RACIAL PREJUDICE THROUGH THE LENS OF INSTITUTIONAL RACISM IN THERESE ANNE FOWLER'S NOVEL *A GOOD NEIGHBOURHOOD* (2020)

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Abstract

This research analyzes the novel *A Good Neighborhood* by Therese Anne Fowler (2020). It explores the various causes, forms, and impacts of racial prejudice experienced by the characters who are African American. This research uses Critical Race Theory (CRT), especially institutional racism, as the theoretical framework and employs a descriptive qualitative method, with data derived from specific words, phrases, and sentences in the novel. The findings reveal that racial prejudice perpetuated by society and institutions—such as law enforcement, including the police department, judicial system, and correctional system; healthcare department; and media news outlets—manifests through generalizations and stereotypes, leading to verbal antagonism, avoidance, discrimination, and physical attacks. The impacts of such prejudice include discrimination and oppression. The study underscores the pervasive and detrimental effects of racial prejudice on individuals and communities, highlighting the importance of addressing and eliminating such prejudices to achieve social justice and equity.

Key words: racial prejudice, institutional racism, African-American, discrimination.

A. INTRODUCTION

At present time, racial prejudice is still a complicated and deeply ongoing issue in many societies and countries. Racial prejudice occurs in many forms, despite the fact that tremendous strides have been achieved in combating it and advancing equality. Racial differences continue to exist in a number of nations due to the legacy of institutional racism, including job opportunities, legal services, education, public services, and healthcare.

Smedley (2023) states that numerous societies have initiated efforts to fight racial inequalities through the spread of knowledge regarding racist ideologies and behaviours, as well as by advocating for enhanced comprehension of human experiences within public policy frameworks. This aligns with the Universal

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Declaration of Human Rights, which was established by the United Nations in 1948. These occurrences, which are frequently motivated by prejudices and stereotypes, can range from verbal abuse to physical assault. Prejudice refers to an inappropriate judgement or viewpoint regarding an individual or community, frequently derived from their perceived qualities, attributes, or group associations. The concept entails formulating generalisations or harbouring prejudiced ideas about individuals or collectives without taking into account their unique features, experiences, or actions. Based on Collin's (2001:251) statement, prejudice can be understood as an intergroup occurrence, when a group becomes the primary recipient of prejudice, leading to individuals being subjected to hatred or disdain solely based on their affiliation with that group.

When considering the matter from its inception, racial prejudice serves as a contributing factor to the phenomenon of institutional racism. The relationship between racial prejudice and institutional racism is complex and interconnected. Racial prejudice, which involves the presence of biased attitudes and stereotypes rooted in race, frequently acts as a catalyst for the emergence of institutional racism. This occurs particularly when individuals who harbour prejudiced beliefs occupy positions of authority within various institutions, hence resulting in the implementation of biased policies and practices.

One of literary works that discusses about racial prejudice is *A Good Neighbourhood* by Therese Anne Fowler which the researcher has chosen to be examined in this research. It was published in 2020. Therese Anne Fowler's novel *A Good Neighbourhood* (2020) is very interesting and distinguished from the other literary works because of the novel's contemporary neighbourhood set and its exploration of the complicated connections between privilege, racial justice, class, and environmental issues. This modern story, which centres on the Alston-Holt and Whitman families, examines not only racial discrimination but also the effects of privilege, the effects of destruction on the environment, and other related issues. The novel follows a tragic turn that raises the emotional impact of its present critique on today's most serious challenges, contributing a unique and appropriate perspective to the literary analysis of these topics.

A Good Neighborhood is a contemporary fiction novel by Therese Anne Fowler that delves into the complexities of racial prejudice and social tensions in a seemingly idyllic suburban community. The novel centers around the interactions and conflicts between two neighboring families, one African-American and one white, highlighting the deep-seated issues of racism, privilege, and societal expectations. Using Critical Race Theory as a lens, the novel explores how these issues manifest in everyday life, affecting the characters' relationships, decisions, and perceptions of each other. Fowler's novel aligns with Allport's Scale of Prejudice, illustrating various forms of prejudice from verbal antagonism to physical attack (Allport, 1954). Through this narrative, Fowler illustrates the pervasive causes and impacts of racial prejudice and also the urgent need for social awareness and justice.

