Khatulistiwa: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Sosial Humaniora Vol.2, No.3 September 2022

e-ISSN: 2962-4037; p-ISSN: 2962-4452, Hal 32-51

Rasisme dalam Film Lee Daniels, The Butler Racism in Lee Daniels' Movie The Butler

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ABSTRACT

The Butler movie explored discrimination between white and black people that created social grade which lead to the conflict. This became a very interesting one to explore. The purpose of this study was to find more about the racism in such movie. The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method, and the research material was a dialogue from the movie "The Butler". The analyse was done by using the theory of racism, "three types of racism", Michel Wieviorka (1995). The dialogue of the movie accompanied by picture as the sample of the data in analysis done by contextually and theoritically. The result of the study showed attitudes racism was the most prevalent, which means there are discriminations occured to black people in The Butler movie. Attitudes is a pattern of thinking or feeling about something or someone, generally represented in a person's behavior. While prejudice and opinions racism are the most rarely occured in such movie. Prejudice rarely occured in the social life because black people can not express their feeling and they struggle welfare, which was hard to achieve in the movie. Opinions rarely occured in the movie because white people grade was higher than black people in such movie.

Keywords: Racism, Movie, Three Types of Racism, The Butler.

ABSTRAK

Film Butler mengeksplorasi diskriminasi antara orang kulit putih dan kulit hitam yang menciptakan kelas sosial yang mengarah pada konflik. Hal ini menjadi sangat menarik untuk dieksplorasi. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui lebih jauh tentang rasisme dalam film tersebut. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif, dan bahan penelitiannya adalah dialog dari film "The Butler". Analisis dilakukan dengan menggunakan teori rasisme, "tiga jenis rasisme", Michel Wieviorka (1995). Dialog film disertai gambar sebagai sampel data dalam analisis dilakukan secara kontekstual dan teoritis. Studi menunjukkan sikap rasisme adalah yang paling umum, yang berarti ada diskriminasi yang terjadi pada orang kulit hitam di film The Butler.Sikap adalah pola berpikir atau perasaan tentang sesuatu atau seseorang, umumnya terwakili dalam perilaku seseorang. Sedangkan prasangka dan pendapat rasisme adalah paling jarang terjadi di film seperti itu. Prasangka jarang terjadi dalam kehidupan sosial karena orang kulit hitam tidak bisa mengekspresikan perasaan mereka dan mereka memperjuangkan kesejahteraan, yang sulit dicapai dalam film. Pendapat jarang muncul di film karena kelas orang kulit putih lebih tinggi daripada orang kulit hitam orang-orang di film seperti itu.

Kata kunci: Rasisme, Film, Tiga Jenis Rasisme, Kepala Pelayan.

INTRODUCTION

Literature reveal the experience of human life. Literature is one of fine arts, like Poetry, Prose, Drama. As it is intended to provide aesthetic pleasure rather than serve any practical function. It consists of outstanding novels that are renowned for literary form or expression, regardless of subject. A book's aesthetic value alone, or aesthetic value combined with broad intellectual quality, is what qualifies it as literature. The most important works in poetry, drama, and prose are chosen for their aesthetic excellence or beauty of expression. Poetry is a kind of literature that emphasizes the relationship between words and rhythm. Prose is scribal language

Khatulistiwa: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Sosial Humaniora

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e-ISSN: 2962-4037; p-ISSN: 2962-4452, Hal 32-51

presented in a simple form, without metric structures or line breaks. Drama has

dialogue that can be performed as a movie.

Movie is an individual film, a term that encompasses the film industry as an

art form. Hornby (2006) explain a movie is a series of films recorded in sound

telling a story played out as a film/film. Main types are often used to classify film

genres: settings, moods, formats. The location of the movie is determined by the

settings. The emotional charge that runs throughout the film is known as the mood.

Movies can also be recorded using certain equipment or presented in certain

methods and formats.

Racism has been around for 20 years and it is a problem today. Wieviorka

(1995:37) identifies three different "types" of racism. Prejudice, opinion, or attitude

that an individual or group may have. A range of exclusive practices, including

exclusion from the labor market or subjection to violence. programs and political

ideologies. Racism is one way street in which the perpetrator is connected with

people in positions of power and privilege at the top of the ethnic and racial

hierarchy (Cole, 2017). As a result, those who belong to ethnic and racial groups

that are considered less superior play the target role. According to this description,

the offender uses bigotry and prejudice to perpetuate and sustain the ethnic and

racial hierarchy, which benefits some at the expense of others. This means that

racism cannot be viewed only as a situational and interpersonal behavior, as shown

further below. One of the example of racism theory is prejudice. The theory appear

in The Butler movie about 25%. Example dialogue at 15:43 at the Gaines

Residence.

