

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, there are six points delivered including background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and organization of the study.

A. Background of the Study

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Right and UNESCO state that “racism is a global reality that may be comforting to think of it as confined to the West and as reflecting colonialism and the slave trade” (2). It means that racism in the West is a very natural thing and that changes the colonialism and slavery that happen there. In Europe, Africa, and Asia, racism is a big problem that happens in every multicultural country since last century until now (Bergman and Crutchfield, 147-148). Moreover, according to Nguyen-Phuong-Mai, “Racism is a negative feeling of other people in various factors such as; economic decline, failure, and resource” (12). Racism includes racial prejudice, racial stereotype, and racial discrimination in a society.

Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, and Esses state that, “stereotypes are cognitive schemas that used by social perceivers to process information about others” (7). Thus, stereotypes can define as an association and belief about the characteristics and attributes of a group and its members that build how people think about and respond to the group. According to Allport, “prejudice as an antipathy based on

faulty and inflexible generalization. It may be felt or expressed. It may be directed toward a group as a whole or toward an individual because he is a member of that group” (9). Thus, prejudice defines as a negative attitude (e.g., an antipathy).

While, racial discrimination is an unequal treatment of other people that have different race colour or social status. According to Devah Pager and Hana Shepherd in *The Sociology of Discrimination: Racial Discrimination in Employment, Housing, Credit, and Consumer Markets*, “racial discrimination is the unequal treatment for people based on their race or ethnicity” (182). It means that racial discrimination occurs when people in different race and ethnic in the society get a bad treatment based on the differences. Thus, when people come to the other country and they have a different race or skin colour, they can get a bad treatment based on their differences.

According to Clair and Denis, “Racial discrimination concerns the unequal treatment of races, whereas racial inequality concerns unequal outcomes (in income, education, health, etc.)” (857). Indeed, it can be concluded that racial discrimination occurs when someone treats other people badly or denies them a benefit, harasses or insults them because of their race, colour, ancestry, or place of origin. In the other word, the meaning of racial discrimination happens when someone gives a bad treatment to someone else because of his or her culture, race, skin colour, or background where they come.

Ridiclasia states in her paper that “in Great Britain has struggled to solve the problem of racial discrimination against the black people and mix race (half black

and half white people) that avoid by British society” (1). Thus, it can be stated that people in Great Britain have not solved the problem of racial discrimination. Black and mix race still struggle to be accepted by British society. “The black people have been discriminated in many ways” (Ridiclasia,1). Discrimination exists as a social issue that needs more attention which can lead to violence between groups. “Racial discrimination is now a legal offence in the United Kingdom and these civil and human rights are afforded to every man, woman and child. Racial discrimination includes discrimination on the grounds of colour, race, nationality and ethnicity” (Ridiclasia, 1). This statement shows that in the Great Britain, they struggle to break-up the problem of racial discrimination of people who have different skin colour and race. Indeed, racial discrimination in Great Britain is a legitimate fault including the civil and human right for everyone.

Therefore, “the white culture is considered superior in nature compared to the interior message about the racial populations and the other ethnic minority” (Lockett, 1). Furthermore, the racial discrimination gives an negative impact to people who have different race, skin colour, ethnicity, social status and their heredity. “The impact of racial discrimination can lead to impaired physical and mental health for the victims indirectly” (Wong, Eccles and Belansky, 5). According to Tiffany Yip, Gilbert C. Gee and David T. Takeuchi, “having a strong ethnic identity may actually exacerbate the effects of discrimination, resulting in a greater negative impact on mental health” (788). Thus, the impact of racial discrimination can be seen in the psychology and mental health of people

who gets racial discrimination. Indirectly, racial discrimination can interfere their mind and make people feel depressed because of the treatment that they receive from their surrounding environment.

The issue of racial discrimination can also be seen in literary works including movies. In the movie entitled *Belle 2013* by Amma Asante is a British period drama movie which has been inspired by the true story of Dido Elizabeth Belle. She is an illegitimate mixed race daughter of John Lindsay and Maria Belle. John Lindsay is a British Royal Navy officer and Maria Belle is an African woman that enslaved in West Indies. After Dido's mother death in 1765, Captain Lindsay takes Dido to William Murray. Dido has been raised by William Murray and his wife. Dido is a highborn child from John Lindsay as a British Royal Navy. Nevertheless, in the circumstance she does not get any privilege from William Murray as Lord Mansfield because she is a mixed race woman. Dido has a different skin colour that makes her obstructed from being able to participate in the social tradition. Further, Dido has been claimed by Lord Mansfield that no one's of gentlemen would agree to marry with her because of her mixed race status. In *Belle 2013* movie, it is represented that the whites used to be given better facilities, whereas the black people are only given poor-conditioned facilities. Although, in fact she has same position with Elizabeth Murray but she is considered different and has lower position than her cousin.

In this case, in Britain, the Black people always get lower position than white people. However, finally in *Belle* movie, Lord Mansfield permits Dido to have a

same position with Elizabeth Murray even though just in the picture. Further, when their is inaugurated, it shows that Dido has the same position as Elizabeth Murray. In this movie, the racial discrimination is very clearly as Dido as the main character gets a bad treatment due to her different skin colour.

In short, the purpose of this study is to analyse the racial discrimination and the impact of racial discrimination that happens to Dido Elizabeth Belle as the main character in the movie entitled *Belle 2013*. This movie is chosen because the story is based on the true story and the story happens in Britain.

B. Problem Formulation

The study reveals on discussing two problems, they are as follows:

- a. How is racial discrimination reflected in the main character of *Belle 2013*?
- b. How does racial discrimination give the psychological impacts toward Dido as the main character?

C. Limitation of the Study

The limitation of the study concerns about the racial discrimination and the impact of racial discrimination in Great Britain that described in *Belle 2013* movie. The main character in this movie, Dido Elizabeth Belle is one of the descriptions of what mixed race people achieve at that time. They need to work hard to be equal with the others. Dido Elizabeth Belle is one of black girls who is illegitimate mixed race. She is a daughter from John Lindsay and Maria Belle as an African woman that enslave in West Indies.

D. Objectives of the Study

Based on the explanation above, the study focuses on achieving the following objectives:

- a. To reveal racial discrimination experienced by the main character of *Belle 2013* movie.
- b. To analyse the psychological impacts of racial discrimination that happened to the main character of the movie.

E. Significance of the Study

Hopefully, this study would be beneficial for students of English Literature Program. They would like to learn more about all the things related to racial discrimination. For other researchers, this study may be beneficial in conducting a new study related to the issue of racial discrimination and psychological impact portrayed in literary works. Further, this study will make people open their mind about racial discrimination that people must accept other people with differences.

This study teaches us that accepting a different race, social status or other is better than being busy for looking a difference from others. Thus, people must learn to accept someone who is different from us in terms of different skin colour, race, and heredity of social status.

F. Organization of the Study

In order to make this study easier to read, the study is presented in five chapters. The first chapter is introduction that covers the background of the study, problem formulation, limitation of the study, objectives study, and significance of the study and organization of the study. The second chapter is review of related literature that contains of synopsis, and theories of related literature. The review of related literature consists of racial stereotype, racial prejudice, racial discrimination, and psychological impact of racial discrimination. The third chapter is research method that includes type of research, data organizing, and analysing of the data. The fourth chapter is findings and discussion. It has racial discrimination reflected in *Belle 2013* movie and the psychological impact of racial discrimination toward the main character, Dido. The fifth chapter is conclusion and suggestion.