Critical Race Theory (CRT)

The Critical Race Theory (CRT) is an approach to theory established in America that is largely employed for the examination and transformation of

policies that sustain inequalities between races within a country. Its primary focus lies in the domains of education and law enforcement (Susan, 2014). Derrick Bell, often recognized as a foundational figure in Critical Race Theory (CRT), was a legal scholar and civil rights lawyer whose work highlighted that racism is deeply embedded in American law and society. Bell's concept of "interest convergence" argues that racial progress occurs only when it aligns with the interests of the dominant white majority (Bell, 1992). According to Crenshaw et al. (1955: 14), CRT aims to reclaim and lift the radical history of racism and race-consciousness within African-American and other communities of colour. This history was forsaken when integration, assimilation, and colour-blindness were established as the present principles of racial awakening. Regarding the result, Critical Race Theory (CRT) is an approach that has gained prominence in America, with the aim of addressing and challenging systemic prejudice. Critical Race Theory (CRT) also takes into account the influence of culture in developing organised systems of racism, covering the impact of racial stereotypes, prejudices, and presumptions on social relationships and governmental choices.

Institutional Racism

As defined by Carmichael and Hamilton (1967: 28), institutional racism refers to the actions carried out by the majority group towards the minority group, which are established and enforced. Institutional racism manifests in a more nuanced manner, yet its impact remains equally detrimental. Institutional racism encompasses the set of policies, practices, and procedures implemented by institutions, which result in a disproportionate adverse impact on racial minorities in terms of their access to and the quality of products, services, and opportunities available to them. Oppression can be defined as the methodical domination of one social group by another social group that possesses social power. Institutional entities create distinct and autonomous obstacles that impede individuals' ability to obtain and receive high-quality healthcare services.

Racial Prejudice

Racial prejudice is a manifestation of discriminatory behaviour, commonly resulting from a lack of knowledge, misconceptions, apprehension, or disinformation related to distinct racial or ethnic groups of people. Prejudice can be viewed as a manifestation of common racism. According to Tyson (2006:369), daily discrimination refers to instances of physical, verbal, or mental aggression directed towards individuals of different races, often manifested through assumptions of their lack of confidence. It manifests through attitudes that demonstrate aversion or mistrust towards specific racial groups or individuals, primarily driven by fear or misinformation rather than rationality or personal encounters.

1) Causes of Racial Prejudice

Macrae and Bodenhause (2000:93-120) identified two factors that contribute to the development of prejudice, which are Categorisation and Stereotyping. Individuals frequently divide people into distinct social groups according to a variety of characteristics, including their nationality, ethnicity, racial or ethnic background, and gender. However, when people attribute broad characteristics or

qualities to people in these social groups, the process can also result in the creation of prejudices and stereotypes. According to Macrae and Bodenhause (2000), people frequently utilise stereotypes to draw conclusions about members of social groupings after they have assigned others to them. Stereotypes are mental shortcuts or cognitive schemas that stand for oversimplified and frequently prejudiced ideas about the traits of individuals of a group.

2) *Forms of Racial Prejudice*

In the work of Blank, et al. (2004: 56-58), Gordon Allport provides an explanation of the four distinct forms of racial prejudice. These forms are grouped in order of severity, ranging from less severe to more severe actions. Moreover, the author clarifies an organised system for presenting prejudiced behaviour, including five distinct categories of racial discrimination. Racist behaviours sometimes originate from prejudices or biases. The scale in issue is recognised as Allport's Scale of Prejudice, which covers different expressions of prejudice such as verbal antagonism, avoidance, discrimination, and physical attack.

