

The Discrimination in the Workplace Experienced by a Black American in *Something the Lord Made* Movie

Novia Fitriana and Nurdien H. Kistanto

English Department, Faculty of Humanities, Diponegoro University, Semarang 50275

ABSTRAKSI

*Diskriminasi ras telah ada di Amerika sejak berabad-abad lalu. Diskriminasi ini dilakukan oleh orang kulit putih terhadap orang kulit berwarna. Dalam jurnal ini penulis tertarik untuk menanalisis tentang diskriminasi ras yang terjadi di lingkungan kerja. Penulis memilih film *Something the Lord Made* karena film ini merupakan sebuah ilustrasi dari sebuah kejadian nyata yang dialami oleh seorang kulit hitam. Fokus dalam jurnal ini adalah mengungkap diskriminasi-diskriminasi yang dialami oleh seorang kulit hitam di lingkungan kerjanya. Untuk menganalisis hal ini penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi tentang diskriminasi oleh institusi. Penulis membatasi persoalan hanya pada analisis di diskriminasi di tempat kerja yang dialami orang kulit hitam tersebut.*

*Tujuan penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkap diskriminasi di tempat kerja yang dialami oleh seorang kulit hitam berdasarkan film *Something the Lord Made*.*

Hasil analisis menunjukkan bahwa diskriminasi bisa terjadi di lingkungan kerja hanya karena orang tersebut adalah seorang kulit hitam, meski pun orang tersebut punya kualitas yang bagus dalam bidang tersebut. Diskriminasi ini pun bukan hanya dilakukan oleh pihak perorangan tetapi juga oleh sebuah institusi. Meskipun mendapat perlakuan yang diskriminatif, orang kulit hitam tersebut tetap bertahan di tempat kerja itu dan menunjukkan kemampuannya sehingga pada akhirnya dia mendapat perlakuan yang sama dengan orang kulit putih lainnya.

1. Introduction

America is a country which consists of so many races from the whole world. Many people from many countries came to America to build a new life. Yet, many of black Americans came to America as slaves. According to Stephen Steinberg in his book *The Ethnic Myth*, “unlike the millions of Africans who were imported against their will, and unlike Indians and Mexicans who were conquered by force, European immigrants came as a matter of choice” (1981: 37). The coming of black American as slaves made them as a minority group. According to Richard T. Scafer in his book, *Racial and Ethnic Groups* (2000: 6), “a minority group is a subordinate group whose members have significantly less control or power over their own lives than do the members of a dominant or majority group.”

In America, in 1930s-1960s, black Americans, always got unequal treatment from the white. They worked very hard and got cheap salary, and their salaries were always less than those of the whites. McLemore (1983) quoted a study from Glenn and Dowdall, who examined data on large number of cities in the United States for the years 1950, 1960, and 1970; that,

The basic idea behind these studies is this: if the white people gain in various ways of the subordination of blacks, then the whites' advantage should be greater within cities having a relatively large, whites should hold more high-prestige jobs than in cities having relatively fewer blacks. Similarly, the incomes of whites should rise with an increase in the presence of black people. Under these circumstances, whites

should also experience less unemployment (1983: 133).

As time goes by, people from the whole world came to America. Yet, still the white has been the dominant race in America. This condition caused them to discriminate the colored people. This discrimination happened for centuries. The discrimination by white people caused many sufferings for colored people. It happened in every aspect of life in America, such as discrimination in the workplaces, education, health, public facilities, and etc.

The writer found the discrimination in the workplace as reflected in *Something the Lord Made* movie. This movie is a true story movie that illustrates the discrimination of the white American towards a black American. The discrimination in the workplace experienced by a black American in *Something the Lord Made* movie will be discussed in this journal.

2. Methodology

The writer examines the appropriate books, journals, magazines, articles, and internet data, which have a strong relation with the case. The writer also watches the movie to analyze the case. From the movie, the illustration of discrimination will appear clearly.

In this journal, the writer will analyze the intrinsic aspects and the extrinsic aspects. In analyzing the intrinsic aspects, the writer uses exponential approach. "As such they might be called exponents, in the sense that they are signs or symbols of patterns of meaning. The word exponent, in fact, derives from the Latin "exponere", to put forth, with the extended meaning of explaining (cf. "expound")" (Guerin, 2005:143).

