

# RECONSTRUCTION OF THE BLACK'S IMAGES IN “8 MILE”

## THESIS

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## ABSTRAK

Arrahmadani. (2009). Membangun kembali Pencitraan Orang-orang kulit Hitam dalam “8 mile”  
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Skripsi ini merupakan Analisa Film “8 mile” (2002), yang disutradarai oleh Curtis Hanson dan ditulis oleh Scott Silver pada tahun 2001. Permasalahan yang diangkat dalam analisis ini adalah bagaimana orang –orang kulit Hitam Amerika membangun citra mereka kembali yang selama ini dianggap inferior dan marginal dan sejauh mana karakter dan pemakaian bahasa dapat mendukung dan memperbaiki citra mereka. Tujuan dari penganalisaan pada film “8 mile” ini adalah untuk membalikkan citra yang kurang baik tentang orang-orang kulit Hitam Amerika yang dilancarkan oleh orang-orang kulit Putih dan bagaimana karakter dan penggunaan bahasa mendukung pemulihian citra orang-orang kulit Hitam, mengingat Film ini adalah biografi dari seorang rapper kulit Putih kondang Amerika, Eminem, yang pada awalnya untuk memperlihatkan superioritas kulit Putih pada budaya kulit Hitam. Ternyata film ini justru membongkar bagaimana orang kulit Putih mengidolakan budaya populer kulit Hitam dan dianggap budaya mainstream.

Hasil analisa menunjukkan bahwa orang –orang kulit Hitam Amerika memiliki potensi yang positif melalui budaya dan dunia hiburan yang membuat mereka tidak hanya ditiru semua ras di Amerika, tapi bahkan diseluruh dunia. Melalui kekuatan mereka dalam dunia hiburan dan hal-hal yang berkaitan dengan seni pertunjukan dan pemakaian bahasa mereka terungkap bahwa mereka mampu membuktikan eksistensi mereka dan mengusai bidang-bidang seperti industri musik, kebudayaan, politik, dan ekonomi. Tujuan awal dari film ini terlihat jelas yaitu keinginan untuk tetap mengukuhkan inferioritas kulit hitam dan mengekalkan superioritas kulit Putih itu sendiri yang akhirnya sendiri justru kebablasan dan memunculkan citra orang kulit Hitam yang sebenarnya yang kreatif, inovatif, dan cerdas. Film ini telah memberikan sebuah wacana baru terhadap orang-orang kulit Putih dan dunia bahwa dalam realita sebenarnya orang-orang kulit Hitam yang didiskriminasikan dan dimarginalkan oleh orang kulit Putih merupakan sesuatu yang fiktif dan kamuflatif. Pencitraan negatif yang dilancarkan orang-orang kulit putih merupakan ketakutan orang –orang kulit Putih itu sendiri untuk meredam potensi-potensi yang dimiliki orang –orang kulit Hitam.

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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Study

It is commonly known that people of Black American ancestry have a part of the “American experience”. No matter where they had been in America, the Black Americans in America belongs to a common brotherhood in that they are a product of a common historical experience, slavery; Thus, the action of slavery by the White Americans have caused them to become the victims of discrimination and marginalization for hundred of years. In other words, slavery had put the Black American in the very lowest level of society where they were restricted to express themselves- their potentials. Kitano (1985:102-103) said:

Even though the blacks have been in the United States from its beginnings, they still do not possess the economic, educational, or political resources to exert the necessary leverage for an independent existence. Rather, the dependency relationship with dominant group and the position at the bottom of the racial stratification system have continued the power lies in their numbers, although for a long period the strength of these masses could not be translated into action such as voting because of discriminatory and other barrier.

The above quotation shows that the discrimination towards the Black Americans have caused them to have no access towards various life sources which eventually made them become dependent on the white – their superiors. Slavery had obviously created negative images towards the Black Americans.

