

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

In society, there are always social issues that become problems in society. One of the social issues is racism. In some countries, especially America, there are many cases of racism and discrimination against black or African-American people. For some people, racism is only perceived by some as a historical American phenomenon (conflict between white and black people). However, if people look into it more and pay closer attention to it, it would discover that certain people do oppress or discriminate against one another. Either way, it damages one another's culture, race, and skin tone. Discrimination and ethnic or racial stratification are particularly essential to the development of cultural identity because they have a major impact on how minority youth feel being a minority (Garcia Coll et al., 1996 in Woo et al., 2020). In recent years, racism in America has been at an all-time high. Not only the public, but members of the government also behave in a racist manner towards African-Americans. Black people are considered as dirty people, criminals, LGBT offenders, do not know their manners, and always violate the norms in society. Black people receive a lot of racist treatment from white people just because of the difference in skin color and black people being minorities in their country. White people always make statements to the media that lead to racist practices. In the past few years, when racism was at its height

in America, African-Americans always received unfair treatment from the government. As stated by Lestari (2019) in Asrita et al., (2023) In social areas such as public facilities that are intended and prioritized only for whites where blacks cannot use facilities without permission of the local government and social development only in areas with white leaders, in the political and legal fields such as the opportunity for blacks in elections to the House of Commons is contested by white people who do not want to be equal to them. A study by Lavalley & Johnson (2022) entitled "Occupation, injustice, and anti-Black racism in the United States of America" explores how racism is constructed and propagated, including through daily interactions. It provides a deeper understanding of the role that occupation plays in the formation and evolution of society. As this study investigates, the racism system in the US against Black people has also been influenced by occupation. Occupational scientists have recently criticized implicit beliefs concerning the nature and consequences of work. According to Harris (1993) in Lavalley & Johnson (2022) authorities closely controlled and limited Black people's employment in a racist system of government in order to uphold their power through the systemic use of enslavement and to meet labor needs for their own economic interests.

Racism is indeed a crucial issue. The existence of racial or ethnic differences makes some people receive discrimination just because they have a minority race in that society. The fact that today's most important concerns still seem to revolve around racial hierarchy and the color line proves that race is still relevant in modern society. Human society still functions as though

variations in race, skin color, ethnic origin, language, culture, and religion are genuine, despite the activism and commitment of many civil rights leaders and their efforts to advance racial equality, stated by Uda (2017). Race is defined as "an alternative expression used for classifying humans differentiated by appearance" by Banton (2012) in Uda (2017). Along these lines, as stated by Wade (2012) in Uda (2017) race can be conceptualized as an analytical construct that captures the various human categories, as well as their physical attributes, cultural baggage, and transnational dimensions.

One of the popular social issues about racism in America is the case of the Central Park Five that happened in 1989 in New York, America. In that case, there are five black and a Latina teenagers were victims of wrongful arrest by American police for the alleged attempted rape and murder of a white American woman. The case was very popular that year, given that it was the height of racism in America. Five innocent black and Latina teenagers were arrested and forced to confess to a crime they did not commit. In fact, according to the teenagers, the police beat and tortured them so that they would comply with the police's wishes by confessing as if they were the ones who committed the crime. Some police gave them the promise that they could go home if they agreed to confess. These teenagers are still underage. Their ages are between 14-16 years old. Even when taken to the police station and interrogated, some of them were not accompanied by their parents, showing that the police did not care about the rule of law and were indifferent to those teenagers. The case is called the Central Park Five because it happened in Central Park and involved