In analyzing the extrinsic elements, the writer uses sociological approach. This sociological approach is used to analyze the discrimination which happens in the movie. The sociological approach can be defined as the relation between literature and society. Wellek and Warren in their book *Theory of Literature* (1956), state that,

Literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary devices as symbolism and metre are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society. But, furthermore, literature "represents" 'life'; and 'life' is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation' (1956: 94).

It means that the condition of society in particular time influences the theme of the literary work.

3. Theoretical Framework

3.1 Intrinsic Aspects

The narrative elements include the basic elements in a literary work, such as theme, character, plot, setting, and conflict (Meyer, 1990: 38– 196). Yet, in this journal, the writer will analyze the character, setting, and conflict of the movie which has strong relations with the discrimination in the workplace experienced by a black American based on *Something the Lord Made* movie. Michael Meyer in his book, *The Bedford Introduction to Literature* (1990), states that character is "an imagined person in the story, is confronted with a problem leading to a climatic struggle that is followed by a resolution of the problem" (1990: 39). Michael Meyer in his book, *The Bedford Introduction to Literature*, says that setting is the context in which the action of a story occurs (1990: 107). Conflict is one of the main parts of the story, which underlies the story and it changes the protagonist character. According to Perrine, in the book, *The Story Structure, Sound, and Sense* (1988), conflict is a clash of action, desire, ideas, or goods in the plot of a story or drama (1988: 1408).

3.2 Extrinsic Aspects

3.2.1 Institutional Discrimination

The discrimination theory is used to analyze the discrimination cases that appear in the movie. The discrimination that appears in this movie is the discrimination of racism.

According to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* (1995: 331), discrimination is treating a person or group differently, which is usually worse than others. The form of treatment is like racial or sexual discrimination. Meanwhile, according to *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary: Fifth Edition* (1995), the definition of racism is a belief that some races are superior to others (1995: 957). It also includes the unfair treatment or dislike of somebody because they are different races.

According to the definitions above, it can be concluded that the discrimination and racism are related. Both are about the different treatment worse to the other groups especially races.

The discrimination that will be discussed in this journal is about the institutional discrimination. McLemore (1983) quoting Feagin (1977), stated that institutional discrimination is as the following.

The answer these authors suggested is that the ordinary operations of American institutions discriminate against subordinate groups. Schools, hospitals, factories, banks, and so on do not need to be staffed by prejudiced people in order to achieve discriminatory results. For example, most employers have certain formal educational requirements for hiring, such as a high school or college diploma. When these requirements are applied uniformly (and many would add "fairly") to all those who apply, the automatic result is to exclude those who have been deprived of an equal opportunity to gain the necessary credentials. If people have been subject to discrimination in the schools, then they are less likely to have graduated and, therefore, to be less qualified for a job that required a diploma. Even if the people who conduct the hiring procedure are completely tolerant as individuals, the rules of the organization they represent will require them to accept only those who have proper diplomas, test scores, certificates, and so on. In this case, we see that discrimination that occurs in one

institutional setting may carry over into or have side effects on a related institutional setting (McLemore, 1983: 137).

It means that the discrimination that happens in the school will continue to the workplace. McLemore also states that:

Another type of institutional discrimination in employment arises because the members of a minority "lack come ability or qualification intentionally denied to them in the past (Feagin, 1977). If an employer requires that a person must have worked in one job for ten years in order to be qualified for another job, anyone who was deliberately excluded from the first job cannot possibly be qualified for the second. For instance, for a very long time, black Americans have had the experience of being "the last hired and the first fired." During periods of economic expansion, employers frequently have not hired black workers until no other workers were available... In these circumstances, it was very difficult to black workers to accumulate the years of seniority needed to qualify for many jobs (McLemore, 1983: 137).

Besides the seniority of blacks did not appreciate, the black workers also got the cheap salary. McLemore says about the salary of colored people in the description below.

One may locate specific individuals within the dominant group who refuse to hire or promote minority workers, who pay minority workers less than dominant workers for performing the same job, who demand sexual favors in return for employment, and so on (1983: 135).

