

**CHIEF CARL BRASSHEAR'S STRUGGLE AGAINST RACISM
IN *MEN OF HONOR* MOVIE**

THESIS

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

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ABSTRACT

Nursani, Kharisma. 2013. **Chief Carl Brasshear's Struggle Against Racism in *Men of Honor* Movie**. English Study Program, Language and Literature Department, Faculty of Culture Studies, University of Brawijaya. Supervisor: Arcci Tusita, M.Hum. Co-supervisor: Sri Utami Budi, M.A

Keywords: Carl Brasshear, racism, struggle, *Men of Honor*

Racism of colored people has become a peculiar issue recorded in the history of America. The practice of racism has made a great impact in every social aspect between white American and the African-American citizen. At that time, colored people were oppressed by racial discrimination and injustice treatment. Some were struggling to get their rights, as it is portrayed in *Men of Honor* movie. It is a true story movie tells about Carl Brasshear's struggle against racism in the US Navy. After facing all discrimination and racial injustice, Carl succeeded to become the first colored people served in the US Navy.

Related to the issue of racism occurs in the movie, Lawrence and Kelleher defined the term of Structural racism as a system of hierarchy and inequity, primarily characterized by white supremacy to maintain their authority over oppressed people. The structural racism occurs in the institution is called as institutional racism. As it is shown in the movie, Carl had many obstacles in fulfilling his dream caused by racial discrimination. The racial discrimination in the US Navy is maintained by white supremacy to control their power and to eliminate the opportunity for colored people.

This research found out (1) Racism which mostly occurs in the movie is an institutional racism where the setting and the story took place in the US Navy as an institution. (2) Spirit, faith, endurance, hard work, and promise to his father were Carl's strongest motivations to fight against racism. Even though he lost his one leg, Carl kept struggling to serve as Master Diver and he finally became the first amputee to return in full active diving duty.

ABSTRAK

Nursani, Kharisma. 2013. *Perjuangan Carl Brasshear Melawan Rasisme di Film Men of Honor*. Program Studi Sastra Inggris, Jurusan Bahasa dan Sastra, Fakultas Ilmu Budaya, Universitas Brawijaya. Pembimbing: (I) Arcci Tusita, M.Hum. (II) Sri Utami Budi, M.A

Kata Kunci: Carl Brasshear, rasisme, perjuangan, *Men of Honor*

Rasisme pada kaum kulit hitam merupakan isu yang pelik dalam sejarah Amerika. Praktek rasisme telah menyebabkan dampak social bagi kaum kulit putih dan kaum Afrika Amerika. Pada masa rasisme, kaum kulit hitam ditekan dan diperlakukan tidak adil dan disisihkan. Beberapa diantara mereka mencoba melawan demi hak asasinya, seperti yang tergambar pada film *Men of Honor*. Film ini menceritakan tentang kisah nyata Carl Brasshear yang berjuang melawan rasisme di Angkatan Laut Amerika. Setelah melalui berbagai diskriminasi dan perlakuan tidak adil, Carl akhirnya berhasil menjadi orang kulit hitam pertama sebagai penyelam di Angkatan Laut Amerika.

Berkenaan dengan isu rasisme di film ini, Lawrence dan Kelleher menjelaskan tentang Rasisme struktural yang merupakan system hirarki dan ketidakadilan yang dibuat oleh kekuasaan kaum kulit putih untuk menjaga kendali atas kaum yang ditindasnya. Rasisme struktural juga muncul pada sebuah lembaga atau departemen, disebut sebagai rasisme institusional. Seperti yang digambarkan pada film ini bahwa Carl menghadapi banyak hambatan dalam mencapai mimpinya disebabkan oleh diskriminasi ras pada sebuah institusi. Diskriminasi ras pada Angkatan Laut Amerika diatur oleh kekuasaan kaum kulit putih untuk menghambat dan memangkas kesempatan untuk kaum kulit hitam.

Penelitian ini menganalisa fenomena rasisme yang muncul sejak awal hingga akhir dari perjuangan Carl. Dalam penelitian ini ditemukan bahwa (1) Rasisme yang sering tergambar pada film ini adalah rasisme institusional dimana setting dan cerita pada film ini bertempat di sebuah institusi. (2) Semangat, keyakinan, ketahanan diri, kerja keras, dan janji pada seorang ayah adalah motivasi terkuat Carl untuk melawan rasisme. Meskipun setelah dia kehilangan satu kakinya dalam sebuah kecelakaan, Carl tetap berjuang untuk menjadi seorang penyelam ahli. Akhirnya dia sukses menajadi penyandang disabilitas pertama yang kembali bekerja sebagai penyelam di Angkatan Laut Amerika.

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