

Racism in Peter Farrelly's Movie, Green Book

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ABSTRACT

Peter Farrelly's *Green Book* did not shy away from depicting the harsh reality of racism in 1960s America. This research paper explores the topics of racism in Peter Farrelly's film "*Green Book*," with a particular emphasis on 1960s social issues. The researcher use a qualitative descriptive examination of character interactions and speech, instances of racism in opinion, attitude, and prejudice are emphasized. Via the experiences of musician Dr. Donald and his white driver Frank Vallelonga, in particular, the movie depicts the institutionalized discrimination that African Americans endure. "*Green Book*" challenges viewers to examine their own biases and presumptions by highlighting empathy and personal growth in Vallelonga's character development. A review of the literature on racism and its manifestations is also included in the presentation, with an emphasis on how crucial it is to combat bias and stereotypes in order to advance inclusivity and equity in society. The analysis was conducted utilizing Michel Wieviorka's "three types of racism" approach (1995). The movie's language and picture serve as a sample of the data used in theoretical and contextual analysis. The study's findings revealed that prejudices from three categories of racism were the most common, implying that there is a lot of discriminations occurred to black people in *Green Book* movie. Prejudice refers to an irrational opinion or feeling, especially one formed without sufficient thought or knowledge, and is often based on membership in a particular group. While attitude and opinion are rarely occurred in this movie

INTRODUCTION

Literature is often characterized by the use of language, creativity, and the expression of ideas of enduring and universal interest. Literature can be classified according to various systems such as language, country of origin, period, genre, and theme. This may also include oral literature, that is, literature that is spoken or sung. It is distinguished by the author's intention and the aesthetic excellence of its production. Literature can be classified by language, country of origin, historical period, genre, and theme. It serves as a way to record, preserve, and disseminate knowledge and entertainment, and may also have social, psychological, spiritual, or political roles. The term "literature" comes from the Latin word "littera" meaning "letters of the alphabet" and applies to both written and spoken languages. It is often called "writing," especially creative writing, and poetically "the art of writing". According to Iwuchukwu (2008:3) "According to Iwuchukwu (2008:3), literature is an imaginative art form that communicates the artist's ideas and feelings about the events that surround him." Literature is a body of written work, including poetry, prose, and drama.

Drama is a work of prose or poetry that aims to depict life or character, or to tell a story, frequently including conflict or emotion. It can be a literary work, a play, a film, a television work, or a real-life situation with dramatic elements. The term is derived from the Greek word "drama," meaning "act" or "deed." In the context of the arts, drama is often associated with theatrical performances such as plays, operas, pantomimes, and ballets. It is a genre of fiction that uses action, dialogue, and emotion to tell a story, and can be performed live on stage, radio, and television. Drama can also refer to a state, circumstance, or arrangement of occasions including curiously or strongly strife, or a dramatic condition, effect, or quality. Drama is a genre of literature, theater, film, and television that explores human conflict and tension. Anggraeni claims that drama is the development of character and situation through speech and action. In literature, a drama is a work of poetry or prose that aims to depict life or characters or to tell a story full of conflict and emotion. According to Iwuchukwu (2008:3) "Drama is an adaptation, recreation, and reflection of reality on stage." There are lines in dramas that could be made into movies.

"Movie" usually refers to a film that is intended for entertainment, storytelling, or informational purposes. It is a form of visual communication that combines video, audio, and often dialogue to create a story or convey a message. A Movie is a recording of moving images that tells a story and is intended to be viewed on a screen, such as in a theater or television. It is also known as motion picture or film. The term "Movie" is often used to refer to the film industry or the business of making movie. The word "Movie" originated in the early 1900s and is derived from the English suffix "-ie", used to form a noun denoting a person linked to a noun or verb with the suffix. In this case, "Movie" is used to refer to a film or series. The first known use of the name "Movie" was in a 1909 article in the Sunday Republic of Springfield, Massachusetts. The term became more commonly used in the 1910s and 1920s, as the Movie industry expanded and the term "Movie" came to refer to the business of making movie or the medium of cinema. A movie, also referred to as a film, is a visual medium that uses moving

images to tell a story or convey information. Ebert famously said, "Movies are the most powerful empathic machines of all the arts." This quote suggests that movies inspire people by allowing viewers to experience different perspectives and emotions through storytelling. It emphasizes his belief in the ability to connect and evoke empathy. According to Thompson & Smith (2017:2) "Films communicated information and ideas, and they showed us places and ways of life that we might not otherwise know."

