

SKETCHING HISTORICAL CONTEXT IN LEE DANIELS' THE BUTLER: A MIMETIC APPROACH

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to analyze Daniels' work of the historical context in his movie *The Butler*. To reveal the purpose of the study, the writers utilize qualitative methodology with a mimetic approach to analyze the historical context in the movie. The results concluded that this movie gives a significant proportion in three types of history, namely political, social, and intellectual history. In the political aspect, the movie depicts the history when the United States used to establish the Segregation Law based on racial background. In the social aspect, the movie depicts non-white Americans who were considered unworthy. Whereas, in intellectual aspect, the movie portrays many historical figures and other Americans who fought the injustice demanding equality as the citizens.

Keywords: Historical Context, Content Analysis, Mimetic.

INTRODUCTION

A movie is an audio-visual media or a moving picture that able to attract an audience to watch it. The movie provides people with entertainment purposes and portrays rich in culture.

A movie can be described as an adaptation of literature as it has art in its story. On its delivery, a movie contains a drama, which contains dialogue or a script, which is one kind of literary works.

Movie has its own genres, and historical as well as biographical are kinds of them. According to Romein (as cited in Tamburaka, 2002:2), "*Bandingkan dengan kata Jerman untuk sejarah, yakni geschichte, yang berasal dari kata geschehen yang berarti terjadi. 'Geschichte' adalah sesuatu yang telah terjadi. Peristiwa dan kejadian itu benar-benar terjadi pada masa lampau.*"

Hollingsworth (2000) categorizes history into six types, which are:

1) Political History

The story of government, political leaders, electoral activities, the making of policy, and the interaction of branches of government.

2) Diplomatic History

The study of the relations between nations, diplomats, and ideas of diplomacy.

3) Social History

The study of ways and customs, of family, education, children, demography (population change), and voluntary institutions (churches, for example).

4) Cultural History

The study of language and its uses, of the arts and literature, sport, and entertainment, in constructing cultural categories.

5) Economic History

The study of how an entire system of production and consumption (or of any of its parts) works, of markets, industry, credit, and working people at all levels of the system.

6) Intellectual History

The study of ideology and epistemology, analyzing how ideas affect human actions and how the material world affects human ideas.

Historical aspects have a significant influence on writing a literary work. Historical aspects give a theme or background story to a literary work. As stated previously that historical movie is one of the movie's genres, so it portrays mostly about historical events that happened in the past.

One example of a historical movie is *The Butler* by Lee Daniels. The movie tells about a man named Cecil, who recounts his life as a witness of a struggle of African-American people to fight for their rights of equality. He experiences the time where it was acceptable for white American to badly treat and even kill colored American until the time he witnesses President Barack Obama become the first President of the United States of African descent.

The movie tells that there is so much pain and struggle of African-American people have to experience before they can be as equal as white Americans in front of the law in their own country. Barack Obama would not have been a president if it were not for the struggle of African-American people to fight for their rights in the past.

There are so many events portrayed in the movie. However, we have to know that *The Butler* is just a movie as stated previously that a movie provides its audiences with entertainment purposes. The central theme of *The Butler* is historical, but its plot has to be entertaining as it is the purpose of a movie. We have to keep in mind that sometimes it is needed to exaggerate or dramatize a story to make it more interesting.

Based on this thinking, we cannot fully trust that everything in *The Butler* portrays the real historical event. Moreover, as the aim of the research, we have to analyze every event or scenes in the movie, so we know which ones that contain a historical context.

Historical context is one of the approaches in the literature that views a historical phenomenon. A literary work always relates to the events in the past since literary work was born from someone who created it, so literary work must be an implication or reflection of someone's life, which they got from their life experiences.

To compare a literary work with the historical context, we need a theory or an approach. Mimetic approach reviews literature

that relates to the reality based on a real-life story (Hasanuddin, 2009, p. 108).

Siswanto (2008:188) states that the mimetic approach is a critic that discusses and judges a literary work by relating it with reality. In this critic, a literary work is considered as an imitation of nature or life. A literary work is a reflection, an imitation, or a mirror of reality. In this approach, a literary work comes from imitation or a reflection of life, in reviewing a literary work with this approach, we need data that relates to the reality contained in the literary work itself.

METHOD

In this research, the method used to analyze the movie is a qualitative method. Punch (2005) states, "Qualitative research is empirical research where the data are not in the form of numbers" (p.5). It means that the research needs only words to do the analysis.

Moleong (2000, p.17) states, "*Penelitian deskriptif adalah suatu bentuk penelitian yang ditujukan untuk mendeskripsikan fenomena-fenomena yang ada, baik fenomena alamiah maupun rekayasa manusia.*" Thus, we know that qualitative research uses the words that come from people's way of thinking to describe a phenomenon that happens based on social reality.

The use of this method is to analyze a document to get the point or the meaning contained in the document. In this research, the document that the writer means is *The Butler* by Lee Daniels. Research with this analysis is trying to describe or visualize the problem and then analyze and interpret the data.

In this research, the technique of the research that the writers use is library research, Kothari (2004) formulates two methods and techniques which are: (i) analysis of historical: recording of notes, content analysis, tape and movie listening, and research records; (ii) analysis of documents: statistical compilations and manipulations, reference and abstract, guides, contents analysis. Based on the statements and theories stated previously, those methods depend on the collection of data. Those methods can be used when the available data is not sufficient to arrive at the required solution.

In this research, the primary data is *The Butler* by Lee Daniels, while the subsidiary data

is every data that is taken and collected from written literature and internet sources which are the related theories that used in this research.

