THE REPRESENTATION OF BLACK AND WHITE RELATIONSHIP IN THE BLIND SIDE FILM

A Thesis

Submitted to Letters and Humanities Faculty in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Strata One Degree

By:

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ABSTRACT


In this research, the writer analyzed a film entitled *The Blind Side* produced by John Lee Hancock on 2009. The film *The Blind Side* represents the relationship of blacks and whites contrasting with the background on the history of racism. The writer is interested to analyze Leigh Anne and Michael Oher characters and to discover how the film described their relationship.

The method of the research is descriptive qualitative method. The writer used the concept of representation to analyze the representation of black and white relationship and the concept of ideology to discover the ideology related to the relationship in film.

As the conclusion, the writer finds out that the relation between Black and White people is represented as harmonious relationship. They come from different social background, but they do not describe the differences. Black people are represented as lower class and white people are represented as upper class. Blacks and whites create a harmonious relationship in film. They do not show racial discrimination, whereas the setting of the film (South of America) has strong historical background of racial discrimination. The racial discrimination doesn’t appear in blacks and whites relationship anymore. However, it is impossible to wipe entirely any issue, because racial discrimination had existed for about two centuries.
APPROVEMENT

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LEGALIZATION

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The thesis has been defended before the Faculty Letters and Humanities’ Examination Committee on Mei 25, 2011. It has been accepted as a partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree of strata one.

Jakarta, Mei 25, 2011

The Examination Committee

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this submission is my original work and that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree or diploma of the university or other institute of higher learning, except where due acknowledgement has been made in the text.

Jakarta, Mei 2011

Kartika Sari
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In the name of Allah, the most gracious and the most merciful

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The writer realizes this thesis is not the perfect one and the writer will very open and receive any comments, suggestion or criticism.

Jakarta, Mei 2011

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CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Racism in the United States has been a major issue ever since the colonial era and the slave era. Although, formal racial discrimination was largely banned in the mid-20th century, and came to be perceived as socially unacceptable and morally repugnant racial politics remain a major phenomenon. Historical racism continues to be reflected in socio-economic life.\(^1\) Racism problem has emerged almost as old as human civilization and the progress is not improving over time.

The conflict between human being caused a different view about the problems in social community and physical differences. Often we hear about incident riot and fight between races, this also experienced by American society. The problem of racialism in America is experienced by Black American.\(^2\)

For about two centuries, trades of international slave have brought million of Africans to America. They placed in plantations like cotton and tobacco, some of them treated as contract labor by whites. They performed a contract to work some years for paying cost trip to America. The law status of African slaves was not clear. African slaves couldn’t get their freedom although they had given service for a period of long time. After seeing increasing of black laborer amount

\(^{1}\) Quint Albertson Cantor, *Main Problem, in American History* (Ontario: The Dorsey Press, 1968), pp. 79-80

and also their important role for economic at the plantation in the South, the plantation owner (whites) felt important to make law regarding the position of black laborer.³

In addition, racism which had been viewed primarily as a problem in the Southern states, burst onto the national consciousness following the Great Migration. Thousands of slaves freed themselves by running away. In the South, slavery became more firmly entrenched and expanded rapidly into the Old Southwest after the development of the cotton gin. In the North, there is still no system of slavery with the blacks as second class citizens. Discrimination against the color was one of the causes of civil war between the states and North-South state. Although the system of slavery, had been abolished after the defeat of the countries of the South.⁴

Until the mid-20th century, the problem of racism still exists. The impact of racial discrimination is distinguishing between the rights of black and white people. Also, racial stratification continues to occur in employment, housing, education, lending, and government. These disparities have an impact on every aspect of life and relationship of black and white in American society.

The problem of racialism and relationship of black and white people in America can be seen through novel, scientific book, journal newspaper or even film. Many film represents black and white relationship. Mostly, black people are described as minority and discriminated. One film that focuses on black and white relationship is “The Blind Side”. ⁵

³ Ibid., p. 81
The Blind Side is an award-winning 2009 American drama–sports film written and directed by John Lee Hancock, and based on the 2006 book The Blind Side: Evolution of a Game by Michael Lewis. The two main characters, Leigh Anne and Michael Oher come from different social background. Leigh Anne Tuohy is a white female of upper class, while Michael Oher is a black whose mother is divorced and drug addict. The storyline features Michael Oher an offensive lineman who plays for the Baltimore Ravens of the NFL. The film follows Oher from his impoverished upbringing, through his years at Wingate Christian School (a fictional representation of Briarcrest Christian School in suburban Memphis, Tennessee), his adoption by Sean and Leigh Anne Tuohy, and on to his position as one of the most highly coveted prospects in college football.