The colored people always got the discrimination even they have better diploma than the white. They also got the cheap salary than the white. Those are because they are the minority group and have less power than whites. Otto Eckstein, in the book *The Vista of American Labor* edited by William Haber, states that since the Civil Rights Act was

released, there is a hope for colored people to get equality.

Unemployment among nonwhites had deteriorated compared to whites. But in the last twelve months, nonwhite employment rose by 2.7 per cent, and their unemployment rate fell 1.5 percentage points. In addition, the new drive for equality of job opportunity under the Civil Rights Act of 1964 holds the promise or future breakthrough for our nonwhite labor force (1996: 110).

Something the Lord Made is a movie that tells us about the discrimination in the workplace that whites did against the colored people.

4 Analysis

4.1 The Discrimination in the Workplace Experienced by a Colored Worker as Reflected in *Something the Lord Made* Movie

4.1.1 The discrimination of the public facilities in the workplace

- 1) The separation of toilets between white and colored people

In the first disc, 00: 34: 52 and 00: 48: 20 show us that there is a separation in the public facilities in the university, especially in the use of the toilets. The white men toilets are separated with the colored men toilets. We can conclude that the toilets for women are separated for white and colored people.

Vivien Thomas, as a colored worker, should use the toilets special for colored people. He is not allowed to use the toilets for white. The separation of the toilets shows that the Johns Hopkins pays attention to the separation of public facilities between the white workers and colored workers.

- 2) The different entrance for colored workers

The university rules that there are the different entrances between white workers and colored workers. The white workers may pass through the front entrance of the university passing the foyer, and the colored workers should walk through the rear entrance, includes Vivien Thomas. The

conversation below contains the discrimination in the workplace. This conversation happens in the foyer of the Johns Hopkins University when Doctor Alfred Blalock and Vivien Thomas come to the university firstly.

Scene: In the foyer of Johns Hopkins

Alfred Blalock : *See that man? That's Johns Hopkins himself. Sir William Osler, the father of modern American medicine. William Halstead, invented the mastectomy. Let me show you some of the others.*

Security officer : *Excuse me. All workers punch in at the rear entrance.*

Alfred Blalock : *He's with me.*

Security officer : *That don't make any difference.*

Alfred Blalock : *Do you know who I am?*

Security officer : *No, sir.*

Alfred Blalock : *Dr. Blalock, Chief Surgical Professor.*

Security officer : *I'm sorry, Dr. Blalock, but that's the rules.*

Alfred Blalock : *I'll meet you in the labs, Vivien.*

(Something the Lord Made, 1st disc, 00: 26: 23- 00: 27: 17)

As we can see in the dialogue above, Vivien Thomas, a colored worker, is not permitted to pass through the foyer of the university even though he comes with Doctor Alfred Blalock, a chief surgical professor there. The university staff member says that the enjoinder of colored people pass through comes from the university.

The conversation below is the dialogue between Doctor Taussig and Vivien Thomas which contains the equal treatment that is received by Doctor Taussig, a woman white doctor. This conversation happens in the way to the Harriet Lane ward in the Johns Hopkins University.

Scene: walking to the wards with Dr. Taussig

Vivien : *You know, Doctor, there aren't many...*
Thomas
Doctor : *What? You'll have to speak up, I can't hear too well in this ear.*
Taussig
Vivien : *You're one of the few women doctors I've seen here.*
Thomas
Doctor : *At least they let me in through the front door. . . .*
Taussig *(Something the Lord Made, 1st disc, 00: 29: 52- 00: 30: 03)*

From the conversation above, we can see that Doctor Taussig is one of the few women doctors in the university and the university allows her to walk pass through the front entrance, not like the colored workers. The colored workers are not allowed to walk pass through the front entrance, they should pass the rear entrance.

3) The different attendance machine for colored workers

In first disc 00: 27: 44, Vivien Thomas fills his attendance machine in the rear entrance. It shows that, besides the entrance, the attendance machine between the white and the colored workers is separated. Vivien Thomas has the same attendance machine with the workers who have lower positions than him.

