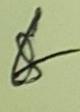


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Nama : Silvia Dewi Wibawa

Alamat email : silviadewi.wibawa@yahoo.co.id

Fak. / Prodi : Sastra NIM: 12.80.0001

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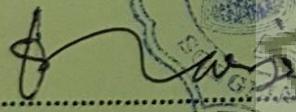
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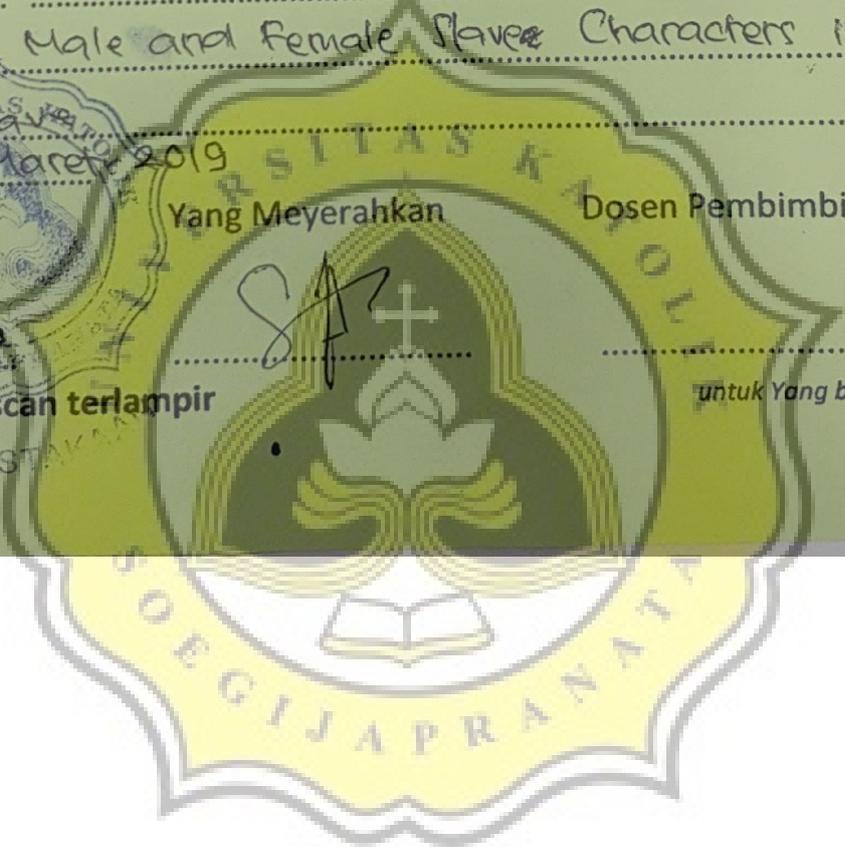
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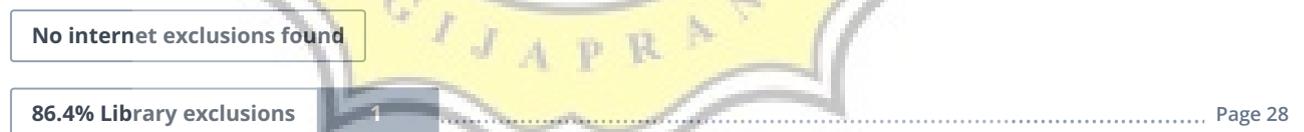


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CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Twelve Years a Slave movie is based on a true story written by Salomon Northrup. This movie is about slavery among black people back in 1800's. Solomon Northrup, the author, labored for twelve years under several masters. When he regained his freedom, he wrote a memoir of his years as a slave after making a little interview from other ex-slaves to enrich the story (Northrup, 1855). Although slavery enabled a profitable economic system in the South, it had very negative effects on the slaves.

The South, like other slave societies, did not develop urban centers for commerce, finance, and industry on a scale equal to those found in the North. Southern cities were small because they were not able to develop diversified economies (Davis, 1972). The main income of the Southern usually came from local planters and farmers. These planters and farmers were those who need labors to work in the fields, and cheap labors were slaves.

According to Paul E. Lovejoy (1981), in his book *The Ideology of Slavery in Africa*, slaves were property, but they were also human beings. All human beings are born with fundamental rights and they can do whatever they want for their life, not because someone else chooses it for them. However, back then in the 1700s, if someone were born at the bottom of society, he/she would have to work hard to survive in poverty. This person can be owned by other people who had goods or money.

In this thesis, besides Salomon, the writer also wants to put her focus on Patsey's character. To put it simply, Patsey is a young female black slave who was frequently beaten and abused that made her depressed and thought of suicide. She is the "property" of Epps, the white man who acts as her master. Patsey is brutalized in many ways. Epps regularly comes into her quarters and forces her to have sex with him.

Slavery is terrible for men, yet it is more terrible for women. In 1700s masters rapping his own slave is not considered as rape at all, a master is free to do what he likes with his own property (Schneider & Schneider, 2007). The brutal treatment is the start of enslavement rape culture, when woman's body does not belong to woman anymore (White, 1999). On Patsey's experience, the movie does not only show Patsey as the victim of the master but also the victim of the master's wife. As the master sexually assaults her, her white mistress, instead of sympathizing with her sufferings, abused her emotionally and physically.

The sufferings of Salomon and Patsey attract the writer to know more the conditions of slaves in 1870 as represented in *Twelve Years a Slave* movie. By analyzing the movie, the writer aims to describe the situations by slavery. During

that time, between 1790 and 1860, black slaves live in a society that constantly reminded them that they were not treated as human being (Schneider & Schneider, 2007). They were treated like an object of satisfaction. Especially for a black woman slave, she had to fight for her life every day and lived in fear of what might happen. If a master raped his female slaves, the society would say that it was his privilege. Black woman slaves kept quiet about the rape since they had been blamed for all the pains they went through. *Twelve Years a Slave*, however, did not only expose the brutality of the masters to their slaves but also showed the audience the relationship between white mistress and black slaves. The mistress brutalized the black woman slave with savagery because she was humiliated by her husband's sexual attraction to the slave.

In this study, the writer will discuss the slavery and the discriminations experienced by the slaves. The writer would like to see the discriminations experienced by Solomon and Patsey. The writer will also compare the discrimination experienced by them. Furthermore, the writer will also discuss Patsey's and Solomon's reactions towards the discriminations.

1.2 Field of The study

The field of the study is Literature especially on discriminations found in the film.

1.3 Scope of The Study

The writer concentrates on the discriminations that happened to black people in America, Solomon and Patsey.

1.4 Problem Formulation

Here are the problems formulated by the writer to give a better understanding about the *12 Years a Slave* movie: what are the discriminations experienced by Solomon and Patsey in *12 Years a Slave* movie?

1.5 Objectives of The Study

From the problem formulation, the writer formulates an objective: to find out the discriminations experienced by Solomon and Patsey in *12 Years a Slave* movie.

1.6 Significance of The Study

This study is expected to give a better understanding to the readers about the discriminations experienced by black American slaves through the characters of Solomon and Patsey in *Twelve Years Slave* movie which is based on a true story by Solomon Northup.

1.7 Definition of Terms

A. Slavery

The status or condition of a person over whom any or all the powers attaching to the right ownership are exercised. A form of personal, corporeal domination, by the slaveholder or his agent, based on the exercise or threat of not only physical but also psychological violence. It is characterized by the

absolute power (in practice) of the master over his slave and become an extension of the will and household of the former (Allain, 2012) .

B. Discrimination

Discrimination can be defined as any unequal treatments of individuals or groups on the basis of some, usually categorical attribute such as race, ethnic, religious or social class (Theodorson, 1979).



Chapter 2 REVIEW OF LITERATURE

In order to analyze the object of the study, the writer used theories such as the history of slavery and discriminations that happen on black slave. The explanations of the following theories in this chapter are used as references in analyzing the problems of the study.

