THE SOCIAL CHANGES IN AMERICA

AS REFLECTED IN HEAD OF STATE MOVIE

A THESIS

In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree

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Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this thesis is written by herself without taking any other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3, and in diploma degree of any universities. In addition, the writer also ascertains that she does not quote any material from other thesis or someone’s work except the references mentioned.

Semarang, Juli 2015

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“Chance will not come if we wait for some other person or some other time.  
We are the ones we’ve been waiting for.  
We are the change that we seek.”

(President Barack Obama)

I dedicate this thesis to my Mom and Dad,  

my little sister and my family.
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ABSTRACT

In America, we know an interesting fact that Americans had chosen their first black President. It is a rare event because it is the first time for the United States of America to be lead by an African American man. In the progress of the presidential election, the social changes had become the interesting issue. This fact is very interesting because the Head of State movie has the similar theme.

Head of State is a comedy movie about how an African American man can be the United States president. The main story in the movie depicts the social changes issue that happen in the Obama’s presidential election. The writer observes that Head of State movie reflects the social changes issue in America. The writer uses two methods to analyze the movie. They are library research and sociological approach. In library research, the writer takes the data through books, articles, internet, etc. Another method, the sociological approach is used to analyze the extrinsic aspect, to review the social changes in America and how stereotype and prejudice influence the social changes. The writer concludes that Head of State can be said as the reflection of America’s condition in the Obama’s presidential campaign, related to the social changes.

Keywords: Social changes, America, Head of State
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

*Head of State* is a comedy movie about an African American nominated as a candidate for United States president. Mays Gilliam, the protagonist in the movie, is an African American man. African American is considered as minority in the American social structure. Since African American is considered as minority in America, Mays Gilliam must work hard to persuade Americans. He must convince them to choose him as the president. He struggles to reach the top position as the United States of America president by conducting various efforts including several things considered silly.

The movie itself is a teasing allusion about how an African American can be a president of the United States of America. *Head of State* is a comedy movie that depicts the social changes happened in the United States of America. In *Head of State* Mays Gilliam gets a lot of prejudices and stereotypes from the Americans while he is doing the campaign. In the end of the movie, finally he gets the top position as the first black American president by doing various things in his own way. It is also reflected in Barack Obama in real contexts. Barack Obama is the first black American president in the United States of America. In presidential election he also did various things in his own way to persuade the Americans.
The fact that Barack Obama was chosen as the first black American president has attracted the writer to analyze prejudice and stereotype influencing the social changes of Americans in the presidential election through the *Head of State* movie.

1.2 SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The writer would like to focus this thesis on analyzing the social changes in America related to prejudice and stereotype that happened to Mays Gilliam as the movie leading character. Thus, the writer wants to show how prejudice and stereotype to African American reflected in every scenes acted by Mays Gilliam.

1.3 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

These are the purposes of analyzing *Head of State* movie:

a. To find out how prejudice and stereotype happened towards black American in *Head of State* movie.

b. To find out how prejudices and stereotypes influence the social changes in America in *Head of State* movie.
1.4 METHOD OF THE STUDY

In obtaining the data and information that supports the topic that will be discussed in the thesis, the writer uses two methods, which are method of research and method of approach.

1.4.1. Method of Research

The research method in this thesis is library research which means the writer takes the data and reference through library or from books, and also from other information through the media technology that supports the topic.

1.4.2. Method of Approach

Related to the scope of the study, the writer uses two methods of approaches. They are exponential approach and sociology of literature approach. Exponential approach is used to analyze intrinsic elements such as narrative and cinematography aspects. The narrative aspects itself consist of character, setting, plot and conflict. On the other hand, the cinematography aspects consist of angle, distance and sound.

Another approach is sociology of literature approach. Sociology of literature approach is based on the assumption that a literary work reflects a community’s life and it has connection with society. According to Wellek and Warren in *Theory of Literature*, “literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Literature ‘represents’ ‘life’; and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary ‘imitation’” (1973: 94).
The writer uses the sociology of literature approach because she wants to analyze the movie as the reflection of society’s life in the United States of America. The movie reflects social life in America especially the social changes among the American about the nomination of an African American man as the United States of America president. Moreover, the movie also reflect stereotype and prejudice influencing the social changes of Americans in the presidential election.

1.5. ORGANIZATION OF WRITING

CHAPTER I : Introduction. This chapter consists of background of the study, scope of the study, purpose of the study, method of the study and the organization of writing.

CHAPTER II : Synopsis. This chapter contains synopsis of Head of State.

CHAPTER III : Theoretical Review. This chapter consists of theoretical review that the writer used to support the analysis. This chapter consists of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the movie. Intrinsic elements in the movie consist of two sub elements: narrative and cinematographic aspects. On the other hand, extrinsic elements consist of sociology of literature, racial discrimination, prejudice, stereotype and the social changes in U.S. in presidential election.
CHAPTER IV : Analysis. This chapter contains the analysis of the topic.

CHAPTER V : Conclusion. This last chapter contains the conclusion of the analysis.
CHAPTER II
SYNOPSYS OF HEAD OF STATE

*Head of State* is a comedy movie about an African American nominated as a candidate of United States of America president. *Head of State* is a 2003 comedy film directed, written by, and starring Chris Rock and also co-starring Bernie Mac. The film was distributed by DreamWorks Pictures and released on March 28, 2003.

The protagonist or the main character in the movie is Mays Gilliam, an African American man who is nominated as a president candidate. The story begin when Chris Rock as Mays Gilliam was doing his job as an alderman of the 9th Ward in Washington D.C. In the next day, he gets fired because the issue that he helps an old woman’s cat in a house that supposed to be exploded. In the same day, he is offered to be a candidate of presidential election. It is because the presidential and vice presidential candidates of an unnamed party, obviously the Democrats, are killed when their campaign planes crash into each other less than two months before the election.

The party boss, Sen. Bill Arnot (James Rebhorn) does not want Mays Gilliam to win. He wants to exploit him as a token black candidate who will lose but win painless points for the party. He has a bad secret plan that Gilliam will be a candidate only in 2004. If Gilliam lose although he good in the campaign, Arnot can be the next candidate in 2008. He thinks that he will get a lot of supports both white people and minority groups because of Gilliam and he can be a president.
Mays Gilliam campaign does not running smoothly. His rate in the polling before the election among Americans only increase very few. It is because he uses unusual ways to do his campaign. He uses dance, music and he does not use a formal English language. It is also because he is an African American man, the minority group in America. From the polling, it can be seen that only minorities that choose him. While the white people as the majorities still choose his competitor, Brian Lewis (Nick Searcy).

In the next days, Gilliam’s rate increases little by little because of his interesting ways on the campaign. His competitor, Brian Lewis finally realizes who Gilliam is. He gets surprised that he almost lost by a black man like Gilliam. He commands his assistant to destroy Gilliam and makes a commercial campaign. The commercial campaign shows Gilliam as a failure candidate. If people in United States choose Gilliam, the United States of America will destroy. Therefore, people have to choose Lewis if they do not want that happened.

Gilliam and Lewis really get a serious competition. Both of them want to get more polling and make allusions from one to each other. Gilliam gets a very bad teasing allusion when he said a bad thing that should be a joke. It is shown on television and being watched by all Americans. His rate decreases significantly and he often be the accused of many criminal cases. Gilliam realizes that he never does that. Gilliam gets many serious problems in here until he meets his brother.
Gilliam’s brother, a Chicago bail bondsman named Mitch (Bernie Mac), asks him when he is going to start speaking his mind. When he does, the first thing Gilliam says is that he wants Mitch as his running mate. Gilliam choose his brother, Mitch Gilliam, to be the vice president. His brother is also a black man. It can be seen that the two candidates are both African American people. Gilliam brothers always try to ask Lewis to debate in various ways until Lewis cannot refuse the debate.

Finally, Gilliam and Lewis debate to dispute who the next president is. Gilliam asks the question by his ways. He more supports poor people than people who doing many deceptions. He also says that people have a similar position in the society. He states that everyone should get similar treatment not because of social status or race. He pushes down Lewis until Lewis cannot answer his question and statement.

Gilliam gets all of the supports from the audience and people who watch the debate. In the day of election, Gilliam gets the highest rate. Gilliam wins the election. In the end of the movie, Gilliam be the first African American descent chosen as the president of the United States of America.

The credited characters of the movie *Head of State* are as follows: Chris Rock as Mays Gilliam, Bernie Mac as Mitch Gilliam, Tamala Jones as Lisa Clark, Lynn Whitfield as Debra Lassiter, Dylan Baker as Martin Geller, James Rebhorn as Bill Arnot, Robin Givens as Kim, Nick Searcy as Brian Lewis and Stephanie March as Nikki.
CHAPTER III
THEORETICAL REVIEW

III.1. INTRINSIC ELEMENTS OF THE MOVIE

Intrinsic elements are elements that build the work itself. Since the analysis is from a movie, the intrinsic elements in a movie consist of two sub-aspects: narrative and cinematography aspects.

