



Racism as a Social Issue in Black Eyed Peas Song “Where is the Love?”

Bejo Sutrisno¹

bejo@stibaiec-jakarta.ac.id

English Literature Department, Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing IEC Jakarta

Yulan Dewi Tantriana

yulandt@stibaiec-jakarta.ac.id

English Literature Department, Sekolah Tinggi Bahasa Asing IEC Jakarta

Budi Rachmawati

b.rachmawati@stiemp.ac.id

Accounting Department, Sekolah Tinggi Ilmu Ekonomi Mulya Pratama

Sutrisno, B., Tantriana, Y.D. and Rachmawati, B. (2024). Racism As A Social Issue In Black Eyed Peas Song “Where is The Love?”. *Journal of English Language and literature*, 9(1), 129-142. doi: 10.37110/jell.v9i1.216

Received: 11-12-2023

Accepted: 15-01-2024

Published:02-03-2024

Abstract: This research departs from the problems that occur related to racial discrimination that occurred in America. This study aims to examine the social issue surrounding the superiority of racist violence. Finding out the types of racism exist and describing how it is portrayed in the Black Eyed Peas song “Where is The Love?” are the goals of this study. Content analysis is a type of qualitative research that was employed in this research by the researcher. Unit analysis was used to gather data from the song through words and lyrics. The themes in the data were categorized, coded, and classified. Following that, the data were interpreted using the writer's point of view. The result showed that “Where is The Love?” song contained racism in the form of prejudice, and physical violence occur in the song. The “Where is The Love?” song represents racism in America because it was based on the tragedy happened in the past where Black Americans have been treated bad by the superiority.

Keywords: *Racism, Discrimination, Social Issue*

INTRODUCTION

Humans are created with unique personalities and physical appearance. The most visible differences are from the outside, such as differences in skin color, height, body type, and hair textures. Humans have no right to pick their skin color or other physical form when they are born because everything is a gift from God. However, as they become modern-minded, humans increasingly showing cultural distinctions that lead to conflict, such as religious conflicts, political conflicts, and ethnic conflicts in social life,. Conflict arises as a

result of prejudice based on a person's or group's judgment, attitude, or behavior toward them. Racial prejudice is a judgmental, unfavorable attitude that leads to racism. It is a negative judgment of a social group or a negative opinion of an individual that is greatly influenced by the individual's group membership (T. Jones, 2000).

According to the United Nations (United Nations, 2005), racism develops when people believe in their own superiority and discriminate against people of other races. Racism can be found all around the world. It pervades the way majority perceive and treat ethnic minorities, immigrants,

¹ Corresponding author

and asylum seekers. It is frequently prevalent in minority groups' stereotypes against the majority. Forms of racism have existed for thousands of years in the U.S. Racism in the United States is a set of values, symbols, and cultural institutions that assert the supremacy of the whites and utilize this assumption to reject minorities who are regarded as lower. The phenomenon related to racism also occur not only in America, however in other countries in the world, even though racial discriminates has been eliminated. On October 26, 1966, the United Nations General Assembly passed resolution 2142 (XXI) (link is external) designating March 21 as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, to be observed yearly.

On that day in 1960, police opened fire on a peaceful demonstration in Sharpeville, South Africa, denouncing apartheid's "pass laws," killing 69 people. In 1966, the United Nations General Assembly declared the Day, which commemorates the struggle to end South Africa's apartheid policy, and urged the world community to redouble its efforts to eradicate all forms of racial discrimination (UNESCO, 2020).

Some cases of racism also occur out of America such as cases of Megan Markle in the British Royal Family. As reported by *Chicago Tribune* (Glanton, 2021) In a wide-ranging interview with Oprah Winfrey, Markle (prince Harry's wife) revealed that the royal family decided not to give her son the title of prince, despite exceptions to the convention being made for the queen's other great-grandchildren. *"We had the dialogue that he won't be given security, he won't be given a title, and also concerns and conversations about how dark his complexion might be when he's born in the months while I was pregnant,"* Markle added. The interview elicited positive and negative responses, particularly from the British royal family, and Meghan (Afro – American Actris) gives the implication that a member of the royal family is racist towards her newborn child.

Other cases related to racism also experienced by Barack Obama (Ex U.S President). Some argue he

did, bringing in pro-minority criminal justice changes, saving hundreds of thousands of immigrants from deportation, and appointing racially diverse leaders to critical positions, including the first two black attorneys general. These supporters argue that he deserves greater credit for bringing America out of the worst recession since the Great Depression, assassinating Osama bin Laden, and expanding health-care coverage to millions of minorities. They hold his family up as a shining example of black achievement. Some, though, believe Obama irritated them by failing to speak out swiftly and firmly enough on race issues or to advocate for immigration reform fiercely enough (Cohen & Deepti, 2017).

