Cinemas are often used as an element of escapism and a representation of reality to the audience. Cinema also plays a crucial part in developing and sustaining racial cultural ideas and attitudes in the United States of America and globally. Since the 1830s, African Americans have appeared in film as either shown unfavorably or as small-minded people in comparison to their white peers. In a famous film in America, "Birth of Nation", a white actor who acted as African American was portrayed as savagely violent who seized on Caucasian women. Despite the inaccurate portrayal of African Americans in the film, identical tropes have continued to emerge in the film industry since the 1920s. Therefore, this paper studies the representation of African Americans in Hollywood films using Critical Race Theory. Two Hollywood films will be used as a comparative case study namely Steve McQueen's 12 Years A Slave (2013) and Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz’s Antebellum (2020) respectively. The result shows the importance of race and racism in society, several common types of racial prejudice have been detected in the films. Pathological stereotypes have also been presented through the films and the white characters show their power and control towards the African Americans who once had equal privilege with them.

Keywords: Representation, African-Americans, Hollywood Films, Antebellum.
1. Introduction

Blaxploitation has existed even in the prominent Black cinema by adding some positive or negative roles of African American in the film, where some were portrayed as exemplary examples like Mammy, who are always depicted in a mother image who is fat and nasty (Pilgrim, 2012; Sharman, 2020). They work as slaves and adored for the white family but normally are being mistreated (Pilgrim, 2012). Black characters who have the characteristics of sorrowful Hispanic and threatening served as warning anecdotes in the early cinemas where racial oppression was crucial. Although the generation has modernised, there are still new caricatures about African Americans being projected on screen to advocate an identical ideology to develop in the society (Sharman, 2020).

Magical-Negro is one of the new stereotypes which are being depicted in modern Hollywood films (Sharman, 2020). Three basic motivations for the mythical characteristics of the role are to support the White character in discovering their transcendent (Glenn & Cunningham, 2009). For example, assisting white characters in achieving their objective or avoiding a dangerous scenario. Motives of these African American characters are usually limited to assisting the Caucasians where they are being developed in a character which seldom has its own personal thought (Sharman, 2020). Despite the fact that audiences watch films for enjoyment or escapism purposes, the representation and affiliations of the protagonists have great influence on how people see themselves and others (Glenn & Cunningham, 2009).

According to Hall (1997), the concept of the work of representation is where the connection among ideas and language allows individuals to relate to the “actual” realm, individuals, and situations, as well as a notional world of fantasy. It consists of words, symbols, and pictures to portray or symbolize something. People would be unable to make any meaningful interpretations of the world without — representation. This is due to the fact that ideologies are created and implemented through mass media (Gitlin, 1980; Hall, 1990); as well as information on cultures (Poole & Sandford, 2002).

Filmmaking is the assumption of motions created by the capturing and consecutive drastic visual of numerous static images on the display (McFadden, 2016). In the film, gender, ethnicity, and cultural identity are represented through script, actions, and four of the five elements in the mise-en-scene (eg: costume, camera angles, lighting, and sound). Filmmakers then depict the representation of gender, race, and culture by employing language and cinematography as a tool to represent meanwhile also to construct stereotypes. As a result, the viewers are left to translate these discourses by relating to their own experiences which results in discrimination and stereotyping in society (Fiegel, 2018). The film could reflect the reality to society meanwhile the images could be warped and only reflect a fraction of the truth. It may portray filmmakers’ prejudices and incorrect assumptions, as well as the hegemonic community. Individual or group portrayals in the media may be harmful by replicating tropes and false ideas, but they can be beneficial if the representations are accurate and relevant (Ethics Unwrapped, 2019).

In 1914, America Cinema was mostly based in New York, playing a minor role in the film industry (National Science and Media Museum, 2020). According to Metz (2006), the American film industry rose as Europe’s film industry was severely impacted by the effects of World War I in 1917 which had restricted the capability of French films to be launched internationally (National Science and Media Museum, 2020). Hence, a group of filmmakers left New York and traveled to Los Angeles for its strategic location for cinematography (Spencer, 1991).

Since 1917, the classic Hollywood film industry was already being developed within a studio system (Metz, 2006). By the mid-1930s, the introduction of sound—
towards film solidified the American film industry's dominant role where it was known as the “Golden Age of Hollywood” (National Science and Media Museum, 2020). It was a time of tremendous development, innovation, and change in the business, which gave the industry and its Hollywood actors worldwide recognition (Onion, Sullivan & Mullen, 2018). However, African Americans were hardly seen on screen although the Hollywood film industry has become popular in the early cinemas. For instance, if a Black person were to be depicted on screen, they were mostly being shown in a negative and offensive form (Morton, 2020).

