

**GANGSTA-RAP GROUP NIGGAZ WITH ATTITUDE'S
STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM DEPICTED IN THE FILM**

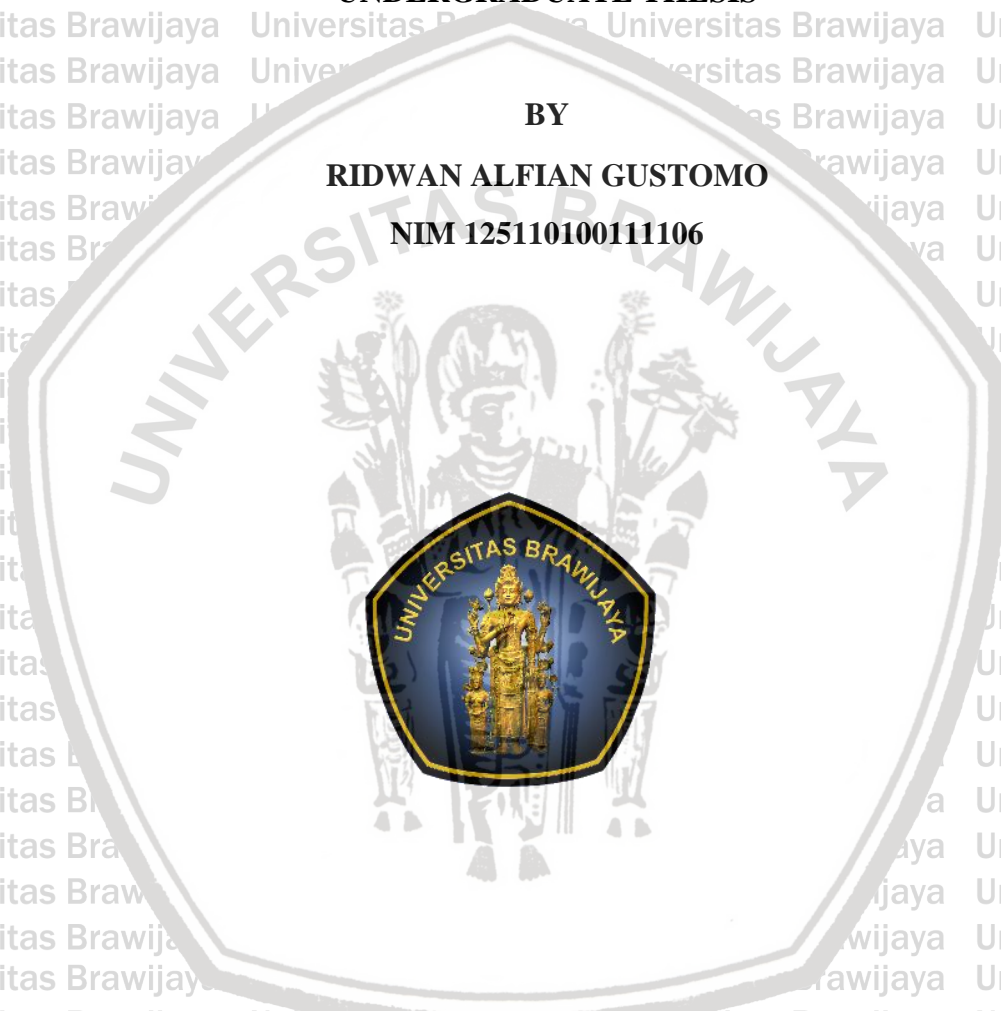
STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

2017

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AGAINST RACISM DEPICTED IN THE FILM
STRAIGHT OUTTA COMPTON**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA

**Presented to
Universitas Brawijaya
in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for the degree of *Sarjana Sastra***

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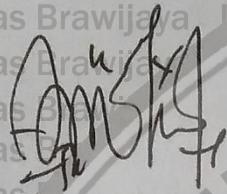


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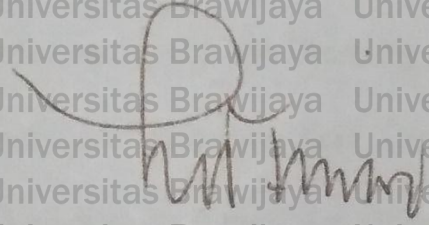
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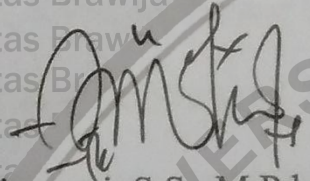
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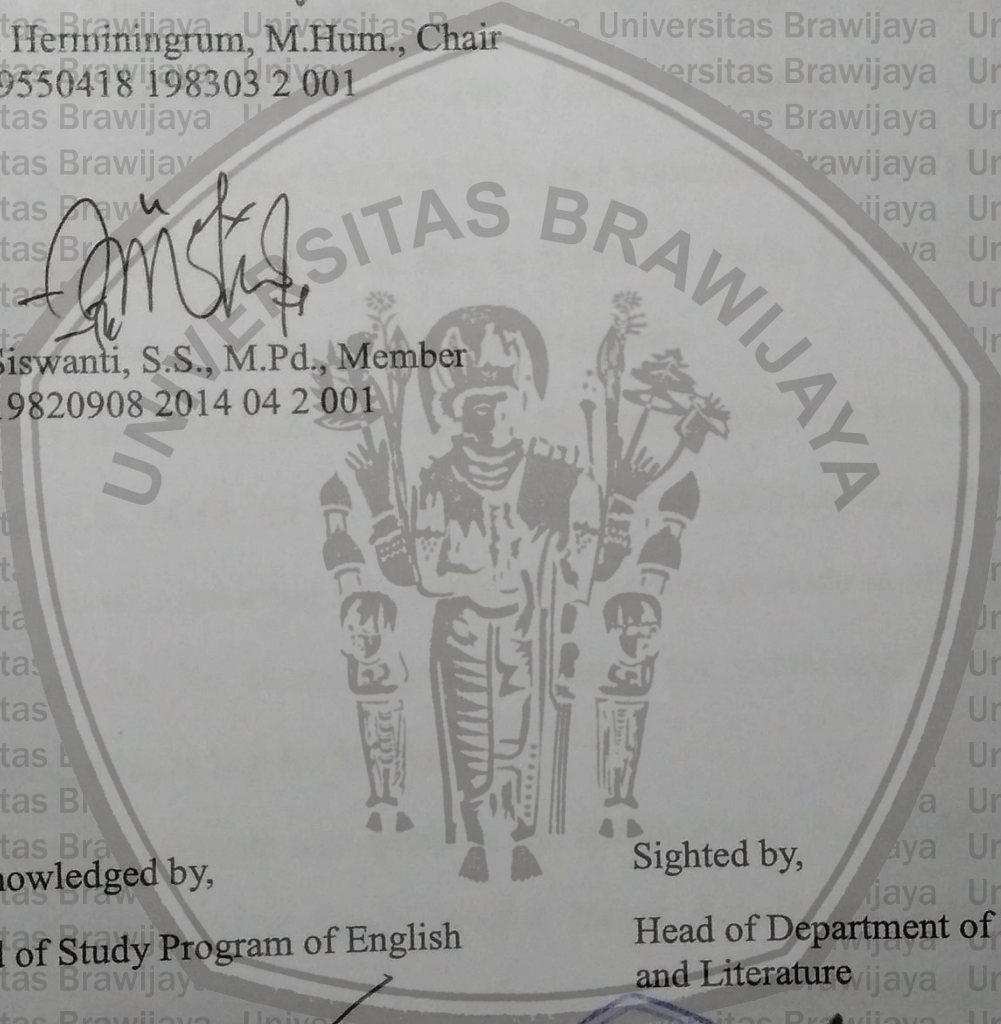
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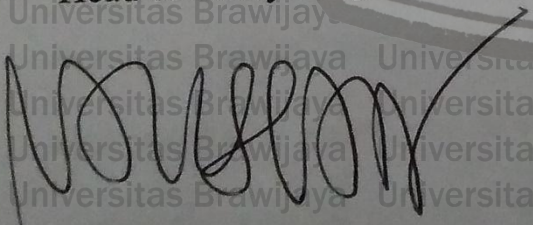
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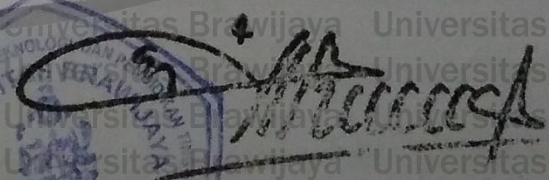


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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

First of all, the writer would like to say the highest gratitude for Allah SWT who has given the blessing, guidance, and mercies in the completion of this thesis entitled “*Gangsta-Rap Group Niggaz With Attitude’s Struggle against Racism depicted in The Film Straight Outta Compton*”. Secondly, special gratitude is expressed to all writer's parents Drs. Daniel Fernandez, M.Si., Ismini Heri Purwati, S.Pd., Mohamad Safii and Prihayani Sukandar, who have given the best support and prayer until he is able to finish his study. Special gratitude also expressed to his only brother Fiqih Fariz Syahputra.

The writer would also like to give his best gratitude to his supervisor Aris Siswanti, S.S., M.Pd. for the guidance, significant criticism, and patience during the process of conducting this thesis. The deepest gratitude is also given to his examiners, Dr. Sri Herminingrum, M.Hum., for examining, criticizing, and suggesting what is best for his thesis.

The best gratitude also given to his friends *Andre, Faizal, Mushab, Dana, Devin, Bintara, Alvian, Dinar, Hendra, Bagus, Pahala, and Jeremy* who have been giving the best support in conducting and finishing this thesis. The writer also thanks to those who are not mentioned specifically but have contribution during the writing process. Without the help and generosity of the people who have been mentioned before, this thesis is impossible to be finish.

Malang, 23 January 2017

ABSTRACT

Gustomo, Ridwan Alfian. 2017. *Gangsta-rap Group Niggaz With Attitude's Struggle against Racism Depicted in the Film *Straight Outta Compton*. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Universitas Brawijaya. Supervisor: Aris Siswanti.*

Keywords: Gangsta-rap, Racial beliefs, *Straight Outta Compton*.

***Gangsta-rap* is one of the most hardcore genres of music in hip-hop culture. The name is created by the media to label the rap artist who have decisive even explicit lyrics in their songs. *Straight Outta Compton* is a biopic movie that tells us the portrayal of young African-American life back in late 80s until early 90s.**

There is a presumption that racism became one of the main problems that depicted in the film. Racial discrimination was very popular issue in the United States during 1986 to 1995. Police brutality, which is one of the parts of racism, was truly exercised during that time due to African-American were often suspected as criminals. Thus, the *gangsta-rap* group, N.W.A. attempted to criticize the authorities through rap music. Hence, the writer intends to analyze whether there is racial discrimination and how N.W.A. struggles against it through their music in the film.