Gloria: What is he asking?

Cecil: I usually assume the worst when the white dude calls. (Sir, yes.) I would

wager that some people will be laid off on that day.

Source: The Butler Movie (2013)

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Cecil afraid of white people call because he thought that he could be fired from his occupation anytime, but instead he got called to work in the White House and got position as a butler in the White House. Prejudice is a direct expression of structural social relations, either explained in terms of class or, more precisely, in terms of stratification. When it can be seen as relating predominantly to an inegalitarian logic and to relations of domination, prejudice is not of the same order as when it constructs a differentialize representation of the other directed towards setting him apart, or indeed expelling or exterminating him. In other words, with respect to deacons, prejudice is a manifestation of negative attitudes or contempt towards groups and other people of different characteristics for which they do not have adequate knowledge or understanding. Butler's White Prejudice also highlights the many injustices against African Americans shaped by social class, race, and color differences.

This attitude proved that the racism type is accordance with Wievorka's explanation about racism. Researcher found that there is sad emotion from the movie that is an ironic fact in real world. There are still many discriminations or racism happen nowadays and it inappropriate with the law. Attitude is a mindset or feeling about something or someone, usually expressed in a person's behavior. It's about someone's perspective or feelings about something, especially as shown by their behaviour. This theory is the most prevalent in The Butler movie. It also has behavioural (how attitude influences your behaviour), selective emotional (how you feel about objects, people, problems, or events) and cognitive components (thoughts and beliefs about the subject).

Racism usually experienced by minor society. Previous studies aim to improve, develop, and preserve racism. Researcher use some references such as (1). Wievorka, M., 1995, The Arena of Racism Theory, Culture & Society. (2). Miles R., & Brown, M., 2003, Racism: Second Edition. (3) Kirkinis, K., Pieterse, A. L., Martin, C., Agiliga, A., & Brownell, A., 2018, Racism, Racial Discrimination, and Trauma: A Systematic Review of The Social Science Literature. (4) Fish, J., & Syed, M., 2019, Racism, Discrimination, and Prejudice. (5) Charlot, M., 2020, The

Power in Our Hands: Overcoming Racism in the Workplace. Journal of Clinical Oncology.

Research on racism has been done by many researchers. The difference from this research is subject and method. The Butler, a drama film directed by Lee Daniels, is the focus of this study. The data of this research are the dialoque of the movie. The Butler and accompanied by pictures to provide more complete information concerning about Racism in the movie.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Literature is a good work of art orally or in writing which normally uses language as a the medium and provide an overview of life with all its complexities, problems, and uniqueness both about ideals, desire and hope, power, devotion, meaning and purpose life, struggle, existence and human ambition, also love, hate and envy, tragedy and death, and things that are transcendental in human life. So, literary works of ideas authors related to the nature and values of life, and human existence which includes the dimensions of humanity, social, cultural, moral, political, gender, educational or divine religiosity. As a work of art with aesthetic value (beauty), literary works not only contain wisdom or valuable lesson about life which is vast but also provide entertainment as well as enjoyment for difficult readers found in other works. Literary works that literal weight can work to clarify, deepen, insight, and human appreciation of the nature of life. In short, a good work of literature is capable of the inner treasures of the reader, not only providing entertainment and mere profane pleasure. One of literary works is drama, It is usually presented into a movie.

Movie is a representation of the reality of society, in contrast to movies merely as a reflection of reality. It simply transfer reality to the screen without changing reality. Meanwhile, as a representation of reality, movies shape and represent reality based on codes, conventions and ideologies of culture. The movie is not fully contained in the discrete medium in which it has been stored – whether it is a videotape, digital file, or hard drive. In general, movies are divided based on

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two components, namely narrative and cinematic. The narrative component is the object or material that will be used, while the cinematic element is the technique or style in which it will be processed. A movie's story is packaged in such ways that the viewer brought to the attention of the message. The movie's messages or values have cognitive, effective, and conatively effect on the audience. A movie has the ability to influence and even change and influence the character of the audience through the conveyed message. Movie can be a medium to show the reality of human life such as concerning about the problem of discrimination and Racism.

