

SOUTHERN AMERICAN CULTURE: LOOKING AT RACISM THROUGH HUMOR IN PETER FARRELLY'S *GREEN BOOK*

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Abstract

The post-Civil War era in 1865 was the end of slavery and the beginning of the reconstruction period in Southern states. *Green Book* is a drama-comedy movie that uses comedy or humor to show racist acts. This research then aims to analyze the racism in the Southern cultural aspect and find out how humor is used to portray racism in the film. The theory used is Thomas Veatch's theory of humor. In collecting the data, the researcher watched and re-watched the movie comprehensively while taking notes, highlighting the content, and interpreting them. After the data needed had been collected, the researcher analyzed and presented them as a narrative. Lastly, the researcher finds that this movie shows racism in the South through cruelty and humor. The cruelty is depicted through the oppression of African Americans' lives, individually and institutionally, such as negative stereotypes, racial prejudice, and discrimination. As for humor, the researcher finds that the movie shows humor through African-American characters whose characterization contrasts African-American stereotypes that have long been embedded in the culture of the Southerners. Those incongruities are depicted through the social class and lifestyle of African-American characters in the film.

Keywords: cruelty, humor, incongruities, post-civil war, racism

INTRODUCTION

Racism cognitively arises in American society because of the construction of African-American stereotypes. The stereotype towards African Americans has been embedded in the mind and has been entrenched in American society, especially in the South, and coincides with the institution of slavery.

Concerning beliefs of racial superiority, whites usually make certain stereotypes about non-whites. The stereotype is a generalization of behavior and portrayal of black people created by white society. The picture of blacks is a social construction built from the perspective of white society. The way of thinking (mindset) and assumptions attached to the white led them to a negative perspective on blacks. For example, several movies that display the phenomena of African-American racism have been trying against the negative connotation from the different perspectives presented in the *Green Book* movie and described in Don Shirley's character. *Green Book* is one of the movies set back in the 1960s, and the movie talks about Frank "Tony Tony" Vallelonga, a "thug" nightclub guard in New York City. He had to lose his job after the club closed for renovations. Once, he was reunited with Don Shirley, a famous jazz pianist. Don needs a driver to accompany him in the Deep South to play piano for the tour. From here, Tony began working for him. During the concert tour, Don always received racist treatment from those whites. They use "The Negro Motorist Green Book". It is a published guide for black motorists in the United States when they may be turned down or even encounter threats in many locations.

Tony was then assigned to escort Dr. Shirley on a concert tour from Manhattan to the south. The two of them depended on a guidebook called "Negro Motorist Green Book" during their trip to the concert tour. They depended on the book "Negro Motorist Green Book" because they were both looking for a safe route for black people where at that

time, there was still a conflict of racism. Tony Lip and Dr. Shirley have different races and ethnicities, but during this concert tour, they both try to put those differences aside in order to survive. In the end, they became two friends.

The issue of African Americans has become a general topic in American society. The official law passed (Civil Rights Act) guarantees the same treatment for all people of America in all aspects, such as job opportunities, public facilities, and labor. Such a phenomenon has raised awareness of the social economy aspect of society. When it comes to discrimination topics, it might sound like a sensitive case, calling back to the dark history of slavery. However, nowadays, such a topic is not too "dark" to be put in a public atmosphere. For example, several movies that display the phenomena of African-American discrimination have been trying against the negative connotation from different perspectives, such as humor. *Green Book* is one of the movies set back in the 60s about the friendship of an Italian-American bouncer who becomes the driver of an African-American classical pianist on a tour of venues through the 1960s in the deep South of America. Racism was abolished in the 13th Amendment in 1864. Racism still continuously happened in America after a century passed, especially in Southern American society. Briefly, racism has a long history in American society, and it has been a sensitive and serious case in many aspects of society. Still, such an issue is represented through humor in different perspectives on *Green Book* movies. Furthermore, this article wants to find out Southern American culture represented in the movie and to reveal how humor portrayed racism through the characters of African Americans as represented in the *Green Book*.

METHODOLOGY

To meet the objectives of this article and provide a thorough explanation of the topic being discussed, the type of racism and humor theory is employed as the main analysis method. Carmichael and Hamilton (in Liliweri, 2005: 171-172) state that there are two types of racism: individual and institutional racism. Individual racism is a treatment of racism that happens from the superior towards the inferior personally. This type of individual racism is an action that shapes the behavior of others to become weak and remain in a lower role so that it can result in a person's moral decline. The behaviors that fall into the category of individual racism are as follows.

