

## AN ANALYSIS OF RACISM IN THE FILM OF *THE GREEN MILE* BY FRANK DARABONT

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### *Abstract*

*This research analyzes the forms of racism in the film *The Green mile* by Frank Darabont. *The Green Mile* tells about the experience of a warden who has a prisoner who comes from black people and has magical powers within him. This research shown the treatment of racist forms experienced by minorities. The purpose of this research is first, to find out the types of racism found in the movie. Second, to find out the resistance shown in the movie. This study uses a semiotic approach by Charles Sanders Pierce. The method used is descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data in this research. The data sources are taken from dialogues and scenes in the film *The Green Mile* by Frank Darabont. The finding in the research are first, kinds of racism that occur in the green mile films are internalized racism, interpersonal racism, and institutional racism. Second, the resistance that shown in *The Green Mile* films are closed resistance and open resistance.*

**Keywords:** *Semiotics, Racism, Resistance*

### *Abstrak*

*Penelitian ini menganalisis bentuk-bentuk rasisme dalam film *The Green mile* karya Frank Darabont. *The Green Mile* menceritakan tentang pengalaman seorang sipir yang memiliki seorang tahanan yang berasal dari orang kulit hitam dan memiliki kekuatan magis dalam dirinya. Penelitian ini menunjukkan perlakuan terhadap bentuk-bentuk rasis yang dialami oleh kaum minoritas. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah pertama, untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis rasisme yang terdapat dalam film tersebut. Kedua, untuk mengetahui perlawanan yang ditampilkan dalam film. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan semiotik oleh Carles Sanders Pierce. Metode yang digunakan adalah metode deskriptif kualitatif untuk menganalisis data dalam penelitian ini. Sumber data diambil dari dialog dan adegan dalam film *The Green Mile* karya Frank Darabont. Temuan dalam penelitian ini adalah pertama, jenis rasisme yang terjadi dalam film green mile adalah rasisme yang terinternalisasi, rasisme interpersonal, dan rasisme institusional. Kedua, resistensi yang ditampilkan dalam film *The Green Mile* adalah resistensi tertutup dan resistensi terbuka.*

**Kata kunci:** *semiotik, rasisme, resistensi*

## 1. INTRODUCTION

literary works are different from other works, one of the things that distinguishes literary works from other works is the use of language with imaginative power and artistic value which is its trademark. Literary works are divided into three types, namely poetry, prose and drama. Film is a form of literary work in the form of drama. Film has become a very popular and entertaining medium. Ayoana (2010) states that film is a living picture, also often called a movie. Meanwhile, according to Makarim (2003) it is explained that film is one of the means of mass communication in addition to radio, television and telecommunications. So it mean that the film is a means of communication that is shown to others with language, visuals and motion.

As an entertainment medium, films have many genres such as horror, comedy, romance, documentation and others. The Green Mile is a fantasy drama genre film directed by Frank Darabont. The film tells the experience of a prison guard named Paul Edcomb. He sentenced to death a prisoner named John coffey who was a black man on charges of murder and rape of two white girls. This film shows many forms of racism towards minorities. Feagin (1999) states that the term racial oppression describes the imposition of discriminatory burdens on a subordinate racial group by the dominant group. The contestation of racist attitudes is reflected in the form of racial prejudice, labeling or stereotypes against other races, and racial discrimination Hafizh (2016).

To further research the film the green mile, the research used analysis semiotics approach by Charles Sanders Peirce, because films are generally constructed with many signs. In its use Peirce (in Wijaya, 2008) Peirce put forward a triangle theory of meaning which consists of three main elements, namely sign, object, and interpretant. Based on the description above, this study examines further about racism in the film The Green Mile, so this study uses a semiotic approach. The aims and objectives of this research are: (1) To find out the types of racism found in the film (2) To find out the resistance shown in the film.

## 2. METHODOLOGY

The object of this research is the film directed by Frank Darabont "The Green Mile". The research method used is descriptive qualitative. The main data is taken from the film itself, scripts and reference sources taken from journals, books, articles on the internet as supporting data in this study. The technique of collecting data and analyzing the data used in this research is to use documentation and collecting dialogue techniques by selecting scenes and dialogues related to the research problem.

**3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS**

This chapter would like to discuss the type of racism that found in *The Green Mile Film* and resistance that shown after they have racism treatment.