2.1 Slavery

Slavery happened for some reasons. However, one of them could be the existence of the 'superiority complex' (Rose, 1958). A group of people would be dare enough to discriminate if they are in a higher or more powerful position than their victim.

The slavery had long been part of the world history. It could be traced to at least in 1295 BC in Egypt (Campbell, n.d.). It was an era when 19th Egyptian dynasty ruled over Egypt region (1295 – 1186 BC) and also a time when some famous Egyptian rulers lived, such as Ramses and Queen Nefertiti. The presence of slavery appeared when there was the information that under the dynasty, the Hebrew people left Egypt after 430 years of slavery under the Egyptian rule. They apparently could not stand to the way the Egyptians treated them.

The slavery era in Europe started in 1418. It was Prince Henry of Portugal, son of King John I who sent the Portuguese traders to Africa for gold (Campbell, n.d.). Portuguese traders were the people who captured and shipped African slaves from West Africa to Europe. They sold the slaves to work for the rich people as servants.

On the slavery towards African people, Campbell called the slavery as a black holocaust (Campbell, n.d.) because millions slaves' lives were lost for centuries to slavery. In 1650 – 1900, the growth of the African population were only around 100 millions to 120 millions, while at the same time period, the Europe and Asia grew for around 400 millions (Taylor, 2000). The death of the slaves might be caused by their masters' bad treatment. They were often treated worse than the animals. When they were shipped, some of them were often killed to give examples for the others; that they should obey their masters if they did not want the same thing happened to them. They were not fed, slept on a tight compartment and chained.



Picture 1. A slave was shackled (Campbell, n.d.)

In United States of America, the country where the setting of the *12 Years a Slave* takes place, the slavery began in 1619 when 20 people were brought to Jamestown, Virginia (Stampp, 1984). At that time, 20 negroes were recorded to be sold by a Dutch ship in Virginia (ibid, p. 287). The black people were held captives, bought, and shipped to the New Land to become slaves in the plantations. When the slaves who worked in the plantations had children, the children would become slaves as well according to the law. The belief that Blacks were biologically inferior supports White Southerners and some Northerners' claim that Blacks were born to be slaves. The examples of inferiority were "laziness, limited intellectual capacities, a childlike simplicity, docility, sensuousness, and tempestuousness" (Stampp, 1984, p. 320). It is also believed that the Blacks' survival depended on the masters' ability to force them to work (Stampp, 1984, p. 287). The cotton plantation in the southern United States of America's desire to be big kept the slavery and slave trade running.

After the abolition of slavery on January 31, 1865, Black Americans started to get their freedom from the slave masters although they were still highly segregated in many aspects of life. Those who are segregated the worse were those who lived in the Southern states. As time goes by, the segregation becomes less rigid and Black people are getting more rights in American society.

2.2 Woman Slavery

The history of sexual abuse on black women started during the sixteenth century. Female slaves described as sexual objects to their masters. Their bodies technically belonged to their owners by law. The sexual abuse of slaves was partially rooted in a patriarchal Southern culture that perceived all women, whether black or white, as chattel, or property.

Talking about the woman slave can not be separated from the presence of the matriarchal black woman. It was a type of society in which women have the most authority and power. It is different from the type of the society that most people know. People mostly know about the patriarcal society. It makes the men have the

most authority. The matriarchal black women have been repeatedly invoked as one of the fatal-by-products of slavery (Davis, 1972)

There are various kinds of human right violations that have happened throughout the movie. One of the most important parts was sexual abuse towards black women. One example is how black women were treated as slaves. However, the abuse might not be reported to the authorities. The reason that there are fewer reported rapes against white females in the seventeenth century and more against non-white males was due to the fact that women gave in to a society where it was driven by manipulation and dominance of white males in the system. Black women in those times were created as puppets in the hands of white men when it came to the issue of rape. Slavery is one form of human violations that happened in America.

2.3 Racism and Discrimination

The existence of the slavery can not be separated from the presence of discrimination. Discrimination can be translated as the mistreatment of people without them having done anything to merit such mistreatment (Rose, 1958). It often deals with the way people unfairly treated although they did not do anything wrong.

Discrimination against the blacks is connected with racism. Racism is commonly known to be related to the skin color. Actually it was not. Rose (1958) says that racism is a set of popular beliefs which is divided into four categories. The first category is the differences between groups. Related to the racism in America, in this category, there is an opinion that the two groups (the White and the Black) are different in body and mind. Besides their skin color differences, in mind, at that time, the Blacks were considered as less intelligent than the Whites. The second category is the character differences. This racism is related to the habit, attitudes, beliefs, behaviour and etc. The third category is the presence of the inferiority group. All differences between minority and the majority group are taught be the signs of inferiority. The fourth category is the presence of biological crossing of the groups. In this category, it is believed that the children will be more degenerate than either of the parents groups.

Although in *12 Years of Slave* the slavery mostly happened due to the skin color differences, there are actually four kinds of discrimination that might happen on society (Velasquez, 2002). The first kind of discrimination mentioned by Velasquez (2002) is the discriminations based on the intention. This discrimination is divided into two types: (a) intentional discrimination which is a type of discrimination that the action is done consciously and deliberately, and (b) unintentional discrimination which is a type of discrimination that the action is not done consciously and deliberately but is brought about by an unintended outcome. However, it is difficult to differentiate them. Some of the discrimination acts appear unplanned and unconscious, but it is sometimes proven that it is done deliberately (Rose, 1958). That kind of different point of views may lead to the discrimination and it is hard to see if it is done intentionally or unintentionally.

The second kind of discrimination explained by Velasquez (2002) is the discrimination based on the doers. Velasquez divides this discrimination into two

types: (a) **Individual discrimination** which is a type of discrimination that is done by one or a few individuals. This kind of discrimination happened in a small scale, like in a school or in an office, and (b) **Institutional discrimination** which is a type of discrimination that is done by many people. This kind of discrimination was the one that happened in America during the slavery period. It was almost all of the Americans who discriminated the afro American people and enslaved them. There was a time when the Northern and the Southern parts of the United States of America had a war. They called it Civil War. In that era the slaves were offered to join the army and helped defending their region. They were promised that they would be treated equally. There were more than 186,000 Blacks joined the Union Army; 38,000 died in service (Campbell, n.d.). The soldier who supposed to fight side by side also did not do that. The white Union soldiers did not want to fight alongside the Blacks. It was one of the worst times for the Blacks as they had to fight racism in their own group during a war.

Comas (1956) explained that there was a belief that blacks were inferior who need White people's help to civilize them. The belief was supported by the fact that the blacks at that time were pagans, who were considered inferior compared to the Whites who were Christians. Those pagan blacks were inferior because they did not acknowledge God. Wohangara (1998, p. 23) citing Aristotle's idea that "some people are born free and other's slaves" and Darwin's idea on "the survival of the fittest" argues that both theories support the idea of superior versus inferior.

Weaver (1982, p. 69) mentions that "not only slavery denied black's freedom, citizenship, equally before the law, mobility and compensation for their labor, but it also produced a rationalization which characterized them as sub-human." The sub-human category was claimed as a result of blacks' incompetence. Fogel and Engerman (1984, p. 320) say that the idea of blacks' incompetence supported racism. The theories asserted that the blacks and the whites were different species or at least that black were "inferior variety of human species. The innate inferiority of the blacks' race was manifested in laziness, limited intellectual capacities, a childlike simplicity, docility, sensuousness, and tempestuousness.

CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Type of Research

There are three kinds of methods which can be applied in a research. Those are qualitative, quantitative and the mix of qualitative and quantitative methods. This study tried to explore the movie deeper in order to answer the research questions. As the research questions of this study is about both the discrimination and the reaction of the main characters, the writer thinks that it is better to use the method which can accommodate the writer's effort to answer both of the research questions. The method should be able to let the writer interpret and describe her understanding about the related materials. The qualitative method is able to accommodate them. Therefore, in this study, the writer chose to apply the qualitative method.

