



**GORDON ALLPORT'S ACTING OUT  
PREJUDICE SHOWN IN AVA DUVERNAY'S  
*SELMA* FILM**

**A THESIS**

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree  
Majoring American Cultural Studies in English Department  
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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## **PRONOUNCEMENT**

The writer honestly confirms that she compiles this thesis by herself and without taking any results from other researchers in S-1, S-2, S-3 and diploma degree of any university. The writer ascertains also that she does not quote any material from other publications except from the reference mentioned.

Semarang, 2019

Maureen Adhiba Yudith El Arba

## **MOTTO AND DEDICATION**

*Respond to every call that excites your spirit.*

**Jalaluddin Rumi**

*There are far, far better things ahead than any we leave behind.*

**C. S. Lewis**

*This paper is dedicated to*

*My beloved family and*

*To everyone who helped me accomplish this paper.*

**APPROVAL**  
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I realize that this thesis is still far from perfect. I, therefore will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and recommendation to make this thesis better.

Finally, I expect that this thesis will be useful to the reader who wishes to learn something about African-American racial discrimination.

Semarang, 2019

Maureen Adhiba Yudith El Arba

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## ABSTRACT

Before the Voting Right Act was enacted, the Black people in the United States were not allowed to vote. However, the struggle to have Voting Right Act enacted by President Lyndon Johnson was a long process. One of a person who contributes a lot in this process is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who led the diplomatic discussions and peaceful protests demanding the voting rights the Black people deserve. The struggle of his and many other Black people beside him is brought to a film titled *Selma*. *Selma* is a film directed by Ava DuVernay telling the struggle of Black people in fighting the racial discrimination. The writer applies the library research method in collecting the data used to support the analysis. This thesis aims to analyze the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the film. The intrinsic elements cover the narrative and cinematography aspects. Furthermore, the extrinsic element includes the acting out prejudice aspects. The extrinsic analysis is based on Gordon Allport's acting out prejudice theory. There are five aspects involved in the acting out prejudice; antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack, extermination. Based on the theory, the writer finds that there are only the antilocution, avoidance, discrimination and physical attack aspects in the film. The writer does not find the extermination aspects shown in the film.

**Keywords:** *Selma*, acting out prejudice, Gordon Allport, racism, discrimination

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background of the Study

America is known as the land of the free and it is what attracts many immigrants to move to America. However, it is contrast with the reality. America has a long history of slavery violating the rights of Black people. Then, even though slavery and segregation had been abolished yet the struggle in fighting for their rights as human was a long process. In Selma, the Blacks were not allowed to vote. In the process, they were given several nonsense questions where if they failed to answer then their application to vote is denied. The reason behind this racism goes back to the Civil War era. Civil War in the United States was between people in the north of United States against people in the south. The war happened because people in the south did not want to abolish slavery where people in the north were intended to. However, in the end the North won and slavery was banned throughout the United States.

People in the South did not want the slavery to be banned. However, after the losing the war, the South needed to abolish slavery as well. For slavery had been eradicated throughout the United States, it makes everyone in the United States are equal as for they are all humans. Another problem comes from this. For the people in the south especially the Whites still wanted to be superior to the Blacks, therefore they created the Jim Crow Laws which allow the segregation and keep the Whites to not associate with the Blacks. Other than segregation,

there are many discrimination violating the human rights of the Blacks in the United States. These phenomena evoke many Black people fighting for their rights, one of the movement in fighting for the rights of the Black is done by Martin Luther King. The story where he and others in his team struggle in fighting for the rights of the Black are brought into a film titled *Selma*.

*Selma* is a historical drama film about the protest led by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. as they marched from Selma, to Montgomery to fight for their civil rights to vote in the Alabama State (King, 2015). The reason behind this march is the racial discrimination in voting. Even though the segregation has been abolished and the racial discrimination act also has been forbidden, yet somehow people of color in Alabama State are being troubled to register themselves as voter. The film was released in 2014 and it was directed by Ava DuVernay. Later on the film is nominated for Best Picture category in Academy Awards [ CITATION Kin15 \l 1033 ].

In this thesis, the writer focuses on analyzing the racism which are shown in the film. The racism acts are done toward people of color in the Alabama State. In analyzing the film the writer applies the theory from Gordon Allport in his book “The Nature of Prejudice”. In this book, he defines prejudice as “an avertive or hostile attitude towards a person who belongs to a group, simply because he belongs to that group, and is therefore presumed to have objectionable qualities ascribed to the group” [CITATION All54 \p 7 \n \t \l 1033 ]. He states that “any negative attitude tends somehow, somewhere, to express itself in action”[CITATION All54 \p 14 \n \t \l 1033 ]. The acting out prejudice theory

which is applied in this thesis is a scale of negative attitude which consists of 5 levels. Those are antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack, and the last one is extermination.

### **1.2. Scope of the Study**

In this thesis the writer focuses in the acting out prejudice shown in the *Selma* film along with the analysis of intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the film.

### **1.3. Purpose of the Study**

1. To explore the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the film
2. To investigate prejudice towards the Black people shown in *Selma* film.

#### 1.4. Previous Studies

There are several previous studies related to the prejudice and the film *Selma*. The first one is about the Theology of Voting Rights in Ava DuVernay. The research is conducted by Marcos Norris. In his journal, he criticizes the way Ava DuVernay, the director, presenting the character of President Lyndon B. Johnson. He argues that DuVernay creates a conflict between Martin Luther King, Jr. and President Lyndon Johnson in the film which was non-existence in the past [ CITATION Nor16 \l 1033 ].

The second article focuses on how Ava DuVernay retells the history into the film. The article is written by Brianna Arney. She argues that Ava DuVernay has brought historical accuracy in the film in a way that is artistic and entertaining [ CITATION Arn17 \l 1033 ]. She states that DuVernay captures the injustice and violence that is done to the people of color in the “Bloody Sunday” accurately.

The gap between those previous studies and this thesis is that the analyses from Norris and Arney focus on the way Ava DuVernay brings the history in to the film *Selma*. As for this thesis, the writer focuses on pointing out several racism acts toward Black people that is shown in the film *Selma*.



## **1.5. Methods of the Study**

### **1.5.1. Method of Research**

In this thesis, the writer uses the library research method in collecting the data needed to analyze the acting out prejudice in the film *Selma*. According to Dorsen, library research is “methods of data collection that don’t involve contacts between the researcher and subject” [ CITATION Dor05 \l 1057 ]. Therefore, the study uses the secondary sources such as contemporary records, archival and historical records, and physical traces [CITATION Dor05 \p 154 \n \t \l 1033 ]. Moreover, the data used in this thesis are obtained from the film, books, journal and the internet. There are two different types of data. First, the primary data are taken from the film. Furthermore, secondary data are taken from script, article, book and journal which are related to the theory and the film as the object of the study.

### **1.5.2. Method of Approach**

In analyzing the intrinsic elements, the writer uses the exponential approach. As for analyzing the extrinsic elements of the film, the writer applies the sociological approach. X. J. Kennedy and Dana Gioia state, “Sociological criticism examines literature in the cultural, economic and political context in which it is written or received.”[ CITATION Ken95 \l 1033 ]. In order to analyze the acting out prejudice shown in the film *Selma* the writer uses the theory from Gordon Allport based on his book titled “The Nature of Prejudice”.