On the other hand, Hooks (2009) stated that Hollywood has been criticised for constantly presenting unfavourable and inadequate representations of African American culture to the audiences. This is due to the fact that films are important places to look at cultural images because they are social exertions that depict, create, and perpetuate the status quo. They not only amuse, but also convey messages to their audiences, influencing our principles and worldview (Terry, 2018).

Hollywood films were seen to reinforcing white domination over blacks via an “ancient discrimination established with the history of imperialism and contemporary oppression (Giroux, 1994). Black representation in Hollywood could impact a broad audience; it could influence how the general white public perceived African Americans (Telletxea, 2020). According to Crockett (2016), a staggering 62% of actors who play a role as a gang member in film are African American. On the contrary, African-American actors who act as police officers were only 18% while doctor and pilot were 9 and 3% correspondingly. Thus, this study will employ the representation of African American in Hollywood films. The stereotypes of African Americans in the film help mold the perception of the general audience towards African Americans in real life (Jones, 2020).

2. Problem Statement

Racism and race stereotypes are still a neglected human rights issue until today. Racism in many forms could endanger over a million of people’s lives and their rights globally (Bradley, 2019). It is an ethnic regime of beliefs, rituals, and practices in the United States that asserts White racial superiority and utilises this statement to oppress minority communities (Causadias & Korous, 2019). The racism that appears between whites and blacks, mostly due to the superior sentiment of white people towards black people of African American. The feeling of superiority from white people towards black people leads the act of discrimination, prejudice and stereotyping (Yusrina et al, 2020). Discrimination occurs when people of different races, ethnicities, or religions interact. As a consequence of these disparities, people were treated unfairly. Theodorson (1979) claimed that discrimination is the unfair mistreatment of people or community based on some characteristic, typically categorization, such as race and gender. Discrimination is defined as a negative attitude in which a person or group is treated unfairly by other people or groups (Equality and Human Rights Commission, 2022).

There is a clear tendency in U.S. culture to prejudice against African-Americans and prohibit their access to social structures (Jewell, 1993). When considering abstract judgments regarding criminal activity and income assistance, Caucasians who possess unfavorable preconceptions about African Americans evaluate the community more severely (Hurwitz, Peffley, and Sniderman, 1997). African Americans without graduating from high school believe to suffer from racial stereotypes. The persistence of racial prejudices was reported by the news (Plous and Williams, 1995). For example, the policemen who attacked African-American, Rodney King in Los Angeles in 1992 (Plous and Williams, 1995) and the death of an unarmed individual, George Floyd by a Caucasian police officer outraged-
According to Yuen (2019), studies have shown that representations in media of African Americans affect teenagers and young adults of African Americans’ self-esteem and emotions causing higher suicide rates. Ethnic imagery presented as escapism may distort how audiences perceive and classify individuals. It can bring the negative influence of racial stereotypes in film and in the meantime can also aggravate pre-existing racist concerns. In view of the problems mentioned above, this study is consequently timely and necessary.

The research objective of this study is to identify the racial stereotype depicted in the representation of African Americans in “12 Years a Slave” and “Antebellum” films.

3. Representation in Hollywood Films

Representation has been one of the greatest roles in storytelling and cinemas. It helps to solidify cultural frameworks which assist people in understanding and distinguishing the different domains which the individuals are in (Bobrow and Collins, 1975). Experts have proceeded to discover identical results of stereotyped portrayal of minorities in the media over the past two decades (Poole & Sandford, 2002; Saha, 2012). Subsequently, Daniel Chandler also agreed that the term representation is about creation of reality of cultural identities and other abstract theories (House, 2011).

Scholars have studied media representations of minorities through the perspectives of racial groups, ethnicity and religion throughout the decades. The researcher discovered media has strong impacts on the way individuals perceive different genders among various factors (Wood, 1994). Wood (1994) concludes that portrayal of gender stereotypes in media has caused limitations in understanding of human potential and the misrepresentation of genders may alter perceptions of ourselves. Furthermore, based on the findings of Ahmed and Matthes (2016), there are a number of empirical researches which proved that the media expresses prevailing-societal values, beliefs, and trends which often result in misrepresentation or stereotyped representation of minority groups in the media.

