

# **RACISM IN ROBERT TOWNE'S *ASK THE DUST* MOVIE (2006): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH**



## **RESEARCH PAPER**

**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for  
Getting Bachelor Degree of Education in English Department**

**by:**

**Sri Minarti**

**A 320 060 149**

**TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION FACULTY  
MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA  
2010**

**ACCEPTANCE**

**RACISM IN ROBERT TOWNE'S *ASK THE DUST*: A SOCIOLOGICAL  
APPROACH**

**Accepted and Approved by the Board of Examiner**

**School of Teacher Training and Education**

**Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta**

**On December 21 2010**

**Team of Examiner:**

- 1. Drs. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M.Ed** ( )  
( Chair Person )
- 2. Titis Setyabudi, S. S** ( )  
( Member I )
- 3. Drs. M.Thoyyibi, M.S** ( )  
( Member II )

**Dean,**

**Drs. H. Sofyan Anif. M.Si**

**NIK. 547**

## DEDICATION

*I dedicate my research paper to:*

- ❖ *My God Allah SWT, who gives the **GREATEST LOVE** for me and His Prophet, Nabi Muhammad SAW as **USWATUN KHASANAH** for humanity*
- ❖ *My lovely mother, who gave the birth to me, I think thank you so much is not enough to draw all your support for me. I love you so much Mom*
- ❖ *My lovely father, who always support me in different ways*
- ❖ *My lovely old Sister and her husband, thank you for your support, advice and financial*
- ❖ *My husband and my children to be*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Alhamdulillahirobbil' alamin, praises to Allah, the Almighty who always gives His greatest love, and blessing, so that the researcher can finish her last assignment, as a partial of the requirements for getting bachelor degree in English Department, Muhammadiyah University of Surakarta with the **title RACISM IN ROBERT TOWNE'S ASK THE DUST MOVIE (2006): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH.**

In finishing the research paper, she faced many difficulties, barriers, and obstacles. But, with the helps, supports, motivations, prays and loves from the people around her, finally she is able to accomplish this research paper. So, in this opportunity, she would like to express her deep gratitude to:

1. **Drs. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M.Ed.**, as the fist consultant who has guided her patiently during the arrangements of her research paper.
2. **Titis Setyabudi, S.S.**, as the Chief of English Department and the second consultant who has corrected the mistakes of the words and the grammar so that this research paper becomes correct and interesting to read
3. **Drs. H. Sofyan Anif, M.Si.**, as the Dean of School Teacher Training and Education
4. **Dra. Dwi Haryanti, M.Hum.**, as the academic advisor
5. Her lovely parents in Cepu, **Ibu** and **Bapak** who always give love, attention, suggestion, and motivation. Their sacrifices are so extraordinary

and they always pray every time and everywhere. I will do the best for my lovely family

6. Her respected old sister, **Chuby Ndut**, for giving support, motivation and advice
7. Her brother in law, **Mas Iwan**, for the support, motivation and advice
8. Her husband, **Mas Darminto**, thank you for your support and motivation, thank you for everything
9. Her friends, **Mbak Yosie** in Probolinggo, thank you for your motivation, advice and the funny story, although we never meet before, but I am sure sooner or later I will go to Probolinggo with my lovely baby, only for you Sis
10. Her friends, **Redi Setyaningsih, Sinta Dewi, Asri Nurhayati, Wepi, Reni, Rahma, Angga etc**, thank you for being my friend, thank you for the support and motivation
11. Her older sister in **Aisyah: Mbak Ratna and Mbak Desi**, thank you so much for the help
12. For the member of **Aisyah: Dek Parwi, Dek Zulfa, Dek Galuh, Dek Anik, Dek Dewi, Dek Indah, Dek Iin, Dik Luk-Luk, Mbak Dika** for sharing happiness and sadness
13. Her **room** as a the best place to study, sleep, takes a rest, cry, laugh, dream, and finish the research paper
14. Her sweet **Teddy Bear**, as the best friend every time, when cry, happy and sleep

The researcher realizes that this research paper is far from being perfect. Therefore, she would like to send gratitude to the readers who are willing to give suggestion or constructive criticism to make the research paper better. The researcher expects this research paper would be beneficial to everyone.

Surakarta, July 2010

Sri Minarti

## **TESTIMONY**

Herewith, I testify that in this research paper, there is no plagiarism of the previous literary work which has been raised to obtain bachelor degree of a university nor there are opinions or masterpieces which have been written or published by others, except those in which the writing are referred in the manuscript and mentioned in literature review and bibliography.

Hence, later, if it is proven that there are some untrue statements in her testimony; hence I will be fully responsible.

