

**THE REPRESENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMAN
IN DAVID AYER'S *SUICIDE SQUAD***

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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**STUDY PROGRAM OF ENGLISH
DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE
FACULTY OF CULTURAL STUDIES
UNIVERSITAS BRAWIJAYA**

2019

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IN DAVID AYER'S *SUICIDE SQUAD***

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

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

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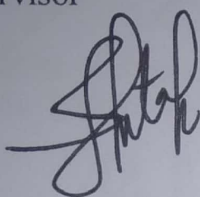
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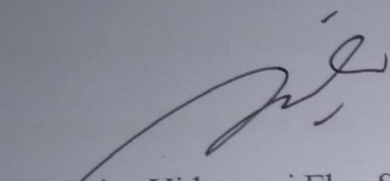


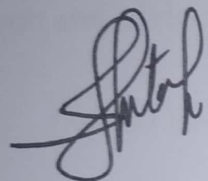
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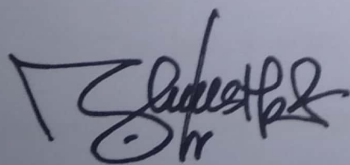
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ABSTRACT

Lutfirdaus, Afrizal. 2019. **The Representation of African American Woman in David Ayer's *Suicide Squad***. Study Program of English, Department of Languages and Literature, Faculty of Cultural Studies, Brawijaya University. Supervisor: Melania Shinta Harendika, M.A

Keywords : Woman, Stereotype, Counter Stereotype, Amanda Waller,

Movie is a type of visual communication used to entertain and all at once to inform the audience about the feeling of the writer. Movie is part of modern literature where it is popular based on rank and demand of the audience. In modern literature, movies have the power to make an emotional connection with the audience. That is why movies can also be used as a powerful tool to educate people.

In doing this research, the writer used a sociological approach and movie studies to analyze this movie from a sociological perspective. The focus of this research is to analyze the stereotypes and counter-stereotypes of African American women character Amanda Waller represented in *Suicide Squad*. The data were taken from dialogues and scene in the movie that shows the stereotype and counter-stereotype.

The result of this study shows several stereotypes and counter-stereotypes portrayed by one character in this movie. Furthermore, this movie tries to show that a minority can surpass superiority. In order to make it clear, minorities represented by a character named Amanda Waller, an African American woman, but regardless of her status as African American women, she is portrayed greater than the Native American characters. Stereotypes wherein the 20th century when Americans still live by holding their traditional values, women's position is considered very low in American society.

Amanda Waller is representation on African American women who lives in the 2000s and above, where at that era they had a chance the same as other people, it has been proven with Amanda Waller character in the movie where she is a boss and she is the only African American women in the movie who shows that African American women can surpass others when they have a proper status or higher status.

ABSTRAK

Lutfirdaus, Afrizal. 2019. **Representasi Perempuan Amerika Afrika dalam Film *Suicide Squad* Karya David Ayer**. Progam Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra. Fakultas Ilmu Budaya. Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing : Melania Shinta Harendika, M.A.

Kata Kunci : Perempuan, Stereotip, Kontra Stereotip, Amanda Waller.

Film adalah jenis komunikasi visual yang digunakan untuk menghibur dan sekaligus menginformasikan kepada penonton tentang perasaan Penulis. Film ini adalah bagian dari literatur modern di mana ia populer berdasarkan peringkat dan permintaan penonton. Dalam sastra modern, film memiliki kekuatan untuk membuat hubungan emosional dengan penonton. Itulah sebabnya film juga dapat digunakan sebagai alat yang ampuh untuk mendidik orang.

Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosiologis dan studi film untuk menganalisis film ini dari perspektif sosiologis. Fokus dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis stereotip dan kontra-stereotip karakter perempuan Amerika Afrika yang diwakili Amanda Waller dalam *Suicide Squad*. Data diambil dari dialog dan adegan dalam film yang menunjukkan stereotip dan kontra-stereotip.

Hasil penelitian ini menunjukkan beberapa stereotip dan kontra stereotip yang diperankan oleh satu karakter dalam film ini. Lebih jauh, film ini mencoba menunjukkan bahwa minoritas dapat melampaui superioritas. Untuk memperjelas, minoritas diwakili oleh karakter bernama Amanda Waller, seorang wanita Afrika-Amerika, tetapi terlepas dari statusnya sebagai wanita Afrika-Amerika, ia digambarkan lebih besar daripada karakter asli Amerika. Stereotip di mana pada abad ke-20 ketika orang Amerika masih hidup dengan memegang nilai-nilai tradisional mereka, posisi perempuan dianggap sangat rendah dalam masyarakat Amerika.

Amanda Waller adalah representasi wanita Afrika-Amerika yang hidup di tahun 2000-an ke atas, di mana pada era itu mereka memiliki kesempatan yang sama dengan orang lain, itu dibuktikan dengan karakter Amanda Waller dalam film di mana dia adalah bos dan dia adalah satu-satunya orang Perempuan Afrika Amerika dalam film itu menunjukkan bahwa perempuan Afrika Amerika dapat melampaui orang lain ketika mereka memiliki status yang tepat atau status yang lebih tinggi.

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Movie is a type of visual communication used to entertain and all at once to inform the audience about the writer feelings. Movie is part of modern literature where it is popular based on the rank and demand of the audience. In modern literature, according to Swain in Dunning (2016), movies have the power to make an emotional connection with the audience. That is why movies can also be used as a powerful tool to educate people.

Stereotype issues which African American is represented as bad people in the movie where there are African American people are involved and often raise stereotypes on African American people through the story characters in the movie.