Both of them create a harmonious relationship. Through whites are often depicted as a people who consider that they are better than blacks. The Tuohy families are described well and care about Michael Oher. The film The Blind Side represents the relationship of blacks and whites contrasting with the background on the history of racism. Therefore, the writer is interested in analysis the black and white characters (Leigh Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher) and to discover how the film describes their relationship.

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5 The Blind Side got responses from most people that this film as one more sports motivation movie is lifted from a true story and stuck around American Football and racism. The film based on the true story of an American Football player named Michael Oher. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/the_blind_side_movie). (Accessed on 22th Desember 2010), p. 2

B. Focus of the Research

The research will focus the thesis writing in film *The Blind Side* and limit merely on the analysis theme of story through analysis character of Leigh Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher represents the relationship between the Black and White people.

C. Research Question

Based on the limitation of the above problems, the writer formulates the problem in a research question, as follows:

1. How do the characters of Leigh Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher represent the relationship of Black and White in film *The Blind Side*?

2. What ideology emerges through the relationship of Black and White in film *The Blind Side*?

D. The Significance of the Research

The writer hopes the research gives many significant to the readers, especially to they who will concern to the literal, social, and cultural studies. The writer also hopes the research can give many information to the readers on race relations knowledge about blacks and whites in *The Blind Side* film, by analyzing the character of Leigh Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher, especially about their characters represents black and white relationship in *The Blind Side* film.
E. Research Methodology

1. The Objective of the Research

The objective of this research is to know the relationship between blacks and whites represented by Leigh Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher character in *The Blind Side* film. And also to know the ideology that emerges in the black and white relationship.

2. The Method of Research

The method of the research is descriptive qualitative method, which relies on data taken from the film. Through this method the writer analyzes and identifies the characters of Leigh Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher who represent the black people relations and white people in *The Blind Side* film. And then, the concept of ideology to discover the ideology related to their relationship.

3. Data Analysis Technique

Data obtained in this study will be analyzed qualitatively based on relevant theories and supporting data from several other supporting theories.

4. The Instruments of the Research

The instruments of the research is the writer herself as the subject by watching the film carefully, collecting the data obtained relating to the relationship of the black and white people. After that, the data are analyzed by

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using the concept of representation to show the representation of black and white relationship and the concept of ideology to discover the ideology related to the relationship.

5. The Unit Analysis

The unit analysis of the research is “The Blind Side” film in DVD format, original script written and directed by John Lee Hancock, and produced by Andrew A. Kasove, 2009.

6. Time Research

This research is conducted in Jakarta. Especially it is taking place in Syarif Hidayatullah State Islamic University library and the faculty of Adab and Humanities Library. And it starts from August 2010 until April 2011.
CHAPTER II
THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A. Concept of Representation

The concept of representation has come to occupy new and important place in the study of culture. Representation connects meaning and language to culture. Representation means using language to say something meaningful about, or to represent, the world meaningfully, to other people. Representation is an essential part of the process by which meaning is produced and exchanged between members of a culture. It does involve the use of language, of signs and images which stands for or represent things. It is the link between concepts and language which enables us to refer to either the ‘real’ word of objects, people or events, or indeed to imaginary worlds or fictional objects, people and events.

Through representation, the meaning of a language in a culture exchanged. It depends on how that culture gives meaning to that language because one culture from others is different. Language is one of the ‘media’ through which thoughts, concept, ideas and feelings are represented in a culture. Meanings can only be shared through our common access to language. So language is central to meaning

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8 Judy Giles and Tim Middleton, *Studying Culture a Practical Introduction* (New York: Blackwell Production, 1999), pp. 56-57
and culture and has always been regarded the key repository of cultural values and meanings.¹⁰

According to Stuart Hall, representation is the production of the meaning of the concept in our minds through language. In part, we give things meaning by how we represent them – the word we use about them, the stories we tell about them, the image of them we produce, the emotions we associate with them, the ways we classify and conceptualize them, and the values we place on them.¹¹

In *Studying Culture a Practical Introduction*, representation is one of the key practices produced. There are three possible senses to the word ‘represent’:

1. To represent means to study in for as in the case of country’s flag, which when flown at a sporting event. The flag stands for or symbolizes an action: distinguish France from China or Ireland to the USA. In Britain, the Royal Standard represents or symbolizes the royal from the institution of monarch.