Since this is qualitative research as mentioned and described previously, the writers will use content analysis to define the values contained in the movie. The objective is to find the historical context in *The Butler* by Lee Daniels.

The instruments of the research are the writers ourselves since the activity of collecting data cannot be done by other intermediaries along with the data from the scenes and dialogues and characters in the movie. Since the research is analyzing the historical context in a movie by using the mimetic approach, then the data that the writers get will be compared with the real historical events noted in the historical archives.

The techniques used to analyze data to describe the historical context in *The Butler* by Lee Daniels are as follows: observation, making synopsis while collecting orders of historical events depicted in the movie, gathering information from secondary resources related to the historical events reported in the movie.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Results

The results are the findings gotten from the movie. As the analysis is about the historical context, the writers summarize the scenes and the dialogues that might contain any historical context in them or might depict the real events of history. Moreover, these findings are categorized based on the types of history:

Political History

There is a scene where Cecil, which now works as a servant in D.C., being asked by a political elite named Mr. Jenkins about his idea of school integration purposed by Earl Warren. Mr. Jenkins finds the idea could cause another civil war and Earl Warren has to be hanged for it, but Cecil tends not to give any concern about American or European politics. (00:12:43-00:13:33)

Sets in 1957, President Eisenhower, Mr. Adams, and Mr. Brownell Jr. discuss sending federal troops to Little Rock as for Faubus keeps blocking colored children to go to school.

The constitution must be enforced, and The South has to adjust. (00:25:54-00:26:34)

James says that since the polls show the US does not support civil rights, Bobby has told President Kennedy that he does not have to worry about the Negro sit-ins. The statement grows Carter's disbelief towards Kennedy. (00:50:44-00:50:17)

President Kennedy delivers his speech on television, asking the Congress to enact legislation giving all Americans the right to be served in facilities, which are open to the public. (01:01:09-01:02:03)

Cecil tells Gloria that President Johnson just passed the civil rights legislation – which has become the most notable and the great legislation – Since Lincoln freed the slaves. It is going to be very difficult to pass another bill anytime soon. (01:09:18-01:09:32)

President Johnson delivers a speech on television, where he says that every American citizen must have an equal right to vote. (01:13:46- 01:14:26)

Louis and Carol come to Gaines' house for dinner. Carol tells Gaines family that she and Louis have joined in a party called the Black Panther Party. (01:21:47-01:22:23)

President Nixon and his senators discuss promoting black power by passing the buck on desegregation to the courts. They will push black enterprise to win the 20 percent of the votes. However, they have to make sure that Nixon black power does not equate Nixon with the Black Panthers. (01:28:06-01:29:10)

Cecil comes to serve President Nixon, where he seems so stressful. Nixon tells Cecil that people want him to resign, but he assures Cecil that it will not happen as he will become stronger than ever. (01:36:09- 01:37:33)



Sets in 2008, at the Gaines' house, people gather around as they are in joy and full of hope showing their support for Obama to be the next president of the United States. They are not just

black Americans; white Americans also can be seen to be gladly cheering for Obama. Cecil thinks it is an impossible thing since Obama is of African descent. Also, finally, it happens, the news shows the results of the election and Obama is selected as the new president, Cecil and Louis shed tears as they are so happy hearing the first speech from Obama as the president. (01:56:23-02:01:47)

Diplomatic History

James states that Casals refuses to play in any country that recognizes Franco's regime, but the movie portrays that he plays for President Kennedy, which implies that the US does not recognize Franco's regime. (00:51:39-00:51:55)

During President Johnson administration, there is a war in Vietnam, and America gets involved in the war and sends its troops. (01:14:29-01:15:49)

Nancy Reagan states that she feels uncomfortable with the foreign policies surrounding Ronnie (Ronald Reagan). She says that Reagan and his staffs have to be more moderate and they need a summit with the Russians, meeting them face to face to calm the situation. (01:44:35-01:44:53)

The senators' advice President Reagan to pass sanctions against South Africa for the apartheid issue. "The senators feel that the brutal repression of South African black citizens makes this no longer a foreign policy issue, but a United States racial issue." However, President Reagan will veto any sanctions passed by Congress about the issue. (01:47:48-01:49:02)

Social History

In the movie shows the life of young Cecil where he, his parents, and other black workers live and work in the cotton fields. In there he has to watch his mother gets sexually assaulted, and his father gets shot dead by the master. He and other black workers cannot do anything about it. (00:01:18-00:04:20)

After the incident at the cotton fields, Miss Annabeth takes Cecil to work in the house. She tells Cecil that she will teach him how to be a *house nigger*. (00:04:29-00:04:46)

When Cecil thinks he is old enough, he leaves the cotton fields. He soon finds out the truth that the outside world is worse than living in the cotton fields. Any white man could

kill any black man at any time and not be punished for it. The law is not on his side. The law is against him. (00:07:33-00:08:04)

Mr. Maynard slaps Cecil when Cecil says a word "nigger." Mr. Maynard tells Cecil that the word is a white man's word and it is full of hatred. (00:08:42-00:10:04)

Gloria, Cecil, Louis and discuss a woman named Mamie Till whose son was killed only for looking at a white woman. This happened in The South, where Cecil describes white people who live there are crazy. (00:14:54-00:15:34)



Louis and his friends who are mostly African Americans come to a diner named F. W. Woolworth Co. Where they sit at a counter that is supposed to be for white people only. Everyone in the diner stares at them confusedly, some white people look upset and immediately leave the diner, and some get furious and warn them. African American customers cannot do anything but remain silent. (00:38:51-00:43:10)