The writer did not test any hypothesis in this research. She only watched the movie over and over to know more about the movie and interpreted it to get the answer she had listed on the research questions. Qualitative method is applicable to help the writer to do the interpretation as it is often framed as an inductive exploration of a problem or issue rather than a deductive testing of a hypothesis, as in much quantitative research (Macfarlane, 2010).

3.2 DATA COLLECTION

Data collection is a step in a research with the aim to gather data necessary for the study. The information on the data collected is discussed below.

3.2.1 Source of Data

In this thesis, the writer used *Twelve Years a Slave*, a movie about Solomon. He was a black American who was not supposed to be a slave but then he had to as he was kidnapped and taken away from anyone who knew him. Solomon tried to tell the live of a slave from his point of view. The movie was made based on a book, written by Solomon himself in 1853. The details of the movie are as follows:

Title : *12 Years a Slave*

Director : Steve McQueen

Company : Summit Entertainment

Release Date : August 30, 2013

Running Time : 134 minutes

Country : United Kingdom

United States

Language : English

3.1.2 Procedure

From the data compiled by the writer, she then did several analysis. The procedure were as follows:

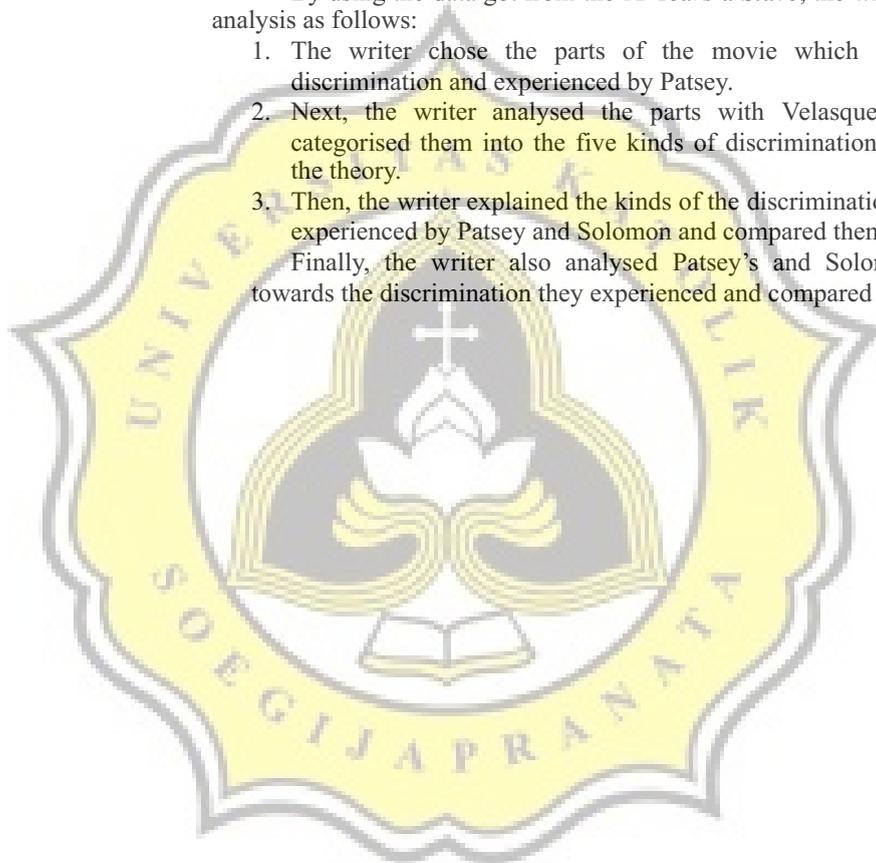
1. The writer repeated more than one time to watch the *12 Years a Slave* so that she could really understand the movie and get the better context.
2. Next, the writer analyzed the parts when Solomon and Patsey got the discrimination from their masters according to Velasquez (2002).
3. Then, the writer analysed which discriminations that was matched with the treatment experienced by Solomon and Patsey.

3.3 Method of Data Analysis

By using the data got from the *12 Years a Slave*, the writer did several analysis as follows:

1. The writer chose the parts of the movie which contained any discrimination and experienced by Patsey.
2. Next, the writer analysed the parts with Velasquez' theory and categorised them into the five kinds of discriminations according to the theory.
3. Then, the writer explained the kinds of the discriminations which were experienced by Patsey and Solomon and compared them.

Finally, the writer also analysed Patsey's and Solomon's reaction towards the discrimination they experienced and compared them.



CHAPTER IV DATA ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the writer presents the data she collected and the analysis she had done. As the film *A Twelve Years a Slave* was about slavery, most of the discrimination which were experienced by the slaves was due to their race difference. The slaves were Afro American which has dark skin while their masters were the white Americans which were Caucasians. The writer chose the scenes of the films which contained the discriminations experienced by both Solomon and Patsey. In *Twelve Years Slave* movie, Solomon moves from one master to the other masters several times. Until then, when his master is Edward Epps, Solomon meets Patsey. As the movie was written by Solomon himself, the movie is seen from Solomon's point of view. As the main character, the viewers are taken to see Solomon's bitter experience to be enslaved. It is a really bad experience. However, the climax of this movie is according to the writer, when he meets Patsey.

Patsey actually takes a role as a supporting character. She is described as a young black woman who can work really well. It even makes her master, Epps, gives her a high compliment among the workers. She is even better than the male workers. They can only produce around 200-400 pounds of cotton while Patsey can produce like around 500 pounds. Epps often uses Patsey's great achievement as the minimum standard of the cotton production. He will without doubt punish the other workers when they can only make less than Patsey's. Patsey's life unfortunately does not get any better. Epps comes to her and rapes her at a time. Solomon knows about it but he cannot do anything. Her master even tells him to flog Patsey. The heavy burden even makes Patsey ask Solomon to end her life. Solomon does not do that and he also cannot do anything when finally he gets his freedom. He can only give his last hug for Patsey.

The writer discusses the discriminations experienced by Solomon and Patsey based on the theory proposed by Velaquez (2002). They are intentional discrimination and institutional discrimination.

4.1 Intentional Discrimination

In general, what happens to Solomon and Patsey are the results of intentional discriminations. As mentioned in chapter 2 previously, blacks people were considered inferior compared to the superior whites so that Solomon and Patsey become the victims of slavery. Using the idea of Velaquez (2002), Solomon's and Patsey's discrimination is intentional. Solomon and Patsey were forced to work for other people just because they are black. The discriminative treatments experienced by the black slaves are shown in the discussion below.

4.1.1 Intentional Discrimination Happened to Solomon

a. Taken and beaten like an animal

Once a free man of Saratoga, New York, Solomon Northrup, who works as a violist, is persuaded by two white men to follow them to Washington. The white men, one is said to be a dr. Brown and the other, Hamilton, offer big money to Solomon if he is willing to work for a circus with them. On an occasion, Solomon and the white men celebrate the financial success of their work. Solomon did not know that the drink he has in the restaurant is duped with drugs. He wakes up in a room chained to the floor.

Figure 4.1. Solomon tries to pull the chain tied him to the floor (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:12:27)

What happens to Solomon is the result of intentional discrimination. He is the target of the kidnapers who deliberately take and sell him to the plantation's master because he is black, an inferior being, so he deserves to be sold as a slave. When the two white men persuade Solomon, they say that the job in the circus that they offer to Solomon include "creatures from Africa that have never been seen by people before." At that time Solomon does not pay attention to the two men, but the use of the word "creatures" implies the attitude of these two men toward Africans.

Solomon tries to free himself, but he fails. When the guard comes to his cell, Solomon tries to tell the guard that he is a free man, not a slave. Instead of freeing him, the guard asks for his letter and states that "You ain't a free man, you ain't from Saratoga, you are from Georgia, you are a runaway nigger from Georgia." (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:12:12-00:12:14).