Surakarta, July 2010

The writer

**SRI MINARTI**

**A 320 060 149**

## **MOTTO**

*...sesungguhnya jika kamu bersyukur ,  
Pasti Kami akan menambah (ni'mat) kepadamu, dan jika kamu mengingkari  
(ni'mat-Ku), maka sesungguhnya azab-Ku sangat pedih  
(Q.S. Ibrahim: 7)*

No matter how hard you try to gain success, it would not be perfect without your  
Prayer to ALLAH SWT as the most merciful  
( The writer)



## TABLE OF CONTENT

Title .....	i
Summary .....	ii
Testimony .....	iii
Approval .....	iv
Acceptance .....	v
Acknowledgement .....	vi
Dedication .....	viii
Motto .....	ix
Table of content .....	x
CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION .....	1
A. Background of the Study .....	1
B. Literature Review .....	8
C. Research .....	9
D. Limitation of the Study .....	10
E. Objective of the Study .....	10
F. Benefit of the Study .....	10
G. Research Method .....	11
H. Research Paper Organization .....	12
CHAPTER II UNDERLYING THEORY .....	14
A. Sociology of Literature .....	14
1. Notion of sociology of Literature .....	15
2. Major Principles of Sociology of Literature .....	18
B. Structural Element of the Movie .....	22
1. Narrative Elements .....	22
A. Character and Characterization .....	23
B. Setting .....	23
C. Plot .....	24

D. Point of View .....	25
E. Theme .....	26
2. Technical Elements .....	26
A. Mise en Scene and Design .....	26
a. Props .....	27
b. Costume .....	27
c. Lighting .....	28
d. Figure Expression and Movement .....	29
B. Cinematography .....	30
C. Sound .....	31
D. Editing .....	32
C. Theoretical Application .....	33

CHAPTER III SOCIAL HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF AMERICAN SOCIETY IN THE EARLY TWENTY .....	35
A. Social Aspect .....	35
B. Economic Aspect .....	40
C. Political Aspect .....	41
D. Science and Technological Aspect .....	46
E. Cultural Aspect .....	49
F. Religious Aspect .....	51

CHAPTER IV STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS .....	52
A. Structural Elements of the Movie .....	52
1. Narrative Elements .....	52
A. Character and Characterization .....	52
B. Setting .....	60
C. Plot .....	67
D. Point of View .....	69
E. Theme .....	71
2. Technical Elements .....	71

A. Mise en Scene .....	71
a. Props .....	72
b. Costume and Make Up .....	75
c. Lighting .....	77
d. Figure Expression and Movement .....	79
B. Cinematography .....	81
C. Sound .....	83
D. Editing .....	84
B. Discussion .....	86
CHAPTER V SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS .....	89
A. Social Historical Aspect .....	89
1. Social Aspect .....	89
2. Economic Aspect .....	93
3. Political Aspect .....	95
4. Science and Technological Aspect .....	96
5. Cultural Aspect .....	97
6. Religious Aspect .....	99
B. Discussion .....	99
CHAPTER VI CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION .....	103
A. Conclusion .....	103
B. Suggestion .....	104
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	105
APPENDIX .....	106

## SUMMARY

**SRI MINARTI. A 320 060 149. RACISM IN ROBERT TOWNE'S *ASK THE DUST*: A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH. MUHAMMADIYAH UNIVERSITY OF SURAKARTA. RESEARCH PAPER. 2010.**

This research paper elaborates the difficulty faced by immigrant in Great Depression Era in Los Angeles, which analyzed through sociological approach. The objectives of the research, are to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and to analyze the movie based on its structural elements and to analyze the movie based on the sociological approach, by identifying the relation between the movie and the social background of the early twentieth first century American society.

This research paper belongs to a qualitative research. The sources of the data come from both primary data source, which is *Ask the Dust* movie and secondary data sources are information about the author's biography, websites about the movie, the social background of American society in the early twentieth first century and theory of sociological. The method to analyze the data is descriptive analysis.

Having analyzed the movie, the researcher comes to the conclusion as follows: Firstly, based on the structural analysis, it is evident that in *Ask the Dust* movie, Robert Towne wants to convey a moral message that racism is not appropriate with humanity. Secondly, based on the sociological analysis, it is clear that there is a close relation between the production of this movie and the social reality underlying it. The major factors that contribute to the production of the movie among others are the global issues of racism in Great Depression Era in 1932.

Consultant I

Consultant II

Drs. Phil. Dewi Candraningrum, M.Ed

Titis Setyabudi, S.S

School of Teacher Training and Education  
Dean,

Drs. H. Sofyan Anif, M.Si  
NIK. 547