Panner (2018) examines and discusses the oppression and caricature of Asians in Hollywood films. The scholar acknowledged that Asians tend to be deprived of well-rounded, multi-dimensional protagonists that are more than stereotypes in the film industry. Asian-Americans have been marginalised and stereotyped in Hollywood, which has influenced how they are perceived in public. However, empirical research on how Japanese culture is portrayed in Hollywood done by Kimura in 2018 determined that films analysed for the thesis illustrate gender stereotypes in Japanese female characters as submissive, silent and inferior. Apart from that, a research conducted on Hollywood’s negative portrayal of Arabs and Muslims as antagonists. Through a survey of 900 films, the scholar determined that filmmakers’ skewed visuals have depicted Arabs as cruel, violent, savage and other caricatures (Shaheen, 2003). According to Grisca (2019) the African American characters are often show the black characters against the white protagonist characters. These are the heart of the matter that are still not discussed in the prior research on the selected films.

Stewart (2005) did a comprehensive analysis on the relations of African Americans and the early cinemas by illustrating black urban life with early films in history. The researcher also investigates the conflicts between pros and cons of migration storytelling patterns by looking at the relations of African Americans and cinemas from a variety of perspectives. As a result, the results on film’s complex racial inequality have shown that not only an unified system of discriminatory reactions in the mainstream media were created but also dramatic breakdowns in African American portrayal and insight.

3.1 Representation Issues in “12 Years a Slave and “antebellum”
The film 12 Years a Slave, directed by Steve McQueen, is one of several Hollywood films depicting the social lives of both gender slaves during the Civil Rights era. According to Luthfiana (2017), the black feminism problems represented by the female slaves are prominent in this film. The findings of the study reveal that servants were subjected to horrible mistreatment towards African American in both gender. The African American lead actresses were portrayed living through biased treatment compared to the Caucasians (Luthfiana, 2017).

Moreover, researchers have compared the memoir and film of Twelve Years a Slave in researching the depictions of ‘racial issues’ and ‘slavery’. It was discovered that the film has portrayed individual, active and passive racisms including other themes such as colorism (Ambler and Lewis, 2018). Simanjutak and colleagues (2015) also agreed on the racial issues in the movie then further studied using qualitative methods on the oppressions faced by the two main characters. In relation to the result of the data analysis, the researchers determined the film embraced all kinds of oppression (Simanjutak & Murni, 2015).

On top of that, Wulandari has explored racism discourse in the script of ‘12 Years A Slave’ during 2017. As stated in the past research, acts of racism were found in the script which violence act was highlighted 8 times bringing it to 32% whereas stereotypical caricature consists of 12% in the script of characters. Furthermore, a group of scholars conducted a study in racial discrimination through a conceptual analysis of films by African Americans including Twelve Years a Slave. They argued that representation in the selected films have influenced people’s viewpoint (Larsen, Jessen & Imlau-Jeppesen, 2015). Larsen and other academics also mentioned that those films were meant to portray inequality of the society in the U.S.

Comparatively, there was limited research on the ‘Antebellum’ movie as it was released in 2020. Petric (2020) explored the oppression inside weak democracy occur—ring in reality which was portrayed in the film. For example, the researcher claims that scenarios in the film could actually be related to the reality where a corrupted community exists and plays a role as an oppressive state. Hence, this paper addresses the need for identifying representations of African Americans in both films, which so far lacking in the previous literature, especially in Antebellum film.

3.2 Critical Race Theory

In this study, Critical Race Theory (CRT) was used to analyze the representation of both films. Delgado and Stefancic (2017) stated that the Critical Race Theory revolution is a group of activists and academics who want to learn more about and change the correlation between racial groups, prejudice, and dominance. According to this theoretical framework, racial group and discrimination are essential factors in past and present political systems and cultural interactions (Ritzer, 2007). Moreover, Crenshaw and colleagues (1995) explained that racial groups were viewed in different ways through ideological methods before the Civil Rights Act was introduced. The higher social class Caucasians established laws to set their community apart from the blacks.

Therefore, there are a few researchers who applied this theory in their empirical study on different topics. Edwards (2019) explored the way movies comply with colorism and violence, especially when it comes across oppression, representation, white supremacy and the homicide of the race community. The scholar believed that critical race theory is used to investigate the underlying meanings behind particular statements and behaviours that may have underlying intentions towards marginalised groups (Edwards, 2019).

In addition, Van Lienden and colleagues to has exerted this theory to further investigate racial and ethnicity codifications used by broadcast football pundits and the way those discourses connect to hegemony and classifications in broader Polish culture-
In a study of the racial environment at schools in Asian Pacific Americans in 2002, scholars classified some prevalent misunderstandings about the learning environment by looking at the stereotyped marginalized groups around the school (Teranishi, 2002). Teranishi (2002) claimed that it enables to an investigation of the complexities and ambiguities of racism that are often overlooked in educational research.

Correspondingly, Yosso et al. establish their prior study by using the theory to investigate and analyze racial stereotypes and biases encountered by undergraduates of Latinos (Yosso, Smith, Ceja & Solorzano, 2009). It is found through the analysis that racial discrimination against the students in minority groups. Critical Race Theory is often implemented for topics that are related to racial and ethnic discourse.

