individual's relevant characteristics to rely on Discrimination instead is more costly or even impossible.¹⁹ An observable characteristic such as race might then be used as a proxy for unobservable characteristics of interest (such as productivity) if they are statistically correlated. Finally, Discrimination is what economists refer to as 'taste-based discrimination' or 'animus.'²⁰ The broader meaning an ability to discern differences in the qualities of people and things, and choosing accordingly can be called discrimination. The discrimination that happen in Bomb City movie was discrimination of socioeconomic, this type of discrimination due to socioeconomic status is a form of discrimination that is currently happening at many levels of society. This form of discrimination usually occurs because of the perspective of most people who look down on the status of society between one group and another. Social class is also a measure of how someone is treated, disparities arise in each class which eventually creates certain stereotypes, such as the poor will forever be at the bottom, or the rich for life have the right to live in luxury.²¹ This phenomena was shown on Bomb City, which is

¹⁹Jennifer L Doleac."A Review of Thomas Sowell's: Discrimination and Disparities" (Texas A&M University: Department of Economics, 2020). Page 2.

²⁰ ibid.

²¹ Awan, Ilham, and Muhammad Ali Sodik. "*Diskriminasi dan Kesehatan Mental.*" (2018).

there are lot of disparities and discrimination that happend in the movie.

2. Disparities

Thomas sowell is not only discuss discrimination in his book, but also discuss about disparities and the factors that caused the disparities. The impact of disparities that happen in society does not only happen to individuals, but also happens to a group, ethnic, nations. According to Thomas Sowell, the great disparities in outcomes found in economic and other endeavors need not be due to either comparable disparities in innate capabilities or comparable disparities in the way people are treated by other people.²² The disparities can also reflect the plain fact that success in many kinds of endeavors depends on prerequisites peculiar to each endeavor and a relatively small difference in meeting those prerequisites can mean a very large difference in outcomes.²³ Disparities might happen to anyone, within society there are a lot of aspects that make disparities happen, and of course there will be some impact. There is an impact of racial and ethnic too, in America the biggest impact of disparities to racial and ethnic happened to black people as Thomas Sowell explains. According to Thomas Sowell, In trying to determine the reasons for economic and social disparities between blacks and whites, some observers attribute these differences primarily to policies and practices by people outside the black community, while other observers attribute these same differences to internal differences in behavior between black and white Americans.²⁴

²² Thomas Sowell. *"Discrimination and Disparities"*. (American: Hachette Book Group, 2018). Page 1.

²³ *ibid*.

²⁴ Thomas Sowell, *Discrimination and Disparities*, (American: Hachette Book Group, 2018). Page 100.

One of the example the impact of the disparities is what happens at work, although disparate treatment of individuals, because of the group to which they belong, is what is meant by discrimination.²⁵ Most of what are called “the poor” are not permanent residents in low-income brackets, any more than other people are permanent residents in other income brackets. This process represents a major departure from American legal principles in both criminal and civil cases, where the burden of proof is usually on those making an accusation, rather than expecting the accused to prove their innocence.²⁶

In Bomb City itself, there are disparities of sentencing, and disparities of socioeconomic status are type of disparities that happened in Bomb City movie. Disparities of sentencing is the application of unequal punishments to the same crime or to criminal acts of a dangerous nature which can be compared without a clear justification.²⁷ Without referring to the "legal category", criminal disparities can occur in the punishment of those who commit an offense together.²⁸ According to Thomas Sowell, even though disparate treatment of individuals, because of the group to which they belong, is what is meant by discrimination, this is not always easy to prove in a court of law.²⁹

3. Racism

Discussions and accusations of racism in the popular media typically portray racism in its most obvious and blatant form, within psychology it is considered to be much more complex and multifaceted. Individual bias is just one

²⁵ Thomas Sowell, *Discrimination and Disparities*, (American: Hachette Book Group, 2018). Page 81.

²⁶ *ibid.*

²⁷ Gulo, Nimerudi. "Disparitas dalam penjatuhan pidana." *Masalah-Masalah Hukum* 47.3 (2018). Page 216.

²⁸ *ibid.*

²⁹

aspect, but one that involves several components: prejudice, stereotypes, and discrimination.³⁰

The term discrimination comes from English: discriminate, and was first used in the 17th century. The root of the term comes from the Latin: discriminate. Since the American civil war in the 18th century, the term discrimination has developed as an English vocabulary to describe negative attitudes.³¹ According to Banton, discrimination which is defined as different treatment of people belonging to certain categories creates what is called social distance.

