

**HIDDEN DELINQUENCY IN SCHOOL BY BLACK YOUTH IN THE 1960'S**  
**AS REFLECTED IN**  
**AMIRI BARAKA'S PLAY "THE TOILET"**



**THESIS**

Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of Requirements  
For the Sarjana Sastra Degree of English Department  
Faculty of Letters, Sebelas Maret University

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# **MOTTO**

**TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON, A TIME  
FOR EVERY PURPOSE UNDER HEAVEN**

( ECCLESIASTES 3 : 1 )

**EVERY MOMENT IS ANOTHER CHANCE**

# **DEDICATION**

**To all the special persons in my life**

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Surakarta, April 22, 2003

The Researcher

RONNY YULIANTO KURNIAWAN



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**ABSTRACT**

*The aim of this thesis is to reveal and discuss about black youth's hidden delinquency in school in the 1960's as reflected in Amiri Baraka's play **The Toilet (TT)**. In order to get an easier way to achieve this aim, the researcher formulates a problem as stated in problem statement as focus of research. The problem statement is to know about the hidden delinquency acted by black youth in the school. Since this research applies library research under the framework of American Studies, so the researcher needs interdisciplinary approaches as the helpers to reveal and discuss the topic. This means that in this research, the researcher uses more than one approach as the supporting role for American Studies. As TT is a literary work, literary approach cannot be avoidable to be used. Besides, the researcher also uses sociological approach to analyze the issue of hidden delinquency in school. The hidden delinquency as a kind of delinquency which is done but invisible is real in the life of teenagers because we can see that kind of action in any kind of situations without limitation of time and place. The school organization with its counseling program is aimed to prevent the probabilities of delinquency acts. If the students are influenced by negative things around them, the*

*existence of helpful program is needed to solve the problems. But there are many factors that can influence the effectiveness of this program and one of them is the environment of the students. This thesis will focus on how is the hidden delinquency in school and the reasons behind the students' negative actions.*

## **1. Introduction**

### **1.1. Background of Choosing the Subject**

We call a naughtiness as a delinquency to describe an act which is unusual so we can not receive the act as a normal one. But we can not describe it as one kind of crime too, since a crime is usually committed by adult persons. That kind of naughtiness is called hidden delinquency.

According to William C. Kvaraceus, it is a kind of screening which tends to shelter or protect the offender against becoming a court statistic often takes place in an average community; this accounts for so-called hidden delinquency which is never recorded but which, nevertheless, is very real. ( Kvaraceus,1966:p.31)

The difference between delinquency and crime is the responsibilities. The adult persons commit crime with responsibilities. They know that they have private and social responsibilities, so they must know whether their act is considered as a crime or not. While teenagers do something unusual sometimes without having some sense of responsibilities. They are in a period of quest for self identity and their mental is at times still unstable.

Hidden delinquency is an act committed by youth, and as youth, they have strong relationship with the aspect of school. School is a step for persons to start develop

themselves in their way to be part of the society, with self belief, self pride, and responsibilities. It plays significant roles in developing and guiding young generations. If it does well in its duties, it is hoped that there will be better quality of young generations. But if it fails, then hidden delinquency is one of the consequences for that failure.

Problem of hidden delinquency does not have a limitation of time, place, or period, which means that it is still a problem for the societies nowadays. However, this thesis will only discuss about hidden delinquency committed by the American youth. It was reflected in Amiri Baraka's play entitled *The Toilet* {TT} which was first published in 1964.

The researcher will take TT as the main data in this thesis because TT's central theme is about hidden delinquency committed by some school teenagers. In the play, there are no detailed informations about the setting of the town, the time of the event or the name of the school. The play's setting is in a school toilet, where a gang of African American teenagers is making a plan to take revenge on a Puerto Rican boy named Jimmy Karolis. Previously, Karolis has sent a "love" letter for the gang leader, named Foots, and by the ethics of the gang, that means challenge of fight. But Karolis, the one they pursue, is still running and hiding from the gang while some members of the gang are waiting for him in the toilet. In this period of waiting, there are many dialogues by the characters of the play. The dialogues often use dirty words which are common for the gang. Karolis is finally brought to that place and the climax of the play is a fight between Karolis and Foots, and later with the helps of other gang members because they also fight with Karolis and beat him.

### **1.2.Scope of the Study**

Concerning with the wide range of the study, this research will be limited in discussing the American black youth. *The Toilet* (TT) does not give any detail information about the setting of town, time, or period of the event. But the decision to make the limitation is because TT, the play, that is written by an American writer named Amiri Baraka and chosen as the primary data, was written when the author lived in New York City in the 1960's, so the researcher thinks that TT was written after Baraka made observation about his society in New York, America in the 1960's.

### **1.3. Problem Statement**

The researcher formulates the problem which is :

1. How is black students' hidden delinquency in school reflected in Amiri Baraka's play *The Toilet* ?
2. How is school counseling program and its effect to students with bad attitude ?

### **1.4.Objective of the Study**

The research is aimed to know about black students' hidden delinquency in school. One of the school duties is to guide students to be qualitative and competitive people so they can reach success in the society. But there are always a number of students that fail to reach the standard of school programs. Some of them even commit delinquency, although delinquency is not at the same level as crime. The hidden delinquency is a kind of delinquency that is done without any records in court or police department but it is existing in the life of some parts of young generation. This thesis will focus on the students of that condition.