Charlie tells Louis that he is excited about joining the army for the Vietnam War. Louis asks Charlie why to bother fighting for the country that treats them like dogs. (01:26:34-01:27:01)

Cultural History



Cecil comes to a room to serve President Eisenhower. In the room, the president is apparently in his spare time. He asks Cecil about his children while he is painting. (00:28:58-00:29:44)

Gloria seems annoyed by Cecil, who always gives a bigger proportion of his time on

his job at the White House than in his house. Once Cecil is about to sleep, Gloria asks Cecil about Mrs. Jackie Kennedy to confront him. She asks about how many pairs of shoes Mrs. Jackie Kennedy has. (00:49:21-00:50:27)

At Dinner, Gloria tells the family that she and Cecil just watched a movie called *In the Heat of the Night*, starred by Sidney Poitier. Cecil thinks Sidney fights for equal rights as he is breaking down barriers for all black Americans for his role in movies. (01:22:28-01:23:14)



Set on Cecil's birthday. The movie shows Gloria dances to a music video. It can be seen from the music video that an African-American singer sings the song and the dancers are all African-American people. The most interesting from the scene is the fact that many African-American women in the music video and Gloria herself wear afro wigs. (01:31:18-01:34:23)

Economic History

Mr. Nixon comes to the kitchen, where he meets Cecil, James, and Carter. It seems like it is the election year, and Mr. Nixon is running for the next president. He asks them about the concerns come from the black community. Only James dares to answer that black workers get paid forty percent less than white workers get, and it is hard for black workers to get promoted. (00:35:21-00:36:11)

Intellectual History



Cecil sees Louis having a flyer about Mamie Till. Louis asks Cecil's permission to get involved in the solidarity action, but Cecil

refuses. Cecil thinks it is dangerous as it happens in The South. (00:28:29-00:28:49)

Louis is now in college in Nashville, where he meets Carol. He and Carol join an activist group with a man named James Lawson as the spokesperson. He says that they will take action against segregation using Gandhi's technique where love is their weapon. He tells the group if they are involved in the action, they have to be ready for anything, even death. (00:37:43-00:38:42)



Louis and his friends as the army of James Lawson come to a diner named F. W. Woolworth Co. Where they sit at a counter that is supposed to be for white people only. Before the action, James Lawson and his army practice the situation that may happen in response to their action. In the diner everyone in the diner stares at them confusedly, some white people look upset and immediately leave the diner, and some get furious and warn them. However, Louis and his friends remain silent, and they do not do anything even when some angry white people verbally and physically abused them. They end up being beaten, but still, they are the ones who get arrested. (00:38:51-00:43:10)

Gina and Howard notice Louis' departure. Gina asks Gloria about his whereabouts, and Gloria tells Gina that she and Cecil have contact with Louis, which makes her know that Louis now has joined something called the *Freedom Riders*. (00:45:43-00:45:56)



When the bus with freedom riders on it enters the state of Alabama, they are stopped by furious white people. The freedom riders start panicking when they see a lighting cross and hooded people with torches, one of the hooded man looks about to throw the torch towards the bus that makes all the freedom riders are in a rush to get off the bus. (00:51:18-00:54:30)

On television, a reporter reports a clash happens in Birmingham, Alabama. Residents have taken to the streets to bring attention to their efforts against the segregation of black Americans following the earlier boycotts in Birmingham. (00:56:35-00:57:10)

Cecil cries for knowing that President Kennedy is assassinated. Mrs. Kennedy refused to change her clothes so that everybody could see what they did to her husband. (01:02:19-01:04:10)

Helen says Dr. King has told the president that there would be a rally in The South for black American's right to vote. (01:08:30-01:08:50)

Gloria says that there are three men got killed in The South, because of trying to get colored folks registered to vote and the president sent the FBI only because two of them were white. (01:08:53-01:09:18)

Carol tells Louis that Malcolm X's plan is better than Dr. King's, which Louis comes to disagree. Louis says Malcolm X's plan of putting anybody in the cemetery who puts their hands on you is not a better plan. (01:10:43-01:10:56)

Everybody goes to church to raise money for people in Selma. Once again, those people get beaten. This one is so bad that the press calls it "Bloody Sunday." (01:12:27-01:12:53)



Sets in 1968, the movie tells that Martin Luther King has been shot to death, because of that chaos breaks down on the street. People who are mostly African-Americans burn the shops, break the windows, some women seen crying and some people being beaten up. (01:18:17-01:20:13)

Sets in Oakland, California, the movie portrays a man who is probably the leader of The Black Panther Party tells his followers that their party is considered a terrorist group by the media and tells them to prepare themselves with guns. He says that if someone takes one of them, they have to take an act of revenge. Hearing that statement makes Louis reluctant to stay with the party, he tells Carol that he is not ready to kill anybody, but Carol replies that she is, Louis then leaves Carol and the party. (01:27:50-01:31:00)



Sets in front of the South African Embassy, Louis leads a rally to free Mandela. Louis reminds people that what happens to South Africa is similar to whatever happened in America in the past, and people in the rally blame President Reagan for the situation that happens in South Africa. In this scene, Louis and Cecil reunite, and Cecil joins the march, and they end up getting arrested. (01:53:56-01:56:21)

Discussion

By using the mimetic approach, this section contains the comparison between the findings in the movie with the findings from historical archives and then added with the writers' interpretation in every comparison.