Wieviorka (1995:37) identifies three different "types" of racism. Prejudice, opinion, or attitude that an individual or group may have. A range of exclusive practices, including exclusion from the labor market or subjection to violence. programs and political ideologies. Racism is one way street in which the perpetrator is connected with people in positions of power and privilege at the top of the ethnic and racial hierarchy (Cole, 2017). As a result, people who fall into lower ethnic and racial classifications play the role of the target. According to this description, the offender uses discrimination and prejudice to reproduce and maintain the ethnic and racial hierarchy, which benefits some at the expense of others. This means, as explained further below, that racism cannot be viewed purely as a situational and interpersonal behavior. Racism is a problem that has existed around the world since time immemorial. From small problems that we are not aware of to big problems that involve many stakeholders. This racism creates an atmosphere of discomfort and fosters an atmosphere when multiple stakeholders are involved. Because of this, many people try to include the topic of racism in their books. The problem in this research is specifically how cinema relates to other forms of racism. This study aims to find the content of the film 'Tears of the Butler of the President' in the formulation of the problem, especially content related to forms of racism. The real-life experiences of butler Eugene Allen, who worked at the White House for 34 years, served as the butler in the movie.

According to Michel Wievorka (1995) racism is classified into three types such as Prejudice, Opinions, and Attitudes:

a) Prejudice

Prejudice can be described as a judgment made without prior knowledge. It is a set of attitudes that support, encourage and justify discrimination. It tends to overclassify. Prejudice is a direct expression of structural social relations, either explained in terms of class or, more precisely, in terms of stratification. When it can be seen as relating predominantly to an inegalitarian logic and to relations of domination, prejudice is not of the same order as when it constructs a differentialize representation of the other directed towards setting him apart, or indeed expelling or exterminating him. In other words, as Butler notes, prejudice is the expression of negative attitudes or contempt for groups and other people of differing qualities without adequate education or understanding. Butler's white prejudice highlights countless injustices perpetrated against African Americans as a result of distinctions in socioeconomic position, ethnicity, and skin tone. Example: Prejudice on The Help movie scene 2 when Criss freak out think that he will be discriminated by white people.

Criss: They know I am black?

Rose : No, should they? My father will choose Obama for the third time and he is not racist.

Criss: I don't want a shotgun chase through the grounds.

b) Opinions

A single-opinion-based system that has the power to draw in and persuade the majority of people and is comprehensive enough to help people navigate the experiences and circumstances of everyday modern life. When opinions entered the political arena, they became full-blown ideologies. A system based on a single point of view can influence several contemporary events and situations in addition to being broad enough to draw in and persuade a sizable population. Because ideology

Khatulistiwa: Jurnal Pendidikan dan Sosial Humaniora

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e-ISSN: 2962-4037; p-ISSN: 2962-4452, Hal 32-51

is different from the straightforward viewpoint that asserts to possess the secrets to

history, the solutions to all of life's "mysteries," or profound understanding of the

unspoken universal laws that govern nature. For example: Opinions in The Help

movie scene 27, Jim explained why black skin not marked as negative anymore,

instead to positive such as physics benefits.

Criss

: Why us? Why black?

Jim

: Who know? (laugh). White people want changes, some people want to be

stronger, faster, and cooler.

Attitudes c)

Attitude is a mindset or feeling about something or someone, usually

expressed in a person's behavior. It's about someone's perspective or feelings about

something, especially as shown by their behavior. This theory is the most prevalent

in The Butler movie. It also has behavioral (how attitude influences your behavior),

selective emotional (how you feel about objects, people, problems, or events) and

cognitive components (thoughts and beliefs about the subject). For example:

Attitudes in The Help movie scene 20, where Tanaka bravely ask sensitive things

to Criss about his experience.

Tanaka: Do you aware that being African-American has more advantage or

disadvantage in this world?

Criss : I don't know man

3. Method

The researcher used a qualitative descriptive method, and the research

material was a dialogue from the movie "The Butler". It gives the analysis and

interpretation of the data as qualitative research. The dialogue from the film serves

as the study's data. According to (Miles, Huberman, & Saldana, 2014), the

qualitative method aids in understanding the social environment and is employed

for problem identification, theory-based problem interpretation, and outcome quality demonstration.