(a) Discrimination is behavior produced by stereotypes or prejudices, then shown in actions to reduce, destroy, and conquer. Doob (1985) defines discrimination as behavior aimed at preventing one group or limiting another group from trying to own or obtain resources. (b) Prejudice and its definition were first introduced by Gordon Allport, coming from the word 'præjudicium', which is a conclusion about something based on the superficial experience of a person or group. (c) Violence is defined as behavior or action in the form of threats, intimidation both psychologically, socially, and physically directed at individuals or groups of certain races (Liliweri, 2005:29). Moreover, institutional racism, according to Liliweri (2005:172), is the treatment of racism by the majority group against the institutionalized or institutionalized minority. Structural racism refers to practices and policies with unequal effects between minority and majority societies.

Besides, as an American Study studies, an interdisciplinary study, the writer chooses the theory of Humor following the problem of the research object. Furthermore, the *Green Book* movie tries to discuss the issue of racism, which is considered a taboo and sensitive thing that is wrapped through humor. The writer chooses humor because it is one of the most popular activities, and the varied shapes make it possible for everyone to enjoy humor whenever and wherever they are. Nurrohman (in Ancok, 1996: 19) argues that humor provides many things. In addition to entertainment, humor can also relieve stress and cause new turmoil. Viewed from its function, humor is also a means of recreation that can refresh the feelings of readers, listeners, or even people who see it.

Therefore, it can be assumed that humor is the right method to bring racism issues to the audience. Thus, this research uses the theory of Humor by Thomas C. Veatch. This theory is also called "Violation Theory". Veatch's theory says that humor occurs when a person views a situation as a violation of (V) subjective moral principles and at the same time realizes that the situation is normal (N) (p. 8). Subjective moral principles mean beliefs about how something should be or the right way to do something that indicates the proper arrangement of the natural and social world and

the right behavior (Veatch, 1998, p. 167). Simply put, V and N represent positive and neutral on the N side and negative on the V side.

The theories and approaches above will be employed in this study to answer the proposed research question. The theory of discrimination focuses on The Situational-Pressures, and Institutional approach is used to reveal how American Southern culture was represented in the movie at that time. Meanwhile, humor, which focuses on the violation theory, reveals the meaning of humor in the *Green Book* movie. Only Veatch's Incongruity theory will be applied to understand humor related to racism toward the role of African Americans in the *Green Book* movie.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Portrayal of Racism in Southern American Culture in *Green Book*

South America is known as the land of plantations. It is based on a long history of slavery. In the South, many people became slaves to other people's property, and most of the work in the fields was done by them. Instead, the member states in the north have decided to pass laws stating that no one can possess or enslave another. The northern countries are called "free states," and the southern countries are called "slave states." In addition, most of the land belonging to the US in the West has not been divided into member states but territories where non-native residents live. Unlike member states, territories do not help decide who will become president, and territories do not send representatives to Washington, DC, to make laws for the entire country. Many white people moved there, and everyone agreed that these territories should be called member states one day.

Southern American Culture in the 1940s-1960s

The Civil Rights Movement in the United States was a long struggle primarily characterized by the nonviolent movement for full civil rights and equality for all Americans. This movement has had a lasting impact on Americans, increasing acceptance of legal and social civil rights and exposing the prevalence and costs of political racism. The American Civil Rights Movement comprised many of the political struggles and reform movements between 1945 and 1970. The movement's goals were to end discrimination against African Americans and other disenfranchised groups and legally end racial segregation in the United States, particularly in the Southern United States.

Jim Crow laws began as early as 1865, immediately following the ratification of the 13th Amendment, which abolished slavery in the United States. Black codes were strictly local and state laws that detailed when, where, and how formerly enslaved people could work and for how much compensation. The codes appeared throughout the South as a legal way to put Black citizens into indentured servitude, take voting rights away, control where they lived and how they traveled, and seize children for labor purposes.