III.1.1. Narrative Aspects

Narrative aspects construct the story of the movie. Bordwell and Thompson in *Film Art* state that,

> We can consider a narrative to be a chain of events in cause-effect relationship occurring in time and space. A narrative is what we usually mean by the term story, although we shall be using story in a slightly different way later. Typically, a narrative begins with one situation, a series of changes occurs according to a pattern of cause and effect; finally, a new situation arises that brings about the end of the narrative. Our engagement, with the story depends on our understanding of the pattern of change and stability, cause and effect, time and space (2008: 75).

Therefore, it can be concluded that narrative aspects in the movie consist of character, setting, theme, plot and conflict.

III.1.1.1. Character

The first narrative aspect in the movie is character. In a movie, character takes the main key of the story. According to Nurgiyantoro, each movie generally has main and supporting characters (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 176). Both of main and supporting characters also take the main role of the story.
Related to the main character, according to Perrine in *Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*, “the central character in the conflict, whether a sympathetic or an unsympathetic person, is referred to as the protagonist; the forces arrayed against him, whether persons, things, conventions of society, or traits of his own character, are the antagonists” (1988: 42).

III.1.1.2. Setting

The second narrative aspect is setting. According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro, the setting refers to the sense of place, time relations, and social environment where the occurrence of the events described (2009: 216). Setting elements can be divided into three main elements that are setting of place, setting of time, and setting of social.

a. Setting of Place

Setting of place refers to the location where the events recounted in a literary work. It can be placed with certain names or certain initials. Settings of place in literary works include a variety of locations. It will move from one place to another plot of line and character development (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 227).

b. Setting of Time

Setting of time related to the term "when" the occurrence of the events recounted in a literary work. The term of "when" is normally related to the factual time, time that could be related to the historical events (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 230).
c. Setting of Social

Setting of social refers to the behavior of the social life in a social environment that is recounted in a literary work. It consists of living habits, customs, traditions, beliefs, life style, ways of thinking and behaving. In addition, setting of social is also related to social status figures such as low, medium, or above (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 233-234).

III.1.1.3. Theme

The third narrative aspect in the movie is theme. Theme can be said as the idea or the thought of an author in literary works. In the movie, theme also takes the main idea of the story. Perrine in Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense says that,

The theme of a piece of fiction is its controlling idea or its central insight. It is the unifying generalization about life stated or implied by the story. To derive the theme of a story, we must ask what its central purpose is: what view of life it supports or what insight into life it reveals (1998: 90).

Perrine also adds,

Theme exists only (1) when an author has seriously attempted to record life accurately or to reveal some truth about it or (2) when an author has deliberately introduced as a unifying element some concept or theory of life that the story illustrates (1998: 91).

Therefore, it can be concluded that theme can be said as the central purpose of the idea in the movie. It is also become the foundation of message or value that the movie is trying to point out through the story.
**III.1.1.4. Plot**

The fourth narrative aspect is plot. Plot is commonly defined as the sequence of events that make up a theme. The events are particularly related to one another in a pattern, in a sequence, or through cause and effect. Diagram of the plot structure is usually based on the sequence of events or conflict which chronologically make up the story of the film. The diagram of the plot divides a story into five parts, like the five acts of a play. These parts are: exposition of the situation; rising action or conflict; climax or turning point; falling action; and resolution (Nurgiyantoro, 2009: 150-151). According to Perrine,

> Plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. It may include what a character says or thinks, as well as what he does, but it leaves out description and analysis and concentrates ordinarily on major happenings (1998: 41).

Sometimes, plot refers simply to the events in a story. Plot will mean the artistic arrangement of those events.

**III.1.1.5. Conflict**

The last narrative aspect is conflict. Conflict is one of the important narrative aspects in the movie. Conflict makes the movie interesting to be watched. According to Wellek and Warren, conflict is something dramatic and pointed to the fighting between two equal powers and shows the action and the reply of the action (1968: 285).

According to Perrine in *Literature: Structure, Sound and Sense*, conflict consists of three main types, man against man, man against environment and man against himself (1988: 42).
The main character may be pitted against some other person or group of persons (man against man); he may be in conflict with some external force: physical nature, society or “fate” (man against environment); or he may be in conflict with some element in his own nature (man against himself) (Perrine, 1998: 42).

III.1.2. Cinematography Aspects

Since the object of the study is a movie, the writer also explores the cinematography aspects of the movie. According to Bordwell and Thompson in Film Art, “Cinematography (literary, writing in a movement) depends to a large extent on photography (writing in light)” (2008: 162).

In any image, the frame is not simply a neutral border; it imposes a certain vantage point onto the material within the image. In cinema, the frame is important because it actively defines the image of us (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 182).

The cinematography aspects can be divided into three main elements that are angle, distance and sound.

III.1.2.1. Angle

The first cinematography aspect is angle. The technique of the shooting can give many interpretations. Angle is a technique in shooting that can give different interpretations. There are three general categories of angle. Bordwell and Thompson say that,

The frame positions us at some angle looking onto the shot’s mise-en-scene. The number of such angles is infinite, since the camera might be placed anywhere. In practice, we typically distinguish three general categories: the straight on angle, the high angle and the low angle (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 190).

The straight on angle is the most common (see Picture 1.1). The high angle positions us looking down at the material within the frame (see Picture 1.2). The low angle framing positions us as looking up at the framed materials (see Picture 1.3) (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 190).
III.1.2.2. Distance

Next, the second cinematography aspect is distance. Bordwell and Thompson state that,

The framing of the image stations us not only at a certain angle and height and on a level plane or at a cant but also at a certain distance. Framing supplies a sense of being far away or close to the mise-en-scene of the shot. This aspect of framing is usually called *camera distance*. In presenting the terms used for various distances, we’ll use the standard measure: the human body (2008: 190-191).

Camera distance refers to the distance between the camera and the object in the frame. Object in a movie is commonly a person, so that the distance is technically measured in the scale of a person’s gesture or body. Distance consists of extreme long shot, long shot, medium long shot, medium shot, medium close up, close up and extreme close up.
a. Extreme Long Shot

It is a framing in which the scale of the object shown is very small and almost disappearing. “In the extreme long shot, the human figure is barely visible. This is the framing for landscapes, bird’s-eye views of cities, and other vistas” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). (see Picture 2.1)

![Picture 2.1 Source: After Earth (00:01:15)](image)

b. Long Shot

It is a framing in which the scale of the object shown is small. A standing human body would appear nearly the height of the screen. “In the long shot, figures are more prominent, but the background still dominates” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). (see Picture 2.2)

![Picture 2.2 Source: After Earth (01:17:58)](image)
c. **Medium Long Shot**

   It is a framing in which the scale of the object is about four or five feet high appear to fill most of the screen vertically. “Shots in which the human figure is framed from about the knees up are called medium long shots” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). (see Picture 2.3)

![Picture 2.3 Source: After Earth (00:09:53)]

**d. Medium Shot**

   It is a framing in which the scale of the object is of medium size. A human body seen from the waist up would fill most of the screen. “The medium shot frames the human body from the waist up” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). (see Picture 2.4)

![Picture 2.4 Source: After Earth (00:10:10)]
e. Medium Close Up

It is a framing in which the scale of the object shown is fairly large. A human body seen from the chest up fills most of the screen. “The medium close-up frames the body from the chest up” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). (see Picture 2.5)

![Medium Close Up](image)

Picture 2.5 Source: After Earth (00:35:28)

f. Close Up

It is a framing in which the scale of the object shown is relatively large. A person's head can be seen from the neck up, or an object of a comparable size that fills most of the screen. “The close up is traditionally the shot showing just the head, hands, feet, or a small object. It emphasizes facial expressions, the details of a gesture, or a significant object” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). (see Picture 2.6)

![Close Up](image)

Picture 2.6 Source: After Earth (00:36:56)
g. Extreme Close Up

It is a framing in which the scale of object is very large; usually, a small object or a part of the body. “The extreme close-up singles out a portion of the face (often eyes or lips) or isolates and magnifies an object” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 191). (see Picture 2.7)

![Extreme Close Up Image](image.png)

*Picture 2.7 Source: After Earth (01:20:54)*

III.1.2.3. Sound

The last cinematography aspect is sound. According to Bordwell and Thompson, “Several aspects of sound as we perceive it are familiar to us from everyday experience and are central to film’s use of sound” (2008: 267). Sound in the movie consists of loudness, pitch and timbre. Loudness, pitch and timbre interact to define the overall sound texture of a movie.

a. Loudness

The first aspect of sound is loudness. Loudness is an aspect that related to volume and distance of the sound. ‘The sound we hear results from vibrations in the air. The amplitude, or breadth, of the vibrations produces our sense of loudness, or volume. Film sound constantly manipulates volume. Loudness is also
related to perceive distance often the louder the sound, the closer we take it to be” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 267).

b. Pitch

The second aspect of sound is pitch. Pitch is an aspect that related to highness or lowness of the sound and intonation of dialogue in the movie. “The frequency of sound vibrations affects pitch, or the perceived highness or lowness of the sound. Pitch plays a useful role in helping us pick out distinct sounds in a film. It helps us distinguish music and speech from noises. It also serves to distinguish among objects” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 267).

c. Timbre

The last aspect of sound is timbre. When we call someone’s voice nasal or certain musical tone, we are referring to timbre. “The harmonic components of sound give it a certain color, or tone quality—what musician call timbre” (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 267).

