Racism Issues and the Impact of Racism Depicted on United Kingdom Movies
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ABSTRACT
Racism is always an interesting topic to debate and from the movie A United Kingdom by Amma Asante. The researcher wants to feeling the racism issues and impact of racism, and to feeling the racism that faced in the main character of Seretse Khama. The researcher used qualitative descriptive method. It is suitable for this research because when people analyze it, there are many interpretations and perceptions, and the qualitative method can bind the whole differences of interpretation and perception. The researcher took the data from the dialogues that contains racism which was taken from the script and movie. There are three issues of racism. First, discrimination the act of racism is the negative treatment from white people to black people. Second, prejudice was given by white people to people of their color for no reasons. The third, segregation was given by white people to black people by a great separation between whites and blacks. three impact of racism that experienced by main character Seretse Khama. Those are: Grief, rage, and humiliation.

Keywords:
Racism, Main Character, Movie

1. Introduction
Racism is a social issue in society that is always worth to be discussed. Racism is defined as discrimination based on race, which includes skin color, eye shape, language, religion, and origin. Racism based on race, color, ancestry, or national or ethnic origin in relation to human rights is prohibited. Other laws at the state level also prohibit discrimination against race, ethnic background, nationality, and (in some cases) religion.¹ But racism that mostly found is racism toward skin color,

especially racism between black people and white people because of dislike feeling and negative assessment from White people.

This topic was chosen because the researcher was interested in literature and wanted to learn more about racism issues and the impact of racism during that time period. As a result, the researcher attempted to study, comprehended, and analyzed the state of racism in the United Kingdom at the time. Racism is always an interesting topic to debate and it can be seen from the movie *A United Kingdom* by Amma Asante. The researcher wanted to analyze the racism issues and impact of racism, and to examine the racism that was faced by the main character - Seretse Khama.

This topic is important for education and social in order to build positive life. *A United Kingdom* is a good movie that focuses on the problems about racism in the movie and the main character Seretse Khama. The suffering and struggle of the main character to survive in a racist society are also important things that make researcher interested in choosing this movie to find out the reason of some people to do racism issues and the impact of racism to the other people based on races and skin color.

Racism is a term that refers to negative actions toward individuals who are less fortunate, which can be produced by the emergence of specific races that see their own race as the best group. The superior color skin is a popular criterion for judging inferior skin color. People who have fair skin believe that they are the best result of human evolution. As a result, they believe that they are superior to other races. In this case, the researcher will explain the racism in *A United Kingdom* Movie.

Racism is defined as racial discrimination, which includes skin color, eye shape, language, religion, and ethnic origin. Racism is a societal issue that should always be discussed. Racism in the context of any human right or fundamental freedom based on race, color, descent, or national or ethnic origin. Other state laws ban discrimination on the basis of race, nation, ethnicity, origin, and (in some situations) religion.²

According to George M. Fredickson in his book, the term "racism" is often used loosely and unreflectively to describe the hostile or negative feelings of one ethnic group or "people" towards another and the resulting actions from that attitude.³ Racism causes people to treat others differently around the world. Some people believe that their group is superior to those of other groups. In this case, the researcher will analyze about race into skin color. This ideology means that

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distinctive characteristic, abilities, qualities, personality traits, intelligence, character, and other cultural characteristics that will as classifying characteristics superior or inferior races. Nowadays, Racism is a broad term that refers to racial unfair and discrimination in beliefs, actions, desires, projects, people, groups, social institutions, and practices.

Racism can exist and can be destructive, even if race is just an illusion, the racial classification made by racists and the rest of us is wrong. Whether race is a real will depends to a certain extent on whether race is best regarded as a biological category, or whether the vague claim that race is a "social construction" can be given some meaning. This means that racism can exist and lead to race relations. It means racism can exist leads to race relations.

Discrimination is actions or practice taken by members of the superior group, or their representatives, that have a disproportionately negative impact on members of the lower group. Discrimination happens when a person is treated unfairly because of their races, whether it is actual or imagined. In sum, discrimination is a form of negative treatment with the superior as does and inferior group as the victim.

Discrimination refers to actual behavior bias toward a person's group identity. This can be seen from the actions taken by a member who is treated unequally because they have power as superior to the another ethnic group. This limits the group from the opportunities available to other groups.

Prejudice

Prejudice in race relations refers to negative attitudes and judgments of inferior groups. Oxford Dictionary stated that research that prejudice is on the dislike or distrust of people, groups, habits that are based on networks or misinformation compared to or experience, and which influence a person's attitudes and behavior towards them. Prejudice is often caused between several ethnic groups.