## 1.6. Organization of Writing

### CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of 5 sub chapters which are background of study, the scope of the study, the purpose of the study, previous studies and the last one is organization of writing.

### CHAPTER II SYNOPSIS AND DIRECTOR OF THE FILM

In this chapter the writer explains the summary of the movie and also a brief biography of the director.

### CHAPTER III THEORETICAL REVIEW

This chapter consists of theories which are used to analyze the film

### CHAPTER IV ANALYSIS

In this chapter, both intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the film are discussed.

### CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

This chapter consists of conclusion from all elements that have been discussed in the previous chapter.

## CHAPTER 2

### SYNOPSIS AND DIRECTOR OF THE FILM

#### 2.1. Synopsis of the Film

The story starts with the acceptance speech from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for his Nobel Peace Prize then the highlight of the church bombing in Birmingham which kills 4 innocent girls. Then the story goes on with the story of Anna Cooper whose right to vote is denied by the registrar. She registers herself to vote in the state of Alabama but the registrar asks her several questions as qualification. She was asked about the preamble and the number of county judges in Alabama State which she is able to answer but she fails to name them all. These so called qualify question are asked in order to trouble her to register.

Then, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. speaks to President Lyndon B. Johnson. Dr. King asks for the federal legislation to protect the rights to vote for people of color in America but the President says that he cannot pass such law in recent days because it is not in his priority list. Because of that, Dr. King decides to go to Selma for arranging a march. The first agenda of demonstration act is done in the front of Courthouse which ends up with his arrest. While he is in the prison, several members of his try to demonstrate again called the night march but somehow end up with the murder of Jimmy Lee.

After that, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. along with Southern Christian Leadership Conference arrange their first march on Selma. However, when they

arrive at the Edmund Pettus Bridge, there are many State Troopers wearing gas mask and also Sheriffs on the other side of the bridge. They command the protesters to go back to their homes or their churches but the peaceful protesters just stand still in their position. The protesters are given 2 minutes to do the command but when the time is up the State Troopers start to disperse the protesters. The State Trooper beat the unarmed civilian in order to disperse them. The incident is aired on television and media all over America.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. uses the moment of this brutal attack against the peaceful protesters to ask other fellow Americans who are concern with this issue to join the march along with their brothers and sisters in Selma. Many people from outside Alabama State are coming to Selma to join the march. Then the second march is done. In the process, when they arrive at Edmund Pettus Bridge, they are met with State Troopers on the other side of the bridge. However, they are allowed to pass through the guard. But, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. kneels down and prays. After that he turns around and goes back to Selma without continuing the march. Then, the march is brought down to the court. In the case of *SCLC v. The State of Alabama*, the judge allows the long march to continue without any resistance from the State Troopers.

After getting the permit, the long march finally begins from Selma to Montgomery. People from all over America are coming to join this long march. In the end, President Lyndon B. Johnson passes the law which ensures the equality of voting rights called the Voting Right Act which enacted in 1965. Therefore, people of color are free to use their Voting Rights ever since.

## 2.2. Biography of the Director

Ava DuVernay is an American director. She has been nominated for Academy Awards and won several awards from Emmy, BAFTA and Peabody Awards [CITATION Ava18 \l 1033 ]. She is a University of California, Los Angeles graduate and she majored in English and African-American Studies [ CITATION Fri15 \l 1033 ]. She is the first black woman to win the best director prize in Sundance, she is also the first black woman to be nominated for best director in Golden Globe and to have her film nominated in the Academy Awards [ CITATION Edg18 \l 1033 ]. Before becoming a director, she was a movie publicist[ CITATION Ric12 \l 1033 ]. Beside *Selma*, she also has directed several other works namely *A Wrinkle in Time*, *13<sup>th</sup>*, and also television series *Scandal*[CITATION Ava181 \l 1033 ].

## CHAPTER 3

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In analyzing the discrimination issue shown in the film *Selma*, the writer focuses on the discussion of the intrinsic and extrinsic elements of the movie. Intrinsic elements of the film that are included in this thesis consist of narrative elements and cinematography of the film. On the other hand, extrinsic element is about the external aspect outside the film.

#### 3.1. Narrative Elements

In his book titled *A Handbook to Literature*, Holman defines narrative as “An account in prose or verse of an actual or fictional event or a sequence of such events...” [CITATION Hol36 \p 336 \n \t \l 1033 ]. Narrative elements are included in intrinsic aspect of a film. It functions to build up the story. It plays an important role in helping the viewers to understand a literary work. Narrative elements of a film consist of character, plot, setting, theme and etc.

##### 3.1.1. Character and Characterization

In this thesis, character is divided into 2 groups; major and minor character. According to Holman, character is a short illustration of a figure in a literary work that represents several qualities [CITATION Hol36 \l 1033 ]. In analyzing the character in the film, the writer will use the theory from Holman. He defined characterization as “The creation of images of these imaginary persons so credible that they exist for the reader as real within the limits of the

fiction”[CITATION Hol36 \p 91 \n \t \l 1033 ]. He argues that there are three ways of the writer to present a character:

“(1) the explicit presentation by the author of the character through direct EXPOSITION, either in introductory block or more often piece-meal throughout the work, illustrated by action; (2) the presentation of character in action, with little or no explicit comment by the author, in the expectation that the reader will be able to deduce the attributes of the actor from the action; and (3) the representation from within a character by the author...” [CITATION Hol36 \p 91 \n \t \l 1033 ].

### **3.1.2. Setting**

Holman defines setting as, “The physical, and sometimes spiritual, background against which the action of a narrative” [CITATION Hol36 \p 491 \n \t \l 1033 ]. Further, he states that setting covers several aspects such as setting of place, setting of time and also setting of general environment of such narrative [CITATION Hol36 \p 491 \n \t \l 1033 ]. Setting of place includes the geographical location, while setting of time is when the story or action takes place and setting of general environment is the situation atmosphere at such narrative [CITATION Hol36 \t \l 1033 ].

### **3.1.3. Conflict**

As stated in Holman’s book, conflict is a growing struggle from the influence of two contradictory forces in a plot [CITATION Hol36 \t \l 1033 ]. Conflict functions as an element which makes the narrative interesting. There are 4 types of conflict according to Holman. The first one is between character and nature; the second one is between character and other character; the third type of conflict is contradictory forces between character and the society and the last one

is the conflict within the character itself [CITATION Hol36 \t \l 1033 ]. Conflict between character and nature, conflict between character and other character, and conflict between character and society include in external conflict. Furthermore, the conflict within the character itself includes in internal conflict.

### 3.2. Cinematography Elements

Blain Brown defines cinematography as "...the process of taking ideas, words, actions, emotional subtext, tone and all other forms of non-verbal communication and rendering them in visual term" [CITATION Bro \t \l 1033 ]. Cinematography aspects that are used in analyzing the film *Selma* are camera shots and camera angles.