The result of this study shows that racism towards African-American is still found in 1986 to 1995 as depicted in the movie. Therefore, N.W.A. shows their attempt of struggle toward racism by writes decisive lyrics depicted in a song entitled "Fuck Tha' Police", and communicate with their audiences in their concert about what police have done. Next, the film shows there is a reaction from PMRC or Parental Music Resource Center who attempt to resist N.W.A.'s struggle against racism. There is also a reaction from the people of United States who realize that racial discrimination still exists and people's anger towards the authority which is a kind of action that accept N.W.A.'s struggle.

In conclusion, N.W.A. use rap music as their tool to struggle against racism by criticizes the authority and influence other peoples' perspectives. The writer suggests that the next researcher analyze that N.W.A based on documentary movie produced by VH1, one of the famed music channels to get more perspectives on the story that comes outside N.W.A. because the film that is used as the current object of analysis is produced by Ice Cube, one of the members of N.W.A.

ABSTRAK

Gustomo, Ridwan Alfian. 2017. **Perjuangan melawan rasisme oleh kelompok musik gangsta-rap Niggaz With Attitude digambarkan dalam film Straight Outta Compton.** Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: Aris Siswanti.

Kata Kunci: Gangsta-rap, Ideologi rasisme, Straight Outta Compton.

Gangsta-rap merupakan salah satu genre musik dalam kultur hip-hop. Nama gangsta-rap sendiri diciptakan oleh media untuk memberi tanda kepada artis rap yang menciptakan lirik yang vulgar seperti kekerasan menggunakan senjata, seks, dan diskriminasi ras. Straight Outta Compton merupakan film autobiografi yang bercerita tentang potret kehidupan Pemuda Afrika-Amerika pada era akhir 80an sampai awal 90an.

Terdapat dugaan bahwa rasisme merupakan salah satu problem utama yang disajikan dalam film Straight Outta Compton. Diskriminasi ras merupakan isu yang sangat populer di Amerika pada tahun 1986 sampai 1995. Kebrutalan polisi yang merupakan bagian dari rasisme sering diaplikasikan kepada pemuda kulit hitam Amerika keturunan Afrika karena polisi menganggap bahwa mereka adalah target utama yang patut dicurigai karena sering melakukan tindakan kriminal. Sebuah kelompok musik gangsta-rap, N.W.A. dalam film ini berusaha untuk mengkritik otoritas melalui musik rap. Maka, penulis berniat untuk menganalisa bagaimana proses perjuangan kelompok musik N.W.A. melawan rasisme serta bagaimana efek yang terjadi dalam masyarakat Amerika Serikat pada saat itu.

Hasil analisa menjelaskan bahwa memang masih terdapat diskriminasi ras terhadap orang Amerika keturunan Afrika pada tahun 1986 sampai 1995 di dalam film. Analisa selanjutnya menjelaskan bahwa ada proses perjuangan melawan rasisme yang dilakukan oleh N.W.A. adalah dengan menulis lirik yang tajam seperti lagu "Fuck Tha's Police", lalu berusaha berkomunikasi dengan penonton saat konser N.W.A tentang apa yang telah dilakukan polisi. Selanjutnya, analisa menjelaskan bahwa film ini berusaha menunjukkan sebuah reaksi perlawanan yang datang dari otoritas seperti PMRC atau Parental Music Resource Center, sebuah organisasi sensor untuk musik yang menginformasikan untuk mengawasi sasaran musik berunsur keras dimana salah satunya adalah N.W.A. Reaksi mengenai kesadaran masyarakat Amerika Serikat terhadap diskriminasi ras merupakan bentuk penerimaan yang didapat dari proses perjuangan N.W.A.

Kesimpulan yang dapat dirangkum adalah N.W.A. menggunakan musik rap sebagai alat mereka untuk berjuang melawan rasisme dengan mengkritik otoritas dan memberikan pengaruh terhadap pandangan masyarakat. Penulis menyarankan bagi penulis selanjutnya untuk menganalisa cerita tentang N.W.A. dalam film dokumenter yang dibuat oleh VH1, salah satu saluran musik terkenal guna memperoleh perspektif baru karena film yang diteliti saat ini diproduksi langsung oleh Ice Cube, salah satu anggota N.W.A.

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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Study

Human beings are born in various type of ways which spread out in this world. Therefore, they came in variety of ethnicity, race, cultures and many more.

However, this variety of race has been exploited in such an excessive way. The differences among them seem to trigger them to dominate others. There is always the one who feel superior and the one who feel inferior. It is inevitable to say that somehow superiority and inferiority could be justified due to the natural behavior of human being itself. In order to behaves, human being will go through some stages. First stages is levels of influences. As Glanz and Rimer (2005, p.11) stated, there are five different aspects that influence human behavior which are individual factors, interpersonal factors, institutional factors, community factors, and public policy. In behaves to others, human will process those five factors before finally act and trigger a respond from others. The way that others response commonly comes from the previous action whether it contains certain point that rise some question or not. The response also comes from the former action whether is powerful or not.

Talking about the superior and inferior, it lies in the boundary between African-American and white American. People think that African-American somehow can bring the bad influence for the society. This prejudice phenomenon comes from the idea that the culture of African-American reflected the lifestyle of

gang members which contains guns, drugs, and sexual activities. That culture is hip-hop, one of the notorious cultures that being identifies as black culture.

Hip hop is an African-American culture and nowadays becomes one of the most well-known cultures along with its traditions. It all started with an event called The Soundclash, a contest between Coxsone Dodd's "Downbeat" and Duke Reid's "Trojan". That event gives birth to the concept of DJ battling, which later gives a birth of rapping tradition, a part of notorious hip hop culture. This hip hop tradition runs through some generation to gain form of unity among them. There are four basic elements of hip hop which are Breakdancing, DJing, MCing, and Graffiti. Specifically, MCing tradition later transforms through the time and shifts into "rap" where the MC fills in with the rhyme for the beats that DJ already played.

Rap music itself as quoted from Henry Adaso (2016, para. 4), started to develop in 1973 by Kool DJ Herc who deejays his first block party (his sister's birthday) at 1520 Sedgwick Avenue, Bronx, New York by buying two copies of a record and stretch the break parts by using two turntables and mixing in both records before the break ends. Adaso also added that (2016, para.7) in 1975, Herc gets Coke La Rock to utter crowd-pleasing rhymes at parties (e.g. "DJ Riz is in the house and he'll turn it out without a doubt"). Coke La Rock and Clark Kent form the first emcee team known as Kool Herc & The Herculoids. When it comes to the 1980s, the commercialization of rap itself was rapidly increased together with the hip-hop artist who tried to voice their aspiration through the rap music. As a result, many rap artists attempt to make a rap song which describes their

condition, environment, and their culture. Furthermore, gangsta-rap is the sub school of rap which deliberately voices their opinion and critics towards the condition that they have been through to the government, due to many aspects that conducting a lot of problems. Later, the gangsta-rap brings the idea of struggling and fights for what they are hoping.

Straight Outta Compton is the portrayal of gangsta-rap group N.W.A. the abbreviation for “Niggaz With Attitude” where they have been raised in the rude neighborhood located in Compton, California, United States. Back in 1980s, the authorities attempt to use their force without thinking any further of what they do.

Later, they intend to break the barrier between usual people or the inferior, mostly African-American, and the authorities or the superior. In 1987, five young men, using brutally honest rhymes and hardcore beats, put their frustration and anger about life in the most dangerous place in America into the most powerful weapon they had: their music. Taking us back to where it all began, *Straight Outta Compton* tells the true story of how these cultural rebels-armed only with their lyrics, swagger, bravado and raw talent, stood up to the authorities that meant to keep them down and formed the world's most dangerous group, N.W.A. As they spoke the truth that no one had before and exposed life in the hood, their voice ignited a social revolution that is still reverberating today.

This movie is an autobiography due to board of the movie producer consists of F. Gary Gray as director, Oshea Jackson who is the member of N.W.A., and Tommica Woods Wright which is the widow of Eric Wright as the producers.

The writer also chooses the uncut version or the director's cut version in order to understand deeply about the object that served by the movie producer.

The reason why the writer chooses this type of version because the writer wants to keep the authenticity of the movie before it has to go to more editing due to the terms and conditions of published media. Later on, the writer will get ease of analysis by judging the director's intention because the movie only edited and revised by director itself.

Niggaz With Attitude, which consists of Eazy-E, Ice Cube, Dr. Dre, MC Ren, DJ Yella, and DOC, is also being known as one of the pioneer of gangsta-rap music which triggers some changes in terms of voicing their opinions through their songs. Specifically, a song entitles "Fuck tha Police" gives the resilient critics towards the authorities to not doing silly things by acting relentlessly. The group itself thinks that what they have shared is the portrayal of real life and should have not being banned from the public.

Peter Travers, a journalist from Rolling Stone magazine (2015, para.4) wrote "*Straight Outta Compton* plays better when outside the box, showing us N.W.A power and the consequences of abusing it. He also said (2015, para.3) "the recording sessions, featuring Neil Brown Jr. and Aldis Hodge in lesser roles as DJ Yella and MC Ren, pack the vital spark of live performance. Yet, it's Cube who puts N.W.A on the map with his incendiary 'Fuck tha Police'. The film's righteous highlight is a Detroit concert where the cops threaten to jail the group mates and shut the place down if they sing the rap that has demonized N.W.A to Middle America."

In addition, Drew Mc Weeny (2015, para.7) also stated that he wishes we could look at the sequence where they're warned not to play "Fuck tha Police" or they'll be arrested and the build up with people are talking about they are unacceptable role model because their music "promotes violence" and created a "significant safety risk" are events that could never happen today. Mc Weeny (2015, para.8) also state " 'Straight Outta Compton' may not fully shake off many of the restrictions of the biopic form, but if anyone deserves to have some mythmaking done for them, then it is N.W.A. And if ever there's been a time to raise some hands in the air, middle finger up, and give a rousing call-and-response to 'Fuck tha Police,' it feels like it's right now."

Hence, the aforementioned statement before attempt to bring the ideas about the way they are able to show an attempt of struggle to fight for inequality.

The song of N.W.A. gives an impact of how the inferior or African-American can criticize and show an attempt of struggle to others to fight the superior or the authorities. They started to use gangsta-rap to express their critics and perform it in front of other people regardless of what authorities thought. They even break the color complexion barrier when it comes to the authority. This phenomenon comes in a form of movie as a package to answer people's question dealing with the reason why they ever intended to create such kind of songs

In this thesis, the writer would like to focus on the way that Niggaz With Attitude, as the part of civilians, is able to perform an attempt to struggle from the elements of hip hop culture towards other peoples to counter the authorities, in a

way that people will end up questioning about the justice that authorities have according to *Straight Outta Compton* movie as portrayal of N.W.A. biography.

Afterwards, it comes to the signification of this thesis solely to give clearer evidence about the process of struggle which performed by N.W.A group, how Rap music described in this movie, and how the impact that comes as a result according to *Straight Outta Compton* movie

1.2. Problem of the Study

According to the background of the study, this research focuses on N.W.A.'s attempt to struggle against discrimination against African-Americans through rap music and the impacts that come from the struggle depicted in *Straight Outta Compton* movie.