3.3 Data Analysis Methods

This study used content and discourse analysis by studying several frames from “12 Years a Slave” and “Antebellum” films based on elements of Critical Race Theory. This analysis helps to identify the representation of African Americans in the films.

4. Data Analysis
4.1 the Importance of Race and Racism in Society

Firstly, critical race theory defines racism as a sociological phenomenon that emerges from the socio-political meanings attributed to it through societal conversations and connections at various degrees of political organisation. Racism has been an integral part of worldwide societal, governmental, intellectual, and historical structures ever since the 16th century (Ritzer, 2007). This action has been ordinary in the United States of America where the African American community has to deal with discrimination on a daily basis (Duignan, 2021).

Hence, racism discourse is so strongly ingrained in American culture which influences how firmly interwoven it is in—

-educational policies, practices, protocols, and systemic institutions (Bobo & Kluegel, 1993). Racism may occur either consciously or unconsciously (Richard, 2017).

“Racial prejudice manifests itself in rules and policies through the deliberate and inadvertent involvement and endorsement of a racial group(s) and its participants, who are considered as oppressed by people, organizational individuals, and figureheads” (Carter, 2007).

On the contrary, the diminished position of African Americans as domestic servants was acknowledged by legislation by the 1660s. The very first slave laws developed between 1680 and 1682, codifies the harsh injustices of freedom that have been prevalent in daily practice. Several regulations discriminated against black people based on their race: they were not allowed to travel without permission, possess assets, gather openly, or carry firearms, and they were not allowed to be educated (West, 1995).

There are a few kinds of racism that are portrayed in the film among the plot of “12 Years A Slave”. Individual racism and cultural racism are usually portrayed in a community without any purpose or unconsciously (McConahay, 1986). Individual racism contains the element of the prevalence of force, purposeful expressions of discrimination while unintended displays of prejudice (Sears, Henry & Kosterman, 2000) It could be seen in the film where Solomon Northup was being hung on the tree (Figure 4) due to him going against the opinion of the John Tibeats where Solomon’s opinion always worked out when John Tibeats denied it and the film present this incident in a vigorous manner (Ambler & Lewis, 2018).

However, in the film, “Antebellum”, individual racism was being portrayed in the scene where a Caucasian lady with blond hair, Elizabeth shows jealousy and hatred towards the main character, Veronica. Elizabeth was having an interview with Veronica who is a famous speaker in the country and during the conversation—
Elizabeth mentioned that she loves the Chanel lipstick that Veronica has on her (Figure 2), then towards a scene where the director makes a lady mysterious walk into Veronica’s suite and at the end applies that same lipstick on her revealing the color of her hair (Figure 3). Jumping to the scene where Veronica went in the Uber after the party, Jasper then strangled her and the rear mirror revealed Elizabeth as the driver and the lipstick on her (Figure 4). She was the one who kidnapped Veronica which leads to her ending up as a slave and Jasper as the—-head overseer (Figure 5).

Films have always been and still are a strong platform for the dissemination of tropes (Boskin, 1986). Caucasian personalities including Abraham Lincoln, Andrew Johnson, and Thomas Jefferson endorsed ideas believing that African Americans are inferior to white people and they are socially animalistic in form (Plous & Williams, 1995, p.795). Theodore Roosevelt also remarked in public that the marginalized group is completely inferior to whites (Plous & Williams, 1995, p.796).
Theodore Roosevelt also remarked in public that the marginalized group is completely inferior to whites (Plous & Williams, 1995, p.796). This stereotype is known as the Savage and was used to justify and incite the actions of racial hatred (Boskin, 1986). The Savage stereotype has deeply linked to the examples of the scene which has stated above in both of the films where we could see oppression towards the marginalized community and the hatred that grows towards the character when the African Americans are portrayed as stronger than the Caucasians.

However, racial identification was further integrated with a hierarchical societal and political position, with “black” racial identity indicating captivity and “white” indicating freedom or, at the very least, not being a slave (West, 1995). Moreover, in the script of both films stated the term ‘nigger’ or ‘nigga’ during the dialogue of the characters.

**Burch:** You’re nothing but a Georgia runaway. You’re just a runaway nigger from Georgia. You’re a Slave.

**Tibeats:** Are you an engineer, or a nigger? *(12 Years A Slave)*
4.2 The Challenge to Dominant Ideology

The challenge to dominant ideology highlights ways sociological knowledge assertions of fairness, meritocracy, and lack of prejudice illustrate the engrossment of the elite and rebuild oppressive regimes (Delgado, 1989). The feisty beliefs of color blindness and racial tolerance are popular ideologies that serve as a disguise for the egotism, control, and advantage of elites in U.S. culture. Color blindness and racial tolerance are popular ideologies that serve as a disguise for the egotism, control, and advantage of elites in U.S. culture (Lopez, 2003).