In everyday life, the recognition of a familiar sound is largely a matter of various aspects of timbre. Filmmakers manipulate timbre continually. Timbre can help articulate portions of the sound track, as when it differentiates musical instruments from one another (Bordwell and Thompson, 2008: 268).

Therefore, it can be concluded that timbre is used to help define the portions of the soundtrack of the movie, using the musical instruments that different one to another.
III.2. EXTRINSIC ELEMENTS OF THE MOVIE

Extrinsic elements are also known as extrinsic factors that influence the literary works. It is usually a causal explanation for some description, analysis, and evaluation of a literary work.

“Sometimes, the extrinsic study only connects the literature to the social context and the previous growth. In most cases, it becomes a ‘causal’ explanation, professing to account for literature, to explain it, and finally to reduce it to its origins (the ‘fallacy of origins’)” (Wellek and Warren, 1973: 73).

Yet, it is clear that causal study can never dispose of problems of description, analysis, and evaluation of an object such as work of literary art. Cause and effect are incommensurate: the concrete result of these extrinsic causes –the work of art- is always unpredictable (Wellek and Warren, 1973: 73).

III.2.1. Sociology of Literature

Since the writer decides to analyze the social changes in America as reflected in the movie, she uses the sociology of literature approach. In this thesis, the sociology of literature approach has two aspects. The first aspect is the literature as the reflection of real life. According to Wellek and Warren in Theory of Literature,

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Literature ‘represents’ ‘life’; and ‘life’ is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary ‘imitation’ (1973: 94).
Wellek and Warren also state that,

Literature has also a social function, or ‘use’, which cannot be purely
individual. Usually, however, the inquiry concerning ‘literature and
society’ is put more narrowly and externally. Questions are asked about
the relations of literature to a given social situation, to an economic,
social, and political system (1973: 94).

Wellek and Warren add, “Attempts are made to describe and define the
influence of society on literature and to prescribe and judge the position of
literature in society. This sociological approach to literature is particularly
cultivated by those who profess a specific social philosophy” (Wellek and

III.2.2. Social Change

Another aspect of the sociology literature approach is the social change as
the one of the sociology theories. According to Johnson, “Social change is any
alteration in the cultural, structural, population, or ecological characteristics of a
social system such as a society” (2000: 285).

The process of social change has some characteristics. According to
Macionis in Sociology, the process of social change has four major characteristics

a. Social change happens all the time

The first characteristic is social change happens all the time. It happens
everywhere, but the rate of change varies from place to place. Macionis says that,
“Nothing is constant except death and taxes” goes the old saying. Still, some
societies change faster than others” (2012: 565).
Ogburn in Macionis states that,

Material culture (that is, things) usually changes faster than nonmaterial culture (ideas and attitudes). For example, the genetic technology that allows scientists to alter and perhaps even create life has developed more rapidly than our ethical standards for deciding when and how to use the technology (2012: 565).

b. Social change is sometime intentional but often it is unplanned

Social change is sometime intentional but often it is unplanned become the second characteristic. According to Macionis,

Industrial societies actively promote many kinds of change. For example, scientists seek more efficient forms of energy, and advertisers try to convince us that life is incomplete without a 4G cell phone or the latest electronic gadget. Yet rarely can anyone envision all the consequences of the changes that are set in motion (Macionis, 2012: 565).

c. Social change is controversial

Social change often generates controversy. Related to this third characteristic, Macionis says that,

The history of the automobile shows that social change brings both good and bad consequences. Capitalists welcomed the Industrial Revolution because new technology increased productivity and swelled profits. However, workers feared that machines would make their skills obsolete and resisted the push toward “progress” (2012: 565).

Macionis adds, “Today, as in the past, changing patterns of social interaction between black people and white people, women and men, and gays and heterosexuals are welcomed by some people and opposed by others” (2012: 565).
d. Some changes matter more than others

The last characteristic is some changes matter more than others. According to Macionis, “Some changes (such as clothing fads) have only passing significance; others (like the invention of computers) may change the world” (2012: 565).

Social change has many causes. In Head of State movie, the most important cause of the social changes is the conflict. According to Macionis, “Inequality and conflict in a society also produce change. Karl Marx saw class conflict as the engine that drives societies from one historical era to another” (2012: 566).

III.2.3. Racial Discrimination

Race is all human beings belong to a single species and share a common origin. They are born equal in dignity and rights and all form an integral part of humanity. Then, racial discrimination is to treat differently a person or group of people based on their racial origins.

Analyzing racial discrimination in western world, particularly in United States, should not be separated from the practice of slavery which has been written down its history in the life of mankind.

Since the nineteenth century, slavery already exists as the American political issues. Slavery influence the American political thought on that century.
Slavery was the defining issue of American politics in the nineteenth century. Its legacies—segregation, civil rights, and racial discrimination—have profoundly shaped its twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Slavery’s influence on American political thought has been no less profound, though not always recognized. Louis Hartz (1955) famously argued that slavery had little impact on American political thought due to the pervasiveness of liberal and egalitarian views. Hartz was right to an extent: The early United States was indeed distinguished by a relative lack of social differentiation, which produced a common American spirit defined by “freedom, initiative, adventure, [and] self-expression, in pursuit of trade and industry (Olson, 2010: 1269).

An African American descent can be said as a slave in the history of American culture. Since this condition, an African American person often gets racial discrimination. In the movie, Mays Gilliam, who is an African American man, gets some racial discrimination from the people and environment.

In spite of the racial discrimination, Mays Gilliam also shows the characterization of his race. He uses his own dialect language and music.

Slaves shaped their own customs, religion, dialect, music, economy, and political perspectives, merging African, indigenous, and European practices into a uniquely and truly American culture (Olson, 2010: 1269-1270).

“Slavery is in the background of nearly all black political thought in the United States, influencing its work on power, identity, solidarity, political strategy, gender, and more” (Olson 2010: 1273).

It can be concluded that an African American can take positions in American politics. African American descent always tries to find their freedom and independence from take a part in political issues. However, racial discrimination will always influence their efforts.

Next, racial discrimination issues in the movie cover the stereotype and prejudice issues.
III.2.3.1. Stereotype

*Head of State* movie has several stereotype issues in the story. The leading character, Mays Gilliam, gets some stereotypes from the people surround him.

Lippmann in Dovidio et al. (2010: 7) defines stereotype as “the typical picture that comes to mind when thinking about a particular social group.” Oakes and Turner in Dovidio et al. also add that stereotypes “imply a substantial amount of information about people beyond their immediately apparent surface qualities and generate expectations about group members' anticipated behavior in new situations” (2010: 7).

Lippman in Hinton (2000) adds that, “stereotypes are simplified ‘pictures in our heads’ of people and events in the world.” Lippman argues that, “our actions are not based on direct knowledge of the ‘real’ world because the ‘real environment is altogether big, too complex, and too fleeting for direct acquaintaince’.”

Furthermore, Lippman in Hinton (2000) states that, “to cope, we construct these ‘pictures’ of the environment (including the people and events within it), and our actions do not arise from a ‘direct and certain knowledge’ of these people and events, but are based on the simplified ‘pictures’.”

Lippman accepts that these pictures might be ‘made’ by the person or ‘given’ by their culture.
III.2.3.2. Prejudice

Another racial issue in the movie is prejudice. Mays Gilliam also gets some prejudices in the movie. The term prejudice, like term stereotype, has been defined in a number of ways.

“Prejudice is typically conceptualized as an attitude that, like other attitudes, has a cognitive component (e.g., beliefs about a target group), an affective component (e.g., dislike), and a conative component (e.g, a behavioral predisposition to behave negatively toward the target group)” (Dovidio et al., 2010: 5).

Allport in Dovidio et al. (2010: 5) defines prejudice as “an antipathy based on faulty and inflexible generalization. It is directed toward either group as a whole, or toward an individual, because he or she is member of that group.”

In relation to race matter, Blumer in Dovidio et al. (2010: 6) states that, “race prejudice is a defensive reaction to such challenging of the sense of group position. It is used for a protective device.”

According to Dovidio et al. (2010: 16),

Prejudice is rooted in normal rather than abnormal processes. In case of American socio-psychological contexts, the approach to prejudice focuses on how normal processes, such as socialization into prevailing norms, supports and transmits prejudice.

Furthermore, Dovidio et al. (2010) summarizes that the emphasis of researches on prejudice from the mid-1990s have been dealing with multidimensional aspect of prejudice and make use of technologies.
III.2.4. The Social Changes in U.S. in Presidential Election

*Head of State* is a movie that reflects the American real life nowadays. The interesting thing in the movie is the social changes toward Americans in the presidential election. There are also some racial discrimination issues while the presidential campaign in the movie.