#### 3.2.1. Camera Shots

According to Blain Brown, there are several types of camera shot based on film structure such as Long Shot, Medium and Close Up Shot [CITATION Bro \p 9 \n \t \l 1033 ].

##### a. Long Shot



Picture 3-1. Long Shot



([https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video\\_course/video\\_course\\_notes\\_2.htm](https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm))

Long Shot is where the frame covers the entire scene [CITATION Bro \p 9 \n \t \l 1033 ]. This technique is used to indicate where the story takes place and show the surrounding. This technique gives the audience much information regarding the narrative.

b. Medium Shot



Mid Shot (MS)

Picture 3-2. Medium Shot

([https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video\\_course/video\\_course\\_notes\\_2.htm](https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm))

In this technique the framing is closer the Long Shot. It usually covers a subject from waist up [CITATION Bro \p 11 \n \t \l 1033 ].

c. Close Up Shot



Close-up (CU)

Picture 3-3. Close Up Shot

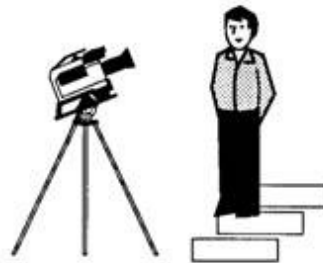
([https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video\\_course/video\\_course\\_notes\\_2.htm](https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm))

This technique of camera shooting only shows a subject from neck up in the frame [CITATION Bro \p 12 \n \t \l 1033 ].

### 3.2.2. Camera Angles

Camera angle is the position of the camera when the scene is taken. There are 3 types of camera angle. Those are low angle, high angle, and also eye level[CITATION Bro \p 56 \n \t \l 1033 ].

#### a. Low Angle



Picture 3-4. Low Angle

([https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video\\_course/video\\_course\\_notes\\_2.htm](https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm))

Low-Angle is where the camera brings the perspective as is the viewers are looking up at to the framed material. It creates an atmosphere where the subject framed tends to look more dominant[CITATION Bro \p 58 \n \t \l 1033 ].

#### b. High Angle

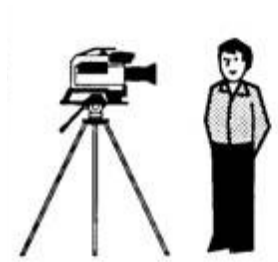


Picture 3-5. High Angle

([https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video\\_course/video\\_course\\_notes\\_2.htm](https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm))

“... high angles looking down on subject reveal overall layout and scope in the case of landscape, streets or buildings” [CITATION Bro \p 57 \n \t \l 1033 ]. In high angles, the camera position is above the framed subject. This technique is suitable to capture an expository shot where the audience needs to know several things about the layout[CITATION Bro \p 57 \n \t \l 1033 ].

c. Eye Level Angle



Picture 3-6. Eye Level Angle

([https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video\\_course/video\\_course\\_notes\\_2.htm](https://www.lesliewand.com.au/video_course/video_course_notes_2.htm))

In his book, Blain Brown argues that “As a general rule, dialog and most “ordinary” shots are done at the eye level of the actors involved” [CITATION Bro \p 56 \n \t \l 1033 ]. In this technique, the camera positions at the same level of the subject captured.

### 3.2.3. Sound

According to Bordwell and Thompson, elements that are contained in sound are speech, music and noise or sound effect [CITATION Bor10 \p 482 \n \t \l 1033 ]. In this thesis, the writer only analyzes the film through the dialogue.

#### 3.2.3.1. Dialogue

Bordwell and Thompson state that sounds function as the guide for the viewers [CITATION Bor10 \t \l 1033 ]. Moreover they define dialogue as “... a transmitter of story information, usually recorded and reproduced for maximum clarity” [CITATION Bor10 \p 483 \n \t \l 1033 ]. Therefore, dialogue plays an important part in a film to help the audiences understand the storyline of the film.

#### **3.2.4. Mise En Scene**

Mise en scene or in other words “everything that appears in the scene”, has many aspects such as the properties, costumes, and also make up of the actors [ CITATION Bor10 \l 1033 ].

### **3.3. Theory of Acting Out Prejudice**

In a book titled “The Nature of Prejudice” Gordon Allport defines prejudice as “an avertive or hostile attitude toward a person who belongs to a group, simply because he belongs to that group, and is therefore presumed to have the objectionable qualities ascribed to the group” [CITATION All54 \p 7 \n \t \l 1033 ]. Prejudice is feeling within a person, however the acting out prejudice happens when that feelings are converted into actions. It needs to be underlined that the acting out prejudice is based on race. Furthermore, he explains a scale of acting out prejudice which consists of five types of racism [ CITATION All54 \l 1033 ]. Those racism acts begins with prejudice. The scale is known for Allport’s Scale of Prejudice which consists of antilocution or verbal rejection, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack and extermination.

### 3.3.1. Antilocution

Gordon Allport states that antilocution occurs when a person talk about the prejudice she or he may have. Moreover, he argues that “with like-minded friends, occasionally with stranger, they may express their antagonism freely” [CITATION All54 \p 14 \n \t \l 1033 ]. The negative image or words can be given to friends or even strangers whether in the intention of joking or being serious. In other words, antilocution only occurs verbally. Thus, antilocution is in the lowest scale of Allport’s Prejudice Scale.

### 3.3.2. Avoidance

The next level in the scale is avoidance. Allport explains that avoidance occurs “If the prejudice is more intense, it leads the individual to avoid members of the disliked group, even perhaps at the cost of considerable inconvenience” [CITATION All54 \p 14 \n \t \l 1033 ]. In this level of acting out prejudice, there is only small chance of physical harm towards the member of disliked group. For he explains further in the book that “..., the bearer of prejudice does not directly inflict harm upon the group he dislike. He takes the burden of accommodation and withdrawal entirely upon himself” [CITATION All54 \p 14 \n \t \l 1033 ]. For instance, avoidance happens when a person or a group choose to not crossing the crossroad because they are avoiding a member of other group.

### 3.3.3. Discrimination

Then, the next level of acting out prejudice is discrimination. According to Allport, discrimination occurs when:

“... the prejudiced person makes detrimental distinction of an active sort. He undertakes to exclude all members of the group in question of certain types of employment, from residential housing, political rights, educational or recreational opportunities, churches, hospitals, or from some other social privileges”[CITATION All54 \p 15 \n \t \l 1033 ].

Later on he also states that segregation includes in the institutionalized discrimination [CITATION All54 \t \l 1033 ]. Institutionalized discrimination, according to Feagin and Eckberg is an organizationally arranged action that intentionally make a different and damaging effect on a particular group [ CITATION Fea80 \l 1033 ]. Moreover, to simplify it, discrimination happens when the rights of people is denied by other group [ CITATION All54 \l 1033 ].

In addition, the writer refers the definition of rights to what was written in the Bill of Rights. In America the civil rights have been guaranteed in the form of Bill of Rights. It is the first 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment of Constitution which consist of several American’s right such as the rights to speak. The first amendment of Bill of Rights is:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances” [ CITATION The18 \l 1033 ].