2. To represent means to speak or act on behalf of, as in the sentence ‘A spokes person on behalf of lesbian mothers voiced the concern of the group on television’. Members of parliament represent the concerns of their constituents. A person who represents a group in this case may also serve a symbolic function. An example might be the Pope, who speaks and acts on behalf of the Roman Catholic but might also stands as symbol of Roman Catholicism.

3. To represent means to re-present. In this sense, a biography, historical writing re-presents the events of the past. Equally phonographs re-present a moment or event which has already occurred - it presents the occasion again. A photograph or painting can also, of course, represent someone or something in the sense of standing for. Posters of rock stars, religions painting and public statues all fulfill this function.

Images that function in this way are said to be iconic.\(^{12}\)

From those three senses of the word ‘represent’, the last meaning of the word re-present is the appropriate meaning for this research, because The Blind Side film re-presents the relationship of black and white people through Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher characters. When we represent something, we paraphrase it, translate it, summarize it, and expand on it – in a nutshell, we interpret it.\(^{13}\)

Usually, the representation is understood as a description of something that is inaccurate or distorted reality. Representation not only means "to present", "to image", or "to depict". Both ideas stand together to explain the notion of representation. "Representation" is a way in which the sense of what is given to the objects depicted. Old concept of representation is based on the premise that there is a gap of representation that explains the difference between the meaning given by the representation and the true meaning of objects depicted. This occurs between representations and objects depicted. Contrary to the standard


\(^{13}\) Dan Sperber, *Explaining Culture A Naturalistic Approach* (UK: Blackwell Publisher, 1999), p. 34
understanding that, Stuart Hall argues that the representation should be understood from the role of active and creative people interpret the world. "So the representation is the way in which meaning is somehow given to the things, which are depicted through the images or whatever it is, on screens or the words on a page which stand for what we're talking about."

According to Stuart Hall (1997), representation is one of the important practices of producing culture. Culture is a very broad concept, involving cultural 'experience sharing'. Someone said to derive from the same culture if the people who were there to share the same experience, share the codes the same culture, speak the 'language' the same, and share the same concepts.

In this discussion, representation refers to the construction of all forms of media (especially mass media) on all aspects of reality or the reality, like people, objects, events, to cultural identity. This representation may take the form of words or writings can be seen even in the form of moving images or movies. The concept of representation itself is seen as a product of the process of representation. Representation not only involves how cultural identities are expressed (or rather constructed) in a text but also constructed in the process of production and reception by the society who consume cultural values represented earlier.

In the case of film as representation of culture, the film not only construct a certain cultural values in its own right, but also about how those values are produced and how that value is consumed by people who saw the film. So there is
such a process of exchanging cultural codes in the act of watching movies as a cultural representation.

To show or express what we thought into language and to understand by others, there are two processes of representation or system of representation. First, system, which all sorts of object, people, and events correlated with a set of concepts or mental representation, which we carry around in our heads. Second, sign is organized into language it is the existence of common languages which enables us to translate our thoughts or concept into words, sounds or images, and then to use these, operating as a language, to express meaning and communicate thoughts to other people.  

Generally, there are three different approaches of representation. They are the reflective, the intentional and the constructionist approaches to representation. In the reflective approach, meaning is thought to lie in the object, person, idea or event in the real world, and language functions like a mirror, to reflect the true meaning as it already exists in the world.

The second approach to meaning in representation argues the opposite case. It holds that it is the speaker, the author, who imposes his or her unique meaning on the world through language. Words mean what the author intends they should mean. This is called the intentional approach. It means in using language, the speaker who determines about the world’s meaning.

The third approach recognizes this public, social character of language. It acknowledges that neither things in themselves nor the individual users of

\[14\] *Ibid.*, p. 18
language can fix meaning in language. Hence it is called the constructionist approach.\textsuperscript{15} In constructionist approach, it is not about the material world, where things and people exist, and the symbolic practices and processes through which representation, meaning and language operate. It is not the material world which conveys meaning, but it is the language system or whatever system that people using to represent the concepts. It is social actors who use the conceptual system if their culture and the linguistic and other representational system to construct meaning, to make the world meaningful and to communicate about the world meaningfully to others.

