

The Portrayal of Sean Boswell's Racism in Chris  
Morgan's Tokyo Drift: Movie Script

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Abstract

The objectives of the study are to find out the portrayal of Sean Boswell's racism and the causes of Sean Boswell's racism. The thesis writer uses intrinsic and extrinsic approaches to analyse the problems. The result of this study shows that Sean Boswell's racism are portrayed by two kinds of racisms. They are Racial Prejudice and Racial Discrimination. The Racism that experiences by Sean consists of Racial Prejudice and Racial Discrimination. Besides, the causes of Sean Boswell's racism are difference in race and dominant group. The effect of Sean Boswell's racism on himself is that he get oppression from Han because of his own fault. The effects of Sean Boswell's racism on Neela are that she get discrimination from DK Takashi because of Neela choose Sean rather than DK Takashi. Because DK Takashi was angry, he feels that he has lost her old Neela after Sean coming.

Keywords: racial discrimination, racism, gangster

**A. INTRODUCTION**

In this era, racism is one of the big problems around the world. Because in this world, people know that everyone has a difference ranging from skin color, race, culture, and others. Unfortunately, sometimes natives do not appreciate the arrival of foreigners as immigrants. Sometimes, people also forget that if we do not respect immigrants, people will be treated the same way they do not respect immigrants. In general, the definition of racism is all prejudice, discrimination, and opposition to someone from a different race. However, there are other opinions regarding the definition of racism. Oliver C. Cox (1994:85-92) on his book entitled *Mid-American review of sociology*. The definition of racism is an event or situation that evaluates various actions, and values in a group based on its cultural perspective which views all social values of other people outside of themselves as wrong and unacceptable. There are several factors that a person could face racism, according to Rifka (2022) one of the factors cannot respect other people. Insecurities that are the cause of racism now make it difficult for people to respect others. For example, someone in your class may behave well with the members, but they can easily judge people from other groups. Racist people only want to empathize with their group. When dealing with other people, they only saw the differences. This masks other commonalities that could unite you with people from other groups.

As a literature, racism is a kind of human's problem, racism can be found in human culture such as in literature. Lafamane (2020) literary works are expressions of human feelings

that are from their experiences. Thought feelings, ideas, enthusiasm, and belief in the form of a living picture that can arouse charm with the language tools and are depicted in the form of writing.

Literary works are divided into three genres which are poetry, drama, and prose. In this research, the thesis writer chooses drama. Reichard (2021) also states that drama is a genre of literary work in the form of an essay that describes or illustrates the reality of life, character, and human behavior where the story in it is conveyed through roles and dialogue. It can be performed on stage, on the radio, and even in movies. Drama has many characteristics. One of the characteristics of drama is the movie script. In this research, the data of this research is a movie script. The writer prefers to choose drama over other literary works because drama is more attractive. The study of literature can see the character and characteristics so naturally. Last, drama always gives the message that is delivered in the end of this story.

Among the many screenwriters of movie scripts, the thesis writer chooses Chris Morgan, the author of the *Tokyo Drift* movie script. Chris Morgan is an American screenwriter who has published four movie scripts, *Tokyo Drift (The fast and furious 3)*, *The fast and furious 4*, *The fast and furious 5*, and *the fast and furious 6*. Chris Morgan's inspiration in writing *Tokyo Drift* was because he likes racing, proved Chris Morgan also write the movie script of *the fast and furious 4 until the fast and the furious 6*. *Tokyo Drift* has received Receiving good reviews from Roger Ebert of the Chicago Sun-Times of praising the film, he gave the film three stars (out of four), saying that director Justin Lin "takes this film franchise and makes it fresh and exciting," adding that *Tokyo Drift* is "better than what we expected, and the story is about more than just cars." The story of this film also explains about multicultural that happens (Mertens, 2020)

The reason why the writer chooses to analyze Sean Boswell's Racism in the *Tokyo Drift* movie script because there are two interesting points. The first interesting point is the character development of Sean. At the beginning of the story, Sean is described as a man who is stubborn and does not care about a rule, and his hobby is racing. However, after experiencing racism, Sean becomes a different person. He becomes responsible, calm, and likes to joke. Not only that, but another point from this movie script is also at the end of story, how Sean faces and races with the DK Takashi in their own circuits. After that, he can beat DK Takashi and becomes the next Drift King (DK).