Jim Crow Laws are racial segregation, which are also state and local laws carried out after the Reconstruction era in the Southern United States, which lasted until 1965. Starting in 1890 with "separate but equal" for African Americans, it separated white people and fellow American citizens. Jim Crow Laws mandate segregation of schools, public places, public transportation, break rooms, restaurants, and even drinking taps for white and black people. Even though black people had the right to get public facilities, their condition still looked inadequate compared to what white people had. It causes them to feel treated like subordinates even though they are fellow American citizens. In the 60s, they began to oppose this law.

Jim Crow Laws ended when the post-World War II era saw an increase in civil rights activities in the African American community, focusing on ensuring that Black citizens could vote. It ushered in the civil rights movement, resulting in the removal of Jim Crow laws. In 1948, President Harry Truman ordered integration into the military. In 1954, the Supreme Court ruled in *Brown v. Board of Education* that educational segregation was unconstitutional, ending the "separate but equal" education era.

History of Blacks and Slavery in American Culture.

Racism against black people is not something new that pops up. As quoted by Silva, while, according to most white people, racism is related to prejudice, for others, the racism of color is systemic and institutionalized (2006: 8). If we look back at history, black people have a future that is not as bright as white people. These prejudices are thought to be motivated by their past. Aguirre and Turner stated that black people were imported as slaves, treated as property or goods that could be bought and sold, denied human rights, and considered non-human. Throughout American history, black people were not able to enjoy or truly feel like American citizens (2009: 99).

McLemore mentions that the first black people to America were slaves who were different from white slaves (1983: 262). However, over time, the situation changed and caused black people to be treated as goods, even as Aguirre and Turner called less human. The slavery of black people in America, which is seen as violating the rights of black people, has sparked controversy not only today but also since slavery existed. As McLemore points out, there are two reasons slavery stirred controversy around white people themselves (1983: 262). The first relates to the high number of slaves imported to the point of fear of losing control over black slaves.

As mentioned earlier, racism is not an issue that pops up. Pinkney in Aguirre and Turner argues that the effect of suppression on black people for 350 years does not just disappear because history in the past is used as a barrier in the present (2009: 99). Racism means that there would be such racial prejudice and discrimination over minority groups. The term has famously been provoked in the US since slavery happened until today.

The victims are always people from African Americans. Considering that whites rule almost all significant positions in the United States, it should have been clarified that African Americans need more attention since various racial problems such as stereotypes, prejudice, discrimination, and generalizations can still be found. Such racial issues remain in social lives and institutional sectors, and African Americans are the ones who often get the worst impacts compared to other races living there. In conclusion, America is being called a racist country. In short, to say that America has become a place where racial issues are entirely accurate.

Slavery was officially abolished in the United States on April 8, 1864, by the 13th Amendment. It was approved by members of the Senate and then passed by the local parliament on January 31, 1865. President Abraham Lincoln initiated the related amendment process through the Emancipation Proclamation of 1836. The Proclamation was to free all slaves in the Confederate States in the South. Even though the amendment had passed to be an official law in the southern states, and African Americans acknowledged their rights as free citizens, a new form of discrimination occurred.

Depiction of Racial Prejudice, Discrimination, and Violence in American Culture

The condition of black people in Southern America who are seen living in slums, with low education, low income, and being in the lower or middle class does not just happen. As quoted by Aguirre and Turner that this situation is the result of discrimination that occurred in the past and is now used as a new form of discrimination, and even though formal forms of discrimination, such as the creation of laws that discriminate against black people, such as during the slavery period until after the Civil War no longer exist. The pattern of informal discrimination still exists (2011:30).

Prejudice is a system of beliefs, feelings, and negative assumptions towards a group of people. Racism is a severe problem for black people in America because the difference between black and white skin color is a biological problem and has become a social problem.

Meanwhile, discrimination against black people appeared in America since black slaves were brought to America. Even Elkin in McLemore argues that it can be said that the racism that occurs to this day is the effect of slavery. Williamson in Aguirre and Turner also mentions that white people use violence to maintain their position as landlords and black people as slaves. McLemore added that white people in South America say the racial problems in their area are South American problems and should be resolved alone without any interference from others.

Racism in the *Green Book* Movie

Racism can be categorized into two types, particularly individual racism and institutional racism. It also indicates the scale of racism. Thus, for example, individual racism happens between man and man, while institutional is categorized as racism on a larger scale rather than the individual one.