4) The separation of the worker cafeteria

Besides the separation in toilets, the other separation of public service in the university is the separation of the workers cafeteria. As we see in the first disc 00: 46: 48, the workers who eat in the cafeteria are colored worker, like Vivien Thomas. It means that the cafeteria for white workers and the colored workers is separated. The staff's colored worker cafeteria is also the colored people. This separation proves the discrimination of race in the university, an educational and health institution.

4.1.2 The discrimination by the other workers

1) Vivien Thomas is stared by the other workers

As we see in the fist disc, 00: 27: 58 and 00: 27: 42, the other workers staring at him, not only by the white people but also by the colored people. It is because Vivien Thomas wears a white laboratory coat. This is very strange for a colored person to wear it because at that time, there is no colored person in the university who works more than a maintenance worker. This laboratory coat shows his position as a laboratory assistant. The white people staring him in the corridor of the university and the colored people staring him in the rear entrance. This event happens when Vivien Thomas firstly comes to the university and he is the one of colored workers who has the same position like white worker in the university. His position as a laboratory assistant makes both white and colored workers being jealous and discriminating him. The discrimination from the white workers can see in the first disc in 00: 29: 08 – 00: 29: 46.

The conversation below is the dialogue between Doctor Ed Hecker and Vivien Thomas which contains the discrimination of skin color by Doctor Hecker. This conversation happens in the Doctor Alfred Blalock laboratory in the Johns Hopkins University.

Vivien : *Excuse me? Good morning.*
Thomas : *Where do you think I could find someone to help us clean up the lab, Doctor?*

Dr. : *Who do you think you're talking to?*
Hecker

Vivien : *I'm not sure. I'm Vivien Thomas, I work for Dr. Blalock, running this lab.*
Thomas

Dr. : *I'm Dr. Edgar V. Hecker Director of Laboratories. I'd like some coffee and a doughnut.*
Hecker

Vivien : *Doctor. Doctor. There must be a mix-up.*
Thomas

Dr. : *Listen you, I don't stand for insolence. We'll see about this.*
Hecker

(Something the Lord Made, 1st disc, 00: 29: 08 – 00: 29: 46)

In this event, even though Vivien Thomas wears a laboratory coat, Doctor Hecker considers Vivien Thomas like the other colored workers, a maintenance worker. The example of jealousy of colored worker can be seen in the first disc in 00: 46: 26 – 00: 46: 50.

The conversation below is the dialogue between a staff worker and a cafeteria worker. The conversation happens in the cafeteria for colored workers in the Johns Hopkins University.

Staff member : *What you giving him extra for? What's wrong with me?*
Cafeteria worker : *Nothing minding your own business wouldn't cure.*
Staff member : *You got that white coat. But you're just a class three worker, same as me. In fact, I got two years' seniority on you. I'm making more than you. Don't think you're some kind of big shot around here.*

(Something the Lord Made, 1st disc, 00: 46: 26 – 00: 46: 50)

The events above shows a staff member of the university, who is certainly a colored person, feels jealous when a cafeteria worker put more food to Vivien Thomas. In his jealousy, the staff member says that they are the same, as class three workers. He also gets more salary than Vivien Thomas even though Vivien Thomas wears a white coat and suggests Vivien Thomas to do not being arrogant with his white coat.

2) Vivien Thomas is discriminated by the Johns Hopkins' doctor

Vivien Thomas' position as a laboratory assistant makes the unhappy reaction from the university's workers, like Doctor Ed Hecker. Doctor Hecker dislikes seeing Vivien Thomas wears laboratory coat. Even he treats Vivien Thomas like the other colored worker.

The conversation below is the dialogue between Doctor Ed Hecker and Vivien Thomas which contains the discrimination in

the workplace by a doctor of the university to Vivien Thomas, a colored worker. This conversation happens in the Doctor Alfred Blalock laboratory in the Johns Hopkins University.