Georgia is one of the states in which slavery took place. It was in 1526 when a Spaniard named Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon tried to make a place to stay in South Carolina near the mouth of the Pedee River (Campbell, n.d.). From there, the inhabitants called the place Georgia. There were 100 African slaves brought by Ayllon to build the place. However, the slavery was not that popular until then when the British came and made their colony which stretched from Massachusetts to Georgia. It was also boosted by the fact that in 1612 there was an invention made by John Rolfe who found the way to make tobacco tasted better. This invention led to an increase in slavery as there were more slaves needed to harvest the crops to sell to Europe.

Learning from the experience of Georgia State where black people were forced to work in the plantation as slaves, it can be inferred that Solomon's kidnapping is intentional. Although he is a free man, like what Fogel and Engerman (1984) say, he is seen as incompetence. Thus, Solomon is treated as a commodity to be bought physically, not intellectually.

In the small cell, Solomon is not only confined but he is also beaten. Everything he owns is taken away from him including his old clothes, the clothes that he claimed was given to him by his wife; the clothes that tie him to his past life. The film shows that the beating and the bad treatments are done to break his spirit. Solomon is treated like an animal that needs to be conquered and mastered.

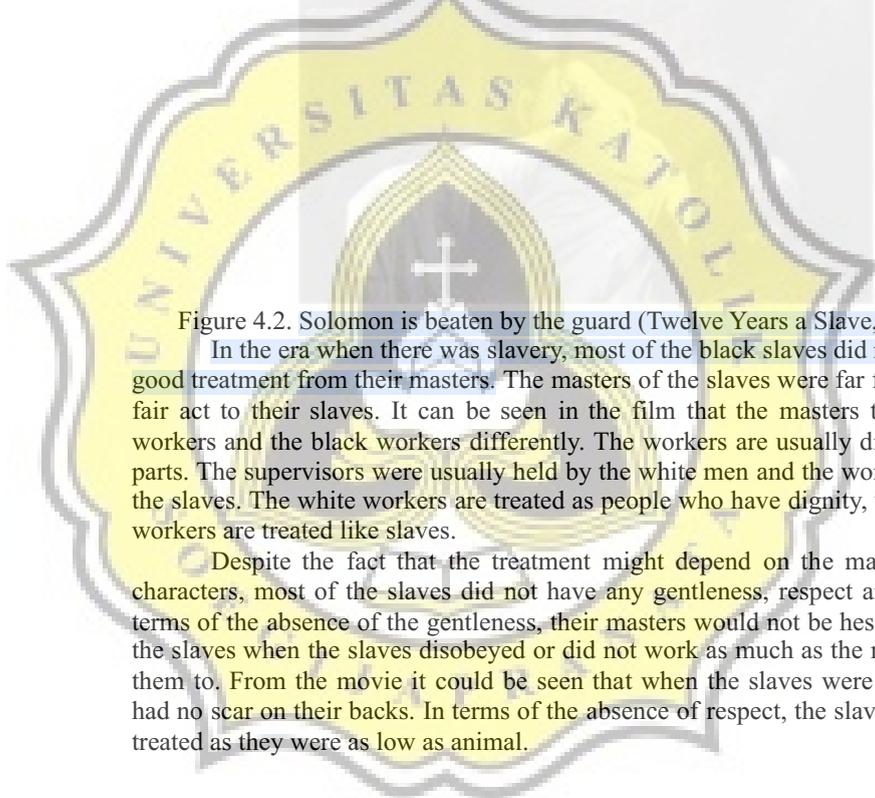


Figure 4.2. Solomon is beaten by the guard (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:12:16)

In the era when there was slavery, most of the black slaves did not have any good treatment from their masters. The masters of the slaves were far from doing any fair act to their slaves. It can be seen in the film that the masters treat the white workers and the black workers differently. The workers are usually divided into two parts. The supervisors were usually held by the white men and the workers who were the slaves. The white workers are treated as people who have dignity, while the black workers are treated like slaves.

Despite the fact that the treatment might depend on the masters' personal characters, most of the slaves did not have any gentleness, respect and fairness. In terms of the absence of the gentleness, their masters would not be hesitant to beat up the slaves when the slaves disobeyed or did not work as much as the masters wanted them to. From the movie it could be seen that when the slaves were topless, none had no scar on their backs. In terms of the absence of respect, the slaves were mostly treated as they were as low as animal.

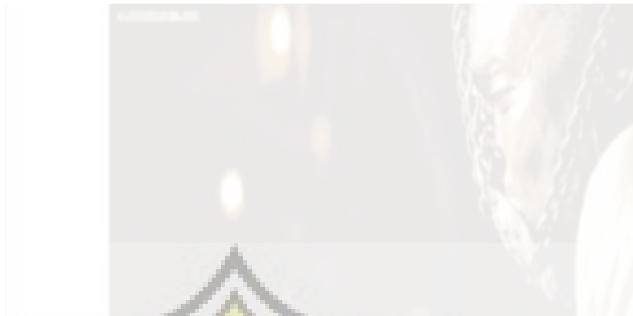


Figure 4.3. a Slave Being Shut (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:21:57)

b. Sold like an animal

There was a scene in the film that caught the moment when the slaves were about to be sold, they were priced and offered as if they were animals.

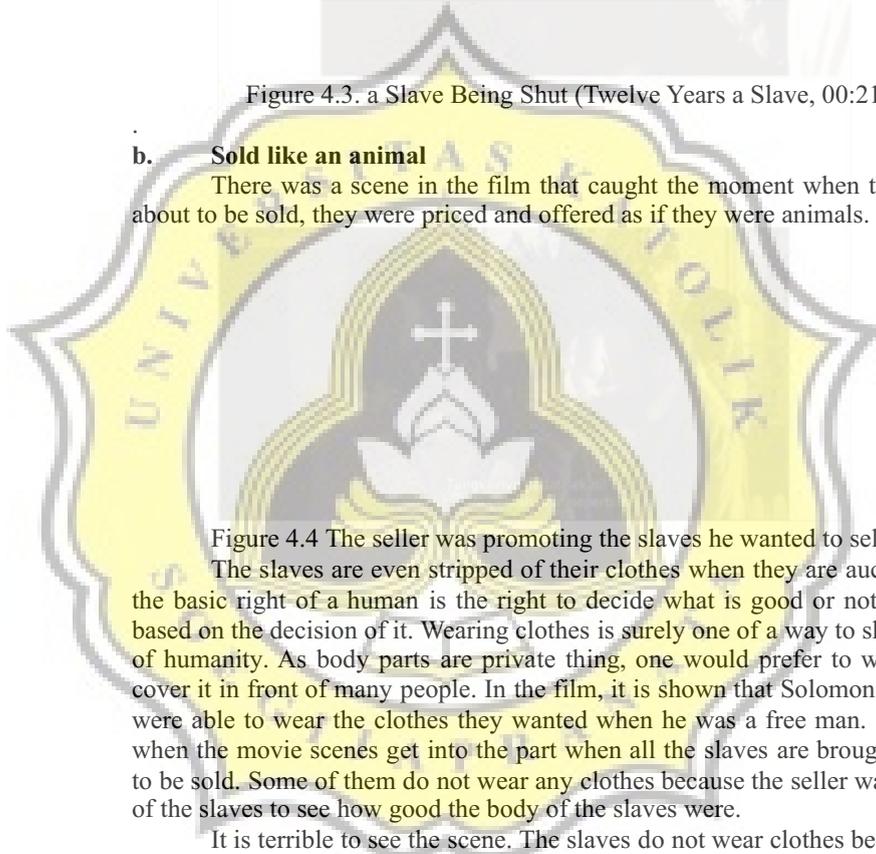


Figure 4.4 The seller was promoting the slaves he wanted to sell.

The slaves are even stripped of their clothes when they are auctioned. One of the basic right of a human is the right to decide what is good or not good and act based on the decision of it. Wearing clothes is surely one of a way to show the dignity of humanity. As body parts are private thing, one would prefer to wear clothes to cover it in front of many people. In the film, it is shown that Solomon and his family were able to wear the clothes they wanted when he was a free man. Things change when the movie scenes get into the part when all the slaves are brought into a house to be sold. Some of them do not wear any clothes because the seller wanted the buyer of the slaves to see how good the body of the slaves were.