3) *The Impacts of Racial Prejudice*

Racial prejudice exerts broad societal impacts, resulting in the preservation of systematic inequality, discriminatory practices, and the deepening of social divides. Ultimately, this phenomenon poses an obstacle to the advancement of a society that can be defined by equity and harmony. Racial prejudice has the potential to create social distance within an ethnic group. As a result, they limit their engagement with those belonging to what they see as minority groups. Social distancing in society can lead to the creation of social groups that are segregated, discriminated against based on their differences, and oppressed, eventually destroying their individuality.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

The data for this research was taken from the novel *A Good Neighbourhood (2020)* authored by Therese Anne Fowler. The publication occurred in the 2020. The data that was used in this study is derived from the words, phrases, and sentences in Therese Anne Fowler's novel *A Good Neighbourhood (2020)* that depict racism and the context in which the main character encounters racial prejudice.

The data was obtained from the novel *A Good Neighbourhood* (2020) authored by Therese Anne Fowler. The researcher collected the data by engaging in close reading of the text, employing a thoughtful approach and demonstrating a profound comprehension of each piece of data. Upon completion of analysing the novel, the researcher identified and then assembled the words, phrases, and sentences that substantiate the theme of institutional racism and racial prejudice encountered by the characters in the book. The researcher found out facts and textual materials pertaining to racial prejudice. Afterwards, the researcher directed their research towards the occurrences that reflect racial prejudice and its underlying causes. Additionally, the researcher highlighted these findings. The

data was utilized in the procedure of data analysis to address the research questions in this study.

The data was analysed using the qualitative method. This study focused on analysing the characters in the story. Moleong (2017) defines the qualitative methodology as a method that produces descriptive data about the issues faced by the subject in the form of action, behaviour, perception, or motivation. The selection of words and arrangement of sentences significantly influence this technique. The primary focus of research is on humans and objects, with the aim of understanding phenomena, social life, history, and behaviour (Septiani & Sulistyorini, 2022).

Prior to starting analysis, the researcher read the quotes from A Good Neighbourhood (2020) several times to ensure their relevance after gathering the data in the form of quotes connected to the primary topic. And the last, the researcher made an analysis about racial prejudice that experienced by the characters in the novel. The method of presenting the data was presented in three major groups, namely to find out the causes of racial prejudice in *A Good Neighbourhood* (2020) by Therese Anne Fowler, the causes of racial prejudice in *A Good Neighbourhood* (2020) by Therese Anne Fowler, and the impacts of racial prejudice *A Good Neighbourhood* (2020) by Therese Anne Fowler by Therese Anne Fowler by using Critical Race Theory as the primary theory and Gordon Allport's Scale as a supporting theory.

C. RESULT AND DISCUSSION
1) Findings

The novel *A Good Neighborhood* by Therese Anne Fowler (2020) analyzes racial prejudice experienced by African-American characters through three critical aspects: the forms of racial prejudice, the causes of racial prejudice, and the impacts of racial prejudice. The forms of racial prejudice include verbal antagonism, avoidance, discrimination, physical attack, and extermination, as categorized by Gordon Allport's Scale of Prejudice. The causes of racial prejudice are identified as categorization and stereotyping. The impacts of racial prejudice, such as discrimination and oppression, are examined in the context of the characters' lives and their broader societal implications. The results indicate that racial prejudice, perpetuated by societal institutions such as law enforcement (including police, judicial, and correctional systems), healthcare, and media outlet.

1. *Causes of Racial Prejudice*

In the quotation above, the speaker, a nurse working within the healthcare system as part of public services, engages in generalisation by associating individuals who use alcohol or drugs with criminal behaviour. This bias is further compounded by referencing Bill Cosby, another black man accused of sexual assault, to reinforce the speaker's narrative. By drawing parallels between Xavier and a high-profile individual accused of criminal behaviour, the nurse perpetuates biased assumptions and reflects the racial prejudices embedded within the healthcare institution.

Applying Critical Race Theory (CRT) to this analysis, the passage illustrates how generalizations about race are perpetuated within societal narratives. CRT posits that racism is not merely an individual prejudice but a structural issue embedded in societal norms and institutions. By equating Xavier with a notorious criminal like Bill Cosby, the speaker is reinforcing a stereotype that Black men are inherently deceptive and dangerous. This generalization serves to uphold systemic racism by justifying suspicion and mistrust towards Black individuals, regardless of their actual behaviour or character.