Individual Racism

Individual racism happens because of these behaviors: prejudice, discrimination, and violence. However, even if only one of those behaviors exists, it can be called racism. Moreover, the film introduces the story of friendship between two non-WASPs living in American society in 1992. Tony is Italian-American, and Don Shirley is African-American. At first, Don Shirley asked Tony to be his driver for a concert tour to the south.

Don Shirley's team uses a strong white driver to keep Don Shirley safe. It shows a situation of racism pressure where African Americans cannot solve the racial problems they have to face, causing them to seek solutions, as depicted in this film. Fortunately, Tony was in a difficult financial situation. Therefore, he accepted the offer. However, it was impossible to find such a situation because white people would work for black people. Even Tony's friends or other white people found it a strange situation.

However, before Tony becomes Don Shirley's driver, the movie begins by telling his life first. How was Tony's life before he met Don Shirley, it turns out that Tony and his family, except for his wife, are still racist towards black people. It is illustrated through the dialogue below.

Johnny : Maris is up...
Tony : Yeah, so am I now. What the hell are you guys doing here?
Johnny : Figured we'd come up and keep Dolores company...
Anthony : You shouldn't be sleeping in the middle of the day, leaving my daughter here alone with these sacks of charcoal.
Nicola : And why do you hire them to do an Italian job? It's a disgrace.

(Green Book, 2018. minute 07:00-07:39)

The datum shows that the incident occurred at Tony's house in the morning. At that time, Tony woke up to the noise of his family watching a baseball game. Tony's extended family gathered that morning to accompany Dolores (Tony's wife) to cook in the kitchen. It became a strange thing in Tony's eyes. Then Tony asked about why they had gathered at his house in the morning like this. It turned out that that morning, the faucet in their house was broken, so Dolores called a repairman to fix it. However, the repairmen were two black people. That was why Tony's family accompanied Dolores because they feared the black repairman would hurt Dolores.

Dolores' father said in their conversation, "You cannot sleep in the middle of the day, leaving my daughter here alone with these sacks of coal." This sentence has an implicit meaning in the sentence "sack of coal." It refers to black people, a kind of stereotype of black people, which means these two blacks are dangerous. So, he told Tony not to sleep when his wife was alone in the kitchen with the two blacks. The incident above shows the prejudices of the Tony family, where they think that black people are criminals.

Institutional Racism

Institutional racism, on the other hand, is different because it refers to the policies of the dominant racial, ethnic, gender institutions and the behavior of the individuals controlling those institutions and implementing policies that are intended to have a different and detrimental impact on racial minority groups. Dominant groups usually carry out institutional discrimination against minority groups because it is the dominant group that generally controls social institutions.

One of the clever ways to present the institutional racism situation in reality in America in 1962 was well performed in the movie when Tony and Don Shirley get lost on the main road. They are stopped by the Officers who are patrolling the town. The Officer investigated why Tony was on this road and asked for his ID. When the Patrolman looks at Don

Shirley, he says that he was not permitted outside at night in Sundown town. "He cannot be out here at night" describes the racial discrimination here is about an everyday term such as being isolated in the location, especially at night. In that era, Sundown town was one of the regions that banned colored people from entering city limits after dark.

Police : And why are you driving him?

Tony : He's my boss

Host : He can't be out here at night. This is a sundown town. Get him out of the car and check his ID.

(Green Book, 2018. minute 01:25-01:26)

The datum indicates that white people cannot drive black people, known for their miserable lives. Therefore, knowing that Tony was Italian, the police officer charged him with a half-nigger, so the alleged "driver-boss" made sense to the policeman. This shows that it does not matter where a Black is and what his job is. They will always be stereotyped as dirty, poor, dark-skinned, disgusting, and lowly. Therefore, Tony and Don Shirley were arrested. While in prison, Don Shirley said they could not be arrested for any reason.

Don Shirley : Excuse me! (no response) Excuse me, sirs. I quite understand why my associate is being held, but what exactly am I being charged with? (CONT'D) You seem like reasonable men--can you let me out so we might discuss the situation, please?

Police : Put the apple butter away, boy--you are not goin' nowhere no time soon.

Don Shirley : You cannot hold me without cause!

Police : I got cause. „Cause you to let the sunset on your black ass!