According to Ross (2011, p.71) stereotype is one-dimensional, unfair and can distort a negative understanding of those minorities within our social memory. In other words, a stereotype is over-generalized by in-groups individual's beliefs that lead them to give prejudices or a label toward out-groups. Since a long time ago, people already know about many stereotypes. Stereotypes are where people give a label for each individual in a certain category toward out-groups.

There is a movie where African American women were used as the character that pulled the string or as the antagonist is *Suicide squad* movie 2016. It was released 5 August 2016 with setting take place at 2016 years in the USA and directed at once with authored by David Ayer. In the story, Viola Davis as Amanda Waller in the *Suicide Squad* is a representation as to the African American woman who plays as an antagonist character in the story. Under the threat of humanity's total extermination and for fear that the next superhero turns into a terrorist, the Government Agent from the Intelligence Division, Amanda Waller, decides to assemble an Elite force of meta-humans, the secret Task Force X. For this reason, Amanda Waller handpicks the worst of the worst from the country's maximum-security prisons; a proper circus of psychotic antisocial super villains kept on a short leash to do the Government's dirty work. Of course, none of them knows that, in reality, they form an expendable suicide squad thrown into the battlefield, and if anything goes wrong, the Federals will deny everything. However, Amanda Waller's plan to protect the country is flawed, and when a member of the team, the uncontrollable and omnipotent shape-shifting sorceress known as the "Enchantress" goes rogue intending to build a devastating machine, the squad and everyone around will need to prepare for WWIII.

The researcher chose the character named Viola David as Amanda Waller as the main object. In the movie, she is not the main character that has a superpower like the other characters in the movie such as magical power or

superhuman strength. Even though she is the only African American Woman and not as the main character, she has an important role as the character that shows the power of minorities does not need to have a superpower to show their strength in the movie.

Sociological it can be implied that a single event that has the greatest impact can inspire the creator especially about a phenomenon about people or humans. According to Sukanto (1970, in Wiyatmi), sociology is a knowledge that is focusing on people and also trying to know the way people live. Since it is known that literary works are like the mirror or reflection of the real world, people can see that there is a connection between literature and sociology.

To understand the African American Woman stereotypes and Counter stereotypes represented by Viola Davis as Amanda Waller character in *Suicide Squad* movie 2016, the best approach is to use Sociological approach as the theory to understand the object of the studies.

1.2 Problem of the Study

This research will discuss what stereotype and counter-stereotypes of African American Women represented by Amanda Waller in *Suicide Squad*.

1.3 Objective of the Study

This research object will discuss and analyze the character named Amanda Waller as the representation of African American Women stereotypes and counter-stereotypes in *Suicide Squad*.



CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE AND RESEARCH METHOD

In this chapter, further information and explanation regarding the material object will be provided by the writer. This chapter contains the information about the approach of the studies, the definition of value, and also stereotypes of the African American Woman and provides information about movie studies and the method that will be used in this research.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

As the research is dealing with values on African American Women in *Suicide Squad* movie, the Sociological approach will be used to analyze the material object. This research chooses the *Suicide Squad* as the object of this study because this movie shows the stereotypes of African American Women. In this Research, sociological approach will be used to reveal more information about stereotypes and counter-stereotypes of African American Women in this movie. In order to do so, the researcher will also put some information about African American woman Stereotypes in *Suicide Squad* Movie 2016. Since this research uses a movie as the material object, it also provides information and explanation about movie studies to analyze the material object on information and important aspects.

2.1.1 Sociological Approach to Literature

Literary works are the reflection of human society where it can be seen or shows on Television or Movies. Literary work is created based on the society that the creator witnessed in real life. The creator is interested and inspired in some event, conditions or settings that happen in the surrounding of the creator, that information used by the creator to make the literary work. It can be implied that a single event that has the greatest impact can inspire the creator especially about a phenomenon about people or humans. Sociology is a knowledge that is focusing on people and also trying to know the way people live. Since it is known that literary works are like the mirror or reflection of the real world, people can see that there is a connection between literature and sociology (Sukanto, 1970). Damono also stated that the existence of literature could not be separated from social reality among people (Damono, 1979). He continues that sociology and literature have the same concern which is human.

After all, sociology is concerning about human structure and development in society. By reading literary works, people can learn and look into what happens around them. On the other side, literature is the media from human structure and reflection. So this can be a big change for humans or people to know and learn more about the perspective toward another human or people to open understanding and a better life for each other.

In the past, it is known that African American woman is mostly treated unfair and considered lower than common American woman. Toward the end of the nineteenth century, African American woman developed dual womanhood in which they could fulfill both the European-American and the African-American cultural expectations (Carlson, 1992, p.70) However, today several African American women have slowly changed people's perspectives toward African women. There are several African American women become very influential people. A great figure like Oprah Winfrey is one of the best examples. She has proved that African American woman also can be a very successful person. Not only that, she has proved that African American woman can also be a motivator and influencer, a person who can guide someone life to a better stage.

Moreover, Michelle Obama is the biggest proof that an African American woman can also take part in the government institution. Oprah Winfrey and Michelle Obama, both of them prove that African American woman is not supposed to be considered lower than the white American woman. Both of them are smart and educated and have brought massive impact on American society.

2.1.2 African American woman in 2000s

In the 20th century when Americans still live by holding their traditional values, women's position is considered very low in American society. According to History, there are so many people especially white People are enslaved and treated unfairly toward African American women to be domestic workers. For example in

Virginia around 1668, the legislature declared that free black woman or African American women were to be taxed, but not white woman servants or other white women, negro women or African American women permitted their freedom but they couldn't have their rights of the English (Robert Allen, p.323). From there even in that era the differences between a white woman and a black woman servant were so big. One of the reasons is because Americans believed that working and providing family needs is a man's responsibility. It makes a woman have limited access to participate in their society since people believe that all women must live as a mother and wife and wife should stay at home.

