

negative side from a film are less educated. They don't know how to get the point and give appreciation to the film. They just imitate and apply the negative side in their daily lives. This condition gives bad impact for their social life. One part of film who can give many values and messages in one film is character.

Character is one of interesting parts in film. "A character is a person depicted in a narrative or film" (Wiehardt, p.1). Characters may be flat, minor characters, or round, and major. The main character in a film is generally known as the protagonist and the character who opposes him or her is the antagonist. Character is revealed by how a character responds to conflict, by his or her dialogue, and through descriptions.

Character itself has some elements that support it in a film. According to Msanbach, "The elements of character are physical description, background, personality, relationship, words and actions, motivation, conflict, and change." (2006, p.1). All of them can support one character. People will understand about the content and the message from the film if the characters show great performances. So, character can be the main part of film. Character itself can support in making a concept in one film.

Generally, the concept of a film becomes an important part because the fundamental thing of making a film is a concept. When people are watching film, they are trying to use their imagination to give some impressions and appreciations about the film such as reaction. Their reaction has a close relationship with social concept. Social concept itself can be described as a concept which guides people to behave.

Film is one of art products which is not only seen as an entertainment, but also as a social structure of society in which the film is made. Talking about social function of a film, a film can not be separated from socio-cultural which connect it to people. As a popular culture, film needs people either as audiences or critics.

According to Nachbar, “the popularity of a given cultural element (object, person, or event) is directly proportional to the degree to which that element is reflective of audience beliefs and values” (1992, p.5). So, film becomes a unity which can give some moral messages for the audience. Besides, film can also be a reflection of a society. For example, American society consists of people who come from different tribes, ethnics, and religions.

In American society, there are two groups who live in America. There are White American who become pioneer for American society and Black American become minor group who live in America because Black Americans are immigrant and even Black Americans are carried by White American for being worker for White American. If White and Black American live in one society, they will have a different view in social life. This condition makes Black American try to rebel White American domination. So, portrait of Black American’s life can become an interesting topic in American film like *Banished*, *Glory Road*, *Men of Honor*, *Remember The Titans*, *Cool Runnings*, *The Pursuit of Happiness*, *The Blind Side*, and *8 Mile* movie.

2.1.2 Black Society in America

Firstly, “Black society is always connected with slavery because almost Black people in America work for White American” (Mike, 2004, p.2). It is difficult to find a job for them because their culture is different from White culture. According to Travis, “Black people are so difficult to grow up because they are oppressed and under pressured” (2008, p.1). Black people become slaves of White American. So, they are always associated with slavery.

Due to that condition, it is difficult for Black Americans to evolve their social life in American society. They feel that there are differences in their society like social class and social status. From the social class, Black society is different from White society. According to Kochman, “Black were *exclusively* social, were often also be complicated” (1981, p.9). This statement states that the social status of Black people is not perfect like White Americans. It also means that Whites are always in upper class and Black people are in lower class.

The image of slavery for Black American also influences their social status. The image of slavery is always connected with poverty. In other hand, White people are always connected with hard-working and wealthy. Wealthy and poverty are kind of social statuses which can make everybody are so different. Those paradox images between Black and White people make a difference in their social life. White Americans see that Black people as weak and uneducated people. In fact, the average American populations are white. “White American becomes major group in some

area of America” (Marie, 2002, p.1). That statement describes if White American dominate some American areas and Black people only dominate little areas of America. This condition makes Black people has no room to move on and to struggle. So, Black society are always oppressed and discriminated by White American.

2.1.3 Black Discrimination

Discrimination is the prejudicial treatment of an individual based on their membership - or perceived membership - in a certain group or category (Alexander, 1997, p.1). In that statement, major group become discriminator for minor group. Major group tries to dominate some areas and do not give a chance for minor groups to contribute in their social life. Discrimination is reputed as contradiction of “equal opportunity” whereas actually everybody has an opportunity to get their human rights. For example, discrimination that occurs between White people and Black people, in this case, White people become major group who discriminate Black people.

