

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

THE WHITE ALLIES: ANTI-RACISM IN WHEN THEY SEE US (2019)



By

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**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for the Bachelor Degree
of English Department Faculty of Humanities Universitas Airlangga**

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2022

DECLARATION

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Ali Firdaus

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This thesis is dedicated for people who had supported me all this time.

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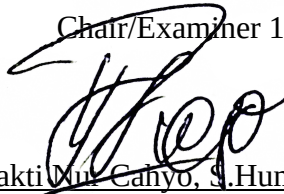
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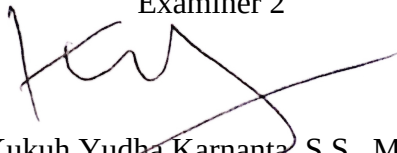
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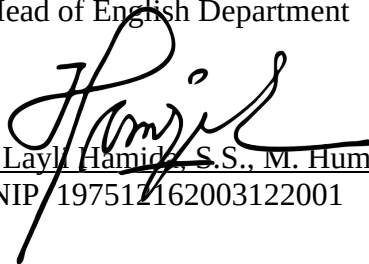
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“People are people regardless of skin, creed, gender, anything”

-Andrew Jackson Jihad

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ABSTRAK

Rasisme adalah topik sensitif yang selalu dibicarakan. Namun, seiring berkembangnya gagasan sepanjang waktu, istilah anti-rasis telah dimanifestasikan dan dianggap sebagai penentang nilai-nilai rasis. Anti-rasis sendiri dapat didefinisikan sebagai pemahaman dengan kesadaran spesifik, kesadaran diri, pengetahuan dan keterampilan tertentu untuk menantang, mencegah, dan memperbaiki keberadaan rasisme dalam pengaruh seseorang. Isu rasisme dan anti-rasis dapat terjadi di berbagai platform media, termasuk film. Salah satu contoh teks yang disematkan isu rasisme adalah *When They See Us* (2019). Secara singkat, *When They See Us* (2019) menceritakan kisah 5 remaja non-kulit putih; Raymond Santana Jr, Kevin Richardson, Antron McCray, Yusef Salaam, dan Korey Wise yang dituduh melakukan kejahatan terkait pelecehan seksual terhadap seorang wanita kulit putih. Dengan menggunakan teori Narasi Todorov, penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menjelaskan narasi orang kulit putih melakukan tindakan anti-rasis dalam film seri *When They See Us* (2019). Sejalan dengan teori di atas, penulis menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif untuk melakukan analisis. Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa film tersebut mewakili anti-rasis dalam beberapa hal. Dari narasi, cara semua karakter utama non-kulit putih bersatu dan berkolaborasi dengan pengacara kulit putih adalah tanda gerakan oposisi atas superioritas ras tertentu. Sementara itu, non-narasi juga menunjukkan nilai-nilai anti-rasis termasuk cara film dirilis di tengah maraknya gerakan kesetaraan ras.

Kata Kunci: *Anti-Rasis, Naratif, Sekutu Kulit Putih, Sifat Kulit Putih, Rasisme.*

ABSTRACT

Racism is a sensitive topic which is always discussed. Yet, as the idea developed throughout times, the term anti-racist was manifested and mainly perceived as the opposition of racist values. Anti-racist itself can be defined as the understanding and impersonation with a specific awareness, self-consciousness, knowledge and skill to challenge, prevent, and ameliorate the exist of racism within one's influence. The issue of racism and anti-racist may occur in various media platform, including movies. One example of texts that are embedded with the issue of racism is *When They See Us* (2019). In short, it tells about the story of 5 non-white adolescents; Raymond Santana Jr, Kevin Richardson, Antron McCray, Yusef Salaam, and Korey Wise who experience false crime accusation regarding a sexual assault over a white lady. By using Todorov's Narrative theory, this study aims to explain the narrative of white people to do anti-racist in mini series *When They See Us* (2019). Along with the aforementioned theory, the writer uses Qualitative research to conduct the analysis. The results have shown that the movie represents the anti-racist in some manners. From the narrative, the way all of the non-white main characters unite and collaborate with white lawyers is a sign of oppositional movement over the superiority of a particular race. Meanwhile, the non-narrative also shows anti-racist values including the way the movie was released in the middle of the blooming of racial equality movement. It signifies that the movie itself functions as a part of anti-racist movement by delivering messages regarding anti-racist and white ally.

Keywords: *Racism, Anti-Racist, Whiteness, White Ally, Narrative*