According to Gudorfin Bullough (1992, p.100), the mother should be responsible for household affairs. Gudorf in Bullough (1992, p.110) also stated that women are responsible for taking this job since long time ago, she stated "for thousands of years women in the home worked - in the fields, in animal care, weaving, slaughtering, candle and soap making, not to mention cooking, washing, and cleaning".

But past that era in which the 2000s and above, African American woman can perform in public, for example, Oprah Winfrey the biggest motivator, influencer, and first African American woman billionaire. Three famous and educated African American women show their achievement that they can also get a great result with their efforts and show African American women can also do more. First, Oprah Winfrey was a host on her show named The Oprah Winfrey show according to

Philippe (2019, par.2) Winfrey excelled in the causal and personal talk-show format,

and in 1984 she moved to Chicago to host the faltering talk show AM Chicago.

Winfrey honest and engaging personality quickly turned the program into success,

and in 1985 it was renamed The Oprah Winfrey Show. From there she was popular in

her program. Second, according to philippe (2019, par.2) Wangari Maathai was the

first woman in either East or Central African in 1971 to earn a doctorate at the

University of Nairobi. She was elected to Kenya's National Assembly in 2002 and

has written several books and scholar articles and top of that she won the Nobel Prize

for her Holistic approach to sustainable development that embraces democracy. And

last a great figure that shows African American women can have much better status

and position.

According to Philippe (2019, par. 1-2) Michelle Obama, she was graduated

from university administrator and writer. She was the first lady of the United States

from 2009 to 2017 the wife of Barack Obama 44th. As the first lady, Michelle Obama

served as a role model for women especially African American woman and worked as

an advocate for poverty awareness, education, nutrition, physical activity, and healthy

eating. "I am an example of what is possible when girls from the very beginner of

their lives are loved and nurtured by people around them", Michelle Obama.

The story of *Suicide Squad* that take place in Gotham city, and the Gotham

city was created based on New York city America. The fact that Michelle Obama is

the wife of president of America, Michelle Obama is considered as the appropriate

example for the portrayal of African American women above 2000s. From the three

figures example above we can show that African American women now can do better

to outcome their past as a person who treated unfairly long ago. Especially African

American women can nominate themselves in government like Michelle Obama. It

can be linked that in Suicide Squad Amanda Waller as the boss is a picture of a figure

of a black woman from the 2000s and above, where even though she is an African

American woman, she can have a respectable position. With the assumption that

suicide squad takes the background in the era of the 2000s and above, the sociological

approach theory is where literature that always related to the status or condition of

society.

2.1.3 Stereotypes of African American Woman

A stereotype is a negative perspective that makes by native groups or in-group

toward foreigners or out-groups that come in a certain area. In the United States,

stereotypes on a woman, especially on African American women, played an

important role throughout histories such as slavery and segregation. These are the

white American majority or quote according to Collins (1991, p.69), author of *Black*

Feminist Thought: "Portraying African American women as stereotypical mammies,

matriarchs, welfare recipients and hot mammas helps justify black woman's

oppression.

It can be concluded from stereotypes, stereotypes contain negative meaning

toward certain people or outer groups. In African American Women before the 2000s,

stereotypes that implanted mostly lead to their body, such as they have a broader

chest and used as a sex tool for the white man. According to Turner (1994, p.11- 12),

three famous stereotypes represent African American women in society but simply caricatures complex based on the individual, such as the mammy, the jezebel, and the sapphire.

According to the *The Hollywood Diversity Report* on the 2011-2012 seasons, actors from a racial or ethnic minority only had 2.1 percent of starring roles in broadcast comedies and dramas (Erigha, 2015.p.10). on the drama third network television *Scandal* as a character, Pope has been described as revolutionary (Everett, 2015). (Mask, 2015.p.5) describes her character's life as being full of contradictions and innumerable complexities, the likes of which have not seen in Black women's lives as represented in mainstream culture. The Mammy, The Jezebel and The Sapphire, these stereotypes have been used to describe African American women since slavery and are still much apparent in today's society (Ladson 2009).

2.1.3.1 The Mammy

According to Turner "a truly fictional character" (1994, p. 43), African American woman that forced to work in Big house that owned by white men, she works as a housemaid and does kind of work such as cook dinner, clean the entire house and take care of the children. The story was created, however, totally different from the image of the mammy. The Story explained the mammy became a grandmother who dedicated to the white family. From there the mammy became the symbol of maternal care and instinct, solely created a past that never exists (1994, p.47).

From the mammy story from the myth interpreted as an attempt to reunify the nation in the aftermath of the Civil War. By depicting the relationship between a black woman and her white families as harmonious to smoothed their differences concerning the past enslavement and it acted as “a healing salve for a nation ruptured by the sins of racism” Perry (2011, p.77). Although this stereotype interpreted as a symbol of hope and endurance, many African American women use this stereotype to inspire them as the strong Black womanhood (2011, p.185).

2.1.3.2 The Jezebel

The Jezebel stereotype that representation of African American Women as man-eater whose sexual appetites are “at best inappropriate and, at worst, insatiable” Hill Collin’s (2000, p.82-83). From Hill Collin’s statement, African American women are represented as a whore who looking a man and doesn’t satisfied with only one man. More explanation about the Jezebel stereotypes is that in general tries to portray African American woman as a “hootchie”, a “hootchie” is a young woman who has many casual sexual partners.