Vivien Thomas : *Excuse me? Good morning. Where do you think I could find someone to help us clean up the lab, Doctor?*

Dr. Hecker : *Who do you think you're talking to?*

Vivien Thomas : *I'm not sure. I'm Vivien Thomas, I work for Dr. Blalock, running this lab.*

Dr. Hecker : *I'm Dr. Edgar V. Hecker Director of Laboratories. I'd like some coffee and a doughnut.*

Vivien Thomas : *Doctor. Doctor. There must be a mix-up.*

Dr. Hecker : *Listen you, I don't stand for insolence. We'll see about this.*

(Something the Lord Made, 1st disc, 00: 29: 08 – 00: 29: 46)

From the dialogue above, we can see that Doctor Ed Hecker feels unhappy seeing Vivien Thomas and from his utterances, he will still discriminate him. The other discrimination did by Doctor Ed Hecker we can see in the second disc in 00: 09: 25 – 00:09: 46.

The conversation below is the dialogue between Doctor Alfred Blalock and Doctor Ed Hecker which contains the expulsion of Doctor Ed Hecker to Vivien Thomas. This conversation happens in the operation room when the heart surgery almost starts.

Doctor : *What's he doing here?*

Doctor Ed Hecker : *What the hell is that? I'll see about this.*

Doctor Taussig : *Should we say a prayer?*

Doctor Alfred Blalock : *Forget it. He won't listen to me.*

Doctor Ed Hecker : *Dr. Blalock, a word. You can resume your duties.*

Doctor Alfred : *These are his duties. Can*

Blalock *you see now?*
Something the Lord Made, 2nd disc, 00: 09:
25 – 00:09: 46

In that scene, Doctor Hecker wants to chase away Vivien Thomas from the operation room, but it can be defeated by Doctor Alfred Blalock. As we can see, Doctor Hecker does not tolerate Vivien Thomas, as a colored person, working as a laboratory assistant and he is in the operation room. He assumes that Vivien Thomas is not supposed to be there because he is not a doctor, and he is a colored person and just a laboratory assistant.

The conversation below is the dialogue between Doctor Alfred Blalock and the other doctors of the Johns Hopkins University which contains the unhappy feeling of the doctor with the coming of Vivien Thomas as Doctor Alfred Blalock's laboratory assistant.

Scene : Playing Pool

Doctor 1 : *You surely pissed off Ed Hecker.*

Alfred Blalock : *You mean I disturbed his afternoon nap?*

Doctor 2 : *What is it with you and that boy of yours? Thomas. Why'd you bring him up here?*

Alfred Blalock : *We've been together more than 12 years. He's a really good worker. How about a little wager?*

Something the Lord Made, 1st disc, 00: 35:
43 – 00: 36: 09)

From the conversation above, we can see that the other doctors, besides Doctor Hecker, also feel unhappy to the coming of Vivien Thomas as Doctor Alfred Blalock's laboratory assistant. They warn Doctor Alfred Blalock that Blalock makes Doctor Hecker very angry about Vivien Thomas' position. Even though this event is not happen in the university, but it contains the discrimination of the doctors to Vivien Thomas related to his job as a laboratory assistant in the university.

Even though Doctor Alfred Blalock does not discriminate Vivien Thomas, he does not

mention Vivien Thomas name in his acknowledgement for his partners in his heart operation. It is because this acknowledgement is conveyed in Belvedere Hotel in the celebrating party to celebrate the first heart operation that finished by Doctor Alfred Blalock. In this party, the person who is invited is the Johns Hopkins doctors and their colleagues. Certainly, Vivien Thomas who is not a doctor, is not invited to the party. Yet, he slips to the party, and sees Doctor Alfred Blalock does not mention his name in the acknowledgement.

Alfred Blalock : *Thank you. I am indeed honored. And while I am grateful for the many gifts that have been given to me in my life, perhaps the greatest gift has been the support of my colleagues over this last year. My good friend, Walter Dandy. The wonderful, brilliant colleagues who assisted me in our operation: Dr. Helen Taussig, Dr. William Longmire, Dr. Denton Cooley, Dr. Mel Harmel. I believe one group of people could not have accomplished so much in so little time without a strong, unified effort in the spirit of breaking new ground together. To further the reach of medicine is one that should be cherished and never allowed to die.*

(Something the Lord Made, 2nd disc, 00: 20:
14 – 00: 21: 24)

Doctor Alfred Blalock's attitude caused by the circumstances around him. His institution and his friends discriminates Vivien Thomas. Vivien Thomas also is not at that party. He feels that it is not necessary to mention his acknowledgement to Vivien Thomas. Yet, in fact Vivien Thomas sees it, and makes him disappoint and quits from his job. He feels his help to Doctor Alfred Blalock in the heart research is not given an appropriate appreciation.