### **1.5.Theoretical Approach**

This research will apply interdisciplinary studies, because although American Studies is a particular discipline, it still needs the support of any other theoretical approaches to study the topic of this thesis to get better explanation. Considering that American Studies need more than one approach to support it, this study will apply literary approach and sociological approach. Since a literary work plays a significant role in this thesis of American Studies, then Amiri Baraka's play *The Toilet* will be analyzed and treated as the main data.

This study applies structuralism approach as the aid to comprehend the literary work and get a deeper interpretation. It is useful to include the analysis on the characters, plot, and setting of place of the play. With the literary approach, the play *The Toilet* as a literary work will be analyzed so it can bring a deep understanding about hidden delinquency in America because it is a document of society or a mirror with a reflection of the social condition.

Another approach that will be used is sociological approach. The study of literary works with sociological approach will show us the society's condition through the media of language. With the sociology of literature, the researcher can relate the characters of the play and the situation created by the author with the reality as the background of the work.

The sociological approach is used to describe the reality in America's life which has formed the backgrounds and the setting of the play *The Toilet*. From those approaches, it can be seen that *The Toilet* is the reflection of America's life experience.

## **1.6. Literature Review**

As stated previously, hidden delinquency is never recorded but it is very real. The kind of delinquency is not in the same level as a crime, for examples leaving class without permission, going places without any directions, doing something negative easily, making relationships with friends that give bad influences so they are easily trapped in cases nearly judged as a crime or a-moral situations, fighting between students, uniting in gangs with bad actions like terrorizing other students, reading books that give negative effects, lying, cheating or doing facts prevarication to hide their faults, running away from home, having dangerous things like guns or knives and using them, and having habits of using impolite words. However, there are also many examples of youth's acts that can be related to the acts of breaking the law and they can be called "criminal " like gambling, stealing, killing, money falsification, and any other crime acts. ( Kvaraceus in Mulyono,1984:p.23)

The social and cultural changes are influential in the existence of social problems. People are used to live with values and ethics which stand for a long period of time. Then suddenly, because of the modernization era, there are new values and ethics for the society. If people fail to adapt to this new values and ethics, then the existence of social problems is the consequence.

The factors that effect the social and cultural changes in relation with the social problems are the increase of the population and the new inventions in the modern era which are sometimes too fast and can create the cultural and technological gap. The society can not reorganize the traditional and old values. It is also because of conflicts in

the society from the point of view of ethnic, race, religion, old and young generations, and also rivalry between people. The influence of outer culture which is imitated by society in one area without using any filters is the other factor.

Social problems in the society can be reduced with the increase of education quality for young generation. School as the main aspect of education plays significant role in guiding juvenile to follow the good things rather than bad things when they face problems in daily lives.

School is a formal education place with the duties to develop and build persons' characters, abilities, and knowledge, in order to take part in society. These duties will be successful if the teacher support and guide the students in their way of developing their character and knowledge.

Soekanto stated that “ the existence of education as the human freedom arena, to guide persons in their way of finding themselves so they can critically face the reality surrounding them and creatively change the world.” (Soekanto,1969:p.282) What he means with education here is the situation when the teacher talk *with* the students, not just talk *to* or *about* the students.

But in reality, the situation is not that ideal. Paulo Freire states this as a kind of “narrative education”. Narrative education with its banking concept, when the teachers are on the educating part, with the character of freezed, unlively, or stiff, while the students are only as containers of teachers' educating items. (Freire,1968:p.59)

In this condition, the students are pressed to do regimented activities. They should not talk, they should not move, and they should do nice actions. As the result, they will feel bored and will not have respect for the lessons and curriculum in school. It will only



get worse if the teachers are not sympathetic or dedicative to their professions, not friendly to students, impatient, and nervous. The teachers can not create a living and human learning process. If the students feel disappointed, their academic activities will be minimum. They will not study hard, they will play truant out of school or classrooms, and start to disturb other people with kinds of delinquency as an unhealthy compensation.

In the 1960's, the numbers of drop-out students, students that left school in America before being graduated are high. The Average Test Score have been drastically dropped compared to the generations before them. The use of drugs and the commit of free sex and the consequence of out of marriage pregnancy were increasing. The school curriculum at that time were giving too many choices on "non-academic" lessons like driving lesson, mechanic lesson or sewing lesson than the "academic" lessons such like mathematics or languages. So the students' appreciation of the academic lessons were lowered. They preferred the practical ways to earn money than to study at school.

From the point of view of the American education spectators, it was a result of the slided school curriculum from its original duties to stimulate, challenge and educate students. Based on that opinion, schools in America developed numbers of academic lessons with more favourable learning ways to students. They also gave more counseling services for students in the aim to help them solve their daily problems.

School is a big society. Here, person meets others with another points of view, values, ethics. What they meet in society is sometimes very different with what they meet in their family. If persons fail to adapt to the standard society values, they will have a disorganization problem. Diorganization is a process of weaken values and ethics in the society as a cause of social changes. The fading and deviation of values and ethics is

society's problem generally. The results are the presence of inter-social groups conflict and social stratification. Persons are standing on two poles without any absolute values to hold. The lameness is caused by cultural lag. That is why in school community, a school counseling program is needed to guide the students and all the society in it to prevent the negative influences.