## **B.RESERACH METHOD**

The researchers conducts a qualitative research in which the research does not give priority to number and tables. In addition, the writer used two approaches. They are intrinsic and extrinsic approaches because they are relate to each other. The Source of data is the script for the movie *Tokyo Drift*, released in 2006, Technique of data collecting is content .analysis.

## C FINDING AND DISCUSSION

In order to know the portrayal of Sean Boswell's racism, the writer analyzes the problem by using several forms of racism. There are two forms indicating Sean Boswell's racism experiences. They are racial prejudice and racial discrimination.

### 1. Racial Prejudice.

The first form indicates Sean Boswell's Racism is kind of racial prejudice. As the victim of racism, Sean Boswell's experienced the racism in racial prejudice.

Data 1:

This scene shows about how Clay gets jealous toward Sean, it just happened because he talks with Clay's girlfriend. Talking to each other is not bad or wrong thing, but Clay does not like it so that he judges Sean with his old car.

Clay : [Clay sees Cindy talking to Sean) You talking to my girl?  
Sean Boswell : She was just admiring my ride.  
Clay : **That? My grandma's Buick can smoke that piece of shit trailer trash!**  
Sean Boswell : What about your daddy's Viper?  
Clay : [Clay pauses, then chuckles] This beast's got 500-horsepower and a Borla exhaust system. It does 0-60 in what, 4.3 seconds?  
Sean Boswell : Wow. You can read the brochure.(Chris Morgan, 2006:2)

From the quotation above, it represents that Sean got racism from Clay. It indicates that Clay judges about Sean's car that looks bad for him. Clay stated that Sean's car is "*piece of shit*". This is kind of racial prejudice because it is how individuals react to other groups; it is also a strongly felt set of feelings about what is good and bad, right, and wrong, and so on. Someone or a group in society may be prejudiced by others or practically everyone in society. They may be victims because they are unusual in some manner. In this case, Sean is victim because he used old car.

Data 2:

Sean challenged DK Takashi to take the racing together, it is because he feels that the way DK Takashi controls Neela is wrong. Sean just has chit chat and DK Takashi does not allow it, so that Sean and DK Takashi take a race. In that position, Sean is newcomer in Tokyo so that he does not have a car, but Han lends him his car. Twinkie reminds Sean to be careful because Han's car is very precious.

Twinkie : Well, look, man, this car right here's like the Mona Lisa of the drift world. Han rebuilt this bad boy from ground up. We are talking forged pistons, bigger turbo, new rods, new crankshaft.  
**Hey, man, Han's labor ain't cheap, man, you feel me?**  
Sean : Well, if I needed a 30-second lesson on how to drift?  
Twinkie : All right, look, man, there's lots of ways you can do this, all right?

Hand braking is the easiest, so the first thing I want you to do, I want you to rip that e-brake. All right, after you rip the e-brake, then I want you to power over. You know what? **Just don't mess up Mona, all right?** All right.(Chris Morgan, 2006:6)

Based on the movie script above, Twinkie looks that he underestimates Sean. In this context, he explains about the car that build by Han. He looks unbelieve with Sean's capability, so he stated "*Han's labor ain't no cheap*" it means that he does not trust Sean well that Sean can use the car properly. He also afraid that Sean will break the car because Sean is newbie in drifting. Underestimate feeling is also included in racial prejudice because everything looks negatively before they are getting a better knowledge of it.

Data 3:

Han invites Sean to DK Takashi's place. Sean will follow Han anywhere he goes because he wants to take the responsibility after spoils Han's car when racing with DK Takashi. At that place, they meet DK Takashi and Morimoto. DK Takashi wonders why Sean in there with Han. Morimoto who watches the racing between DK and Sean also judges him because he looks cannot drive well.

Dk Takashi : What's he doing here?  
Han: He's paying me back for that **crumpled beer** can sitting in my garage.  
Morimoto : **Hope, he's not driving.** (Chris Morgan, 2006:8)

From data 3 above, Morimoto's statement is kind of racism because he does not trust Sean's ability to drive a car. So that, Morimoto hopes that he is not driving. Han also underrated Sean because his car looks like *crumpled beer* which means it looks bad for Han. Not only underrated because of racial prejudice, but there is also exploitation in society toward certain people.