Blacks get different treatment from other people especially White people. As Kochman stated “Blacks have also been hurt by the failure to recognize distinctively black racial attributes” (1981, p.10). Blacks are connected with slavery and employed by White people, for example in American society. Black American gets different treatment from White American. “Blacks are in under pressure and discrimination so they can not give a contribution for American society” Alexander (1997, p.1). From this statement, Blacks realize that their human rights are broken by White people

especially White American. Blacks want to get equal rights like others. Though they are oppressed and discriminated by White people, Black people do not give up easily.

They have beliefs that eventually they can develop their social life. So, they want to give evidence if they can come up from oppression and discrimination by White

American. They want their culture to be accepted by Americans.

Blacks have a unique culture. Their culture has its own cultural traits because their culture was born from their social life. Black people use their culture as a contribution and evidence that they can also thrive in social life. For example, they use their social life as a reflection from their culture. With their culture, they also could erase their image which is always associated with discrimination and slavery.

2.1.4 Afro-American Culture

“Afro-American culture comes from many ethnic groups in America that ancestor comes from Africa” (Tyler, 1998, p.1). Furthermore, Tyler defines that African-American culture can be said as a new acculturation of culture in America because African-American give a contribution for American culture. African-American culture is so difficult to dominate in American culture because African-American culture does not have a similarity with American culture. American culture is connected with properties and prosperity and African-American culture is connected with discrimination.

This discrimination make African-American culture is so weak. From this condition, African-American culture is always connected with slavery and lower

class. So, those two images make African-American culture is so difficult to be dominant in American culture. This condition is contradictive to American values i.e., freedom and equality.

One of American Presidents, Abraham Lincoln wrote *Gettysburg Address* and described about America is a nation “Conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal” (Grace, 1984, p.24). In this perspective, America is connected with liberty and equality. However, most Americans do not apply liberty and equality in their social life. For example in the ideology of the Anglo-American, to become an American, someone must be a White person, able to speak English without any foreign accent. It is very influential in the social life of a person who lacks the criteria of an Anglo-American. “Public who do not come from America will get a different treatment as discrimination” (Mclemore, 1980, p.33-34).

Firstly, almost immigrant especially for Black people will get different treatment even discrimination. White American always underestimate immigrant because White American thinks if immigrant can not give contribution for American society.

Anglo-American is based on the power of culture domination against a society or a minority ethnic to be assimilated and become part of the American people. Thus, there are many actions like the deportation and extermination against a minority ethnic as occurred against Black people. When Black people came to America, they were taken as slaves in the estates and agriculture.

To fight discrimination, there should be an action in order to have equal rights as citizens. In the early days of colonization, Black people tries to assimilate with the

majority culture, they do not stop to learn to White men in order to be accepted as Americans. It could be associated with the term *Melting Pot* and *Salad Bowl*. *Melting Pot* means that diversity ethnic existing in the state should be put together and then into a whole new people and culture. However, it was not easy as they thought, because it needs places for their societies.

The term *Salad Bowl* can be defined as ethnic diversity that exists in America. *Salad Bowl* also mentions if in America there are some races and ethnic who possess different characteristics. "Every ethnics are trying to show and maintain characteristic of culture possessed by them and is expected to contribute to diversity and vitality in the lives of culture the United States" (Mclemore, 1980, p. 104)

From those metaphors, there is only one purpose i.e. assimilation. "Assimilation is the process of mixing which usually occur in the community, because of the multicultural society of this type is composed by various ethnic groups that have different cultural backgrounds" (Fuchs, 1994, p.93). Through assimilation, those Black people expect if their culture can assimilate with American culture, although it was initially difficult. However, in quite a long time, their culture could finally be accepted by Americans.

This assimilation makes African Americans try to give a new color to American culture. Their step in coloring American culture is started by Harlem Renaissance era. The Harlem Renaissance is generally cited as the flowering period of Blacks in the arts and humanities. Harlem Renaissance can be a signal that Afro-Americans show their capability in assimilation of culture in America. "The Harlem

Renaissance was the period when Blacks broke away from tradition and developed a revitalized sense of racial pride and self-expression” (Anderson, 1993, p.253).

Harlem Renaissance becomes a sign of African American’s resurrection. African Americans show that they can rise and evolve their culture in American culture.