Racism is discrimination against people or groups based on their race or ethnic background with deep prejudice. This can take many different shapes, from overt acts of violence and hate speech to more subdued manifestations like structural injustices and microaggressions. Historical and social power dynamics, in which some racial groups are excluded or oppressed while others enjoy privilege and domination, are frequently the source of racism. According to Grosfoguel (2011) "Racism is a global hierarchy of human superiority and inferiority that has been produced and perpetuated for centuries by the institutions of the "capitalist/patriarchal western-centric/Christian-centric modern/colonial world system." People who are categorized as being above the human line are socially acknowledged for being human, and as such, they have access to material resources, social recognition of their identities, subjectivities, epistemologies, and spiritualities, as well as rights (human, civil, women's, and/or labor rights). "Those who fall short of the human standard are viewed as non-human or subhuman; as such, their humanity is questioned and, thus, denied." (Fanon 1967). By avoiding the reductionism of many previous definitions, this concept of racism allows us to imagine various expressions of racism. Different racial markers can be used to create a hierarchy of human superiority or inferiority based on the colonial history of different parts of the world. Color, race, language, culture and/or religion can all be signs of racism. This can be seen in the "Green Book" movie.

"Green Book" is an American comedy 2018 film directed by Peter Farrelly and based on the 2004 memoir of the same name by Frank Vallelonga. "Green Book" shows examples of racism all throughout the story, emphasizing how common prejudice against African Americans was in the 1960s. The film, which is set in the segregated South of the United States, tells the story of African-American pianist Dr. Donald and his white driver and bodyguard, Frank Vallelonga, when they begin a concert tour in the Deep South. One of the central themes of the film is the systemic racism that Dr. Donald encounters during their travels. They encounter various forms of discrimination, including refusal of service at restaurants and hotels, segregation in public spaces, and outright hostility from white individuals. These instances of racism serve to underscore the deeply rooted racial divides and prejudices of the time. Additionally, the film also portrays the internalized racism experienced by Frank Vallelonga, who initially harbors prejudiced attitudes towards African Americans. However, through his interactions with Dr. Donald and witnessing firsthand the injustices faced by African Americans, Frank undergoes a transformation, ultimately learning to confront his own biases and develop a genuine respect and friendship with Don. The focuses on racism in Green Book movie are the use of racist words

toward black people such as negro, coal, and eggplant. Don also get a different treatment because he is a black people in this movie, such as given different facilities that are more neglected, different services in restaurant and got a different treatment on a clothing store because the tailor think that a black people couldn't afford an outfits.

Wieviorka (1995:37) identifies three different "types" of racism. Prejudice, opinion, or attitude that an individual or group may have. This means that racism cannot be viewed only as a situation and interpersonal behavior, as shown below. An example of a racism theory is prejudice. This theory appears in the movie Green Book about 25% of the time. Example dialogue that shows prejudice.

Dr. Donald : "Do you foresee any issues in working for a black man?"

Frank Vallelonga : "No! Just the other day me and the wife had a couple of colored guys over at house... for drinks."

Dr. Donald : "Hm... I see you're married."

Frank Vallelonga : "Yea. Two kids."

Sources: Green Book (2018)

Frank did not accept the blacks that his wife invited to fix the kitchen. His wife filled two glasses of water for the two blacks to drink. He felt uncomfortable and full of disgust when he saw this. He rushed into the kitchen and threw away the two cups when he noticed that his wife was not looking at him. However, his wife later retrieved the cups from the garbage bin. Given the contrast between his actions and those of his wife, it is even more obvious that he discriminates the black people. "*No! Just the other day me and the wife had a couple of colored guys over at house... for drinks.*" This prejudice showed that the type of racism is accordance with Wievorka's explanation of racism.

This research use several article that are related to the topic such as

1. Grosfoguel, R., 2016, What is Racism?.
2. Sari, D, R, P., at all, 2018, Social Acceptance Under Racial Discrimination of Don Shirley as a Black American in Peter Farrelly's Movie, Green Book.
3. Samelia, M., at all, 2020, A Critical Discourse Analysis Stereotype and Discrimination in Green Book Movie Script by Peter Farrelly.
4. Bahri, S., at all, 2022, Racism in Lee Daniels' Movie The Butler.
5. Wardana, I., at all , 2023, Green Book Movie: Potrayal of Racism in America.
6. Hu, K., 2023, A Study of Racial Discrimination in Green Book from the Perspective of the Cooperative.