Meanwhile, Ransford distinguished between individual discrimination and institutional discrimination. Individual discrimination is the act of a prejudiced perpetrator. While institutional discrimination is an act of discrimination that has nothing to do with individual prejudice, but is the impact of certain policies or practices of various institutions in society.³²

Racism and discrimination was a phenomenon that almost happened in every region, including Indonesia and one of the biggest phenomena that happened in Indonesia is reforms that happened in 1998. The incident claimed the lives of more than a thousand people of Chinese in Indonesia and damaged thousands of property owned by the Chinese in Indonesia, and more than a hundred women of Chinese were raped in the few days that the tragedy took place. Although other ethnic groups were also victims, the Chinese and non-Chinese communities viewed the tragedy as an ethnic riot.³³

³⁰ Kristin E, etc. *Gaertner "Institutional Discrimination, Individual Racism, and Hurricane Katrina"*. Page. 100.

³¹ <http://repository.radenfatah.ac.id>

³² Sunarto and Kamanto. *Pengantar Sosiologi: Edisi Ketiga*. (Jakarta : Lembaga Penerbit Fakultas Ekonomi Universitas Indonesia, 2004). Page. 146.

³³ Mirah Pertiwi. *"Perkembangan Sentimen anti-Tionghoa di Indonesia"*. Page. 82.

Racism, however it is influenced by some factors and it raises some consequences. They are described as follows:

a. Factors of Racism

Racism does not happen without any reasons, there are several reasons and factors behind this. They are described as follows:

1. Loss of identity. When someone feels they have no identity, they will look for groups that have something in common with them. These similarities can be in the form of race, skin color, ethnicity, and others.
2. Stereotype. Someone who assumes that everyone in a group has the same characteristics, for example, Sundanese must be lazy, black people must be criminals, Batak people are usually rude, and so on.
3. Insecurities that are the cause of racism now make it difficult for them to respect others. Someone in your class may behave well with his fellow members, but he can easily judge people from other groups. Racist people only want to empathize with their group. When dealing with other people, he only saw the differences. This masks other commonalities that could actually unite you with people from other groups.

b. The Impact of Racism

As intolerant behavior, surely racism has a bad impact for those as a suspect and the victims. There are some impacts would be caused by racism, they are as follow :

1. Conflict between the two groups. Many conflicts are created by intolerant people, such as demeaning and insulting other groups. This action creates conflict between those groups.

2. Racism can make the victims feel insecure. Someone who bullies a person who has a disability or someone who is different from him, can cause the victim to feel uncomfortable doing some things in public. Usually this happens to minorities who live in places that contain the majority of a group.
3. Oppression for the benefit of a group. It involves a group of people oppressing another group for their own benefit. This can be intentional or occur systematically because of policies that favor the majority. The most overt forms of oppression include persecution, slavery, violence and so on.

Moreover, intolerant behavior will always happen in every place if we can not try to respect the differences in the human race.

1. Bomb City Movie

Bomb City movie is a Hollywood movie with action, drama, and crime film as its genre. It was released on February 9, 2018. It is produced by living witness Jameson Brooks and assisted by Sheldon R. Chick. This film is the first feature film directed and produced by Jameson Brooks and distributed by Gravitass Venture. With 99 minutes as its duration, this film tells about Punk's life in Amarillo, Texas in 1997. Brian Deneke, one of Punk members and main actor in this film, gets killed by Cody Cates by hitting his car and his friends. Cody Cates himself is a member of one the local high school's football team in Amarillo or as known as "The Preeps". This conflict began when these two groups of youths from different social castes met at one of the restaurants, then some members of The Preeps demeaning Punk's members because their appearance and

social status were far below them. At first Brian Deneke did not respond to the insult, but the members of The Preps did too much. They destroyed the base of punk. In the midst of chaos, Cody Cates arrived with two of his friends who were driving his father's Cadillac. Even though his friends had prevented him, Cody without thinking directly hit Brian's members one by one. Finally, due to Brian being separated from the crowd, Cody immediately focused on chasing Brian at full speed. Unfortunately, he was hit and run over by Cody in an instant. Brian finally breathed his last in a pathetic state.

The film continues with an argument between several witnesses and two lawyers from Brian's family and Cody in court which is shown shortly at the beginning of the film. As judged again, Brian is declared fit to be killed by Cody due to his mistakes in dressing. Killing Brian for Cody's lawyer, is a truth because he was wearing an outfit with the emblem of the album of the American punk band The Filth that read "Destroy Everything". Then continued with the presentation of the facts afterwards, that in 1999 Cody was found not guilty, the jury charged him with involuntary manslaughter. He was sentenced to probation and a fine of 10,000 USD, but the fine was eventually overturned.

This film earned a profit of around \$59.329 USD. Bomb City itself has won awards as well as multiple awards on International film awards in Dallas International Film Festival (2017) and many others.³⁴ This film was a representation about a phenomenon that almost happens in every place like racism, discrimination and injustice especially in the USA.