The next quotation below portrays a scenario where racial stereotypes influence the assumptions and actions of law enforcement and society.

> If he called the cops and the cops came out, what would they find? They'd find Brad Whitman, Whitman HVAC, local celebrity, wealthy white man, angered protector of his virginal stepdaughter. They'd question him: What happened here, sir? You were protecting your stepdaughter, the virgin who'd made a chastity vow? What, the guy with her was black? And you didn't take him down? That's commendable self-restraint. Good job, sir! We'll put you in for a medal. (Fowler, 2020:219)

The quotation above satirically exposes and critiques societal biases, particularly those related to race, by portraying a hypothetical scenario involving law enforcement which is Police Officer. The passage anticipates a situation where a wealthy white man, Brad Whitman, encounters the police after an altercation. The satire lies in the portrayal of potential bias within the law enforcement system. The conversation suggests that, based on societal stereotypes and biases, the police might commend Brad for his actions merely because he is a wealthy white man protecting his stepdaughter. The exaggerated commendation, "We'll put you in for a medal," underscores the absurdity of such potential biases.

The quotation shows a stereotype where a wealthy white man is automatically perceived as virtuous and protective, especially in contrast to a black man who is immediately seen as a threat or wrongdoer simply due to his race. The assumption that the black man must have been the aggressor despite any evidence suggests deeply ingrained racial biases.

2. *Forms of Racial Prejudice*

Racial prejudice can take various forms, progressing along the Allport Scale. It often begins with verbal antagonism, involving negative stereotypes and jokes (Anti-locution). As prejudice deepens, individuals may actively avoid interactions with the targeted group (Avoidance), leading to discriminatory behaviours like unfair treatment (Discrimination). In severe cases, racial prejudice can escalate to physical attacks (Physical Attack). The Allport Scale's ultimate stage, Extermination, represents the extreme manifestation of prejudice, involving attempts to eradicate the group through genocide or forced expulsion.

Verbal hatred or antagonism in the novel "A Good Neighbourhood" is woven into the narrative through the characters' dialogue, reflecting the deep-seated racial tensions and biases within the community.

Xavier had been in jail for nine hours when a mealy skinhead type sidled up to his bunk just before breakfast call and said, "What a pretty little nigger you are. Whoo, boy! You get to the big house, they will have a time with you." Nigger. Pretty. A time. (Fowler,2020:238)

The provided quotation depicts a disturbing instance of verbal and racial antagonism directed at Xavier within the context of his incarceration, highlighting the involvement of the correctional system. The use of the racial slur "nigger" reflects not only a deeply offensive term but also an expression of racial animosity within the prison environment. The skinhead's comment about Xavier being a "pretty little nigger" adds a derogatory and demeaning tone, compounding the verbal hostility. Furthermore, the statement, "You get to the big house, they will have a time with you," implies a threat of violence or mistreatment based on Xavier's race, illustrating the pervasive racial prejudice and dehumanisation that can occur within correctional facilities. This institutional context exacerbates Xavier's vulnerability, showcasing how the correctional system can perpetuate and amplify racial prejudice.

Critical Race Theory (CRT) provides a lens to understand this interaction as an example of how racial prejudice is deeply embedded in societal structures and interactions. Verbal antagonism, as seen in this quotation, is a manifestation of systemic racism that reinforces the subjugation and marginalization of Black individuals. The derogatory language used against Xavier is not just an isolated act of bigotry but part of a broader pattern of verbal hostility that Black people encounter in various aspects of life, including within the criminal justice system. CRT posits that such language perpetuates racial hierarchies by normalizing disrespect and violence towards marginalized groups.

The next quotation from "*A Good Neighbourhood*" by Therese Anne Fowler illustrates the protagonist's experience with avoidance and social exclusion as a result of racial prejudice.