five innocent teenagers who were victims of wrongful arrest and discrimination by American law. The teens were not perpetrators, they were victims. They are Antron McCray, Kevin Richardson, Yusef Salaam, Raymond Santana, and Korey Wise. The white woman who was raped and almost killed was 28-year-old, Trisha Meili. On the night of the incident, she was jogging in Central Park. At that time, many black teenagers were gathering and playing in the central park. So when it was known that there was a rape victim, the police immediately arrested the teenagers who were there. Some of them managed to escape, but some were caught by the police. Many newspapers put the case on the front page where the teenagers were described as "bloodthirsty", "animals", "savages", and "human mutations". Based on the *New York Post's* that wrote by Pete Hamill, the teens hailed "from a world of crack, welfare, guns, knives, indifference and ignorance...a land with no fathers...to smash, hurt, rob, stomp, rape. The enemies were rich. The enemies were white." As stated in Trevisan (2022) In May 1989, a week after the attack, Donald Trump as real estate developer and future U.S. president took out full-pages ads in *The New York Times*, the *New York Daily News*, the *New York Post* and *New York Newsday* with the headline, "Bring Back The Death Penalty. Bring Back Our Police!" Besides that Richardson and Santana, both part of the alleged "wolf pack," were arrested for "unlawful assembly" on April 19, before police learned of the jogger's attack. Prior to their parents being contacted, they were held for several hours. The teens were still in the precinct when Meili was discovered early the following morning, and a connection was established. Soon after,

McCray, Salaam, and Korey were hauled in for interrogation. After hours of questioning, four of the five teens—all from Harlem—confessed on camera. Afterwards, the lads said their confessions were forced upon them, and they retracted and pleaded not guilty. In two trials in 1990, the five were found guilty despite contradicting accounts, the absence of eyewitnesses, and DNA evidence that would have connected them to the murder. Santana, McCray, and Salaam were convicted guilty of robbery, assault, and rape. Richardson was convicted of rape, assault, robbery, and attempted murder. Korey was convicted guilty of assault, rioting, and sexual abuse. They were incarcerated for six to thirteen years.

Since the case was so popular, it was made into a documentary movie in 2012 and then a netflix series in 2019. This case is one of the most famous social issues that had been turned into a work of literature. The netflix series is titled “When They See Us”. This series showed the story of the case and showed how racism was done by the American white police to the five black and a latina teenagers, it stated in Uwode (2020). Starting from how they were arrested, forced to admit mistakes they did not make by the police, and tortured. It even shows how American lawmakers made statements to the media and the country that the five teenagers were wrong and that they were the perpetrators even though it was clear during the trial that no their DNA was found on the victims. The series, which consists of 4 episodes, shows the high level of racism practiced by American police against African-American teenagers. The teenagers were still underage, but the police did not hesitate to yell at them and

some even hit them. In fact, American lawmakers framed the media that these African-American teenagers were riotous, troublemakers, often harassed white people on the street, carried sharp weapons, were dirty, and did other things that were prohibited by the rules.

The series "When They See Us" was released on Netflix on May 31, 2019. Written and directed by Ava DuVernay, the series is based on a true story, the 1989 Central Park Five case in New York. One month after its premiere, Netflix announced via twitter that the series became Netflix's most watched series. This series also received an 8.8/10 rating on IMDb. Series "When They See Us" has received much praise for its characterizations and casting choices. According to Uwode (2020) in the 2019 Primetime Emmy Awards, the miniseries received 11 nominations, including Outstanding Limited Series and Best Cast nominations for some of its cast members.

Due to the originality and significance of the research, it is necessary to consider previous studies in order to strengthen the research focus. There are, "Analysis of Discriminatory Discourses against African American in "When They See Us" Series: A Critical Discourse Study" by Melina & Irawan (2023). It focuses on how whites describe themselves positively and how whites portray blacks negatively in their discourse based on their belief. The findings identified nine discourse topics related to what is revealed in the discourse and thirteen discourse strategies concerning the means of disclosure. "A Racial and Psychological study of DuVernay's Mini Film Series When They See Us" by Oumaima, Sellami (2023) the aim of this thesis is to explore Ava DuVernay's