It is terrible to see the scene. The slaves do not wear clothes because the seller wants to show the buyers that the slaves have good body which are able to work hard and deserve to be sold at a high price. In this scene, Solomon does not need to be naked as he is not sold. It might be because he was beaten hard few moments before he is about to be sold. His newly injured back would make him cost cheap. Solomon only observed what was going on in that house.

c. Forced to sleep on the ground

The slaves do not have a proper place to live. They do not sleep on beds but on the ground in a separate building from their masters. The masters of the slave are usually the rich. They should have money to buy the slaves who are often sold in a high cost. They also usually own a garden or plantation, the place where the slaves work. Although the slaves live in miserable places, they cannot run away from their masters. At night, they should sleep together in a place provided by the masters. One of the place's conditions could be seen from this scene.

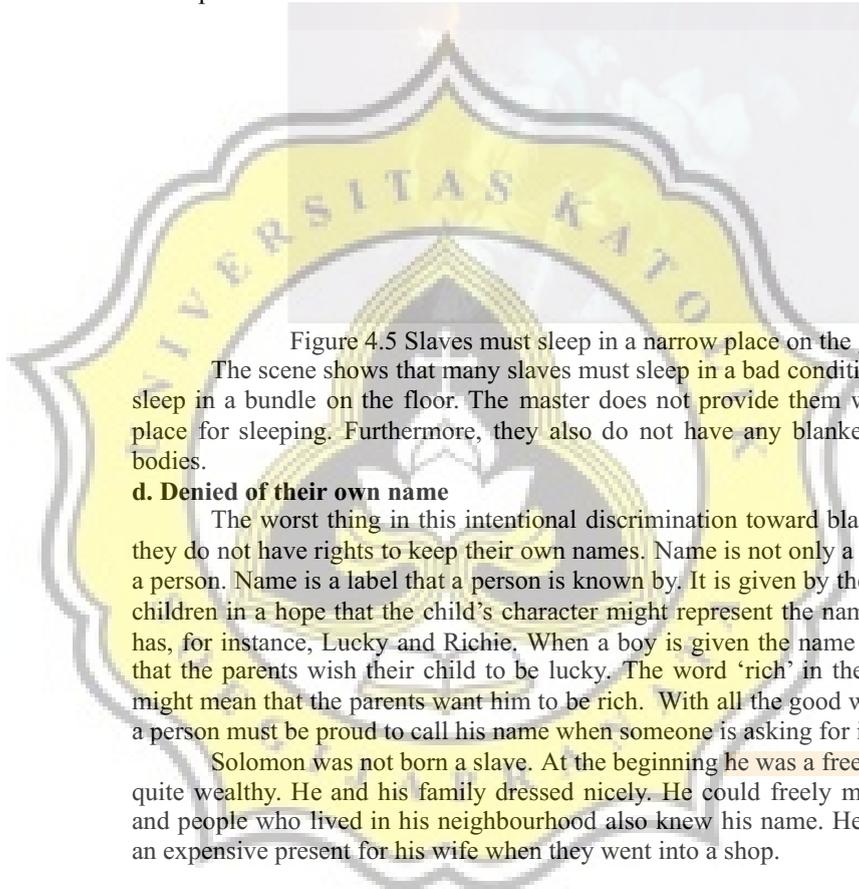


Figure 4.5 Slaves must sleep in a narrow place on the ground

The scene shows that many slaves must sleep in a bad condition. They have to sleep in a bundle on the floor. The master does not provide them with comfortable place for sleeping. Furthermore, they also do not have any blanket to warm their bodies.

d. Denied of their own name

The worst thing in this intentional discrimination toward black people is that they do not have rights to keep their own names. Name is not only a word attached to a person. Name is a label that a person is known by. It is given by the parents to their children in a hope that the child's character might represent the name that he or she has, for instance, Lucky and Richie. When a boy is given the name Lucky, it means that the parents wish their child to be lucky. The word 'rich' in the name "Richie" might mean that the parents want him to be rich. With all the good wishes in a name, a person must be proud to call his name when someone is asking for it.

Solomon was not born a slave. At the beginning he was a free man and he was quite wealthy. He and his family dressed nicely. He could freely mention his name and people who lived in his neighbourhood also knew his name. He could even buy an expensive present for his wife when they went into a shop.



Figure 4.6 Solomon and his wife got into a shop (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:26:52)

However, the freedom to mention the real name was not applicable to the slaves. It is not because they were not proud of their names. It was because they were forbidden to have their own names.

Earlier in the discussion, the writer shows that Solomon is beaten like an animal to break his spirit. The same scene is actually the time when Solomon mentions that his name is Solomon and he is a freeman, not a slave. Solomon does not do anything bad to deserve that kind of punishment. But, it makes the man even get angrier. The man is a slave collector. He does not want the slave he had collected to run away because he will not get any money if the slave does so. Therefore, when Solomon says that he is a free man, he gets angry and forces Solomon to never mention that name again.

Solomon, at first, insists to keep mentioning his real name and tells the man that he is a free man. He tries to negotiate, but when the white man asks for any letter which could say that he is not a slave, Solomon cannot show it. It makes the white man get even angrier and hits him harder until the stick is broken. Solomon does not mention his real name again after that.

Another scene which shows that the slaves are denied of their own names is when Solomon is lined up and is called as Platt. Solomon tries to ignore being called as Platt, but then the white man accuses him of ignorance. When Solomon tells the white man that his name is not Platt, the white man slaps him and insistently says, "Your name is Platt." (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:28:28-00:28:30).



Figure 4.7 Solomon tries to explain that he is not Platt. (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:28:27)

e. Given improper food in quantity and in quality.

Food is surely one of many important things that are needed by any living things to stay alive and to have the energy they need to do the activities. The amount of food needed is at least as much as the energy spent so that one might be able to survive. However, *12 Years a Slave* movie shows the portrayal that the amount of food given by a master can not really compensate the energy spent by the slaves. They have to work really hard to satisfy their masters' expectation or else they will be whipped. However, the master does not really give sufficient amount of food for the slaves. In the movie, there is never a scene showing the slaves having their lunch in the afternoon. So there is a possibility that the master does not give any lunch for the slaves. They need to work as hard as possible to avoid the master's punishment, and as a consequence, they probably skip their lunch and go on working.

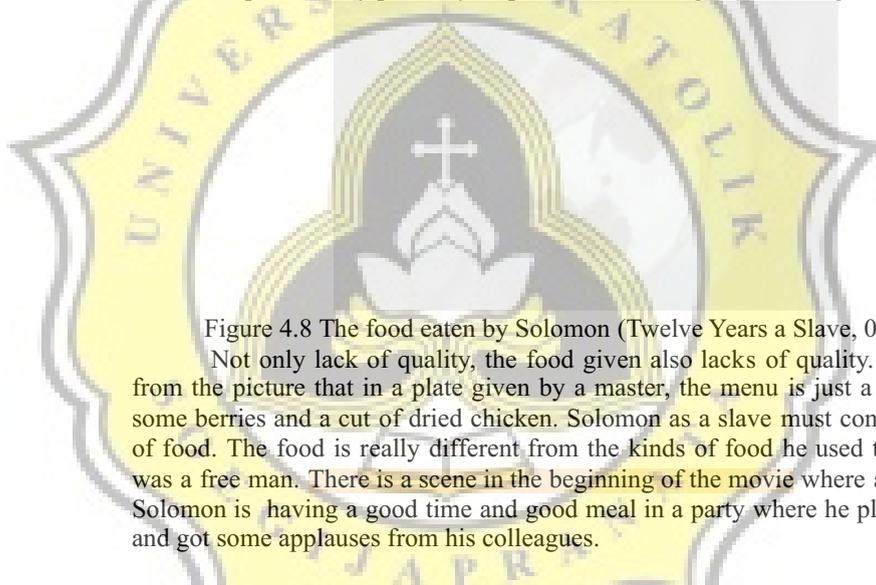


Figure 4.8 The food eaten by Solomon (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:02:48)

Not only lack of quantity, the food given also lacks of quality. It can be seen from the picture that in a plate given by a master, the menu is just a kind of bread, some berries and a cut of dried chicken. Solomon as a slave must consume this kind of food. The food is really different from the kinds of food he used to eat when he was a free man. There is a scene in the beginning of the movie where as a free man, Solomon is having a good time and good meal in a party where he played his violin and got some applauses from his colleagues.

f. Work like there is no other day

It is true that human needs to work to fulfil their needs, but it does not mean that they can just work all the time. Having a break is also a necessary thing to do. Without a proper resting, the body and the mental health will take their tolls.