This amendment guarantees the rights of people to speak, assembly, and practice their beliefs accordance to their religions. This First Amendment covers the fundamental rights of people. Therefore, discrimination comes about when these activities are prohibited or disturbed by others.

For an instance, discrimination occurs when the political rights of individuals is denied by others. Everyone who is met the requirements to vote

should be allowed to vote. In the United States, the requirements to vote is the person must be a United States citizen who is aged 18 [ CITATION USA18 \l 1033 ]. If the person is met that requirements therefore his or hers political rights should be granted. That person must be allowed to vote regardless their race, sex or religion.

#### **3.3.4. Physical Attack**

After discrimination, the scale of acting out prejudice rises into physical attack. According to Allport “Under condition of heightened emotion prejudice may lead to acts of violence or semiviolence” [CITATION All54 \p 58 \n \t \l 1033 ]. However, before the physical attack happens to there are several steps that have made the way for violence to break out [CITATION All54 \t \l 1033 ]. Some of the steps are that there have been long period of prejudgment and growing discrimination [CITATION All54 \t \l 1033 ].

#### **3.3.5. Extermination**

. Extermination is an act of mass killing towards a particular group of people. It is the final stage in the scale of acting out prejudice. Gordon Allport states that “Lynching, pogroms, massacre and the Hitlerian program of genocide mark the ultimate degree of violent expression of prejudice” [CITATION All54 \p 15 \n \t \l 1033 ]. Therefore, extermination is the last step in the acting out prejudice scale. There are several steps before extermination finally happens. For example, there is an important condition that supports the extermination that is a low level of law enforcement in the society [CITATION All54 \t \l 1033 ]. This

low level of law enforcement allows the prejudiced people to act this way. It gives the prejudice feelings the gap to slip through into an expression of violent act.



## CHAPTER 4

### ANALYSIS

#### 4.1. Narrative Elements

##### 4.1.1. Characters

In this film, the characters are divided into two categories which are major and minor characters.

##### 4.1.1.1. Major Character

The character who belongs to the major character is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. since his character plays an important role in the film.

##### 4.1.1.1.1. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

In the film, the character of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is the main character. He is considered so because he plays an important role in the film. He contributes a big part in the story line. Since the film is based on true story with real character in the real life, the physical appearance of the character is portrayed as how the real Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. seen in real life, a black man. He is described as a man who is careful and intelligent. The implementation of his careful character is when he thinks everything through before doing anything can be seen in picture 4-7 which captures him walking back to Selma after praying to god before they march to Montgomery even though the state troopers give them the way. It is also showed from the dialogue 01:30:10-01:30:20 below:

John Lewis : That was our moment out there today.

James Forman : And you threw it away.

Martin Luther King : They could've sealed the road behind us. No food, water no kind of support allowed through we wouldn't have made 10 miles.

(*Selma*, 01:30:10-01:30:20)

The reason why Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. cancels this march is because he thinks all the possibilities that could happen and only Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who is aware of this. He sees what his other fellows do not. He carefully calculates every possibility that could happen in his plan. It is depicted in the sentences "They could've sealed the road behind us. No food, water no kind of support allowed through we wouldn't have made 10 miles." Many of his other friends in his team say that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. throws away the only chance they have to march, but he responds that so many things could happen, if they go to that march that day without enough preparation, such as what if the road behind them is closed and they do not get any supplies to continue their march.

Another characterization of Dr. Martin Luther king Jr. that is seen clearly in the film is that he is an intelligent person. In the picture 4-9 the scene is taken in medium shot to bring the focus of the audience to the dialogue said by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. because the dialogue contributes a big part of the story line in the film. His character which is intelligent can be seen in the dialogue between him and President Lyndon Johnson in the White House below which happens in the sequence 00:11:04-00:11:33.

Martin Luther King : Now you ask how you can help. We want Federal legislation granting Negroes the right to vote

unencumbered. And we want federal protocol eliminating the decade-long dismissal and illegal denial of Blacks seeking to vote. And we want robust enforcement of that protocol.

President Johnson : Well, um that's fine. But most of the South is still not desegregating. Let's not start another battle we haven't even won the first.

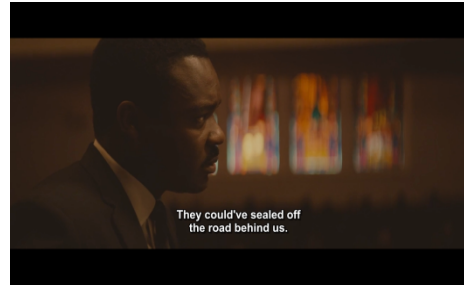
(*Selma*, 00:11:04-00:11:33)

From the dialogue above, it is shown from the demands he utters to President Lyndon Johnson. He wants a complete protection of Black peoples' rights to vote therefore he plans the demand step by step to accomplish that goal. Also, Dr. Martin Luther King utters his demands clearly. He wants federal protocol which ensures the right of black people in America to vote. He also demands the federal legislation to grant the black peoples' rights to vote. In addition, he demands that the protocol will be implemented. Moreover, his demands are orderly step by step so when it put in effect will ensure the rights of black people to vote.

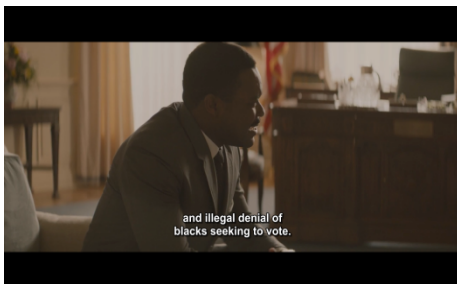
However, his demand is denied by President Lyndon Johnson. Afterwards, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. finds another way to protest and fight for equality to black people in the United States. It is shown in the picture 4-10 where he tells his fellows that they are going to Selma as it is where the next plan will be done. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. says "Selma it is" to his other 2 friends when his dialogue with President Lyndon Johnson does not go as he plans. His words are indicating that Selma is the backup plan of theirs that would be carried out.



Picture 4-7. Martin Luther King turning his back from the march



Picture 4-8. Martin Luther King sharing his arguments



Picture 4-9. Dialogue between President Johnson and Martin Luther King



Picture 4-10. Dr. Martin Luther King telling his fellows to go to Selma

#### 4.1.1.2. Minor Character

The minor characters of the film are President Lyndon Johnson and Corretta Scott King.

##### 4.1.1.2.1. President Lyndon Johnson

One of the minor characters in the film is President Lyndon Johnson. In the film, he is described as a diplomatic and considerate person. His character that

is a diplomatic person can be seen in the dialogue below. The dialogue is between President Lyndon Johnson and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Moreover, the picture 4-11 and picture 4-12 show the scenes where he has the dialogue with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. There he denies the demand asked by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in a diplomatic ways. He does not say the word “no” in declining the demands of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., instead he ask Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to wait because his administration has another priority plan to be done which is eradication of poverty. It can be seen through the dialogue in 0:13:04-00:13:16.

President Johnson : Well, Dr. King, you’ve given me something to think about. But this administration is going to set this aside for a while. Just for a while, you understand.