Political History

Then, on May 17, 1954, in the landmark decision *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka*, the Supreme Court, under Chief Justice Earl Warren, reversed *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896), which had allowed segregation in schools provided they were “separate but equal.” (Remini, 2008:261)

As the comparison to the scenes at 00:12:43-00:13:33, Earl Warren was the Chief Justice of the United States, he made a policy to desegregate schools in American that based on racial background, so there would be no more school for white only or colored school. The policy could make every child in America able to go to any school without worrying about their racial background.

The scenes in the movie portray people’s reactions towards a new policy that not all citizens can accept it. Many people even think it could cause another civil war.

Five days prior to the President’s signing this legislation, the first outright defiance of the Supreme Court’s ruling in the *Brown* case occurred on September 3, 1957, when the governor of Arkansas, Orval E. Faubus, called out the National Guard in an attempt to prevent the integration of a high school in Little Rock. (Remini, 2008:262)

As the comparison to the scenes at 00:25:54-00:26:34, Orval E. Faubus was the governor of Arkansas. In 1957, there was a trial of school integration in Little Rock, Arkansas. Faubus, as the pressure from white citizens in Arkansas, asked the National Guard to prevent the school integration.

The scenes in the movie portrayed when President Eisenhower and his senators were in favor of integrating schools in America, but it was hard as not everyone agreed with the decision. Even political figure, like the governor of Arkansas, helped the ones who disagreed by calling out the National Guard in an attempt to prevent the integration.

However, the need at home in several areas was also great, especially among African-Americans. Still, Kennedy indicated that civil rights were not a top priority for his administration, probably because he needed southern support for other measures he deemed more urgent,

such as education and housing. (Remini, 2008:267)

As the comparison to the scenes at 00:50:44-00:50:17, it could not be said that Kennedy was not in favor of civil rights, it was just not his top priority. To pass the civil rights bill was hard since the supports from the Southern States were low.

The scenes in the movie portrayed when colored staffs became unsure about President Kennedy, as at first, they believed that the president would make a change for them.

Then came the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which forbade discrimination because of race in most places of public accommodation; authorized the attorney general to institute suits to desegregate public facilities, including schools; banned discrimination on account of race or sex by employers, labor unions, or employment agencies; created the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; prohibited discrimination in the use of federal funds by states and other local authorities; and created a Community Relations Service to assist individuals and officials in dealing with racial problems at the local level. (Remini, 2008:270)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:01:09-01:02:03, the speech that President Kennedy delivered was the declaration of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which the primary goal of the act was to stop all kinds of segregation in the United States based on racial background.

In the presence of members of Congress, cabinet members, foreign ambassadors, and leaders of the civil rights movement, Johnson signed the legislation at 6:45 PM on June 19, in the East Room of the White House, only a few hours after it had been passed. Johnson called on all Americans “to join in this effort to bring justice and hope to all our people.” The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was the most far-reaching civil rights legislation enacted since Reconstruction. (Remini, 2008:270)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:09:18-01:09:32, the most significant piece of civil rights legislation that President Johnson passed was the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The idea came from President Kennedy, as the previous president, but he was assassinated after delivering the speech about it before the

act was passed. As the successor, President Johnson became the one who passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

A week later President Lyndon B. Johnson, in a televised address to a night session of both houses of Congress, urged passage of stronger voter rights legislation. "It is not just Negroes," he said, "but it is all of us, who must overcome the crippling legacy of bigotry and injustice. So we shall overcome." Congress followed through bypassing the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which was signed by Johnson on August 5. It was, he said, "a triumph for freedom as huge as any victory that has been won on the battlefield." By this act, he declared, "we strike away from the last major shackle of those fierce and ancient bonds" that have bound African-Americans to slavery since their arrival on this continent. (Remini, 2008:273)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:13:46-01:14:26, the speech that President Johnson delivered was about the Voting Rights Act of 1965. As the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was meant to stop segregation, people of color still could have their rights to vote. So President Johnson passed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, which allowed all Americans of any race to vote.

Lowndes County is small and rural. Eighty percent of its citizens are black. None of them had been allowed to vote since Reconstruction. So they formed an independent party of their own, and they took for their symbol a leaping black panther. Their party got to be called the Black Panther Party. (Cannon, 1970:6)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:21:47-01:22:2, there was a party, an independent one, named the Black Panther Party consisted only of African-American people as the members.

As a summary from Kotlowski (2001:132) explains that President Nixon supported and embraced Black Power advocates but did not approve the angry, even violent, rhetoric of some Black Power leaders. He also endorsed black capitalism. However, African American community gave a mixed reaction, some praised him, some found his "law and order" rhetoric racially divisive and the candidate himself untrustworthy, and

some accused Nixon of seeking to divide African-Americans and undermine "black power as a political force."

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:28:06-01:29:10, there was the rise of African-American extremist groups such as the Black Panther Party as they still felt alienated and suffered injustice in America. Because of that, Nixon endorsed and embraced Black Power to raise the economy of the African-American community. However, many believed that Nixon was not genuine, because many people thought that Nixon just felt threatened by the extremist groups or Nixon just wanted African American's voice for his political force.

The general public now realized the extent of Nixon's betrayal of his oath to preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States. The next day, having little choice, Nixon announced his resignation on television, declaring that he "no longer had a strong enough political base" to continue in office. (Remini, 2008:286)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:36:09-01:37:3, American citizens did want President Nixon to resign from his position as the president. As from the fact that there was a scandal in his administration and public finally found out about it.