According to Soekanto, cultural lag is development process of culture which are not in the same speed completely. (Soekanto,1969:p.178) The consequence of cultural lag in the terms of society values is the tendency to follow the "free" life concept, including free sex concept. If mental conflicts exist between individual and groups, then this is a sign of social pathology. They can not create harmonic life and there is a spiritual vacuum condition. The people then become neurotic. They are in a phase of neurotic nucleus, a stadium full of anxious and tensions. They feel unsafe, feel like being chased, and frightened. Then they will try to defend themselves by using *negative defence or escape mechanism*. (Mulyono,1984:p.33) Because of the wrong solution, worse mental conflict will appear. It will lead to inner chaos and mental breakdown or mental disorder.

The main reason of mental disorder are modernization process at a very high speed. Some of the society members can not adapt to the fast changes. They can not compete with others as a mode of high tension culture. The compensation is the braveness to criminal acts, manipulation, and also obscure and dangerous acts. The rising number of people's density is also a reason because fresh and healthy environment is so limited, especially in big cities. There are full of suspicions and distrusts between the society members and high numbers of unemployment and financial problems. If we take a look deeper, we will find that it is a result of the changes in the society itself.

The role of the school in the development of delinquency is complicated because of the variety of unfavourable experiences that play some part in it. For example, the working class children begin school with a competitive disadvantage due to their social backgrounds. They enter school less equipped in verbal skills and other learning characteristics. There are other school conditions that cause the educational problems for disadvantaged or lower-class children. School teachers often assume that lower-class children have a limited potential for scholarship, so they give them less time in the classrooms. Many schools put the disadvantaged children in situations where the academic lessons are not relevant to the interest of the children and the teaching methods which are not suitable for them. The school programs of testing-grouping and tracking give the disadvantaged children little attention because of their low grouping abilities. They also receive academic, vocational counseling, compensatory, and remedial education which are inadequate. They are also often taught by inferior teachers in inadequate facilities in ghetto areas.

The school teachers usually perceive educational deficiencies and behaviour problems are coming from the disadvantaged children and then they define them as stupid, bad, or sick children. The role of the school organization in producing these characters was acknowledged. But instead of attacking deficiencies in the learning structure of the schools, the school authorities are choosing to blame the defiant children and further alienate them from school community.

The other problem of school nowadays is the degree of social distance between school authorities and community residents in a low income areas. Economic and racial segregation also contribute to delinquency in school community.

Elliott has made a hypothesis regarding working-class children and the status problems created for them by status frustration in the school community. He stated that, first, the rate of delinquency will be greater for the children while they are in school than when out of school. Second, delinquents who drop out of school will have a higher in-school delinquency rate than when out of school. He reasoned that the status difficulties in school experience will be attenuated when the children extricates themselves from the school situations. Negative experiences in the school act as a powerful forces projecting youths into delinquency. Delinquency was most common among black youngsters who were school failures and who lived in situations of high family and neighborhood deviation. But delinquency rates were markedly lower among white youths who were school success and who were from stabile families and neighborhoods relatively free from criminalistic influences. (Elliott in Freire,1968:p.129-130)

## **2. Analysis**

Hidden delinquency committed by black students in the school community is well captured by Amiri Baraka in his play **The Toilet** (TT) which was first published in 1964. The play was written in 1962. TT is one of the first plays written by him and one of his most outstanding works. The setting of time of the play is not clearly stated. Delinquency problems included in the play are still problems for today's society but they are not in the same level with criminality. Delinquency acts are called " hidden " because they are there in school and the life of young generation, but not clearly visible. TT reveals about the life of some parts of the students in school that does not study hard in school and

prefer to focus on the out of class activities. One of the activities is committing delinquency.

The play is telling about a group of black students in a high school. There are eleven characters in the play. The main characters are Ora and sometimes he is called Big Shots, Foots or Ray, and Jimmy Karolis. Ora, as one of the gang members, is a crude, brutal and loud person. His body is strong. And in fact, he is the gang's evil genius. Foots, an intelligent, manic and sensitive guy, is the gang leader. And Jimmy Karolis is a Puerto Rican guy who has sent a "love" letter to Foots earlier. The other characters in the play are Van Ness, Willie Love, Hines, Johnny Boy Holmes, Perry, George Davis, Skippy, Knowles, and Donald Farrell. Except Donald Farrell, the other guys are Afro-American, including Ora and Foots. Except Van Ness as the school counselor, the other characters are the high school students.

The play is telling about a group of students meeting in a school toilet to discuss their plan to fight a guy named Jimmy Karolis and that theme is the centerpiece of the play. Through the series of dialogues, the play presents the main core of the issues, hidden delinquency in school.

In the first part of the analysis, hidden delinquency will be analyzed as the way to answer the problem stated in the problem statement. Then, in the next part of the analysis, the researcher will discuss about the importance of school counseling as the step for school to prevent the students from committing any kind of delinquency in school or even out of school. School counseling program should give any help the students needed to solve their problems and find their concentration again. But if the program failed, delinquency, which is sometimes hidden, is one of the consequences.

## **2.1. The Black Youth's Hidden Delinquency in School**

This part of analysis will discuss about the hidden delinquency committed by black youth with more detail observations. Later, the researcher will explain about the school counseling as the step taken by the school to prevent something negative done in the school community. But if the system meets the failure, then delinquency is one of the consequences.