The slaves do not really have the luxury of having a rest. When there is no light the slaves do not work or cannot work in a plantation, but instead of having a rest, their master will ask them to do any other things. One of the ridiculous things to be done which is shown in the movie is when Mr. Epps orders the slaves who are having a rest in their room to come out and have a dance party in his house. The party

sounds like a fun thing to do, but it is not. There, the slaves are ordered to dance energetically although they have been tired from all day working in the plantation or doing other jobs.

Figure 4.9 Mr. Epps (Solomon's Master) asks the slaves to dance after they have worked for all day long (Twelve Years a Slave, 01:01:35)

It can be seen in the scene that unlike normal people who will be excited to go to a party, the slaves walk without any excitement. They walk into the room with tired expression. They are actually too tired to go for the dance and prefer having a rest than attending a dance party. However, unlike other people who can reject an invitation to a party, the slaves are powerless. In the movie, Mr. Epps considers the dance party as a part of the slave jobs. He will not hesitate to whip anyone who dares to refuse his want.

g. Denied of day off

Working, like any other activities, takes up energy. People need to focus, concentrate, and act when they are working. So they need some rest after working as they need time to recover the energy both physically and mentally.

Slaves work harder than the common people. They do not have time to break during the working time. They also get very harsh punishment when the results are under the target set by their masters. The masters call the slaves to see the results of their work. If it is less than what they expect, the slaves will be punished. After that, they must continue to work. Some slaves have the chance to have a day off in Sabbath day. There is a scene in the movie showing Patsey having a congregation with his fellow slaves. However, it is not stated if it is a whole day off or just a short break.

h. Denied of the rights to state their own opinions.

One of the basic human right is the right to state an opinion. In a time when there is no slavery, if there is something people like or dislike then they may give their opinion. Although it does not mean that if they do not like something, then they can unpleasantly criticize it. There might be a certain condition that might follow like giving the opinion politely. However, a slave is really discriminated in this matter.

They should always say “yes” and follow order. They do not even have any right to oppose anything done by a master either to themselves or any other slaves.

In the beginning of the movie, there is a scene in a ship that shows Solomon and another slave are throwing a dead body wrapped in a layer of cloth into the sea.

Figure 4.10 Solomon throws the body of a dead slave overboard (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:24:34)

The body is a body of a slave who dared to oppose a master. When they were all in a ship, a master came to their room. He was about to rape a female slave. Realizing the master’s intention, the slave tried to stop the master. Unfortunately, the master brought a knife with him. He did not doubt to stab the slave who was about to stop him. Solomon and other slaves witness the incident, but they can do nothing because they still want to live. Once they oppose or complain, the master will kill them as well. Solomon who actually wants to oppose the master has been told by his fellow slaves that if he wants to stay alive, he should learn to keep his mouth shut.

4.1.2 Intentional Discrimination Happened to Patsey

Intentional discrimination is also experienced by Patsey. Similar to what happens to Solomon, Patsey is discriminated and treated bad because she is a black woman. The discrimination and the bad treatments are discussed in the following discussion.

a. Sexually abused

All slaves actually have a job to do a service for their masters. The males usually work in the plantation which need more physical strength, while the females work at the masters’ home to do the house chores. However, some of the masters are so evil. They do not only ask the slaves to do works, but they also force the slaves to be their sex slaves. One of the slaves who should experience this bitter condition is Patsey.



Figure 4.11 Patsey was being raped by her master

Patsey is actually a great worker. She works in the plantation and becomes the best among all slaves as she collects the most cotton. However, she cannot escape the abuse. One night her master came into her room and raped her. She could not do anything to resist her master because she is afraid of the punishments.

As can be seen in the movie, Patsey is helpless and cannot escape the rape of her master because she is a black woman. The rape happened to Patsey is intentional since the white master really understands that Patsey will not resist his approach. As a master and a white person he has control over Patsey, a slave and a black woman. The discrimination experienced by a black female slave was often harsher than the discrimination happened to a black male slave. A black female slave is discriminated as a black person, a woman, and a slave. If the male slave is treated like an animal who cannot develop, the female slave will be treated worse.

Figure 4.12 Patsey is picking the cotton (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:55:50)
b. **Treated inhumanly**

The slave has to follow the master's orders. Different from the common workers who have the right to have a day off and refuse to come to work on their day off, slaves cannot do that. If a slave deny that order, the master might just kill the slave and there will be who can stop it. Other than sexually abused, Patsey's life is also controlled by the master. One of the examples is when she is called from her day off to serve her master by Solomon



Figure 4.13 Patsey is having tea time on a Sabbath day (12 Years a Slave 01:07:07)

Patsey protests Solomon because it is a Sabbath day, and there is no work on the day. However, Patsey knows that Solomon is bringing the master's order, not a request which can be turned down easily. Knowing that condition, Patsey returns to the house. Here, it can be seen that Patsey does not own her own life, she is just a pion played by the master.

In the master's house, Patsey explains to Epps that it is a Sabbath day so she deserves to have a day off. Yet, Epps does not want to understand it. He gets mad and asks Solomon to whip Patsey. When he sees that Solomon does not want to hurt Patsey and disobeys him, Epps threatens Solomon. He says that if Solomon does not whip Patsey seriously he promises that he will kill every single slaves he has. Not having any other choice, Solomon whips Patsey as hard as he can.

In the working space, there is usually be a system of punishment and rewards. It helps the company to manage the workers to make the company grow bigger. The workers who make mistakes can get punished so that they learn. Meanwhile the good workers can have a reward as a symbol of how the company appreciate their good work. However, in the slavery time. There is no reward and punishment system from the master. The master can just punish the slave even though they make no mistake, just because the master wants to punish the slave.

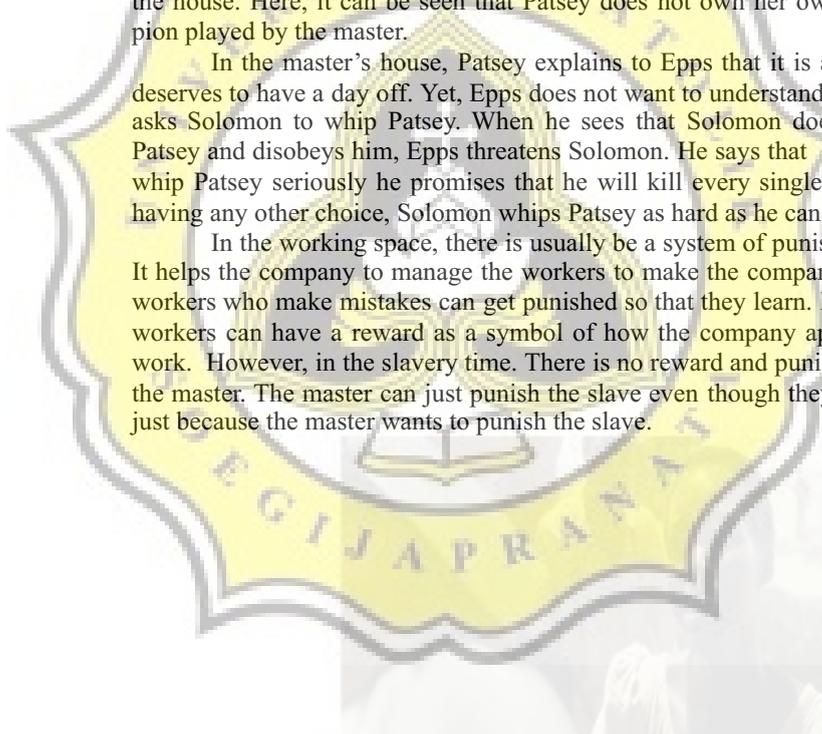


Figure 4.14 Patsey is desperately trying to explain to Epps about her reason of leaving (12 Years a Slave 01:47:32)

It can be seen that actually Patsy does not make any mistake. She gets out on a Sabbath day, which is a day when she is permitted to leave. She does not even leave for a long time. Yet, Epps as her master still wants to punish her just because he wants to.