1.3. Objective of the Study

The objectives of this research are:

1. to disclose the conditions of African-Americans depicted in *Straight Outta Compton* Movie,
2. to examine how the products of hip hop culture, which in this particular research is rap music, shows the decisive critics against discrimination according to *Straight Outta Compton* Movie, and
3. to examine the impacts of rap music that is used by N.W.A to struggle against discriminations of African-Americans depicted in *Straight Outta Compton* Movie.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter will help the writer to conduct the theoretical foundations to support the analysis and discussions in the next chapter. This chapter includes: theoretical frameworks, previous studies and research method.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Historical approach is aimed to examine certain object by analyzing and interpreting the data based on the historical factors including prior cause and effect, important event, and the certain motives that makes an object has a relation to it. The purpose of historical approach in conducting this research is to reveal the ability of power and how power itself placing its roles to the important event in relation with the hip hop cultures. Historical approach and theory of power are used to help analyzing how the product of hip hop culture can bring some influences towards people and brings the idea of encountering the authority as depicted in *Straight Outta Compton* movie.

2.1.1 New Historical Criticism

New historical criticism pursues to find meaning in a text by considering the work within the framework of the predominant ideas and assumptions of its historical era. This approach will determine how predominant ideas and assumptions about hip-hop culture and gangsta-rap influence the society.

As cited on Delahoyde (2011, para.2), “new historicist concerns themselves with the political function of literature and with the concept of power, the intricate means by which cultures produce and reproduce themselves. These critics focus on revealing the historically specific model of truth and authority (not a ‘truth’ but a ‘cultural construct’) reflected in a given work.”

Tyson (2006, p.282) also states “Traditional historians ask, ‘What happened?’ and ‘What does the event tell us about history?’ In contrast, new historicists ask, ‘How has the event been interpreted?’ and ‘What do the interpretations tell us about the interpreters?’.”

So, New Historicists, asserting that history is depending on who had been interpreted it and what is the motive behind the interpreters who define a history.

In this particular research, new historical criticism will help to observe what movie producer attempt to tell us implicitly according to *Straight Outta Compton* movie.

2.1.2 Racial Beliefs in America

To understand the process of struggle conducted by N.W.A, we need to know about the history of slavery that shaped racial beliefs in the United States.

Slavery itself is an act of owning others in order to help the owners in terms of doing anything. Steering Committee on Slavery and Justice Brown University (2003, p.7) suggest:

Slaves everywhere were subject to physical and sexual abuse. They typically served for life and often passed that status on to their children. Perhaps most important, slaves were outsiders, not only in the literal sense of coming from outside the societies in

which they were held but also in the sense of being excluded from the basic recognition and rights enjoyed by those who were free

When African American was first enslaved, their suppression was not justified in terms of their biological inferiority. Prior to the influences of the Enlightenment, human servitude was taken as a much more unquestioned element in the existing order of economic classes and social estates, since this way of thinking was taken over from feudal and post-feudal Europe. The historical literature on this early period also records that the imported Negroes – and the captured Indians – originally were kept in much the same status as the white indentured servants. When later the Negroes gradually were pushed down into chattel slavery while the white servants were allowed to work off their bond, the need was felt, in this Christian country, for some kind of justification above mere economic practicality and the might of the strong. The arguments called forth for a time need not biological in character, although they later easily merged into the dogma of natural inequality.

Myrdal (2001, p.87) said that the ideas of the American Revolution added their influence to those of some early Christian thinkers and preachers, particularly among the Quakers, in criticizing these arguments. And they gave an entirely new vision of society as it is and as it ought to be. This vision was dominated by a radically equalitarian political morality and could not possibly include slavery as a social institution. The arguments were broadly these; that the Negro was a heathen and a barbarian, an outcast among the peoples of the earth, a

descendant of Noah's son Ham, cursed by God himself and doomed to be a servant forever on account of an ancient sin.

However, the ideology of America which spread freedom democracy led to the way of thinking that African American should be given the freedom. Some countries in the North seem agree to this thinking, some of them not. Surprisingly, the South fully denied this thinking because the slave can give more profit in the development of economic industries in United States. Myrdal (2001, p.89) also said that:

The central theme in the Southern theory is the moral and political dictum that slavery did not violate the "higher law," that it was condoned by the Bible and by the "laws of nature," and that "free society," in contrast, was a violation of those laws. It should be observed that in the pro-slavery thinking of the ante-bellum South, the Southerners stuck to the American Creed as far as whites were concerned; in fact, they argued that slavery was necessary in order to establish equality and liberty for the whites.

The South thinks if the slavery is able to continue, then the ideology of Europe and United States revolution to evolve the doctrine of natural inequality in order to make room for liberalism become true. This affect to the racial prejudice in the South increased at least up to the beginning of the twentieth century. The last two or three centuries have seen a veritable revolution in scientific thought on the racial characteristics of the Negro. This revolution has actually a much wider scope: it embraces not only the whole race issue even outside the Negro problem, but the fundamental assumptions on the nature— nurture question.

Hence, we can conclude that social prejudice has already succeeded in shaping the racial beliefs based on natural inequality that African American has lower position than White. Cultural influences have set up the assumptions about

the mind, the body, and the universe with which we begin; pose the questions we ask; influence the facts we seek; determine the interpretation we give these facts; and direct our reaction to these interpretations and conclusions.

Myrdal (2001, p.95) stated that race is a comparatively simple idea which easily becomes applied to certain outward signs of "social visibility," such as physiognomy. Explanations in terms of environment, on the contrary, tax knowledge and imagination heavily. It is difficult for the ordinary man to envisage clearly how such factors as malnutrition, bad housing, and lack of schooling actually deform the body and the soul of people. The ordinary white man seems unable to expect to be aware of such subtle influences as the denial of certain outlets for ambitions, social disparagement, cultural isolation, and the early conditioning of the Negro child's mind by the caste situation, as factors molding the Negro's personality and behavior. The white man is, therefore, speaking in good faith when he says that he sincerely believes that the Negro is racially inferior, not merely because he has an interest in this belief, but simply because he has seen it. He "knows" it. Thus, we cannot simply decide that the racial problem comes from the popular mind. It goes back further to the beginning of enslavement.

This negro problem, as matter of fact lasted for centuries where the racial discrimination should be the common thing to do in society. Many efforts to overcome the problem has been examined. One of the successors of gender equality is Martin Luther King Jr who brought African American to get the rights as people of United States by Civil Rights Act in 1964. However, this not simply

changes anything. White people still dominate all over the place and fields. United States recession in the year of 1980 gave African American opportunity to voice their critics as rap music started to develop in 1970s. It caused by the monetary crisis that led government to apply “stop and go” policy. This affects to increase the rates of crime, social inequality, and police brutality. Gangsta-rap comes as a solution that brought by African American to verbalize their opinion so they can be heard by the authority and people of United States.

Blanchard, on her journal (1999, para. 7) added that rap's potential for political advocacy stems from the function of its predecessors, African-American rhyming games, as forms of resistance to systems of subjugation and slavery.

Rhyming games encoded race relations between African-American slaves and their white masters in a way that allowed them to pass the scrutiny of suspicious overseers. Additionally, rhyming games allowed slaves to use their creative intellect to provide inspiration and entertainment.

In conclusion, this theory will help to conduct the relationship between African American struggle towards inequality injustice, how rap has the importance to portray the life of African American working class who has been misinterpreted by mainstream media and the process of struggle that formed by N.W.A group after the post-revolutionary act of freedom towards the brutality of authorities as depicted in *Straight Outta Compton*.

2.1.2.1 Los Angeles Riot

L.A. Riots or Los Angeles Riot is one of historical riot, that has relation with racial discrimination especially by law enforcement, which happened back in

1992 in Los Angeles County, California. It started with the arrest of an African-American, Rodney King, who resist to be arrested yet he had been driving drunk and suddenly the police chose to beat in attempt of arresting him. King finally had broken bones and injured brain. People then start voicing their critics to the police, especially African-Americans in that area. People are questioning why police did such an arrogant action like that because in public opinion, law enforcement must have certain procedure in order to arrest someone. However, the police did not respond them well and asked the people to wait for the result of trial. Later, trial of Rodney King resulted four police officers were not guilty in defense of exercising the duty. After being mad by the result of the trial, people start firing store in downtown in order to make attention to the whole states and to be heard by the police.

This event shows us one of racial discrimination form that applied in daily life and exercising by law enforcement like police. For decades, people who feel discriminated by the action of police always consider that the police is somehow racist.

Police itself formed to serve and protect people from the daily threat and sometimes national threat. According to William and James (2007, p.3) who define "The police are tasked with controlling a population that does not always respect their authority and may resist efforts to enforce the law. Thus, police are armed, trained, and authorized to use force in the course of executing their duties". Sometimes, they use the ultimate in force in order to give the tension of awareness to people that they are the authority.

This phenomenon however affects the behavior of society who simply cannot accept the treat of police officers. “Nor is it surprising that the affected communities respond with anger-sometimes rage. The battles that ensue do not only concern particular injustices, but also represent deep disputes about the rights of the public and the limits of state power” William and James (2007, p.4).

In conclusion, this phenomenon will help the writer to analyze the process of abusing the power that applied by police officers towards civilian especially African-Americans according to *Straight Outta Compton* movie.

2.1.2.2 Rap and Gangsta-Rap

Rap invention basically comes from the biggest culture of African-American in the United States, hip-hop. There are four elements that establish in hip-hop culture which are DJing, MCing, Breakdancing, and Graffiti. Rap music itself is a combination between MCing and DJing. The artists rap their lines in time to rhythms taken from records. There are boast raps, insult raps, news raps, message raps or party raps, just as there are in reggae.

Devos (2006, p.9) stated that rap started in the South Bronx of New York, which had been a mainly black and Hispanic ghetto for decades. To be exact in 1967 a DJ called Kool Herc emigrated to the States from Jamaica and came to live in the West Bronx. He developed a style that was so popular that he began buying records for the instrumental breaks rather than for the whole track. The lead guitar or bass riff or sequence of drumming that he wanted might only last fifteen seconds. Rather than play the whole record straight through, he would play this same part several times over, cutting from one record deck to the other as he

talked through the microphone. This meant buying several copies of the same record. And it also meant that Herc had to have a very precise sense of timing. He used the headphones that DJs use to cue up their records so that he could cut from one copy of a record to another at exactly the right point.

The technique Herc had invented became known as the 'beats' or the 'breakbeats'. He can also be credited with another invention. As the switching between record decks got faster and more complicated, it required a lot of concentration. Herc couldn't rap and operate the records at the same time. So he employed two MCs to do the rapping for him. The early role of the MC was to introduce the DJ and the music and to keep the audience excited. MCs began by speaking between songs, giving greetings to audience members, jokes and anecdotes. As cited on Devos (2006, p.10), eventually this practice became more stylized and became known as rapping. The MCs would put on a show for the crowd, dancing in front of the decks and bouncing lines off each other.