The intercourse of teenagers is giving very important contributions in the building of their characters. It contributes more than the school as a learning institution. A student will only study in school for several hours a day in five or six days per week. It is very important for them to decide wisely about the kind of friendship they will choose.

At the secondary high school, the child becomes much more closely identified with groups. Adolescence is probably a period when an individual is more closely tied to the group than at any other time, and his security is related directly to the extent to which he is accepted as a valuable member of the group. There is more likelihood and more danger, that groups with questionable purposes will develop at this age.

The play begins with Ora doing some activities in the school toilet. Then, Love is coming to the place and asking Ora's help in the pursuit of Jimmy Karolis in the second floor. Jimmy Karolis will be brought to that place because earlier, he has sent a "love" letter to the gang leader, Fouts, for by the gang's code such an insult mandates a fight. Karolis will be punished for his challenge to Fouts. The moment is at the class-hours but most of them are out of class and they meet in the toilet, and that is also their hiding place from the observations of school teachers.

ORA. ... But he was making so much noise we thought somebody'd  
come out and see us so Knowles and Skippy took him in  
the broom closet and I cut down the stairs. The stupid  
bastid was screaming and biting right outside of ol' lady  
Powell's room.

HOLMES. Did anybody come outta there ?

ORA. You think I was gonna stay around and see ? She and Miss  
Golden after me anyway.

They are talking about that in the school toilet and not attending the classrooms while the other students are studying in there. The quotations are taken to give a description about the situations of the school and in its toilet at the moment. All schools must have rules and one of them is that the students should be in the class in the studying hours. They are not allowed to leave the class without permission. If they break the rules and choose to play rather than study in class, then they should be punished by the school organization for some discipline reasons. That is why out of class activities also categorized into delinquency.

Teenagers can do something negative easily because of bad temptation of their friends. For the characters in the play, making relationship with friends with bad influence can bring them to any actions nearly judged as a crime because as a united gang, they are terrorizing and doing any fist fighting with other student.

Because of a “love” letter from Jimmy Karolis that was sent to Foothills, the gang is now pursuing Karolis from one floor to another because the gang are planning to take a revenge to him. They are running after Karolis, even though it is at the studying hours for all the students :

LOVE. [sticking his head through the door]. Big Shot ! Hey,

Big Shot ! These guys say come and help them.

ORA. [zipping his fly and wiping the one hand on the back

of his pants.] Yeh ? [Turning to Love.] Yeh ? They  
ot him, huh ?

LOVE. [pushing door open so his arm is straight]. Naw, they

don't have him yet. He's on the second floor, running  
back and forth and hiding in empty rooms. But Knowles  
said for you to come help.

The kind of terrorizing here is when a student as a member of the school organization should have a peace and well condition to study in school, but in fact there is a group of students with bad attitude that can change the condition. The existence of the gang of bad guys is bringing restless to the other students. The bad guys can terrorize the students who choose to study rather than to do something negative like that. It will even get worse if there is no maintaining of law in school for the bad guys. In the play, Van Ness as the school counselor hears some issue about something bad that might



happen to Karolis. He even has a supposition that Knowles and Big Shot are behind the plan, but he does not take any certain action to prevent the plan :

FOOTS. Well, I'm supposed to make sure that you guys don't  
do anything bad to anybody. Especially to James Karolis.

[Laughing]

GEORGE. Oh yeh ? He know about that ?

FOOTS. Yeh, somebody told him Knowles said he was gonna kick  
Karolis' ass.

It is the moment when Fools are telling his friends about his meeting with Van Ness earlier. Van Ness may think that it is good enough to tell Fools to help and guide his friends, but the fact is Fools and mates are still trying to fight Karolis. The kind of action taken by Van Ness is not good enough for the protection of the students. The law should be maintained by the school to make the condition in school calm and nice.

Because they do not listen to Van Ness' advice, Fools and mates are continuing their plan. They meet in the school toilet and Karolis is finally being taken to that place too. Knowles, Skippy, and Big Shot had already punched him and made the boy black and blue and they define their act just as a persuasion for Karolis to come with them.

[The door is suddenly pushed open and Knowles and Skippy  
come in holding Karolis by the arms. Karolis' head is hanging,  
and he is crying softly and blood is on his shirt and face. His

hair is mussed and standing all over his head.]

LOVE. Ga-uh damn ! What'd you cats do ?

KNOWLES [giggling stupidly.] Love, now what the hell does

it look like we did ? Broke this muthafucka's jaw.

HINES. Damn. I thought we were just bringing the cat down here

to fight Foots. I didn't know you guys were gonna break

his head first.

SKIPPY. Well, he didn't wanna come. We had to persuade him.

From terrorizing, it ends with a fighting. Foots is coming to the toilet and finding that Karolis is in a terrible condition and it is hard for him to fight against anyone. Foots is trying to make this condition as a reason for them to not pushing against Karolis anymore.

FOOTS. Well, what the hell am I gonna do, beat on the guy while

he's sprawled on the floor. Damn, Ora, you're a pretty

lousy sonofabitch.

HINES. Man, Big Shot'd stomp anybody in any damn condition.

He likes it when they're knocked out first, especially.

FOOTS. I'm pushed ! There's no reason to stay here. I can't fight

the guy like he is.

Just when Foots and mates are almost leaving the room, Karolis is trying hard to stand and challenge Foots to fight with him. After a series of dialogue, the fight begins between those two.