In general, the movie shows the discriminations done by the masters to their slaves. Masters are actually the people who buy the slaves. In the *12 Years of Slave* it can be seen that once the slave trader gets some slaves, they will treat the slaves like animals. They beat and force the slaves to use their new name. The clothes that the slaves wear before is taken, and they are given the 'slave outfit'. The slave trader will then make a kind of announcement so that the people who are interested to hire the slaves for their plantation or any other kind of work can buy them.

The price offered for each slaves is different from one to another. It is usually based on the physical ability of the slave. If the slave looks young and strong, the price will be more expensive. However, it does not mean that if the slave is still a kid, the price will be cheap. There is a scene in the movie when a master, Mr. Ford can only buy for a mother and should leave her children because he cannot afford to pay all of them.

Figure 4.15 Mr. Ford is trying to bargain for the children of a slave (12 Years a Slave 00:31:15)

It is a terrible scene to see because here human is made as a commodity which can be traded. Supposedly, human is not a thing or animal which is tradeable. Yet, in this scene the trading is like a common thing. Furthermore, although not all masters treat the slaves badly, some of them really think that the slaves are equally humane as them. They regard the slaves as a property which can be treated the way they like. It becomes the justification for some of the masters to treat the slaves in a really bad way, like torturing, raping or even killing the slaves.

In terms of the freedom, slaves do not have it. They are not free to go anywhere they want. They should work as hard as they can, then return to their shelter once they have finished the work. The master who cannot really supervise the slaves by himself will ask people to supervise the slaves. When a slave tries to escape by running away from the plantation, the supervisor will do a preventive action to stop the slaves by shooting them.



Figure 4.16 A white man supervisor is holding a rifle while guarding the slaves from escaping (12 Years a Slave 00:34:35)

4.2 Institutional discrimination

The second sub-chapter in this chapter 4 is about institutional discrimination happened to Solomon and Patsey. Velasquez (2002) explains that institutional discrimination is a type of discrimination that is done by many people. The example given by Velasquez is the slavery in America where the black people were discriminated and enslaved.

The intentional discrimination previously discussed is divided into two parts first which is experienced by Solomon and second which is experienced by Patsey. In this subchapter, the writer intends to unite the institutional discrimination experienced by both Patsey and Solomon because in this discrimination both of them experienced the same situation ever since they live at the same place which has the same system of law and the same kinds of inhabitants.

Solomon and Patsey are discriminated not only by individuals but also by institution. In this case, the United States and the people living in it. It is hard for Solomon and Patsey to escape slavery because all people especially white people around them, though not all agree to slavery, seem to contribute in keeping the black people enslaved.

The slave trader has actually discriminated Solomon in many ways as what the writer has previously mentioned. However, the discrimination is actually done by the common people too. They surely know that the slaves are treated inhumanly. As it can be seen on the following picture where the slaves are put in a heap in the back of a cart.



Figure 4.17 Slaves in an small open cart (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:28:40)

It can be seen that slavery is actually not illegal. Therefore, it is not a thing that needs to be hidden. It can be seen that when some slaves including Solomon are transported to another place, they are transported in a small cart openly. The slave trader is not afraid of being caught by anyone. As for the slaves, they look totally uncomfortable. There are some of them, but the cart is just not big enough for them all.

The writer puts this under the institutional discrimination because it can be seen that there are so many people there. However, they do not even turn their head when the cart with the slaves is passing through. Bringing a group of slaves is not something uncommon. They do not care about the suffering experienced by the slaves that have to stay in a small cart like that. They might see that it is normal for the whites to enslave the blacks and it is a normal thing too to see the slaves suffer.

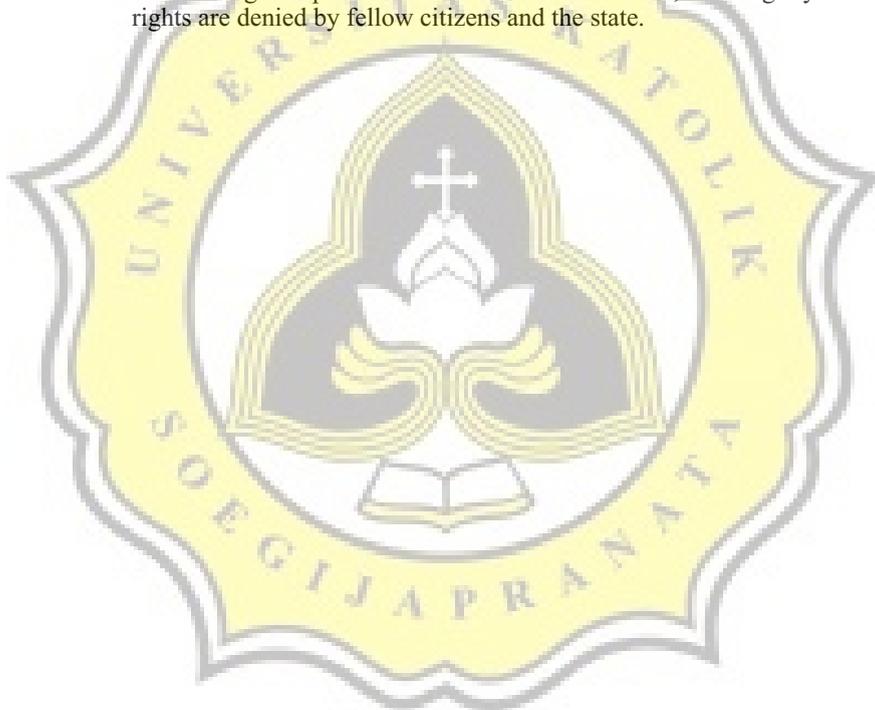
The people who discriminate Solomon and Patsey can get away without punishments from the law because what they have done to either Solomon, Patsey or other slaves is not against the law. The fact about this is not revealed until when Solomon is speaking to Bass, a man whom Epps hires to make a new house.

When Bass and the slaves are working on the house, Epps comes by and offers Bass to drink and have a rest from the heat. Bass then says that Epps cares about Bass' well being but Epps does not care what about the slaves. He thinks that the working condition for the slaves there is all wrong. He also questions Epps about what right he has to treat his slaves in such bad condition. When Epps replies that he buys them so the slaves are his property. In reply, Bass says, "There is no justice or right about slavery. And of course you're right Law says that you have the right to hold your niggers" (*12 Years a Slave* 01:43:05-1:43:30). Bass' sentences explain that the slavery itself is not without any basis nor against the law as it walks along with the law itself. However, as a man who strongly believe that the slavery is a mistake, Bass says that everyone can make a mistake. Consequently, law can be wrong as well. Bass believes that there is no justice in the law about the slavery so the law must be changed.

The argument between Bass and Epps triggers Solomon curiosity. He asks where Bass comes from. When Bass replies that he was born in Canada, Solomon admits that Canada is a beautiful country. Bass does not expect at all that Solomon would have known that place. To answer his curiosity he asks Solomon about how he

has ever been to a place like Canada but ends up at Epps' place as a slave. Solomon answers that he becomes a slave because the world is not a fair place. Finally, he asks Bass' help to send a letter to his friends in the North. The information will be able to release him from the slavery. In the end, Bass keeps his promise. Solomon's friends come and release Solomon from Epps and he gains his liberty. However, luck does not go well with Patsey. Under the assumption that she is born a slave, she can not gain her liberty. Even if someone buys her from Epps, according to the law, she will still be a slave, not a free woman. When Solomon finally leaves Epps plantation, Patsey cannot say a word. She can only look at Solomon.

