

Chapter I

Introduction

Basic Consideration

Racial discrimination actually appears when the sentimental feeling of difference based on race (biological appearance) effect how someone acts. This is as what reflected in Marx's theory of racial, he stated that racial discrimination is all destruction caused by discrimination and inequality between a group of people and the others which also harm the political stability and nation-state unity (as cited in Loveman, 1999).

Historically, discrimination of race particularly in America is become one big issue centuries ago before the era of civil right movement by people like Martin Luther King Jr, Malcolm X and many other unwritten names. The effort of making racial discrimination also done by people who dares to fight in claiming their freedom, but racial discrimination is like a never ending story that always exists up until now. There are some shocking examples of racial discrimination done by some people who feel that they are difference based on race and biologic appearance. The latest case when a white American Policeman shot dead a black man on late December 2014. Then, the other case in South Caroline on June2015 when a 21st white guy shot dead nine black people in the church on the name of race (Republika.co.id). Also, the other case of racial discrimination even done by a leader of a country like what have done by the Israel Minister of Domestic Affairs' wife when she mentioned color to explain about the President of America, Barrack Obama. Event thought she clarifies that statement later, but

what she mentioned on internet social media is indicated racial discrimination when she said “Do u know what Obama Coffee is? Black and weak” (Republika.co.id). By this case, one big lesson taken is to be in a free racism world needs more people and more effort. Literature works are one clear and effective way. Like what wise words of American President Barrack Obama “at home or around the globe, we must continue to fight for human dignity and inalienable rights of every Person” (walkfree on facebook, 2015).

On the other hand, there are some memorable acts done by people who claim themselves as discriminates by race like Martin Luther King J.r, who speaks for freedom of his people through his speech. On 1964, with his *I Have a Dream* that he bravely said in his speech when he got a Nobel Prize, he catches thousands hearts (NSW Government, 2013). He shouted his voice of freedom and anti-racism beautifully in words.

Literature works actually has an aim to give enjoyment to the reader trough words (Khalida, 2013). In fact, words can affect people directly or indirectly.

"Words are powerful. As the Scriptures indicate, they can create and destroy, build and burn down, save and condemn. The triune God created and upholds us by his Word, redeems us by re-narrating our lives by his gospel, and directs us by his commands so that our words become more conformed to his Word." (Horton, M as cited in Piper and Taylor, 2009, p. 1).

His words affected some writers to produce works about discrimination of race. Maya is one of people who dare to publish her work in the name of freedom of

people of her race too. Even though there are a lot of authors who also show their interest into this huge topic and put it into very beautiful poem such as William Blake, William Wordsworth, Robert Frost, Rita Dove and etc, the fact that Maya Angelou is one of Martin friend that also had experience racial discrimination makes her become the perfect person to be search for. In addition, Maya Angelou's work is chosen from those many incredible literary works to be the object of this research.

This paper work discuss about Maya Angelou's famous poem *Caged Bird* and *Still I Rise*. Maya is a writer in the era of 1960s. She is an American author who was born on April 4th 1928 in Marguerite Ann Johnson, America. Raised as a black girl who had experienced racial discrimination, Most of her works reflected freedom, feminism, and definitely racial discrimination. She was active in the civil right movement on 1950s and the northern representative person of Martin Luther King's Christian leadership conference (The World's Poetry Archive, 2012). Maya strings up words and serves it perfectly in poem. For example, in her poem *Caged Bird Sing* at the line seven there is;

The caged bird sings

With fearful trill

Of the things unknown

But longed for still

And its tune is heard

On the distant hill for the caged bird

Sings of freedom

(I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Line 15-21).

In these lines, the writer expresses her desire to “sing” which interpreted as to sound out or tell what she thinks or feel “with fearful trill” that describe what she wanted people to know is forbid to be told. In addition, the last line “sings for freedom” clarified what the writer aims to tell is a freedom. In this poem, the writer use “caged bird, and its tune is heard, On the distant hill for the caged bird,” that make these poem clearly interpreted the writer express about the longing of “freedom” which indicated that she feels “discriminated”. In fact, Maya Angelou is one of poem writer who specifically wrote discrimination of women and race and there some people who interested to her poem analyze her works and find her words indicated her desire of freedom towards discrimination. What kind of discrimination that the writer intends? Indeed the explanation of this question would affect a flashback to the American literature history on 1960s, which is the era of the poem. Hence, this poem analyzed based on the historical background of the poem which called Historical Approach. However, Even this work explain about how person done a work about race based on her experience but this work is not stand in one side of race. Genetic structuralism was the theory in finding the interpretation of the words in the poem which reflected the social structure in the era of the poem. In other words, this research is only to analyze Maya’s work towards discrimination which used genetic structural analysis in analyzing content and historical background in supporting and emphasizing the social condition in the era of poems.

To sum up, based on that previous explanation the writer carry out a work entitled “An Analysis of Racial Discrimination in *Caged Bird* and *Still I Rise*” (A Poem Written by Maya Angelou).

Research Question

Based on the basic consideration, the question that arises is;

How does the portrayed of Racial Discrimination in two poems of Maya Angelou?

Objective of Study

Objective study of this research is to find out racial discrimination that reflected in poems of Maya Angelou, by analyzing *Caged Bird* and *Still I Rise*.

Delimitate of Study

This study will discuss about Maya Angelou’s poem, particularly her *Caged Bird* and *Still I Rise*. Those two poems will be explored by structural analysis and historical approach.

Significance of Study

These are the following significance study that carried out in this research.

1. This research hopefully would be one references study for students of English Department, Letters and Culture Faculty, State University of Gorontalo towards related study.
2. This study not only helpful for the students of English Department but also the other department Letter and Culture Faculty to be one of trusted reference. For instance, Pendidikan Bahasa Indonesia could use this as their pilot of study too because historical approach not only found in

English but also in Bahasa Indonesia. The other students could use this also as their additional information due to understand this kind of research.

3. For the educator to be additional reference related to the topic.
4. Finally, this work hopefully could be beneficial for the reader to find deeper information related to this study.