"And can we undo all the news stories, too?"
"And the neighbors avoiding me or looking at me like I'm dirt, or being afraid of me?"
"Can we stop rednecks from trying to kill me?" (Fowler, 2020:258)

The provided quotation above encapsulates Xavier's lament about the consequences of racial prejudice, particularly the experiences of being avoided and treated as an outsider in the community. Xavier articulates the profound social consequences of the negative media portrayal and racial prejudice he faces. He describes how the news stories have led to his neighbours avoiding him, looking at him with disdain, and being afraid of him. This social exclusion

is compounded by the threat of physical violence from those harbouring racial animosity, illustrating a climate of hostility and fear that isolates him from his community. It can be seen from the following below:

The first following quotation from "*A Good Neighbourhood*" by Therese Anne Fowler explores the theme of discrimination through the protagonist's interaction with law enforcement. This quotation highlights the protagonist's experience with institutional bias and the challenges he faces in navigating a justice system fraught with racial prejudices.

> Xavier, shaking with rage, forced himself to respond politely to the minimum number of questions possible. He gave his name, his health status, his preference to say nothing else until after he'd seen his attorney. In return, he got smirks and derisive remarks about how much nicer it would be for both of them if he'd be more forthcoming. "Why the hostility, son, if you've got a clean conscience? (Fowler, 2020:237)

In this quotation, Xavier undergoes a police interview marked by clear display of discriminatory treatment, revealing the deeply ingrained prejudice within the criminal justice system. The description of Xavier "shaking with rage" and having to "force himself to respond politely" underscores the emotional toll of the discriminatory encounter. The officers' use of smirks, derisive remarks, and the implicit assumption of guilt based on Xavier's race highlight the pervasive racial bias present in the questioning. The phrase "if you've got a clean conscience" reflects a prejudiced presumption, suggesting that Xavier, as a black man, is automatically perceived as suspicious.

Physical attacks in the novel "*A Good Neighbourhood*" serve as powerful manifestations of racial prejudice, revealing the deep-seated animosity and aggression directed toward characters like Xavier based on their race. It can be seen from the following quotation:

> In the pickup's bed was a white man who leaned over the side. He had an object in his hands—a pole? Xavier didn't have enough time to identify the object, and he didn't have enough time to avoid it, either. The man yelled, "Take this, rapist nigger!" and swung while the truck came alongside Xavier, hitting him not (thank God, Valerie said later) in the head but on the hand, he'd raised in defense as he ducked. He fell against his car hard. Then the driver raced off. Xavier, in the explosion of pain, thought he heard whooping and laughter. (Fowler, 2020:255)

In this quotation, Xavier is subjected to a physical attack motivated by racial hatred. The white man in the pickup truck not only assaults Xavier with a pole but also hurls a racial slur at him, explicitly tying the violence to Xavier's race. The use of the slur "nigger" is a direct attempt to dehumanize and degrade Xavier, amplifying the brutality of the physical attack. This attack is not random but is driven by a racist narrative that paints Xavier as a criminal based on his race. The combination of physical violence and verbal assault

underscores the intersection of racism and violence, revealing the dangerous consequences of racial prejudice.

3.   *The Impacts of Racial Prejudice*

Racial prejudice brings about two major issues: discrimination and oppression. Discrimination is when individuals are treated badly just because of their race. Oppression is a more significant problem, where a whole group is mistreated and denied their rights because of their race. These problems work together to keep inequality and unfairness alive in a society grappling with racial prejudice.

In "*A Good Neighbourhood*," discrimination as an impact of racial prejudice is a central theme that unfolds within the lives of the characters. The novel explores how racial bias influences various aspects of the characters' experiences, leading to systemic injustices and personal hardships. It can be seen in the following quotations:

> But unlikely. Xavier read the stats. Black men (and if you, biracial boy, aren't totally white, you are for every intent and purpose black) were more likely to be wrongly convicted and to serve longer sentences than whites. (Fowler, 2020:254)

The quotation reflects the impact of racial prejudice within the judicial justice system, and it can be characterized as a form of discrimination. The awareness that being biracial categorizes Xavier as "for every intent and purpose black" highlights how racial categorization influences the treatment individuals receive within the judicial system. The mention of statistics indicating a higher likelihood of wrongful convictions and longer sentences for black men further underscores the systemic discrimination faced by people of colour.