It is reflected in real life during the presidential election of Barack Obama. Barack Obama is the first black American president in the United States of America. He made various efforts to become a president and finally won the election. The social changes happened because he had made the most Americans vote him as the United States of America president. According to Samuel,

Born on August 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii, Barack Obama is the 44th and current president of the United States. He was a civil-rights lawyer and teacher before pursuing a political career, elected to the Illinois State Senate in 1996, serving from 1997 to 2004, and elected to the U.S. presidency in 2008, winning re-election in 2012 (2013: 147).

The racial issues like prejudice and stereotype also happened during Obama’s presidential campaign. According to Payne in Saragih, although the U.S. president has many identities, there is one identity that could not be compromised: the president must be a white man. African American blood or black skinned blood is a forbidden thing for a president. It is because the mix of the black skinned blood is a reflection of a slave descent. Therefore a black person will not be expected to become a president (2009: 175). According to Parks,

Political scientists and political psychologists have found that whites tend not to vote for black political candidates. Thus, the success of black candidates is positively correlated with the proportion of blacks in the population. Where there are more blacks in an electoral area, black candidates are more likely to be elected to office. In areas dominated by whites, black electoral success is rare (page 1: par 2).
According to Price, “In the first months of 2008, racial issues rippled through Barack’s smooth, confident campaign. Despite his wins in states like Iowa and Wyoming, where there were few African American voters, racial issues entered conversations and permeated the news cycles” (2008: 128). Price also adds,

Since his candidacy, Barack had been criticized for not being “black enough” and for being “too black”; he had always tried to transcend these questions by concentrating on the issues, by talking to all voters, by being inclusive. And while these question and criticisms were discussed and written about during the first year of the campaign, by February 2008, racial tension bubbled up and the race issue gained momentum (2008: 128).

To add to the tensions surrounding this important issue were the videotaped snippets of racial rhetoric made by Barack’s long time pastor, the Reverend Jeremiah A. Wright Jr. The video was played over and over on news outlets and on YouTube; it was discussed on talk radio and was written about in newspapers and on political blogs (Price, 2008: 128).

Price says that, “For Barack, he had always carefully and deliberately avoided the stereotype of being an angry black politician. He then, not quietly, but adamantly, denounced Wright’s charges about White America, assuring America that he did not agree with it, and called it divisive – but this was not enough” (2008: 129).

Deciding he needed to address the issue of race and the racial rhetoric displayed by Wright head-on, on March 18, 2008, at the National Constitution Center in Philadelphia, not far from where the Constitution of the United States was written, Barack made many described as the most important speech on race in America since Dr. Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream” speech. Speaking for nearly 40 minutes, Barack confronted America’s legacy of racial division and white resentment and urged America to overcome “a racial stalemate we’ve been stuck in for years.” Barack said, “We have choice in this country; we can accept a politics that breeds division, and conflict, and cynicism. Or, at this
moment, we can come together and say: ‘not this time.’” (Price, 2008: 129).

Apart from the racial issues that attacked Obama in his presidential campaign, he was still doing his speech and debate successfully in his own way to attract the American. Obama does not want to be a president that only has attraction to the black American voters. According to Price,

Barack also knew that he couldn’t use only his many attributes to convince voters. He had to have a clear message with clear answers. And he was determined to run a campaign based on hope, concentrating on giving the American people a new face and new ideas in Washington. He told the crowd in Springfield, and would tell other bigger and smaller crowds, that he knew he hadn’t spent a lot of time learning the ways of Washington, but he assured everyone that he’d been there long enough to know what the ways of Washington had to change (2008: 99).

Price also adds, “Barack knew he had to set himself apart, and he had to hit the ground running to get his campaign off to a successful, a rousing start. Before the enormous crowd in Springfield, Barack said, “It’s humbling, but in my heart I know you didn’t come here just for me; you came here because you believe in what this country can be.’” (2008: 99).

According to Nagourney, “In his campaign, Mr. Obama offered some fairly ambitious promises, including tax cuts for most Americans, a withdrawal of American troops from Iraq and an expansion of health care coverage” (page 1: par 48).

The exit polls found that a broad majority of voters considered the economy to be the most important issue facing the nation. And Mr. Obama was viewed as much more qualified than Mr. McCain to deal with that issue. Blacks made up 13 percent of the total electorate, up from 11 percent last time, the polls showed. More than 95 percent of them said they had voted for Mr. Obama, an African-American (Nagourney, page 1: par 24-25).
Finally, Obama wins the presidential election. The social changes happen when the Americans ignore the racial issues. They concern about the economic problems in the United States of America. The Americans think that Obama is qualified enough to solve the economic problems.

In his victory speech, Barack told the enormous crowd of clapping, shouting supporters that the choice in the election was not between regions, religions, or genders, or rich versus poor, young versus old; and it was not about black or white. He said it was about not settling for the same divisions and distractions and drama that pass for politics, but about whether the country reaches for politics of common sense and innovation, a politics, he said, of shared sacrifice and shared prosperity (Price, 2008: 122).

Barack Hussein Obama was elected as the 44th president of the United States of America on November 4th 2008, sweeping away the last racial barrier in American politics with ease as the country chose him as its first black chief-executive. The social changes among the Americans, out of the racial issues that happened during his campaign, have made him as the first black American president.
CHAPTER IV
ANALYSIS OF THE SOCIAL CHANGES IN AMERICA
AS REFLECTED IN HEAD OF STATE MOVIE

IV.1. INTRINSIC ELEMENTS OF THE MOVIE

*Head of State* is a comedy movie about an African American nominated as a candidate for the United States of America president. Mays Gilliam, the main character in the movie, is an African American man. He persuades the Americans by doing various things in his own way to win the presidential election.

Mays Gilliam and the process of presidential election will be the centre of the analysis. Therefore, we need to understand the story from the intrinsic elements of the movie. Since the analysis is from a movie, the intrinsic elements in a movie consist of two sub aspects: narrative and cinematography aspects.

IV.1.1. Narrative Aspects

Narrative aspects construct the story of the movie. Narrative aspects in the movie consist of character, setting, theme, plot and conflict.

IV.1.1.1. Character

In *Head of State*, Mays Gilliam (Chris Rock) is the leading character. He is the central character in the conflicts of the movie. The whole story is related to him as the main role. In the movie, Mays Gilliam is an African American man struggling to reach the top position as the United States of America president.
In the beginning of the movie, Mays Gilliam is an alderman in 9th Ward in Washington, D.C. He is close with the people. He cares about the poor and common people. He always helps them. It can be seen in picture 3.1, when he tries to convince the people that want to demolish Miss Pearl’s house, a woman from the 9th Ward.

Picture 3.1 Mays Gilliam convinced the people not to destroy Miss Pearl’s house

Another scene that shows Mays Gilliam cares towards the poor and common people is when he delivers his speech as the candidate of U.S. president in Chicago (Picture 3.2).

Picture 3.2 Mays Gilliam’s speech in Chicago about the economic problems of American
These are some parts of the Mays Gilliam’s speech in Chicago:

Gilliam: They had a speech written for me… about what the people need. But you guys are the people. You know what you need. Better schools. Better jobs. Less crime.
How many of you, right now… work two jobs just to have enough money to be broke? That ain’t right.
If you work two jobs, and at the end of the week… you got just enough money to get your broke ass home, let me hear you say, “That ain’t right!”

Audience: That ain't right!

Gilliam: How many of you have children that they call stupid? Don’t be ashamed! It ain’t yout fault. I asked my niece the other day, “What’s four plus four?” She said “44.” But that ain’t her fault!
That the school’s fault. If your child’s school has old ass books and brand new metal detectors, let me hear you say “That ain’t right!”

Audience: That ain't right!

Gilliam: How many of you work in a city, you can’t afford to live in? That ain’t right!
How many of you work in a mall, you can’t afford to shop in? That ain’t right!
How many of you clean up a hotel, you ain’t never gonna be able to stay in? That ain’t right!
We got nurses that work in hospitals, they can’t ever afford to get sick in. It ain’t right!
It isn’t right!

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:31:13 disc 1 – 00:33:49 disc 1)

In his speech he talks about the economic problems that happened to the people that day. He says that many things are not right. The people do not get their right properly from the company, school or hospital either. Therefore, as a president candidate he wants to fix it by saying that all of things the Americans get is not right.
As the protagonist character in the movie, Mays Gilliam wants to be himself in every action. He wants to be a presidential candidate by his own ways. It can be seen in Picture 3.3, when Mays Gilliam changes his formal suit into casual clothes.

Certainly, he does not only change the clothes. He wants his way in presidential campaign also should be as what he wants. In a fundraiser party, he thinks that the party is going too straight. Thus, he decides to persuade the people in the party to dance (Picture 3.4).

