

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Chapter one is introduction that contains of six points. They are background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objective of the study, significance of the study, and the last is organization of the study.

A. Background of the study

According to Wolf & Guin, racism is a simply beliefs, attitudes, actions, or in actions which distinguished an individual or a group of others based on their visual differences (2). The term racism is well known with the word “race” that have the meaning like separation and differences. Racism also can be assume as the process of racial construction means that visual appearance of individual or a group become the criteria of which one you belong to.

There are two components in racism, they are ‘difference’ and ‘separation’. It means that when one group uphold and build their ideology and their belief based on their visual appearance, thus they will secede themselves with the other groups who have not the same appearance with them. Rodat argues that, racism delivers to the diversity among all own human groups from others. It means that ‘they’ different with ‘Us’, and it is often favor in ‘Us’. This feeling leads to justify other groups unreasonable, cruelly, even treat others inferiorly (131).

Racism becomes the social phenomenon that occurs from a hundred years ago and it can happen everywhere like in America as a multicultural country.

Not only in America, it also can happen in country over around the world. Many people had faced this social phenomenon. Racial and ethnic disparities in society become the source of the segregation among people that have difference appearance, for example is the African-American or the Black people in America. As we know that African-American is the people who have Black appearance in America, while most of the populations in America are white people.

America is the biggest country in the world that consists of people that comes from different countries. Most of the people in America are immigrants, because there is no an original American person, “There is no more agonizing issue on the America political agenda than immigration. America is, we’re frequently reminded, a notion of immigrants.” (Motavalli, par. 10). The fact is that the population of the Black people in America were descendant of enslave that taken from Africa to America during the slave trade between 1619 and 1859, that was about 38,9 million Black people (Waters et al. 371). The immigrants from Africa who have the Black skin were the first group which was treated as slaves. It gives assumption among the White people that the Black people were the trash and lower people in America. The Black people labeled as the bad people, criminals, unequal, trash, lower people, even the worst.

The label that the African-American receive is lead to prejudice. “Prejudice is typically conceptualized as an attitude that, like other attitudes, has a cognitive component (e.g: beliefs about a target group), an affective

component (e.g: dislike), and a conative component (e.g: behavioral predisposition to behave negatively toward the target group)” (Dovidio et al. 5). Prejudice usually expresses attitude in showing dislike feeling toward other people based on their limited knowledge. People who have this kind of belief will prejudge negatively and hated others without knowing the truth. each groups can become the object of prejudice, including African-American or the Black people. However the most people who becomes victimized of prejudice refers to racial, ethnic, and minority groups. Thus, it can be called as “Racial Prejudice”.

Racial prejudice is usually experienced by the minority in society which the most of population in those areas are the majority. The practice of racial prejudice is also often done by the majority one. When people had do the practice of racial prejudice, they will look at everything in negative way and based on their limited knowledge. They will not be able to give a positive assessment to others, especially the group who upholds their belief based on their similarity in visual appearance.

As the result of racial prejudice, it will raise discrimination. Discrimination happens when an individual cannot handle their dislike feelings or hatred to others, thus they use action to wreck the hatred. “Discrimination is defined as differential treatment of people depending on their group affiliation.” (Ferstment et al. 371). From the quotation, it can be said that discrimination is unequal treatment from people to others because of the differentiation in groups. Discrimination can harm the target people or group. The most people

who have received unfair treatments refer to the minority and African-American as the minority in America often become the object of discrimination especially from the White people.

Through *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel by Harper Lee shows about how turmoil injustice is deeply real in the novel. The novel is placed in Maycomb, Alabama, South America. In fact, it is an extremely prejudiced town. The town's racism is clearly painful in this novel which Lee portrays that happened in her time in the twentieth century. The practice of discrimination often shown by the people in Maycomb as the setting in the novel. Harper Lee reflects her own experience when she was kid in 1930 to make this novel. She uses Alabama as the setting because she used to live there.

Lee shows that Maycomb is the town that underestimates others, forbid the way women should be, the disability people, and the poorer families. As what Harper Lee's experience quoted in Sigward's e-book is that,

Maycomb was a place where colored water fountains did not spout brightly colored water as child might expect, but stood as symbols of the dogmas of racism, which meant indignity, shame, and humiliation for some and indifference, false pride, and hated for others. (par. 1).

People hate each other, they spread their hatred to others, they injure innocent people, and insult anyone that they hate. They often show their hate to each other, even with their own family who did something that out of the

rules which their own family made. Specifically the hatred for the Black people there.

The portrayal of discrimination in 1930 can be found in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. The story happened during the Great Depression that attacked America in 1920. She uses many characters in the novel to reveal the portrayal of discrimination that happens in her time and make the point that race become the source of the way people thinking toward others, and racism is practiced by people in the novel. Through the young eyes named Scout, Lee tells about how Maycomb society are clearly pictures prejudice toward others and cause discrimination. Racism is the major theme which is done directly by the Whites in Maycomb toward a Black man named Tom Robinson.

There are so many characters in the novel that show about discrimination and prejudice based on their visual differences, especially towards the Black people because they have the Black skin that makes them labeled as the lower and trash in Maycomb society. By the character of Atticus Finch who becomes a lawyer of a Black man named Tom Robinson, the plot of the story slowly gain to the climax and show the other characters in the novel especially the White people there, they often show their insults toward Atticus and mock him as 'nigger lover' just because he defends a Black man. The White people showing their hatred to the Black people by their rudely words and their actions that the Black people are not acceptable in Maycomb society.

Thus, based on the explanation above, this study is intended to analyze discrimination as the result of racial prejudice based in the difference of ethnics and races that experienced by African-American people or the Black people in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee. Discrimination can be expresses not only in action of White people toward the Black people, but also by saying rudely words, insults, and something that is very bad by people towards other groups.

B. Problem Formulation

There are two problem formulated in this study, as follows:

1. What are the portrayal of racial prejudice for African-American people found in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee?
2. How is discrimination as the result of racial prejudice in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee?

C. Limitation of the Study

The study of this paper only focuses on portrayal along with the practice of discrimination as the result of racial prejudice for African-American people as reflected in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

D. Objective of the Study

There are two problem formulated in this study, as follows

1. To describe the portrayal of racial prejudice for African-American people in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee?
2. To analyze the discrimination as the result of racial prejudice in the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee?

E. Significance of the Study

Hopefully this paper can be used as reference related to the theory about racism, especially for the student of English Literature of Sultan Agung Islamic University and gives the portrayal the role of Black people in the twentieth century that categorized as discrimination and racial prejudice.

F. Organization of the Study

In order to give clear explanation about the study to the reader, this study presents a systematic organization as follows:

The first chapter is the introduction that contains of background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study and organization of the study.

The second chapter is reviews of related literature that contains of the synopsis and related literature that relate to the object. There are two points in the second chapter, they are synopsis, reviews of related literature, in reviews of related literature still consist of some points; they are racism, racial prejudice, and racial discrimination. The third chapter is research method that

contains two sub-chapters, they are types of research and data organizing which each of them has some sub chapters.

The fourth chapter is findings and discussion that contains of two sub-chapters. They are the portrayal of racial prejudice for African-American people in the novel and the second is the portrayal of discrimination as result of racial prejudice in the novel. The last is chapter five that is conclusion and suggestion. It also consists of two sub-chapters, they are conclusion and suggestion. Meanwhile, in suggestion still consists of three points, they are suggestion to the student of English literature, to the lecturers and to the readers.