Wikipedia (1995) lists 10 famous stereotypes of Black American, as shown below:

Year	1933	1995
1	Superstitious	Athletic
2	Lazy/Slovenly	Rhythmic/Musical
3	Happy-go-lucky	Unintelligent/Ignorant/Stupid
4	Ignorant	Poor
5	Musical	Loud
6	Ostentatious	Criminal
7	Very Religious	Hostile
8	Dirty (physically)	Loyal to Family
9	Naive	Very Religious
10	Unreliable	Dirty

Sources: Journal Wikipedia 1995 based on the Statistic centre of the government of Detroit city.

Since it was difficult to get access to the education, economic and politic sectors, the Black Americans then found that cultural sector as one of the most possible areas to express themselves. Katherine Neer in her journal “Globalization of Hip-hop” had stated that musical movements have made their ways across geographical divides before, but hip-hop is more than just music, it's a way of life that encompasses physical movement and personal expression. In addition, slavery was then ended legally in America. The Black Americans had their freedom and sort of got more chances to express themselves to show that they do exist, not just in American contexts, but also in a wider context. According to

Journal New Day in Babylon: *The Black Power Movement and American Culture*, 1965-1975 by Wikipedia (1999), The United Nation established International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, created in 1966 and entered into force on 23 March 1967. The ICCPR recognizes the right to freedom of speech as "the right to hold opinions without interference. Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression". Furthermore freedom of speech is recognized in European, Inter-American and African Regional Human Rights Law. Moreover, the black power movements during 1965-1975 had been promoted by Malcom X, in one of his public speeches in June 1964 he has stated: "we must recapture our heritage and our identity if we are ever to liberate ourselves from the bonds of white supremacy".

As it was not easy to penetrate the economic, politic or education sectors straight away, the Black Americans then found that through art and culture where they can have a chance to express themselves more. Culture had long been used by the Black Americans to express their existence as well as protest towards the White superiority. One of the forms of arts and culture produced by the Black Americans is the Hip-hop culture. Hutner (1999) says that the main power of the Blacks is their cultures. The uniqueness of hip-hop lies where the slang language is spoken in unique gestures, unique dress styles and its unique music, that is called Rap. The uniqueness of rap is its own lyrics and the way the lyrics are sung. Most of the lyrics delivered real message about discrimination, racial issues,

humiliation, poverty, and pain. Lee Hawkins (2002) in his journal entitled "Rap, hip hop lyrics: a form of peaceful protest and expression" said:

If I were to use one example about why society as we know seems to embrace "racist" lyrics, it would be that for Black People, these lyrics serve as a form of rebellion through words and thought, not through actions, and for White people, they know they are still in power and as long as black people are subordinated to Whites and that Black People do not partake in turning rap fiction into fact, then we as Black People, activists or hip hop artists may say whatever we like.

The way the lyrics are sung is very unique. The lyrics are sung as if the singer was speaking, but they speak it very fast. They tend not really concern about the rule of the English language as well as the standard of the good pronunciation of English. Through the Rap music the Black Americans can break the mainstream's rule whose songs must be sung with melody and harmony. Rap uses lots of slang words. In fact, this is one way they can do to resist the superiority of the White. The phenomenon of the Rap Music that had been existed long enough in American society is represented by Thupac Sakur in 1960, the first commercial rapper. In 1990 the Rap Music reached its popularity. In an article entitled "Japanese Hip-Hop and the Globalization of Popular Culture," Ian Condry mentions how strange it can be to fly from New York to Tokyo and find teens decked out in the same hip-hop style as those he just saw in the United States. But he points out that while everything seems the same, it's not. The borrowed hip-hop culture is imbued with local cultural dynamics. The local b-boys and b-girls have added their regional flavor to the mix. Not only in America, but the Rap Music has gained its fame all over the world. The Rap Music is appreciated not only

through its lyrics and the way the lyrics are sung, but also the style of clothes worn by the singers and also their gestures. It is also appreciated because the music influences and inspires other countries in which there is a combination between Hip-hop with their own cultures.