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In this research, the writer uses constructionist approach because this research analyzes the representation of relationship black and white people with issue of racialism in America through the character of black and white people in the film to construct their meaning about the issue.

\textsuperscript{15} Ibid., p. 25
Then, from this representation of relationship black and white people is also appeared an ideology about it. The writer will explain the ideology which is related with representation of relationship black and white people through Anne Tuohy and Michael Oher characters in next page.

**B. Ideology**

Ideology has a connection to representation because ideology and representation are both included in cultural studies. Ideology is a crucial concept in the study of popular culture. Graeme Tuner calls it ‘the most important conceptual category in cultural studies’.  

Ideology, according to John Storey in his book *Cultural Theory and Popular Culture*, can be defined into five meanings. First of all, ideology can refer to a systematic body of ideas articulate by a particular group of people. For example, we could speak of the ‘ideology of the Labour Party’. Here we would be referring to the collection of political, economic and social ideas which inform the aspirations and activities of the party.

The second definition suggests a certain masking, distortion, concealment. Ideology is used here to indicate how some cultural text and practices present distorted images of reality.

The third definition of ideology (closely related to, and in some ways dependant on, the second definition) uses the term to refer to ‘ideological form’. This usage is intended to draw attention to the way in which texts (television

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fiction, pop songs, novels, feature films, etc.) always present a particular image of the world. This definition depends on a notion of society as conflictual rather than consensual, structured around inequality, exploitation and oppression. Texts are said to take sides, consciously or unconsciously, in this conflict. Popular culture is thus, as Hall (2009) claims, a site where ‘collective social understandings are created’: a terrain on which ‘the politics of signification’ are played out in attempts to win people to particular ways of seeing the world.

The fourth definition is to see ideology not simply as a body of ideas, but as a material practice. The ideology here is encountered in the practice of everyday life and not simply in certain ideas about everyday life. The last definition of ideology is the terrain on which takes place a hegemonic struggle to restrict connotations, to fix particular connotations, to produce new connotations.17

In this research, the writer uses the third definition of ideology because this usage is intended to draw attention to the way in which texts (television fiction, pop songs, novels, feature film, etc.) always present a particular image of the world. It also depends on a nation of society as conflictual rather than consensual. Texts are said to take sides, consciously or unconsciously, in this conflict.

Ideology is closely related with certain society described in a text. The text being analyzed exposed American society, which closely related with racial issue.

17 Ibid., pp. 3-5
Because of different racial background and physical appearance, black are discriminated in their rights as American citizen.

According to science of Sociology, race known as the distinction or grouping people based on physical characteristics.\textsuperscript{18} This distinction is related to qualitative aspects such as color, shape, hair color and so forth, while the quantitative traits related to body weight, index cephalous (head size), and so forth. Since long, the physical characteristics of this grouping have resulted in a very long issue, involving bloodshed and battles between great ideologies that survive today. A physical characteristic inherent in a particular race has been used to measure and assess the development and progress of civilization that race.

The difference of physical characteristics are very apparent in American, especially on the southern America which very strong with the issue of racism. In the slavery era, black people often become slave in whites community. This problem happened for centuries. The relationship of black and white people doesn’t run smoothly. Black and white people always distrust each other. White people do have prejudice over black people. They think black people are related to criminal hideous, because black people live in slum area, have no proper education, and are majority have drunkard. Conversely, black people are positioned lower than white people.

The conflict happened between black and white people caused difference view about the problem in community and physically. Often, we hear about riot and fight between races, this also experienced by black people in America. For

\textsuperscript{18} Kamanto Sunarto, \textit{Pengantar Sosiologi, Edisi Kedua} (Jakarta: Lembaga Penerbit Fakultas Ekonomi Universitas Indonesia, 2000), p. 148
about two centuries (since seventeenth century) black people had become slave by white people. The slavery system greatly influenced how whites define and deal with blacks.

After middle nineteenth century, Abraham Lincoln eliminated and released an amendment to guarantee the civil right of black American judicially. Although a problem of slavery has eliminated, discrimination race still consist, but didn’t serious in the past centuries.

C. Character and Characterization

A character is often revealed through his or her actions, which provide readers with clues about the character’s personality, motives, and expectation. A character in literature is an extended verbal representation of a human being, specifically the inner self that determines through, speech, and behaviour.