movie, *When They See Us* and the bias nature of the criminal justice system in America against people of color and how it impacted their lives and their psychology. The finding shows that racism is rooted in society, and it is an element that cannot be easily detected and eradicated. The analysis also shows the impact of racism on people of color on their mental health as it dig deep into the Central Park Five's trauma and how people of color struggle psychologically because of this inequality. "True Crime Television as "Popular Legality": Affect, Testimonial Injustice, and the Criminal (In)Justice System in Ava DuVernay's *When They See Us*" by Thiem, Annika (2023) aims to examine the 2019 Netflix limited series *When They See Us* (WTSU) as a form of "popular legality," or in other words focus to the concept of legality in representations of the law. The result show that as a form of popular legality WTSU criticizes structural racism in the US criminal justice system which finds expression most prominently in police brutality, racist prejudices, and testimonial injustice in the show. Importantly, this critique is emphasized on a level of affect by inviting the audience to feel the injustice, pain, and anger the shows protagonists feel. "An Analysis Of DuVernay's "When They See Us" Through The Lens Of Critical Race Theory" by Favour, Uwode Ejiro (2020) the aims is to explore *When They See Us* and its portrayal of the bias nature of the criminal justice system in America against people of color and to explore the connection of micro aggressions and racism to police brutality against people of color in the United States. The findings further showed that micro aggression is influenced by implicit bias, racism, and stereotypes which

ultimately lead to the injustices and oppressions of people of color within the American society.

Unlike the previous related research that analyze some several different topics such as portrayed racism against black people and concept of criminal justice system in American law against people of color, this one analyzed the practice of racism in the United States law uses racial profiling theory. In this study, the researcher will analyze the racism practiced by white people in American law to the black people and how white people framing to the media and society that lead to racism against black people in the series that based on the Central Park Five case occurred in New York, America.

In this study, the researcher uses popular literature theory by Ida Rochani Adi (2011). For analyses the data the researcher uses racial profiling theory by Luiza-Maria Filimon (2015) and popular culture theory by Ida Rochani Adi (2011). According to Adi (2011) she defines popular literature reflects popular culture's beliefs and serves as a source of knowledge and enjoyment for modern society. In this regard, popular means something that works. It is said to be popular because it not only has many consumers, but it is the connection with the culture and social issues that exist in a society that makes a literary work popular. Also, Adi defines a culture as popular if it has components of amusement that are universally enjoyed and understood, and if the aim behind its creation was to make money. Stated by Filimon (2015) racial profiling is a form of discrimination that has a disproportionately negative impact on persons of color, the underprivileged, and the homeless. The white supremacist system



of dominance and control breeds prejudice and violence toward minorities. In reference to him, racial profiling is regarded as an abuse by the police that may be interpreted as acts of state violence.

### **B. Delimitation**

The researcher will minimize the research topic so it can be on target and easy to understand. The focus of this research is on examining the racism practice by white people especially in American law to black teenagers that became victim of wrongful arrest and how white people framing to the black that lead to racism. The researcher decides to study the racism as a social issue in American society that becomes conflict in the series “When They See Us” as a popular literature.

### **C. Problem of the Research**

The research questions in this study are:

- a. How do the white people practice racism in the series “When They See Us” based on Central Park Five case?
- b. How do the white frame to the black lead to racism in the series “When They See Us” based on Central Park Five case?

### **D. Aims of the Research**

Based on the problems of the research stated above, the aims of the research are:

- a. Describing and analyzing the white people practice racism in the series “When They See Us” based on Central Park Five case.

- b. Describing and analyzing the white framing to the black lead to racism in the series “When They See Us” based on Central Park Five case.

#### **E. Significance of the Study**

The result of the study is expected to be used in theoretically and practically, as follow:

- a. Theoretically

Researcher hopes the results of this study can be useful for readers in increasing knowledge about racism and discrimination, and also the social history of practicing racism in American society based on Central Park Five case that happened in 1989.

- b. Practically

The researcher expects this study can be useful for other researchers who want to study about racism against black people and the social history of racism in American society especially in the case of Central Park Five.