Picture 3.3 Mays Gilliam goes to a clothes store to changes his formal suit into casual clothes

Picture 3.4 Mays Gilliam persuades the people to dance
The three different kinds of angles can be seen from picture 3.4. In the first picture, the scene is using the high angle. The high angle positions us looking down at the material within the frame. The second picture, the scene is using the low angle. The low angle framing positions us as looking up at the framed materials. The scene in last picture is using the straight on angle. The scene is straight to our view.

In these dancing scenes, the music is using hip hop music. Nelly - Hot in Here become the soundtracks of the dancing scenes. In the middle of his effort to persuade the people to dance, Mays Gilliam also says to the people to choose him as the president.

There is highness or lowness of the sound in the scenes. When Mays Gilliam said to choose him as the president, the music volume become lower. Whereas, when the people start to dance again, the music volume is higher. It is called as pitch in a movie. Pitch is used to distinguish the music and speech.

As the protagonist, in the presidential election Mays Gilliam has a competitor. His competitor is Brian Lewis (Nick Searcy), the Republican’s candidate. Brian Lewis can be said as the antagonist in the movie. He wants to make Mays Gilliam lost as badly as he can.

Here are some parts of conversation between Brian Lewis and his assistant:

Lewis : This is my time. I’ve been Vice President for eight years. I’m a war hero, and I am Sharon Stone’s cousin! And I’ll be damned if I’m going to let my election be ruined by this asshole! I want this guy done. You hear me? Finish him!

[Inilah saat yang telah lama kunantikan. Aku telah menjabat Wakil Presiden selama 8 tahun. Aku seorang pahlawan perang dan sepupunya Sharon Stone! Aku akan marah besar]
Lewis’s Assistant: He will be destroyed, sir, as you wish.

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:39:42 disc 1 – 00:40:01 disc 1)

From the conversation, we can see that Brian Lewis does not like Mays Gilliam as his competitor. He thinks that he has more experiences than Mays Gilliam. In picture 3.5 Brian Lewis talks to his assistant to stop and destroy Mays Gilliam. Brian Lewis does not want lose from an African American man like him.

Picture 3.5 Brian Lewis asks his assistant to stop Mays Gilliam in presidential election. In the picture, the scenes are using medium shot. The medium shot frames the human body from the waist up.

However, the antagonist in the movie is not only Brian Lewis. The main key of the story is on Sen. Bill Arnot (James Rebhorn). He is the one that recommend Mays Gilliam as the candidate of president (Picture 3.6).
Picture 3.6 Bill Arnot recommends Mays Gilliam to his people in the party as a presidential candidate.

In spite of recommends Mays Gilliam as the presidential candidate, Bill Arnot has a secret plan beside it.

These are some parts of Bill Arnot’s conversation about his secret plan:

Arnot: The United States is changing. America is changing. Inside of 20 years, you know the numbers. 20 percent black, 21 percent Asian, 39 percent Hispanic. The minorities will be the majority. The smartest thing we can do is be the first party to nominate a minority for President.

[Amerika Serikat sedang berubah. Dalam 20 tahun… Kamu tahu statistikknya. 20% kulit hitam, 21% ras Asia, 39% ras Hispanik. Warga kulit berwarna jadi mayoritas. Jalan terbaik yang dapat kita lakukan adalah menjadi partai pertama yang mencalonkan seorang kulit berwarna untuk jadi Presiden.]

Now, we’ll lose, of course, but the minorities will be happy. The minorities will be happy and they will vote for us in 2008, because we’ve shown we support them. And white people will vote for us because our guy isn’t black.


(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:11:18 disc 1 – 00:11:51 disc 1)
He recommends Gilliam because he has a secret plan beside it. He puts Mays Gilliam in 2004 presidential election so he can be a candidate in the 2008 presidential election. He puts Mays Gilliam, a black person, to get the minorities supports. He thinks that if the minorities happy they will vote them in 2008. He puts Mays Gilliam as a lost candidate so he can get supports from both white people and minority on the next presidential election.

“And white people will vote for us because our guy isn’t black,” Arnot states. From the sentence, it can be seen that Bill Arnot wants to be the next presidential candidate in 2008.

Apart from the antagonist character, there are some supporting characters that always help Mays Gilliam. They are Mitch Gilliam, Martin Geller and Debra Lassiter (Picture 3.7). Mitch Gilliam is Mays Gilliam’s brother. He is chosen as the Vice President by Mays Gilliam. He always gives courage and support to Mays Gilliam.

The next supporting characters are Martin Geller and Debra Lassiter. Martin Geller and Debra Lassiter are persons from the Democratic parties. In the beginning of the movie, they support Bill Arnot’s plan. Then, they realize Mays Gilliam’s efforts to make the United States of America better. Finally, they support and always help Mays Gilliam in the presidential campaign.
IV.1.1.2. Setting

In *Head of State* setting elements can be analyzed into three main elements that are place, time, and social.

a. Setting of Place

Since *Head of State* is a movie about presidential campaign and election, the movie takes many different places as the setting. Most of the settings are in Washington D.C. and Mays Gilliam’s campaign goes to some cities in America (Picture 4.1)
Picture 4.1 *Head of State* setting in several places in America: Washington D.C.; Memphis, Tennessee; Dallas, Texas; and in Chicago, Illinois.

b. **Setting of Time**

Time setting in the movie is about year of 2004, when the presidential election established. In the middle of the movie, it can be seen 9 weeks to Election Day Mays Gilliam’s Poll is in the bottom place (Picture 4.2). Mays Gilliam should do a hard work in a short time to get the supports from the American.
Picture 4.2 In the first picture we can see the year of 2004, when the presidential election established. In the second picture we can see 9 weeks to Election Day, the comparison of Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis Poll: Gilliam 9%, Lewis 91%

c. Setting of Social

The social setting in *Head of State* can be seen in many scenes. In the United States of America, minorities should get equal treatment from the president and the government. It is shown in Mays Gilliam’s presidential campaign. He comes to the specific place that is unusual to do a presidential campaign. For example, he comes to the childcare place, egg and milk factory until the gay place (Picture 4.3). It can be seen that Mays Gilliam is a protagonist who cares with the minority people.

Picture 4.3 Mays Gilliam goes to presidential campaign in the childcare place, egg and milk factory and the gay place.
In spite of the minority, the social setting can be seen from the main idea of the movie: how an African American man nominated as a presidential candidate. Mays Gilliam as a black man still gets some prejudices and stereotypes from the Americans. This is the strong social issues in *Head of State*.

### IV.1.1.3. Theme

*Head of State* is a comedy movie that has interesting and unusual theme. Comparing to other movies that bring political theme, *Head of State* is different since it is a movie about how an African American man can be the United States of America president.

The controlling idea in the movie is the efforts of Mays Gilliam to be a president. He is an African American man that often gets stereotype and prejudice from the people, especially from white people. Although he gets some stereotypes and prejudices from the society and people surround him, he keep tries to get supports from the American by doing various things in his own way.

### IV.1.1.4. Plot

Next, I will analyze the plot of the movie. The sequence of incidents or events in plot consists of exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, resolution. My plot analysis is based on Mays Gilliam role, the protagonist character.
a. Exposition

Exposition in *Head of State* can be seen in the beginning of the movie. The exposition is when Mays Gilliam is introduced as an alderman of the 9th Ward in Washington D.C.

Here is the introduction of Mays Gilliam in the beginning of the movie:

Gilliam : Hi, that’s me, Mays Gilliam, alderman of the 9th Ward of Washington, D.C. Not the part of D.C. you’re familiar with. I work in a neighborhood so bad, you can get shot while you’re getting shot. Around here when people have a problem, they don’t call the mayor, they call me.


(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:03:03 disc 1 – 00:03:18 disc 1)

From the introduction, it can be seen that Mays Gilliam is closed to the people in the 9th Ward. The people prefer to asking help from him rather than to the Mayor. In picture 5.1, Mays Gilliam introduces himself as an alderman of the 9th Ward in Washington D.C. He has been asked for a help to convince the people that will destroy Miss Pearl’s house, a woman in the 9th Ward.

(00.01.58 disc 1) (00.03.04 disc 1) (00.03.42 disc 1)

Picture 5.1 Mays Gilliam is introduced as an alderman of the 9th Ward in Washington D.C. and has been asked to help Miss Pearl
b. Rising Action

The rising action is when Mays Gilliam gets fired as the alderman of 9th Ward. It is because he tries to help Miss Pearl. Since he tries to help Miss Pearl, he makes the Mayor upset. The problem that Mays Gilliam did cost a lot of money and that makes the Mayor look bad. It makes Mays Gilliam feels bad and down.

In the same day, Mays Gilliam gets a surprise. He has been asked as a candidate for the presidential election. A man from the Democrat party, Martin Geller (Dylan Baker), picks him up to their office. In the office, Martin Geller and his mate, Debra Lassiter, try to convince Mays Gilliam. Mays Gilliam thinks that only a joke for the beginning. Then, Bill Arnot comes and asks him by himself. It makes Mays Gilliam agree to join the presidential election as the presidential candidate (Picture 5.2).