White supremacy corresponds to traditional philosophers’ comprehensive historical understanding of ownership. In the foundation period, ownership includes exterior items and individuals’ interactions with them, as well as all other civil rights, freedoms, authority, and exemptions essential to empowerment. The legislation of the exploitation of female African Americans’ sexuality as a way of accumulating ownership represented the painful contradiction between assets and dignity. The legislation of slavery in the—United States allowed the slaves to be moved, transferred, owned, or treated as an asset by the Caucasians (Crenshaw et al, 1995).

Besides, the Caucasians elite devised laws to set their community apart from the African American community. The Caucasians established ways for individuals to declare their white supremacy while keeping the African Americans away from the dominant concept of white supremacy (Crenshaw et al, 1995). Thus, the concept of if the Caucasians lose power in something, the colored skin individuals might get the opportunity to obtain benefits, which causes distress to those Caucasians who are ruling elites (Richard, 2017). This action is also known as the interest convergence where it highlights the effects where the status quo of white supremacy is being threatened (Dixson & Rousseau, 2005). In addition, huge portions of the people have almost no motive to remove racial discourse since it could benefit the ruling white supremacy substantially and cognitively (Richard, 2017).

On the other hand, pathological stereotypes are being portrayed in both of the films through the representation of characters. Pathological stereotypes are from the root of racism that happens as individuals do not analyse critically, despair-
someone who is distinctive feels that others are weaker, and have unfavorable encounters with individuals from diverse ethnicities (Williams, 2007; Wilson, 1991). This kind of stereotype will accentuate disparities in communities which results in the particular dominant group assuming that the disparities demonstrate one community’s dominance against the oppressed community (Williams, Gooden & Davis, 2012). Those who adapt to the stereotype are typically people who have emotions of fear and inadequacies and are unable to confess sentiments to themselves (Wright, 1984). Pathological stereotypes have been depicted in the films, for example:

Several Caucasians believe that individuals of colour are not exclusive to coloured people. The term "coloured slaves" is used interchangeably with "dehumanising premises":

He saw a black guy not even as a person, answerable to his Lord for the tiny skill given to him, but as a "personal former slave," as a plain living asset, no different from his donkey or dog save in worth.

The above statement is Solomon Northup’s interpretation of Master Epps, his owner, who did not respect Solomon and treats him as if he were an asset with no feeling of humanity. Furthermore, Master Epps told him that he would be given punishment if he ever caught Solomon having educational items around him with whips (Adawiyah, 2015). Master Epps expects his slaves to work for him and his ideology about slaves are they have no privilege to get an education throughout their lives.

Meanwhile, in the film “Antebellum”, the head overseer, Jasper told his slaves to forget about the freedom that they have had in their life from the past when they were being treated in society equally in the city.

"On this estate, you are only allowed to talk when granted approval. That implies you can't talk to each other unless one of the white people on the land grants you consent,"

He then defined that the rules in the plantation are the slaves will be able to voice out when they are given approval by the white supremacy even to each other in their dorm. Other instructions like their daily routine and tasks are all assigned by the overseer to the slaves and they will have to obey completely to it and mostly they would have to sing a ‘negro tune’ while harvesting the cottons. Thus, pathological stereotypes have been performed through the characters where the Caucasian community depicted their fear of losing their power and control over the African American where the whites will instruct the blacks and the blacks could not disobey their slave owners.

4.3 The Importance of Experiential Knowledge

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Perspectives and affairs of the African Americans in the quest of fairness and equality to the marginalized community could be employed to understand about racial inequality and its background (Rizer, 2007). Life of the “Black” slaves were heavily determined by their job. Their roles in the estates dictated their bedtime, wake up time, meal time, and how the rest of their day would be occupied. Meanwhile, it also impacted their social life and financial circumstances, as well as the leisure time they could contribute to their closed ones (Pargas, 2006).

Enslaved African Americans during the—
-antebellum period were ceaselessly forced to labor in estates and industry sectors as they grew up in a country desperate for labor of marginalized groups. As servants, hostages of a life support system which were taken advantage of as labor, nevertheless, their daily basis were determined across every manner mostly by the tasks they did, farming a range of staple commodities for their owners and no liberty was given to them (Pargas, 2006). Hence, their everyday life was frequently subjected to a never-ending battle of sheer determination and resilience, as at the end of the day the African Americans were crippled by exhaustion, starvation, plagued by chronic diseases like hookworm and injuries mostly caused by their masters (Schermerhorn, 2009).