Data 4:

After Han died, Sean comes to Kamata's place to return the money that Han's taken from DK Takashi. Sean offers to take a race for the conciliation between he and DK Takashi.

Sean : Sir, I'm here to offer you a peaceful solution.  
Kamata : How do you plan to accomplish that?  
Sean : A race.  
(CHUCKLING and LAUGHING)  
Sean : DK and I have caused nothing but problems for you,for us. And I'm asking you to allow us to settle this, once and for all. We race and the loser leaves town for good.  
DK Takashi : **I've already beat this piece of shit once!**  
Kamata : **Good. Then it should be easy.** (Chris Morgan, 2006:37)

Data 4 indicates that DK Takashi and Kamata underestimate Sean. Based on the context, Sean is American, and he moves to Tokyo. Furthermore, this can happen because Sean is a minority while DK and Kamata are Japanese, which is the majority race in Tokyo. In this context, Sean offers DK to race for the second time because the first time Sean lost, and DK won. This impact of racial prejudice is that prejudiced persons create social barriers between themselves and other groups or individuals. They believe their culture or possessions are superior to those of others. Thus, they feel like they have more power than others.

## 2. Racial Discrimination.

Data 5:

When Sean follows Han to DK's place, there is Morimoto and DK who judge Sean's ability to drive a car because Sean lost when he took a race with DK the first time. They assume that Sean does not have skill because he is Gaijin or a foreigner in Tokyo.

Morimoto : Gaijin. When is your next race? I'd really like to be there.  
Sean : Why not be in it?  
Morimoto : Oh man, you really a bad ass cowboy, or you just talk like one?  
Sean : You heard me.  
Dk Takashi : **Ready to lose another car, Han?**  
Han : I'm ready to take that '86 Corolla off your hands.  
Dk Takashi : All right. Put up the '72 Skyline.  
Han : Done.  
Dk Takashi : What do you think, Morimoto, huh? Get him out of here. (Chris Morgan, 2006:6)

In this context, Sean and DK Takashi are started to race again. DK Takashi underestimates Sean's ability to race, so that he asks Han, "*Ready to lose another car, Han?*" DK Takashi judges Sean and treats him unfairly with others. People being distrustful of them because of their color or race, as well as the sensation that people are doubting their intelligence, are examples of the unfair treatment they have received. So that, this example is kind of racial discrimination with unfair treatment.

Data 6:

Sean tries to make Han teach him how to drift well. Sean always takes practice in Han's place, and he gets judges from Han's friend because he still cannot drift a car well.

Shohimura : My mother, **she's blind in one eye and she can drift better than that.**  
Han, where did you find this guy? Will someone please teach this guy how to drift?  
(Chris Morgan, 2006:15)

This movie's quotation is also kind of discrimination or underrated. It represents from his statements. He said that how the way Sean's drifting is bad, and he emphasize that his mother can drift better than Sean even though she is blind in one eye. This discrimination happened because Shohimura treats Sean like he is not smart because of his race. He is different and not Japan's people. It can be the reason of the discrimination did.

### 1. Difference in race

Data 7:

On the first day of school, Sean meets Twinkie. After school, Sean wants to see Twinkie's car and they go to the hidden place for illegal racing. Sean meets Neela and talks with her because they are in the same class, meanwhile DK Takashi looks and approaches them. DK Takashi looks that he is jealous with Sean, and he asks him to go from that place, because Sean is foreigner and he does not know Japanese.

Sean : **I'm sorry. I don't speak Japanese.**  
 DK Takashi : Understand that? Gaijin?  
 Neela : Takashi.  
 Sean : We were just talking.  
 Neela : This isn't your scene.  
 Sean : That word you called me, gaijin or something or other, what does that mean, exactly?  
 DK Takashi : Turn around and leave. (Chris Morgan, 2006:11)

The quotation above is the first racial discrimination found in Tokyo Drift movie. In this context, Sean cannot speak Japanese because he is from America, so he does not understand when others used Japanese. From this case, it is kind of discrimination especially individual discrimination. They speak Japanese while Sean does not understand about anything in Japanese. This sociological phenomenon may be seen in multicultural cultures populated by people of various ethnic and different race.

Data 8:

When Sean and Twinkie go to illegal racing hidden place, Sean are interests with Neela's car. So, Sean comes up to Neela and has chit chat with her. Neela is the first girl in the classroom whom Sean saw because Neela looks like foreigner, and she uses English to speak.