#### **F. Definitions of Operational Key Terms**

- a. Racism

The American Heritage College dictionary defines racism as the belief that one race is superior to another and that racial differences in personality or aptitude can be attributed to race. In order to perpetuate racial inequality and a societal system that grants certain people

privileges, power, and superiority while subjecting others to discrimination and oppression, a broad variety of behaviors, attitudes, relationships, and events are collectively referred to as racism.

b. Social Issue

Problems and issues that have become common knowledge in the community. Whether it is caused by the community itself or natural from the environment. Some examples of social issues are natural disasters, poverty, corruption, social inequality, discrimination, etc.

c. Popular Literature

Popular literature is a literary work that is often seen and understood by many people. In other words, literary works that are known by many people because they are related to the circumstances that exist in society. Popular literary works adhere to prevailing public preferences in terms of language, presenting styles, themes, and writing styles.

d. Series

A movie is a literary work that presents a story in the form of visuals and sound. Then, there is also a series that has episodes where the story will continue from one episode to another. But not a few series also feature stories that are different every episode.

## **G. Theoretical Framework**

### **1. Social Issues**

Social issues are stereotypes and problems that exist in a society. Forms of social issues include poverty, corruption, natural disasters, racism and discrimination, etc. Social issues also known as social phenomena. As stated by Riza et al. (2024) social phenomena as any signs or occurrences that can be seen and investigated in the field of social science or social life. Facts that emerge from interactions between individuals or groups within a society are referred to as social phenomena. According to Martin S. Weinberg in Mariatin (2021), a Social Issue is a circumstances that is described as something contradictory to values by a sufficient number of persons, and they agree that action is needed to improve the condition. As well as stated by Zastrow (2000) in Prasetyaningrum et al (2022) a social issue is a condition that affects a large number of people and demands immediate improvement through a series of actions. From those theories about social issues, a social issue in a society is a problem that can be detrimental to a particular individual or a large group within that society. In addition, social issues can be rectified by the efforts of the group or the majority of people in the society.

### **2. Racism and Racial Profiling**

Racism is an issue that often occurs in society. Racism, according to Liliweri in Mulyana, (2019, p. 76) in Buansari et al (2021), is when someone or a group of people are treated unfairly due to their race. This

idea can occasionally be used politically to support the idea that one race is superior to another. If seen in some environments where racism is a problem, people who commit racism tend to feel better than others. Any attitude, action, or lack thereof that marginalizes an individual or group on the basis of race, color, or ethnicity is referred to as racism. As stated in Arni (2015) by Samovar racism is the belief in one's own superiority that leads one to treat another unfairly because of their ethnicity, skin tone, religion, or uniqueness. Buansari et al. (2021) state that racism has always existed in some forms or another throughout history, whether it be overt like segregation or covert like refusing to hire someone based just on the color of their skin. Then, there is also racial discrimination that is impact of racism. Pratiwi and Permatasari (2022) describe racial discrimination as when one group of people treats another group of people of a different race inappropriately on the basis of that group's race and ethnicity.

Judging from the definition of racism above it shows that everyone can be a target for racist treatment such as racism based on differences in skin color as practiced by white people to black people. In the practice of racism there is a term namely racial profiling. According to Filimon (2015), racial profiling is a practice that has a disproportionately negative impact on individuals of color, the impoverished, and the homeless. White supremacist authority and dominance creates a system of discrimination and violence against minorities. Filimon claims that the practice of racial profiling by the police is a crime that qualifies as state violence. Additionally, Jones D. P. (2017) also says this. The practice of using race

or skin color as a justification for stopping and questioning Black persons by police is known as racial profiling. It is a tactic to identify or apprehend someone based on their race instead of particular instances of criminal action and supporting documentation. From the theory, it can be seen that white police commit acts of racism against black people by arresting them only because of differences in race and skin color.