(00.14.46 disc 1)                (00.15.17 disc 1)                 (00.16.50 disc 1)

Picture 5.2 Mays Gilliam has been asked as the presidential candidate of United States of America

(00.14.46 disc 1)                (00.15.17 disc 1)                 (00.16.50 disc 1)
c. Climax

In *Head of State*, the climax is when Mays Gilliam gets a lot of distractions in his presidential campaign. Not only from his competitor Brian Lewis, but also from the people surround him. Brian Lewis always tries to stop and destroy Mays Gilliam in the presidential election. He does various things, like makes some commercial campaign with negative comments about Mays Gilliam.

Bill Arnot who recommends Mays Gilliam as the presidential candidate wants to stop Mays Gilliam too. He shares the bad things of Mays Gilliam. Mays Gilliam makes a joke about the gun using in the middle school. Another issue is when he was caught by a camera meeting his friend that is apparently a drug dealer leader. Debra Lassiter (Lynn Whitfield) finally tells Mays Gilliam about Bill Arnot’s secret plan. It makes Mays Gilliam feels disappointed and sad.

(Picture 5.3)

![Picture 5.3 Debra Lassiter tells Mays Gilliam about Bill Arnot’s secret plan](image-url)

(00.11.39 disc 2)  (00.11.47 disc 2)

Picture 5.3 Debra Lassiter tells Mays Gilliam about Bill Arnot’s secret plan
This is the Debra Lassiter’s confession:

Lassiter: Mays, you’re running for President of the United States of America. Do you have any idea why they chose you?

[Kamu ikut pemilihan Presiden Amerika Serikat. Apakah kamu tahu kenapa mereka memilihmu?]

You’re here to lose. Arnot picked you so you could lose.

[Kamu calon yang akan kalah. Arnot memakaimu karena kamu akan kalah.]

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:03:03 disc 1 – 00:03:18 disc 1)

After Mays Gilliam knows about Bill Arnot’s secret plan, he feels confused. It is not because he only thinks about himself, but he thinks about his whole race. He represents his whole race. If he quits from the presidential election, there will not be another black candidate for 50 years. In this climax part, Mays Gilliam gets many distractions from people around him. He tries to pull up himself and refuses to give up.

d. Falling Action

The falling action is when Brian Lewis accepts Mays Gilliam’s offer to debate. In the debate, we can see how the personality and mission of each candidate. Both of them have different point of view.

In the Election Day, Mays Gilliam feels worried about something. He thinks about the shutdown of the bus services. He decides to ride the bus for the people who need it. It is makes Brian Lewis feels very angry. He is afraid about Mays Gilliam’s act will make the vote goes to Gilliam. While Mays Gilliam busy with the bus service, the polling goes very tight. Thus, Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis wait the decision in the evening.
e. Resolution

The resolution of *Head of State* is when Mays Gilliam finally wins the presidential election. All the news programs show the decision of 2004 Presidential Election. Mays Gilliam becomes the first black American president in the United States of America (Picture 5.4).

(00.37.36 disc 2) (00.38.44 disc 2) (00.40.44 disc 2)

Picture 5.4 In the first picture, it can be seen that all the news programs show the presidential election’s decision. In the second picture, it can be seen that Mays Gilliam and his party are happy with the victory. In the last picture, it can be seen that Mays Gilliam as the first black American president, accompanied by Lisa Clark, his spouse.

IV.1.1.5. Conflict

There are several interesting conflicts that can be analyzed in *Head of State* movie. In *Head of State* the conflicts can be analyzed into three types, man against man, man against environment and man against himself.

First, I will analyze the *man against man* conflict. In picture 6.1, we can see Mays Gilliam in *man against man* conflict. In the beginning of the movie, Mays Gilliam is called to help Miss Pearl when she wants to take her cat before
her house is destroyed. He tries to convince the man and police that will destroy Miss Pearl’s house.

Another *man against man* conflict can be seen when Mays Gilliam competes with his competitor in presidential election, Brian Lewis. There are some actions acted by one to each other. For example when Brian Lewis tries to make Mays Gilliam lost in the election. He makes a commercial campaign that shows Mays Gilliam as a failure candidate. If people in the United States of America choose Gilliam, the United States of America will destroy. People have to choose Lewis if they don’t want that happened (Picture 6.2).

![Picture 6.1 (00.03.37 disc 1)](image1)

(00.40.04 disc 1)  (00.40.08 disc 1)  (00.40.19 disc 1)

**Picture 6.2** The commercial campaign that depict White House as the United States of America. It will destroy if people choose Mays Gilliam so people should
choose Lewis instead of Gilliam. In the picture, the scenes are using extreme close up. Extreme close up is a framing technique that isolates and magnifies an object.

Another example of Brian Lewis efforts to make Mays Gilliam lost is when he makes another commercial campaign related about cancer. The commercial shows Mays Gilliam supports the cancer. It is because Mays Gilliam absent on the campaign about cancer (Anti-Cancer Rally). (Picture 6.3)

(00.42.34 disc 1)                  (00.42.39 disc 1)                 (00.42.42 disc 1)

Picture 6.3 The commercial campaign shows Mays Gilliam supports the cancer

The climax of man against man conflicts can be seen in the debate between Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis (Picture 6.4).

(00.27.05 disc 2)                  (00.28.48 disc 2)                 (00.29.18 disc 2)

Picture 6.4 The debate between Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis
These are some parts of Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis’s closing speech in the debate:

Lewis: Tonight you have seen two different men, with two different points of view, battle to win your vote. And this is what America is all about.
As we’ve seen tonight, Alderman Gilliam can be captivating and entertaining. But America needs more than that from its Commander in Chief.
To lead America, it takes experience. Now, I’ve been Vice President for the last eight years. I’m a war hero and I’m Sharon Stone’s cousin.
And to me, America is like a fine performance car. And now is not the time, to turn this fine vehicle we call America, over to the hands of an amateur.
I’m Brian Lewis, and I am your last chance.
God bless America, and no place else.

Gilliam: How can you help the poor if you never been poor? How can you stop crime if you don’t know no criminals? How you can make drug policy if you never smoked a chronic? How can you do that? Just a nickel bag!
I’m a real American. I’ve been high, I’ve been robbed, I’ve been broke. My credit is horrible! They won’t even take my cash!
You’re always talking about, “God bless America, and no place else.” But isn’t it obvious that God has blessed America?
How about “God bless Haiti” or “God bless Africa”? How about “God bless Jamaica”? I’m not talking about Jamaica, the beach tribes you all love. I’m talking about stabbing Jamaica. That’s what I’m talking about.
So tonight I want to say: “God bless America, and everybody else!” The whole world! God bless you!
I’m Mays Gilliam, and I’m running for President of the United States of America.

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:27:10 disc 2 – 00:30:58 disc 2)

Each one has different speech. Brian Lewis states that America cannot be lead by an amateur. America needs more than that. America should choose him.
He has more experiences than Mays Gilliam. He has been a Vice President for the last eight years and he is a war hero.
However, Mays Gilliam says the opposite thing. He says that he is only a real American. “How can you help the poor if you never been poor?” he states in the closing speech above. Mays Gilliam wants to make a statement that to be great president and help the poor, the candidates should know how the poor itself. In the end, Mays Gilliam gets a lot of applause from the debate’s audience.

Next is **man against society** conflicts. It can be seen when Mays Gilliam gets stereotype and prejudice from the people. The stereotype and prejudice towards Mays Gilliam as a black man will be analyzed deeper in the extrinsic section.

In the picture 6.5, we can see that Mays Gilliam gets stereotypes from the people. It is because his joke about the gun using in the middle school. Another issue is when he was caught by a camera meeting his friend that is apparently a drug dealer leader. All the issues are wrong because Mays Gilliam only joking and not really know about his drugs dealer leader friend.

![Image of Mays Gilliam with title “Bad Man of the Year”](image1)

(00.10.41 disc 2)  (00.10.50 disc 2)

Picture 6.5 Mays Gilliam gets stereotypes and prejudices from the society. In the first picture, he appears in a magazine with title “Bad Man of the Year”, the
second picture is when Mays Gilliam’s bus is thrown by the angry people with eggs.

The last conflict is man against himself. In Head of State, Mays Gilliam fights against himself related to hesitation. He hesitates if he can run the nomination of the United States president when people try to make him down. It can be seen in the picture 6.6, when Mays Gilliam calls Lisa Clark. After calling her, Mays Gilliam feels relieved and keeps going in the presidential election.

![Picture 6.6 Mays Gilliam calls Lisa Clark about his hesitation and sadness.](image)

(00.10.41 disc 2) (00.10.41 disc 2)

Picture 6.6 Mays Gilliam calls Lisa Clark about his hesitation and sadness.

These are some parts of Mays Gilliam and Lisa Clark’s conversation:

**Gilliam** : You up? [Kamu belum tidur?]

**Lisa Clark** : I was hoping you’d call. Are you okay? [Aku baru saja berharap kamu akan menelepon. Kamu baik-baik saja?]

