

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This chapter consists the introduction of the study, including the background of the study, limitation of the study, problem formulation, objectives of the study, significance of the study and outline of the study.

#### **A. Background of the Study**

“We face beatings, sexual assault, wrongful arrest, or murder on a daily basis. In lieu of the birthright of equality we are marked from birth with the brand of discriminatory treatment” (Human Rights Watch World Report 1). These words are the distillation of testimony received by Human Rights Watch that reflects the reality of racism as a global ill. Racial contradiction in America becomes the main problem that caused the racial discrimination based on the skin tones. Dealing with the explanation of skin colors which somehow become the main problem that triggers racial discrimination between the white and the black in America:

Colorism is the process of discrimination that privileges light-skinned people of color over their dark-skinned counterparts. Colorism is concerned with actual skin tone, as opposed to racial or ethnic identity. This is an important distinction because race is a social concept, not significantly tied to biology. (qtd. In Hunter 237)

Though, in terms of the cause racial discrimination about skin color, it happened to the African-American people that in the beginning imported to America to be a servant of white people. Then, they want the freedom and rights equalization as a human not a servant. However, the white people assumed that the black people inappropriate to have the same right with them in region of white people, “In fact, light-skinned people earn more money, complete more years of schooling, live in better neighborhoods, and marry higher-status people than darker-skinned people of the same race or ethnicity” (qtd. In Hunter 237). Hence, it is clear that black people is being discriminated by white people because of their status.

The white people become the authorities or dominate the black people because most of the American is white people. Whereas, the black people becomes the minorities that have not the power at all. Dealing with the discrimination towards the minority in America, which is the black people, the racial discrimination defined by British Colombia. They explain that “Racial discrimination occurs when someone treats you badly or denies you a benefit, harasses or insults you because of your race, colour, ancestry, or place of origin.” (1). That discrimination puts the black people as the civil that have lower class than the white people, with the result that made them becomes the object of injustice in politic, education, job and many more. Hochschild reveals in her article, as stated:

Dark-skinned blacks in the United States have lower socioeconomic status, more punitive relationships with the criminal

justice system, diminished prestige, and less likelihood of holding elective office compared with their lighter counterparts. This phenomenon of “colorism” both occurs within the African American community and is expressed by outsiders, and most blacks are aware of it. Nevertheless, blacks’ perceptions of discrimination, belief that their fates are linked, or attachment to their race almost never vary by skin color. (1)

This all leads to the fate of black people to be treated injustice considering by their history and status in society rather than White people.

That discrimination issue becomes the main topic in this study, where the discrimination happens to the black people that contain the novel *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett. *The Help* is one of the novels that raise the issue of racial discrimination as the theme. As racism appears because one side is treated unequal, Benoist says that “Racism is an ideological-scientific system which divides the contemporary human species into sub-species, resulting from separate development and endowed with unequal average aptitudes” (13). Though, this racism will lead to the action while one race, that the black people are being discriminated, and the novel entitled *The Help* reflects this issue.

Racial Discrimination in 60th century lift up the simply example of a racial discrimination issue, that is racial discrimination which done by the housewife living in Jackson (the capital city of Mississippi) to their housemaids that they are black people. At that time, the black people are still reputed as the

people that have lower class than the white people. Most of the people that work as the servant of white people are the black people women. In this novel a women of the whites named Skeeter get inspiration from the struggle of the blacks' housemaids. Those housemaids raise white children and devoted their life to serve the whites. However, they still get discrimination from their employer in fact they cannot use the same toilet with their employer because the black people reputed as spreaders of disease. Connect with blacks maid, Skeeter also have a black maid that raise her from she was young. That is why, Skeeter moved to help the black maids share their good or bad experiences during they do their job as the housemaid of the white people into a book titled *The Help*. So that they can tell their experience and feelings while becomes a housemaid of white people to the society of white people.

## **B. Problem Formulation**

The problems of this study are formulated as follows:

1. How is racial discrimination as reflected in *The Help*?
2. How is the portrayal of racial discrimination in every setting reflected on the novel *The Help*?

## **C. Limitation of the Study**

Based on the story that represented in the Kathryn Stockett's novel, the study wants to raise the analysis of enclosing the right by writting racial discrimination theory in the novel *The Help*. The struggle of the housemaid which is minorities in defend equality and justice for their ethnic, become the

main reason why choose this novel to analyze. In another hand, this work matches and related with the racism.

#### **D. Objectives of the Study**

The objectives of researches are:

1. To describe that racial discrimination comes from the domination and gives the basic social taught and justifier philosophy to humiliate and violence toward the people based on skin tones.
2. To analyze the portrayal of racial discrimination in every setting reflected on the novel *The Help*.

#### **E. Significance of the Study**

This study has two points of significance. The first is to help the reader to know the story of the novel so that they will easily to understand the whole of the story and the implied meaning in the story. The second is become the recommendation for the other researchers to analyze using the racial dicrimination theory.

#### **F. Organization of the Study**

This study consists of five chapters. The first chapter is introduction. In this chapter provides Background of the Study, Problem Formulation, Limitation of the Study, Objective of the Study, Significance of the Study, and Organization of the Study. The second chapter is review of related literature. It is consists of synopsis and literary review that related with the topic: racial discrimination. And

the third chapter is research method. It deals with the types of research and data organizing that consists of data collecting method, types of data, and analyzing the data. The fourth chapter is findings and discussion. It deals with the data from the novel to solve the question from problem formulation. The last chapter is the conclusion and suggestion from this study.