

Chapter I

Introduction

This chapter explicates basic consideration which explain reason for taking this study, the previous study which provide some information about several research that have a similarity with this research, the research question which display the problem that will be investigated, the research purpose that elucidate the aim of the study which is related to the research question, the significance of research which shows the effect of this study theoretically and practically, and scope of study which defines the limitation of the study.

Basic Consideration

Cited from a book written by Linn Weber, races are geographic and biologically diverging population that in particular locales are distinguished by statically significant frequencies of various genetic or physical types (Weber, 2001). On the other definition, race is a group of people which have the similarity of biological and geographical characteristics. Biologically, they have the same shape of eyes, texture of hair and color of skin. Geographically, they come or life in the same place. There are a lot of races which is scattered in every country in the world. The differences of races sometimes lead to the racism.

Racism is an issue which inexhaustible to be discussed. Inexhaustible here means since long time ago until now it could be encountered in our social life. Based on the

Oxford Learners Pocket dictionaries (p. 361) racism is unfair treatment of other races. In the other words, racism is a contrast treatment from one race to other race. Cited from article written by Sarwikar and Katz (2010), Cazanava and Maddern (1999) argued that “racism is a highly organised system of “race” based group privilege (that is, ‘power’) that operates at every level of society and is held together by a sophisticated ideology of color or “race” supremacy (that is, ‘prejudice’)”. In fine, racism is power and prejudice. Racism happens between two different races where one race has more power than others.

The phenomenon of racism, lead to the slavery in America. In 1776, there were approximately 2 million slaves in the American colonies. After the American revolution, approximately 55.000 free black people live in United State of America (Robinson, 2004). Cited from a book entitled Promise to Keep, the story of race of United State begins more than 400 years ago, when the African man, woman, and children were enslaved and forcibly brought to the American colonies (Robinson, 2004). In the post civil war, the black separated from the white in every public facility. They went to the separated school, restaurants, hotels, sat in different sections on trains and buses. In several places, they use different bathrooms, telephone booths, and water fountains. They went to the separated pool, halls, auditoriums, and circuses. Even the black are restricted from using parks, libraries, and hospital that served the white. To separate the white and black in using public

facilities, there is a real sign which often read White and Colored (for the black) to keep on race from coming in contact with the other race (Robinson, 2004).

Racism occurs between the white and the black where the black becomes the victim. The black is the slave of the white. This slavery makes the black immensely afflicted. The existence of racism led to the civil rights movements that want to fight their rights. From this movement the anti racism was clearly visible. Anti-racism comes from some people which resist racism. The resist are showed through various ways, such as movement, speech, poem, and novel. Habitually, anti racism is most only from black as describe above. But, there also some white people who being anti racist. For example, **Jessie Daniel Ames, Marilyn Buck, Ruth Frankenberg, Selma James, Juliette Hampton Morgan, Minnie Bruce Pratt, Eleanor Roosevelt, Ann Russo, Mab Segrest, Robin DiAngelo, and Ricky Sherover-Marcuse**. Anti-racism by white is also showed in literary work. One of literary work which showed white's anti –racist is *The Help*.

The Help is a novel which talked about racism. This novel is written by white author Kathrin Stockett which takes place in Mississippi. "*The Help*" was written in the 1960s. It tells about a black housekeeper who works in the white's home. It shows the reader how the white treat the black as their slave. Cooking, cleaning, and caring white babies are the black routines. "*The Help*" shows how the black life is. This novel has been criticized by some researchers to discuss racism. Aside from racism,

anti racism also becomes an interesting aspect to be discussed in this novel. Here is one kind of anti-racism act which is done by white to the black in *The Help*. The datum shows the white woman save the black from the white man who wants to hurt the black:

“Lordy, you.. You got him.” I say, but in the back of my head, there’s this voice asking me, real calm, like we’re just having tea out there, is this really happening? Is a white woman really beating up a white man to save me? Or did he shake my brain pan loose and I’m over there dead on the ground....”. (p. 308)

The data shows the anti-racism acts by the white. It could be seen from the sentence *“Is a white woman really beating up a white man to save me?”* In that situation, the white save the black woman from the white man by hitting on the white man. This is an example of anti-racism acts doing by the white woman which shows on *The Help*.

The search about anti-racism has been conducted by many researchers. There are several previous studies which related to this research. The first was a research which conducted by Risnawati Y Dukalang (2011) entitle “Anti-Racism in Freedom Writers”, to figured out the anti racism portrayed which showed in *Freedom Writer* movie by using structuralism and sociological approach. The result of the research showed there are several anti racism practices in *Freedom Writers* movie. They are psychological anti racism, anti-Nazi and anti-fascist anti racism, and everyday anti racism. The difference between Risnawaty’s research and this research first is on the object. Risnawaty studied a movie while this research studied the novel. Second,

Risnawati used structuralism and sociological approach in analyzing the data, while this research used sociological approach only. Those differences could lead to the different result.

Second is a research conducted by Ika Sri Linggawati (2014) entitled “John Singer; A Symbol of Anti racism Expectation in Carson McCullers’ The Heart is a Lonely Hunter”. It discusses racism and anti racism in a novel entitled “The Heart is a Lonely Hunter” by Carson McCullers. The research examines three problems, (1) John Singer’s idea of equality toward the black race (2) the impact of John Singer’s idea of equality toward the black’s expectation in getting their freedom and (3) the condition of black race in South America in the 1930s portrayed in the novel. Ika uses critical race theory in analyzing the novel, and the result of the research show that Singer is an anti-racist white man. While Ika figure out both racism and anti racism in The Heart is a Lonely Hunter by Carson McCullers, this research conducted to figure out white’s anti racism acts in The Help.

The last is a research which conducted by Maya Riska Idrus (2015) titled “Racial Discrimination in Tate Tylor’s movie The Help”. The research conducted to analyze the racial discrimination in “The Help” movie. In her research, Maya uses sociological and structural approach to analyze the movie. At the end of her research, she found that there were several racial discrimination on The Help” movie. They are racial discrimination in separation of bathroom, racial discrimination in bus, in social interaction and racial discrimination in descent. Maya used “The Help” as the object

of research but, she used the movie to analyze the racial discrimination, while this research uses the novel to analyze white's anti racism acts.

Racism is a social issue that can be found around us till now day. It gives a bad effect on victims of racism. Mostly in the phenomenon of racism, it was the black who against the racism, for example, Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. However, in The Help there is a white woman who being anti racist. Based on the explanation above, the researcher interest to analyze the novel focused on anti racism aspect.

Research question

1. What kinds of Anti racism acts accured that showed in "The Help" novel?
2. What is Kathryn's motivation for being anti racist?

Research Purpose

Based on the research question above, this research intends to investigate kinds of anti-racism that Kathryn tries to figure out from "The Help" novel and what motivate Kathryn being anti-racist.

Research Significance

This research has some significance, theoretically and practically.

Theoretically

This research can give an overview about anti-racism and can help to raise awareness of anti racism to minimalize oppression of a people because of racist, because very human is equal, just like Ellie Wiesel said, "No human race is superior; no religious

faith is inferior. All collective judgments are wrong. Only racists make them”
(Laccino, 2014). People were born not to be despised. Therefore we should not be racist. Moreover, this research could be useful for ethnography and literary study.

Practically

This research can be used as the references of the other research about anti-racism. The theories (sociological) which explain in this research can be useful for further research.

Scope of Study

Based on the problem above, this study is limited to the analysis of Kathryn Stockett’s novel *The Help*. The research focused on the anti racism acts accured in the novel. The anti racism theory that used in this study is Bonnet’s theory.