Gangsta rap, according to Devos (2006, p.14) is a subgenre of rap music that involves a lyrical focus on the lifestyles of inner-city gang members, pimps or drug dealers. There is presumption that rappers themselves give the name 'gangsta' rap, but the fact is that the media was responsible for this particular name. Devos (2006, p.14) also stated that unlike the moralistic preaching, escapism or sentimentality that defines most popular music, gangsta rappers – also referred to as 'hardcore' rappers – detail the unemployment, miseducation, discrimination, homicides, gang life, class oppression and police brutality that dominate the lives of many black youngsters. The macho boasting, misogyny,

violent fantasies and false consciousness exist side by side with an immature, but clear, critique of authority, a loathing of the oppressive character of wage labour, a hatred of racism and an exposé of Reaganism or seeing the government negatively.

In the development of rap and gangsta-rap, African American realize that rap music should be one of the effective way to fight for racial discrimination.

Devos (2006, p.11) stated that Rap has also retrieved historic black ideas, movements, and figures in combating racial discrimination. Rap music has also focused renewed attention on black nationalist and black radical thought. One of the pioneer rap groups, *Public Enemy*, is succeeded to make Black Nationalist language in order to change the thought of African American at that time. After that, the popularity of hip hop rapidly increased as DJ Jazzy Jeff and Fresh Prince (known better with his real name, Will Smith) surprisingly accepted by American teenager in 1988.

However, the development of rap music in West Coast started to meet their popularity as *Niggaz With Attitude* comes from the city of Compton, in Southern Los Angeles County. Their lyric contains the inner-life of gang member dealing with drugs, guns, and the inequality of justice that applied by the police.

Giovacchini (1999, par.2) stated that N.W.A. got the ball of gangster rap rolling with the production of "Fuck The Police" in 1988, from their album *Straight Outta Compton* Lyrics from this track expressed hatred and violence towards police officers and implied that they were all racists.

In conclusion, the explanation before could help analyzing the form of struggle that *Niggaz With Attitude* performs, how they role it, and how their actions have a position in the development of rap music as the tools of erasing the racial discrimination.

2.1.3 Cinematography

Movies, for some people, are just a medium for entertainment as we probably recall from the first aim of its invention. However, in the development of movies, this medium can also be used to educate people to know something more and better than before. The movie maker eventually realizes that at some point, movies will make the people realize and even changed. Brown (2012, p.13) stated that cinema is a language and within it are the specific vocabularies and sub languages of the lens, composition, visual design, lighting, image control, continuity, movement, and point-of-view. So, the movie maker attempts to make the viewer understand what they are presenting in the movies. In order to support the analysis of the data, the writer chooses Brown (2012) to help categorizing the data from cinematography aspects. There are four categories that writer use to analyze the data which are the frame, light and color, establishing and point of view.

2.1.3.1 The Frame

According to Brown (2012, p.14), selecting the frame is the fundamental act of filmmaking; as film makers, it must direct the audience's attention: "look here, now look at this, now over here..." Choosing the frame is not only a matter

of conveying the story, but it is also a question of composition, rhythm, and perspective. Here, the frame takes the audience's attention to look at the part that they want to show in film.

2.1.3.2 Point of View

It is a key tool of visual storytelling. The term is used in many different ways on a film set, but the most often used to show that the camera see something in much the same way as one of the characters would see it: to view the scene from that character's point-of-view. Point of view can help the writer to know the goal from the film. It is useful to help analyze this study.

2.1.3.3 Establishing

According to Blain Brown (2012), establishing is the ability of the camera to reveal or concealing information. Think of it as a visual equivalent of exposition, which in verbal storytelling means conveying important information or background to the audience. Establishing is accomplished by primarily by a choice of the frame and the lens, but it also can be done with lighting that conceals or reveals certain details of the scene.

2.2 Previous Studies

For the previous studies, the writer found two thesis that have similarities and differences with following studies. First is from David Librado thesis in 2010 entitled *An Instrument of Resistance: Rap Music and Hip-Hop Culture in El Alto, Bolivia*. This research analyzes how rap music, as an element of hip hop, can become an instrument of struggle which spread in El-Alto, Bolivia.

The second previous study comes from Eliezer Bercasio's thesis in 2012 entitled *Coming from Sounds of Blackness: Exploring The Effects of Hip-Hop On Views Of Race in San Jose State University in California, United States*. This research attempts to analyze the effect of color-blind ideology that comes from the listener of hip-hop music. This ideology seems to be accepted by this type of listener, especially in California, United States.

Based on those two previous studies, the similarity between David Librado's thesis and the present study is that Librado used hip-hop as his object.

The difference between Librado's study with the present study is Librado used the society of El-Alto, Bolivia who become hip hop enthusiast and also the producer of rap music intend to struggle the authorities as the object while the present studies use the portrayal of *Niggaz With Attitude* group who gives the influence to others to criticize the authorities. Eliezer Bercasio's thesis has similarity with the present study that it uses the song of hip-hop as the object of study. It will help the present study to conduct the impact of hip-hop music towards the people who listen to this type of music. Bercasio also uses color-blind ideology which is categorized as racism theory. It will also help the present studies in order to give more understanding in racial problem along with its complexity which related to color-blind ideology especially towards African American. The differences between Bercasio's study and present studies are: (1) The choice of the subject of research which she uses is California teenagers and the present study uses the movie of *Straight Outta Compton*. (2) The focus of the theory is different where

Bercasio focuses on color-blind ideology and the present study uses the connection between slavery that shaped racial beliefs in America.

Those two previous studies will help the writer improve the present study in terms of applying the racial beliefs theory to answer the problem of study and understand the process of struggle that *Niggaz With Attitude* brings along with their gangsta-rap music.

2.3 Research Method

In conducting the research, first the writer chose *Straight Outta Compton* (2015) as the object. This movie tells us about the life of a gangsta-rap group called N.W.A. (*Niggaz With Attitude*) in a small city called Compton in California, United States. The movie is portraying the certain event of N.W.A. that performed an attempt of struggle towards racism and what is the impact that comes from their struggle.

Second, the writer chose to use new historical approach to analyze and classify the object of this study. The reason why new historical approach is appropriate for the object is because it will show the comparison between the movie itself and the fact that really happened at that time.

Third, the data were collected by watching the movie several times intensively. After that, the writer sorted out the data based on cinematography elements. The writer analyzed and classified the process of struggle that N.W.A. described in the movie. The writer also collected data from an event about Compton, California between 1986-1995.

The discussion in this research fits with racism theory in United States especially N.W.A.'s struggles against racial discrimination in American Society.

The writer also analyzed the impact that comes from N.W.A.'s struggles over the discrimination. Then, the writer made conclusion on the key findings of the study



CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In this chapter, the writer will present the analysis of struggling process of *Niggaz With Attitude* to fight against inequality as depicted in *Straight Outta Compton* movie. This chapter also presents about the acceptance and resistance of American people as the impact of N.W.A.'s struggle.

3.1 The Conditions of African Americans in California during 1986 to 1995

In 1980s, United States Government had a severe recession due to monetary policy failure. As cited on *Slaying the Dragon of Debt, a Fiscal politics and policy from the 1970s to the present* (2011, para.1), "the primary cause of which was the disinflationary monetary policy adopted by the Federal Reserve". This situation makes the government to control the stability of the country by increasing the law enforcement quality. Based on the observation that writer done towards *Straight Outta Compton*, it can be said that the condition of African-Americans around 1986 to 1995 was quite miserable due to the exercise of civil rights act has not been completely applied all over the states. Almost all African-Americans, especially young one, are always being suspected doing crime or using drugs in the neighborhood. There is the fact that young African-American influenced to use drugs and do gun-violence around late 80s until early 90s.

Mauer and Huling (1995, p.3) stated that "as of 1994, 30.2% of African American males in the age group 20-29 were under criminal justice control -- prison, jail, probation, or parole -- on any given day". Hence, police attempt to

prevent the potential crime especially when they see young African-American around the neighborhood. In this case, police choose to use physical abuse in order to inspect whether they are proven guilty or not.

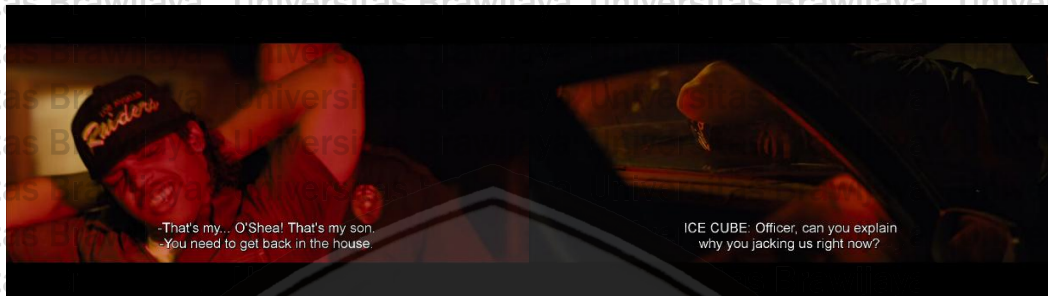


Figure 3.1 Young African-American's bad treatments by police officers

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 00:16:18-00:16:35)

Figure 3.1 shows young African-American feels insulted by the treat of police who abusing their power. They start to defend themselves by saying "What did I do?" and "Can you explain why you jacking us right now?". They thought they did not do anything wrong and did not bring any drugs or guns. Police are tasked to control situation including inspect the potential crime in order to prevent criminal activities. However, police should not be done such kind of abusing way, at least not every young African-American that hanging around neighborhood because it is not sure whether they are potential criminals or not.

In the development of rap music, the writing of its lyrics gradually transform based on their era. Back in Compton, late 80s were the era of gangster life. They got full support from the neighbor countries like Columbia and Mexico as their supplier of guns and drugs. Hence, they felt confident to do what they wanted to do. This condition makes the law enforcement, especially police, think that they should be aware of African-Americans because it was a threat for

national security. Later, police decided to examine every African-American that was hanging around on the street in order to search whether they had drugs and guns or not. The same case happens to the members of N.W.A. in the film.

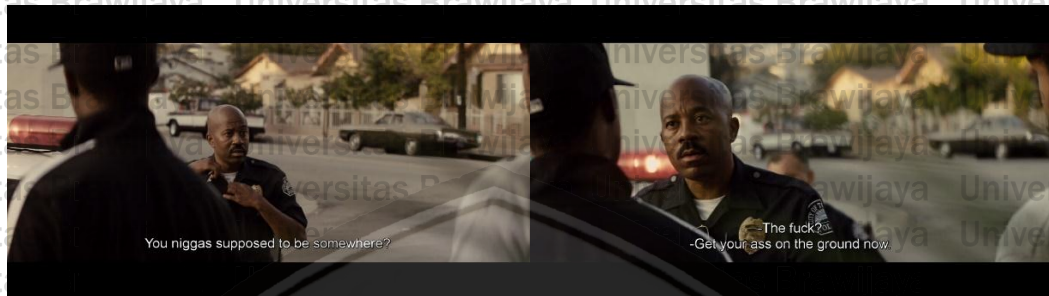


Figure 3.2 Police suspecting N.W.A. member

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 00:50:51-00:53:50)

Police Officer 1 : “You guys lost?”
 Ice Cube : “Nah.”
 Police Officer 1 : “You Niggas supposed to be somewhere?”
 Eazy-E : ”Yeah! Here, we working.”
 Police Officer 2 : “Oh, you working?”
 Police Officer 1 : “Yeah, I bet.”
 Dr. Dre : “What we do?”
 Police Officer 1 : “We’ll find out in a minute what you did”
 Police Officer 2 : “Get on the ground, now!”
 Dr. Dre : “The fuck?”
 Police Officer 1 : “Get your ass on the ground now.”