2.1.3.3 The Sapphire

According to Harris Perry (2011, p.85-89) and Hill Collis (2000, p.75- 77) states that the Angry Black Woman (ABW) or sapphire stereotype can best be described as a loud and verbally abusive matriarch. This stereotype explains that sapphire woman is typically African American woman who temperament on every

aspect from their voice or physically. Such as when they speak African American woman will raise their voice and speak incredibly fast to show how aggressive they are to emasculate her opponent by being such a powerful personality. According to Hill Collins (2000, p.263), the Sapphire stereotype is often to be over-emotional in conversation and dialogue. A personality trait in White Americans' eyes is a key characteristic of all African American Women.

2.1.4 Counter Stereotypes

In stereotypes of African American women in a previous explanation, most of the stereotypes lead to negative prejudice or perspective on African American women to reduce misunderstanding and decrease implicit bias. Counter stereotypes, is an important role to support and counter negative stereotypes or prejudice with positive data and a purpose to end racism. Exposure to counter-stereotypical images of minorities on television can validate the idea that "individuals did not fit into all-encompassing categories" and this can bring about change in viewer's attitudes and encourage increased contact among different races and cultures (Sherman, 2002).

However, it cannot merely change the quantity and not the quality of the counter stereotyped image. According to Hae-Kyong and Bonnie (2003), it is not just the quantitative representation of ethnic groups from how many of them are present, but also the qualitative representation on how important the featured representation of them is that influence audience perception of them.

2.1.5 Movies Studies

As the researcher mentioned in the previous chapter, this study uses the material object movie *Suicide Squad* movie 2016 which to analyzes the material object further, the Researcher uses movie studies to analyzes the material object from several important information and aspects. Movies studies are important because they will give the reader more information and understanding about the material object, the plot and the story. Movie studies are considered important to see more the information beyond the story through a specific object and other symbols. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.8) :

It allows us to reach valid conclusions on a movie's meaning and value; it helps us to capture the experience of a film in our minds; and it sharpens our critical judgments overall. But the ultimate purpose of analysis, and its greatest benefit, is that it opens up new channels of awareness and new depths of understanding.

The Movie is the reflection and a message based on human life which contains meaning. Movie is considered an art form that in many aspects influenced by culture and society. Beside for used as entertainment, a movie can teach the audience from the dialogues, images, symbols, and events in the movie. There are so many genres that can teach the audience especially movie that contain a "Real Life" genre because this genre is mostly taken and reflected in a certain event that happens in real life.

From this point, the audience should realize that every event that happens in a movie

has a meaning that can teach us about society. Every pattern is directed not placed randomly on the scene and well organized. It is known as mise en scene.

2.1.5.1 Dialogue

Dialogue is a conversation between one person to another in the movie that extremely important to tell the story where it will go to. From the dialogue, the character can also be the core to tell the information about the story in the movie.

According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.258) stated that “ in most films, dialogues gives us a great deal of important information. Film dialogues are different from stage dialogue, and we need to be aware of the unique characteristic of film dialogue”. This means that when costumes, colors, and the position of the character are giving the information to the audience, the dialogue show and share the information through sound. Also, it is important to remember and take note that, dialogue in the movie has been arranged in such a way to create clear information to be understood about the story.

Through movie studies, it will help the audience to tell the movie constructed in our brain. Since the material object analyzes a movie, by applying several elements which like setting, characters, the position of the object or the characters and dialogue, the audience will enjoy watching the movie and can tell the information that shows in the movie.

2.1.5.2 Mise en Scene

According to Boggs and Petri (2008, p.585), Mise en Scene is the way of movie director well organized and arrange all the visual component on the stage.

When the audience watching a movie in a certain event or scene, the audience can notice in every aspect that has been arranged in such a way to give and draw the audience's attention through the atmosphere in the scene of a movie. Not only from the atmosphere, but the director will show the moment where the camera shot will attract the audience from the actors and actresses, the direction of light, the color of the costumes and others have been counted and positioned well organized by the director. In Mise en Scene, several elements support the movie to be more attractive, such as setting, costumes and makeup, characters, framing, lighting and color, and the position of the object or the character.

2.1.5.3 Setting

The setting is where the movie takes place or time which the story will go on in every scene and event. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p. 586), the setting is the time and place in which film's story takes place, including all of the complex factors that come packaged with a given time and place. A story will not happen without a place, to begin with. The place or the scenery in the film also representation to make the audience attention to the movie to more focuses and excited to watch the atmosphere created only by the scenery place where the event occurred.

2.1.5.4 Characters

Character is the person that plays as part of the movie in the story of the movie performed by actors and actresses. As one of the important parts of the movie that will draw the audience's attention, the presence of the character itself can make the audience as if they involved in the movie. According to Capra in Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.59), they stated that:

You can only involve an audience with people. You can't involve them with gimmicks, with sunsets, with hand-held cameras, zoom shots, or anything else. They couldn't care less about those things. But you give them something to worry about, some person they can worry about, and care about, and you've got them, you've got them involved.

The role actress and actors to be the character are important, not only focus on the act they did from the script, they must see reality as if they were living in the movie to give the atmosphere and the sense of realistic toward the audience.

2.1.5.5 The Position of the Object or Characters

When the scene is started, an object or the character is placed in the scene. An object or the characters sometimes have a meaning that will tell the audience what will happen in the next scene or event in the movie. And sometimes the object or the characters will draw the focus of the audience to be more exciting to watch a certain movie. According to Jacob in Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.137), it said that:

There are no set formulas for positioning characters and objects within the frame. The director must rely on an intuitive sense of rightness in composing each shot to communicate the nature of the dramatic moment and in positioning actors to reveal subtle and complex interrelationships.