However, undoubtedly the culmination of years of struggle by African Americans to find accurate representation within government was the election as president in 2008 of Barack Obama, an African-American senator from Illinois. A black man had become the leader of the free world. (Wallenfeldt, 2010:17)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:56:23-02:01:47, as Barack Obama, became the president of the United States, he became the representation of all African-American people that the struggle of African-American people from the slavery until the Civil Rights Movements was not futile. It is proven from the fact that Barack Obama was the first president of the United States of African descent.

Cecil in the movie may represent all African-American people who lived during slavery and Civil Rights Movement must have been so moving, and even they could have cried when the news told that their new president came from their kind of people.

Diplomatic History

Casals's appearance was a coup for JFK because as a Spaniard-in-exile, he had refused to play in the United States or any other country that recognized the brutal dictatorship of Franco. He had last played in the White House in 1904 for President Theodore Roosevelt. However, Kennedy dispatched an emissary to Puerto Rico, where Casals resided, to persuade the elderly cellist to play again at the White House. (White, 2013:42)

As the comparison to the scenes at 51:39-00:51:55, the appearance of Pablo Casals at the White House was a coup. He was a Spaniard-in-exile in Puerto Rico. He was not supposed to go to America as he refused to play in any country that recognized Franco's regime, but President Kennedy dispatched an emissary to persuade Casals to play in America. It indicated that the United States recognized Franco's regime.

The fighting between the communist North Vietnamese and the noncommunist South Vietnamese intensified, and that intensification made the South Vietnamese more dependent on the United States for economic and military assistance. Consumed with the fear that a victory for the communists in Vietnam would have a domino effect throughout Asia, Johnson committed himself to provide aid at the very beginning of his administration. (Remini, 2008:274)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:14:29-01:15:49, America had been involved in the Vietnam War even before the Johnson administration, as he became the replacement of the late president, President Kennedy, so he promised that he would provide aid needed in the war including American troops to help noncommunist South Vietnamese.

Before Reykjavik, Reagan's foreign policy discourse had been fashioned primarily in the context of domestic politics. One result was a "zero-sum" approach to the United States-USSR balance of power: anything that weakened the USSR was seen as strengthening the United States, and vice versa. At Reykjavik, Reagan was engaged in face-to-face discussions with a Soviet leader who maneuvered him into publicly rejecting an elimination of all

nuclear weapons. (Weiler and Pearce, 2006:163)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:44:35-01:44:53, the United States was in the Cold War with USSR during the Reagan administration. The leaders of both countries had a policy over nuclear weapons. Both countries needed a meeting to calm the situation by publicly rejecting an elimination of all nuclear weapons.

South African regime too hard for a change in its policy of apartheid, the Reagan administration was even more likely to give priority to its struggle against the Soviet Union over any effort to bring about rapid political reform in South Africa. It called, instead, for a policy of constructive engagement with the South African regime, which meant that the United States would try to remain on good terms with it, reasoning that friendly interactions would provide more leverage than hostile pronouncements or actions aimed at pressuring the government to modify its apartheid policy. (Ray, 2013:261)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:47:48-01:49:02, America was a powerful country. President Regan became the role of the world leader. People thought that racial issue in South Africa should have been the president's consideration to pass Anti-Apartheid Act bill, but he instead vetoed the bill because he just wanted to keep political relation between America and South Africa stayed in the proper term. He let South Africa do their political policy.

Social History

Whites could of course not be prosecuted for the rape of a slave, although a white might be prosecuted for trespass if he raped another man's slave. While whites might be prosecuted for the murder or maiming of a slave, such prosecutions were rare, and capital punishment for such cases even rarer. (Miller and Smith, 1997:396)

As the comparison to the scenes at 00:01:18-00:04:20, killing and raping were the common things that happened during slavery. The slaves were considered as properties, so it was up to the masters to do whatever they wanted to their properties, including killed or

raped them. No law could punish the masters for doing those despicable acts, except if they did it to others' slaves that could be analogized as stealing other's property.

The house nigger, through his close association with the master, is to be thought of as assimilated within white culture, while "the masses," the field niggers, are thought of as what Los Angeles historian and cultural critic Mike Davis has called the "revolutionary lumpenproletariat," revolutionary by necessity, owing to their extremely marginal status in society. (Baker and Boyd, 1997:129)

As the comparison to the scenes at 00:04:29-00:04:46, house nigger means the slave who worked inside the house of the master. They worked the way as a domestic worker, or the helper did. It could be said that it was less hard working as a house nigger than as a field nigger. Because being a house nigger made a slave get closer to their master, it could be said that being a house nigger made a slave have a special status although it still could not make them not be considered as a property.

BY THE BEGINNING of the 20th Century, the Negroes in America were in many ways as badly off as they had been under slavery. Legally Negroes were free, but in fact, they labored under economic and political and social slavery little different from the past. Negroes, who left the South found themselves crowded into northern ghettos, unable to get work. (Cieciorka, 1965:51)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:07:33-00:08:04, after slavery did not make the former slaves free. Their lives were still threatened. They still lived in fear. White people could kill them anytime and anywhere without needing any reason to do it, and the law would not discriminate against them. Even without being haunted, the next thing they had to do was thinking about how to provide their lives since it was hard for them to get a job.