Rap continues to be even more popular among the youth in the world, especially in the American context with the existence of the world's phenomenal white rapper, Eminem. From Weiner Chuck in the Eminem autobiography book "Eminem not a mama's boy" (2006), it is mentioned that Eminem quickly gained popularity in 1999, became the fastest-selling hip hop album in history, followed by an increasing amount of popularity, critical praise, as well as controversies. While Eminem has won many Grammy Awards, has been praised for having "verbal energy", high quality of lyricism and been ranked at 82 on Rolling Stone's "The Immortals" and in 2008, Vibe Magazine named him "The Best Rapper Alive". The popularity gained by this white rapper has proved that now the Black Americans can show their real existence in the world. Their culture is adored, admired and more important is imitated by the Whites who used to be their superior.

Thus the popularity of the Rap music created by the Black Americans is able to reconstruct those negative images that used to be attached to the Black Americans. It shows that not only the public in America gave a positive approval, but the entire world also gave their positive appreciation. Moreover, the Rap Music has evolved to become such a big business for the American music industries. As Craig Watkins points out that Hip-hop's wide reach is also tied to

the commercialization of the movement. Record companies, fashion labels, sports franchises, and even food and beverage companies are all selling their products by advertising the hip-hop lifestyle, and how their shoes, soda or sandwiches fit into it. The appreciation and the imitation by the Whites and the world can be considered as an appreciation for the Black existence as well as the confession for their equality in the American context. Thus, it shows and proves that the negative images of the Black Americans as uncivilized, not intelligent, hopeless, and useless have been reconstructed with the new images that Black American can enter the mainstream of the American society and even the world with their achievement by being Icon and role model in the American music industry.

If we see deeper the success of the Rap is not only the real glory of Blacks in the nation that dominantly are Whites, but the capability to survive under negative images and the effort to eliminate the race differentiation. And once again it has proved us that the stereotype of uncivilized, not intelligent, not innovated, imitator and has low-culture should be re-evaluated. In other words, the Black stereotypes and image that have been constructed by the White perspective is maintaining the White existence itself.

Thus, the phenomenon above can be seen in a movie named “8 Mile” which attracts the writer to make an analysis under the title “The Reconstruction of the Black’s Images”.

### **1.1.1 The Reconstruction of the Black's Images**

According to Merriam-Webster Online Dictionary (2009) reconstruction is derived from the word “reconstruct” that means to construct again, to establish or assemble again, or to correct a defect or to build up mentally: recreate or reconstruct a lost civilization.

According to Wikipedia Cyber Dictionary (2003), “Image” is a person's mental picture that is quite resistant to change, that depicts not only details that are potentially available to objective investigation by others (height, weight, hair color, sex, I.Q. score, etc.), but also items that have been learned by that person about himself or herself, either from personal experiences or by internalizing the judgments of others. In the common usage, an image (from Latin *imago*) or picture is an artifact, usually two-dimensional, that has a similar appearance to some subject—usually a physical object or a person (Wikipedia, 2003).

In the context of this analysis, Reconstruction of the Black's Images refers to the process by which an image such as the prejudices and negative perspectives which has been well-maintained by the society is changed to good images. Hence, image refers to the appearance to an object. The values which are observed and valued by the White Americans are including their perspective, judgment, and prejudice through the Black Americans. Thus, in the context of this study, reconstruction of the black's images is the action of the Black Americans to show their potentials and abilities in order to reconstruct the negative image that goes to Black American to gain the same treatment, right, chances in every sectors in America.

### **1.1.2 A brief History of the Hip-hop Culture**

The Hip-hop Music or Rap Music is an admired and a famous style or genre of music in the USA. The Hip-hop was initiated as a cultural movement by the inner-city youth, Latinos, Hispanics, and African Americans in New York City, in the early seventies. The word "rap" was derived in the 1960's from slang word is containing conversations. The golden age of Hip-hop began from 1985-1993 when it entered the mainstream of music. The origin of Hip-hop music is from African American and West African music to offer a rebellion toward races discrimination in politic and economy in the form of music and dance that attack and critic the government and White supremacy in the United States.