Source: (*Straight Outta Compton* Cube, 2015, minutes: 00:50:51-00:53:50)

Figure 3.2 shows a scene where the police officers suspect N.W.A member of bringing guns, although it is not confirmed yet if they are gang members, who usually always bring guns. It starts when N.W.A decides to put their songs on recording studio in the city of Torrance. From the excerpt of the dialogue, police throw a question that undermines N.W.A members by saying they are supposed to be lost and not from here. That is because the city of Torrance was known as the place for mostly white people’s place. Later on, the police officers inspect N.W.A

member in order to find something wrong from them. Instead of doing it nicely according to law procedure, these police officers are forcing them to get to the ground. This is one of the examples of police harassment that African-American always receives. However, the writer also finds that one of the police officers interrogate N.W.A. member is also African-American. It is transcribed on the dialogue as Police Officer 1. This scene shows the viewers that the authority is above all regardless of people's colors. As William and James (2007, p.3) state "the police are tasked with controlling a population that does not always respect their authority and may resist efforts to enforce the law. Thus, police are armed, trained, and authorized to use force in the course of executing their duties." It can be inferred that basically police are prepared with armor in order to anticipate the worst conditions if sometimes the unwanted conditions occurred.

Similar to the description in the film, real life in California during 1986 to 1995 was also full of discrimination from police officers towards young African-Americans. Police brutality has been an issue since the era of 60's. Police often abuse their power especially to young African-American and other people of color.



Figure 3.3 Rally protesting to police brutality

Source: CivilRightsTeaching.org

As described in Figure 3.3, there was a rally to Department of Justice protesting about Rodney King's Case, an African-American who drive under influences then was beaten by the police in 1992. The movie attempts to tell us about Rodney King's beating by the police officers. However, the film does not show the whole part of Rodney King's case where he was actually driving under influence. Driving under influence itself is a violation against the law. However, the attention of viewers is being directed only to the beating, not about the background of the beating. The movie focuses on the police violent treatment on African-American.

3.2 N.W.A.'s Struggle against Racism

According to *Straight Outta Compton*, there are several actions that can be categorized as the struggle of N.W.A. against racism. The writer finds that this process of struggle is the process of reaction based on the conditions at the time when The United States was not friendly for African-American. Their opinion had never been heard by the government or the authority, nor they got in law

enforcement. The followings are the evidence depicted in the film about N.W.A.'s struggle.

3.2.1 Writing Decisive Lyrics

After being inspected by Police Officers (Figure 3.3), Ice Cube writes his protest in their '*Straight Outta Compton*' or '*Straight Out of Compton*'.

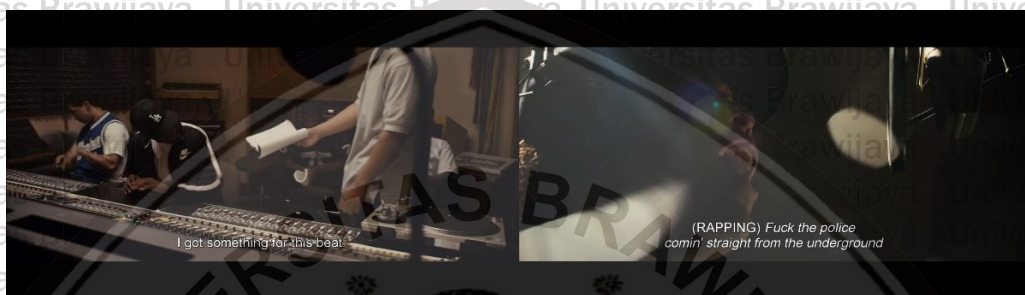


Figure 3.4 Cube shows to Dre about his new lyric entitle Fuck Tha' Police

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 00:53:55-00:55:06)

Figure 3.4 shows that Ice Cube is handing his new lyrics to Dr. Dre that the lyrics show hatred towards the police. Dre and Eazy-E at that time feel surprised, but they feel glad because Cube's lyrics are powerful. That song is "Fuck Tha' Police", along with the album of "Straight Outta Compton" which happens to be the name of the film itself. This song contains about decisive, controversial yet provocative lyrics. Goldstein (2014, para. 5) writes "The song title was so controversial that the word "fuck" did not appear on the album packaging.

Instead, the song was listed as 'blank-blank-blank-blank Tha Police' with the instructions to 'fill in the blanks.' This song tells about their daily life activities, what African-American do in the neighborhood, why they intend to defend themselves from a threat, and why they fight the police.

“Fuck Tha’ Police”

[Intro: The D.O.C., Dr. Dre, and Ice Cube]

Right about now, N.W.A. court is in full effect

Judge Dre presiding

In the case of N.W.A. versus the Police Department

Prosecuting attorneys are MC Ren, Ice Cube

And Eazy-motherfucking-E

Order, order, order!

Ice Cube, take the motherfucking stand

Do you swear to tell the truth, the whole truth

And nothing but the truth to help your black ass?

You goddamn right!

Well, won't you tell everybody what the fuck you gotta say?

Source: (Azlyrics.com/lyrics/nwa/fuckthepolice.html)

N.W.A write this song as if they are in a court where they become the Judge and Prosecuting Attorney. In a case between N.W.A versus the Police Department where they say that the court is made by them. They explain that Ice Cube, MC Ren and Eazy-E as Prosecuting attorneys or they who have to defend the criminal suspect before being sentenced by the judge on a trial. So, it indicates that Cube, Ren and E described as those who defend what so-called “criminal” in this case because African American at that time always being labeled as the one who must be guilty on. N.W.A profile this kind of courtyard to imply that young African-American is also able to create their own way to verdict the one who always treat them bad which is Police Department. Later, Cube is sworn under oath to tell only the truth for whatever happened in this case.

[Verse 1: Ice Cube]

Fuck the police! Comin' straight from the underground

A young nigga got it bad ‘cause I'm brown

And not the other color, so police think

They have the authority to kill a minority

Fuck that shit, ‘cause I ain't the one

For a punk motherfucker with a badge and a gun
To be beating on, and thrown in jail
We can go toe-to-toe in the middle of a cell
Fuckin' with me 'cause I'm a teenager
With a little bit of gold and a pager
Searchin' my car, lookin' for the product
Thinkin' every nigga is sellin' narcotics
You'd rather see me in the pen
Than me and Lorenzo rollin' in a Benz-o
Beat a police out of shape
And when I'm finished, bring the yellow tape
To tape off the scene of the slaughter
Still getting swoll off bread and water
I don't know if they fags or what
Search a nigga down, and grabbing his nuts
And on the other hand, without a gun, they can't get none
But don't let it be a black and a white one
'Cause they'll slam ya down to the street top
Black police showing out for the white cop
Ice Cube will swarm
On any motherfucker in a blue uniform
Just 'cause I'm from the CPT
Punk police are afraid of me
Huh, a young nigga on the warpath
And when I'm finished, it's gonna be a bloodbath
Of cops, dying in L.A.
Yo, Dre, I got something to say

[Hook]
Fuck tha police!
Fuck tha police!
Fuck tha police!
Fuck tha police!

Source: ([Azlyrics.com/lyrics/nwa/fuckthepolice.html](https://www.azlyrics.com/lyrics/nwa/fuckthepolice.html))

The excerpt of Ice Cube's verse of "Fuck Tha' Police" song which shows that Cube really put his anger in his lyrics. It states "A young nigga got it bad cause I'm brown", meaning that African-American often receive bad treatment from the police. The police act deliberately and sometimes abuses their power to by treating the African-Americans badly. The police seems to have pre-

judgmental mindset that every young African-American always has cocaine or narcotics, so they have to be inspected in order to prevent potential crimes. In fact, not all of African-American do drugs or will commit crime.

3.2.2 Persevering Criticism

After, N.W.A album is released, they get on a tour to several cities across the states. This is the effect of popularity that N.W.A. gains from their songs.

However, there are some protestors who disagree with the album.

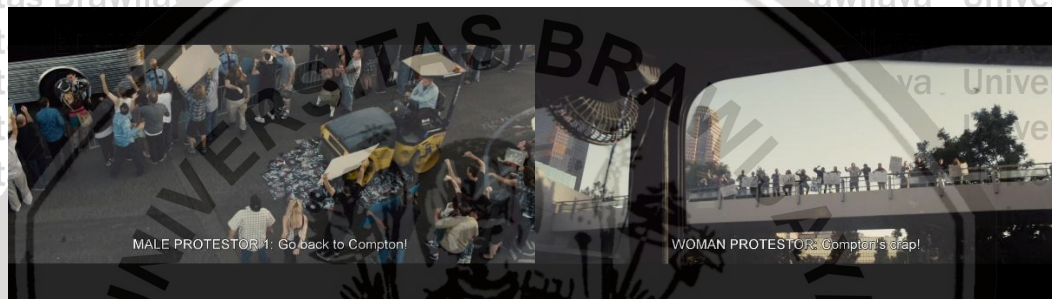


Figure 3.5 Some Protestors Destroy N.W.A. Album

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:04:42-01:04:58)

Figure 3.5 shows that the protestors start the to destroy the copies of *Straight Outta Compton* albums by using a *Steam Roller*, a designated vehicle usually used for compact the soil, concrete, and asphalt. The protestors also tell N.W.A. to go back to Compton. This is an effect of the release of N.W.A. album that the lyrics of N.W.A mostly contain violence, guns, drugs, and sex.

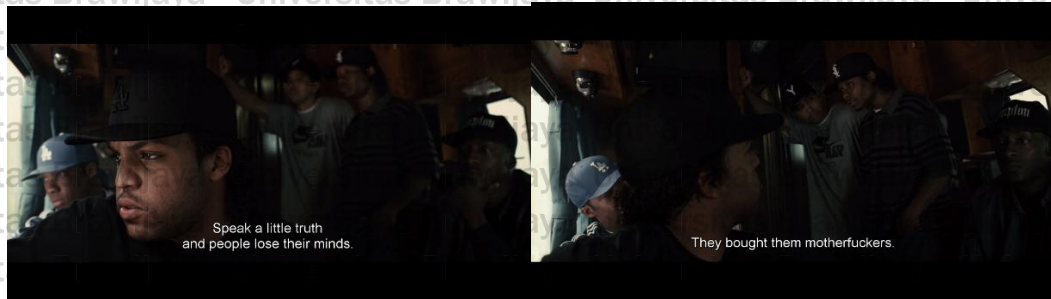


Figure 3.6 Cube and Eazy-E respond to the Act of Destroying

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:04:42-01:04:58)

Figure 3.6 shows Ice Cube and Eazy-E reaction. They automatically imply their disappointment towards the people. Cube said that he just spoke the truth to America but unfortunately people lose their minds. However, Eazy-E tries to convince to Cube and his friend member that at least people already hear their songs and react and then buy their album. In other words, they got money of it and their song has been heard of by Americans. Hence, Figure 3.6 indicates that there is an attempt of struggle that exercise by N.W.A. However, the N.W.A. member also think that if their song cannot be simply accepted by all of American people, at least they already try to voice their opinion and also the profit and gained reputation can make this group bigger and bigger.