3) The exceptional treatment

Vivien Thomas is very important to Doctor Alfred Blalock. Even in Alfred Blalock first heart operation, he does not feel steady without Vivien Thomas. Then he asks Doctor Longmire to call Vivien Thomas through the receptionist worker. But, the receptionist worker refuses to call Vivien Thomas because she is just allowed to call the doctors.

The conversation below is the dialogue between Doctor Alfred Blalock, a nurse, and Doctor Longmire which contains the discrimination of the Johns Hopkins rules towards the workers. This conversation happens outside the operation room before the operation starts.

Doctor Alfred : *Dr. Longmire*
Blalock
Doctor : *What is going on?*
Doctor : *They won't page him.*
Longmire
Doctor Alfred : *Why not?*
Blalock
Doctor : *Something about hospital*
Longmire *policy.*
Doctor Alfred : *Page Vivien Thomas*
Blalock *immediately.*
Mr. Saxon : *Dr. Blalock, what's wrong.*
What's happened?
Doctor Alfred : *It's all right. I won't tell you*
Blalock *again. Page him.*
Nurse : *We're only allowed to page*
doctors.

Something the Lord Made, 2nd disc, 00: 08: 01 - 00: 00: 08: 36

The rule does not make Doctor Alfred Blalock cancel his willingness. On the contrary, Doctor Alfred Blalock grabs the microphone from the receptionist worker and calls Vivien Thomas himself. Doctor Alfred Blalock feels very nervous because it is the first heart operation in the world and along his research in curing the case, he is helped by Vivien Thomas. Yet when Doctor Alfred Blalock wants to call Vivien Thomas to accompany him in the operation room, the university rule difficult him.

4.1.3 The discrimination in the job classification

- 1) The Inappropriate job classification

Even though Vivien Thomas works as a laboratory assistant for Doctor Alfred Blalock, he is classified as a third class worker, because he has not a diploma in college. Besides that Vivien Thomas had been paid like the other third class workers. Even though he works as a laboratory assistant, but he is paid as a maintenance worker. Vivien Thomas knows this classification from the other colored worker and he is angry to Doctor Alfred Blalock.

The conversation below is the dialogue between Vivien Thomas and an office worker. The conversation below contains the mistake of inappropriate job classification for Vivien Thomas.

Scene: In the administration office
Office worker : *It means salary grade.*
Vivien Thomas : *And, ma'am, and this here?*
What's this?
Office worker : *Job classification.*
Vivien Thomas : *What is class three?*
Office worker : *Maintenance worker.*
Vivien Thomas : *I'm a lab technician. That*
can't be.
Office worker : *"Vivien Thomas." Okay.*
Here we go. "Vivien Thomas,
class three." Thank you

Something the Lord Made, first disc, 00: 46: 54 - 00: 47: 27

Vivien Thomas works as a laboratory assistant, but his position, in the document, says that he is just a maintenance worker and gets salary as maintenance worker too. When he is just as a maintenance worker, then why he works more than it, as a laboratory assistant which the work is harder than a maintenance worker. Worse, the university just allows him to work as a laboratory assistant with his job classification as a maintenance worker. If there is no staff member jealous with him and said about their class of work, Vivien Thomas will not realize that he gets wrong job classification.

By the help of Doctor Alfred Blalock, he finally gets the right job classification and

gets more salary. He is also promoted as a surgical technician, a job that he has already worked.

4.1.4 The discrimination from the public

- 1) Vivien Thomas contribution is not appreciated by public

Curing the “blue baby syndrome” is the research of Doctor Alfred Blalock. Yet, because of his bustle as a doctor and a lecturer, the research in the laboratory is done by Vivien Thomas. Even Vivien Thomas makes the equipment for the research himself, because there is no appropriate equipment that is available. His big contribution does not make the world confess Vivien Thomas ability in medical field. The operation of “blue baby syndrome” becomes the first heart surgery and it is success. This makes Doctor Alfred Blalock better known than before, but not Vivien Thomas, his most important partner. The public only confess the other doctors who join the operation like Doctor Helen Taussig, Doctor William Longmire, Doctor Denton Cooley, and Doctor Mel Harmel.