In addition, bondslave was primarily an awful figure to the white supremacy in the Southern region. The enslaved African Americans were seen as menacing, illiterate and despised as they were portrayed as harsh individuals who got aggressive occasionally (Camille, 2014). The common stereotype about African Americans has appeared to be mostly engaged in criminal activity which contains violence (Chang & Brian, 2003). Stuart Hall (2002) has stated that mass media has given the society impression of black characters on media being violent like murderers, drug traffickers and so on. This racial stereotype has also been depicted in the film, Antebellum.

For instance, in “Antebellum”, a scene towards the ending, where Veronica proceed with her escape plan, she gets a lamp and returns to the burning barn at the farmhouse, drawing the notice of a bound patrol, who is the delivery guy who sends a flower to Veronica’s suites in the city and Jasper while claiming ignorant of how Jasper sustained his injuries. He gestures to Veronica but she shuts the door in their faces and lights fire to the barn which is locked and the whites could not escape, burning to death, where they suffered the same punishment they treated to the slaves.

In reality, the circumstances of the enslaved could reflect their aggressive attitudes. Individuals had to go through family separations, human trafficking, as well as sexual assault, inhumane treatment, and different sorts of brutality (Camille, 2014). Several females attempted to reverse the situation of domestic abuse by deliberately using their sexual identity. Despite the fact that some have triumphed, failing might come at a very steep cost (Schermerhorn, 2009).

Slaves were subjected to their owners' desires, as previously stated (Camille, 2014). In fact, masters were strict to their slaves as if there were any deviation happening around, they will be given a harsh and brutal consequence most of the time. Whipping was the preferred punishment, whips landing on their backs, tearing off skin in retribution for the tiniest violations. However, almost everything may be used to enforce self-restraint For instance, poles, guns, sharp objects, knuckles, kicking, spades, and forceps were often used by the white supremacy to intimidate and control their bondsmen (Schermerhorn, 2009).

"Mother was killed after being beaten several times from a broomstick by her master’s wife. Ira Jones's aunt suffered tetanus as her master constructed her hands with nails onto a barrel as a punishment.” (Glymph, 2008).

‘Bigotry’ is a demonstration of racist attitudes, which is classified as “any system of ideals that sustainably grown, inherited gaps among ethnic cultures are inherently correlated with the accumulation or insufficiency of certain culturally conscious qualities or attributes”. The term is defined as any action of prejudice, abuse, or brutality due to race, ethnicity, or religion (Jennings, 1990). Hence, in the United States, tropes about the marginalised community are a result of history of slavery. White supremacist ideas were interpreted by harsh and discriminatory behaviours that glorified way slaves must act, resulting in such firmly ingrained convictions. To justify white’s economic, societal, and diplomatic domin—
white masters constructed ideas against the tropes (Feagin & Feagin, 1999). White nationalists were forced to use brutality to quash slave rebellion via brutalising punishment since enslaving people indicated high class prestige (Hadden, 2001).

Hence, the action of 'bigotry' and the stereotype and slaves are observed in “12 Years A Slave” when Burch and Radburn beat Solomon cruelly to make him neglect his actual status as an African American who has rights (Ambler & Lewis, 2018). First, Radburn tightened the handcuff on Solomon leading him to kneel on the ground where Burch beat him with leather more than 10 times and then changed to whipping him till he collapsed on the floor (Figure 6). In another scene, Radburn brings a new shirt for Solomon to change into. In that scene, we could see that the back of the shirt is covered in blood (Figure 7) which means that Solomon was beaten brutally till his back was bleeding.

Whereas, in the film “Antebellum”, a scene portrayed Black women brutalised. An unidentified Black lady tries to flee after seeing an African American guy being contained by the whites, Jasper then chases the lady then lassoed her. He then fired a gun shot at the lady when the guy was struggling to get out of their hands, he was also dragged away later (Figure 8). After that, Jasper—

4.4 Interdisciplinary Perspectives

The notion of racial discrimination issue is also largely influenced by the facts in history, for example, the ways different individuals have been served on a daily basis and also ways they get along in the civilization. However, in the United States of America, the way the society perceives colored skin individuals now have been deeply impacted by the past constructs from history (Harris, 1993). Moreover, the first century of American culture has an impact on modern racial groups' constructions where the perception of African Americans are considered as assets and they are not even treated as completely a human being (Harris, 1993; Crenshaw et al, 1995).