2. Thomas Sowell Perspective

³⁴ https://m.imdb.com/title/tt4351548/awards/?ref=tt_awd

Thomas Sowell's book, *Discrimination and Disparities*, considers the source of disparities in financial effects, and the role of government in addressing them. His first factor is that not all disparities are because of discrimination a point well supported by economic theory and evidence however frequently a source of confusion in public conversations³⁵. He is going on to provide examples of ways misattributing disparities to discrimination ends in misguided authorities interventions that virtually make things worse, growing disparities where they would intended to decrease them. His conclusion is, essentially, that we must stop looking to intrude in markets we do not absolutely apprehend, and permit the invisible hand of market forces to reduce disparities to green stages in the long run.

Discrimination and Disparities by Thomas Sowell examines the causes of disparities in financial outcomes and the role of government in resolving them. His first argument is that not all differences result from discrimination, a claim that is strongly supported by economic theory and evidence but usually causes confusion in public discourse. He continues by giving examples of how incorrectly attributing differences to discrimination leads to ineffective government responses that essentially make matters worse by increasing disparities where they were intended to diminish them. His main takeaway is that we should stop trying to impose our will on markets that we do not fully understand and instead allow the invisible hand of market forces to eventually bring inequities to a level playing field.

Sowell identifies two different types of discrimination that might produce

³⁵ Jennifer L Doleac. "A Review of Thomas Sowell's: *Discrimination and Disparities*" (Texas A&M University: Department of Economics, 2020). Page.1

unequal results. He focuses primarily on discrimination and disparities related to race. According to Sowell's paradigm, discrimination is the proper grouping of people based on pertinent traits.³⁶ In other words, decisions are based on criteria like education or professional experience. Thus, racial differences in those observable attributes are what cause racial disparities in economic outcomes.

According to Thomas Sowell in his book, discrimination is sorting individuals based on group averages, this is what economists call 'statistical discrimination.' This type of discrimination is used when gathering enough information on an individual's relevant characteristics to rely on Discrimination instead is more costly or even impossible.³⁷ An observable characteristic such as race might then be used as a proxy for unobservable characteristics of interest (such as productivity) if they are statistically correlated. Finally, Discrimination is what economists refer to as 'taste based discrimination' or 'animus.'³⁸ The broader meaning an ability to discern differences in the qualities of people and things, and choosing accordingly can be called Discrimination, making fact-based distinctions. The narrower, but more commonly used, meaning treating people negatively, based on arbitrary assumptions or aversions concerning individuals of a particular race or sex, for example can be called Discrimination, the kind of discrimination that has led to anti discrimination laws and policies.³⁹

Sowell compares the uneven distribution of favorable outcomes in the

³⁶ Jennifer L Doleac."A Review of Thomas Sowell's: *Discrimination and Disparities*" (Texas A&M University: Department of Economics, 2020). Page.1

³⁷Jennifer L Doleac."A Review of Thomas Sowell's: *Discrimination and Disparities*" (Texas A&M University: Department of Economics, 2020). Page 2.

³⁸ *ibid.*

³⁹ Thomas Sowell, *Discrimination and Disparities*, (American: Hachette Book Group, 2018). Page 31.

population to the uneven distribution of phenomena like tornadoes implying that the status quo may simply reflect the natural order of things.⁴⁰ Whatever the specific reason put forth, there seems to be widespread consensus that the inequalities observed in the real world are significantly different from those that might be predicted by chance. However, the substantial differences in outcomes observed in economic and other activities need not be caused by equivalent differences in innate skills or in how people are treated by others.⁴¹ Even though disparate treatment of individuals, because of the group to which they belong, is what is meant by discrimination, this is not always easy to prove in a court of law.⁴² Nor does anti discrimination law, as applied in American courts, require such proof. If a given prerequisite for employment or promotion of a high school diploma, for example has a “disparate impact” on some group, such as ethnic minorities, then the burden of proof falls on the accused employer to provide a justification of the requirement or else be judged guilty of discrimination.⁴³ The disparities can also reflect the plain fact that success in many kinds of endeavors depends on prerequisites peculiar to each endeavors and relatively small differences in meeting those prerequisites can mean a very large difference in outcomes.⁴⁴ Yet the great disparities in outcomes found in economic and other endeavors need not be due to either comparable disparities in innate capabilities or comparable disparities in the way people are treated by other people.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Jennifer L Doleac. “A Review of Thomas Sowell’s: Discrimination and Disparities” (Texas A&M University: Department of Economic, 2020). Page2.

⁴¹ Thomas Sowell, *Discrimination and Disparities*, (American: Hachette Book Group, 2018). Page 2.

⁴² Thomas Sowell. *Discrimination and Disparities*. (American: Hachette Book Group, 2018). Page 87.

⁴³ibid.

⁴⁴ Thomas Sowell. *Discrimination and Disparities*. (American: Hachette Book Group, 2018). Page 1.

⁴⁵ ibid.