In collecting data, the researchers indentifies the diologue of the movie relating to the theory, Type of Racism Michel Wievorka (1995) and classify them. In analysis of the data, the dialogues completed by the pictures taken from the movie are explained and interpreted contextually and theoritically.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

This movie is based on Eugene Allen's true story. So, it will be easier to spot the three types of racism in this movie. Racism is a one-way street in which the perpetrator is connected with people in positions of power and privilege at the top of the ethnic and racial hierarchy (Cole, 2017).

No.	Types of racism	Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Prejudice	2	25
2.	Opinions	2	25
3.	Attitudes	4	50
Total		8	100

1. Prejudice

Picture 1



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A. Dialogue 15:43 at Gaines Residences

Charlie: Hallo, Gaines Residences... Uhm yah hold on Mr. Kidgan. It is bossman,

pa.

Gloria: What is he asking?

Cecil: I usually assume the worst when the white dude calls. (Sir, yes.) I would

wager that some people will be laid off on that day.

Source: The Butler Movie (2013)

Cecil was eating and talking with his family in dining room. They are talking about an innocent boy who got murdered by white people. After that, there was a phone call from his work. His son picked up the phone and talk to Mr.Kidgan.Cecil was terrified to answer the call. Cecil afraid of white people call, because he thought that he could be fired from his occupation anytime without reason.Instead of got fired from his job, he receive a call to work in the White House and got position as a butler in the White House.

This conversation proved the prejudice theory explained by Wievorka is occurred and fact. This conversation shows that Cecil had prejudice something bad before he knows the truth of the story and over categorized it. These theories also common occurred in political arena, such election or conference. This is a wrong prejudice that need to be exterminated for every individual in order to live a peaceful life. Prejudice can be described as a judgment made without prior knowledge. It is a set of attitudes that support, encourage and justify discrimination. It tends to overclassify. Prejudice is a direct expression of structural social relations, whether they are classified as class or stratified. When it could be seen as relating predominantly to an inegalitarian logic and to relations of domination, prejudice is not of the same order as when it constructs a differentialize representation of the other directed towards setting him apart, or indeed expelling or exterminating him.

Picture 2



B. Dialogue 09:04 in the bakery shop

Maynard : I have to lie to the boss man about that window. God Lord Say, we ain't supposed to lie.

Cecil: Sorry sir.

Maynard : Where is your ma and pa?

Cecil: My ma got crazy in the head, and my pa got killed.

Maynard : I'll make you some ham sandwiches, to send you on your way. The boss will be here in a minute. Sunday is a busiest morning.

Cecil: You looking for some help? I know how to serve.

Maynard : You done broke our window. You done stole our food. And now you asking for a job?

Cecil: Back in Macon, I'm a house nigger. A good one.

Maynard : (slaps Cecil across the face) Don't ever use that word son. That's the white man's word. Filled with hate. Didn't your father teach you any better?

Source: The Butler Movie (2013)

Cecil meets Maynard, a black man. He works as a baker's worker. Cecil was hungry and tired. Cecil ask him for a job, so he can live in there. Then Maynard help him by giving him food and job. Maynard works for white people. He was like Cecil to white people. They erroneously believe that all white people are inherently

e-ISSN: 2962-4037; p-ISSN: 2962-4452, Hal 32-51

racist. Otherwise, not all white people have such a blind hate towards black people. Cecil should not said "nigger". Black people could not say this sentence, because it can be only said by white people. In the conversation above, Maynard was very annoyed by the word "niger". He felt it was an insult to their race to use the phrase on Cecil, thus he refrained from doing so. The word, in his opinion, was derogatory and filled with animosity for black people. The Latin word "niger," which meaning "black," is the origin of the English word "nigga." It was a form of linguistic discrimination that perpetuated the stereotype of the parasite as a lazy, ignorant, filthy, and worthless creature.

Maynard prejudice the white house. He thought that all the white people have higher grade than black people. His prejudice is not right. Because in the movie, some of the white people are defending and helping the black people. They want justice for all citizens. In other words, with respect to deacons, prejudice is a manifestation of negative attitudes or contempt towards groups and other people of different characteristics for which they do not have adequate knowledge or understanding. Butler's White Prejudice also highlights the many injustices against African Americans shaped by social class, race, and color differences.

2. Opinions





A. Dialogue 35:20 in the kitchen

Nixon: Let me ask you something, in all candour, as members of the Negro community, what are your biggest concerns? Now come on now boys. Don't be shy. Holloway, come on.