In the novel of "A Good Neighbourhood" by Therese Anne Fowler, oppression is evident in the racial prejudice and systemic biases faced by the characters, particularly Xavier Alston-Holt. The novel explores how societal norms, institutional practices, and individual prejudices contribute to the oppression of marginalized communities, highlighting the unequal power dynamics and the negative impact on the lives of those affected. It can be seen in the following quotations:

> Harrington leaned forward, his fingertips pressed together. "You are a black man accused of raping an underage white girl. If you put yourself in front of a jury, you've got twelve strangers who'll be literally sitting in judgment of you while the prosecution busts their ass to show how to that white girl that knife equaled a of death unless she cooperated with you. Some of those jurors will be women. Some of them will be white. White fathers of teenage girls, if the prosecution can manage it." He leaned back. "You want your fate in their hands?" (Fowler, 2020:241)

In this quotation, the institutions involved are the judicial system and law enforcement. The judicial system is represented by the mention of the jury, prosecution, and the process of trial, which are framed in a way that anticipates racial bias and prejudice. The officer's comments suggest an expectation that the legal proceedings will be influenced by the race of the defendant and the victim, as well as by the composition of the jury. The implication is that the system is not neutral or just, but rather predisposed to prejudice against the black defendant. Therefore, the quotation highlights how oppression operates within the legal system, emphasizing structural biases, power imbalances, coercive tactics, and the limited agency of individuals, particularly those from historically marginalized communities.

2) Discussion

In comparing this study with previous research, several similarities and differences emerge. Like other studies examining racial prejudice through the lens of Critical Race Theory (CRT), this research identifies the role of institutions— such as law enforcement, the judicial system, healthcare, and media—as central actors in perpetuating racial bias. This finding is consistent with research that highlights institutional racism as a key contributor to the marginalization of African-Americans and other minority groups. Previous studies, such as those by scholars who analysed institutional racism in the context of policing, underscore similar themes of systemic bias leading to discriminatory outcomes, especially for African-American individuals.

In comparison to previous studies, this research offers a unique focus on institutional racism within *A Good Neighbourhood* (2020). Hutami (2014), who explored racial prejudice in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, focused on societal racism, whereas te researcher study delves into institutional systems like law enforcement and the media. Similarly, Idah & Wulandari (2020) examined *12 Years a Slave*, identifying causes like Hereditary Categorical Thinking, which aligns with the researcher discussion of categorisation and stereotyping. However, this study highlights how these causes are reinforced by institutions. Selfianti (2022), in her study of *Noughts and Crosses*, analysed character responses to racial prejudice, while this research emphasises the broader systemic impacts of institutional racism, particularly through Critical Race Theory.

However, unlike previous studies that primarily focus on forms of racial prejudice, this research broadens the scope by examining multiple institutions in *A Good Neighborhood*, including healthcare and media, which are less commonly addressed in conjunction with CRT. This multidimensional approach offers a more comprehensive view of how intertwined and widespread institutional racism is, affecting characters in various spheres of life. The inclusion of media bias, as seen in how news outlets misrepresent Valerie and Xavier, also adds a layer of understanding about how public perception is shaped by institutionalised prejudice, a theme that is less explored in existing literature.

Critical Race Theory provides a valuable framework for understanding the causes of racial prejudice within these institutions. CRT posits that racism is not merely the product of individual bias or prejudice but is embedded in legal

systems and policies. In *A Good Neighborhood*, institutional racism manifests through various channels: law enforcement unjustly targets African-American characters like Xavier, the judicial system reinforces racial stereotypes through its jury selection and case proceedings, healthcare professionals perpetuate bias through racial generalisations, and the media exacerbates these biases through sensationalised and racially charged reporting.