When Harlem Renaissance, African-Americans add a new color in American art product like music. There are many genres of music and song that Blacks have contributed to American music. According to Anderson, “the types of music and song that Blacks have contributed to American music are spirituals, gospel, blues, jazz, and most recently is rap” (1993, p. 255). Rap music in America becomes popular and is connected with Black people. Therefore, most rap musicians are Black people.

In rap music, African American gives an evidence if they can be dominant in American culture. “Although rap has some Hispanic and White rock influences, it is overwhelmingly an African American art form” (Anderson, 1993, p. 267). This statement shows if rap music comes from African-American culture. Rap music becomes pioneer for Black people because rap music describes about their social life.

So, rap music can be a “tool” for them to contribute in American society.

2.1.5 Black Domination in American Culture

Harlem Renaissance is an era when Black people rose from slavery. In one hand, Black people want to show their capability in creating art such as novel, poetry, song, and another kind of art product in America. “Afro-Americans adopted the arts as a domain of hope and an area of possible progress” (Baker, 1984, p.267). This

statement describes there is an area where Black people can be dominant in American culture, i.e., art product. One example of American art products which show Black contribution in American society is music. According to Black people, music has a special function. "For African Americans and Africans, music is more than entertainment. It is functional and therapeutic to their religious, social, and political existence" (Anderson, 1993, p.256). So, other function of music for African-American is as a reflection of their religious, social, and political lives. For African-American, music has big influence for their social lives.

One example which can show Black domination in American Culture is the influence of Black people in Rap music. Rap music can be categorized as music which has many fans in America both Black Americans and White Americans. Rap music has a special place in American society. For Black people, rap music becomes a pioneer for their movement in contributing to American society.

2.2 Previous Study

The example of previous study analyzing *8 Mile* movie is conducted by Imraatun Hasanah from Malang Islamic State University, which entitled *A Sociolinguistic Study on Swear Words Spoken by the Characters in "8 mile"* in 2006. This research analyzes about sociolinguistic study in many characters within *8 Mile* movie. The research focuses on speech act of characters caused by social aspects.

Besides from linguistic approach, there is another study which contains Black domination in rap music in *8 Mile* movie from Herdina Silaban of Universitas

Pendidikan Indonesia, her research is entitled *Kekuasaan dan Dominasi Kulit Hitam Amerika dalam Rap Musik Tergambar dalam Film 8 Mile* in 2004. Herdina's study focuses on how Black American gives big influence in rap music.

From those researches, *8 Mile* movie can be analyzed from several perspectives like Sociolinguistic and Domination of Black American in rap music. But, this research focuses on Jimmy Smith's character adapts and struggles in Black's environment especially in rap music. In adapting in his environment, Jimmy gets discrimination because he is out numbered. So, this research also shows new perspective in discrimination especially *reverse discrimination*.

2.3 Research Method

In conducting the study, there are three steps: deciding the material object, analyzing and interpreting data in connecting with in *8 Mile* movie.

(1) Deciding the object of the study

8 Mile movie is chosen as the material object of the study because this film portrays about Black society in America and Black domination in American music especially rap music. The domination of Black American in rap music makes White American be discriminated like Jimmy Smith. Because of that, Black domination against White becomes a particular phenomenon which is seen as formal object.

(2) Using sociological approach

Since the discussion in this research shows how White American can adapt in Black's environment especially in rap music, this study is connected to social phenomenon in American society especially in rap music. Therefore, to describe more about White American like Smith's struggle to be accepted in Black's environment, the sociological approach is used.

(3) Analyzing and interpreting the data

In this step, *8 Mile* is watched several times to observe the movie main character, Jimmy Smith, so that his life in unfair competitive society and hard struggle to reach his dream can be indentified. In this case, one criteria of racism theory: discrimination is applied. Because the historical background of rap music is come from African-American culture, Blacks have close relationship and big influence in rap music. So, White American as outnumbered in rap music has to struggle more to become a talented rapper. This research learns American dream to uncover Jimmy Smith's character. Although almost rap musicians are Blacks, Jimmy believes that White American like him can become a talented rapper.