Prejudice is often used to express negative feelings toward an individual or group of people based on their gender, race or ethnicity, beliefs, values, social class, age, disability, religion, sexuality, language, nationality, beauty, work, education, crime, sports teams, or other private children. It refers to good or negative

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6 Ibid., P.1439
assessments of other people. In this case, it refers to negative or positive evaluations of other people based on the perceptions of their group.

**Segregation**

Segregation is the physical separation of individuals, usually based on their race, class, gender, or religion. Segregation can be either de jure, created by law, or de facto, meaning resulting from practice. In the early 20th century, both type of segregation came to define racial relations in the United States. Across the country, segregation robbed African Americans, Asian Americans, Mexican Americans, and Native Americans of their civil, political, economic, and social rights. As Americans reinterpreted race, segregation was a technique employed by whites to distinguish themselves from non-whites race.

In the early decades of the 20th century, Americans embraced the current notion of race based on skin color, emphasizing the belief that non-white posed a threat to the nation of moral and physical being well. Those in favor of segregation contended. As a result, separating the less progressed racial groups from the whites was necessary.\(^9\)

**The Impact of Racism**

According Paul C. Rosenblatt in his book stated that Impacts of racism: The three emotions this chapter focuses on are grief, rage, and humiliation. In order to address the three emotions with clarity, this chapter is organized into separate sections on grief, rage, and humiliation.\(^10\)

**Grief**

Grief includes chronic sadness, sorrow, feeling blue, feeling down, heartache, emotional pain, despondency, and depression. Grief is not a brief feeling but can go on or recur for weeks, months, even years following a specific loss resulting from racism, which grief resulting from racism seems a dominant reaction that intrudes into and shapes life. Any grief, including grief arising from racism. One can see in which feelings of grief for a particular loss seem entangled in what is going on in relationships or in individual functioning.\(^11\) So commitment issues arising from racism were associated with grieving.

**Rage**

Rage is one of racism impact, rage feelings were part of the personal experienced. Rage at racism is common in African American life, perhaps much more common in the experience of African Americans than many white people

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\(^11\) Ibid., p.53-56
realize. Victims of racism, both individual racist crimes and the daily grind of living in the racial system, do not always shrug it off or view it with objectively. Feelings can run high, and the emotional reaction can extend over a long period of time, perhaps even a lifetime.

One reason for feelings being spread out over time is that the harm and damage caused by racism is so horrible, unjust, and damaging. Another reason is that the unfair, repressive, punishing system does not stop but continues day after day to abrade the individual. Some people who get racism will feel rage, anger, indignation, and concerns about injustice rarely had any recourse. There is also the issue that people who are close to each other may different or mostly in what they do about how whites treat them and even whether it is appropriate to feel rage. In fact, expressing rage at racist whites, or even hinting that one felt it could be risky. The rage can be expressed, perhaps often in ways that are not good for individual emotional.

**Humiliation**

Humiliation involves feeling bad about being reduced to a lower position in relationship to where one was before, where one would like to be, or in relationship to others. One can feel humiliated, chastened, made smaller, made less than, degraded, discredited, dishonoured, humbled, or shamed when they are humiliated.

Racism frequently appears to be intended to humiliate. As a result, it is not unexpected that African Americans in some of the novels carry their humiliation home with them, feeling horrible, belittled, and low in self-esteem, which can influence other family members and relationships. Humiliation in an encounter with racism can be punishing not only for the person experiencing, the humiliation but also for the groups may experience the situation with feelings of pain, anxiety and insecurity.

3. **Method of Research**

The qualitative descriptive method is used by the researcher to understand the materials since it analyzes the nature of the object, systematically describes a situation, problem, or phenomena, or provides information about living conditions, or describes attitudes about an issue. On this research the researcher focused on the racism that are reflected in A United Kingdom movie. Therefore, the qualitative descriptive research is used to analyze the issue of this research.

In this research, the researcher will use qualitative research, where the data are analyzed through interpreting. This research descriptively that emphasizes on the racism in A United Kingdom Movie. This study is a literary study that focuses on

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12 Ibid., p.59-60
13 Ibid., p.62
14 Ibid., p.64
analyzing the racism in *A United Kingdom* Movie. The object of the study is the racism that happens in *A United Kingdom* movie, the issues and the impacts of racism to feel the racism that know in the main character of Seretse Khama. A sociological approach and racism theory are used to analyze it.