(Green Book, 2018. minute 01:12-01:25)

From the conversation between the Police and Don Shirley above, this is clearly a form of institutional racism. However, Don Shirley, as a black person, does not have the power to fight white people, let alone they are institutional people. Being physically insulted is direct discrimination. The meaning of black ass refers to black people, so Don Shirley was arrested just because he was black. The first sentence the police uttered was, "He cannot go out at night. This is the city of the sunset." It refers to Jim Crow's legal policies, which caused the culture of racism to disappear. There is a difference in treatment between whites and blacks in the scene, although they are both a minority incidentally. However, black people will be despised more than minority whites.

Furthermore, the discriminatory action carried out by the police was to send Don Shirley to prison without any wrongdoing. He was arrested because he was African-American. This discrimination is included in institutional discrimination because it concerns the existing legal policies in the city. The illustration displays a sign that reads, "White people only inside the city limits after dark," which shows the law discriminating against people of color. Indirectly, they accuse people of color who go out at night as criminal suspects.

Racism in American social culture in 1962 put African Americans at a disadvantage in almost all sectors, individually and institutionally. In the movie, Don Shirley's social status should have kept him from being the victim of racism, but it was not at all. Equality in terms of social class does not make black people equal in the social hierarchy. White people still view them differently based on skin color, an identity passed down from birth. It is because segregation and discrimination do not see social class. They still see someone of race and descent (skin color) and the stigma of society.

Humor Portrayed Racism in *Green Book* Movie

After discussing the condition of the black race in 1962 and how the racism of American social culture treated them in the movie, the researcher will analyze how humor portrays racism by looking at the resistance to racism carried out by Don Shirley, the main character. Moreover, since the *Green Book* movie is a drama-comedy genre, there is the possibility that humor is not occurring due to covert racism. To understand the humor, Veatch explains several conditions that can create laughter. A specific psychological state produces laughter, which is the natural phenomenon or process of humor or humor perception (Veatch, 1998, p. 162). However, not all perceptions of humor can produce laughter. Sometimes, people can laugh with or without humor, and vice versa. People can perceive humor with or

without laughter. Therefore, Veatch proposes three necessary and jointly sufficient conditions for the perception of humor:

Violation (V) : Perception has a view of the situation that is a violation of the affective commitment of the observer to the way things in the situation should be. It means the "subjective moral principle" of the observer is violated.

Normal (N) : The perception of having a dominant view of the situation as normal.

Simultaneity: The understanding of N and V is present in the observer's mind simultaneously in time (Vatch, 1998, pp. 163-164). It means that if one of the conditions above does not exist, then the perception of humor also does not exist. However, enough together means that the perception of humor will also be present if all of the above conditions exist.

Furthermore, Veatch proposed a three-level scale on how strongly the perception can perceive humor. Level 1: no offense (Not-V), so no reaction to jokes. It is shown as a normal condition (N). Level 2 has a violation (V) and a normal condition (N). Perception can see the existence of a violation (V), and at the same time, the violation (V) sees it as a natural thing (N). Therefore, it makes humor happen in that situation. Then, in Level 3, there is a violation, and there is no normal condition (V and not-N), namely offensive offense (V). Perception felt violation (V) dominates, and normality (N) does not exist. This situation is pure offense (V), not humor (Vatch, 1998, 178).

An African-Americans Resistance against Stereotypes

The stereotype towards the African Americans had been a major concern for the whites since abolishing slavery in 1865. Later on, the Jim Crow Law came up as the follow-up of this stereotype. The Jim Crow Laws are a collection of state and local laws that legalized racial segregation. Named Jim Crow because it refers to the character of the black singer's show. The law existed for about 100 years, from the post-Civil War era to 1968. The Jim Crow laws were meant to marginalize African Americans by denying them the right to vote, get a job, get a good education, or other opportunities. Those who seek to defy Jim Crow laws will face arrest, fines, prison terms, violence, and even death.

The resistance towards such stereotypes breaks the African-American's common views, which are always associated with bad things. Don Shirley, who is an African American, showcases African Americans who are different from the common American society stereotype. He is considered a well-educated, upper-class, and cultured man. These characteristics then became the forms of resistance what had been labeled on African-Americans. It is found that there are four forms of resistance shown in the movie. Details are explained in the sub-chapter below.