Through the book entitled "Can't Stop Won't Stop" (2005), the journalist Jeff Chang presented the hip-hop as the cultural movement and an attempt to define the "hopes and nightmares, ambitions and failures". Chang wrote "Hip-hop was refined like sugar, the tension between culture and commerce, the nigga you love to hate, where the rise of hip-hop as empowered protest music. Went first all-city and then all-global". Chang also quoted the speech in 1990's, Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole declared rap a "nightmare of depravity" corrupting the America's youths. He thought that hip-hop has destroyed the youth morality and ignore the law. He argued that the values of hip-hop served the crime, drugs, and murder which will make America to be an uncivilized nation. His under-estimation toward Black Americans has brought him to keep the gap between both of the races, between Blacks and Whites. In fact, in reality the hip-hop movement can not be stopped by the discrimination through politic and

economy, it has became an America's popular music, and the young people who listen that want to eliminate the boundaries of races, classes and ideologies.

### **1.1.3 The 8 Mile (2002)**

“The 8 mile” portrays the Black’s Images in Detroit 1995. Most of the stereotypes attached toward the Black Americans by the White Americans are reconstructed in the movie. The stereotypes of uncivilized, not intellectual and not innovative have been re-questioned when the Blacks culture is considered as a great potential in the American entertainment. The culture which is mentioned above is hip-hop and its values. Hip-hop phenomenon is adored and imitated by the white, especially by most the youth as it brings changes to be a popular culture at the time. It starts from the music style, the language style, the dress style that is considered a cool attitude for the youth of the White. Hip-hop movements seem undeniable and break the Whites mainstream as it becomes popular and profitable for the American entertainment industry. Not only it performs the image of the Black Americans, this film is more interesting because it serves us to see the cross cultures from the Whites into the Black Americans through the Hip-hop as the media.

Jimmy Smith (Eminem) represents the portrait of the imperfect American whose life was surrounded by problem such as the failure of his parents’ marriage , poverty and low education. His mother only earned a little money by playing bingo and Jimmy was a worker in the Detroit Stamping Steel Company while they live in a rent-trailer which draws the reverse condition that has been used to be

attached toward the blacks. In addition, Jimmy behaves like the ordinary Black people. He grows in the street, learns and internalizes hip-hop naturally through the Blacks community surrounding. He speaks the slang language, dresses in the hip-hop style, acts like the Blacks and learns the Rap Music seriously. He finds the neighborhood have the better life than him. Based on his life background he thought that hip-hop is the right way to get out from poverty. The more he knows about hip-hop the more he adores this black's culture. As the result, he feels more respect to the blacks and hip-hop after his brilliant performance has astonished the black community in the shelter club. The response by the black community has impressed him, not the respect he has gained but at that moment the black never saw him whether he is white or black. Those imitations show us the values of Blacks have been accepted and applied by the Whites.

The film has shown us how the black American also has something valuable through the culture and art. It viewed how the Blacks also have control of their communities and cultures. The internalization of hip-hop is an example of acceptance of the black culture in art sector. It also means as an acceptance of the Blacks' existence in America. The internalization process has created a re-question about the true image and stereotype of Black Americans.

In addition, "8 mile" as the title of this film is also the symbol of the separation between the suburb areas and the rural areas. The majority and minority, that is between the Blacks and the Whites. 8 mile is the border of the Blacks culture with any other Whites culture in other places. The separation in the past has created an original touch of culture development for each of them.

In conclusion, the internalization of the black culture by the white as represented by Jimmy shows that image reconstruction has happened. The image reconstruction can be seen through the appreciation of another people in the world toward the black culture. Not only in America, even the people in Asia, Africa and Europe also adore this black culture.