In Indonesia, racial discrimination in the form of harassment or degrading treatment occurred. One instance of harassment occurred when one of the military personnel in Surabaya, Indonesia, referred to Papuan students as "monkeys." This sparked protests across Papua, as well as the deportation of other ethnic groups from the province (Sary & Bimantara, 2020). It is very inappropriate to equate humans with the title of animals, this is contrary to human rights, where everyone has the same value, degree and dignity, regardless of ethnicity, religion or race.

One of the most recent incidents of Black American violence in recent years is the brutal killing of George Floyd by American police. A police officer pressing his knee into George Floyd's neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds while three other cops held him or stood by, George Floyd begging for his life, calling for help, then we saw his limp, and dead body dragged away. This incident caused a wave of demonstrations not only in America but to several other countries in the world (Dreyer et al., 2020).

As the protests in the United States continued for a second week in response to the assassination of George Floyd, people all around the world joined in. People came to the streets in cities around the world, from London to Pretoria to Sydney, to demand



police reform and racial equality. Many people were holding signs that read "Black Lives Matter," while others were kneeling. During some protests, marchers remained silent for the length of time Floyd fought to breathe while being detained by police officers (Poujoulat, 2020).

When connected with the concept of racial discrimination, is a part of discrimination where contrary with the proposed by Equality and Human Rights Commission (Humphrey, 2010). These cases above became one of the reasons why this study is doable, with the goal that people can appreciate distinctions, And song lyrics are the most memorable way to transmit messages to the public without being patronizing.

The problem of racism seems very interesting for Black Eyed Peas. It is an American musical group formed in 1995 in Los Angeles. The group came to popularity in 2003, following the release of their new album, *Elephunk*. "Where is the Love?" is one of the songs from the album that has become the lead single. This song was performed by The Black Eyed Peas at the 2004 Grammy Awards and was nominated for Record of the Year. "Where is the Love?" was written by The Black Eyed Peas, and was supported by John Fair and Justin Timberlake. The basic purpose of this song is to critique the people and government actions that have caused negativity in society.

The lyricists had heard about many unpleasant things, especially racism. The song encourages people to look critically about the negativity that exists in society (Hammond & Massey, 2019). This song was created by BEP as response to the terrorist attacks of September 11th, 2001, terrorism, racism, gang crime, pollution, war, bigotry, and brutality against LGBT people were all addressed in the song's lyrics, this is a peace message to human being as if the world has no peace.

The writer was interested to analyze the song "Where is The Love" by Black Eyed Peas for some reasons. First, this song tells us one of the biggest issues related to racism that occur in American society. Second, this song delivered messages of

peace where racial discrimination must be eliminated from human life immediately. The lyricists assumed that spreading love and peace to everyone is the greatest way to solve the issue.

Previous research has been carried out so far. Those studies have discussed racism in a variety of literary works, with the majority of them employing critical racism theory in their research. In a previous study, Eva Miatul Ulya highlights the concerns of racism in the *Dangerous Minds* tale of the 20th century of American society (Marchianti, 2017). This research examined racial attitudes and discrimination in American society during the twentieth century as a mirror of the *Dangerous Mind* story. This study is based on a review of the literature. There are daily racism, material determinism, social construction, differential racialization, intersectionality, and voice of color (Delgado & Stefancic, 2001).

The differences between the present research with the previous research are the theory applied and the type of object researched. First, the previous research used a sociological approach to analyze and reflect on Delgado and Jean Stefancic's *Critical Race Theory*, which consists of six essential assumptions to quantify racism. Second, the previous research used the novel as an object of the research. However, it is differs from this research, which uses content analysis with *Where is The Love* song by Black Eyed Peas as the object of study. The aim of this research is to criticizes the problem that happened in the society related to racist violence, because racial discrimination have bad impacts to the victims that occur all over the world, however, all human beings have the same degree and dignity (Franklin-Jackson & Carter, 2007). The writer focuses to analyze types of racism and racism portrayed in the song. The objectives of this research are: (1) to find out the types of racial discrimination in *Black Eyed Peas* "Where is The Love", and (2) to find how racism depicted in *Black Eyed Peas* "Where is The Love".

Racism

Racism cannot be defined unless race is first defined. Among social scientists, 'race' is widely recognized as a social construct. Although biologically meaningless when applied to physical disparities between humans, such as skin color, which has no inherent association with group differences in ability or behavior, race has enormous significance in shaping social reality (Clair & Denis, 2015). The term race was first used to characterize peoples and communities in the same manner that we now interpret ethnicity or national identity.