Lower Class

The beginning of the film shows how difficult it is for people to earn money and find work. The film talks about two minority characters named Tony and Don Shirley. Tony works as a bouncer at Copacabana, a restaurant famous for live music. Then it closed for repairs, which took a while, while Tony had to make money for his family. The harshness of life makes him accept an offer to be a driver on a concert tour of a wealthy pianist named Don Shirley. He needed the money, so he took it. Then the tour began to the Midwest and Deep South. Until now, the narrative still looks normal (N). Until the next day, Tony met Don Shirley for the first time, and he was a little surprised because when he met Don Shirley, it turned out that he was an African-American (colored) who lived in the hall apartment, and belonged to Don Shirley. that appearance showed that he was a rich man. Meanwhile, African-Americans were still seen as a lower class in society, but Don Shirley became the employer by hiring Tony as his driver. It can be assumed as the violation (V) of the normal condition (N) in the narrative.

Don Shirley : Please, have a seat. (Tony sits. Don Shirley sits on his "throne," looking down at Tony.)
Tony : This is some place you got here. Them horns real?
Don Shirley : Elephant tusks. Yes.
Tony : (Tony nods, points to the chain around Don Shirley's neck.) What about that? That a molar?
Don Shirley : A what?
Tony : Like a shark tooth? Or a tiger's?
Don Shirley : Um, no. It was a gift.

Tony : Oh. (looks around) I thought I was going to an office. They said a doctor needed a driver.
(Green Book, 2018. minute 01:12-01:25)

The conversation above explains how surprised Tony was at Don Shirley's appearance, as well as his luxurious residence. As Tony sat down in the leather chair, he began to look around Don Shirley's room. Then, Don Shirley sat on the throne. He wore a luxurious traditional African robe. In addition, he wore a variety of chain necklaces, bracelets, watches, and rings. All these signs from him proved that Don Shirley was a man of the Upper Class. Tony is surprised because he has a prejudice that black people are of low social class. It is even depicted at the film's beginning when two black workers repair the pipes at Tony's house.

Because the Jim Crow laws were applied to the public sphere, African Americans were placed at a disadvantage and disadvantage. With Jim Crow's legal dominance in the South, many African Americans fought and defied the law. The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a prominent resistance that took place from 1955 to 1956.

The fact that Jim Crow laws closed all possibilities for Blacks to get proper education had caused the stereotype of African-Americans as uneducated people (N). Green Book is a great movie that shows the opposite of such stereotypes. Don Shirley is considered a well-educated, cultured, and wealthy man. These characteristics can be seen in the dialogue below.

MC. : Ladies and gentlemen, tonight we are honored to present a great and talented American artist. He gave his first public appearance at the age of three. Then, at the age of eighteen, at the invitation of Arthur Fiedler, our guest made his concert debut with the Boston Pops. He holds doctorates in Psychology, Music, and Liturgical Arts and has appeared at the White House twice in fourteen months. He is a true virtuoso.
(Green Book, 2018. minute 37:45-38:14)

Then at his first concert, a woman introduces him and Don Shirley's achievements over the years, supporting that he is a cultured and highly educated man (V). This narrative violates (V) the normal condition of African Americans (N), who are stereotyped as people with low education. Don Shirley's characterization is shown in reaction to other characters and through dialogue.

Don Shirley : What on God's green earth are you doing?

Tony : A letter.

Don Shirley : Looks more like a piecemeal ransom note.

(Shirley holds his hand out.)

Don Shirley : May I?

(Lip reluctantly hands him the letter.)

Don Shirley. : (reading aloud) "Dear, Dolores--I'm meeting all the highly leading citizens of the town, people who use big words, all of them, but you know me, I get by, I'm a good bullshitter." (to Lip) Two "t"s in "bullshitter." (continues reading) "As I'm writing this letter, I'm eating potato chips, and I'm starting to get thirsty. I washed my socks last night and dried them on the TV. I should have brought the iron." (to Lip) You know this is pathetic, right?

(Lip shrugs, embarrassed.)

Don Shirley : Tell me what you're trying to say.

Tony : (embarrassed) I don't know. Just you know how I miss her and shit

Don Shirley : Then tell her that. But try to say it in a manner that no one has ever said.

Tony : Shit...

Don Shirley : And without profanity.