What happens to Patsey emphasizes the idea that discriminations against slaves, usually black people, are institutional discrimination. It is supported by many people and even the law. As the discrimination is institutional, slaves are put in in disadvantageous position. Their freedom is cut off, their dignity is trodden, and their rights are denied by fellow citizens and the state.



CHAPTER V CONCLUSION

In this chapter, it can be concluded that both intentional and institutional discrimination was experienced by both Solomon and Patsey.

5.1 Conclusion

Discrimination is bad as there is no fair judgement behind it. Some groups of people feel like they have the right to treat other people unfairly. The analysis found that in the case of the slaves, they are treated even lower than the way any animals are treated. The masters have the right to hurt and even kill them when any of the slaves make mistakes or even when the masters feel like they want to. The kinds of discrimination happened to Solomon are certainly the intentional kind of discrimination. The doers who are the masters of the slaves intend to do the discrimination to their slaves based on the idea that they are black people who “naturally” deserve to be treated badly. The detail findings of the intentional discrimination which happened to Solomon are the fact that he was taken and beaten like an animal, sold like an animal, forced to sleep on the ground, denied of their own name, and given improper food in quantity and in quality. He also needs to work like there is no other day, have no day off, and is denied of the rights to state their own opinions. Meanwhile, the discriminations happened to Patsey are that she was sexually abused, raped by her master, and treated inhumanly.

The second kind of the intentional discrimination is the institutional discrimination. The discrimination which happened to Solomon and Patsey is institutional as the doers who do the actions of discrimination are basically the whole white people community and even the law of the country. They are free to discriminate and treat the slaves badly because other people in the society do so, too. In the movie, it can be seen that the white community is ignorant of the suffering and ill-treatment experienced by the slaves although the injustice happens right before their eyes. The ignorance proves that the discrimination is done by a group of people, in this case, the whole community. Moreover, the law which approves slavery also supports the discrimination which happened to Solomon and Patsey.

5.2 Suggestion

The discrimination discussed in this study is about the discrimination happens to the slaves in United States of America. For the future research, it may be good to observe the kind of discriminations that have ever happened in other places.

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Quotes

Quotes 40

- 1 When he regained his freedom, he wrote a memoir of his years as a slave after making a little interview from other ex-slaves to enrich the story (Northup, 1855).
- 2 Southern cities were small because they were not able to develop diversified economies (Davis, 1972).
- 21 Lovejoy (1981), in his book *The Ideology of Slavery in Africa*, slaves were property, but they were also human beings.
- 3 In 1700s masters rapping his own slave is not considered as rape at all, a master is free to do what he likes with his own property (Schneider & Schneider, 2007).
- 4 The brutal treatment is the start of enslavement rape culture, when woman's body does not belong to woman anymore (White, 1999).
- 5 During that time, between 1790 and 1860, black slaves live in a society that constantly reminded them that they were not treated as human being (Schneider & Schneider, 2007).
- 6 It is characterized by the absolute power (in practice) of the master over his slave and become an extension of the will and household of the former (Allain, 2012).
- 7 B. Discrimination Discrimination can be defined as any unequal treatments of individuals or groups on the basis of some, usually categorical attribute such as race, ethnic, religious or social class (Theodorson, 1979).
- 8 However, one of them could be the existence of the 'superiority complex' (Rose, 1958).
- 9 It could be traced to at least in 1295 BC in Egypt (Campbell, n.d.).
- 22 It was an era when 19th Egyptian dynasty ruled over Egypt region (1295 – 1186 BC) and also a time when some famous Egyptian rulers lived, such as Ramses and Queen Nefertiti.
- 10 It was Prince Henry of Portugal, son of King John I who sent the Portuguese traders to Africa for gold (Campbell, n.d.).
- 23 On the slavery towards African people, Campbell called the slavery as a black holocaust (Campbell, n.d.) because millions slaves' lives were lost for centuries to slavery.
- 11 In 1650 – 1900, the growth of the African population were only around 100 millions to 120 millions, while at the same time period, the Europe and Asia grew for around 400 millions (Taylor, 2000).
- 24 A slave was shackeld (Campbell, n.d.) In United States of America, the country where the setting of the 12 Years a Slave takes place, the slavery began in 1619 when 20 people were brought to Jamestown, Virginia (Stampp, 1984).
- 38 "laziness, limited intellectual capacities, a childlike simplicity, docility, sensuousness, and tempestuousness" (Stampp, 1984, p. 320)
- 12 It is also believed that the Blacks' survival depended on the masters' ability to force them to work (Stampp, 1984, p. 287).
- 25 The matriarchal black women have been repeatedly invoked as one of the fatal-by-products of slavery (Davis, 1972) There are various kinds of human right violations that have happened throughout the movie.

- 13 Discrimination can be translated as the mistreatment of people without them having done anything to merit such mistreatment (Rose, 1958).
- 14 Although in 12 Years of Slave the slavery mostly happened due to the skin color differences, there are actually four kinds of discrimination that might happen on society (Velasquez, 2002).
- 26 The first kind of discrimination mentioned by Velasquez (2002) is the discriminations based on the intention.
- 15 Some of the discrimination acts appear unplanned and unconscious, but it is sometimes proven that it is done deliberately (Rose, 1958).
- 27 The second kind of discrimination explained by Velasquez (2002) is the discrimination based on the doers.
- 16 There were more than 186,000 Blacks joined the Union Army; 38,000 died in service (Campbell, n.d.).
- 28 Comas (1956) explained that there was a belief that blacks were inferior who need White people's help to civilize them.
- 29 Wohangara (1998, p. 23) citing Aristotle's idea that "some people are born free and other's slaves" and Darwin's idea on "the survival of the fittest" argues that both theories support the idea of superior versus inferior.
- 30 Weaver (1982, p. 69) mentions that "not only slavery denied black's freedom, citizenship, equality before the law, mobility and compensation for their labor, but it also produced a rationalization which characterized them as sub-human.
- 31 Fogel and Engerman (1984, p. 320) say that the idea of blacks' incompetence supported racism.
- 17 Qualitative method is applicable to help the writer to do the interpretation as it is often framed as an inductive exploration of a problem or issue rather than a deductive testing of a hypothesis, as in much quantitative research (Macfarlane, 2010).
- 18 Next, the writer analyzed the parts when Solomon and Patsey got the discrimination from their masters according to Velasquez (2002).
- 19 The writer discusses the discriminations experienced by Solomon and Patsey based on the theory proposed by Velasquez (2002).
- 32 Using the idea of Velasquez (2002), Solomon's and Patsey's discrimination is intentional.
- 33 Solomon tries to pull the chain tied him to the floor (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:12:27) What happens to Solomon is the result of intentional discrimination.
- 39 "You ain't a free man, you ain't from Saratoga, you are from Georgia, you are a runaway nigger from Georgia." (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:12:12-00:12:14)
- 20 It was in 1526 when a Spaniard named Lucas Vasquez de Ayllon tried to make a place to stay in South Carolina near the mouth of the Pedee River (Campbell, n.d.).
- 34 Although he is a free man, like what Fogel and Engerman (1984) say, he is seen as incompetence.
- 35 Solomon is beaten by the guard (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:12:16) In the era when there was slavery, most of the black slaves did not have any good treatment from their masters.

40 "Your name is Platt." (Twelve Years a Slave, 00:28:28-00:28:30)

36 Epps (Solomon's Master) asks the slaves to dance after they have worked for all day long (Twelve Years a Slave, 01:01:35) It can be seen in the scene that unlike normal people who will be excited to go to a party, the slaves walk without any excitement.

37 Velasquez (2002) explains that institutional discrimination is a type of discrimination that is done by many people.



Exclusions

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