

Chapter 1. Introduction

This chapter presents the basic consideration, research question, objective of the research, focus of research and significance of the research.

Basic Consideration

In this world, people live with a variety of diversity of languages, races, ethnicity, cultures, nations, etc. Unfortunately, this wide variety of diversity sometimes becomes an object to put one group of people in disadvantages and even sometimes caused conflicts in society, such as discrimination.

Discrimination is a term for different treatment that is given to a group of people unfairly. It usually happens due to the differences that differ people based on their races, genders, ages, religions, social classes, disabilities, etc. Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, and Esses (2010) stated that “discrimination implies more than simply distinguishing among social objects, but refers to inappropriate and potentially unfair treatment of individuals due to group membership”(p.8). In accordance with previous statement, it can be concluded that discrimination not only classified people as a social object, but also brings harms upon the group of people who suffered it. Discrimination becomes a common issue that often happens in society. Even at the present time, it can still be found in the society. Discrimination has carved a vast amount of history throughout life. There are numerous phenomena of discrimination acts that happened in society. For example, race discrimination which includes an unfair treatment given to a particular group because of their race or skin color. Another phenomena are gender and disability discrimination. It happens when there is inequality treatment

between women and men or when there is no facilities provided for disabilities people in public places and etc., respectively.

Discrimination occurs anytime and anywhere. For instance; in school, public transportation, workplace, public facilities, and some numerous places. It happens when an individual is different from the others or has certain characteristics that caused him to be degraded by others. As example, a black job applicant is not given a chance to qualify and proceed to the next stage by a company due to the skin color that he has, even though he has good qualifications for the job he is applying for, he cannot have the job. This implies that the black job applicant is discriminated because of his race or skin color. Another case is when a man goes to the hospital to get health services. Unfortunate for him, he gets a different treatment or service because he is defective. It displayed that a person is discriminated in public facilities (health service) because of his disability.

One of the countries known for its discrimination acts is America, where racial discrimination is most likely to happen. Racial discrimination means distinguishing people based on certain racial groups. Pager and Shepherd (2008) argued that racial discrimination is an unfair treatment that is given to a person or group because of their race or ethnicity. It means that race or ethnicity becomes the basis of racial discriminatory acts and unequal treatment. Therefore, racial discrimination occurs when an individual or group of a certain race are treated differently from another. For example, black people do not get the similar opportunity as white people in getting a promising job. Black people usually work as laborers and other heavy work while white people always get a decent job.

Racial discrimination in America began when the American took the African as slaves. As far as the history went back, slavery existed in America a long time ago. In societies with hierarchy, slaves are placed at the lowest level. Slavery in America was separated by some characteristics and one of the characteristics is racism (Coombs, 1972, p.30). Societies recognize that Americans' slaves were Africans which were considered as black people due to having black skin color. This indicates that racial basis is one of the characteristics of slavery in America. It is supported by Coombs (1972) with the statement "In America, with only a few early and insignificant exceptions, all slaves were Africans, and almost all Africans were slaves" (p.32). As specified by the previous statement, this is caused by the inferior label that was stamped on the Africans or black people and their cultures. It made white people believe in white superiority and black inferiority which also forced to be accepted by the black people themselves. Apart from that, even though slavery is over, the inferior label on black people cannot be removed since it has already integrated with the African race. It causes the black people were looked down on and often be the discrimination object by white people. Even at the present time, racial discrimination can still be found in American society and it is the most common issue that rife happens there.

There are plenty experiences of blacks to whites or vice versa in real life. One of the examples is Rosa Parks' case that became the symbol of the civil rights movement. As written in Zoom on America journal (2016), Rosa Parks was known as "the mother of the civil rights movement". She scored a great history about the civil rights movement in America. Her case is well-known as "Rosa