#### **1.1.4 A Brief of Scott Silver**

There is little information about Scott Silver. His mysterious presence and less information about his background have not been found yet. A media source of the Writer Guild of America (WGA) has mentioned that he is a native of Worcester, Massachusetts. Although he is a member of WGA which is one of the famous organizations in America, his complete identity is still unknown. Some sources mentioned that he is not a well-known writer and director, but some others said that he is deliberately hiding his identity although there is no reason to do it on the purpose. In 1996, he won the best new director San Sebastian International film Festival for the film “John” (1996) and his autobiographical movie script of Eminem” 8 mile” has promoted this film as the top 10 movie in 2003 by the Rolling Stone Magazine, the best film 2003 according the Wall Street Journal, the best film in 2003 by the Entertainment Weekly.

#### **1.1.5 A brief of Eminem**

Eminem is the second highest selling rapper of all times, right behind the late Tupac Shakur in 1960’s. His real name was Marshall Bruce Mathers III. Born

October 17, 1972 in Detroit, MI. Eminem fell in love with hip-hop since he was a teenager. He frequently participated in freestyle battles at Osborn High School across town. After repeating the ninth grade twice, he dropped out of high school at the age of 17. He later changed his stage name to Eminem.

After having conquered the local rap scene in Detroit through freestyle battles, Eminem had been being outstanding before he had started his professional career. The rejection in the past was gaining acceptance as a White rapper in a pre-dominantly Black neighborhood. Naturally, he was still struggling to discover his own style. As a part of his quest for uniqueness, he is also known as Mr. Controversy. Once he had ever said "Why is it so hard for people to believe that the White people are poor?! I wouldn't say I lived in a ghetto, I'd say I lived in the 'hood. The same friends I had back then are the same people on tour with me now.

Eminem has won Oscar for Best Original Song in 2002, been ranked at #9 on MTV's list of The Greatest MC's of All Time, #13 on the MTV's "22 Greatest Voices in Music" and #82 on Rolling Stone's "The Immortals", In 2008, Vibe Magazine named him "The Best Rapper Alive".

### **1.1.6 The Previous Studies**

There are some reviews and analysis about this film. However, the analysis which deals with the reconstruction of the Black's images has not been found yet. The first of those analyses is reviewed by Graham Barnfield in 2006. In the journal "Culture wars" he praises this film as a strongly recommended especially if you have absolutely no interest in the Rap Music; we will watch the

talented rapper on fire in the battle. His analysis focus on friendship and frustrated talent, moreover 8 Mile resembles of Good Will Hunting. He found that the survival effort when somebody is in the minor number and marginalized.

Meanwhile, Jordan Hiller in his review entitled “Rotten Tomatoes” (2004), argues about the “rap” that, there is no room for reinvention. Rap, by nature, needs to be authentic. The rap world accepts that because they did not reinvent. They kept it real. They’re authentic. Eminem has always represented himself in such a way that allows the crossover affect. His authenticity was always in question due to the color of his skin. Now with 8 Mile, his credibility comes to a pass and the public is watching. The possibilities for interpreting the man are as diverse as the blacks and whites. He seemed so ambitious to achieve a specific purpose, get popularity, and wealthy that goes with the Hip-hop. His white skin alone and his ability are truly to offend the white Americans in culture. The White media can be proud on to him and celebrate him as one of their own. The movie does not feel authentic because of all the White folks are involved. The writers Scott Silver in many ways are breaking the mainstream of the American audiences. It’s a Hollywood fantasy with a lot of heart. “8 Mile” is also a fantasy – a Hollywood interpretation of the struggles of a White boy in the underground Detroit rap scene.

Absolutely different from Barnfield and Hiller, the analysis of this study focuses on revealing how far the character and setting reconstructed the image in the Blacks culture. In fact, the character has to deal with problems of how the Whites are represented by Eminem has entered the Blacks culture through the

Hip-hop as the media. In reverse, we will see the internalization of the Hip hop culture as the symbol of the Whites confession toward the Black. The internalization is running through the imitation process. If the imitation usually happens through a hegemony in order to reach an equality treatment from the object (who bring the major influence), the imitation process in the Blacks culture has a different motive. The motive is the uniqueness of the culture itself, and its potencies to bring a lot of profit in American entertainment industry are the reasons that have made the white interested in the Hip-hop. The acceptance and internalization by the Whites is also the confession of human equality and reconstruct the image that growth for years in history.