4. Discussion

After doing the analysis, the researcher found that there were three issues about racism in *A United Kingdom* movie by Amma Asante using the George M. Fredickson theory. It could be seen in the discussion below:

**Discrimination**

Discrimination was the first issue of racism that the researcher analyzed. Discrimination is actions or taken by members of the superior group, or their representatives, that have a disproportionately negative impact on members of the lower group. Discrimination happens when a person is treated unfairly because of their races, whether it is actual or imagined. In sum, discrimination is a form of negative treatment with the superior as does and inferior group as the victim.15. Through this narrative, this movie showed us the racism of discrimination toward being black people. The form of discrimination in this statement can be seen in the following sections:

![Picture 1](Picture 1)

In this situation Seretse and that white man did boxer. And suddenly white man said “*you monkey!*” as in the dialogue above. White man said “you monkey” it meant if black people like a monkey as an animal. After that Seretse lost control and could not focus at boxer fight at the end he lost. The situation showed that there was discrimination in describing physical about skin color.

Another sort of discrimination of Seretse was the accusation of treason by white people. It happened in the following plantation:

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In this situation when Seretse Khama and Ruth walked in the night, they met some men and the men insulted them as in the dialogue. The men was bullied because Seretse is black and Ruth had a black boyfriend. After that the men tried to attacked them in the street to showed how hated them to black people. Not only hated the black but they also likened Seretse as an animal out from zoo and asked Seretse to get his black hands from them. It is also discrimination about skin color.

From the pictures above, we can see separating between whites and blacks. The whites can enjoy with the movie in the cinema, they can sit in comfortable chairs in front of the screen with peaceful feeling. Meanwhile, the blacks pushed each other to watch the movie. They are bordered by wall to keep the distance with whites and not disturb the whites. It was difference treatment toward black people.

**Prejudice**

The second issue of racism was prejudice. This describes a negative situation towards other people of different races. White people frequently show prejudice toward people of color. Prejudice is White people’s dislike of people of other color is a common source of research. They may be prejudiced without justification. Derived from the current group generalizations. Individual perceptions are often

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16 *A United Kingdom* Movie, Duration (00:56:46)
17 *A United Kingdom* Movie, Duration (00:56:25)
seen through the view of group perceptions. The following is an example in this statement. It can be seen in the following sections:

In the first prejudice found in this dialogue between Ruth and her sister are talking about Ruth relationship.

![Picture 8]

Ruth’s Sister : **Father will hate him on sign. He’s clever then him and he’s black.**
Ruth : *(smile).*

From the dialogue above, “He is clever then he is blacks” told how Ruth’s family is against her relationship with Seretse as a black, as in the dialogue, Ruth’s sister said that their father will not like the man because he is black which means if he has bringing differences in skin will lead to racism. In the dialogue also said that her father does not like it if the man is smarter than him, meant that his father wanted to teach that no one can compete with his intelligence.

In the second prejudice found in this dialogue between Ruth and her sister are talking about Ruth relationship on bed and her sister tried to make Ruth to stop loving and leaving her black boyfriend.

![Picture 9]

18 *A United Kingdom* Movie, Duration (00:11:54 – 00:11:58)
Ruth’s Sister : *They’re yobs! you can’t let them get to you*
Ruth : I’m not even giving them second thought.
It scares me lit bit but the way he makes me feel.
Ruth’s sister : Ruth, but he has to back to his own country.
Ruth : I know! Let me enjoy it while it lasts.¹⁹

After Ruth told about her feeling to her sister about she has been falling in love with black guy from African. Her sister disagree about it because her sister tough if black people are yobs. She tried to make Ruth to avoid Seretse as a black, she does not want if Ruth will live together with black one. But Ruth still stuck with her choice to choose Seretse to be her husband.

**Segregation**

Segregation was an action of white people adopted to keep themselves separate from non-whites with some rules and policy from whites to non-white. White people embraced the current definition of race based on skin color, reinforcing the view that any non-white poses a physical and moral threat to the country. Segregationists argue that segregation is necessary. As a result, the less developed racial groupings had to be separated from the whites. The act of segregation in this statement can be seen in the following sections:

*(Picture 11)*

Ruth’s father : *You marry a black, you make it impossible for us.* You may choose a life of insults and shame. How about us? We’ve only ever loved you.
Ruth : Father!
Ruth’s father : I can’t see you again, not if you choose him.²⁰

The dialogue is a conversation between Ruth and her father, when Ruth tried to explaining to her family if she is falling in love with black person but her father did not allow about married because the different color skin so danger at that time
and would be shame if white people married with black race. If Ruth still wanted married with him, his father wanted Ruth out from home and leaving her family. 

The Impact of Racism Toward Seretse Khama in A United Kingdom Movie. 

Grief

The first impact of racism is grief, grief is a direct impact of racism and intersectional violence and it has impact to us physically, emotionally, financially, spiritually, transnationally and trans-generationally. Not only those, grief included chronic sadness, sorrow, feeling blue, feeling down, heartache, emotional pain, despondency, and depression More significantly, not being able to fully participate in our mourning is a direct result experience of racism. The form of grief in this statement can be seen in the following sections:

In another form grief toward Seretse Khama is getting cry about his people.