**Gilliam** : I don’t’ know. I guess I’m all right. [Entahlah. Kurasa aku baik-baik saja].

**Lisa Clark** : Come on, talk to Mama. [Ayolah, bicara ke Mama.]

**Gilliam** : I don’t know. It seems like they’re trying to get me. Everywhere I turn, they’re trying to put a foot in my ass. [Entahlah. Sepertinya mereka berusaha menghancurkan aku. Secara teratur dan terus menerus mereka selalu berusaha mengalahkan aku.]

**Lisa Clark** : After what you said, you need a foot put up in your ass. What did you expect? They would just make you President?
[Setelah yang kamu bilang tadi, mereka selalu berusaha mengalahkan kamu. Apa yang kamu harapkan? Bahwa mereka akan menjadikanmu Presiden?]

Gilliam: They take a poll for everything I do.

[Mereka mengadakan jajak pendapat untuk setiap tindakanku.]

Lisa Clark: You ever been to a horserace? My dad used to take me when I was little. The horses wear blinders. They don’t even see each other. They just run their race. So don’t worry about Lewis, don’t worry about the press. Just run your race.


(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:13:36 disc 2 – 00:14:18 disc 2)

From the conversations, we can see Mays Gilliam’s hesitation and sadness. He feels sad and worried when people always try to make him down.

Lisa Clark says that Mays Gilliam should not worry about everything. He just needs to run his race. After calling her, Mays Gilliam feels relieved and keeps going in the presidential election.

IV.2. EXTRINSIC ELEMENTS OF THE MOVIE

Next, the writer wants to analyze the extrinsic elements of the movie. Extrinsic elements are also known as extrinsic factors that influence the literary works. Since the analysis is from a movie, the extrinsic elements are related to the main idea of the movie.

The main idea of Head of State movie is about how an African American can be a president of the United States. Mays Gilliam, as the protagonist character, is an African American man. According to this main idea, we can analyze several topics towards Mays Gilliam.
IV.2.1 Stereotypes and Prejudices happen towards Mays Gilliam

Mays Gilliam, the protagonist in the movie, takes the main role of the story. He is an African American man nominated as a candidate for the United States of America president. African American is considered as minority in the American social structure. Since African American is considered as minority in America, Mays Gilliam often gets some racial discrimination like prejudices and stereotypes from the people and environment surround him.

In the process of Mays Gilliam’s presidential campaign, there are stereotypes and prejudices happen towards him. The first topic that the writer wants to analyze is how stereotypes and prejudices happen towards Mays Gilliam, a black American.

As a black American presidential candidate, Mays Gilliam gets a lot of stereotypes from the Americans. Stereotype is a simplified picture that comes to mind when thinking about a particular social group. We can see the stereotype towards Mays Gilliam in the middle of the movie (Picture 7.1).

Picture 7.1 Brian Lewis, Mays Gilliam’s competitor, finally realizes who Mays Gilliam is
Brian Lewis is very angry when he knows about Mays Gilliam. He does not want lose from an African American man like him. Here are some parts of Brian Lewis’s conversation with his assistant:

Lewis      : This is my time. I’ve been Vice President for eight years. I’m a war hero, and I am Sharon Stone’s cousin! And I’ll be damned if I’m going to let my election be ruined by this asshole! I want this guy done. You hear me? Finish him!

Lewis’s Assistant : He will be destroyed, sir, as you wish.

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:39:42 disc 1 – 00:40:01 disc 1)

From the conversation, we can see that Brian Lewis asks his assistant to stop and destroy Mays Gilliam. He thinks that he has more experiences than Mays Gilliam. Brian Lewis, as a white man, feels irritated being compared with a black man like Mays Gilliam. He wants to make Mays Gilliam lose as badly as he can.

Then, Brian Lewis makes some commercial campaign that brings negative assumption about Mays Gilliam. These negative assumptions can be said as the stereotypes. The first commercial campaign is when Brian Lewis makes the commercial campaign using the White House (Picture 7.2).
Picture 7.2 The commercial campaign that depict White House as the United States.

In the first picture, we can see the White House in a peaceful condition. In the second picture, we can see the White House explode. This is the condition when people choose Mays Gilliam as the President. Therefore, in the last picture, people are convinced to choose Brian Lewis as the President. Brian Lewis is the Americans last chance if they do not want the United States destroyed by an African American candidate like Mays Gilliam.

Another stereotypes issue is when Brian Lewis makes another commercial campaign related about Cancer (Picture 7.3). The commercial shows Mays Gilliam supports the cancer. It is because Mays Gilliam absent on the campaign about cancer (Anti-Cancer Rally).

Picture 7.3 The commercial campaign shows Mays Gilliam supports the cancer.
These are the comments in the commercial campaign:


(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:42:32 disc 1 – 00:42:45 disc 1)

From the comments in the commercial campaign, we can see that Brian Lewis makes a bad stereotype about Mays Gilliam. He wants to make people think that Mays Gilliam is an African American that supports the cancer. From this analysis, we can see that Mays Gilliam gets many stereotypes from his competitor, Brian Lewis.

The other stereotype issue towards Mays Gilliam is when Mays Gilliam debate with Debra Lassiter. Debra Lassiter calls him as “an ignorant nigger”. It can be said as the assumption that all the black Americans are dumb and lack of intelligence.

Here are some parts of the debate between Mays Gilliam and Debra Lassiter:

Lassiter: If they had any idea, they could win this thing, do you think they would have chosen an ignorant-ass nigger like you? [Bila mereka berharap bahwa mereka dapat memenangkan ini, kau pikir mereka akan memilih seorang kulit hitam yang bodoh seperti kamu?]

Gilliam: Wait up. You’re not calling me an ignorant nigger, and thinking you’re staying on my bus. [Tunggu dulu. Aku tahu kamu tidak menyebutku, seorang kulit hitam yang dangu, dan berharap kamu akan tetap di sini.]
Lassiter : I am not getting off this bus. We’re in the middle of nowhere..
(Aku tidak akan turun dari bis ini. Kita berada entah dimana.)
Gilliam : Now you need a ride from an ignorant nigger. [Kini kamu butuh tumpangan dari seorang orang hitam yang bodoh.]

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:12:08 disc 2 – 00:12:32 disc 2)

From the debate, it can be seen that Mays Gilliam feels angry being called as “an ignorant nigger”. He tells Debra Lassiter that she is on Mays Gilliam’s bus. He teases Debra Lassiter. She is in a black American’s bus and she needs a ride from an ignorant nigger.

The next racial issue happens toward Mays Gilliam is prejudice. Basically, prejudice is the negative attitude toward members of a group. It can be seen in the beginning of the movie, when Bill Arnot recommends Mays Gilliam as the presidential candidate. In spite of recommends Mays Gilliam as the presidential candidate, Bill Arnot has a secret plan beside it.

These are some parts of Bill Arnot’s conversation about his secret plan:

Arnot : The United States is changing. America is changing. Inside of 20 years, you know the numbers. 20 percent black, 21 percent Asian, 39 percent Hispanic. The minorities will be the majority. The smartest thing we can do is be the first party to nominate a minority for President.
[Amerika Serikat sedang berubah. Dalam 20 tahun… Kamu tahu statistiknya. 20% kulit hitam, 21% ras Asia, 39% ras Hispanik. Warga kulit berwarna jadi mayoritas. Jalan terbaik yang dapat kita lakukan adalah menjadi partai pertama yang mencalonkan seorang kulit berwarna untuk jadi Presiden.]
Now, we’ll lose, of course, but the minorities will be happy. The minorities will be happy and they will vote for us in 2008, because we’ve shown we support them. And white people will vote for us because our guy isn’t black.
From the conversation, it can be seen that Bill Arnot assumes Mays Gilliam as a candidate that will lose. As an African American, Mays Gilliam will attract many supports from the minorities. The minorities will be happy and they will vote Bill Arnot as the next presidential candidate in 2008. This is a kind of negative attitude towards a black American. Bill Arnot exploits Mays Gilliam, an African American man, to fulfill Bill Arnot’s desire.

When prejudice occurs, stereotyping and discrimination may also result. In many cases, prejudices are based upon stereotypes. It can be seen in the picture 7.4.

In the picture 7.4, in the first picture, we can see the angry people throw Mays Gilliam’s bus with eggs. In the second and third picture, we can see the bad comments from the white American. The second picture shows a white man tells the people to make Mays Gilliam’s life as miserably as they can. The last picture shows a little white girl that angry with Mays Gilliam and she wants to shoot Mays Gilliam’s ass.
All these prejudices happen because the bad stereotype given by Bill Arnot. Bill Arnot shares the bad things about Mays Gilliam to the media (Picture 7.5). It is because Bill Arnot wants to stop Mays Gilliam as the presidential candidate. He feels that Mays Gilliam will make a risk to his plan.

Picture 7.5 In the first picture, the news program shows Mays Gilliam’s joke about the gun using in the middle school. In the second picture, the news program shows the issue when Mays Gilliam was caught by a camera meeting his friend that is apparently a drug dealer leader.