Between the 1600s and the mid-1800s, African slaves came in Virginia, imported by the British. During the early to mid-seventeenth century, African indentured servants served for years (Pace et al., 2019). They were known as victims discriminatory acts. They accepted inadequate education, they may not participate in elections, do not have proper houses, also using different toilets, public space, drinking water sources, restaurants, etc (Hammond & Massey, 2019). It can be summarized from the above statements that racism is a social mentality carried out by an oppressive superior class with the aim of stigmatizing certain groups as inferior to justify oppression, inequality, domination, and injustice.

America, et.al, (2012) defined racism is an ideology that justifies systematic oppression and marginalization of specific dominated racialized groups. According to (Hoyt, 2012) argued that racism is the assumption that all members of a supposed race have features, talents, or qualities that are unique to that race, particularly in order to identify it as inferior or superior to another race or races. According to (Hoyt, 2012) argued that racism is the assumption that all members of a supposed race have features, talents, or qualities that are unique to that race, particularly in order to identify it as inferior or superior to another race or races.

Besides, (Fernando, 1982) adds that racism is concerned with an individual's attitudes and

behavior, whereas racism is concerned with collective behavior and social institutions such as the educational system, medical and social services, and so on. (Bethencourt, 2014) gives more expansion that racism is defined as 'prejudice concerning ethnic descent coupled with discriminatory action', could not exist prior to the early modern era, since the ethnic prejudices and discriminatory acts of the ancient and medieval worlds were fundamentally disconnected.

It can be summarized from the experts' statements that racism is a social mentality carried out by an oppressive superior class with the aim of stigmatizing certain groups as inferior to justify oppression, inequality, domination, and injustice.

Types of Racism

Racism happens on an interpersonal level and is institutionalized through rules, procedures, and practices in organizations and institutions. Individual or interpersonal acts of racism may appear easier to notice in general: an insult, a person ignored in a social or work situation, an act of violence. Individual racism, on the other hand, does not arise in a vacuum, but rather emerges from a society's culture. Individual racism is "a sort of racial discrimination that originates from conscious and unconscious, personal prejudice" and refers to an individual's racist ideas, attitudes, or behaviors. (C. P. Jones, 2000) classified racism into 3 levels:

1. Institutionalized Racism

Racism is institutionalized, even legislated, and frequently presents as inherited disadvantage. It is structural, having been entrenched in our institutions of tradition, practice, and law, thus no identified offender is required. Indeed, entrenched racism is frequently manifested as inactivity in the face of adversity. Institutionalized racism presents itself in both material conditions and power. In terms of material conditions, examples include unequal access to excellent education, safe housing, gainful employment, adequate medical care, and a clean environment. Differential access to information (including one's own history),



resources (including wealth and organizational infrastructure), and voice (including voting rights, representation in government, and media control) are examples of access to power.

2. Personally Mediated Racism

Personally mediated racism is characterized as prejudice and discrimination, where prejudice refers to differing judgments about the talents, motives, and intentions of others based on their race, while discrimination refers to differing acts against others based on their race. When most people hear the word "racist," they immediately think of this. Personally mediated racism can be purposeful or unintentional, and it involves both acts of commission and omission.

3. Internalized Racism

Internalized racism is described as the internalization of negative messages about one's own abilities and intrinsic value by members of stigmatized races. It is characterized by their lack of faith in individuals who look like them, as well as their lack of faith in themselves. It entails recognizing restrictions to one's own full humanity, such as one's range of dreams, right to self-determination, and range of permissible self-expression. It appears as an acceptance of "whiteness," self-devaluation, resignation, helplessness, and hopelessness.

Social Issue

Social problem is a condition or a type of behavior that many people believe is harmful. Some conditions clearly harm people, such as not having enough money to buy basic food, shelter, and clothing, being unable to find work, or suffering from the effects of a contaminated environment. However, the extent to which any of these or other circumstances or behaviors become social problems is determined not just by their existence but also by the amount of public concern (Liguori et al., 1956). Social problems are what people believe they are, and if they are not defined as social problems by the individuals involved in them, they are not problems

to those people, even if they may be difficulties to outsiders.

According to (Glicken, 2010), a social issue is a social problem that makes it difficult for people to reach their full potential. Social issues include poverty, unemployment, unequal opportunity, racism, and starvation. Crime and substance abuse are two further instances of social issues. Social problems affect many people directly and indirectly. When people become careless and fail to recognize that major problems are forming, social issues tend to develop.