Terrorizing and fist fighting are the things the gang members in the play do that can be seriously categorized as a delinquency. For the gang that all its members are black teenagers, the actions are defined as a response of injustice treatment they receive from the people that is called majority society. It is a kind of act that is called *negative defence or escape mechanism*. The reactions are chosen because they feel unsafe and frightened. In their mind, before somebody else come and hit them, they must hit first. So they must make an image of strength and toughness as a part of self defence.

Gang is also another part of delinquency acts. In school, sometimes there are students uniting in a group, but for bad reasons or similarities of attitude. A mob or a crowd might sometimes be considered to constitute a group, and many students called it “gang” as the popular term in the young generation.

There is sense of belonging to a gang in the mind of the members, because they join it for the reason of dissatisfaction of the family or society. The dissatisfaction of their family can be represented by the disrespectful attitude about their parents shown by the boys’ dialogues :

ORA [looking over his shoulder ... grudgingly having to smile

too]. I’d rub up against your mamma too. [Leaning

back to Karolis.] Come on, baby ... I got this fat ass sa-zeech

for you !

LOVE. Ora, you mad cause you don't have a momma of your own  
to rub up against.[All laugh]

ORA. [turns again, this time less amused]. Fuck you, you  
bony head sonofabitch. As long as I can rub up against your  
momma ... or your fatha' [laughs at his invention]. I'm doin' alright.

Ora and Love are wrangling about what should they do with Karolis who has been sent to the place earlier. They are so easily relating several things with their parents in disrespectful ways.

They find togetherness in the gang ethic and activities that they never find in other societies. The strong loyalty and solidarity in the mind of the members may continued into negative aspects and activities. If one member is in trouble or having problems, then the rest of the gang members may help him even with all cost. In the play, Foots is finding trouble after he received a "love" letter from Karolis, and then the other members are trying to help him "solve" his problem, although for the gang's code, the solution might be done with a fighting.

Leadership is an important thing in many aspects, including in the gang's world. Leadership as a signal to show that someone has abundance and it is admitted by the other members and they will honor him more. It also gives someone the power to decide which way will the group go. To become a leader, someone has to possess things like intellectuality and authority. The intellectuality here is not always related with the academic points in school, but more to the ability to control himself and solve the problems faced by the gang better than the others. Because Foots is the main character in

the play and he is the leader of the gang, then it is very interesting to discuss about his leadership in the following analysis.

In the character of Foots in the play, he is accepted by his friends as the gang leader because he is considered as the most intelligent person, especially among the black students. It reflected by his vocation from the school counselor, where Foots is hoped by the counselor to guide his friends to become better students :

FOOTS. That goddamn Van Ness had me in his office. He said  
I'm a credit to my race. [Laughs and all follow]. He  
said I'm a smart-as-a-whip [imitating Van Ness] and  
should help him to keep all you unsavory [again imitating]  
elements in line.

Ironically, the counselor's opinion about Foots is not correct because Foots is actually not different than the other bad guys in the school. In fact, he is the gang leader himself.

In the gang's world that physical power is an important factor, for Foots which is physically weak, being admitted and honored as the gang leader is much because of his intellectuality rather than his strength. When Foots received a "love" letter from Jimmy Karolis, all the gang members are hunting Karolis to make a revenge. And when he decides to finish the fighting plan with Karolis, the other boys are following him too :

FOOTS [stares at the closed door for a second, then he

turns slowly to the others.] Look, let's get out of here. This stuff is finished.

One of the quality of leadership is the ability of self control as the characterization of the man. Foots' attitude as a calm and under control person is reflected in the way he reacts to any circumstances faced by him. The researcher concludes about this character of him from the following sentences :

[Door is pushed open suddenly and Fooks comes in. He is nervous but keeps it hidden by a natural glibness and a sharp sense of what each boy in the room expects, singularly, from him.]

...

[Seeing Karolis in the corner for the first time. His first reaction is horror and disgust... but he keeps it controlled as is his style, and merely half-whistles.]

The first quotation is taken from the situation when Fooks is finally appeared in the place after he was held by the school counselor while the second is taken when he sees Karolis for the first time in that toilet in a wounded condition.

According to Arbuckle, the member of the gang's security is related directly to the extent to which he is accepted as a valuable member of the gang. (Arbuckle,1962:p.359) For Fooks, his worthy security and glory as the gang member is only existing when he is considered as the best person to give patterns which is suitable to be done by a gang

leader, to be followed by the members. But Fouts is giving bad pattern because he has made any sexual contact with Jimmy Karolis in the same school toilet previously. The secret is finally revealed after the words Karolis has said in the fight between him and Fouts.

According to Rachel Levy as taken from [www.bridgeweb.com/baraka.html](http://www.bridgeweb.com/baraka.html), *The Toilet* focused on adolescence as a quest for love in the socially enforced guise of toughness and this play deals with theme of homosexuality. The homosexuality theme is represented in the play in the characters of Fouts and Karolis. This theme is flattened by the researcher in relation with the free life concept that was appeared in the era of the 1960's, and that concept included free sex attitude in the teenagers life. At that era when the play was written, the commit of free sex and the consequence of out of marriage pregnancy were increasing for the teenagers. The free sex concept as a part of free life concept was already exist in the society at that era. It seems normal for teenagers at that time to hear some gossips or issues related with sexual aspects, as mentioned in Ora's sentences below :

ORA. [looking back in and letting the door swing shut].