The causes of racial prejudice in these institutions are deeply connected to the principles of CRT. For example, the stereotype of black men as inherently violent or dangerous, which fuels the over-policing of African-Americans, is rooted in historical patterns of racial categorisation and generalisation. Similarly, in the healthcare system, the biased assumption that African-American patients are more likely to engage in criminal activity is a form of stereotyping that aligns with CRT's view that racism is structural and not just a product of individual attitudes.

By linking these causes to CRT, this research demonstrates how racial prejudice in *A Good Neighborhood* is not isolated to individual acts of bias but is a systemic issue, perpetuated by institutions that were supposed to offer justice, fairness, and equality. This study extends CRT's application by showing how institutions beyond the legal system—like healthcare and media—also play critical roles in sustaining racial inequality.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

In "*A Good Neighbourhood*," (2020) by There Anne Fowler's novel, the researcher through the discussion found that Racial Prejudice does not only exist in the society but also in Institutions like Law Enforcement which includes Police Department, Judicial System and Correctional System, Healthcare Department, and Media News Outlet. Those Institutions are intended to be pillars of justice, equality, and respect. However, the novel reveals how these institutions can perpetuate racial prejudice instead. Law enforcement like Police Officers, meant to ensure justice and safety, can unfairly target individuals based on race, leading to discrimination and oppression. Healthcare providers, who are expected to treat all patients with dignity and care, may also harbour biases that affect their treatment of individuals from different racial backgrounds. The judicial system, which should be impartial and fair, can be influenced by systemic racism, leading to unjust outcomes for those it is supposed to protect. Lastly, media outlets, which should report news objectively, can instead perpetuate stereotypes and racial biases, further entrenching societal prejudices. This contradiction between the intended purpose of these institutions and their actual impact highlights the pervasive nature of institutional racism in society.

The generalization that black men face when accused of a crime is evident in the narrative. Xavier's anticipation of how the media and legal system will portray him showcases the broader societal tendency to generalize the actions of individuals based on their race. The expectation that he will be seen as a "black rapist murderous thug" reflects the unjust assumptions often made about people of colour within the criminal justice system.

In the novel, institutional racism manifests through various forms of racial prejudice, illustrating the deep-seated biases ingrained in societal structures. The

analysis of Verbal Hatred, Avoidance, and Discrimination through the lens of institutional racism reveals the pervasive nature of racial biases. The impacts of racism in novel specifically discrimination and oppression, resonate throughout the narrative, unveiling the profound and detrimental consequences on individuals.

In conclusion, after examining the causes, forms, and impacts of racial prejudice in "A Good Neighbourhood," by Therese Anne Fowler, the novel intricately portrays the roots of discrimination through generalization and stereotyping. These ingrained biases, deeply embedded in societal attitudes, fuel the various forms of racial prejudice manifested in the narrative. Verbal antagonism, exemplified by hate speech and derogatory comments, underscores the toxic language that perpetuates racial bias. The characters' experiences with avoidance and discrimination unveil the systemic challenges rooted in societal institutions, while instances of physical attacks highlight the violent consequences of racial prejudice. The impacts of discrimination and oppression are woven into the fabric of the story, affecting individuals like Xavier on both personal and societal levels. As readers navigate the complex web of racial dynamics, the novel urges a critical examination of the causes, forms, and profound impacts of racial prejudice toward African-American society.

Based on the findings of this research, it is evident that addressing and eliminating racial prejudice is essential for achieving social justice and equity. The pervasive and detrimental effects of racial prejudice on individuals and communities underscore the importance of implementing comprehensive strategies to combat these issues. Educational programs, policy reforms, and community engagement initiatives should be prioritized to raise awareness and promote understanding among diverse racial groups. Future research should delve deeper into the specific mechanisms through which racial prejudice manifests and explore effective interventions for mitigating its impacts. By expanding the scope of study to include various forms of prejudice and their intersections with other social issues, researchers can contribute to a more holistic understanding of how to foster inclusive and equitable societies.

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