For example like when there are two characters in the same scene, at that moment one character is placed in a lower position than the other one. Which it means that character could be considered weak than the other character that placed in the higher position.

2.2 Previous Studies

In doing this research, the writer also uses several researchers that research with a similar topic used by the Researcher as the material object. The first research is conducted by Eveline Versluys from Universiteit Gent, her research is entitled *Stereotypes of African American Woman in US Television: Scandal and Hawthorne*.

This research has given the example of how African American Woman over the past couple of decades was applauded for their stance against a predominantly white television landscape. In her research there is some point that Eveline Versluys research is similar to the material object used by the Researcher. She talked about the Stereotypes of African American Woman. However, there are also several differences in Eveline Versluys research is more focusing on the pride values of a black woman toward white people.

The other research was conducted by Abdulwahab Halima Jumoke from Eastern Mediterranean University entitled *The Representation of African American Women in Hollywood Films*. This research examined the portrayal of African American women in Hollywood films from 2005 to 2015 from a feminist and black feminist standpoint, where the depiction of African American woman in various stereotypical ways has become serious. The similarities about the research are, the research discusses and analyzes the stereotypes of African American women in a movie.

However the differences are, he used feminist film theory and focus on Black Feminist thought. Meanwhile in this study, the writer will only use sociological approach and the focus also different. In this study the focus is about the stereotype and counter-stereotype of African American women character Amanda Waller represented in *Suicide Squad*. Here some facts, both previous studies were done before and until 2015. Meanwhile, *Suicide Squad* movie was released in 2016.

In their studies, the data were taken by taking samples from many different characters. But in my study, the writer only focuses on one character which is Amanda Waller. However, it does not mean that this study has lacks data regarding the objective of the study. Since the writer watching this movie repeatedly, there is some obvious fact about *Suicide Squad* movie and especially about the character Amanda Waller. First, she is a woman. Second, she is an African American woman. Third, she is the leader of the task force x. Fourth she is an ordinary human, not meta-

human. Fifth, she is not the main character. Six, she is the only African American woman in the movie and last she is representing the power of minority.

2.3 Research Method

In this part of the study, the Researcher will present the steps in conducting this research. This section will include deciding the material object, deciding the approach of the study, gathering data, analyzing and interpreting the data and drawing a conclusion.

2.3.1 Deciding the Material Object

In this study, the Researcher chooses a movie entitled *Suicide Squad* movie 2016 as the material object. This movie was released in 2016 by Warner Bros and directed by David Ayer. The Researcher chooses this movie as the material object of this study based on several reasons. The first reasons, because the movie shows the power of African American women power in different aspects and perspectives. The second reason is that the genre of this movie that is action and this movie could be entertaining the audience through the visual effect in this movie. Other reasons are because this movie was the first time this film raised its story through comics entitled *Suicide Squad* and only focuses more on enemies from batman and other super villains.

2.3.2 Deciding the Approach of the Study

In order to understand this study and the material object, the Researcher chooses the feminism approach since the movie shows the stereotype of African American Women. The Researcher considered the feminism approach is the appropriate approach to do this research because stereotypes of African American women and feminism have the same concern which focuses on woman identities especially on African American women. That is why the Researcher chooses feminism as the approach for understanding the material object more clearly.

2.3.3 Gathering the Data

In order to collect the data, the first thing the Researcher do is watching *Suicide Squad* movie 2016 several times to understand the problem several times. Second, the Researcher focuses on the dialogue script of the movie where is the material object was chosen. Third, the Researcher pays attention to many important aspects, such as camera angle, costumes, mise en scene in the movie and takes the scene with the dialogue to make the data stronger. After collecting the data, the Researcher will analyze the data.

2.3.4 Analyzing and Interpreting the Data

After collecting the data, the Researcher will start to interpret the data and choosing the data based on the focus of the study using the Sociological approach and theory of counter stereotype. In this case, the Researcher will decide which part or scene in the movie that shows the stereotypes of African American Woman. Once the data was collected, the sociological approach will be applied, after that, the interpretation and analysis will be written as the findings of this research.

2.3.5 Drawing the Conclusion

The last step after collection and interpreting the data is drawing the conclusion from which the Researcher will show or expose the information from the analysis after conducting the study.

CHAPTER III

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

As already mentioned in the previous chapter about the stereotypes and explanation about counter stereotypes, in this chapter the writer will present the findings and discussion of this research on what counter-stereotypes represented by Viola Davis as Amanda Waller in *Suicide Squad* movie 2016 with the background setting is in 2016 and take place in United States Amerika. The writer will explain the counter-stereotypes by capturing several scenes in *Suicide Squad* movie and provide several dialogues between the characters in this movie to support the arguments. The writer will also use some elements of mise en scene to give a deeper understanding of the counter-stereotypes scenes that will be shown within this chapter.

3.1 African American Woman as a Decision Maker

Amanda Waller is a representation of African American women in *Suicide Squad*. Her character showed the power of African American women who rarely showed in another movie where is African American woman is used as a representation. In the previous chapter, Stereotypes of African American women in society have played an important role throughout the history of the United States, for they were used to justify economics and social structures such as slavery and segregation. These unflattering depictions soothed the conscience of the white

American majority, African American women as stereotypical mummies, matriarchs; welfare recipients and hot mamas help justify US black women's oppressions (Collins, 1991: p.69). Counter-stereotypical images of minorities on television can validate the idea that "individuals did not fit into all-encompassing categories" and this can bring about change in viewer's attitudes and encourage increased contact among different races and cultures (Sherman, 2002). However, it cannot merely change the quantity and not the quality of the counter stereotyped image. According to Hae-Kyong and Bonnie (2003), it is not just the quantitative representation of ethnic groups from how many of them is present, but also the qualitative representation on how important the featured representation of them are that influence audience perception of them.