Damn, Willie. [inmocking seriousness]. Karolis is  
always telling everybody how he bangs the hell out  
of Caroline, every chance he gets. [Begins to giggle].

Although free sex concept is not strongly connected with the delinquency aspects, but if we take a look at it from the moral point of view, then free sex is also a concept that

is not good for teenagers to commit. As teenagers they should learn more about the negative effect they will face from it, like out of marriage pregnancy. It is because the less control of society norm and religion guidance to the teenagers. If the society maintains the norm order and religious precept for all its members, then teenagers will find it as a very shameful attitude and they will try to withdraw from the temptation of doing sex before marriage. They should see it as a forbidden concept and if they want to do a sexual relationship, they must marry first and it is better for them to wait until they are mature.

Back to the homosexual thing stated in the play, Foots and Karolis seem to have any kind of love relationship in the past because both of them are homosexual or popularly called “gay”. But later on, the relation between them is not going well and Foots is trying to get away from Karolis and getting over him. But Karolis can not accept that treatment and in the kind of jealous and angry feelings, he tries to persuade Foots to be with him again by sending a “love” letter. The next dialogues are taken from the play in the fighting situation between Foots and Karolis :

KAROLIS. No. You have to fight me. I sent you a note,

remember. That note saying I loved you.

[The others howl at this.] The note saying you

were beautiful. [Tries to smile.] You remember

that note, Ray ?

...

Did I call you Ray in that letter ... or Foots ? [Trying



to laugh.] Foots ! [Shouts.] I'm going to break your  
fucking neck. That's right. That's who I want to kill.

Foots !

FOOTS. [slaps Karolis with his open hand.] You crazy bastard !

KAROLIS. Are you Ray or Foots, huh ?

...

KAROLIS. Yeh ! That's why we're here, huh ? I'll fight you,

Foots ! [Spits the name]. I'll fight you. Right here

in this same place where you said your name was

Ray. [Screaming. He lunges at Foots and manages

to grab him in a choke hold.] Ray, you said your name

was. You said Ray. Right here in this filthy toilet.

You said Ray. [He is choking Foots and screaming.

Foots struggles and is punching Karolis in the back

and stomach, but he can not get out of the hold.] You

put your hand on me and said Ray !

When the rest of the gang are finally involved in that fight, Karolis says again :

KAROLIS. No, no, his name is Ray, not Foots. You stupid

bastards. I love somebody you don't even know.

Ray is Foots' real name actually and from the dialogues above, there are informations stated about the relation between both of them in the past.

That letter will not be a huge problem if the letter is not publicly announced in the students community. For Foots' friends who do not know that Foots is actually a gay, they define this letter as a challenge for Foots. So they arrange a fight plan for Foots to take a revenge. Actually Foots has unwillingness to fight Karolis because although he tries to runaway from him, Karolis is someone who used to be his special person. And when he looks at the terrible physical condition of Karolis, he thinks that perhaps it is a kind of bless in disguise because he does not have to fight Karolis anymore:

FOOTS. Well, I don't see any reason to keep all this shit up.

Just pour water on the cat and let's get outta here.

ORA. What ? You mean you made us go through all this  
bullshit for nothing ?

FOOTS. Well, what the hell am I gonna do, beat on the guy  
while he's sprawled on the floor. Damn, Ora, you're  
a pretty lousy sonofabitch.

But then the fight has to be done because Karolis is asking for it. After the fight, the secret is finally revealed that Foots and Karolis are actually gay. For the gang's ethic, it is so contemptible if someone is judged as gay or homosexual, because people will adjust him as "sissy" and he is not thought as the real man and not a valuable part of the gang anymore. As a result of this secret's reveal, Foots is losing the respect of his mates :

ORA. [takes a paper cup and dips it in the commode and  
throws it in Fooks' face]. Yeh, get up. Bad ass.

[Laughs.]

They all leave, as Fooks begins to come to. All  
making noise, laughing, cursing. Fooks follows them.

Karolis lies as before in the center of the room, motionless.

Ora's action to throw dirty water into Fooks' face when he is lying on the floor after the fight is a sign as the end of Fooks' era as the leader of the gang. As the guys are leaving the room, they all are making noises, except Fooks because he is leaving the room powerless and walking after the other guys. In the end Fooks are coming back to the toilet to help Karolis that is in wounded condition :

[Finally KAROLIS manages to get to his hands and knees.

He crawls over to one of the commodes, pulls himself up,  
then falls backward awkwardly and heavily. At this point,  
the door is pushed open slightly, then it opens completely  
and FOOTS comes in. He stares at KAROLIS' body for a  
second, looks quickly over his shoulder, then runs and kneels  
before the body, weeping and cradling the head in his arms.]

It indicates that Fouts is already realizing that there is no use anymore for him to disguise the secret between him and Karolis. He is choosing to take care of Karolis instead of being with the rest of the guys as the signal of his consciousness that as a person there are things more important than vandalism or delinquency with the gang.

The words which are used by the characters in the play are often dirty or bad. It seems normal for them to say those kinds of words in their conversations to each other because the guys, like many Afro-American people, develop in slum areas which are hard, cruel and so competitive, then they have to be tough just to survive. The use of dirty words is a kind of signal that they are tough and will not be beaten easily. It is indicated in the following dialogues :

[Both HINES and HOLMES are against LOVE, who starts to laugh and curse good naturedly.]