Barkan (Barkan. E. Steven, n.d.) a sociology professor at the University of Maine in the United States of America, according to his book "A Primer on Social Problems" stated that a social problem is any situation or attitude that has negative repercussions for a significant number of people and that is widely recognized as a condition or behavior that has to be addressed. (Horsfall, 2019) adds that a social problem is one that affects or has the potential to affect a large number of people in a similar way, such that it is best solved by some measure or measures applied to the problem as a whole rather than dealing with each individual as an isolated case, or one that necessitates concerted or organized human action.

Based on the explanations above, the writer concluded that social problems are the type of problems that can affect a large number of people and can be noticed in the behavior of particular individuals within that group of people. Social problems are serious issues that require great attention from people in order to be resolved. In addition to individual problems, social issues must be understood and observed by humans. The fact that human cannot be separated from specific social realities is that humans are social individual, and as a social individual, humans must be capable of creating a life free of specific conflicts, both individual and conflicts related to social problems with society. Humans are expected to be capable of accepting responsibility, defending, and respecting the rights and freedoms of others.

1. Elements of Social Issue

(Spector & Kitsuse, 2018), argued that their constructionist social problems theory was dubbed "radical" in comparison to what had previously been presented in the sociology of social problems. In their short essay, they suggest that their original ideas in *Constructing Social Problems* are still radical in many ways, forty years later, when compared to most of what is written in sociology under the banner of "social problems." They categorized social problems into two elements as follows:

a. Objective Element

The objective condition is a verifiable circumstance that can be examined for existence and magnitude (proportions) by unbiased and qualified observers. The objective situation is required, but it is not sufficient in and of itself to form a social problem. Although the objective condition may be the same in two distinct locations, it may be a social problem in only one of these locations, for example, prejudice against Negroes in the south against discrimination in the north, divorce in Reno versus divorce in a Catholic town.

b. Subjective Element

The subjective definition is certain individuals' awareness that the condition is a threat to certain cherished values. For example, the subjective element of poverty is the level of public concern about these objective conditions, the desire to alleviate them, and the belief that this is possible.

Song Lyrics

There are several ways to communicate in this world, including spoken language, written language, and gesture. It can include singing, poetry, drama, and other forms of expression because everyone has the ability to share their ideas with others. Song is one of the form of communication that allows humans to interact. Music is defined as a method of communicating with other people through the use of sound, song, and lyrics to express a feeling, concept, emotion, or

thought. According to (Sitorus, 2019), song lyrics are the words of a song that express the writers' personal thoughts and feelings. It refers to not only the arrangement of words into sentences, but also the expression of the writers' sense and emotion in order to describe their feelings such as desire, struggle, love, thoughts, and feelings. In song lyrics, the writer conveys messages to the listener based on a certain event or situation.

Dallin (cited in Firdaus, 2013) adds, lyrics are produced as a form of communication between the author and the audience. They frequently convey a message in an effort to inspire their audience. Their experiences and ideas are typically summed in the lyrics of songs, parsed into a specific theme, then communicated to the audience through language. Their feelings, thoughts, and ideas are expressed in song lyrics, which are written in unique languages. The specific type of language is typically uncommon or frequently utilized in daily life. And language in song lyrics is identical with lovely and poetic language, because in addition to their intention to express thoughts or ideas. In "Where is The Love?" song, the words used by the song's author is language that is often spoken. It is conversational and laid back. Additionally, it combines colloquial or slang vocabulary with common, straightforward phrases, slang, jargon, and contractions with basic grammatical structures. And the song's purpose is to raise awareness of the need of spreading love rather than hate and to cease discriminating against one another because doing so is seriously harming society.

METHOD

Content analysis, a type of qualitative research, is applied to complete the process rather than the outcome of this thesis research. It gathers information from a collection of texts or textual analysis, which can be written, oral, or visual, such as books, articles, newspapers, magazines, web content, interviews or speeches, images, and a film. Qualitative analysis content aimed to identify themes and extract meaningful interpretations of the data (Roller, 2019).



Renz (2018), in qualitative research, one of the most often applied approaches for studying phenomena is content analysis. The purpose of content analysis is to determine the underlying meaning of text by quantifying the meaning of spoken or written language. Content analysis can provide significant insights into cultural and historical phenomena through analysis of text. When doing research, the research design must be constructed, and five important problems must be examined during the planning phase, the aim, the sample, data collection, analysis method, and practical implications, so that correlation and bias of the material being evaluated may be found.