### **3. White Framing**

Frame as verb means to present or describe something in a particular way, according to the Cambridge dictionary. In other words, framing is a way of determining a point of view or a way of describing something by making stereotype about it. In the formation of stereotypes about something, the media acts as an intermediary to spread these stereotypes to the public. This is called framing something by forming a stereotype about it by presenting it in the media the way it "wants" to be presented and people will believe in the stereotype of it. As stated by Juditha (2015) in Angelica & Nuraeni (2022), the media plays a role in providing the identity of what, who, and how a person is both in terms of their physical appearance, their intelligence, and their morals. This means that if the mass media continues to present "something" to the audience, then that "something" will be used as a justification so that people will follow it and then turn it into a common thing. Moreover, it is also said that Habsari, (2013) in Angelica & Nuraeni (2022) upon further examination, the mass media has a function as a channel that can

simultaneously provide information to the public. In this way, the mass media certainly becomes a place of construction. Even in certain cases, people have a tendency to justify and accept whatever is presented in mass media. Thus, it can be concluded that framing is how something is "wanted" to be formed and spread to the audience through the media so that it is embedded in them about it according to what they hear and see through the media.

#### **4. Popular Literature**

Popular literature is any literary work that is read or intended to be read by a large number of people. Some forms of popular literature are magazines, fiction and non-fiction books, movies, and music. Popular literature gained popularity due to its easily understood entertainment features that appeal to a broad audience as well as the fact that its production is done primarily for financial gain. As stated by Adi (2011:24) popular literature is basically writing that is accepted by many people. The point of acceptance here is that it is consumed by many people, which is seen from the number of sales. In addition Adi (2011:30) stated popular literature is very concerned with readers. Prautomo (2020) asserts that popular literature is a byproduct of culture that the whole public is familiar with. Profit-making is one of the many reasons why popular literature is created so widely. Aside from profit, popular literature has a tight relationship with society since it can mirror people's everyday lives; in fact, it can be argued that a culture's everyday realities might

predict the creation of popular literature. It means, popular literature is a literary works that created based on entertainment element that interest many people and easily understand then become popular. As example of popular literature are books, movies, music, and video games are growing in popularity due to the stories they carry and can gain interest of many people who consume it.

## **5. Popular Culture**

In a society, a habit that is practiced and can be understood by many people becomes a culture in that society. Since many people understand the culture, the culture becomes popular. According to Adi (2011: 11), popular culture is distinct from other forms of culture and gains popularity due to its ease of comprehension, which appeals to a large number of people. Adi went on to explain that culture gains popularity when it incorporates universally accepted and easily understood entertainment aspects, and when the objective behind its creation is to make money, Adi (2011: 13). Storey (2009: 6) also defines popular culture is often supported by claims that popular culture is mass-produced commercial culture. Based on this explanation, popular culture is culture that becomes popular because can accept by many people and expressed in literary works in order to make money. Literary works that contain themes about popular culture in society will get many viewers and readers. Literary works that contain popular culture can be seen in movies, series, novels, music, and many others. The entertainment industry in some



society incorporates pop culture into those literary works, so people from other nations can develop biased and stereotypical views of that society's social issues when they consume the literary work. Media channels have a duty to enlighten all audiences about popular culture, which is being consumed by a greater number of people than ever before.

## **6. Movie and Series**

A form of literary work is a movie. A movie is at least 1 to 2 hours long in a single show. Another form of movie is a series, or also known as a TV drama, which has a varying number of episodes in several broadcasts. According to Arfani (2018) movie is a type of entertainment that tells a story using music and a series of images that create the impression of continuous movement. Meanwhile, according to Rabiger (2009), "Every film is thought-provoking and engaging, and it keeps the audience engaged." Since every piece of art is distinct and fascinating, there are several ways to use it in a documentary to communicate concepts about the real world. So it can be concluded that a movie is a literary work in the form of moving images accompanied by music and sound that contains an interesting story that can make the audience interested in continuing to enjoy it.