LOVE. Two a' you bastids, huh ? I'll take you both. [He starts kicking at them.]

HINES. Boy, if you kick me, you'll die just like that... with your skinny ass leg up. They'll have to build you a special coffin with a part for your leg.

HOLMES. Let's get this sum'bitch, Willie.

HINES. Goddamn, Johnny Boy, you crooked muthafucka. You cats think you can mess with the kid ?

Although those conversations are only in a joking situations, they are making boxing-like situations, the boys are still using dirty words because it is a part of their life in a black and youth community. If they talk nicely, nobody will pay respect to them especially because they are coming from lower class society.

The other reason behind the use of bad words by them is the inadequate ability of practicing language. Born and living in slum areas also give the black youth the impact of less equipped condition in verbal skills and learning characteristics. So they say sentences and act badly like mentioned in the quotations of the play's dialogues without a real understanding of bad and good.

Racism is also well captured in the play. As stated before, nine out of the eleven characters are Afro-American, while the rest are white and Puerto Rican. The following dialogues are related with any racism issues :

ORA. [to Farrell] Man, whatta you want down here ? Nobody  
asked you to come.

GEORGE. I told him he could come. Why not ?

ORA. Whatta you mean, why not ? You know goddamn well,  
why not. Silly sumbitch !

FARRELL. Why don't you want me here, Big Shot ?

ORA. [glaring at Farrell]. Man, don't be asking me questions.

FARRELL. Don't ask you questions ? Why the hell not ?

ORA. [menacingly at Farrell]. Cause I said so, that's why.

You don't like it, muthafucka ?

...

ORA. How come I'm wrong, huh ? You know goddamn  
well that skinny cocksucka over there [at Farrell]  
ain't got no business down here. He ain't gonna do  
a damn thing but stand around and look.

It is the moment when George Davis and Perry, they are both Afro-American, bringing down Donald Farrell which is a white guy, to that place. Ora does not want Farrell to be there because he thinks that Farrell is not one of them. The same refusal to Farrell because of racial reason is stated in Foots dialogues with Farrell, in the very first time he realizes the presence of Farrell in the room :

FOOTS. [seeing Farrell for the first time.] What the hell you  
doin' here ? Who asked you to come, huh ? [Embarassed  
and angry]

ORA. That stupid ass Perry brought him.

PERRY. That's right. I just thought there was gonna be  
a fight. I didn't know you guys were gonna lynch  
anybody.

FOOTS. Lynch, your ass. Look, Donald, why don't you leave,  
huh ? Nobody needs you here.

FARRELL [slowly.] Yeh, okay, Ray. But I just want to know  
why you're gonna beat up on Jimmy like this. What

the hell did he do to you ?

FOOTS. [almost indignantly] None of your goddamn business,

Farrell. Just leave !

The Afro-American people's position in the society as the minorities, strengthen the solidarity among them, especially if they are confronting the white people. They consider the white society as the side who often harm and suppress them. They see the white people simply as "different". Black people are many times considered as lower-class people by the white side in many aspects of life. Before that era of 1960's, the segregation of black people in places such like school or bus by white side is not illegal. That kind of discriminating treatment hurts the feeling of Afro-American people and as the response, they exclude themselves from the white society and the refusal of Donald Farrell in the play by the black boys just because of his skin colour as a kind of response by them who think that black and white people are different and should not be united, especially in the business of the gang.

Of course, not all black people have that same point of view. There are parts of them who give more tolerant perspective into this circumstances, as represented by the characters of George Davis and Perry in the play.

Racialism is discussed here as a representative of the theory explained before that there are variety of unfavourable experiences for some working class students because of their social background's disadvantages. The delinquency committed by the black students in the play is a kind of protest for the injustice that they find in the school community. The insertation of the minority people like the black people on the

delinquents acts can be based on the American people's assumption that the acts that break the law or norms are usually committed by the minority people :

FOOTS. That goddamn Van Ness had me in his office. He said

I'm a credit to my race. [Laughs and all follow]. He  
said I'm a smart-as-a-whip [imitating Van Ness] and  
should help him to keep all you unsavory [again imitating]  
elements in line. [All laugh again].

LOVE. Yeh ? What's he talking about ?

FOOTS. Well, he seems to think that you guys ... particularly

that goddamn Big Shot and Knowles, are not good  
influences in this joint.

...

Well, I'm supposed to make sure that you guys don't  
do anything bad to anybody. Especially to James Karolis.

[Laughing]

The sentences above indicate the usual assumption from the society. Van Ness, although it is not clear whether he is black or white, suggests that the black group is a troublemaking one. Many school teachers perceive the trouble in educational and behaviour in school as problems caused by disadvantaged students. As a response to that injustice, the Afro-American students unite in a group that all its members are black people only. They choose that reason for their union because of the status difficulties they



get from the majority people. And for some students, the response should be harder so that the people will hear their voice of heart and protests and it is realized in a negative actions such like delinquency.

## **2.2. The School Counseling Program and Its Effect to Students with Bad Attitude**

The school duties are developing and building students characters, abilities, and knowledge so that the students will be able to take part in the society and reach success. But there are things that can fail the target. Students who do not have full concentration in study is one condition as the obstacles to reach the target. The other obstacle can be related to the lack of interesting factors of academic lessons for students to think about.