The research documentation was applied in the analysis process of the research. As a unit analysis, the data was collected through the use of words and lyrics. As the main data, the lyrics were transcribed to narrative text. Some lyrics that portray

racism were also taken from the Black Eyed Peas' "Where is The Love?" song. Furthermore, certain articles from websites are collected as literature studies relevant to racism as a social issue to support this research. The writer is the key instrument in the search, discovery, and processing, and affects the success of the research.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Findings

The writer presents the most important part of this research. This finding starts with two types of racism found in Black Eyed Peas "Where is the Love?". The types of racism are as follows:

1. Types of racism portrayed in Black Eyed Peas "Where is the Love"?

Based on the theory in the second chapter, these are types of racism that are found in Black Eyed Peas "Where is the Love?"

Table 1
 List of Types Racism in "Where is the Love?" song by Black Eyed Peas

Types of Racism	Data	Stanza	Line	Lyrics
Intitutionalized Racism	1	9	1 to 4	Nations dropping bombs Chemical gases filling lungs of little ones With ongoing suffering as the youths die young So ask yourself is the loving really gone (IR1)
	2	13	1 to 4	Wrong information always shown by the media Negative images is the main criteria Infecting the young minds faster than bacteria Kids wanna act like what they see in the cinema (IR2)
Personally Mediated Racism	1	3	1 to 4	But, if you only have love for your own race Then you only leave space to discriminate And to discriminate only generates hate And when you hate then you're bound to get irate, yeah (PMR1)
	2	10	1 to 7	So I could ask myself really what is goin' wrong. In this world that we livin' in, people keep on givin' in Making wrong decisions, only visions of them dividends Not respectin' each other Deny thy brother A war is going on but the reason's undercover The truth is kept secret, it's swept under the rug If you never know truth then you never know love (PMR2)

2. Racism portrayed in “Where is the Love?” by Black Eyed Peas

<i>But, if you only have love for your own race</i>	1
<i>Then you only leave space to discriminate</i>	2
<i>And to discriminate only generates hate</i>	3
<i>And when you hate then you're bound to get irate, yeah</i>	4
<i>People keep on giving in</i>	5
<i>Making wrong decisions</i>	6
<i>Only visions of them dividends</i>	7
<i>Not respecting each other</i>	8
<i>Deny thy brother</i>	9

The writer created the table to categorize the data based on the evidence of racism presented in the song. Here is the table :

Table 2
List of Racism Contained in the “Where is the Love?” song by Black Eyed Peas

Lines Consist Racism	Lines that Portrayed Racism in the Song
9	1. <i>But, if you only have love for your own race</i> (RC1) 2. <i>Then you only leave space to discriminate</i> (RC2) 3. <i>And to discriminate only generates hate</i> (RC3) 4. <i>And when you hate then you're bound to get irate, yeah</i> (RC4) 5. <i>People keep on giving in</i> (RC5) 6. <i>Making wrong decisions</i> (RC6) 7. <i>Only visions of them dividends</i> (RC7) 8. <i>Not respecting each other</i> (RC8) 9. <i>Deny thy brother</i> (RC9)

Discussion

This part is the main focus of the discussion in this thesis, and the writer will provide a detailed explanation to address the issues that were formulated in Chapter I. These parts will be clarified based on the theories and findings that the writer discovers in the second chapter.

1. Analysis of the types of racism potrayed in Black Eyed Peas “Where is the Love”?

In this chapter, the writer will give detailed explanations of “Where is the Love?” song by Black

Eyed Peas. But first, the writer would like to discuss the distinction between this research and prior research is the theory used and the sort of item studied. To begin, previous study employed a sociological technique to evaluate and reflect on Delgado and Jean Stefancic's Critical Race Theory, which is comprised of six basic assumptions for analyzing racism. Second, the book was employed as the research object in the prior study. However, it varies from this study, which used content analysis using the Black Eyed Peas' song Where Is The Love as the subject of investigation. As a result, those



differences may be related and this research may be a continuation of prior research.

a. Types of racism in Black Eyed Peas “Where is the Love?”

1. Institutionalized Racism

T. Jones, (2000) explains Institutionalized Racism is entrenched, even regulated, and often manifests itself as hereditary disadvantage. Because it is systemic, having been ingrained in our institutions of custom, practice, and law, no recognized perpetrator is necessary. Indeed, inaction in the face of hardship is a common manifestation of ingrained bigotry. Material

conditions and power are both manifestations of institutionalized racism. Uneven access to great education, safe housing, productive work, appropriate medical treatment, and a clean environment are examples of material circumstances. Access to power may be defined as differential access to information (including one's own history), resources (including wealth and organizational infrastructure), and voice (including voting rights, representation in government, and media dominance). Here is the analysis of Institutionalized Racism in stanzas that writer found.