Holloway : Well, since you asked sir...

Nixon: I did.

Holloway : The colored help gets paid almost 40% less than the white help.

Nixon: Is that right?

Holloway : Yes, sir, and it's very difficult for the colored staff to be promoted.

Nixon: I'll tell you what, when I'm President I'm gonna look into getting you boys

the raises and promotions you deserve.

Holloway : That would be swell, sir.

Nixon: You got my word on that.

Holloway : Thank you, sir.

Nixon: You tell your people to vote for me and that's exactly what's gonna

happen.

Source: The Butler Movie (2013)

Mr. Nixon visits Cecil and the other butlers in the White House kitchen as Cecil is working. Nixon took three "Nixon For President 1960" campaign buttons out of his pocket. In the election, Cecil as well as the other butlers selected him. Holloway expresses his and other butlers' hopes for the next presidential election. They seek equal rights for black and white people, particularly in terms of pay and job advancement. He claims that all black workers struggle to advance. In these conversations, it appears that Black Americans are discriminated against. Holloway's delivery of their demands is a part of the struggle for equality, but he employs sensitive words in his expression. There are points in the talks that indicate a lack of confidence in communicating their demands. He does not directly inquire what they want; instead, he informs the president candidate of the harsh situation they have faced. He also credits and credits Nixon for using the word 'mystery' and

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for using his own words to address the needs of the Black Butler. Cecil and the other black butlers wanted to turn things around for them, and they wanted to be recognized as Americans.

In the conversation, Nixon told Cecil and the other butlers to vote for him in the next election. Nixon use the opinions racism to get the butlers attention. He tried to understand the black people problem and suffer. Opinions can affect someone. It has been demonstrated that an opinion system based on one point of view is both comprehensive and compelling enough to lead a vast audience through the diverse events and circumstances of modern life. When opinions entered the political arena, they became full-blown ideologies.



Picture 4

B. Dialogue :1:44:59 on the corridor

Nancy: You're very popular around here. Everyone says you're the man that got them raises and promotions. I had no idea.

Cecil: I wish I could take credit for that.

Nancy: I'd like to invite you to the State Dinner next week.

Cecil: But I'm going to be there, Mrs. Reagan.

Nancy: No, not as a butler, Cecil, I'm inviting you as a guest.

Cecil: But...the President prefers for me to serve him personally.

Nancy: Don't you worry about, Ronnie. I'll take care of that. So we'll see you next week? You and your wife.

Cecil: My wife?

Nancy: It's... It's Gloria, yes?

Cecil: Yes ma'am.

Source: The Butler Movie (2013)

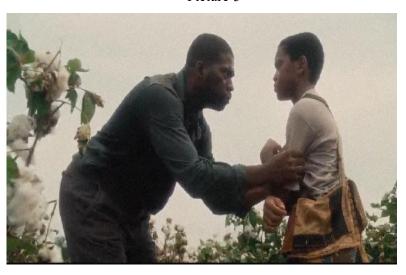
Mr. President agreed that black and white people have the same right. White House employees should have equal pay privileges. He provides opportunities for black employees, particularly in terms of pay. The first white person to invite Cecil to dinner in the White House is Mrs. Nancy, the President's wife. Mrs. Nancy extends an invitation to him and Gloria to supper. Cecil is honored to be asked to the White House as a guest, but he is uneasy about the situation. He feels like he already comfort work as butler, rather than as a guest in White House. He also feel worried about the invitation at the first time, because that is an impossible to black people to be a guest in the State Dinner.

This dialogue proved that opinions racism from Michael Wievorka is occurred. Nancy thought that the Cecil have the right to be a guest in State Dinner. She try to persuade Cecil to be a guest which Cecil is a black people. A single-opinion based system that has been shown to be compelling enough to draw in and win over the majority of people and comprehensive enough to help them navigate the experiences and circumstances of everyday modern life. When opinions entered the political arena, they became full-blown ideologies. A system based on a single point of view can influence several contemporary events and situations in addition to being broad enough to appeal to and convince a sizable population.

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3. Attitudes

Picture 5



A. Dialogue 02:42 at the cotton field

Thomas : Hattie, come on. Come on!

Cecil: Pa, where is he taking ma?

Thomas : Get back to work!

Cecil: (Yelling) Mamma!