Don Shirley : Put this down. "Dolores, when I think of you, I'm reminded of the beautiful plains of Iowa."

Don Shirley : Put it down.

Tony : (repeating) "When-I-think-of-you-I'm-reminded-of-the-beautiful..."

Don Shirley : Plains of Iowa.

Tony : What planes?

Don Shirley : The plains. P-L-A-I-N-S. Those big fields we saw.
Tony : Oh, those were nice. (writing) "...plains of Iowa--which is what they call big fields around here."
Don Shirley : (annoyed) Tony, no expounding.
Tony : No, what?
Don Shirley : Just write what I say.
Don Shirley. : "The distance between us is breaking my spirit... My time and experiences without you are meaningless to me."
Tony : (repeating) "...Are meaningless to me." Lip starts to write again.
Don Shirley : Now this... "Falling in love with you was the easiest thing I have ever done."
Tony. : "Falling in love with you was the easiest thing..." (looks up, smiling) This is very fucking romantic. As Lip continues writing, we go...

(Green Book, 2018. minute 01:07:40-01:10:03)

The dialogue above shows the contradictory common stereotype of whites towards African Americans in education. They are considered uneducated people, but Don Shirley can be said as an exception in the movie. He helped Tony write a letter to his wife, which seems normal for whites to have a good education. Nevertheless, Tony cannot distinguish between "Plains" and "Plane" as Don Shirley dictates.

For Tony, a white man, it will be normal for African-Americans to have not good education and might be even worse at writing. This stereotype can be seen in how Tony did not ask for help from Don Shirley when he was writing his letter (N). However, Don Shirley helps him write a well-crafted and romantic letter for Tony's wife throughout the dialogue. Thus, it is the part where the violation (V) of the normal principle occurs.

It can be seen from all of Don Shirley's accomplishments that he is a cultured man. He is intelligent and highly educated. Don Shirley was in stark contrast to the stereotypes of African Americans at the time. Therefore, Don Shirley was a cultured person. Being a cultured person also means having a high level of formal education. Don Shirley is more educated than Tony Lip. As such, Don Shirley is considered more cultured than Tony Lip, according to his portrayal in the film. It becomes humor because it violates a normal prejudice.

White Supremacy Seen as Humor in Green Book

White supremacy is considered a system built up since the massive white European invasion of American soil. Referring to the definition from the Challenging White Supremacy Workshop, San Francisco, CA, quoted by Elizabeth 'Betita' Martinez, "White Supremacy is a historically based system of exploitation and oppression perpetuated institutionally, by white people, and by black people.

White Supremacy in Segregation of Personal Properties

The above definition brings a complex meaning to "White Supremacy when placed in the American social context." Elizabeth mentions that people mistakenly think of racism as individual prejudice. However, when viewed as a system, a network of interrelated, strengthening institutions: political, economic, social, cultural, legal, military, educational, and all institutions, it will affect every aspect of life in a country.

The scenes based on White Supremacy in the movie can be seen when Don Shirley is going to the toilet of the place, he is invited to play for guests who are mostly whites. Instead, he is asked to go to the "special" toilet for colored people, a simple wooden box built outside the house. This scene can be seen in the script dialogues below.

Host : Excuse me, Don! Lovely work in there!
Don Shirley : Thank you.
Host : Are you looking for the commode? Here, let me help you. It's right out there 'for the pines.
(Don Shirley looks out, sees an old OUTHOUSE at the edge of the woods.)
Don Shirley : I'd rather not use that.
Host : Don't be silly, Don. It looks a lot worse from the outside.
Don Shirley : I understand. But I'm not going in there.

Don Shirley : I could go back and use the facilities at my motel, but... that's going to take at least half an hour.
Anderson considers this for a beat, then gives a friendly smile.
Host : We don't mind waitin'.

(Green Book, 2018. minute 01:04:52-01:05:33)

The scene above clearly shows the domination of Whites (White Supremacy) regardless of an individual's social class. Don Shirley in the movie is an upper-class African-American who seems ignored because of his skin color. What the Host does is considered normal (N) to separate the toilet of colored people, and it had been institutionalized as Jim Crow Law existed since the end of the Civil War 1865.

The humor aspect found in this scene is Don Shirley's response towards the host. He refuses to go to the outside toilet and prefers to use the facility at his motel. It is the part where the violation (V) of the stereotypes occurs. Regardless of this scene and its context, seeing the Host smile and respond is funny.