During the 1790s, cotton was a viable product due to the development of cost effective wool gins and the high supply by the cotton industry in the United Kingdom. In order to grab the golden opportunity of the economic prospects, the owners of the slaves forcefully relocated numerous slaves including male and female African-American—

Figure 6. Burch whips Solomon (Source: 2013, Screenshots on August 25, 2022)
arch on slavery in the Southern part of America demonstrates that the owners would care deeply for their laborers and the laborers were thankful to their owners. Whereas, modern studies prove that the laborers were actually treated as property.

On the other hand, in the Northern region of the United States, the Caucasians rallied over the inclusion of Native Americans in their job industry and those Caucasians who were competing with the African Americans pressured the marginalized community to the lowest level of the social hierarchy (Foner, 1983; Franklin et al, 1988), leaving them to be unable to get even the most basic occupation (Litwack, 1961).

The fact that film “12 Years A Slave: by Steven McQueen is inspired—

-ans, including children from the Upper South of America to cotton and sugar plantations among the states. This market revolution transformed the structure and appearance of a new country in a short period of time (Schermerhorn, 2009).

Therefore, the pre-eminence of slavery throughout the lifestyle of African Americans indicates the interrelations of the community and Caucasians in the society and also contextualized the prohibitions regarding the economy, politics, and civil (Foner, 1983; Franklin & Moss, 1988). It also had a significant impact on the lives of “Black” vassals as masters and traffickers split up their families, divided peers, and left homeless children (Schermerhorn, 2009). Camille (2014) stated that empirical rese—
written by Solomon Northup in 1853. The film is undoubtedly the most noteworthy fact to the factual history. Although the film tries tremendous authenticity about what historians understand about slave ownership, the movie also demonstrates the restricted utility of realism as a matter for cinematography portrayals of the strange phenomenon. Slavery’s exact issues originate from a lengthy legacy of racial oppression being a subject worthy of study, created inside the bizarre society. The producers made care to practise evidence of the movie's authenticity. The film is also significant because it demonstrates how a showcase movie based on previous documents may attract a lot of extravagance, some which are included in the film's historical incarnation (Cobb, 2014).

That, in his representation of the main character, and more on the system of enslavement in the United States Southern, McQueen portrayed his perceptions of what is good and false on the African Americans (Stevenson, 2014). Besides, the film has also clearly portrayed the gap of how slaves are being treated in the Southern and Northern region of the states. Solomon Northup was treated as a freeman in the North and was having professional jobs like playing violin among the upper class Caucasians until he was being sold as property to the South where his life totally flipped upside down. It was identical to the history about the differences of treatments towards the community.

On the other hand, the film “Antebellum”, although it is a fictional horror story for the-
4.5 Commitment to Social Justice

The belief that discrimination is not an aberration but instead the normal structure of U.S. society is fundamental (Asch, 2017).

"Racial prejudice seems common and normal to people in his civilization since it is an embedded part of the environment...." (Delgado, 1989).

Striving for ending segregation, mixed neighbourhoods, and equal opportunity in the workplace had been an early human rights approach which could only assist a small number of individuals of colour to get better lives (Asch, 2017). The African American community eventually stood up against brutality, separation and discrimination after years of being controlled by white supremacy (Benameur, 2020). At the very end of “12 Years A Slave”, it explains that Solomon Northup has appealed and abducted a trial on his kidnappers and his slave owner but has failed to appeal. He then published his novel in 1853, became engaged in the abolitionist campaign and preached about slavery around the North-eastern in the country and supported fleeing slaves.

However, the revolution for racial justice began in the 1950s which is known as the Civil Rights Movement shattered the traditional culture of enslavement via peaceful protest activities (Benameur, 2020). In the mid-1960s, the revolution also saw the enactment of significant fair legislation aimed at ending racism towards persons based on ethnicity. African Americans residing in the United States were slaves when the nation was founded. Citizenship was not given to the marginalized community and even the legislation did not provide them with the fundamental privilege of residents in 1788 (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2021).

This was altered many generations back by four constitutional changes. In 1861, the Civil War broke out, freeing the nation’s black slaves. The retention of the Nation, never the elimination of enslavement—

-antebellum was President Lincoln’s first goal (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2021).

“Progressive abolition,” or perhaps the act of liberating individuals from slavery while the national authority compensates slaveowners for the setback of their "property," (Lincoln, 1861).

Lincoln had faith in the statement above where he decided to end slavery. All individuals were given equality under the constitution and ballot unfair inequality of "racial group, colour, or prior status of slavery" was prohibited (Friedman, 2008). As a result, the Civil War has become a rebellion to abolish enslavement. Enslaved African Americans were released as a consequence of the Union decisive battle and the approval to the amendments of the Bill which also gave the African Americans citizenship and secured their ability to ballot in 1865, 18681 and 1870 respectively (Encyclopaedia Britannica, 2021).