However, the counter stereotypes on the mommy and the jezebel in *Suicide Squad* represented through the way Amanda Waller shows how she can perform and declare her strength in a different way, which through her Social Status as a minority or not as the main character. In the movie, the characters are shown the concept of how the messages are explained to audiences, mostly through the main character who always shows up in every scene from opening or ending. In this movie, Amanda Waller is not the main character, but she can show her power as an African American woman through her character especially on her status to counter stereotypes on the mommy stereotypes where this stereotype is focused on African American Women prides. In the movie, even though she is a normal human with no superhuman strength,

she can show her strength and make the supervillains is submitted to operate the mission on exterminating the metahuman Enchantress and her brother who treated the humanity.

To begin with, Suicide Squad is formed by Amanda Waller called task force X. Task Force X consists of Floyd Lawton as Deadshot, Dr. Harleen Quinzel as Harley Quinn, Digger Harkness as Captain Boomerang, Chato Santana as El Diablo, Waylon Jones as Killer Croc, Dr. June Moone as Enchantresses, Colonel Rick Flag and Katana who will obey every order from Amanda Waller. Suicide Squad is formed because one of the team "enchantresses" is betray Amanda Waller when Enchantress's brother is appearing in the subway station.

It can be seen from the following scene where Amanda Waller and her dialogue showed that her role is important in this movie. It can be seen in the following dialogue.

Amanda Waller : The world change when superman fly cross the sky, and then it change again when he didn't. and that is why I'm here.

(Source : *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 03:55 – 04:10)

The dialogue above is showing that Amanda's role as an important person in that dialogue. From this dialogue, it can be seen that her role is as an important person who will have a big impact to decide the story. In the dialogue above as stated before that, Amanda Waller is not like other characters which she has an important

role in the story but she is not the main character, she can show her power from point of view where she is a minority can surpass the main character or surpass the superiority with her power on social status.

From this fact, the concept of a minority can surpass superiority which in America decision maker cannot be decided by a woman and it is countered a stereotype of the Mammy. In this movie, has been shown with another perspective or point of view, where is Amanda Waller as the only African American Woman, she is a woman, even though Amanda Waller is the Leader of Suicide Squad she is merely a human not likes the others member with superhuman and metahuman power which Amanda Waller is less power than the others characters and Amanda Waller scene is not much as the others characters.

Representation of African American women is represented as a good leader. It can be shown where's she shows that she can control super villain or the main character from the strongest character enchantress in front of everyone with higher authority and the chairman who admitted that Amanda Waller is dependable can control those super villains. It can be seen from the following dialogues.

Amanda Waller : I wanna build a team of some very bad people who I think can do some good, like fight in then next war defeat the next super man.

Chairman : not on my watch.. You not put those monster back on the street in our name.

Amanda Waller : General we run them corporately and strictly need to know, if they get caught we throw them into the bush. the next war would be

fought with these meta humans, are's or their's
we are not gonna the one who kicken up rocks
looking for them

Chairman : you know we can't control these people.

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 20:52 – 21:19)

From that dialogues, it is proving that Amanda Waller tries to convince the chairman to agree on planning Amanda Waller uses the super villains who will do a good things and convincing that Amanda Waller decision will be good as the leader in this operation called Task Force X. in order to prove Amanda Waller as the representation of African American woman who shows that her existence in this movie is important, it can be seen in the following scene.



Figure 3.1 Amanda Waller discusses task force x

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 21:06)

Figure 3.1 is the scene when Amanda Waller is discussing and propose to use the super villains consists of bad people who will do a good thing, especially for

substitute the next Superman. In this scene, Amanda Waller is standing in the front of the others member secret government, it can be seen from condition and the camera shoot focus on Amanda Waller that she is standing right in the front and seen by the others member of government who have power in their social status sit listening to Amanda Waller propose. While in the US society African American woman rarely can shows their though toward people with higher status, in This scene is also emphasizing Amanda Waller as a representation of African American Woman who as a leader with high confidence.

This scene is taken Amanda Waller placed in the corner of the scene. The background is clear and also placed where are the characters captured. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.135), Argued that “the director focuses our attention by his or her arrangement of people and objects in relation to each other”, it also means that the reason why in this scene is directing the focus to Amanda Waller where she countered a stereotype “ the mammy” where African American is a domestic worker for white people, it can be shown where Amanda Waller with high confidence and draw all the member attention through Amanda braveness to use a super villaions and tell the chairman to use Task Force X plan for substitute the next Superman.

3.2 African American Woman as a Leader

In leadership, it is known that someone can lead their members and have a skill that believed by their members to be trusted to lead them as a team. According to Turner (1994, p.12) argued that the myth in US society the mammy, was created to remove all the “heinous dimensions of slavery” and soothe the Southerners’ conscience. In this movie, Viola Davis countered a stereotype on the mammy that African American women as Amanda Waller representation of African American Woman as the figure of a leader shows that African American Woman can do what men as leader normally do to lead the member and take a high priority to be a crucial character to decide leader in the movie. According to Hollander and Julian (1969, p.117 – 127) believed that leadership is learned and argued an opportunity for individuals to endure a process of learning essential leadership skills. This part will explain Colonel Rick statement about Amanda Waller as a powerful leader and power to make super villains submit to Amanda Waller.