## **1.2 The Problem of the Study**

The Reconstruction of the Black's Images is a focus of this study. The research questions are to reveal the following:

1. How far does the whole film expose the reconstruction of the Black's images?
2. To what extend do fictional devices; characters and languages sustain the meaning of the Reconstruction of the Black's images?

## **1.3 The Purpose of Study**

The purpose of this study is to reveal the Reconstruction of the Black's Images among the black Americans people in "8 mile" movie to which its will reveal the reconstruction of the Blacks image and how the image through the

stereotype is playing between these two races. It is also aimed to find out to what extent the characters and languages support it.

#### **1.4 Theoretical Framework**

The analysis begins by using the binary opposition as Jonathan Culler states, deconstruction works "within an opposition," but "upsets [its] hierarchy by producing an exchange of properties." This disrupts not only the hierarchy, but the opposition itself. The model such as the success of the White in the hip-hop is actually the success of the Black culture in America. Moreover, the stereotypes that have been attached toward the Black Americans are to perpetuate the image of white such as civilized, intellectual, and innovative. In other words, the Black stereotypes and images that have been constructed by the Whites are intended for maintaining the Whites existence itself.

The theory of deconstruction is applied to reveal the phenomenon behind the text itself. Barbara Johnson (1981) said "Deconstruction is "to undo" -- a virtual synonym for "to de-construct", analyses the specificity of a text's critical difference from itself". The text shows us how the Black's effort to make an achievement when it is hard to reach equality. There are few chances and even cannot enter in politic or through economy, the Blacks choose the culture to start preparing their existence in the Whites discourse. The success of the hip-hop in the music industry in America has created a doubtful to stereotypes of the Black Americans. A Psychoanalytically-oriented humanists Sander Gilman (1998) in her work "Feminist theory and Gender studies", has argued that stereotypes, by

definition, are never accurate representations, but a projection of an individual's fears onto others, regardless of the reality of others. The stereotype of Blacks is built to overcome the Blacks development in all aspects. We also can see that stereotype is a weapon to keep holding a control in the society.

The analysis is done through text-based approach. It focuses the analysis on the works itself. The work is texts that convey meanings from fictional devices. The analysis concerns to define the meaning interrelation of the fictional devices and image of the Blacks through the stereotype in this film. Those fictional devices are characters and language. Those are the two focuses to reveal the Reconstruction of the Black's Images in this film.

The Stereotype of the race can be seen through an image of the community constructed by several stereotypes; those stereotypes will give much meaning toward the image. Hence, the two focuses to reveal the reconstruction of the Black's images in this film are the characters and languages. The characters mostly reveal the stereotype of people in one country. According to Brown's (1995), the definition of stereotype is the expression of negative effect, or the display of hostile or discriminatory behavior towards members of a group on account of their membership to that group. The characters can be symbolized based on anything they have done, such as the character's speaking style and then dress styles, and the interaction of the characters. Characters also a participant in the story, and are usually persons, but may be any personal identity, or entity whose existence originates from a fictional work or performance. The characters

mostly reveal the stereotype of people in a country. In this analysis the character will represent certain Black Americans people.

The reconstruction of the Black's images is also shown through the use of the language in the rap lyrics by the Black American. The lyric reveal the weakness of the White itself and the White's confession about the Black's ability and potentialities.

The Reconstruction of the Black's Images is become perfect with the hospitality from the Black American itself. Derrida (2000) says that hospitality deconstructs itself precisely "in being put into practice". The hospitality can be considered as an acceptance without any ethnic conflicts or construct negative stereotypes. It shows us which one of the Black or the White is civilized. Since the culture is the media to propagate their ideologies and values of life, the Reconstruction of the Black's Images has created a new image and starting the reconstruction of the old stereotypes itself.