That first heart surgery becomes famous and so with the doctors who join the operation. Vivien Thomas position as a laboratory assistant, not a doctor, makes the public does not confess him. As we can see in the picture above, the doctors who join the operation get publicity. Vivien Thomas is very sad and disappoint because of this matter. His disappointment also increases when Doctor Alfred Blalock does not mention Vivien Thomas in his acknowledgement in celebrating party of the success operation.

Below is the utterance of Doctor Alfred Blalock. Doctor Alfred Blalock says his acknowledgement to his partners who help him in his operation. This event happens in Belvedere Hotel.

Alfred Blalock : *Thank you. I am indeed honored. And while I am grateful for the many gifts that have been given to me in my life, perhaps the greatest gift has been the support of my*

colleagues over this last year. My good friend, Walter Dandy. The wonderful, brilliant colleagues who assisted me in our operation: Dr. Helen Taussig, Dr. William Longmire, Dr. Denton Cooley, Dr. Mel Harmel.

I believe one group of people could not have accomplished so much in so little time without a strong, unified effort in the spirit of breaking new ground together. To further the reach of medicine is one that should be cherished and never allowed to die.

(Something the Lord Made, 2nd disc, 00: 20: 14 – 00: 21: 24)

Vivien Thomas’ disappointment makes him quit from his job because he feels that his hard work is useless and does not get enough appreciation. He has work with Doctor Alfred Blalock about thirteen years, and when they success together to cure a big medical disease, Vivien Thomas is not appreciated, and get nothing from this effort and his work.

5. Conclusion

The discrimination can happen in every side of life in America. The very strong discrimination is the discrimination of race. In *Something the Lord Made* movie, the discrimination which appears is the discrimination of race experienced by a black American in his workplace.

Vivien Thomas, a black American, is a laboratory assistant for a surgeon doctor named Alfred Blalock. In his workplace, Vivien Thomas gets unequal treatment because he is a colored person. Most of the discriminations come from the Johns Hopkins University rules. Besides he is discriminated as a colored person, he is also discriminated because he works there as a laboratory assistant, a position that at those time only can get by white person. The discriminations he gets does not make him quit from his job. Yet, finally he quit from his job because his contribution in the research

and operation to cure the “blue baby syndrome” is not appreciated by Doctor Alfred Blalock, his partner more than ten years work together. This matter also because he is not a doctor, and just a colored person. Yet, his love on his job makes him come back to his job and finally get the equal treatment and reward from the Johns Hopkins University.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Bordwell, David and Kristin Thompson. 2008. *Film Art: an introduction, 8th ed.* Canada: McGraw Hill International Companies.
- Brown, Blain. 2002. *Cinematography: Theory and Practice.* New York: Focal Press.
- Guerin, Wilfred L.et.al. 2005. *A handbook of Critical Approaches to Literature.* New York: Oxford University Press.
- Haber, William.Ed. 1966. *The Vista of American Labor.* Washington D.C.: Voice of America.
- Holman, Tomlinson. 1997. *Sound for Film and Television.* Boston: Focal Press.
- Hornby, A.S., et.al. 1995. *Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary: Fifth Edition.* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- McLemore, S. Dale. 1983. *Racial and Ethnic Relations in America.* Massachusetts: Allyn Bacon, Inc.
- Meyer, Michael. 1990. *The Bedford Introduction to Literature.* Boston: Bedford Books of St. Martin’s Press.
- Perrine, Laurence. 1988. *The Story Structure, Sound, and Sense (Rev. Edition).* New York: Harcourt.
- Scafer, Richard T. 2000. *Racial and Ethnic Groups.* New Jersey: Prentice Hall, Inc.
- Steinberg, Stephen. 1981. *The Ethnic Myth.* New York: Atheneum.
- Wellek, Rene and Austin Warren. 1956. *Theory of Literature.* New York: Hartcourt, Brace, and World, Inc.