The difference between this research article and other research articles is researchers identify dialogue Peter Farrelly's Movie, Green Book that relates to the notion of racism with the Type of racism Michel Wievorka (1995) and classify them. In the analysis of the material, dialogues are completed by images taken from the movie. the data analysis includes contextual and theoretical interpretations of the dialogues seen in the movie.

LITERATURE REVIEW

According to Michel Wievorka (1995) racism is classified into three types such as Prejudice, Opinions, and Attitudes:

A. *Prejudice*

Prejudice refers to an irrational opinion or feeling, especially one formed without sufficient thought or knowledge, and is often based on membership in a particular group. This can lead to unfair and unjust treatment of individuals or groups and is often the result of stereotypes, prejudice, and misunderstandings. Prejudice can be directed against different groups based on race, gender, religion, age, sexual orientation, and other factors, among other factors. It is often considered a negative and harmful attitude that can have a negative impact on relationships and social progress. Example prejudice on the Get Out movie In the dialogue between Rod William and Chris Washington, Rod William gives a negative view of white people.

Washington : "Okay, get your own girl."
William : "Goddamn."
Washington : "See, it doesn't matter."
William : "Cause you never take my advice."
Washington : "Like what?"
William : "**Like don't go to a white girl parents' house. She doin', licking your balls or something?**"

Washington's friend Rod William tried to remind on the phone that white people were dangerous. In the dialog, "*Like don't go to a white girl parents' house. She doin', licking your balls or something?*" The dialogue between Washington and her friend Rod Williams reveals the existence of prejudice and stereotypes towards different racial groups. Rod's statement about white people being dangerous and his concern about being invited to their homes suggests a negative view of white people.

B. *Opinion*

An opinion is a belief, perspective, or judgment about a particular topic or issue. Opinions may be based on personal experience, values, beliefs, and information and may vary widely from person to person. Opinions are subjective and can be influenced by many factors, including cultural background, education, and personal bias. In the context of racism, opinions can refer to beliefs about the nature, causes and effects of racism, and views about how to address and eliminate racism. Example opinion on the Get Out movie in the middle of Washington and Armitage.

Armitage : "Mom and dad, my, um, my... My black boyfriend will be coming up this weekend, and i just don't want you to be shocked that he's a black man."
Washington : "You said I was the first black guy you ever dated."
Armitage : "Yeah, so what?"
Washington : "**Yeah, so this is uncharted territory for 'em. You know, I don't want to get chased off the lawn with a shotgun.**"

In this scene, Washington tells Armitage about his parents going to see Washington. Washington, on the other hand, assumes that Armitage's parents would not want a black man dating their daughter and throws Washington out of her house. *"Yeah, so this is uncharted territory for 'em. You know, I don't want to get chased off the lawn with a shotgun."* This dialogue showed the racism of Michael Wievorka's opinion. Washington's assumption about Armitage's parents' disapproval of his relationship with her is an example of a white person's perspective on interracial dating. This perspective is often rooted in racism, which is the hostile or negative sentiments of one ethnic group or "people" toward another, and the behaviors that come from these feelings.

C. Attitude

In generally, the phrase "attitude" describes how someone feels about something or how they typically act toward it, frequently in an evaluative manner. It can also relate to a state of mind or posture, a sentiment or attitude toward a situation or reality, or a physical condition of preparedness to react in a particular way to an event. The position of an aircraft or spacecraft with respect to a specific line or plane, like the horizon or a specific star, is referred to as its "attitude" in aviation. It's a ballet stance where the dancer stands on one leg and bends the other one behind. Example of attitude on the Where Hands Touch movie in a dialogue between the inspector and Leyna's mother.

Inspector : "You are Frau Schlegel, She is your child?"