The school is then developing the counseling program to help students solve their problems. It is hoped that by the existence of this program, students can find persons who can hear them and help them concentrate again in school. The success of this program is depending on the relationship between the students and the counselor. It can affect the effectiveness of the counseling periods and the target.

In *The Toilet*, the character of Van Ness is the school counselor. He gives advice to Fouts after he heard an issue about something terrible that will happen to Jimmy Karolis. His advice is represented in Fouts dialogues with his friends in the beginning of his appearance :

HINES. Man, where the hell you been ?

FOOTS. That goddamn Van Ness had me in his office. He said

I'm a credit to my race. [Laughs and all follow]. He

said I'm a smart-as-a-whip [imitating Van Ness] and  
should help him to keep all you unsavory [again imitating]  
elements in line.

In the perspective of Van Ness as the school counselor, Fouts is a person that still have potentiality of becoming good student. He also tells about the bad influence given by Big Shot and Knowles in the students' community. Fouts is hoped to guide his friends so they do not do anything bad to Jimmy Karolis or other students :

LOVE. Yeh ? What's he talking about ?

FOOTS. Well, he seems to think that you guys ... particularly  
that goddamn Big Shot and Knowles, are not good  
influences in this joint.

ORA. [to Perry] Fuck You, tar baby !

FOOTS. Well, I'm supposed to make sure that you guys don't  
do anything bad to anybody. Especially to James Karolis.  
[Laughing]

Van Ness thinks that Big Shot and Knowles are the only bad guys there. He does not know that Fouts is as bad as those two guys, even he is the leader of the gang and the man behind the attacking plan of Karolis :

FOOTS. Ga-uhd damn ! You a rough ass cat, Shot. He sure

don't like he's in any way to fight anybody.

ORA. [laughing]. No, but he might be able to suck you off.

Hee, hee.

LOVE. Shit. You the one that look like you want that, Big Shot.

FOOTS. Oh, shit. There wasn't any need of bringing the cat

down here if you guys were gonna fuck him up before

I got here. He was supposed to fight me. [Almost angry.]

HINES. Yeh, that's what I thought. You shouldn't of sent Ora and

Knowles up after him then.

FOOTS. The only person I asked to go up was Skippy.

The advice to Foots is given with the hope that it will work well and prevent something bad that could happen to anybody in school. But the counselor fails to influence Foots and his advice does not affect Foots at all. Even Foots is making a joke by imitating Van Ness' body motions in front of his friends. In the end Foots is still planning to fight Karolis and not listening to Van Ness' advice :

[The crowd begins to move forward to cut down the area of the match so that the two fighters will have to make contact.]

HINES. Hit the sonofabitch, Foots !

FOOTS. Fight, you bastard !

KAROLIS. Yeh ! That's why we're here, huh ? I'll fight you, Foots !

Those are the dialogues before the two are start fighting and later Big Shot and the other gang members are joining the fight too to make Karolis black and blue.

The counseling given by school is sometimes fitting with what is called narrative education with the banking concept. When the students are in front of the counselor, they are presenting a good and nice side of themselves. They are becoming yes-men and obeying whatever told by the counselor. It is because the counselor is only talking *to* or *about* them but not talking *with* them. But some of the students are doing anything contrast behind the counselor. It is done by Fouts by imitating Van Ness' body motions in front of his friends as a joke and it suggests that he does not have any respect about the counselor.

How the counselor takes position in the counseling periods is important in the achivement of the goal. If there is a gap between the counselor and the students, the counseling process will not be effective. The gap can be related to the factors of age, degree of social and economical status or anything else. As the result, the counselor can not be a friendly figure and the students can not talk openly and honestly to the counselor about his problems. The ability of the counselor to positioning himself as a friendly figure is very important so the program can be successful.

The minimum of respect and honesty from students to their counselor is not a kind of delinquency but it is discussed here because the counseling program should become a fondation of mental character building for some students, especially the students with attitude problems. But the failure of the program can bring consequences like delinquency. In the case of Fouts and friends in the play, the minimum respect to the counselor leads to failure to prevent them from taking any aggressive attack to Karolis.

### **3. Conclusion**

Having the analysis, the researcher comes to the conclusion especially on how the hidden delinquency acted by black youth in school presented through *TT*. Most of the characters in the play are identified as persons with any tendency of doing delinquency such as Foots, Big Shot, Love or Karolis. What they do represents the characteristics of persons who live in such a tough, cruel, and competitive environment like slum areas. The condition will only make them as tough people with any aggressive actions and the possibility of becoming criminals in the future.

But for the present time, they are the students of high school with negative attitudes that can alarm the other students in the school. They can terrorize other students or do any fist fighting. Because of a letter sent by Karolis, the gang members then try to pursuit him and bring him to the toilet. They do not know anything about the fact that Foots, their gang leader is actually a gay and Karolis was his special person in the past. But however the plan is already committed and they hope that Foots can take revenge to him.

To prevent any kind of delinquency like this, then the school counseling program has an important part in controlling the delinquency but it should be helped with the maintaining of the law.

In the play, although the school counselor had already receive any kind of issues about the fighting but still there is no any law maintaining actions. That is why school counseling and the maintaining of the law are so necessary to make the school condition is ideal again for students to do any learning activities.

School organization should do many things necessary to avoid anything bad that can happen to the students. They should maintain the law and rules of school and increase the discipline level of the students. If the law and rules are maintained, the discipline level will be better and the school condition and its learning process will be nice and well.

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