Sean : You wouldn't have that problem with a V8.  
 Neela : Boys. All they care about is who's got the biggest engine  
 Sean : I'm a guy. It's in my DNA. So y'all race with these things, huh? Cute little toys.  
 Neela : You know, I almost didn't recognize you without your slippers on.  
 Sean : Don't you mean uwabaki? Neela, right?  
 Neela : You're a quick learner.  
 Sean : **So, where you from, anyway?**

Neela : Here.  
 Sean : No, I mean, not where you live. Where'd you come from?  
 Neela : **Does it really matter where I'm from?** (Chris Morgan, 2006:10)

Based on the conversation above, it represents that Sean and Neela is from outside the country, they are foreigner in Tokyo. So, it looks from their appearance that different from other people around them. They are from different countries and race, so that the racism easily happened to them. Not only by verbal racism but sometimes physically too.

## 2. Dominant Group.

Data 9:

Cindy and Sean meet in the parking area, Sean's car parks next to Clay's sport car. When Sean wants to go, he gets compliment from Cindy and Clay know it and he does not like it. From that case, Clay looks like disallow Sean talks with Cindy so that Clay shows that he has power in that area because he is gang leader.

Cindy : Nice ride.  
 Sean : It does the job.  
 Cindy : What job, delivering pizzas?  
 Sean : Well, it's not the ride, it's the rider.  
 Clay : What the hell was that?  
 Sean : What?  
 Clay : **Hey! You talking to my girl?**  
 Sean : Oh, shit. Here we go.  
 Clay : Yeah.  
 Sean : She was just admiring my ride.(Chris Morgan, 2006: 3)

From the quote above when Sean drove past Cindy, Cindy asked Sean to chat and he responded to Cindy, from a distance DK saw Cindy, his girlfriend talking to Sean. He was jealous because he was with his gang and he was the leader he felt was most right and had a good car, then finally threw the ball, and hit Sean's windshield. This scene shows that the dominant group feel that they have power to do the discrimination or racism toward minority around them.

Data 10:

Neela and DK Takashi surprises because Sean comes to Kamata's place which is anybody cannot enter easily. Sean comes to meet with Kamata and returns his money.

Neela : **Sean. You need to leave. You came to the wrong place.**  
 Sean : I didn't come here to see you  
 Kamata : **You think, you can walk in here, dump some cash and walk out?**  
 Sean : I know I'm only returning, what belonged to you in the first place, sir. But that's not why I really came. I came here to apologize. I know your nephew and I have embarrassed ourselves badly. (Chris organ, 2006:37)

Data 10 talks about Sean who goes to Kamata's place to apologize. Meanwhile, Neela said that Sean goes to the wrong place because Kamata is yakuza or the bigger

gangster in Japan. Kamata feels like he is the leader of this area so that Sean can not go to his place easily. This is representing how the dominant group shows their power toward minority and feels like they can control all areas around them.

Data 11:

When Twinkie looks DK Takashi come to Sean and Neela, he tries to ask Sean to go out from that place to avoid the problem with DK Takashi. But Sean argues that it is not supposed that free country still forbid the girl to talk with other people. It happened because DK Takashi feels uncomfortable when Sean closes to Neela.

Twinkie : he's yakuza.

Sean : **Now, see, that's funny, because I thought this was, like, a free country where a girl could talk to whoever she wants.**

Dk Takashi : **You know who I am, boy?**

Sean : Yeah. You're like the Justin Timberlake of Japan, right?(Chris Morgan, 2006:12)

This is example of how the dominant group takes control of everything including control people. The foreigner never expects about yakuza who have more power to control around them. Sean as foreigner in Japan think that Japan is free country where a girl can talk to others. But, in this part the reality shows that yakuza controls their people too.

#### D. CONCLUSION

The portrayal of Sean Boswell's racism experienced have two types which are racial prejudice and racial discrimination. Most people in society did racism against people with different race or habit. From these descriptions, the thesis writer can conclude that racism can happen to anybody in society and easily happen toward people with different race and culture.

Meanwhile, the causes of racism toward Sean Boswell's are because the different race and dominant group. in Japan, he gets bad treatment from Japanese people especially Yakuza gangster who claim that have more power because they have control in the whole of Japan.

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