The term of character originally found in many literary works such as in work of fiction, drama, or novel. A character is someone who acts, appears, or is referred to as playing a part in a literary work. The term of character also applies in film. Both literary works and film have a same function and meaning. The relationship between plot and character is a vital and necessary one. Without character there would be no plot and hence. For purposes of analysis, character are customarily describes by their relationship to plot, by the degree of

\[19\] Sheena Gillespie, Literature Across Cultures (USA: Printed by Allin and Bacon, 1994), p. 984

development they are given to the author or director, and by whether or not they undergo significant character change.

There are several types of character that can be seen in a literary works or film, they are major and minor character. The major or central character is a character that dominates appearance in a story. Minor character is a character that appeared once or sometimes in a story.

When we look from the function of the character appearance it can be also differ from protagonist and antagonist. The protagonist is usually enough to identify: he or she is the essential character without there would be no plot in the first place. The figure which causes conflict happen called antagonist. The antagonist can be called opposite to be protagonist, direct or undirected, outward or inward.²¹

To describe the relative degree to which character are developed by their creator, E.M Forster distinguishes between what he calls flat and round characters. Flat characters are those who embody or represent a single characteristic, trait, or idea, or a most a very limited number of such qualities. Round characters are just opposite. They embody a number of qualities and traits and are complex multidimensional characters of considerable intellectual and emotional depth that have capacity to grow and change.²² Round character is complex individual incapable of being easily defined. The degree to which characters are given roundness and individual complexity depends upon their function in the plot, like stranger or acquaintances, rather than known intimately.

²¹ Ibid., p. 25
²² Ibid., p. 26
In presenting and establishing character, an author has two basic methods or techniques at his disposal through dialogue and actions. How character is presented is called characterization. The art, craft, method of presentation, or creation a personage involves a similar process in a good deal of characterization.23

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CHAPTER III
RESEARCH FINDING

A. Representation of Black and White Relationship

Relationship between black and white people does not always run smoothly. Black people are described as lower class, whereas white people are considered of high class. In America, social differences are still exists among each group of society, especially in Southern America. Although, racial discrimination is not consciously significant within society, it is still appeared unconsciously through their interaction. Black people are described as poor people, living in slum area, don’t get education and are related to criminality.

In this chapter, the writer analyzes the relationship between black and white people presented by Leigh Anne and Michael Oher character; they are described as having a good relationship. Leigh Anne and Michael Oher come from different social background. The first main character is Michael Oher who represents black people. Michael Oher is also described as a quiet child. He has large posture, which people call him ‘Big Mike’. Although Michael comes from black people, he does not carry the stereotype of black people. Michael Oher is a young African-American who comes from lower class. He also comes from homeless and broken family. Since his mother is a drug addict, the government takes over raising Michael Oher. After separates from his mother, Michael lives nomadic life. He lives from one family to other family until he finds a news shelter in Leigh Anne’s house.
Leigh Anne represents white people in America. She comes from high class, living in luxurious house, and she is a career woman who works as a designer. Leigh Anne has generous and compassionate characteristics. She is married to Sean Tuohy, someone who once a basketball player All-Star. She has a harmonious family with two children (Collins and SJ) and a good husband who always supports her. Tuohy’s family share the same hobby: sport. Leigh Anne and Sean were graduated from Ole Miss University.\textsuperscript{24} Anne was a cheerleader, her husband, Sean was a basketball star. Collins, their daughter is a volleyball player at school. Leigh Anne’s family comes from white upper class living in Wingate, a southern town of America, an area with black people as the majority in the suburb and white majority in the downtown.

In this film, each character represents black and white people in America. Michael Oher is a representation of black American. Michael has the same life as most other black. He lives in poverty without loving parents; he does not get proper education and adequate living. His life changes when he meets Leigh Anne. He receives a scholarship because of his ability to play football. The achievement he gets because of his ability in the field of sports, such as many black people have it. Michael is adopted by Leigh Anne, and he lives at Tuohy family house. In this film Leigh Anne will be a helper and official foster parents for Michael Oher.

\textsuperscript{24} The University of Mississippi, also known as Ole Miss, is a public, coeducational research university located in Oxford, Mississippi, and is the third largest university in the state. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/University_of_Mississippi). (Accessed on 11\textsuperscript{th} February 2011), p. 1.
As noted previously, *The Blind Side* film shows something different about the relationship between black and white people. This film represents a good relationship between the character of Leigh Anne and Michael Oher.