Since this issue, Mays Gilliam also gets stereotypes from the society. All the magazines show negative comments about Mays Gilliam that is definitely an African American man. It can be seen in the Picture 7.6.

Picture 7.6 The magazines show negative comments about Mays Gilliam.
In the first picture, the magazine says Mays Gilliam as the “Bad Man of the Year”. In the second picture, the magazine says Mays Gilliam, the “Ugliest Man in America”. In the last picture, a black American magazine says “Mays Gilliam, He’s a Half White!” The sentence shows the contradiction of stereotype from black people that hate Mays Gilliam. They say Mays Gilliam as a half white man. It is shown a fact that black people also stereotyping the white people.

To confront the stereotype and prejudice issues, Mays Gilliam refuses to give up. He keep tries his best to convince the Americans. In the end of the movie, finally he gets the top position as the first black American president by doing various things in his own way.

The social changes happen towards the American. In the beginning, they hate Mays Gilliam. Then, they support him to become the next America President. It can be concluded that in the *Head of State* movie, stereotypes and prejudices also influence the social changes in America.

### IV.2.2 The Social Changes in America as reflected in *Head of State* Movie

From the intrinsic analysis, we can understand the story of *Head of State* movie. The main idea of the story is how an African American man can be the first black American in the United States of America.

From the main idea, we can see that *Head of State* is a comedy movie that depicts the United States of America condition on that day. *Head of State* depicts the social changes happened in the United States, related to how an African American can be a president of the United States of America.
Mays Gilliam, the protagonist character in the movie, is an African American man. He is nominated as a candidate for the United States of America president. He gets a lot of prejudices and stereotypes from the Americans while he is doing the campaign.

It is reflected in Barack Obama’s presidential election. In Obama’s presidential campaign, stereotypes and prejudices also happens toward Barrack Obama. However, Barack Obama continues his campaign and he does various things in his own way to persuade the Americans. Finally, Barack Obama becomes the first black American president in the United States of America. Since Barack Obama becomes the first black American president, the social changes happen.

In *Head of State*, Mays Gilliam also does his campaign by his own way. Finally, he gets the top position as the first black American president. Since Mays Gilliam becomes the first black American president, the social changes happen in the movie. Thus, the social changes in the movie reflect the United States of America condition. Since of this topic, the writer wants to analyze the social changes happens in the movie as the reflection of the social changes in America.

In the beginning of the movie, Mays Gilliam’s rate is in the bottom place. Nine weeks to the Election Day Mays Gilliam’s Poll is in the bottom place. It can be seen in the Picture 8.1.
In the picture, we can see 9 weeks to Election Day, the comparison of Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis Poll: Gilliam 9%, Lewis 91%. It is because Mays Gilliam is a new presidential candidate. In spite of the fact that he is a black American candidate, people do not recognize and know about him.

Then, Mays Gilliam tries to get some supports from the Americans. He goes to several cities in United States and delivers speech there. During the campaign, he always gives some positive promises to the people. His rate in the Poll only increases 1 Point (Picture 8.2).

Mays Gilliam feels that his speech does not show about himself. He asks Debra Lassiter to make the relevant speech but she refuses it. Then, when Mays Gilliam delivers speech in Chicago, he speaks by his own way.
These are some parts of the Mays Gilliam’s speech in Chicago:

Gilliam: They had a speech written for me… about what the people need. But you guys are the people. You know what you need. Better schools. Better jobs. Less crime. How many of you, right now… work two jobs just to have enough money to be broke? That ain’t right. If you work two jobs, and at the end of the week… you got just enough money to get your broke ass home, let me hear you say, “That ain’t right!”

Audience: That ain't right!

Gilliam: How many of you have children that they call stupid? Don’t be ashamed! It ain’t your fault. I asked my niece the other day, “What’s four plus four?” She said “44.” But that ain’t her fault! That the school’s fault. If your child’s school has old ass books and brand new metal detectors, let me hear you say “That ain’t right!”

Audience: That ain't right!

Gilliam: How many of you work in a city, you can’t afford to live in? That ain’t right! How many of you work in a mall, you can’t afford to shop in? That ain’t right! How many of you clean up a hotel, you ain’t never gonna be able to stay in? That ain’t right! We got nurses that work in hospitals, they can’t ever afford to get sick in. It ain’t right! It isn’t right!

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:31:13 disc 1 – 00:33:49 disc 1)

From the speech, it can be seen that Mays Gilliam cares with the common and poor people. He talks about the economic problems that happened to the United States of America on that day. He says that many things are not right. The people do not get their right properly from the company, school or hospital either. Therefore, as a president candidate he wants to fix it by saying that all of things the Americans get is not right.
After his speech in Chicago, he decides to do the campaign by his own way. He changes his clothes into the casual clothes. He also changes his commercial campaign. He uses hip hop music and dance in the commercial campaign. Seven weeks to the Election Day, Mays Gilliam’s rate increases surprisingly. Mays Gilliam’s rate increases 15 points in the Poll (Picture 8.3).

**Picture 8.3** In the picture, it can be seen that 7 Weeks to Election Day, Mays Gilliam up 15 Points in the Polls

Realizes about it, Brian Lewis as the competitor feels angry. Bill Arnot also feels his plan become in danger. Brian Lewis and Bill Arnot try to stop and destroy Mays Gilliam. They make negative commercial campaign and share bad things about Mays Gilliam to the media. Since of this issue, Mays Gilliam gets stereotypes and prejudices from the Americans. Mays Gilliam’s rate decreases significantly.

Mays Gilliam refuses to give up. He thinks about his whole race. He represents his whole race. If he quits from the presidential election, there will not be another black candidate for 50 years. Then, he chooses Mitch Gilliam, his
brother, to become the Vice President. In the next days, they ask Brian Lewis to debate.

These are some part of Mays Gilliam’s speech in the debate between Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis:

Gilliam: How can you help the poor if you never been poor? How can you stop crime if you don’t know no criminals? How you can make drug policy if you never smoked a chronic? How can you do that? Just a nickel bag!

I’m a real American. I’ve been high, I’ve been robbed, I’ve been broke. My credit is horrible! They won’t even take my cash!

You’re always talking about, “God bless America, and no place else.” But isn’t it obvious that God has blessed America?

How about “God bless Haiti” or “God bless Africa”? How about “God bless Jamaica”? I’m not talking about Jamaica, the beach tribes you all love. I’m talking about stabbing Jamaica. That’s what I’m talking about.

So tonight I want to say: “God bless America, and everybody else!” The whole world! God bless you!

I’m Mays Gilliam, and I’m running for President of the United States of America.

(Head of State, Drew’s Script-O-Rama, 00:27:10 disc 2 – 00:30:58 disc 2)

Still, in the debate, Mays Gilliam cares about the common and poor people. He says that he is only a real American. “How can you help the poor if you never been poor?” he states in the closing speech above. Mays Gilliam wants to make a statement that to be great president and help the poor, the candidates should know how the poor itself. In the end, Mays Gilliam gets a lot of applause from the debate’s audience.

Before the debate, 1 week to Election Day, the comparison of Mays Gilliam and Brian Lewis Polls: Gilliam 41%, Lewis 59%. It can be seen in the Picture 8.4.
Mays Gilliam’s rate in the polls increases significantly shows the social changes in America. In the beginning, Mays Gilliam often gets stereotypes and prejudices from the people surround him. When he continues his campaign, he often talks about the economic problems that happened to the Americans.

Mays Gilliam states that to become a great president, the president candidate should know how the poor itself. It makes the Americans change their mind. Finally, in the end of the movie, Mays Gilliam wins the presidential election. He becomes the first black American president in the United States of America.

The social changes in the movie are the reflection of the social changes in the real context. In Barack Obama’s presidential election, the social changes happen when the Americans ignore the racial issues. They concern about the economic problems in the United States. The Americans think that Obama is qualified enough to solve the economic problems. The social changes among the Americans, out of the racial issues that happened during his campaign, have made him as the first black American president.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

*Head of State* is a comedy movie that depicts the social changes happened in the United States of America. Mays Gilliam, the protagonist in the movie, is an African American man. In *Head of State* Mays Gilliam gets a lot of prejudices and stereotypes from the Americans while he is doing the campaign.

When Mays Gilliam continues his campaign, he often talks about the economic problems that happened to the Americans. It makes the Americans change their mind. Finally, in the end of the movie, Mays Gilliam wins the presidential election. He becomes the first black American president in the United States of America.

The social changes in the movie are the reflection of the social changes in the real context. In Barack Obama’s presidential election, the social changes happen when the Americans ignore the racial issues. They also concern about the economic problems in the United States of America. The social changes among the Americans, out of the racial issues that happened during his campaign, have made Barack Obama as the first black American president.

In conclusion, *Head of State* reflects the social changes in America by showing the prejudices and stereotypes towards the leading character, Mays Gilliam, in the beginning of the movie. However, he refuses to give up. Then, he continues his campaign by doing various things in his own way until finally he becomes the first black American president.
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