We may assume that as time progressed from slavery, the house niggers were the ones who would adopt various monikers as a way of distancing themselves from the negative impact of the word "nigger," while on the other hand, several of the niggers would go on to be associated

with the imagery of the bad nigger, which would eventually be refigured as the nigga. The farther one gets away from the field; the less likely one is to embrace the imagery of the field, meaning the looming signifier of the nigga. (Baker and Boyd, 1997:129)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:08:42-00:10:04, the word "nigga" is an offensive word. It is too offensive that people today refer it just like the "n-word." The word only becomes acceptable when African-American people say it, but it is not when other ethnics say it, because the word was a racial slur that the white Americans used to refer African-American who worked at the plantation or a field nigger who worked harshly.

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:14:54-00:15:34, Mamie Till was the mother to Emmett Till, a 14-year-old African American boy from Chicago, who was brutally murdered by two white men. Started when Emmett was about to go to The South, his mother warned him to be careful with the whites from The South, because they could react differently from the ones in the north. The mother warned him because he knew that his son was a cheerful person and liked to make jokes. In The South, some friends dared Emmett to talk with a white girl and Emmett did it. At night the father and the uncle of the girl's kidnapped Emmett, beat him, gauged out his eye, shot him in the head and finally dumped his body to the river. When his body was discovered, he was barely recognized. He was identified only by the monogrammed ring he wore (Wallenfeldt, 2010:65-66).

Even though the South lawfully restricted the lives of black Americans, the practice of discrimination in America was nationwide. We were allowed to live only in areas designated for use by whites, to attend all-black schools, and to sit only in areas set aside for us on public transportation, in movie theaters, restaurants, waiting rooms, and even public facilities such as restrooms. (Watkins, 2016:1)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:38:51-00:43:10, there was a law in America named Jim Crows law, which separated all of the public facilities for whites and people of

color. Even if there was a vacant seat, people of color must have been cautious of what the sign said. If it was "white," then colored people were not allowed to sit on that seat even when no white man needed to sit on that seat.

Nonetheless, the appeal of the military to blacks was-and remains-unmistakable. Today, with unemployment at an all-time high for black youths, joining the volunteer Army is often simply economic conscription. During Vietnam, for some, it was the Army or jail; for others, it was the Army or unemployment. Boredom and the lack of a future on ghetto streets played a part. Many volunteered for elite fighting units. As one eighteen-year-old black marine said in Vietnam, "The brother is here, and he's raising hell. We're proving ourselves." (MacPherson, 1984:554)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:26:34-01:27:0, African-Americans already volunteered themselves in wars long before the Vietnam War. Despite to fight for their country, African-Americans who volunteered themselves just wanted to prove themselves to their country that they were also worthy as Americans.

Cultural History

When Eisenhower became President of the United States, a small room on the second floor of the White House was set aside as an art studio, complete with oil paints, easel, and canvases. Ike used his White House studio often, especially for brief periods before lunch. Ike was never one to compliment his artwork, whether his painting was a landscape, a still life, or a portrait. (Stanley, 2012:21)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:28:58-00:29:44, President Eisenhower could indeed paint. Even painting was his hobby.

During the campaign for the presidency, Jackie showed that she had the potential to become an international fashion icon. The Kennedy family wealth allowed her to acquire a wardrobe from the best European and American fashion houses. Jackie worked with some designers and fashion experts to create a look of understated elegance for the campaign

and, later, in her role as First Lady. (Sletcher, 2004:158)

As the comparison to the scenes at 00:49:21-00:50:27, Jackie Kennedy used to be the First Lady of the United States since she was the wife of President John F. Kennedy. Kennedy family was known for their wealth even before John F. Kennedy became president. Jackie Kennedy always became the center of attention because of the way she dressed. Everything she wore became famous. That was the reason why she was considered as an American fashion icon. Many women always got curious about her closet.

Astonishingly, when American filmmakers finally dared to depict the racially divided contemporary South in the 1960s, they dusted off the well-worn narrative strategy of the 1950s. The inclusion of principal black performers like Sidney Poitier barely affected the updated films' politically "relevant" perspective on racism. (Graham, 2003:14)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:22:28-01:23:14, Sidney Poitier is an American actor of African descent. He had been famous even before the Civil Rights Movement. The time when it was hard for colored American to make a name for themselves even in their own country. Moreover, he dared to take a role in a movie that broke racial boundaries.

Afros became fashionable in the United States during the mid-1960s, when more African Americans let their hair grow longer and assume its natural shape. The Afro and related hairstyles showed racial pride and embraced a multicultural view about what looks attractive. (Sherrow, 2006:22)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:31:18-01:34:23, afro hairstyle was indeed meaningful for African American culture, and it still is. In the 1960s or during the Civil Rights Movement, African Americans wore a wig or grew their hair naturally and made it that way to show their pride that they were proud of their heritage.

Economic History

According to Watkins (2016:43) who lived during segregation in America, "The White House paid separate salaries to black

servants, which was less than white servants' pay."

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:35:21-00:36:11, the fact does not state explicitly if the colored staffs at the White House were paid forty percent less than the white staffs got as the dialogue in the movie says. However, the fact proves that the colored staffs at the White House used to be paid less than the white servants' pay.

Intellectual History

After Emmett Till was brutally murdered, his mother, Mamie Till, refused to close his casket so everyone could see his body as a reminder of how horrible white men from the south could do. The appalling images of Till's body in the casket appeared in the pages of *Jet Magazine*, and *The Chicago Defender* and his murder case became a rallying point of the Civil Rights Movement. (Wallenfeldt, 2010:66)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:28:29-00:28:49, the Emmett Till's case became one of the beginning calls of the Civil Rights Movement, as Mamie Till's act of showing his son's corpse to the public became an icon of the monstrous act caused by racism.