The good representation is shown when Leigh Anne treats Michael Oher, a stranger well. When Leigh Anne sees Michael Oher walks alone in the evening in winter. She invites him to stay in her house.

From the picture and dialogue above, it is the first time Leigh Anne invites Michael. She found him in alongside of road to stay at her house. Leigh Anne feels sympathy to Michael Oher that freezes without any clothe or sweater. Leigh Anne doesn’t know about Michael Oher before, but she keeps in her decision to
invite Michael to stay at her home without considering the risks if she brings black stranger to stay together in one roof.

Another way of Leigh Anne treats Michael Oher as a stranger well when she invites Michael to have Thanksgiving breakfast together with the Tuohy family.

Leigh Anne  : Where are you going?
Michael Oher  : I don't know.
Leigh Anne  : Are you spending Thanksgiving with your family?
Michael Oher  : No
Leigh Anne  : do you want to spend Thanksgiving days with us?

The picture and dialogue above, Leigh Anne invites Michael Oher to have Thanksgiving days with Tuohy family. Leigh Anne ask Michael Oher about he ever spend Thanksgiving days with his family. Michael Oher never celebrates Thanksgiving days with his family, because after him separating from his family with government, Michael lives nomadic life. He lives from one family to other family.
Then, Michael Oher fills Leigh Anne invite, and he celebrated the Thanksgiving days with Tuohy family.

Anne: Heavenly Father.
We thank you for all your many blessings on this family.
We thank you for bringing us a new friend. And
We ask that you look after us in this holiday season
And never let us forget just how very fortunate we are.
Amen.

From the picture and dialogue above, Leigh Anne is described joyfully for the arrival of a new family member, Michael Oher in her house. Leigh Anne gives thanks when they have breakfast in thanksgiving days. Tuohy family set together in dining room, holding hands each other to pray and there are no boundaries between black and white people. Tuohy family doesn’t feels reluctant or afraid to hold hands to Michael Oher. Leigh Anne believes that not all black people are rude, and she also believes that Michael is a good boy.

The next way of Leigh Anne treats Michael Oher as a well when she decides to invite Michael Oher to stay in her house forever.
Anne: Do you want stay here, Michael? Because if you want to stay for awhile longer. I’ll try and find some time to figure out a bedroom for you. I mean, look at this, you have practically ruined a ten thousand dollar couch. Do you want to stay here, Michael?
Michael: I don’t want to go anyplace else.
Anne: Well, alright then.

From the picture and dialogue above, Leigh Anne tries to invite Michael Oher to stay in her house forever, and Michael accepts for Anne’s offer. Leigh Anne feels happy that Michael Oher decides to stay.

Other part of the good representation shows when Sean and Leigh Anne regard Michael Oher as their own child. Leigh Anne does not care about Michael’s skin color and his family background. Michael is described as introvert and makes Leigh Anne difficult to getting to know him. Anne tries to find out who the real family of Michael is and where he comes from. At the end, Sean and Leigh Anne decide to adopt Michael Oher to become their child.
Sean: Michael, We have something to ask you.
Michael: What?
Sean: Leigh Anne and I would like to become your legal guardians.
Michael: What's That Mean?
Anne: Well, what it means is, we want to know if you'd like to be a part of this family?
Michael: I kind a thought I already was.

On the picture and dialogue above, Sean and Leigh Anne tries to offer Michael to be part of the Tuohy’s family; they want to become an official foster parent. Leigh Anne also asks Michael to call her ‘Mama’ (I look Mrs. Tuohy I look over my shoulder for my mother in law call Leigh Anne or Mama or almost anything else). Michael receives a good facility in Tuohy’s family, for example he has private teacher to increase his school grades in order to receive scholarship at Ole Miss.

The third parts from of Leigh Anne and Michael Oher representation of their relationship when Leigh Anne treats Michael Oher as her own child. Leigh Anne gives all the facilities to Michael so that Michael gets good education, life,
and family. Leigh Anne doesn’t want Michael to be like most young black: involve in violence, being drug addict and die tragically.

Anne narration : I read the other day about a boy from the projects. No daddy, in and out of foster care. He’d been killed in a gang fight at Hurt Village. In the last paragraph they talked about his superb athletic skills and how different his life might have been if he hadn’t fallen behind and dropped out of school. He was 21 years old the day he died. It was his birthday. That could have been anyone. It could have been my son, Michael. But it wasn’t. And I suppose I have God to thank for that.