Table 3
 List of Institutionalized Racism in “Where is The Love?” by Black Eyed Peas

Stanza	Institutionalized Racism
<i>Nations dropping bombs</i>	In this stanza. Black Eyed Peas is concerned about the global issue of racism. This stanza's major concepts are primarily about conflict and violence. As the country struggles to win the war against the opponent, the tremendous harm it inflicted on the opponent's territory is truly devastating. Children get choked to death as military bombs cause a catastrophic disaster and torment everyone's life. The rest of those who survived may have to live with the anguish and emotional weight for the rest of their lives.
<i>Chemical gases filling lungs of little ones</i>	
<i>With ongoing suffering as the youths die young</i>	
<i>So ask yourself is the loving really gone</i>	
<i>Wrong information always shown by the media</i> <i>Negative images is the main criteria</i> <i>Infecting the young minds faster than bacteria</i> <i>Kids wanna act like what they see in the cinema</i>	The lyricists attempt to express here that the mass media creates a misunderstanding of the true situation. People became increasingly interested in obtaining news from the media at that time since the media mostly reported on the unpleasant things that happened in society. The negative news effects children because young brains emulate what they see in the news, such as aggression and disrespect. The context shows why resolving the anger and contempt is difficult. People, however, are unaware that they are being stimulated by the media.

2. Personally Mediated Racism

Prejudice and discrimination are terms used to describe personally mediated racism, where

prejudice refers to varying assessments of the abilities, motivations, and intentions of others depending on their race, and discrimination refers to

varying acts against others based on their race. Typically, when people hear the word "racist," they immediately conjure up this image. Racism that is personally mediated might be intentional or

accidental, and it involves both deeds and omissions (C. P. Jones, 2000). Here is the analysis of Personally Mediated Racism in stanzas that writer found.

Table 4
List of Personally Mediated Racism in "Where is The Love?" by Black Eyed Peas

Stanza	Personally Mediated Racism
<p><i>But, if you only have love for your own race Then you only leave space to discriminate And to discriminate only generates hate And when you hate then you're bound to get irate, yeah</i></p>	<p>The lyricists depicted what would happen next if people just loved their race and ignored the existence of other races in this world. This will provide a rapidly expanding space for discrimination. The lyricist's major point here is racism expressed via prejudice. People generally believe that discrimination is a bad behavior, yet, discrimination is a negative behavior toward the target group and a good behavior for the race that discriminated. People as a culture should be proud of their race, but being overly proud and not respecting the other race is a rude conduct.</p>
<p><i>So I could ask myself really what is goin' wrong In this world that we livin' in, people keep on givin' in Making wrong decisions, only visions of them dividends Not respectin' each other Deny thy brother A war is going on but the reason's undercover The truth is kept secret, it's swept under the rug If you never know truth then you never know love</i></p>	<p>The fundamental theme in this verse is on the lack of societal norms, value, civility to others, and love. The lyricists want to convey the idea that individuals now live in a culture where they are easily persuaded to commit terrible and nasty deeds against others. When confronted with difficult challenges, they react with rage and insanity. They do not think carefully before acting, resulting in a poor decision. This is due to the fact that they only listen to themselves. They believe they are making the correct decision, and they disregard the opinions of others. Even if the people are at war, they currently do not know why the fights with their own people should end.</p>

1. Analysis of racism defined in Black Eyed Peas "Where is the Love"?

In this section, the writer will explain how racism is demonstrated in the Black Eyed Peas song "Where Is The Love?" based on previous results and interpretations. There has previously been study done. In those studies, racism has been explored in

a variety of literary works, and the majority of them have used the critical racism theory in their studies. In a prior study, Eva Miatul Ulya emphasized the issues raised by racism in the Dangerous Minds tale of the 20th century of American society (Marchianti et al., 2017). This study looked into racial views and discrimination in 20th-century American culture as



a reflection of the Dangerous Mind tale. The review of the literature is the foundation of this work. Daily racism, material determinism, social construction, differential racialization, intersectionality, and voice of color are all prevalent today (Delgado & Stefancic, 2001). The theory used and the sort of item investigated are where the current research differs from earlier studies. First, Delgado and Jean Stefancic's Critical Race Theory, which consists of six fundamental premises to quantify racism, was examined and discussed in earlier study using a sociological methodology. Second, the novel was the research topic for earlier studies. It varies from this study, which uses content analysis and the Black Eyed Peas song Where is The Love as its subject of study. These are related to one another because the studies all approach the same subject matter but do so in different manners. To conclude out the research and demonstrate the connection between racism and social groupings throughout the colonial era, the Black Eyed Peas' song "Where is the Love?" contains a discussion on racism.

a. Racism in “Where is The Love?” song by Black Eyed Peas

(Clair & Denis, 2015) contend that defining race is necessary before defining racism. 'Race' is universally acknowledged as a social construct by social scientists. Although race has a significant impact on social reality, it is scientifically meaningless when applied to physical variations between humans, such as skin color, which has no inherent connection with group differences in ability or behaviors. In the same way that ethnicity or national identity are now defined, the term "race" was first used to describe groups of individuals and communities. Here are the discussion of the findings in the “Where is The Love?” song by Black Eyed Peas.