Leyna's Mother : "Yes, but she doesn't live here, she is with her aunt in Lubec"

Inspector : **"You're making a mistake, women like you, you contaminate, if she is anything like her mother, she'll be open also to contaminate from within"**

Leyna's Mother : "You wouldn't find her, because she doesn't live here"

In this scene a police officer inspects each person for black blood. It's intended toward Leyna. It describes how Leyna hides in the cellar to avoid scrutiny since she doesn't have a legal authorization to be German. *"You're making a mistake, women like you, you contaminate, if she is anything like her mother, she'll be open also to contaminate from within"* This dialogue showed that the attitudes racism from Michael Wievorka is existed. This scene shows the attitudes of the inspector and Leyna's mother towards interracial relationships and the stigmatization of black people in German society during the time of Nazi Germany.

METHODOLOGY

The researcher employed a qualitative descriptive method, with the research material being a dialogue from the film "Green Book". It provides data analysis and interpretation in the context of qualitative research. The conversation in the film acts as the study's data. According to (Peter Farrelly, Nick Vallelonga, Brian Hayes Currie, Bapogot, 2019). The qualitative method helps to comprehend the social environment and is used for problem identification, theory-based problem interpretation, and outcome quality demonstration. In gathering data, the researchers identify the movie's dialogue. Refer to the idea, Type of Racism by Michel Wievorka (1995), and classify them. In Analysis of the data, the dialogues filled by the images collected from the movie are Explained and understood culturally and theoretically.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

This movie is based on a true story by Peter Farrelly. So it is easier to spot three types of racism in this film. Racism is a one-way street where the perpetrator is associated with people in positions of power and privilege at the top of the ethnic and racial hierarchy (Cole, 2017).

Table 1

No.	Types of Racism	Number	Percentage (%)
1.	Prejudice	3	50%
2.	Opinion	2	25%
3.	Attitude	2	25%
	Total	7	100%

1. Prejudice



Picture 1

A. Dialogue 16.18 at Dr. Donald's House

Dr. Donald : "Do you foresee any issues in working for a black man?"

Frank Vallelonga : "No! **Just the other day me and the wife had a couple of colored guys over at House... for drinks.**"

Dr. Donald : "Hm... I see you're married."

Frank Vallelonga : "Yea. Two kids."

Sources : Green Book (2018)

This pertains to Don's interview with Frank. "Just the other day, my wife and I had a few guys of color over at the house," goes against The maxim of quality emphasizes that there should be no incorrect information. In fact, Frank did not receive blacks, who were called by his wife to fix the kitchen. His wife prepared two glasses of water for the two black males to drink. He was uncomfortable and disgusted when he saw it. He raced into the kitchen and threw away the two mugs when he noticed that his wife was not looking at him. However, his wife later retrieved the cups from the garbage bin. Given the contrast between his actions and those of his wife, it is even more obvious that he discriminates the black people. "**No! Just the other day me and the wife had a couple of colored guys over at House... for drinks**". This dialogue showed that prejudice racism from Michael Wievorka is existed. This situation demonstrates how prejudice can affect individuals, thoughts and their interactions with others. Frank explaining about the situation to Dr. Donald like it was a normal situation, but the reality Frank discriminates black people by his act and his thoughts. He thought that black people are dirty and even threw away two glasses of water to the garbage bin, it shows how he really hate and showing how he have his own prejudice on black people that black people always do negative thing eventhough it is a stranger or a person who want to help him.



Picture 2

B. Dialogue 43:40 at Dr. Don Shirley's Car

Dr. Donald : "Eyes on the road please."

Frank Vallelonga : "How about this? You know this song?"

Dr. Donald : "I don't think so, No"

Frank Vallelonga : **"How could you not know this music?
Aretha Franklin. Chubby Checker, Little...I
mean come on Doc, these are your people"**

Sources Green Book (2018)

In this scene, concern shown by "your people" in the above exchange caused Dr. Donald to go silent and look far away. Another racial stereotype is this one. White people assumed that colored people belonged to a single racial group and assumed that colored people knew one another, without considering the possibility that this could incite animosity toward colored people. ***"How could you not know this music? Aretha Franklin. Chubby Checker, Little.. I mean come on Doc, these are your people"***. This dialogue showed that prejudice racism from Michael Wievorka is existed. Frank have his own stereotype on black people especially on Dr. Donald. He thought that all black American listened to their own music from black artist. From a simple conversation about music leads to a stereotype conversation. Honestly this scene are not really shows a negative perspective or stereotype of black people, but Frank's prejudice on Dr. Donald highlight the prejudice and stereotypes clearly. Dr. Donald who haven't heard Chubby Chucker or Aretha franklin who are also black people triggering Frank to responds and rising the stereotypes.