## **7. Series "When They See Us"**

The "When They See Us" series is a TV drama that airs on the Netflix platform in 2019. The series is based on the true story of the Central Park Five that took place in 1989 in New York, America. *When*

*They See Us* tells the stories of five black teenagers and a Latina teenager, they are Kevin Richardson, Antron McCray, Raymond Santana, Yusef Salaam, and Korey Wise, who were victims of wrongful arrest for the attempted rape and murder of a white woman jogger Trisha Meili in Central Park, NYC, in 1989. In 2002, their wrongful convictions were vacated after the actual perpetrator, Matias Reyes, confessed to the crime and DNA analysis confirmed his story (A. DuVernay, *When They See Us* (Netflix.com: 2019) in Thiem (2023). Based on the depiction in the series, the white police who arrested the teenagers committed acts of racism. They even insist that the teens committed the crime even though it has not been proven. Not only the white police, but also the prosecutors forced the teens to confess to crimes they did not commit. If the teenagers did not do what the police and prosecutors wanted, they would be beaten. As stated by Thiem (2023) The repeated dismissal of the boys' claims to innocence emphasizes that in the eyes of the (primarily white) police, Blackness is associated with criminality. In addition, the boys all come from low-income families. This intersection of class and race further strengthens this association. Stated by (Nussbaum (2019)) in Oumaima (2023) the four episodes are neatly preformed. The first one covers the forced confessions under the pressure of the police. The second covers what happened in the trial. The third covers the imprisonment and the release of the four boys, along with their complicated attempts to rejoin society. The final episode is a portrait of the life of the most tragic character, Korey Wise.

The series, which is based on a true story, depicts the social issue of racism that occurred in America, especially when the case occurred. Although the case occurred in 1989, in 2012 the case was made into a documentary and is still being revived as a netflix series in 2019. This shows that movies or series that raise themes about the issue of racism still get a lot of consumers. The number of consumers proves that the issue of racism is still a common thing to happen or be discussed in American society. Although the practice of racism has decreased, the existence of a movie or series that raises the theme of racism issues to date indicates that racism is still a social issue that exists in American society.

## **8. Conceptual Framework**

Racism is a behavior that a person does to others, because they feel better than others. There are many forms of racism, one of which is discrimination against people of different races, ethnicities, skin colors, and even religions. Racism that is often heard in people's lives is discrimination against black people by white Americans. Black people or African Americans are a minority in the country of America. Some white citizens are still unable to accept the presence of black people. This racism is an open secret social issue in American society. Social issues about racism are endless, given that racism and discrimination behavior can be formed because of how the environment affects a person. From an intergroup perspective, the complex nature of race in general and white racial identity is extensively explored within communication, exhibiting resource competition, harsh judgmental

displays towards non-White individuals, and collective downward social comparison between non-White and White groups (Hogg, 2016). In some cases, racist practices are carried out by some white people who belong to important groups. As in the case of the central park five, racism is carried out by white people, especially those who work in American law, such as police and prosecutors. The case occurred in 1989 but was made into a documentary in 2012, and made into a Netflix series in 2019 which will be the subject of this research. This series is included in popular literature, which means works that raise themes about social issues that are still rampant in society.

There are two problem that will discuss in this study, it is about how do the white people practice racism in the series “When They See us” based on Central Park Five Case and how does the white framing to the black lead to racism in the series “When They See us” based on Central Park Five Case.

#### **H. Review of Related Studies**

This section contains earlier study findings related to the researcher. Research that has been carried out, among others.

Melina & Irawan (2023) with the title “Analysis of Discriminatory Discourses against African American in "When They See Us" Series: A Critical Discourse Study”. It focuses on how whites describe themselves positively and how whites portray blacks negatively in their discourse based on their belief. The findings identified nine discourse topics

related to what is revealed in the discourse and thirteen discourse strategies concerning the means of disclosure.

Oumaima, Sellami (2023) with the title “A Racial and Psychological study of DuVernay’s Mini Film Series When They See Us” The aim of this thesis is to explore Ava DuVernay’s movie, When They See Us and the bias nature of the criminal justice system in America against people of color and how it impacted their lives and their psychology. The finding shows that racism is rooted in society, and it is an element that cannot be easily detected and eradicated. The analysis also shows the impact of racism on people of color on their mental health as it dig deep into the Central Park Five’s trauma and how people of color struggle psychologically because of this inequality.

