

especially movies are considered as important art form because they entertain, educate, enlighten and inspire audiences.

Movie itself portrays a phenomenon which is happened in one society. For example American society. In fact, American society is dominated by White American. But, *8 Mile* movie describes about a contradictive condition in American society. White American who played by Jimmy Smith must struggle in Black's environment. Beside from society, movie also has close relationship with music. So, movie cannot be separated with music.

### 1.1.1 Rap and African-American Culture

“The Black Aesthetic is derived from the unique culture of African-American” (Anderson, 1993, p.253). The unique culture of African-American culture is caused by many people who create some differences in their culture. They did experiment like “Universal Black Culture” so they can make one authentic creativity such as an authentic Black creativity. So, Blacks have one unique characteristic in their culture, for example in African American music.

“African-American music is one of the cultural art that is the most indigenous to American society” (Anderson, 1993, p.255). Afro-American music gives influence for American culture especially music. In America, there are many genres of music such as blues, jazz, reggae, and rap. All of them are products of African-American music. One genre of musics that have a large group of musician is rap music. People especially youth like rap music.

According to Anderson (1993, p.256), “Rap music is an art form of rhythm, rhetoric, and rhymes consistent with the African musical and oral tradition”. So, the elements of rap music can not be separated from the original of African culture which portrays some realities about social, political, and economical condition. Rap music can influence Black to survive against slavery, oppression, and racism. This condition broke paradigm if “Black always be discriminated in all aspects or job field.” (Baker, 1984, p. 8). They show if they can survive in one of interesting aspects in this life. “By being dominant in rap music, they can give evidence if they can become dominant” (Anderson, 1993, p.268). So, Black people want to show if they can dominate in American culture especially in rap music.

### **1.1.2 Eminem as White Rapper**

“Marshall Bruce Mathers III, later on popular with Eminem was born in St. Joseph, Missouri on 17<sup>th</sup> October 1972 to his mother Debbie Briggs Mathers and his father Marshall Bruce Mathers II” (Mike, 2005, para. 1). Debbie was only 15 years when Marshall III was born. Not long after Marshall III was born, his father left him and his mother. “This was not the end of his life, but it was only just the beginning” (para. 1).

In his social life during his childhood, he also had bad experience. This condition is caused by his parents who have divorce. Marshall becomes so lonely because he always stay at his home. He does not want to adapt with his neighbours.

“Eminem becomes passive child when he knows if his parents divorce” (Alice, 2003,



para. 1). This condition also make him become naughty kids in his environment including in his education.

“He got bullied at every school he attended and later got back at them by dissing them publicly in his songs” (Tyler, 2005, p.1). Marshall did pretty well in school. But, he failed for the third year in a row and decided that he had had enough. School just was not for him, so he left to work on what he was most passionate about: rapping. He started getting a name for himself when he was 17, even though he got into the rap game when he was 14. He was using the initials from his first and last names to form his rap name “M & M” which later became “Eminem” because of his race, he got rejected by people all the time, even though he was a really talented rapper. Determined to prove everyone wrong, he forced himself to go on radio shows and participate in freestyle battles. “In 1995, Marshall recorded his first album titled Infinite, which only sold about 1000 copies” (p.1).

2002 was a big year for Marshall because he can gain his dream to become a talented rapper even becomes an actor . He branched out into the world of acting, filming with esteemed director Curtis Hanson. 8 mile was produced. Based on Eminem own life, he played lead role of a character very much like himself, Jimmy Smith Jr. Jimmy is nicknamed “Rabbit” by his mother, Stephanie, played by Eminem’s wife Kim. While filming 8 mile, he was busy during scenes making up the songs “*Lose Yourself*” and “*8 Mile*”. *Lose yourself* itself win an Oscar in 2003 and become soundtrack of *8 Mile* film.

### 1.1.3 Synopsis

*8 Mile* film was launched in 2002. This film almost describes historical background of Eminem. *8 Mile* is one American film. The film director was Curtis Hanson. In this movie, Eminem became the main character. He played as Jimmy Smith Jr. or known as “Bunny Rabbit” grew up in slum area of Detroit. The area is called *8 Mile*. Generally, people who lived here are black neighborhoods and the lower class.

In this film, the story life of Jimmy is so hard and difficult. Jimmy must accept his real life. In his environment, he did some adaptations so he can be accepted by everyone. His family is broken home. Everyone who get broken home in their lives, will get difficulties to adapt in their environment. In his social life, Jimmy can be included in well category because he has many friends who love and care with him.

His friends support him to reach his dream to become a rapper.

In one moment, he joined in battle rap. Firstly, he felt nervous because this was first time for him in rap. But, before he joined this competition, he tried to create some lyrics and finally he could win that competition. He got respects from others including Black people. But, in this film, White (Jimmy Smith’s character) gets reverse discrimination because he is discriminated by black people.

“White can also be discriminated by Black because they want to broke one paradigm if Black always be discriminated in all aspects or job fields” (Kochman, 1981, p.10). In *8 Mile* movie, Blacks become dominant in America especially in rap



music. They have some powers to become dominant in American culture. So, they can also make White be discriminated as reflected by Jimmy Smith in *8 Mile* movie.

## 1.2 Problem of the Study

Discrimination is the prejudicial treatment of an individual based on their membership or perceived membership in a certain group or category. Discrimination always identic with oppression of minor group by major group. Because of the history of slavery in America, racial discrimination against Black people by White people is commonly found. However, in certain case, White can also be discriminated by Black People. The problem is reflected in *8 Mile* film, in which a White rapper, Jimmy Smith, has struggle to exist among Black rapper community.

## 1.3 Objective of the study

The study of *8 Mile* is purposed to observe the struggle of a white rapper, represented by Jimmy Smith, to exist in the domination of Black American Rap music. The observation will trace how the White rapper actualizes himself when he is in the condition of under pressure from Black rappers.