Colonel Rick : behold the voice of god

Amanda Waller : for those who don’t know me officially my name is Amanda Waller. There is active invented in midway city. I want you to enter the city and rescue HVT-1 and get them in safety.

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 48:02 – 48:17)

The dialogue above happens when all the supervillains' gear up and gather in the middle of people and Colonel Rick introduced the one who has the power to make this Suicide Squad exists, which introduced Amanda Waller. Colonel Rick dialogue emphasizing Amanda Waller as a god, in other meaning she is a leader with great power. The following scene shows Colonel Rick introduced the one who has super-priority to the rest member of the Suicide Squad. In this scene, Amanda Waller informs and gives an order for the Suicide Squad to rescue HVT-1 and get them to safety. The Suicide Squad didn't realize that HVT-1 is Amanda Waller. In order to do so, Amanda Waller threatens the super villains' and says everything they do Amanda Will always watching. It can be seen from the following scene.



Figure 3.2 Colonel Rick Shows the real leader in the squad
(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 48:33)

In the next scene and dialogues, Amanda Waller is shown her leadership on showing her power that she can see everything and Amanda Waller gives a contract

where a leader will give a reward for those who finish and complete their mission. It can be seen in the following scene and dialogue.

Amanda Waller : complete the mission you will get time off prisons sentence, fail the mission you die. Anything happen on Colonel Flag I kill every single one of you. Remember I'm watching, I see everything

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 48:32 – 48:43)

In figure 3.2. and dialogue above, Amanda Waller said that she “sees everything” which She can oversee all the super villains doing and whatever they do

Amanda Waller can see it. In figure 3.3 above, the screen that showing Amanda Waller is placed in the middle of the *Suicide Squad* members in that place. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.135), they stated that “Normally, the eye is directed toward larger, closer objects rather than toward smaller, more distant objects”, from this statement, the focus of the audience will be pointed on the largest screen where the screen is showing the Amanda Waller in 3.2.2 figure. Figure 3.2.1 is also showing that Amanda Waller can oversee the rest of the members from the technologies and that's why Amanda Waller can say that she sees everything. The differences are that in society it is very rare for black women to be feared by society because they become leaders in an association because there they are still underestimated and considered unable to be a good and decisive leader.

In this movie, there are scenes which make the counter-stereotype of African America woman in this movie is different from any other. In that scene Amanda

Waller can be considered have powerful power only from holding a Smartphone, which on her social status who hold the super villains life and contract with the super villains, if Amanda Waller die, all of them will died too and if Amanda Waller safe and if the super villains completing the missions their sentences will be lowered. In order to do so, the super villains are obeyed Amanda Waller orders and not only obey Amanda Waller order, the super villains are afraid of the explosion chip that planted in their neck. This chip is as small as rice but the power of this chip explosion is strong as a hand grenade to blow their heads. It can be seen from the following scene and dialogues.



Figure 3.3 Amanda Waller is surrounded by super villains

(Source : *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 1:20:45)



Figure 3.4 of Amanda Waller shows her power
(Source *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 1:20:51)

Colonel Rick	: lets go home..
Captain Boomeraang	: yeah, lets go home. That's sounds good. you guys want go home ? or back to prison ?
Harley Quinn	: im not going back to prison
Captain boomerang	: what im saying is, we kill the bear from here before they kill us.
Amanda Waller	: I got this.y'all make it this far don't get high spirited on me and ruin a good day (with holding the smartphone/explosion chip switch)

(Source : *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 01:20:29 – 1:20:51)

From the figure 3.3 until 3.4 and the dialogues, It can be seen that all the members of Suicide Squad which the super villains is surrounded Amanda Waller with the hope that If the super villains end Amanda Waller at that time in the scene

their problem will be solved right away or they will go back into the prisons. Amanda Waller doesn't afraid at all, because not only she had the explosion chip that planted in the Super villains neck, Amanda Waller is protected by the Kitana and Colonel Rick. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.135), they stated that "Normally, the eye is directed toward larger, closer objects rather than toward smaller, more distant objects". In that scene all the characters look clear, means that they are all important and also Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.135), Argued that "the director focuses our attention by his or her arrangement of people and objects in relation to each other", it also means that the reason in figure 3.3 until 3.4 why Amanda Waller is being placed alongside with the other super villains and holding the Smartphone or the explosion chip switch because all the Suicide Squad member are targeting Amanda Waller. Even the super villains killed Amanda Waller, she doesn't afraid at all because she has powerful power from only in her Smartphone.

In African American Social condition, Amanda Waller in the movie described as someone who was not frightened by something she faces. African American women are described as not a good leader with their leadership, the reason why Amanda Waller is representation of African American woman as a leader is because Amanda Waller has a power on her politic status power and braveness to use super villains as the next superman which it counter stereotype "the mammy" where it described African American women as a weak leader.

3.3 African American Woman is Rude

In this movie, there is a scene and dialogue where Amanda Waller is shown Sapphire stereotypes. In US society, Sapphire stereotypes are a label toward African American women. According to Harris Perry (2011, p.88), the Sapphire typically shows no vulnerability and often channels her anger by shouting or criticizing others. From the outfit she wears, which are red clothes can show the power of a certain person or characters in the movie such as they had a power that expected by the audience in the next scene and will be the privilege in the next scene and draw the audience focuses because red color is so flashy. At the scene where Amanda Waller is wearing red blazer, Harley Quinn asks Amanda and looks upon her with a crucial question which Amanda Waller will be the crucial character in the movie. It can be seen from the following scene and dialogue.



Figure 3.5 Amanda Waller's first appearance with the first super villains

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 201624:48)

Harley Quinn : Are you the Devil ?