<i>But, if you only have love for your own race</i>	1
<i>Then you only leave space to discriminate</i>	2
<i>And to discriminate only generates hate</i>	3

And when you hate then you're bound to get irate, yeah

The lyricists depicted what would happen if people just cared about their race and ignored the existence of other races in this verse. This will allow bigotry to grow. The lyricist's major point is racism by prejudice. People often believe that discrimination is a kind of negative behavior; yet, discrimination is a form of positive behavior for the race that discriminated. People should be proud of their race as a civilization, but being overly proud and not respecting other races is a rude conduct. Racism only exacerbates integration between people of different races, and finally, the negative impact it had on the entire society in terms of how they perceive each other as human beings with a negative stigma.

<i>People keep on giving in</i>	1
<i>Making wrong decisions</i>	2
<i>Only visions of them dividends</i>	3
<i>Not respecting each other</i>	4
<i>Deny thy brother</i>	5

The primary messages conveyed in these sentences are related to the impending decline in human society worth. It is easy for individuals in the culture we live in today to retreat when things get hard, which makes them weak. Their tendency to act without thinking, listen only to themselves, make snap decisions, and ignore other people's opinions because they believe they are making the right one has resulted in their making poor decisions. When the sad events caused the tie between the brotherhoods to break, they no longer respected each other, whether they were close friends or not. They even showed no emotion at all. The conflict itself is no different. Nobody is aware of the primary motivations behind their adversary's struggle. No one is aware of the attack's true purpose, the truth, or the war's primary goal. Since the truth was kept a secret, everything is quiet. It is not necessary for the public to acknowledge such concerns, and the

causes are kept confidential, as if it were a secret that has to be managed

CONCLUSIONS

After all the discussions above and especially the statement of the problem mentioned in the first chapter, the writer finds two conclusions in this thesis. The first one is it can be concluded that there are two types of racism and some lyrics that are reflected racism. The song's lyrics emphasize how discrimination breeds hatred and anger, which are harmful to both the oppressor and the victim. Furthermore, the imagery promotes the importance of diversity and tolerance, as the most misunderstood groups, such as minorities, are the most vulnerable. The active depiction of children being united reflects the fact that "great untruths" have a powerful impact on youth when they are exposed to them without the option of civil engagement.

The second one is that racism has existed since the colonial era and has become a belief for everyone. Whoever you are, wherever you are, you have probably experienced racism as an offender or as a victim. Individual racism, institutional racism, or structural racism are the three types of racism that you may have encountered in the past. The writer understands the situation in which those with different appearances and backgrounds are not treated as nicely as whites, based on the analysis of "Where is the Love" song above.

REFERENCES

America, N., Africans, W. S., & Aryans, G. (2012). *Norman duncan*.

Barkan. E. Steven. (n.d.). *a-primer-on-social-problems*. Retrieved November 18, 2023, from <https://2012books.lardbucket.org/books/a-primer-on-social-problems/s01-about-the-author.html>

Bethencourt, F. (2014). Racisms: From the Crusades to the Twentieth Century. *Racisms: From the Crusades to the Twentieth Century, 1880*, 1–444. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17496977.2014.964955>

Clair, M., & Denis, J. S. (2015). Sociology of Racism. *Angewandte Chemie International Edition*, 14.

Cohen, S., & Deepti, H. (2017). Obama racial legacy: Pride, promise, regret _ and deep rift. *AP News*.

Delgado, R., & Stefancic, J. (2001). *Critical Race Theory Richard Delgado and*.

Dreyer, B. P., Trent, M., Anderson, A. T., Askew, G. L., Boyd, R., Coker, T. R., Coyne-Beasley, T., Fuentes-Afflick, E., Johnson, T., & Mendoza, F. (2020). The Death of George Floyd: Bending the Arc of History Toward Justice for Generations of Children. *Pediatrics*, 146(3).

Edwan Ali Firdaus. (2013). *Textual Meaning in Song Lyrics*. <https://ejournal.upi.edu/index.php/psg/article/view/349>

Fernando, S. (1982). *Consultant Psychiatrist , Chase Farm Hospital ,* 41–49.