When a new body was established to coordinate the outbreak of student protest, the Nashville youngsters formed the leadership cadre of this Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). James Lawson wrote its statement of purpose and convinced its members to accept jail terms, rather than file bail guarantees. Scholars have since agreed that the rhetoric, orientation, and vision of the Nashville movement pervaded the SNCC over the whole of the early 1960s. (Scalmer, 2011:183)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:37:43-00:38:42, James Lawson was the leader of SNCC, a group consisted of college students to participate in a movement to protest the segregation law in America by showing nonviolent acts.

THEN CAME 1960. Almost 100 years after the Civil War, four Negro students sat down at a Woolworth lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina. They were courteous and well behaved. They

asked only what was theirs by right—that they are allowed to eat like anyone else. Their tactic was an old one, and yet it was revolutionary. It was merely refusing to accept injustice. The tactic had been used before. There had been sit-ins, and freedom rides before. However, 1960 was different. The movement spread at once. All over the South, other students also held sit-ins. Within days, thousands of young people were sitting-in and being attacked and arrested. (Cieciorka, 1965:51)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:38:51-00:43:10, the name of their action was the Greensboro sit-ins, as it happened in Greensboro, North Carolina. Also, the movement used sit-ins to protest racial segregation in America. Several young people of color came to Woolworth lunch and sat on the counter where it was supposed to be for white people only as a form of the protest movement.

A year after the Greensboro incident, a northern-based group dedicated to racial equality—CORE (Congress of Racial Equality)—organized "Freedom Rides" in which blacks and whites traveled together on buses going through the South, to try to break the segregation pattern in interstate travel. Such segregation had long been illegal, but the federal government never enforced the law in the South. (Zinn, 2015:453)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:45:43-00:45:56, Freedom Riders were a group of people, coloreds and whites, traveled together on buses going through the South, to try to break the segregation pattern in interstate travel which was still practiced in the South. Freedom Riders were one of those movements that took part during the Civil Rights Movements.

Rowe also claimed that he had passed on vital intelligence to the Bureau concerning a Klan scheme to attack freedom riders in Birmingham, Alabama, in 1961. As planned, the KKK charged the unarmed civil rights activists with baseball bats, clubs, chains, and pistols in a melee that lasted fifteen minutes. (Johnson, 2015:141)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:51:18-00:54:30, KKK, short for Ku Klux Klan or called merely the Klan, is an extremist Christian organization. They are well known to dress in the white robe and long hood. They believe in white Christian supremacist, and threaten nonwhite people with a burning cross. They did not need a second thought to kill anyone who got in their way. They were involved in the attack of the Freedom Riders, along with the several white citizens in Birmingham, Alabama.

In Birmingham, Ala., in the spring of 1963, King's campaign to end segregation at lunch counters and in hiring practices drew nationwide attention when police turned dogs and fire hoses on the demonstrators. King was jailed along with large numbers of his supporters, including hundreds of schoolchildren. (Wallenfeldt, 2010:51)

As a comparison to the scenes at 00:56:35-00:57:10, the event that happened in Birmingham, Alabama was what today is remembered as the Birmingham campaign or the Birmingham movement. African-American people who were mostly students came down on the street for nonviolent demonstrations to protest the segregation law. However, they were shut out by the police using fire hoses and dogs.

Then the violence in the country reached a peak with the assassination of President Kennedy in Dallas, Texas, on Friday, November 22, 1963. It numbed the nation. The temper, mood, and political atmosphere in the country underwent a profound change. Few could believe that a young, handsome, seemingly energetic, the well-loved president could be killed in plain sight during a public appearance in the streets of a major city. People wept openly. In a single moment, the nation seemed to age and grew morose. (Remini, 2008:269)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:02:19-01:04:10, President Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas, Texas, for his support for civil rights and ending segregation officially. After the news reported his assassination, it shocked and mourned the nation. Especially for African-Americans, they had lost their president who was willing to fight them.

However, some issues of civil rights need to be solved. Voter registration of African-Americans had not improved significantly. So the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. launched an offensive in Selma, Alabama, on January 18, 1965. That city claimed a population that was 57.6 percent black, but only 2.1 percent of that number were registered to vote. (Remini, 2008:272)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:08:30-01:08:50, after the Civil Rights Act of 1964 only ended the segregation law nationwide, but African-Americans still did not have their rights to vote for politicians. As a protest, Martin Luther King asked African-Americans to participate in marches from the city of Selma to Montgomery, Alabama. The movement is now remembered as Selma to Montgomery marches.

Twelve days after the public hearing, three civil rights workers, James Chaney, a young black Mississippian, and two white volunteers, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner were arrested in Philadelphia, Mississippi, released from jail late at night, then seized, beaten with chains, and shot to death. (Zinn, 2015:456)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:08:53-01:09:18, three young American civil rights activists were murdered for attempting to register many African American voters as possible in Mississippi, the event was called Freedom Summer. Their murder case became the investigation of FBI, as three of them, were reported as missing before finally found dead and buried in the ground. Local police and KKK were likely to blame for the murder as the three men were followed after being released from the jail for their involvement in Freedom Summer.

Some leaders of the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s, '60s, and '70s were more revolutionary in their approach, notably Malcolm X, a prominent figure in the Nation of Islam, who rejected King's non-violent philosophies, famously calling for blacks to defend their rights "by any means necessary." Malcolm's life ended violently when he was gunned down in 1965 by members of the Nation after he had left it to embrace a more orthodox

Islamic philosophy. (Wallenfeldt, 2010:16)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:10:43-01:10:56, Malcolm X was one of the prominent figures during the Civil Rights Movement. However, his approach was different from Martin Luther King, Jr. While Dr. King proposed a nonviolent act, he was willing to kill using a "by-any-means-necessary."