Mass media contributes to the abolitionist action in spreading the racial criticism (Yosso, 2002), protest and demonstrations (Anguiano, Milstein, De Larkin, Chen, & Sandoval, 2012) and dedication to the viewpoints of the oppressed groups (Holling, 2014). For example, the photographers who snapped the photo of Gordon who had suffered several whips on his back two months before his escape, quickly understood how powerful the image might be and they distributed replicas all across the nation. The picture illustrates the importance of a photograph in the formation during the antebellum period, by altering the public discussion against enslavement and witnessing the fortitude demonstrated by African Americans in the midst of awful violence (Schermerhorn, 2009).

“Antebellum” ended by demonstrating the rights of African American communities in the country. In the end credits, it portrays that the FBI bust the re-enactment park and interviews those victims who are the survivors of the whole issue as testimony.
At the end, a bulldozer was tearing down the sign of the park and also driving into the area to demolished the plantation area which means they are also demolishing racism as Elizabeth, Jasper and other white supremacy who has the ideology that the African American should be enslaved as a prompt of their status quo in the society used that area to perform enslavement all over again to the marginalized group.

"We have to place the African Americans back to the status quo where they belong or else, was a compelling warning to the White community," (Boskin, 1986).

Moreover, this Savage stereotype was also portrayed in the characters of the kidnappers of Solomon Northup in “12 Years A Slave” and Elizabeth and Jasper in “Antebellum”. It is to be seen that their action of trafficking the African American community and enslaving the individuals was because of them feeling the fear of being inferior to the Black characters in the film.

5. Discussion

According to the findings, some discussion about racial stereotypes, racial prejudice, and the representation of African American in “12 Years A Slave” and “Antebellum” correlated to the Critical Race Theory can be drawn as follows.

With regard to the data analysis dealing with the importance of race and racism in society, several common types of racial prejudice have been detected in the films. Individual racism has been strongly presented in both films through the personalities of the characters which depicted their hatred and greed over control as dominant to the marginalized community. Hence, the stereotype which has been adapted through individual racism was observed as the Savage stereotype where African Americans have been represented as high social class citizens in the United States but then were kidnapped to be enslaved and the oppression by the African American community. Through the findings, racial discourse and racial stereotypes were—

-depicted through script and oppressive characters towards African Americans as stated by past researchers.

Besides, Mills (2009) has also explained that Critical Race Theory defined that the legalization in America was intended to maintain the supremacy of Caucasians within the society. Pathological stereotypes have also been presented through the films and the white characters show their power and control towards the African Americans who once had the equal privilege with them. The inferiority of African Americans in the film has brought pleasure to the white dominant party when they see the African Americans suffer in pain. Moreover, the African Americans in both films were been given representation of slavery back in the Antebellum Era where the slave received oppression and mistreatment while being brutally punished as mentioned by past findings from Luthfiana mentioned in Chapter Two. The representation of characters from African Americans to Caucasians is being projected similarly to the historical slavery in the United States.

Racial stereotypes which have been depicted on African Americans were also proved that it has been influenced by the historical concepts of the citizens and not their own perceptions on the individuals. The ideology of African Americans has been inherited through generations as for the past slavery days which has also been stated by Critical Race Theory that the representation in the media will be influenced by the interdisciplinary perspective. Hence, the underlying meanings and intentions from conversations, plots and characters towards the marginalised community has been discovered through the theory implemented.

6. Conclusion

As racism issues are still existing and repeating in the United States, the research objective of this research aimed to identify the racial stereotype depicted in the representation of African Americans in Hollywood films. Therefore, the specific research question of this study sought to—
analyze how is African American represented through Hollywood films in “12 Years A Slave” and “Antebellum”. With the research question being answered, this study can conclude that there is a correlation between ideology and the behavior of society in the past and present. The findings are aligned with the theoretical framework stated in Chapter Three, which emphasized the correlation between five independent variables and the main dependent variable.

This research extends our understanding of the reasons why producers and directors choose to portray African Americans and other characters in such methods. Although representations could bring misconceptions or false ideology to the audience, it could also convey a positive message to the audience on the truth and the humanity of this society. It has also been concluded that the representation of African Americans in several films is meant to portray historical events to the audience for a better understanding of the origins and story. Therefore, it is crucial to acknowledge the underlying intentions of films in portraying certain elements.

Finally, findings from this study can prove useful in guiding future researchers in exploring the representation of a community in the broadcasting industry. On a side note, this research can also prove useful in having a better understanding of the stereotypes and racial discourse which bring negativity or positivity in the films.

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