From the picture above, In his speech in front of Bechuanaland, Seretse Khama showed how sad he was, because his people did not want his wife to be a queen from white people and he thought he has the right to choose who is to be his wife even from white or black and he knew better what he chosen. This is about emotional grief he go because racism that happened to him.

Rage

The second impact of racism is rage, rage is feeling so emotional about un-equality in racism and also is that the unfair, repressive, punishing system does not stop but continues day after day to abrade the individual. One reason for feelings being spread out over time is that the harm and damage caused by racism is so horrible, unjust, and damaging. Some people who get racism will feel rage, anger, indignation, and concerns about injustice rarely had any recourse. There is also the issue that people who are close to each other may different or mostly in what they do about how whites treat them and even whether it is appropriate to feel rage. The form of rage in this statement can be seen in the following sections:

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21 A United Kingdom Movie, Duration (00:42:06)
Seretse: Look around you! **our schools, hospitals and our churches. All segregated in practice if not in law.** Are we now to uphold the abomination that is apartheid in our own Kgotla? The very same abomination that has been oppressing us for decades.\(^\text{22}\)

From the dialogue and picture above, in his speech he told about segregation practice in the law, where they have to live separated with whites even in their own land. He found un-quality not only school, hospitals and churches but also different treatment. He was so mad with British laws and the government, it such local people can not cultivated their natural resources in their own land.

**Humiliation**

Humiliation is feeling bad about being reduced to a lower position in relationship to others. One can feel humiliated, chastened, made smaller, made less than, degraded, discredited, dishonoured, humbled, or shamed when they are humiliated. Racism frequently appears to be intended to humiliate. The form of rage in this statement can be seen in the following sections:

In this scene, Seretse made the situation more badly, the conflict between him and his uncle made people in Bechuanaland apart because the people did not want war between them. After that Seretse was called to return to England to meet British government

\(^{22}\) *A United Kingdom* Movie, Duration (00:41:10 – 00:41:29)
In another situation, Seretse tried to get justice for himself and he tried to ask for his friend to get freedom and return to Bechuanaland. He is also trying to make sure his people that he deserves to be a king and for made peace for Bechuanaland but he is still failed. At the end he tried to ask to British government for help him once again to got justice and the result

Alistair  : Mr. Winston Churchill will be making his announcement about your return to Bechuanaland in the House of Commons this afternoon

Seretse  : I appreciated that

Alistair  : He’s decided that five years banishment will cause unrest and uncertainly in the protectorate, and he wishes to bring end to such insecurity. Consequently, he will be announcing that your banishment is for life!

Seretse  : I beg you pardon? He clearly stated that he would allow me back home.

Alistair  : Opposition one thing, Mr. Khama. The realities of government are quite another.

After he made a complained to British government about his injustice, the government decided that five years banishment will cause unrest and Seretse got banished for a life. It meant he can not return to Bechuanaland. Seretse felt a lower position or disappointed about the result, but he did nothing for that decision.

After long time fight with that conflict, Seretse got the Harragin report from his friend and the result the government allowed Seretse return to Bechuanaland and deserve to be a king for his people. All this time Alistair lied to him by making fake decisions and hiding the real Harragin report from Seretse. Finally Seretse back to Bechuanaland and Bechuanaland achieved independence as the republic of Botswana. Seretse was democratically elected the country’s first president. Ruth became a prominent humanitarian. Devoting her life to fight against AIDS, helping disadvantaged women and children, and the struggle against racism.

5. Conclusion
There are three issues of racism. First, discrimination the act of racism is the negative treatment from white people to black people. The discrimination was carried out through the confiscation of human rights. Second, prejudice was given by white people to people of their color for no reasons. The black people especially the main character Seretse Khama often accept some prejudice that is causes by the color race. The third, segregation was given by white people to black people by a great separation between whites and blacks. White people have churches, hospitals and schools that was commonly called as policy apartheid, while the black people without any property facilities and also cannot go to cinema even cannot drink alcohol.

Furthermore, the researcher found out three impact of racism that experienced by main character Seretse Khama. Those are: Grief, There is the one of racism impacts in which grief resulting from racism seems a dominant reaction. The black people feeling grief when they got injustice and un-equality from white people, especially main character. Second, rage is feeling can run high, and the emotional reaction can extend over a long period of time, perhaps even a lifetime. Another reason is that the unfair, repressive, punishing system does not stop but continues day after day to abrade the individual. It is also an emotional of main character toward the situation what did white people have done to him and about injustice for black people. The last one is humiliation is feeling bad about being reduced to a lower position in relationship. Racism often seems intended to humiliate as seen the humiliation faced by main character from black people toward white people to him and how does he deal with it.

6. References