On "Bloody Sunday," March 7, some 600 civil rights activists headed out of Selma, but they got only as far as the Edmund Pettus Bridge, where state and local police attacked them and driven back to Selma. Again, rioting occurred, with state troopers and mounted police officers brandishing nightsticks, firearms, and tear gas. (Remini, 2008:273)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:12:27-01:12:53, the march for voting rights continued. When the activist reached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were confronted by the local police force to drive them back to Selma. The police used horses, nightsticks, firearms, and tear gas to hurt the marchers. Some of them severely injured and lost consciousness. The attack was aired live on TV; the nation watched as the injured marchers ran and screamed in panic. The attack was so severe as the event now remembered as the Bloody Sunday.

A sniper's bullet killed King. The killing sparked riots and disturbances in over 100 cities across the country. On March 10, 1969, the accused assassin, a white man, James Earl Ray, pleaded guilty to the murder and was sentenced to 99 years in prison. Ray later recanted his confession, claiming lawyers had coerced him into confessing and that he was the victim of a conspiracy. (Wallenfeldt, 2010:54-55)

As the comparison to the scenes at 01:18:17-01:20:13, Dr. King led many movements during Civil Rights Movement that led to the legislation of Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965. A white supremacist assassinated him. After the news reported his assassination, riots broke down on the streets in many cities across America.

According to Cannon (1970:7) about the Black Panther Party, "They told the sheriff, "We won't fire the first shot, but we're bringing our guns, and if we're shot at, we'll shoot back."

They brought their guns to the election, and not a single person bothered them."

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:27:50-01:31:00, the Black Panther Party did prepare themselves with guns. They were an extremist party. They were inspired by Malcolm X's philosophy to use "by any means necessary." That was why they had their motto "if we're shot at, we'll shoot back." They just wanted to bring justice to the police who shot African American people but never be judged because the law protected them.

Protests by black South Africans in 1984, for example, led to the deaths of over 2,000 of them, while another 30,000 were detained as political prisoners. In response to events that so clearly originated in the antagonism between blacks and whites, black activist groups in the United States began to engage in more focused efforts at political action than they had attempted on previous occasions. (Ray, 2013:262)

As a comparison to the scenes at 01:53:56-01:56:21, President Reagan vetoed Anti-Apartheid Act to keep political relation between America and South Africa stays in a proper term. In the other hand, Americans believed that the President did not consider the fate of black people in South Africa under apartheid policy. That was the reason people, who mostly African Americans and ex-Civil Rights activists, went to the streets and made demonstrations as they felt the similarity between what they had been through during segregation in America and apartheid in South Africa.

CONCLUSIONS

Through the analysis and description which has been conducted. The writers conclude that historical context in the movie *The Butler* emphasizes about the Civil Rights Movement in the United States using African-American perspective and how it affects every aspect of the life of African-American, even until now.

Many scenes in the movie depict so many historical events which led the Civil Rights Movements such as the segregation law which in the movie represents the main social history of African-American. They were treated differently from white American. They had to separate everything, like seating counter,

water fountain, public services, schools and many more. Also, what they got was in the most unsatisfactory condition. So, the African-American had to isolate themselves from the whites. Because of the isolation, they created their own separate cultures as pictured in the movie, only the African-Americans who use the afro wigs which the cultural history notes that the use of the afro wig by African-American was to show the pride in their culture and themselves. Even until now, there are so many terms which only become acceptable if they are used by someone of the right cultural or racial background, for the example, the use of the n-word (i.e., n stands for nigger). It is considered acceptable when an African-American person says it. However, when someone who is not an African-American says the word, it sends a message as a racial slur and that person can be labeled as racist.

The segregation even affected in the economic life of the African-American as portrayed in the movie where African-American workers are paid less than the white workers, even it happens in the White House which then proven to be fact as economic history. Intellectual elites thought it was enough; the segregation and discrimination had to be stopped. Intellectual history gives a significant portion of the historical context contained in the movie. The intellectual history contained in the movie depicted as movements to refuse the injustice that America held for so long. The movements produced so many names that were considered as national heroes, for example, Martin Luther King Jr. He and many other historical figures are portrayed or just mentioned in the movie. The historical movements depicted the movie are the sit-ins, the Freedom Riders, and the Selma to Montgomery marches.

The movements meant nothing if there were not any response from the government. Because they were the only ones who were authorized to change the law. The movie gives another significant proportion for the political history contained in its story. There are several political figures portrayed or just mentioned in the movie and started from the Eisenhower administration until the election of Obama to be the President of the United States. They are portrayed to have essential roles in passing the bills or policies that meant to make all American citizens have equal rights without regarding their background, gender, and religion. The historical events in the movie depicted where all the movements were paid by the legislation of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to abolish the segregation law throughout the country and the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to make sure that every American citizen had the same right to vote.

Looking back to their history in fighting for their rights in their country, many Americans felt sympathy and solidarity towards the apartheid law in South Africa. They held a demonstration to protest President Reagan, who did nothing to stop the law just because the U.S. was diplomatically in a proper term with South Africa. This event becomes the primary representative of diplomatic history contained in the movie.

All of the historical events depicted in the movie would make people realize that whatever happens today might be the result of what had happened in the past. Without all of the struggles of African-American in the past, Obama might not have been a president in the United States. People who know history will understand the reason why the election of President Obama was one of the most significant histories in America, even the world.

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