White Supremacy in Segregation of Public Facilities

Another White Supremacy form can also be seen in the scene when Don Shirley is beaten up by a group of whites in a non-colored bar. The normal principle (N) is that the barman, who is white, lets such a thing happen. It is historically unusual for a black man to enter a non-colored bar, and what this group of whites does to him is considered normal.

It continues to the scene when Tony helps Don Shirley in the bar. In the normal circumstances in that era, a white man helping a black is unusual. It should be the whites who let such a thing happen because it is a normal situation (N). Referring to Veatch's theory on humor, what Tony does break the normal principle and is considered a violation (V). The scene can be seen in the dialogue script below:

Tony : Get your hands off him!
Customer Bar (1) : What the good goddamn we got here, fellas?
Tony : Hand him over, we walk out, won't be a problem.
Customer Bar : Already is a problem, Mister.
Don Shirley : I just came in for a drink.
Customer Bar (1) : You come in here for a drink? Then you must be tired of livin', boy.
Tony : I told you, hand him over, we'll leave.
Customer Bar (2) : He is not going nowhere, we need this brillo pad to wash their dishes with...
Tony : Hey, do yourself a favor and let him go. Now.
Customer Bar (1) : Say it nice.
Tony : I just said it nice.
Customer Bar (1) : This boy's going to get what's coming to him, and you ain't got no say!
Tony : Maybe. But, whatever happens, I'm going to put a bullet right in the middle of that thick skull of yours.

(Green Book, 2018. minute 57:26-58:38)

Internalized Racism in the Green Book movie

Internalized racism is a form of internalized oppression, defined by sociologist Karen D. Pyke as "the internalization of racial oppression by a subordinate race." When a person receives continuous bullying, he tends to accept it unconsciously. Such oppression can lead them to internalize racism.

For example, black people who suffer from internalized racism may resent physical characteristics that make them racially different, such as skin color, hair texture, or eye shape. Others may stereotype people from their racial group and refuse to associate with them. Overall, those who suffer from internalized racism believe that whites are superior to blacks. Think of it as Stockholm Syndrome in a racial sense (Nadra Kareem Nittle, 2021).

In the *Green Book* movie, internalized racism can be seen in the reactions of other African Americans to Don Shirley's performance. It happened because Don Shirley's appearance was only white (V). The form of racism

internalized in the Green Book has influenced the treatment of the same social group. Don Shirley is hated by the same racial group, even in the colored (N) hotel. This scene can be seen in the dialogue below:

Black Man #1 : Hey, fancy-pants, you want to play?
Don Shirley : Um... no, thank you.
Black Man #2 : Come on, we short a man!
(Don Shirley shifts in his chair, uncomfortable.)
Don Shirley : I... I'd rather not.
Black Man #1 : What, you too high and mighty?
Black Man #3 : He's just afraid of getting that butler uniform all dusty!
(The men laugh.)

(Green Book, 2018. minute 55:35-55:50)

Furthermore, the internalized racism in Green Book is also based on the long history of segregation towards African Americans. They are the victims of Jim Crow laws that separated them because of their ethnic background, social class, and race. The treatment that Don Shirley receives from his same racial group is a form of internalized racism that loathes into hatred.

CONCLUSION

Furthermore, the post-Civil War had brought a new era for African Americans that they would live as a free man. Nevertheless, racism emerged and occurred in all levels of society, especially in the South. It makes racism a sensitive course in all public spheres, but this film brought it differently. The film uses humor to portray racism with the characterization of its characters. In sustaining humor, Green Book presents humor in the characterization of Don Shirley, which shows the incongruity of stereotypes. That incongruity violates the normal prejudice towards African-Americans, which is the reason for racism to occur. In the film, Don Shirley, an African American, is portrayed as a rich, well-educated man, cultured, and employing people. In contrast, the normal stereotypes of African Americans in the South were criminals, poor, non-educated groups, and cheap labor workers with whites as the masters. As a result, the violations in the film then created a shift in viewing racism against African Americans as a funny thing. Those incongruities break normal knowledge and then show a shocking response from southern society in the film. It becomes hilarious when the film shows Don Shirley still getting racist treatment regardless of his characterization, which breaks its reason.

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