Martin Luther King : Yes Mr. President, I understand.  
(*Selma*, 00:13:04-00:13:16)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen that there is no word “no” said by the President Lyndon Johnson. He responds with a positive respond by saying that Dr. King had given him something to think about. Later on, instead of saying no, he says that “this administration is going to set this aside for a while”. He chooses his diction wisely not to put any tension between him and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. for he has declined the demands asked by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Another characterization of President Lyndon Johnson which is seen in the film is that he is a considerate person. It is seen by his act when he enacts the Voting Rights Act after the Bloody Sunday tragedy in Selma. It can be seen from the picture 4-13 which captures the scene where he delivers his speech before enacting the Voting Right Act. He finally enacts the law where it grants the rights

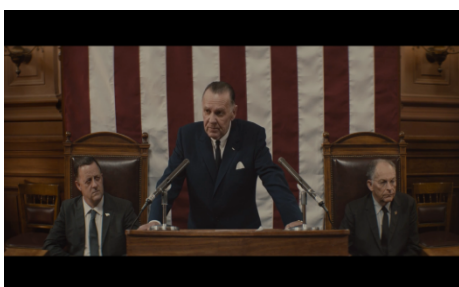
of black people to vote. This action is done after many people die fighting for their right which should be given to them from the very beginning.



Picture 4-11. Dialogue between President Johnson and Martin Luther King



Picture 4-12. Dialogue in the white house



Picture 4-13. President Johnson giving his speech

#### 4.1.1.2.2. Correta Scott King

The second character who belongs to the minor character is Correta Scott King. She is the wife of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In the film she is described as

graceful woman and she is a faithful woman who is devoted to her husband. From the picture 4-14 which captures the scene where she has a dialogue with Malcolm X (another militant activist) about joining the movement, it can be seen how graceful she is when she is addressing the problem she has with him. She neither uses any harsh words even though she was hurt by the words uttered by Malcolm X in the past. It can be seen in from her dialogue where she said “You said disrespectful things in the past, Minister”. She choose the diction ‘disrespectful’ instead of any more negative word pointing out to what Malcolm X had said.

Another characteristic owned by Correta Scott King is that she is faithful to her husband. It is shown in the picture 4-15 which captures the scene in the end of the film. In that scene, there is a written text “... She never remarried.” That sentence serves as a fact that Correta Scott King never remarried after the death of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Picture 4-16 captures the scene where she goes to the court to support Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with his team to ask for permit for the march they are planning to do.



Picture 4-14. Dialogue between Coretta and Malcolm X



Picture 4-15. Correta never remarries



Picture 4-16. Correta goes inside the court

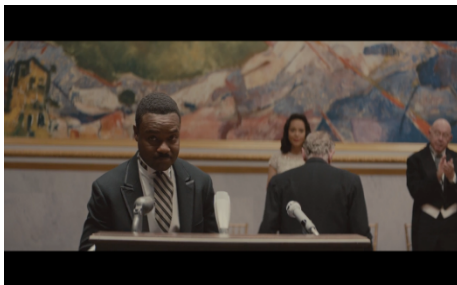
#### 4.1.2. Setting

For the film is based on true story, events in the film happen accordingly to the events which happen in the real life. The setting of time which occurs in this film is 1964-1965. This will be proven by several facts which are seen from the scenes in the film. The film begins with the Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. which happened in 1964. This is stated in the article in HISTORY website "... In October that year (1964), King was awarded the

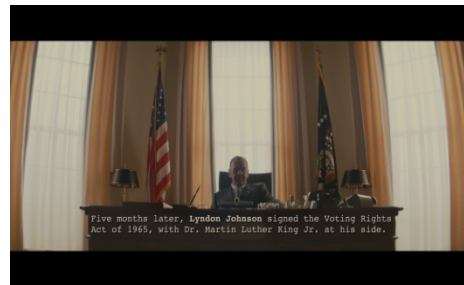


Nobel Peace Prize” [ CITATION His10 \l 1033 ]. This can be seen in the scene 4-17 which taken in the medium shot showing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. behind the podium where he gives his Nobel Peace Prize acceptance speech.

The second events that directly mentions the setting of time in the film is the ratification of Voting Rights Act. The scene at the ending of the film captures President Lyndon Johnson sitting in his desk and there is a text written “Five months later, Lyndon Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act of 1965, with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at his side” [ CITATION DuV14 \l 1033 ]. It is shown in picture 4-18 which taken in long shot technique in order to show President Johnson in his office and to bring focus of the audience to the written text in the scene.



Picture 4-17. Nobel Prize acceptance speech



Picture 4-18. Ratification of Voting Rights Act

*Selma* takes place in 3 different major places. The first one is in Washington D.C. where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is having conversation with President Lyndon Johnson in the President’s office located in the White House. It can be seen in the picture 4-19 which taken in long shot technique where it can be concluded that the scene is taken in the President’s office in the White House. The second setting of place in the film is Selma. It can be seen from the picture 4-20

which captures the town. The scene is taken in long shot in order to show the situation of the town at the moment, furthermore in the scene there is a text written “King arrives in Selma, AL with Abernathy, Young, Orange and female agitator Diane Nash. 10:20 a.m. LOGGED” [ CITATION DuV14 \l 1033 ]. The text is explicitly indicating that the story indeed takes place in Selma.

The third setting of place in this film is the house of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Atlanta. It can be seen in the picture 4-21 which capture the scene where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is spending time with his family in the backyard of his home. In the scene there is a written text “King returns to his Atlanta residence. C. King and children present. 01:24 p.m. LOGGED,” which supports the argument that the setting of place is indeed the home of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Picture 4-19. Martin Luther King and his team arrive at Selma



Picture 4-20. Martin Luther King and President Johnson in his office



Picture 4-21. Martin Luther King and his family in their home

Besides setting of place and time there is another aspect which is the setting of general environment. Setting of general environment covers the situation of the narrative. In the film, the narrative is mostly about the struggle of black people in fighting for the injustice they face. The efforts they tried in fighting for their equal rights are done through diplomatic discussion and protest. However in the process, they are met with some obstacle and at some point the tension in the society are high. This can be seen through the picture 4-22 which captures the chaos when the Blacks are doing their first protest in front of the Selma Courthouse. The scene is taken in long shot technique showing the situation where Sheriff Clark forcing to walk in the middle of the protest while bumping into people. Picture 4-23 is another proof showing that the setting of general environment in the film is tense. The picture captures the scene where the State Troopers forcefully disband the march in the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The scene is taken in long shot showing how chaotic the situation is. The State Trooper using weapon and tear gas in dismissing an unarmed group.



Picture 4-22. Protest in front of Selma County Courthouse



Picture 4-23. Chaos in Edmund Pettus Bridge

### 4.1.3. Conflict

#### 4.1.3.1. Internal Conflict

Internal conflict which happens in this film is going on inside the character of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. The first conflict which happens within him is when he is questioning what really is that he is fighting for all along. He utters his doubt to Abernathy after they are protesting outside the Selma Courthouse. The scene is captured in picture 4-24 which is taken in close up shot showing the face of Dr. Martin Luther King. Also picture 4-25 taken in long shot technique showing the setting of place where the dialogue takes place which is inside the jail. This conflict is depicted in the dialogue he has with Ralph Abernathy inside the jail.