2. Opinions



Picture 3

A. Dialogue 01:11:48 at the Clothing Store

- Couturier : "Dressing room is in the back, sir."
Dr. Donald : "Thank you. I'll be just a moment."
Frank Vallelonga : "Take your time, doc. I'll check out some ties for you."
Couturier : "Uh, excuse me. Uh, you're not allowed to try that on."
Dr. Donald : "I beg your pardon?"
Couturier : "**Uh, if you'd like to purchase it first, we'd be happy to tailor it to your needs.**"
Dr. Donald : "I see."

Sources : Green Book (2018)

The second racial incident occurred when Frank and Dr. Donald confronted the stylist at the clothing store. Dr. Donald should get a new theatrical attire, Frank advised. They received excellent treatment from the costume salesperson when they went to him because the seller believed Frank was the one purchasing the outfit. The proprietor of the store discovered that Dr. Donald wanted to buy the suit when Frank was trying on the items he had selected. Immediately, everything changed; the tailor didn't think black people could afford such outfits. This was brought up in the conversation, when the couturier volunteered to cut it for Dr. Donald provided it was bought beforehand. In other words, the tailor who suspected Dr. Donald would merely make an attempt and would then depart without purchasing anything since everyone knows that the blacks were such poor. "**Uh, if you'd like to purchase it first, we'd be happy to tailor it to your needs**". This dialogue proved that opinions racism from Michael Wieworka is occurred. Frank and Dr. Donald who just want to try and buy a suits ruined by a unilateral opinion from the proprietor. The proprietor act normally and give a good services to Frank when Frank look, ask, and discuss about the suits with Dr. Donald, as soon as he realized that the one who want to buy the suits aren't Frank but Dr. Donald who are a black people, spontaneously he pulled up all his word before and say to Dr. Donald that he can't touch the suits unless he pay first, this scene highlights a discrimination towards black people that are claiming that there's a social gap between white or other race compare

to black people. It shows that the proprietor have his own opinion towards black people that a black people must be poor and couldn't afford such a suits. We can learn from this scene to not discriminates and make a differences on any blacks or other ethnic.



Picture 4

B. Dialogue 01:26:17 at a Freeway

Police Officer : "Got ID? How you say this last name?"

Frank Vallelonga : "Vallelonga."

Police Officer : "Yeah, what kind of name is that?"

Frank Vallelonga : "It's Italian."

Police Officer : "**That's why you're driving him around. You're half a nigger yourself.**"

Sources : Green Book (2018)

Frank decides to pull over and turn around to attempt to explain that they are lost. Unfortunately for Frank and Dr. Donald, they were asked to exit the vehicle to verify their documentation. When Frank turns over his wallet with his ID, the officer asks him how to pronounce his surname (vallelonga). When the cops question Frank's last name, they humiliate him by claiming that he is half black. "*That's why you're driving him around. You're half a nigger yourself*" This dialogue showed that opinions racism from Michael Wievorka is existed. Frank's experience of being asked to remove from the car and being insulted by the officer's comment about his last name further highlights the discrimination and prejudice he faces as a person of color. The officer's comment, which suggests that Frank is not fully white, is a manifestation of the belief that being mixed race is not desirable or acceptable. This scene demonstrates the negative impact of racial profiling and discrimination on individuals and their interactions with law enforcement. It also highlights the importance of recognizing and challenging such biases when they arise. By recognizing and correcting these biases, we may seek to create a more inclusive and equitable society that individuals are not judged based on their race or ethnicity.

3. Attitude



Picture 5

A. Dialogue 51:30 at Dr. Donald's Car

Dr. Donald : "I've never heard fried chicken in my life."

Frank Vallelonga : **"Who you bullshitting?" You people love the fried chicken, the grits, and the collard greens. Negro cooks used to make it all the time when I was in the army."**

Dr. Donald : "You have a very narrow assessment of me, Tony."