Earl : Look at me boy. Don't lose your temper with that man. This is his world.

We just be living in it. You hear me? Now get on back to work!

Source: The Butler Movie (2013)

Cecil believes that as a black man living in America when racism still exists, he does not have the same rights as white people does. His experience witnessing his father being shot by white people taught him the valuelessness of Black Americans' lives at the time. When Thomas, the plantation owner's son, raped Cecil's mother in the barn. The other black people can not do anything because black people assume they could not stand up to anything the white people do to black people. They feeling threatened by white people.

The dialogue above demonstrates white superiority through the eyes of black people. Slaves like Cecil, Earl, and others regard themselves as the minority, with nothing they can do to stop the cruelty. Earl and other black people knew that they lived in a world that was dominated by white people and had no right to challenge them as a result of their admission of white supremacy. Thomas kills Earl despite Earl's attempts at reprimand. Because slaves at the time lack the legal right to live in safety in this world, death becomes a typical penalty for them. The attitudes racism occurred in such scene. Attitude is a mindset or feeling about something or someone, usually expressed in a person's behavior. It's about someone's perspective or feelings about something, especially as shown by their behavior. This theory of racism is the most prevalent in The Butler movie.

Picture 6



B. Dialogue: 1:55:00 on the street walk

Louis : Hi, dad.

Cecil: Hi, Louis.

Louis : What are you doing here?

Cecil: I'm here to protest with you.

Louis: You'll get arrested dad. You'll lose your job.

Cecil: I've lost you. I'm sorry... I'm sorry son.

Source: The Butler Movie (2013)

Cecil realize and regret his attitude to his son that make him lost his son, Louis. Cecil resign from his job and he realize that he really missed his son. He went looking for his son. After they met each other, Cecil admit his regret to his

e-ISSN: 2962-4037; p-ISSN: 2962-4452, Hal 32-51

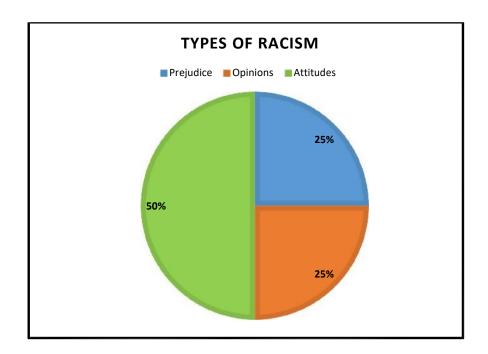
son. He want to fix his relation, do protest together with his son todo the right thing as black people. From the dialogue, it is proved that Cecil Gaines feel so empty and lonely because he lost his son. He want to fix his mistake and also would to protest with his son, Louis. Finally, Cecil joined other demonstrators outside the South African Embassy. Cecil and other protestors were detained in jail, but Cecil was relieved because he already had his kid back with him and was able to speak out against prejudice.

Cecil regret that he did not support his son in exterminating racism in the country. In order to live a peaceful life, he forget what he has to eradicate racism as black people. His attitude to his son proved that the theory explained by Michael Wievorka is true and convenient. Attitude is a mindset or feeling about something or someone, usually expressed in a person's behavior. It's about someone's perspective or feelings about something, especially as shown by their behavior. This is the most prevalent theory in the movie The Butler. Optional components include behavioral (how your attitude effects your action), Emotional (how you feel, people, problems, or events), cognitive (thoughts and beliefs about a topic).

CONCLUSION

Wieviorka (1995:37) identifies three different "types" of racism. Prejudice, opinion, or attitude that an individual or group may have. A range of exclusive practices, including exclusion from the labor market or subjection to violence. programs and political ideologies. Racism is one way street in which the perpetrator is connected with people in positions of power and privilege at the top of the ethnic and racial hierarchy.

The result of this research is three types of racism theories by Wieviorka is proved exist in The Butler. Racism has been a big problem for every country. Researcher sees that in this movie, every president tries so hard to eradicate the racism in their country. The leader of a country always tries to find a solution when talking about racism problem.



Based on the research results, it can be concluded that the movie "The Butler" produced by Lee Daniels contains the forms of three types of racism by Michel Wieviorka. According to the researchers, the most frequent theory of racism found in this movie is Attitudes (50%). Attitudes affects the behaviors and ethics. In contrast, this kind of racism are the most common thing happen in such movie. This is also related to the theme brought by the movie, which is racism in black people.

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