As a mother Leigh Anne hopes for the best for her son, Michael. She believes that Michael will not end up like other blacks she read on the news, because Michael is already saved from that environment.

Anne : Michael Oher, you listen to me. I want you to enjoy yourself, but you need to know that if you get a girl pregnant out of wetlock, I will claim in the car, drive here to Oxford and cut of your penis

Michael : yes, Mom.

Picture 7
From the dialogue above, Leigh Anne describes how Leigh Anne advises to Michael Oher. She threatens him not do anything that will damage him and his family. Leigh Anne is satisfied for what she gives to Michael Oher. When Michael wins the scholarship at Ole Miss, and it requires him to leave, and stays in boarding house, Leigh Anne feels proud and sad at the same time because she will lose her one of sons.

In this film, the writer finds some conflict between Leigh Anne and Michael Oher relations. The problem makes their relations became wide apart, but it’s not complicated.

One conflict occurs when Leigh Anne has little doubt on her decision to invite Michael Oher.

Anne : was this a bad idea?
Sean : Why?
Anne : don’t lie there and pretend you're not thinking the same thing as me.
Sean : fine. Tell me what you're thinking so I can know what’s supposed to be on my mind.
Anne : How well do you know Big Mike?
Sean : In case you haven’t noticed he doesn’t have much to say. What’s the big deal? It’s just one night. Right?
Anne : Do you think he'll steal anything?
Sean : I guess we’ll know in the morning.

Leigh Anne worries that Michael Oher will steal something from the house, her worries are because she has bad assumptions to black people. She things that black people are related to crime.

Another conflict happens when Michael receives an information from the Team investigate NCAA. They tell about Leigh Anne Tuohy’s purpose that gives
all facilities for Michael Oher. He believes that the Team Investigate words. It makes Michael Oher causes resentment in significant about Leigh Anne.

Anne : Michael, what’s wrong?
Michael : why’d you do it?
Anne : What?
Michael : All along you wanted me to go to Ole Miss.
Anne : Well, of course, but ……
Michael : Why did you do this for me?
Anne : What?
Michael : Everything! Was it for you or was it for me? Was it so I would go to school where you wanted? Was it so I would do what you wanted?
Anne : No, Michael...
Michael : That’s what she (team investigates) thinks! Is she right? Don’t you dare lie to me!
Anne : Michael, look... I can see where some people might.
Michael : I’m not stupid!

Those two conflicts show that somehow suspicion between black and white still exist. Leigh Anne suspects Michael Oher will steal something in house, while Michael Oher suspects by Leigh Anne’s courtesy. But this film does not make the conflicts become complicated and they are not major issue in their relationship.

The racial discrimination doesn’t appear in black and white relationship anymore, they unconsciously have suspicion. It is natural because racial discrimination in slavery era had existed for about two centuries. The racial discrimination problem makes white people have a bad assumption about black people. So it is impossible to wipe entirely any issue related to racial discrimination.

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Leigh Anne and Michael Oher do not describe about differences of racial, but they describe a good relationship between black and white people. When Leigh Anne did not discriminate Michael Oher as black people, some of white people still dispute about racial discrimination. From the relationship between Leigh Anne and Michael Oher makes a lot of opposition that comes from others. Another way of the Leigh Anne Tuohy treats Michael Oher as a family when she follows Michael to take picture for Christmas Card.

![Image](image.jpg)

**Picture 7**

At the first picture only contains Leigh Anne, her husband and her two children. Leigh Anne then calls Michael Oher and tells him to join them to takes picture for Christmas card. Then, the cards sent to Tuohy’s relation (as Leigh Anne cousin, Bobby) and friends.

Leigh Anne’s cousin has already received a Christmas card. He talks on a phone to asks about a black child that there in their Christmas card *Listen, I’ve had about five cold ones so I’m just gonna go ahead and ask... who’s the colored*
boy in you all’s Christmas Card?). Tuohy family doesn’t care of their cousin words, they only smiles.

Another opposition from Leigh Anne and Michael Oher relationship comes from Leigh Anne’s friend. They don’t agree of Leigh Anne decision to invite Michael as black people to stay at her house and adopt him.