Thiem, Annika (2023) with the title “True Crime Television as “Popular Legality”: Affect, Testimonial Injustice, and the Criminal (In)Justice System in Ava DuVernay’s When They See Us” aims to examine the 2019 Netflix limited series When They See Us (WTSU) as a form of “popular legality,” or in other words focus to the concept of legality in representations of the law. The result show that as a form of popular legality WTSU criticizes structural racism in the US criminal justice system which finds expression most prominently in police brutality, racist prejudices, and testimonial injustice in the show. Importantly, this critique is emphasized on a level of affect by inviting the audience to feel the injustice, pain, and anger the shows protagonists feel.

Favour, Uwode Ejiro (2020) with the title “An Analysis Of DuVernay’s “When They See Us” Through The Lens Of Critical Race Theory” the purpose is to explore Ava DuVernay’s movie, *When They See Us* and its portrayal of the bias nature of the criminal justice system in America against people of color and to explore the connection of micro aggressions and racism to police brutality against people of color in the United States. The findings further showed that micro aggression is influenced by implicit bias, racism, and stereotypes which ultimately lead to the injustices and oppressions of people of color within the American society.

This research and the previous studies mentioned above have similarities and differences. The similarity between previous studies and this research is that they are both using the same subject for data research, namely Netflix series entitled *When They See Us*. Most of the previous studies examined about racism portrayed against black people and the concept of criminal justice system in American law against people of color that did by white people in the Netflix series *When They See Us*. Those researches show how white people practice racism by portray black people negatively and shows the criminal justice system in American law against people of color. Although there are differences in the topic or focus of the research study and the theory use, namely in this study discussing how the form of racism practices carried out by whites and how whites framed black people who lead to racism. Then the results obtained are also different.

## **I. RESEARCH METHOD**

### **1) Research Approach**

This research is conducted using qualitative research approach. On the basis of the problem to be researched is the conflict in the series that is related to the social issues in American society. According to Taylor & Bogdan (1984) in Langenbach, et al. (1994) Qualitative research is rooted in a phenomenological paradigm which holds that reality is socially constructed through individual or collective definitions of the situation. Qualitative research is the best approach to address a research topic where the researcher is unsure of the components and needs to investigate, (Creswell 2012). Since the data are based on the relationship between the topics in the series and social issues in society, the researcher collects all data and materials from various sources such as books, journals, articles and other references from internet sources.

### **2) Research Design**

In this study, researcher uses a qualitative descriptive research design. According to Rido (2015) in Ranti & Nurmaily (2021) qualitative descriptive is not focus in number, the data are derived from the words, sentences, dialogues, and statements of the novel, which concern the objectives of the study. Buansari et al., (2021) stated that qualitative descriptive research is interpreted as a procedure for solving problems by describing the state of the object of research based on visible facts. So that

the data in this study will be explained in depth and in the end the conclusions can be drawn.

### **3) Source of Data**

In this research, the data source that is used is a type of document data source. Yin (2016) Presumes that any of the items that were acquired could provide other kinds of textual, numerical, visual, and graphical data, particularly if they were created by participants directly in their journals and on social media platforms. These data could be utilized in addition to the information obtained from participant interviews. This indicates that the document is something that can bolster the observation in order to gather additional proof. The researcher chose the Netflix movie series entitled *When They See Us* (2019) directed by Ava DuVernay as the data source of this research. The research data in this study is in the form of a description of the conflict in the series, including the practice of racism committed by white people and how the framing of white people leads to racism against black people. In order to analyze the series, the researcher used images with screenshot from the series. This research is supported by additional data sources, especially statements describing the state of social issues from the social history of racism in America, as well as data from journals and other relevant sources. The researcher analyzes the conflicts in the series and relates them to social issues in American society.



#### 4) Data Collecting Technique

The documentation method is used to collect data. Thus, in order to collect the data, according to Creswell (2012), there are three steps of the research data collection techniques as follows:

**a. Type of Document**

The document utilized as the research object was chosen by the researcher. *When They See Us* (2019) is a series that is freely accessible to the public and can be viewed on Netflix.

**b. Examine the Document**

The researcher evaluates the accuracy, completeness, and relevance of the information relative to the research questions.