**3.1 Findings**

After the data was analyzed, it was found that there are 3 forms of racism contained in the film *The Green Mile*, namely: Internalized racism, interpersonal racism and Institutional racism. After racist treatment, there were also two types of resistance carried out by minorities, including: closed resistance and open resistance.


**3.2 Discussions**

**3.2.1 Type of Racism Found in the Movie**

1. Internalized Racism

<p>Representament</p>	<p>“We had us a dog. Just a sweet mongrel. You know the kind. Well, in many ways, a good mongrel dog is like a Negro. You get to know it. Often, you get to love it. It is of no particular use... ..but you keep it around because you think it loves you. If you're lucky, Mr. Edgecomb, you never have to find out any different. My wife and I were not so lucky. That dog attacked my boy for no reason. Just got it in his mind one day “.</p> <p><b>Dialogue 1:</b> A tagging system in dialogue that uses language that equates dog breeds with negro races.                  (Source: <i>The Green Mile movie script</i>)</p>
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2. Interpersonal Racism

<p>Representament</p>	 <p><b>Figure 1:</b> The tagging system in the scene of a warden bringing a black prisoner. (Source: Capture The Green Mile film)</p>
<p>Object</p>	<p>Visualization: Icon, in figure 3 or in scene 00.12.49-00.13.48 is a picture of a warden who is parading a prisoner in prison while saying "we got a dead man walking here".</p> <p>Index: in the language, the word "...a dead man walking..." is a parable which means a person who commits a grave mistake and will be sentenced to death.</p> <p>Sign: from the icons and verbal signs, there is a symbolic message of a warden who is arrogant towards a prisoner by exclaiming "...a dead man walking.."</p>
<p>Interpretant</p>	<p>The meaning to be conveyed in Figure 3 is to convey the arrogance and sense of superiority of a warden to prisoners who come from black people by saying bad words and tending to judge</p>

3. Institutional Racism

<p>Representament</p>	<p>“We're in a depression. A third of the country's out of work. People are drifting by the thousands, looking for jobs, for greener grass. Even a giant like Coffey wouldn't get noticed everywhere”.</p> <p><b>Dialogue 3 :</b>A tagging system in dialogue that uses</p>
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	language that refusal to give justice (Source: <i>The Green Mile movie script</i> )
Object	Verbalization: Icon, in dialogue 3 it is a language sign that is talking about a prisoner named John Coffey and the difficult conditions in the country
	Index: sometimes a prisoner is ignored about his han and justice, especially when the prisoner is from the black minority
	Sign: From the icons and verbal signs, there is a symbolic message in the dialogue that from the dialogue sentence "Even a giant like Coffey wouldn't get noticed everywhere" is a prisoner who does not get his rights and justice because he comes from a minority and does not the situation is ignored.
Interpretant	The meaning to be conveyed from the dialogue is Mr. Hammersmith is reluctant to conduct a re-investigation of John's murder case which he thinks will be a waste of time. According to him, it is better to find a solution to the difficulties his country is experiencing.

**3.2.2 Resistance Found in The Movie**

1. Closed Resistance

Del said “Fuck you, Percy” just after percy left after breaking his finger with his wand (Source: *The Green Mile movie script*).

It can be seen that John and Del put up a fight when Percy had left. It can be interpreted that they do not have enough courage to fight directly so that the resistance is carried out secretly and only in the form of words or curses. This form of resistance does not produce anything because no direct action is taken because the form of resistance is only in the form of words and curses.

2. Open Resistance

Punish Will Billyby killing him through percy.



**Figure 2:** *The Green Mile* ( Duration 02.29.02-02.29.13 )

John punish Will Billy by killing him through Percy, he made Percy shoot Will Billy. The result of the resistance is feeling guilty but also relieved to have punished the murderer. The meaning to be conveyed from the picture is resistance behavior is also retaliation by taking action and showing it openly by the oppressed.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

In the film *The Green Mile*, there are three types of racism that occur, namely internalized racism, interpersonal racism and institutional racism. racism in this film is more common to John coffee. This racism treatment develops in society because of the perspective in society that every group has values and society also believes that the dominant group is more powerful than the minority group. Often racism takes the form of words such as blaspheming, insulting, ostracizing or actions such as hitting. Then also the form of racism can also be seen in institutional policies that favor the dominant group and emphasize regulations that narrow the opportunities for minority groups to develop and get justice. Like John Coffee, whose case was rejected to be re-examined because it was considered unimportant and ignored until finally he was sentenced to death.

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