Franklin-Jackson, D., & Carter, R. T. (2007). The relationships between race-related stress, racial identity, and mental health for black Americans. *Journal of Black Psychology*, 33(1), 5–26. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0095798406295092>

Gibbs, G. R. (2012). Thematic Coding and Categorizing In: Analyzing Qualitative Data. *Qualitative Research Kit: Analyzing Qualitative Data*, 38–55. <https://doi.org/10.4135/9781849208574>

Glanton, D. (2021). Column: Meghan Markle saw herself as biracial, but the royals saw her as Black. *Chicago Tribune*.

Glicken, M. D. (2010). An introduction to social problems, social welfare organizations, and the profession of social work. *Social Work in the 21st Century: An Introduction to Social Welfare, Social Issues, and the Profession*, 3–20.

Hammond, J. H., & Massey, A. K. (2019a). *N9-620-046 R E V : M A Y 5 , 2 0 2 0 African American Inequality in the United States. Mba 2019*.

Hammond, J. H., & Massey, A. K. (2019b). *N9-620-046 R E V : M A Y 5 , 2 0 2 0 African American Inequality in the United States. Mba 2019*.



- Horsfall, S. T. (2019). What Is a Social Problem? *Social Problems*, 3–26. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780429493102-1>
- Hoyt, C. (2012a). The pedagogy of the meaning of racism: Reconciling a discordant discourse. *Social Work (United States)*, 57(3), 225–234. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/sws009>
- Hoyt, C. (2012b). The pedagogy of the meaning of racism: Reconciling a discordant discourse. *Social Work (United States)*, 57(3), 225–234. <https://doi.org/10.1093/sw/sws009>
- Humphrey, S. (2010). The Equality Act, 2010. *Research Ethics*, 6(3), 95.
- Jones, C. P. (2000). Levels of racism: A theoretic framework and a gardener's tale. *American Journal of Public Health*, 90(8), 1212–1215. <https://doi.org/10.2105/AJPH.90.8.1212>
- Jones, T. (2000). Shades of brown: The law of skin color. *Duke Law Journal*, 49(6), 1487. <https://doi.org/10.2307/1373052>
- Krippendoff, K. (1989). Content analysis: An introduction its methodology. *International Encyclopedia of Communication*, 1, 403–407.
- Liguori, S. M., Horton, P. B., & Leslie, G. R. (1956). The Sociology of Social Problems. *The American Catholic Sociological Review*, 17(1), 83. <https://doi.org/10.2307/3708455>
- Marchianti, Ancah., Nurus Sakinah, Elly., & Diniyah, Nunad. et al. (2017). Digital Repository Universitas Jember Digital Repository Universitas Jember. In *Efektifitas Penyuluhan Gizi pada Kelompok 1000 HPK dalam Meningkatkan Pengetahuan dan Sikap Kesadaran Gizi* (Vol. 3, Issue 3).
- Pace, D., Virginia, S., & Mclaughlin, R. M. (2019). *The Birth of a Nation : A Study of Slavery in. 1.*
- Poujoulat, A.-C. (2020). *Protests across the globe after George Floyd's death*. CNN.
- Renz, S. M., Carrington, J. M., & Badger, T. A. (2018). Two Strategies for Qualitative Content Analysis: An Intramethod Approach to Triangulation. *Qualitative Health Research*, 28(5), 824–831. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1049732317753586>
- Roller, M. R. (2019). A quality approach to qualitative content analysis: Similarities and differences compared to other qualitative methods. *Forum Qualitative Sozialforschung*, 20(3). <https://doi.org/10.17169/fqs-20.3.3385>
- Sary, S. T., & Bimantara, G. (2020). Racial Discrimination Reflected on Papua's Dorm in Surabaya. *European Alliance for Innovation*. <https://doi.org/10.4108/eai.26-11-2019.2295213>
- Sitorus, E. (2019). A Deixis Analysis of Song Lyrics in Calum Scott "You Are the Reason." *International Journal of Science and Qualitative Analysis*, 5(1), 24. <https://doi.org/10.11648/j.ij.sqa.20190501.14>
- Spector, M., & Kitsuse, J. I. (2018). The Natural History of Social Problems. *Constructing Social Problems*, 6(3), 130–158. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781315080512-7>
- UNESCO. (2020). *International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*. UN General Assembly.
- United Nations. (2005). Dimensions of Racism. *Proceedings of a Workshop to Commemorate the End of the United Nations Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination*.

Bejo Sutrisno, Yulan Dewi Tantriana & Budi Rachmawati

Racism As A Social Issue In Black Eyed Peas Song “Where is The Love?”