Amanda Waller : Maybe.

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 24:46 – 24:50)

From dialogue and camera shoot above, we can conclude that Amanda Waller is shown her power the dialogue from Harley Quinn asking if the Amanda Waller is the devil is have a meaning, which it can be emphasizing Amanda Waller is the person who will be one who makes a big impact in the story of *Suicide Squad* movie.

This scene uses a camera focus on Amanda Waller wearing red clothes. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.136), “Special uses of light and color also help draw the eye to the object of greatest significance. High-contrast areas of light and dark create natural centers of focal interest, as do bright colors in a subdued or drab background”.

From this statement, the focus of the audience will be pointed on where the screen is showing Amanda Waller standing and look down on Harley Quinn and answer her question. In that scene, the colors in the background are a little dark with Amanda

Waller wearing Red clothes that show her power that in the movie she showed a great power African American woman can be a leader. But the contradiction is only those who have a high social status can have this right.

In this movie, there is another scene and dialogue that show her character as African American Woman is rude. The setting is when she is captured by the Enchantress army and Enchantress asks Amanda Waller how to destroy her soldier

which is Task Force X or the Suicide Squad. In this movie, Amanda Waller said a disrespectful word and that word has a deeper meaning in society whoever got that word would be offended and angry, especially an enemy who captured you in their camp. It can be seen in the following dialogue and scene.



Figure 3.6 Amanda Waller captured by enchantress

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 01:29:13)

Enchantress: With my heart return I can finish my weapon, now tell me how to destroy your armies.

Amanda Waller : Do your worst Bitch...!!

(Source: *Suicide Squad* Movie, 2016 01:29:13 – 01:29:20)

From the scene and dialogue above we can conclude that her character as a representation of African American women is rude and harsh. The word “Bitch” is a word that used to mock someone in a bad and deep meaning. The expression that

emphasized in the scene, tell the audience that even thou she is captured by the enemy, Amanda Waller still insist to keep firm and rough, although in the end some of the secret places hidden by the government were destroyed, because Enchantress uses her power to read some information in Amanda Waller brain. According to Boggs and Petrie (2008, p.135), they stated that “Normally, the eye is directed toward larger, closer objects rather than toward smaller, more distant objects”, from this statement, the focus of the audience will be pointed on the largest screen where the screen is showing the Amanda Waller in the middle where she is held by the Enchantress armies. In society and in the movie African American woman is often to be said that they use harsh words through their conversation with people they communicate with and use a body language that intimidates people where it leads to stereotype of “the Sapphire” where African American woman described as a temperament people from vocally abuse or body movement.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

This last chapter contains a conclusion and suggestion. The purpose is to conclude the whole data of the research to obtain the main point from this research on the representation of African American women in David Ayer's in *Suicide Squad* Movie. On the other hand, the suggestion is used to signify the other important aspects for the near future researcher to conduct with the similar object but with different approaches or with the same approach but different approach.

4.1 Conclusion

Suicide Squad represented a character named Amanda Waller as the representation of African American women who lives in the 2000s and above, were at that era African American women had the same chance as other people and it is proven by Amanda Waller as the character in the movie where she is the boss and she is the only African American women in the movie who shows that African American women can surpass others. The character that lives before the 2000s, in the 18th and 19th centuries were stereotyped that African position considered very low and African American women are enslaved and treated unfairly to be domestic workers and counter-stereotyped with the concept of minority character who surpass the main character or the superiority characters who has a superpower or physical power.

Finally, the researcher could conclude that there were several stereotypes portrayed by Amanda Waller in *Suicide Squad* movie. The first is Amanda Waller was portrayed as a strong woman. It has been proven through her position as related to stereotype “Mammy”, which is said that Amanda Waller is also portraying “Mammy” as the counter-stereotype.

Secondly, there was a scene where Amanda Waller talked or had a conversation and she used inappropriate words such as “bitch”. That scene is the proof for the stereotype of “Jezebel”, as it is said “Jezebel” is African American women who use verbally abuse.

There were also counter stereotypes that had been shown in this movie. Counter stereotypes where it is used to counter the negative stereotypes. In this movie, Amanda Waller was the decision-maker and a leader, this portrayal was meant to be used as a counter stereotype for “Mammy” which is related to African American women as domestic workers.

The other conclusion is the “Mammy” can somehow become the stereotype and counter stereotype at the same time. In the stereotype, it is said African American women as a domestic worker, but at the same time, this stereotype become a counter stereotype where African American women used this stereotype to inspire them to be a strong black woman.

An addition after analyzing the data, this movie only show 1 stereotype which is “Jezebel” and 2 counter-stereotype which African American women as the decision-maker and a leader. By this result and the fact that this movie is taking place in the modern era in which 2016, it also can be concluded that the negatives stereotypes amongst African Americans start getting less. On the other side, the counter-stereotype as the depiction of African American women status amongst native American society is getting better and better in the modern era.

4.2 Suggestion

Researchers who are interested in taking *Suicide Squad* Movie as their object of the study are expected to analyze the other aspects of this movie besides stereotype and counter-stereotype on African American Women. The writer realizes, there are so many things in this movie that could be discovered with different approaches or objects. For example, analyze this movie using a Sociological approach. The Sociological approach will help the near future researcher to find the relation between the woman character with the African American Woman. As an addition, all woman of the characters that can be analyzed about why all the woman in *Suicide Squad* is represented as powerful characters in the movie that may reflect real life or social conditions in society. Hopefully, this research can help people to open their minds about the movie as a media that can be used as the material to learn something and also can help people to understand life in a better way.

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