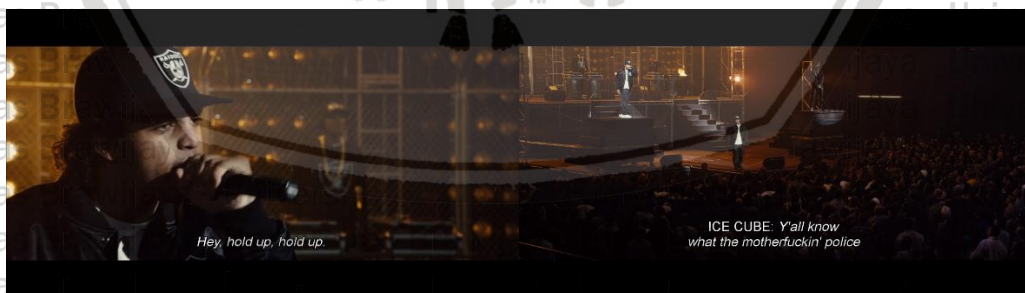


Figure 3.7 Communicate with audience

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:13:21-01:13:26)

Ice Cube: "Hey, hold up hold up!"

Ice Cube: "Y'all know what the motherfuckin' police tried to tell us backstage?"

Crowd : "What?"

Ice Cube : "They tried to tell us what the fuck we can't play."

Ice Cube : "Motherfuckers tried to tell us... what the fuck we can't say."

Ice Cube : "This N.W.A. We say what the fuck we wanna say."

Ice Cube : "So everybody, put your middle finger high in the sky. And to the punk-ass cop in the backstage..."

Source: (Straight Outta Compton Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:13:21-01:13:26)

The attempt to struggle is also implied in scene of Figure 3.7 where Ice Cube tries to communicate with the audience about the reality that has just happened right before the show begin. He tells that the police have already briefed them in the backstage not to sing "Fuck Tha' Police" song in their show. It triggers the unsympathetic woo from the audience. Afterwards, Cube also shows his part as the process of N.W.A.'s struggle against racism by saying they are N.W.A. They say what they want to say and they play what they want to play.

Hereafter, we can conclude that this scene tries to show us that there is an attempt, based on *Straight Outta Compton* movie, to oppose discrimination from the police and some people who disrespect Black People. Making opening speech before they start to sing a song can also be seen as the group's reacting and persevering criticism against them.

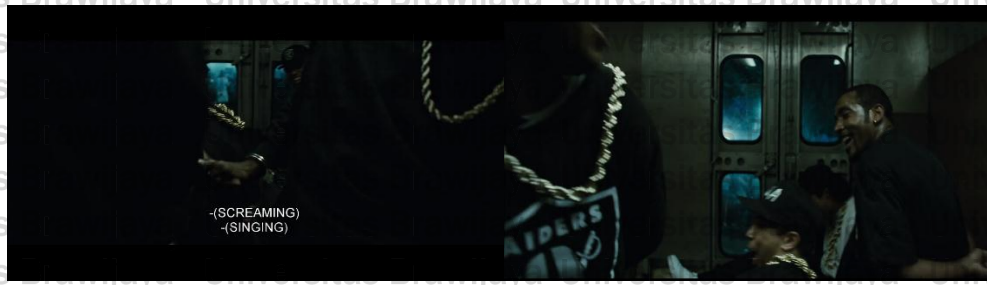


Figure 3.8 Cheering and shaking hands while being handcuffed

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:17:36-01:17:34)

Figure 3.8 above shows N.W.A. member are happy because they feel that they are successes to make the audience feel what they feel, which is hating the police due to the act of brutality towards African-American. Even though when they are handcuffs by the police, they are still happy.



Figure 3.9 Press Conferences after Detroit Concert

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:17:43-01:18:57)

Journalist 1 : “How do you explain inciting a riot in Detroit?”

Eazy-E : “I have to say that we didn’t incite that shit.”

Dr. Dre : “Right. Like y’all just got a snapshot of how Americans really feel.”

MC Ren : “We gave the people a voice. We gave the people truth.”

Journalist 2 : “Yeah but your songs, they glamorize the lifestyle of gangs, guns, drugs.”

Ice Cube : “Our art is our reflection of reality. What you see when you go outside your door? I know what I see.”

DJ Yella : “And it ain’t glamorous.”
Ice Cube : “We got AK’s from Russia and cocaine from Columbia.”
Eazy-E : “and none of us got a passport, so... might wanna check the source.”
Journalist 3 : “Will you be more careful about what you say, how you say it?”
N.W.A Member : “Probably not.”
Ice Cube : “Freedom of speech includes rap music, right? Well, we exercising our first amendment as far as I’m concerned.”
Eazy-E : “And the Government wrote that.”

(Straight Outta Compton Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:17:43-01:18:57)

In Figure 3.9, the writer finds that N.W.A member, again are showing their struggle. In the interview, some questions have been asked in order to clarify the riot in their concert, whether they incite that or not and what are their songs about. The man of N.W.A, Eazy-E tries to tell the journalist that they do not incite or provoke that riot. Dre also added that those are the reaction of American when N.W.A tells about the truth that the police officers sometimes act brutally and do inappropriate things especially to African-American. Ice cube also adds that N.W.A are exercising the first amendment of United States which is freedom of speech and they just voice the truth because their art is a reflection of their reality.

In conclusion, the writer sees that N.W.A. gives answers to the media what they have been looking for dealing with what N.W.A. album is all about. Mauer and Huling (1995, p.3) state “as of 1994, 30.2% of African American males in the age group 20-29 were under criminal justice control -- prison, jail, probation, or parole -- on any given day”. As the data suggest, African-American gangsters were known to provoke a criminal event happening in the 80s. However, we

cannot deny the fact that they got supplies from the neighbor countries became one of the main reason the increase of criminal rates of African-American. For instance, they got AK 47 gun from Russia and cocaine from Columbia. So, indirectly they are able to do those activities. In other words, N.W.A. are questioning about the protection of international illegal transaction of guns and drugs that happened in United States at that time.

3.3 The Impact of N.W.A.'s Struggle

Become suggested, many protestors, and even politicians put their concern to many songs that contain violence and inappropriate lyrics for children, including N.W.A song. This is the impact of the album's success, 'Straight Outta Compton'.

3.3.1 Resistance

As the popularity of N.W.A. gained, the authorities feel threatened by the existence of this kind of protest from N.W.A.

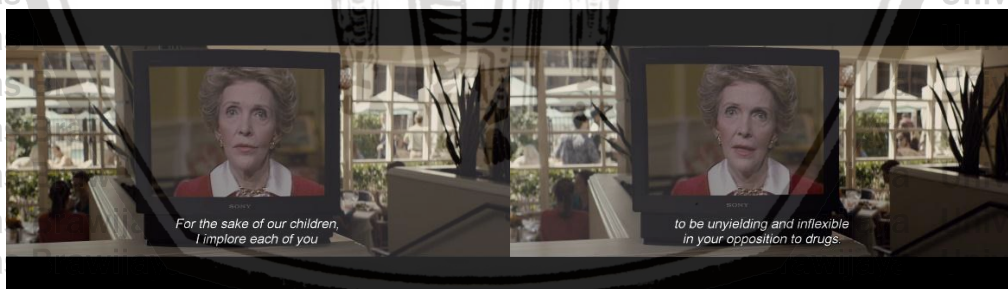


Figure 3.10 Television Commercials against Drugs

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:05:24-01:05:34)

Woman in a TV: "For the sake of our children, I implore

to each of you to be unyielding and

inflexible in your opposition to drugs.”

Figure 3.10 indicates that the woman in the Television Commercial tells the audience not to be flexible and yield to the opposition of drugs. The woman shown in a TVC or Television Commercial is Tipper Gore, the wife of one of US Senator, Al Gore. This kind of statement is released to gain people awareness to the songs that contain inappropriate lyrics for children. Even though the film only flashing its sequence for a few seconds, still the film intend to direct viewers' opinion that there is an attempt to resist the existence of N.W.A.'s struggle over the discrimination.

Tipper Gore herself is one of the pioneers of PMRC or Parents Music Resource Center. Established in 1985, this organization is created that is in charge of classifying musical products into several categories before it can be accessed by people. According to Kory Grow (2015, para. 2) the ratings used are: "X" for profane or sexually explicit lyrics, "O" for occult references, "D/A" for lyrics about drugs and alcohol and "V" for violent content.



Figure 3.11 Parental advisory labels

Source: NPRMusic

The product of PMRC which is “Parental Advisory Label” sticker still can be seen in nowadays product of Music or Movie that contains above-mentioned categories. Many musical products have been categorized and labelled as *Parental Advisory* only just to make sure the parents to prevent their children from listening this kind of songs.

PMRC directs and influence people’s mindset to be inflexible when they hear the songs that contain vulgar lyrics like drugs, violence, sex, or occult references. This attempt also directs public opinion to conclude that music which contains vulgar lyrics like drugs, alcohol, sex, and violence is not appropriate for children. PMRC here is addressing the parents as the one who has to control their children.

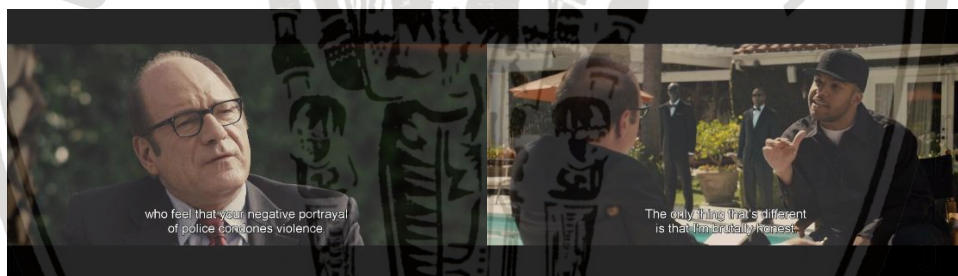


Figure 3.12 Ice Cube’s interview

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:55:56-01:56:45)

Reporter: “It is also the FBI and LAPD who feel that your negative of portrayal of police condones violence.”

Ice Cube: “Fuck Tha Police is just a warning, man. That’s it. You can’t treat people like that and expect them not to rise up.”

Ice Cube: “I’m a journalist just like you, reporting what’s goin’ on in the hood. The only thing that’s different is that I’m brutally honest.”