The dialogue happens in the minute 00:37:40-00:38:17:

Martin Luther King : I'm tired, Ralphy. Tiring of this.  
 Ralph Abernathy : Eyes on the prize, Martin.  
 Martin Luther King : Yeah, but what is the prize, friend? We fight to have a seat at whatever table we want. How does it help a black man to be able to at a lunch counter if he doesn't earn enough to buy the burger? Or worse yet, can't even... can't even read the menu 'cause there was no Negro school where's he from. What is that? That equality?

(*Selma*, 00:37:40-00:38:17)

In the dialogue above, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. utters his doubt about what is the point of his effort. He stated that he fights for equality against segregation but on the other hand he also thinks that the equality means nothing if the black cannot enjoy they equal rights they deserve. He feels that his fights and efforts are useless. It can be seen through these sentences “We fight to have a seat at whatever table we want. How does it help a black man to be able to at a lunch counter if he doesn’t earn enough to buy the burger? Or worse yet, can’t even... can’t even read the menu ‘cause there was no Negro school where’s he from” which indicating that he feels that his effort is useless since he only fights for the surface but deep down the root of basic human rights of the black people is still not fulfilled such as the rights to get education.

Later on, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. has the same doubt once again. However, this time he says it to John Lewis. Again, he doubts his choice to go on with his plan. This internal conflict can be seen through this dialogue in minute 01:38:20-01:38:45.

Martin Luther King : JBL is not moving John. I thought he would, but our efforts are not working, and I can’t risk another march with people getting killed when it’s not working. I won’t do it. We need voting, not marching you know that. We have to move beyond these protests to some real political powers. This can’t go on forever like this. I can’t go on like this.

*(Selma, 01:38:20-01:38:45)*

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is having doubt about his plan where he wants to march as a protest. From the beginning, his plan is to do a non-violence protest

which is done through marches he led in Selma. However, his plan has caused several persons killed yet he feels the President Lyndon Johnson is not going to change the law. The sentences “I thought he would, but our efforts are not working, and I can’t risk another march with people getting killed when it’s not working” indicate that he feels the efforts that he and his team have done are such waste. He says to John Lewis that he can’t keep doing his same strategy. It depicts in the sentences “This can’t go on forever like this. I can’t go on like this.”

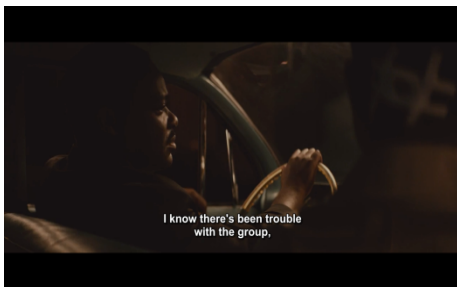
Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. utters his worry to James Lewis in a dialogue they have in a car ride as he intends to speak privately to Lewis. This can be seen in 4-26 that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is behind the driving wheel and that no other person in the car beside both of them. The scene is taken in close up shot and from the eye level.



Picture 4-24. Conversation between Martin and Ralph



Picture 4-25. The conversation happening in jail



Picture 4-26. Car ride between Martin and John

#### 4.1.3.2. External Conflict

The external conflict starts from the beginning of the film. It is between the character of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Lyndon Johnson. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. demands the President to change the law which ensures the equal rights of the black people. However, the President thinks that this matter can wait because he has several plans which he prioritizes. Moreover, President Lyndon Johnson also thinks that by changing the law he will cause another chaos

for some states have not been abolished segregation. It can be seen in the dialogue in the minute 00:11:04-00:11:33 which is between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Johnson in the oval office.

Martin Luther King : Now you ask how you can help. We want Federal legislation granting Negroes the right to vote unencumbered. And we want federal protocol eliminating the decade-long dismissal and illegal denial of Blacks seeking to vote. And we want robust enforcement of that protocol.

President Johnson : Well, um that's fine. But most of the South is still not desegregating. Let's not start another battle we haven't even won the first.

(*Selma*, 00:11:04-00:11:33)

From the dialogue above, it can be seen the start of the conflict between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. With President Lyndon Johnson. The demands asked by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. can be seen in these sentences “We want Federal legislation granting Negroes the right to vote unencumbered. And we want federal protocol...”. However, on the other side, President Lyndon Johnson thinks that this demands would only add fuel to the fire since some of the south part of America is still not desegregating. It can be seen in the sentence “But most of the South is still not desegregating. Let's not start another battle we haven't even won the first.” This dialogue is captured in picture 4-27.

Later on as the story goes, the conflict between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and President Lyndon Johnson continues. The continuing conflict can be seen through the dialogue they have in a phone call in the minute 01:35:39-01:36:34:



President Johnson : Chicago, Detroit, Boston, I don't care. Hell, you got 2.000 people in marching up in Harlem. Well, good for you. But when you have people come inside the White House? Inside the White House! On a tour? They just sat down Martin. They sat down in the main corridor, started singin' and shoutin'. Well, I won't have it!

Martin Luther King : I cannot stop people from expressing.

President Johnson : You can. You can stop them.

Martin Luther King : No, you can stop it. You sir, can do more. Now I'm glad to hear that you called Reverend Reeb's widow, sir. That is very fine, and it is right. I only wish that Jimmie Lee Jackson's family would have received the same consideration from their president.

President Johnson : Don't lay your guilt at my door. You're the one choosing to send people out to slaughter when we told you there was trouble.

Martin Luther King : We won't sit idle while you wait another year or two to send this bill up at your leisure. That should be clear by now. We will continue to demonstrate until you take action, sir. And if our President won't protect our rights, we will take this fight to court.

(*Selma*, 01:35:39-01:36:34)

As it seen in the dialogue above, both sides are still holding on to their decision and neither of them intends to change their minds. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. still insists in asking The President to change the law and on the other hand President Lyndon Johnson is not changing the law anytime soon. Both sides believe that the other person is the one who should stop the chaotic situation. To be précised, it can be seen in this part of the dialogue in the minute 01:35:56-01:36:01.

Martin Luther King : I cannot stop people from expressing.

President Johnson : You can. You can stop them.

Martin Luther King : No, you can stop it.

(Selma, 01:35:56-01:36:01)

Furthermore, the conflict is at peak when there is a demonstration going on inside the White House. The president is angry and demands Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to stop the demonstration for it causes chaos in other states and even people are demonstrating inside the White House as it is stated in the sentences said by President Lyndon Johnson “They sat down in the main corridor, started singin’ and shoutin’.” However Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. thinks that he cannot stop the chaotic situation. He thinks that the only way out to stop people from protesting is President Lyndon Johnson to enact the law which protects the rights of Black people.