Source : Green Book (2018)

In this scene, The writer cuts the words "you people" and "Negro cooks" from the following scenario, implying that Frank classified which foods were for black people and which were for Americans. He assumed that all black folks preferred the same thing. The phrase "you people" implies that Dr. Donald and Frank were not the same persons. This demonstrates that an exclusion occurred in society, as mirrored in America at the period. *"Who you bullshitting?" "You people love the fried chicken, the grits, and the collard greens. Negro cooks used to make it all the time when I was in the army"* This dialogue proved that attitudes racism from Michael Wievorka is occurred. Attitude describes how someone feels about something or how they typically act toward it, frequently in an evaluative manner. What Frank did with saying "you people" and "Negro cooks" to Dr. Donald highlight his attitudes to Dr. Donald, saying you people to one ethnic with a purpose to show the differences really shows how low our attitude is. Attitude can also relate to a state of mind or posture, a sentiment toward a situation, Tony show his racism on his bad attitude on saying Negro cooks, shows the despise on black people.



Picture 6

B. Dialogue 47:31 at a Stage

Frank Vallelonga : “Dr. Shirley. The Don Shirley trio. They're playing tonight.”

Staff : “Does it really matter?”

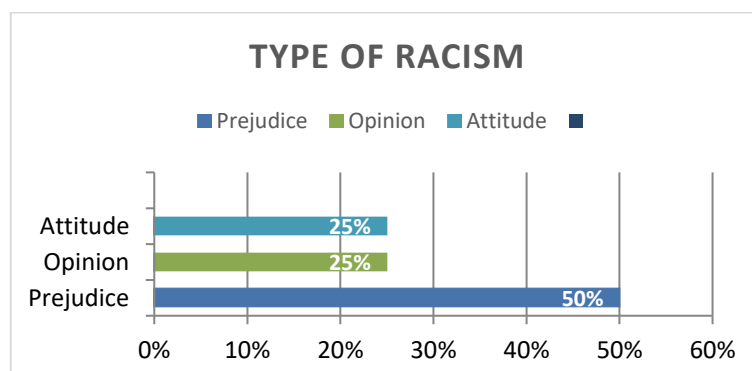
Frank Vallelonga : “Yeah, it does. It's in his contract.”

Staff : “**Come on, man. These coons can play on anything you put in front of 'em.**”

Sources : Green Book (2018)

In one of the movie's sequences, Frank enters the room and notices the piano that Dr. Donald plays. However, it was revealed that the piano in the room did not meet the terms of the contract signed by Dr. Donald. Frank urges his agent to fulfill his present contract (Dr. Donald exclusively plays Steinway pianos), but the rep refuses, and Dr. Donald claims he cannot play the instruments. “Come on, man. These coons can play on anything you put in front of 'em”. This dialogue showed that attitudes racism from Michael Wievorka is existed. The racism in this conversation occurs when the police officer refers to the raccoon as a euphemism for Dr Donald.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS



Picture 7

Based on the research findings, it can be determined that Peter Farrelly's film "Green Book" comprises the three categories of racism identified by Michel Wieviorka. According to the researchers, the most common hypothesis of racism discovered in this film is attitude (50%). Attitudes influence actions and ethics. By comparison, this type of racism is the most prevalent issue that happens in such movies. This is also relevant to the movie's topic of racism against black people.

Wieviorka (1995:37) "identifies three different "types" of racism. Prejudice, opinion, or attitude that an individual or group may have." Film Green Book's exploration of racism provides deep insight into the ongoing challenges of discrimination and prejudice within society. The film depicts the systemic racism faced by African-American pianist Dr. Donald and his white driver, Frank Vallelonga, during a concert tour in the segregated American South. It vividly captures the harsh reality of racial division and prejudice that prevails there. 1960s. Green Book powerfully emphasizes the deep-rooted nature of racism by depicting instances of military draft, racial discrimination, and outright hostility toward African Americans. Additionally, the development of Frank Vallelonga's character, who initially harbors prejudice but changes through his interactions with Don Shirley, highlights the potential for personal growth and empathy in the face of injustice. I'm doing it. The film subtly explores internalized racism and the path to understanding and respect, serving as a compelling story that resonates with audiences. 'Green Book' tackles the issue of racism in a thought-provoking and impactful way, encouraging viewers to confront their own prejudices and assumptions, and highlighting the importance of social awareness and change. promote critical dialogue. Through the lens of storytelling, this film not only entertains audiences, but also challenges them to think about the complexity of the human condition and the enduring legacy of racism in society.

FURTHER STUDY

This research still has limitations, so further research needs to be carried out on the topic of "Racism in Peter Farrelly's Movie, Green Book" in order to perfect this research and increase insight for readers.

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