After gaining its success, the member of N.W.A., Ice Cube, is being interviewed by some media who asked about the responsibility of N.W.A. due to the album lyrics that provokes Americans to do violence-form protest. In figure 3.12, it indicates that some television station attempts to make an interview with Ice Cube dealing with the Rodney King trial. The reporter stated that FBI and LAPD, representing the law enforcement authority, were hated the song “Fuck Tha’ Police” and it could trigger people to do violence. Somehow, the reporter implying that the authority blames N.W.A. due to their song post-effects. Cube answers that the song “Fuck Tha’ Police” is just a warning for the authority. They cannot treat people without considering the procedure of law or in other words racially judged by the color complexion. People eventually will hate the police if they always use some inappropriate approach to the people. Cube also adds that the media seems to make N.W.A as a scapegoat towards Rodney King trial by stating that he is also a journalist and he always reports an actual condition in the hood. In other words, regardless of what African-American is doing, whether they are doing or receiving the good thing or bad thing, Cube and N.W.A. still report it to the world their song lyrics.

3.3.3 Acceptance

The struggle of N.W.A. brings strong influence towards American society especially those who understand the condition of African-American and happens to know the music of N.W.A. The pioneer of this *gangsta-rap* music already made a change in terms of people’s perspective. With direct and decisive lyrics of them, N.W.A. stands as the group who bring the idea that people should exercise

freedom of speech. People also being encouraged by the charismatic member of N.W.A. which affect their behavior, conforming ideas that police brutality should be done.

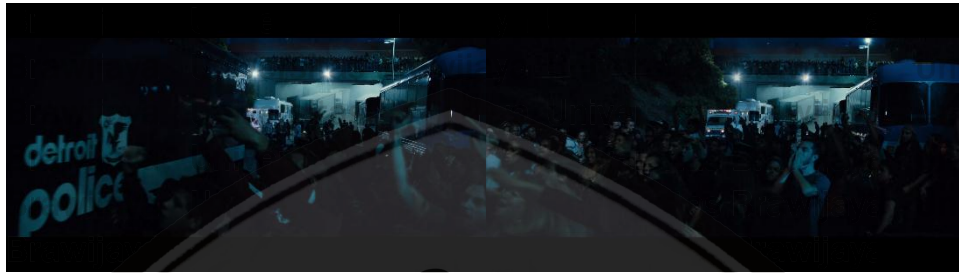


Figure 3.13 People's rage after N.W.A's Discontinued Concert

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 02:01:29-02:01:39)

We can see in Figure 3.13 that show people madness because police discontinue the concert that held in Detroit due to performing "Fuck Tha' Police" song. People were being mad at the police when police arrest N.W.A. member. The excerpt of the sequence also shows us that the audience who are being mad is not only African-American but there is also white people who feel the brutality of the police. The movie clearly wants to show us that N.W.A. already has its power up to that point to fight against racism and police brutality, that even break color complexion barrier.



Figure 3.14 Rodney King's Beating

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 01:46:25-01:46:30)

Rodney King trial starts from the case of Rodney King beating by police officers. He starts by drinking and driving when suddenly he is chased by the police. After his car stopped by the officers, King suddenly asked to get down on his knees. However, instead being arrested, King was being beaten by the police officers.

Brown (2012, p.14) states that point of view used to have the camera see something in much the same way as one of the characters would see it: to view the scene from that character's point-of-view. From the figure stated before, the writer analyze that the movie producer intend to direct the audience to look consciously from character's point of view, recalling to the footage of Rodney King beating in 1992, conveying that even Eazy-E Rodney King trial. Hence, people's attention will be guided to the one who is considered being responsible for such kind of action.



Figure 3.15 King's showing the injured locations of his body

Source: New York Daily News

According to [cnn.com](http://www.cnn.com), King was struck by police batons more than 50 times. Over 20 officers were present at the scene, most from the LAPD. King suffered 11 fractures and other injuries due to the beating. However, the decision of the judge and the jury was not unbelievable. Judge stated that the four police officers who beat King are not guilty due to exercising the defensive pursuit towards King.

Comparing with the fact that were given in the movie, History Staff (2010, para. 2) suggests that while being intoxicated and uncooperative, King resisted arrest and was brutally beaten by police officers Laurence Powell, Theodore Briseno, and Timothy Wind. Unbeknownst to the police, a citizen with a personal video camera was filming the arrest, and the 89-second video caught the police beating King with their batons and kicking him long after he was capable of resistance. Hereafter, the actual problem was King actually guilty by being

intoxicated while driving and resisting to be arrested. Then, police attempt to stop him before he risks other peoples' lives on the street. However, the way police abuse their power to beat King is also not right due to violating civil rights act amendment.

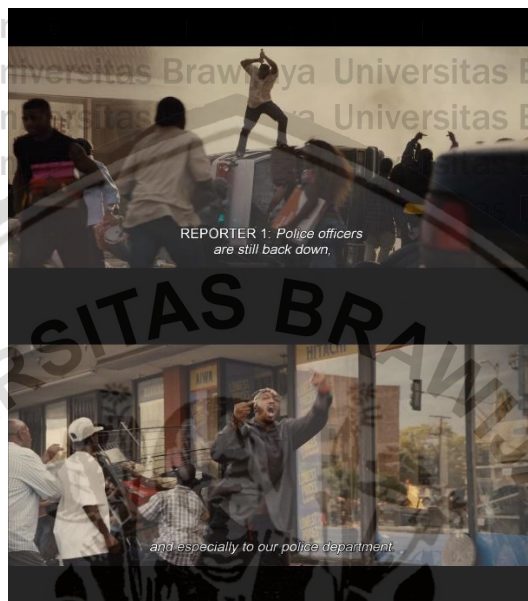


Figure 3.16 Destroying cars and looting goods in Los Angeles riot

Source: *Straight Outta Compton* (Cube, 2015, minutes: 02:01:50-02:02:02)

One of the output impacts that come from N.W.A is the event of LA Riot.

During April 29th until May 1st 1992, LA riot caused its damage on the South-Central of Los Angeles County. In the aforementioned pictures, it can be seen that people expressing their mad by breaking stuff and looting the store.

According on history.com Staff (2010, para.6), the three days of disorder killed 55 people, injured almost 2,000, led to 7,000 arrests, and caused nearly \$1 billion in property damage, including the burnings of nearly 4,000 buildings. It triggers from the jury decision not to guilt the police officers who beat Rodney King. Many people eventually try to steal the goods from the store in South

Central. They also cursing the police everytime they had a chance to. That was the form of disappointment that people express due to the result of Rodney King trial.

Police officers. People think that even though Rodney is guilty for breaking the rule of traffic, he still has the right to remain silent first, speak to a lawyer and be treated well like others American.

Figure 3.16 also shows that the movie intends to make the situation that the police is unable to protect the stores from being stolen by people. Police is portrays as the one who lose their power during the riot. It proves by the making of composition in the frame that shows people are shouting and cursing the police meanwhile the reporter said that police officers are still back down or do nothing about it.



Figure 3.17 People's rage in Los Angeles Riot

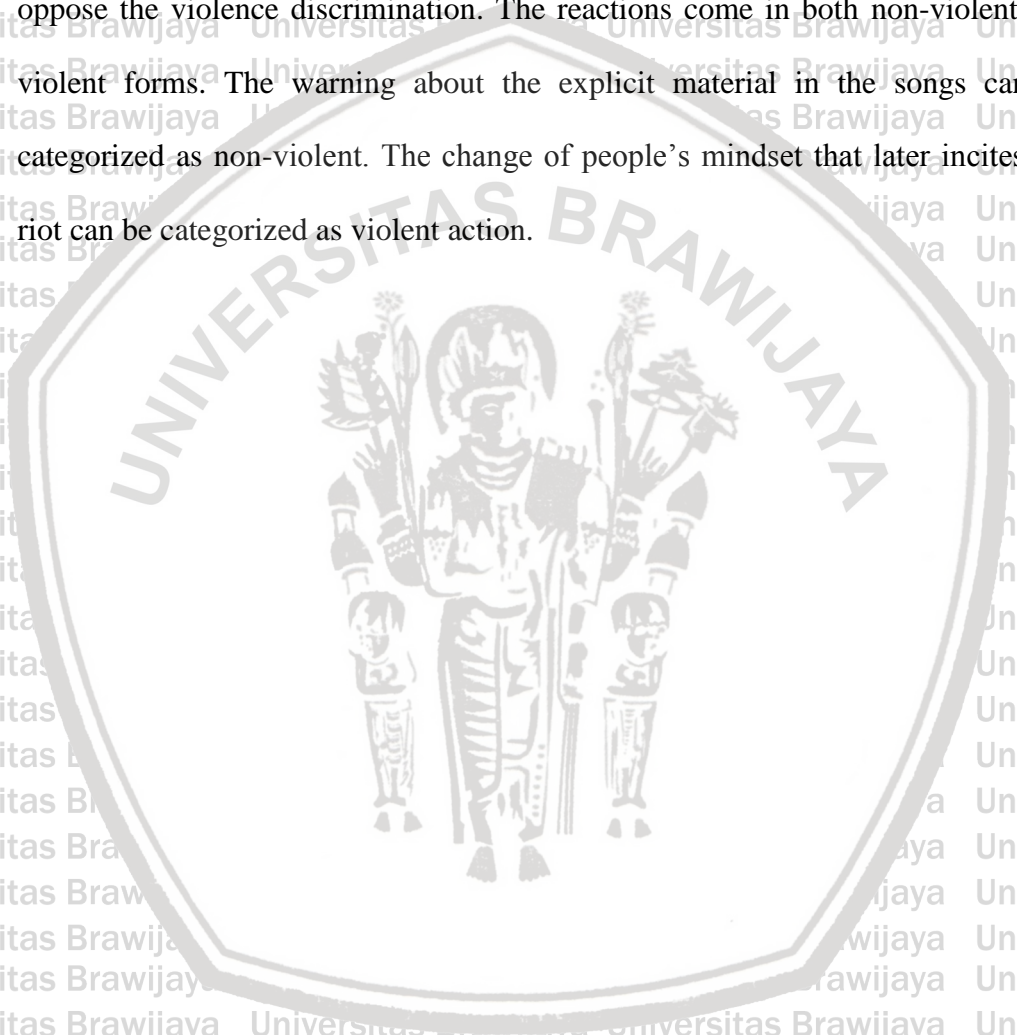
Source: Uprisingradio.org

Figure 3.17 show that people become more outrageous due to the racism and police brutality case is being underestimated by the government. Black people's rights are never being fulfilled by the authority who govern the area.

Hence, the fact that LA riot might have occurred upon the realization that people should do something in order to be heard by the nation. The song of "Fuck Tha'

Police” cannot be denied to become one of the main factors of people’s rage. It implies on the real fact where there is graffiti written “Fuck The Police”.