**c. Record Information from Document**

Researcher applies a procedure that records information and generates significant descriptions from the scene in the series.

#### 5) Data Validity

Qualitative validity refers to the use of specific methodologies by researchers to ensure the accuracy of results. According to Creswell (2012) validating results entails the researcher determining the accuracy or reliability of the findings using techniques or triangulation. In qualitative research, triangulation refers to the process of confirming descriptions and themes with evidence from various sources including individuals, types of data, or methods of data collection. Examining every source of

information, the researcher examines for confirmation that strengthens a research.

The description will facilitate readers' visualization of the situation and give the conversation a feeling of shared experience. When qualitative researchers provide several viewpoints on a problem or describe the context, for example, the outcome is richer and more realistic. This procedure can improve the findings' accuracy.

## **6) Data Analysis**

After collecting the data, the researcher analyzes the data uses Miles, Huberman and Saldana theory (2014) as follow:

### **1. Data Condensation**

Data condensation entails selecting, focusing, organizing, summarizing, and/or adjusting the information contained in the entire set of written field notes, transcripts of interviews, documents, and other empirical resources. In this study, the researcher aimed to search the data from Netflix series entitled *When They See Us*. The data that appears in the *When They See Us* series will be selected, focused, simplified, abstracted, and changed by the researcher. In other words researcher only chooses a few main things that are important and focus on things that will be sought according to the research topic. So, researchers get clear things or objects regarding the data that has been obtained.

## 2. Data Display

The data display will make it easier to figure out what is going on. A set of information or data that has been collected will be compiled that might give the possibility of drawing conclusions and taking action. In this research, the collected data are displayed by the researcher in the form of a description. Additionally, the screenshots from the series that are relevant to the research problem are included and categorized according to the sub-theories used for conclusion and verification.

## 3. Conclusions: Drawing/verifying data

The first conclusion from the data found is still temporary and not necessarily valid, but if strong evidence is found and supported at the next stage of data collection, then the first conclusions can be said to be valid. At this stage, the researcher draws a conclusion regarding the analysis's findings and offers solves to the problem in the form of descriptive data based on the proposed theory.

## 7) Research Procedure

According to Creswell (2012), there are six steps in qualitative research, as follow:

### a. Identify the Research Problem

The researcher analyze how white people practice racism and how they framing to the black that leads to racism in the series *When They See Us*. The reason why the researcher studies this because *When They See Us* series make racism as a theme or conflict in the series, which

is racism is one of the social issues that become a popular culture in American society. It proves that racism is still being the theme in movie or series as a popular literature. In addition, series *When They See Us* is popular series that based on the real event there is Central Park Five Case 1989 in the New York, America.

**b. Literature Review**

The next step is literature review means find and summarize some information of theories, research method in the previous related studies. There are three stages in reviewing literature: identifying sources, selecting sources, and summarizing them. The data in this research is from series sourced from the Netflix platform. Then selectively choose articles related to the research and summarize the important things into a written report that is suitable for this research.

**c. Stating the Purpose and Research Questions**

The research purposes are based on the gaps from previous research as well as the novelty made in this research. Novelty in research is the urgency or core problem that is the reason for conducting this research. Researchers choose research problems in this stage based on the research objectives or problems.

**d. Data Collection**

This step involves the researcher gathering data findings. The data used in this study is from the Netflix series *When They See Us* (2019)

and some information from mass media about the story of the central park five cased in 1989. The findings can be in the form screenshots from the series with additional descriptions and also the real story about central park five case from the mass media.

**e. Data Analysis**

At this stage, the researcher will describe the findings and categorize them using the theory of racism, racial profiling, popular culture and popular literature which the theories applied to the study. After that, the data processes through many specified steps, which results in a conclusion.

**f. Research Report and Evaluation**

The final step is writing a report on the application of the research findings and evaluating it. The researcher elaborates and evaluates the results of the research implementation. The objective is to evaluate the study's effectiveness and see if the research goals and problems align with each other.