Another conflict which they have which is seen in the dialogue is when President Johnson calls Reverend Reeb’s widow to show his condolences. However, the President does not call the family of Jimmie Lee Jackson who is also killed in the Selma fighting for the rights of Black people. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. thinks that both of them deserve the same treatment from their President. He agrees and compliment President Johnson’s act to express his condolence for the people of America but he also thinks that the President should have done it to all regardless what their race and social stratification. However, President Lyndon Johnson cannot take this accusation. He says in the part of his dialogue “Don’t lay your guilt at my door. You’re the one choosing to send people out to slaughter when we told you there was trouble”. From that sentence, it can be concluded that President Lyndon Johnson feels that Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. tries to accused him guilty for not sending condolences to the family of Jimmy Lee Jackson but

then he point out that the guilt is in the hand of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. It is Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who led the demonstration that causes the murder of those 2 persons. Moreover, President Lyndon Johnson had warned Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. that the fight for equality for the Black people would cause many problem for the south of America have not been all desegregated.

Picture 4-28 and 4-29 show the scenes where President Lyndon Johnson and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. are having the conversation through phone call. Both of the scenes are taken in close up technique from the eye level bringing the focus of the audience to the expressions and dialogue of both characters.



Picture 4-27. Arguments which happens in the white house



Picture 4-28. Martin Luther King on the phone



Picture 4-29. President Lyndon Johnson on the phone with Martin Luther King

## 4.2. Acting Out Prejudice

In this part of this thesis, the writer analyzes the aspect of extrinsic element which is shown in the film. The analysis focuses on the aspect of acting out prejudice. The writer analyzes whether there are any levels of acting out prejudice shown in the film. There are 5 stages in acting out prejudice. Those are antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack and extermination.

### 4.2.1. Antilocution

Antilocution is placed in the lowest scale of acting out prejudice. This occurs when people are giving a negative image freely. This can be done in public or in private area. Antilocution can come in the form of people saying it verbally or written. In the film, the antilocution comes in the form of written poster. Both of the proofs can be seen in the picture 4-30 and 4-31.

Picture 4-30 captures the scene where white people don't agree to the protest done by Black people in the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The scene is taken in long shot technique with high angle showing the situation in the scene where there are many State Troopers and white people blocking the protester. They express

their disagreement in the form of posters. In the picture 4-31 the poster is “KEEP ALABAMA WHITE”. In the scene, the poster is brought by a man. These words mean that the writer of the poster does not want any Black people in the Alabama state. He denies the existence of Black people there.

Picture 4-30 shows another side of location from the protest. As it is seen from the picture, the technique used in taking the scene is long shot from eye level. The poster captured in the picture is “NIGGERS GO HOME!” This poster uses offensive word “nigger” to refer the Black people and this poster also implies that the black should not do the protest. The black should go home and disperse themselves from the protest. The writer of this poster wants the Blacks to deal with whatever situation they are facing and be okay with that while in fact the black have the rights to assembly as it is stated in the Bill of Rights of America.



Picture 4-30. “Keep Alabama white” poster



Picture 4-31. “Niggers go home!” poster

#### 4.2.2. Avoidance

The second racism act which is in the second level of acting out prejudice scale is avoidance. In the film there is indeed an avoidance act which is done by several white women towards the group of Black people when they are marching in Selma. In the scene there are 3 women seeing the march in a crossroad. There is one woman who is curious and about to take a look to the group of Black people

who is marching. She even waves her hand persuading her other friends to take a look at the march but her two other friends are pulling her away from the march. Both of her other friends do not want her standing near Black people.

It is shown in the picture 4-32 and 4-33. Both of the scenes are taken using long shot technique and from the eye level showing the many subjects which captured in the scene. Picture 4-32 showing when a woman is inviting the other two women to come closer to the march and take a look at it. Furthermore, the picture 4-33 shows when the other women are pulling her away from the march with the intention of avoiding them. Picture 4-34 shows the march of Black people towards Edmund Pettus Bridge.



Picture 4-32. The woman is inviting the other woman to take a closer look



Picture 4-33. The other women pulling her away from the march



Picture 4-34. The march towards Edmund Pettus Bridge

### 4.2.3. Discrimination

According to Allport, the third level in the scale of Acting Out Prejudice is discrimination [CITATION All54 \t \l 1033 ]. Several acts of discrimination are shown in the film, such as the discrimination where the right of black woman's right to vote is denied, and also segregation. Racial discrimination is the main issue in the film. The first discrimination act which is seen in the film is when the character of Annie Lee Cooper is denied by the registrar when she tries to register herself to vote. It can be seen through the dialogue in the sequence below:

Voting registrar : You work for Mr. Dunn down at the rest home, ain't that right?

Annie Cooper : Yes.

Voting registrar : Wonder what old Dunn'll say when I tell him one of his gals is down here stirring a fuss.

Annie Cooper : I ain't stirring no fuss. I'm just here trying to register to vote. It's all right this time.

Voting registrar : It's right when I say it's right.

(*Selma*, 00:07:05-00:07:28)

Later on, after the dialogue above, Annie Lee Cooper is still asked to recite the Constitution's preamble as the requirement of getting the permit to vote. However, Annie Copper manages to recite the Constitution's preamble. Furthermore, the voting registrar gives another requirement which is to mention how many county judges in Alabama then to name them all. All of these requirements which are made by the registrar himself are done to fail Anne Lee Cooper from getting her permit to vote. He intends to deny her application from

the beginning because he thinks that she is not worthy to vote because she is a black person. Another discrimination act seen here. The registrar does not have the right to deny her application for she is qualified to vote based on the law of America.

From the dialogue above, it is clearly stated that there is discrimination act done by the voting registrar. To name a few is when the voting registrar giving irrelevant questions to fail Annie Lee Cooper from registering to vote and accusing her stirring a fuss because she should know that the Blacks had no right to vote. Everyone who is met the requirement of voting in America regardless their sexes, races or religions should be able to vote. This discrimination act is depicted in the picture 4-35 which taken in long shot showing Annie Lee Cooper and also the Voting registrar inside his office.

Then another discrimination act which in the film is seen segregation. Segregation is included in the institutional discrimination. However, in the film, segregation has already been considered illegal yet several acts of segregation are still happening. The first act of segregation seen in the film is where a hotel is serving white customers only. This act of segregation is depicted in the sign in front of the Hotel Albert. The sign can be seen in the picture 4-36. For segregation is now illegal, the hotel doesn't have the authority to decline a black customer. Furthermore, it can be seen through the picture 4-37 that the hotel receptionist is not happily welcoming Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. when he is about to order a room.



The fourth segregation act happens in front of Selma Courthouse. This is depicted in the dialogue between Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Sheriff Clark in the minute 00:34:39-00:34:59.

Martin Luther King : Sheriff Clark, we're trying to gain access to the registration office which is our legal right.

Sheriff Clark : There's too many of you. And you know damn well there is! Now, y'all just gonna have to wait at the rear!

Martin Luther King : No, Sheriff Clark. We're going in the front and we're gonna wait right here. Segregation is now illegal in this country, Sir.

(*Selma*, 00:34:39-00:34:59)

From the dialogue, it can be concluded that the Blacks are not allowed to go inside the Selma Courthouse through the front door. They should pass through the back door as how it should be when the segregation is still in effect. This is because the front door is for the whites and the back door is for the Blacks. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and other Black people try to go inside Selma Courthouse but Sheriff Clark forbids. This act is depicted in the sentence said by Sheriff Clark "y'all just gonna have to wait at the rear!" This act is against the law since segregation has been abolished but the authorities still denies the rights of Black people to get equal treatment which is to get inside the bulding through the same access as the white people. Moreover, it is stated in the Bill of Rights, that anyone has the rights to peaceably assemble. Yet in this case, Sheriff Clark tries to disperse the Black people when they are doing their peaceful protest agenda in front of Selma Courthouse. Therefore, the authorities denies the rights of Black people to assamble.