From the dialogue above, Leigh Anne’s friends doesn’t agree of her decision. Leigh Anne’s friends still have a bad assumption about black people. They give a bad thing that will happen if Leigh Anne brings black people in her house and become her official foster child, but Leigh Anne doesn’t care of his friend things. Leigh Anne is angry from her friend things and then she leaves her friend. Leigh Anne shows a good relationship to Michael Oher, even though his friends don’t agree of her decision.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that Leigh Anne and Michael Oher represents a good relationship, although there some conflict
between black and white it not be complicated problem in their relations. Like the case in the United States, especially in the South. Where, the differences of racial and discrimination are still exist. But, Michael Oher and Leigh Anne character shows the good assumption. They do not describe the differences, based on history of racism.

B. The Ideology of the film

Ideology (closely related to, and in some ways dependant on, the definition that suggests a certain masking, distortion, concealment. Ideology is uses here to indicate how some cultural texts and practices present distorted images of reality.) uses the term to refer to ‘ideological forms’. In other words, ideology is the major idea between the film and what is really happened in the reality.

From the representation Leigh Anne and Michael Oher relationship, it’s clearly shown that both Leigh Anne and Michael Oher love and respect each other. This film displays good relationship between white and black. Through Michael Oher and Leigh Anne relationship, the issue of racial discrimination seems to disappear. There are no dialogues that offend racial issue. They have harmonious relationship. Leigh Anne and Michael Oher characters came from different social background. They represents black and white characteristic. Michael Oher described as black lower class, and Leigh Anne described as white upper class.

Leigh Anne and Michael Oher create harmonious relations. Leigh Anne Tuohy treats Michael Oher as her own child, she invites Michael Oher that she finds him in alongside of road to stay in her house, and she also invites Michael Oher to have Thanksgiving breakfast together with Tuohy family. Moreover, Leigh Anne adopts Michael Oher as her own child until she gives him a good education and facilities. When Leigh Anne family takes picture for Christmas card, she invites Michael Oher to join them for takes the family picture.

From the explanation above, it can be concluded that the film presented a particular image of black who experienced good treatment from white people. Black people who had a good family that regarded and loved him, and he also gets a square deal from white people. Through the character Leigh Anne and Michael Oher shows the good relationship between black and white people. Even though, Leigh Anne represents white upper class and Michael Oher represents black lower class but they can create a good relationship and they can live together harmoniously without think about the different of their race. They can make a new describing of black and white relationship and erase all the conflicts between them, by believing one each other and eliminating the suspicion for each other. So, there are no more discrimination left between Leigh Anne and Michael Oher relations.
CHAPTER IV
CONCLUSIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

A. Conclusions

*The Blind Side* is a film that represented a Black and White relationship through Leigh Anne and Michael Oher characters. This film is based on a true story, produced by John Lee Hancock in 2009. Leigh Anne and Michael Oher come from different races.

Leigh Anne and Michael Oher create a harmonious relationship between blacks and whites in this film. They don’t show about racial and discrimination, whereas in South America, racial and discrimination still exist. Through Leigh Anne and Michael Oher relationship, the issue of racial discrimination seems to disappear. Michael Oher and Leigh Anne character shows a good assumption. They do not describe the differences, based on history of racism. Both of them have some ways to represent their relationship such as: Leigh Anne family treats Michael a stranger well. Leigh Anne also treats Michael as her own child until she and her husband adopt Michael becomes their child.

Black people as a presented particular image had a good treatment from white people in film. They can create a good relationship between black and white. Although they come from different social background it doesn’t become inhibiting factors. The racial discrimination also doesn’t appear in blacks and whites relationship anymore.
B. Suggestions

For other researchers who want to analyze the film, the first thing they have to do are, they watch the film very carefully. They need to watch film again and again to know exactly what theory that can be used or what message that the film tries to delivered. After they watch and find a problem in that film and what the problem they want to analyze, they look for many sources that connected with their research.

The writer also suggests the researchers or the students who are interested to studying about some specific field of study. In *The Blind Side* film, the writer used representation theory to finds the relationship of Black and White people. And after the writer analysis about the relationship between black and white people, the writer also finds the stereotype of black people in this film. This problem can be analyzed by anyone who is interested in film.
BIBLIOGRAPHY


APPENDICES

A. Cover of the film
B. Scenes of the Film

"It's awesome, Michael. We had something we would like to ask you.

Michael, do you want to stay here?

"And we ask that you look after us on this holiday season. We may never forget how very fortunate we are.

Rebekah.

I want you enjoy yourself, but if you get a girl pregnant out of wedlock..."
Well, because tonight is a special occasion.