## 1.5 Methodology

This analysis is aimed to find out how far the Film “8 mile” reveals the reconstruction of the Black’s images. The first step in this analysis is started from by watching the film, then a script-based approach. It is done by examining and analyzing fictional devices within the film. Characters and languages which are the most important elements that gives many contributions in the analysis. Both fictional devices here (characters and languages) will be integrated to reveal the meaning of Reconstruction of the Black’s images.

In order to enrich this analysis, it is necessary to interpret the text by applying the literary theory. Analyzing and examining place and time of the story progress include the phenomenon that surrounds when the story takes place.

## **Chapter III**

### **Conclusion**

This is an analysis of the film entitled “8 Mile” written by Scott Silver, 2001. The film clearly reveals the new image of the Black Americans which is captured through the characters and language. Most of the time, the Black Americans are considered not to be intellectual, imitative, and marginal, but this film had shown the reverse condition about trying to reconstruct the real image of the Black Americans as the effort to unleash themselves to be treated equal.

The Reconstruction of the Black’s Images is shown though the Blacks culture in this film. The Culture which reveals the construction of the Black’s image is the Hip-hop culture. Through hip-hop, the Blacks were trying to explore themselves and express their life experience. Hip-hop has been used as the media to reverse the stereotypes that has been attached toward them. The phenomenon of hip-hop has broken the mainstream in America. It is shown by most of the teenagers in America including the white that adore the hip-hop and idolize the rap Artists. They also imitate the way of dressing, spoken language and sometimes trying to sing the rap song. Hip-hop success can be seen as a proof of the Blacks who are also creative, intellectual and innovative.

Moreover, Reconstruction of the Black’s Images is also revealed through the characters in the hip-hop community. Although the starring artist was acted by Eminem as Jimmy smith to represent the White in Detroit, it has been the advantage to reveal the reconstruction of the Black’s images by comparing the issue and fact that has been attached toward the Blacks. Jimmy is a representative

of the Whites which is in the minor number in the Detroit. As a poor white, Jimmy is intend to change his life by entering hip-hop and has an ambition to be a rap artist later. He internalizes the hip-hop values by acted like a rapper, talk like the Black Americans including their slang using, language and gesture, and dressing like mostly rapper and other Black Americans. His friendship with several Black Americans that are also his hip-hop group has taught him about how the Black's stereotypes that has been given to them mostly different in reality. In the contrary, we how white is suffering, loosing his supremacies, and standing in the poverty line. By comparing the Black and the White in this film, we will see how the Black has a better fighting spirit in facing life, creative, innovative, loyal in friendship and the important is treat everybody including Jimmy in equal. Through hip-hop the Black is like to ask to decrease the differences between Blacks and Whites and also to live peace side by side and equal in America.

The language through the unique lyric in hip-hop which is a critical about social and politic is a real statement and experience by the Black. Through rap, they express their anger, pain and disappointment. And through the rap itself, we see the indirect confession of the White which reveals their confession of the Black existence. The way rap is sung, the gesture and the sarcastic lyrics has also help Black to fix their image to be better. The process of the internalizing of hip-hop values can be seen as a step to fix the white mindset toward the Black.

In addition, Detroit city as the setting of this film also had given the contribution to reconstructing the Black's images. It is shown where the 8 mile as the border to separated the Blacks and the whites. Of course the white side is the

good living place and the Black side which was called “*paradise valley*” is a dry land and not looks like a paradise either. But as the history has written, the paradise valley has been growth as a modern city and the paradise valley in the past has been downtown today. Detroit has been being a portrait of the Black’s victorious in art and entertainment and the symbol of the resurgence of the Black to reconstruct their image and achieve a better life in America.

Through this film, the reconstruction of the Black’s images is completely shown. Art and entertainment have a weapon and a way for Black to achieve another sector and prove their ability which is equal with the white an even better than the whites. In Fact we can see when Collin Powell has been the ministry of foreign affair in America and the latest one, where Barrack Obama has elected as the 44<sup>th</sup> president and the first Black American president in America. Those two real phenomenon has prove the reconstruction of the black image where step by step the white mindset toward the can be change as the improvement and contribution has been given by the Black to prove they are really proper to be equal with the white and another races.

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