In the end, this proves that racism is exercised by the authority and there is an attempt of struggle that N.W.A. perform as a *gangsta-rap* group by using their song as the medium. However, N.W.A. started to do non-violence action to oppose the violence discrimination. The reactions come in both non-violent and violent forms. The warning about the explicit material in the songs can be categorized as non-violent. The change of people’s mindset that later incites the riot can be categorized as violent action.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

The writer finds that there are still forms of Black discrimination that applied in United States society around late 80s according to *Straight Outta Compton*. Subsequently, there is an attempt of struggle towards racism that is exercised by Niggaz With Attitude especially towards police brutality. N.W.A. shows their point of struggle like writing the lyrics and perform it to the audience of their concert in order to tell what they really feel, experienced and how they struggle through it. This kind of action can be categorized as non-violence action even though the cause comes from violence action and their lyrics itself contains violence actions.

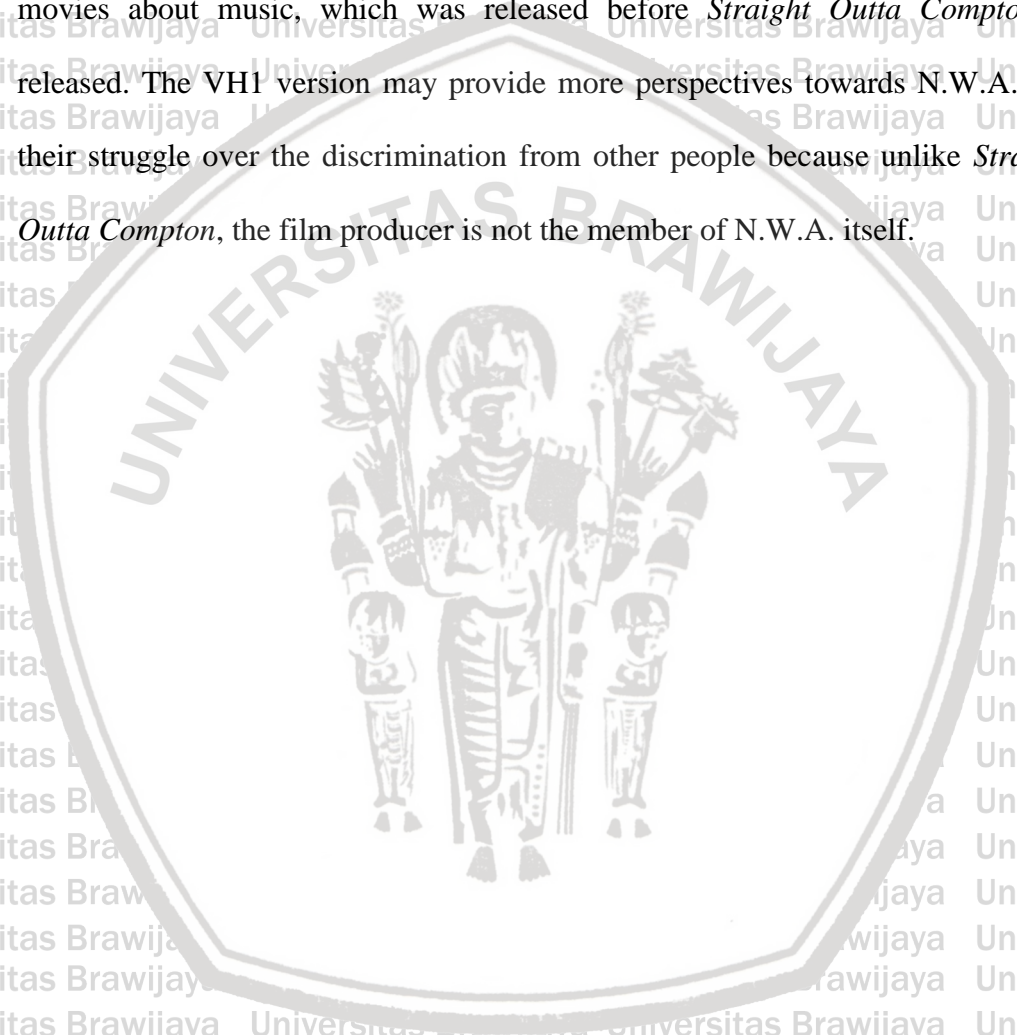
The writer also finds that the impact of N.W.A existence in American Society where there is form of resistance which is attempt to show the aspect of power that is exercised by authority to shape public opinion through TVC or Television Commercials suggesting that music which contains vulgar lyrics like drugs, alcohol, sex, and violent is not appropriate to be heard by children. PMRC here is addressing the parents as the one who have control over their children not to listen to those kinds of songs. Afterward, they also create sort of label towards products that are certified to be consumed under the advice of parents only. The impact also comes from the media where media put N.W.A. member as a scapegoat and consider condoning violence towards certain event during early

90s. The writer also finds that L.A Riot comes as an output of people's mindset changing. People accepted the idea of racial discrimination that should be demolished by accepting N.W.A.'s song as non-violent medium and transform it to violent action. People start to realize that the colored-skin rights are being sabotaged by certain group of people.

In the end, the movie tries to tell us that there is racism in the United States society. There is an attempt to break, criticize, and change the idea of racism that society applied for many years. However, *Niggaz With Attitude* were also struggled when they were being attacked by those who did want their appearance, especially the authority. This movie also tells us what exactly happened from their early success until the group separated. What unique from this movie product is that the movie was created and released in 2015 which it has been around twenty years since the existence of N.W.A. The reason why it is created and released twenty years later, besides they want to memorize twenty years the death of Eric Wright or Eazy-E, mostly because to gain the awareness that law enforcement at that time somehow being racist even until nowadays. It is also used to gain the reputation of band itself due to its notorious reputation that comes from the first year of their success up until now. In conclusion, the movie tries to prove that rap music especially *gangsta-rap* is music that does not only influence their inner circle listeners, but also has an impact surround their outer environment.

4.2 Suggestion

The writer suggests to the next researchers who have interests in this topic to dig more, if it possible, about the attempts of struggle that N.W.A do during their career. For example, other researchers can study a documentary of N.W.A. produced by VH1, a music channel that happens to make a lot of documentary movies about music, which was released before *Straight Outta Compton* is released. The VH1 version may provide more perspectives towards N.W.A. and their struggle over the discrimination from other people because unlike *Straight Outta Compton*, the film producer is not the member of N.W.A. itself.



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Appendix 1. Berita Acara Bimbingan Skripsi



KEMENTERIAN RISET, TEKNOLOGI DAN
PENDIDIKAN TINGGI

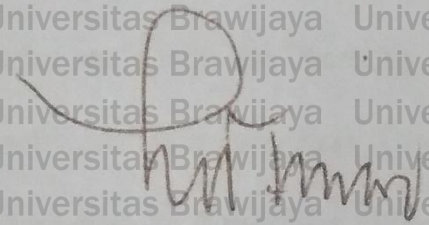
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5. Judul Skripsi : *Gangsta-rap group Niggaz With Attitude's struggle against racism depicted in Straight Outta Compton film*
6. Tanggal Mengajukan : 16 Maret 2016
7. Tanggal Selesai : 23 Januari 2017
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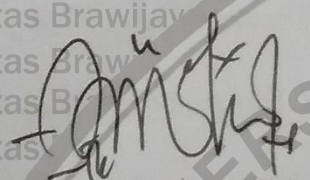
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2	18 Maret 2016	Konsultasi Outline Bab 1	Pembimbing	
3	16 April 2016	Mengumpulkan Revisi Outline Bab I	Pembimbing	
4	20 April 2016	Konsultasi Revisi Outline Bab 1	Pembimbing	
5	28 April 2016	Mengumpulkan Revisi Outline Bab I	Pembimbing	
6	8 Mei 2016	Mengumpulkan Bab I	Pembimbing	
7	18 Mei 2016	Konsultasi Revisi Bab I	Pembimbing	
8	22 Mei 2016	Mengumpulkan Revisi Bab I	Pembimbing	

9	3 Juni 2016	Konsultasi Revisi Bab I	Pembimbing
10	8 Juni 2016	Mengumpulkan Revisi Bab I dan Bab II	Pembimbing
11	16 Agustus 2016	Konsultasi Revisi Bab I dan II	Pembimbing
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17	14 Oktober 2016	Seminar Proposal	Pembimbing
18	19 Oktober 2016	Revisi Bab I-II dan Mengumpulkan Outline Bab III	Pembimbing
19	9 November 2016	Konsultasi Revisi Outline Bab III	Pembimbing
20	31 Oktober 2016	Mengumpulkan Revisi Outline Bab III	Pembimbing
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25	14 Desember 2016	Konsultasi Revisi Bab III dan Bab IV	Pembimbing
26	15 Desember 2016	Mengumpulkan Revisi Bab I- IV	Pembimbing
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28	21 Desember 2016	Mengumpulkan Revisi Bab I- IV, dan Abstrak	Pembimbing dan Penguji

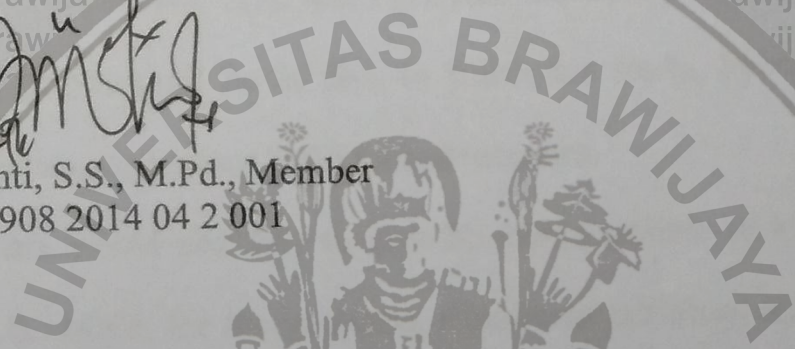
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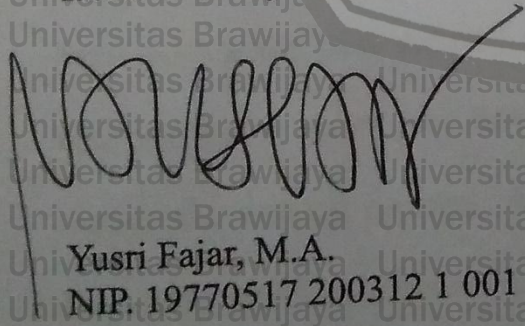
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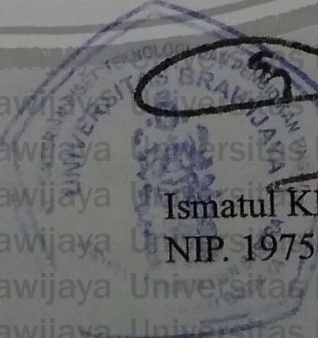
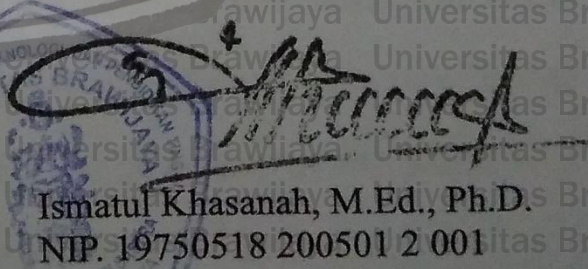


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