Parks and the Montgomery Bus Boycott". On December 1st in 1955, Rosa Parks was arrested because she refused to give her seat to a white man on a bus in Montgomery, Alabama. There was a city ordinance in Montgomery to separate passengers based on race and the most preferred was the whites. James Blake, the bus driver, asked Rosa Parks and some other black people to give their seats for the standing whites. The other blacks stood up and moved to the back except for Rosa Park. As a consequence of her defiance, she was arrested and charged with a violation of the segregation law of the Montgomery City code. Lots of people thought she did not give her seat because she was tired from her work at the day. Rosa herself then clarified that she was not tired physically. She just tired of giving in to them. As cited in Zoom in on America journal (2016) Rosa Parks said that:

“People always say that I didn’t give up my seat because I was tired, but that isn’t true. I was not tired physically, or no more tired than I usually was at the end of a working day. I was not old, although some people have an image of me as being old then. I was forty-two. No, the only tired I was, was tired of giving in.”(p. 2)

This act caused her to be sentenced as guilty and she had to pay a fine also court fee. The arrest of Rosa Parks caused a Bus Boycott by African-Americans throughout the city that occurred for 13 months. The simple act of Rosa Parks triggered nonviolent protests from the black community in Montgomery in 1955 which led to the end of segregation throughout the United States. Because of her courage, Rosa Parks became a symbol of resistance to segregation laws, defenders of human rights, and symbol of civil rights movements. This is one experience of

blacks to whites where they must always give in to whites and they would be punished if they disobeyed.

Related to racial issues, there are several of literary works that talk about racial discrimination. One of the literary works that displays racial discrimination acts is *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel. This work of Harper Lee was awarded the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Harper Lee, through this novel, told the readers about a society that lived in a social stratum in which racism and inequality to get the same chance has existed. This novel reflects racial discrimination between whites and blacks in America in the 1930s. The story is about a black man accused of raping a white woman without any strong evidence and just based on false testimony. The case of the black man became one of the racial discrimination issues. The court of this case appointed Atticus Finch, a lawyer, to defend the black man. Atticus which is from the white group agreed with the court's request. However, in that racial discrimination era, his choice became a disaster for him and his family. They were treated badly by other white people for his act of defending a black man. However, it did not stop him from helping the black man. This makes the novel is interesting to be analyzed. This novel presents the effort of white people in helping black people even though it is known that white people are a race who always does discrimination against black people.

Although racial discrimination is a common issue in America, it is interesting to conduct a research based on that issue, especially when the struggle for eliminating the racial discrimination is carried out by white people. By using genetic structuralism, which is the part of a sociological approach that linked the literary work with the phenomena that happened in society, it is fascinating to

analyze how the white struggle to abolish racial discrimination reflected in the novel using genetic structuralism approach. The racial discrimination issue in America caught the researcher's attention because it has adorned a long history in America and still continues to exist until now despite the declaration of eliminating the racial discrimination.

Research Question

The research question of this research is “How is the Abolishing Racial Discrimination by White People Reflected in *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel?”

Objective of Research

The objective of this research is to find out and describe how the abolition of racial discrimination by white people reflected in *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel using genetic structuralism.

Focus of Research

This research is focused on the case to analyze how the abolishing racial discrimination is by white reflected in *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel using genetic structuralism approach. This limitation is aim to get a specific result so that the analysis will be clear.

Significant of Research

At the end of this research, the results of this research related to the significant of this research are shown as follows.

First, the result of this research can help students in literature, especially when it comes to the way of how literary work is analyzed by using sociological approach. Analyzing literary work can aid students to build critical thinking because in analyzing literary work, the students are required to criticize or see the literary work from different point of views. Sociological approach is one of the approaches that is used to analyze literary work and related to social life. This research could transmit the knowledge to students about the relationship between literature and socio analysis, especially in genetic structuralism. Most importantly, this research can be used as a reference by students who decide to analyze literary work especially for those who plan to conduct a research with similar ground.

Second, this research provides an aid to students who love to analyze literary work such as novel, short story, poem, etc. This research can also be a reference for students in analyzing using sociological approach, genetic structuralism, and also can be a reference for lecturers to teach literature subjects. In real life, this research provides the fact about social life where racial discrimination happens between whites and blacks, and still exists in society until now. So, a proper knowledge about the issue is needed because it might help in creating a good relation in society. This research is not only a reference in how to analyze literary work by using a sociological approach, but also can be a reference to learn about culture and history.