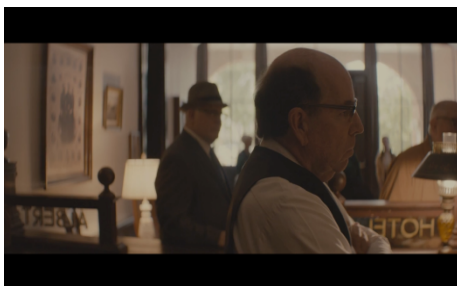
Furthermore, picture 4-38 indicating the setting of place from the protest which is in front of Selma Courthouse. The scene is taken in long shot technique from eye level showing several State Troopers and Sheriff Clark blocking the front door of Selma Courthouse.



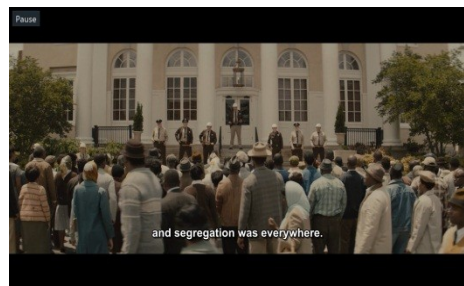
Picture 4-35. Annie Lee Cooper after her registration denied by the Voting registrar



Picture 4-36. The segregation sign "SERVING WHITE ONLY" outside Hotel Albert



Picture 4-37. The expression of hotel receptionist



Picture 4-38. The protest in front of Selma Courthouse

#### **4.2.4. Physical Attacks**

The fourth aspect in the scale of acting out prejudice is physical attack. In the film there are several violence acts which are done by the whites against the Blacks and also from white persons to other white persons just because they join the movement to defend the equal rights of Black people. The first physical attack shown in the film is when the Sheriff Clark pushes Cager Lee harshly until Cager Lee falls down on the street in order make him sit down while Cager Lee is having trouble to kneel due to his health condition. This act of physical attack depicts in the picture 4-39.

There are several other violence acts which are done by the forces to Black people. One of those is the dispersal of night march. The march consists of a few Black people and they are all unarmed. However, the State Troopers disperse the group of Black people using bats and hitting them with it. Later on after the march is officially dispersed since everyone are going to all direction for saving themselves, the State Troopers are still chasing them and then beat them once they are found. The State Troopers do the physical attack until at the point of gunshot. Jimmy Lee Jackson is shot dead in the restaurant when he is hiding with his grandfather and his mother from the State Troopers. This incident is portrayed in the picture 4-40. Using the medium shot technique, the scene depicts Jimmy Lee Jackson and the gun used in shooting him plus the hand of the State Troopers which pulls the trigger.

In addition to that, another violence act done by the forces to the Black people is again done to the unarmed group of peaceful protest. Again, it happens in a form of brutal dispersal to the march in Edmund Pettus Bridge. The State Troopers disperse the group of unarmed Black people using tear gas, chasing them on a horse ride and hitting the Blacks using bats. The State Troopers use the inhuman way to disperse the crowd. Picture 4-41 illustrates the violence which is done by the State Troopers. In the scene it is shown that one of the State Trooper is hitting a black person using a bat and the scene is looked foggy as it caused by the tear gas used by the State Troopers to disperse the crowd.

Afterward another physical attack which is displayed in the film is where Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is assaulted by a white man. The white man who is safe to assume as the owner of the hotel or the Head Manager of Hotel Albert from the way he introduce himself to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. He offers to introduce himself while giving his hand for a handshake but before he gets to do it, he punches Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the face. The reason behind this violence act is because the man rejects Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. from the hotel. The Blacks are not welcomed in Hotel Albert since the hotel only serving white people even though segregation has been abolished yet some are still practicing it. Picture 4-42 serves as evidence of this physical attack which is done towards Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in the Hotel Albert.

Beforehand, the violence act in the film is done by the whites towards the Blacks. However, this violence act is done by white persons to another white person. In the event, Reverend Reeb is beaten to death with baseball bat by locals.

The reason behind this action is that the locals do not like if there is a white people associating with the black community. This depicts in the dialogue in minute 01:34:20 - 01:34:30 which happens before the locals start beating Reverend Reeb to death:

Man #1 : You know what I hate more than niggers?

Man #2 : What's that?

Man #1 : White nigger.

Reverend Reeb : Look, we don't want trouble, okay?

Man #1 : No you came here stirrin' trouble.

(*Selma*, 01:34:20 - 01:34:30)

From the dialogue above, it can be concluded that the physical attack is motivated by racial hatred. It is seen in the sentence "You know what I hate more than niggers? ... white niggers". The word nigger refers to the Black people while the word white niggers refer to white people who are associating with Black people. The physical attack towards Reverend Reeb can be seen in picture 4-43. The picture captures the locals threatening Reverend Reeb using a baseball bat. The scene is taken in close up technique showing the expression of the local.



Picture 4-39. Physical attack done by Sheriff Clark



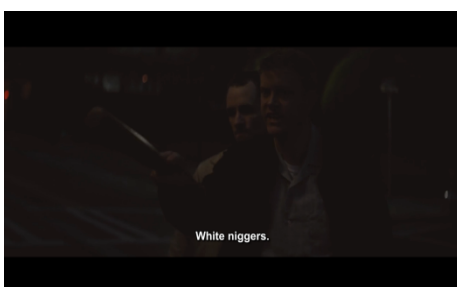
Picture 4-40. The shooting of Jimmy Lee Jackson



Picture 4-41. Brutal Dispersal in Edmund Pettus Bridge



Picture 4-42. Martin Luther King being assaulted in Hotel Albert



Picture 4-43. Physical attack towards Reverend Reeb

#### **4.2.5. Extermination**

The last stage in the acting out prejudice scale is extermination. However, the writer cannot find any proof indicating that the acting out prejudice in the film has reached onto this level. Sure there are murder cases in the film. Then again, it must be underlined that extermination is done to a group of people in a particular race or ethnic and yet the murder in the film only done to two persons in two different events.

## CHAPTER 5

### CONCLUSION

In *Selma*, Black people in the United States suffer bad and unequal treatments namely segregation, prejudice, and so on even though slavery had been abolished. Moreover, through a comprehensive analysis, the writer concludes that there are indeed several aspects of acting out prejudice found in the film *Selma*. Those findings are in accordance to Gordon Allport's theory. The acting out prejudice scale involves of 5 levels of racism acts namely antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack, and extermination. Furthermore, the writer found 4 out of 5 acting out prejudice which is done to Black people in the film.

In brief, the writer found antilocution, avoidance, discrimination and physical attack in the film. The act of extermination is not shown in the film for the racism act stops at the level of murdering a person. While for the act of extermination happens when a group of people which belong to a particular race or ethnic are being mass murdered. Therefore there is no act of extermination shown in the film.



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