

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

To Kill A Mockingbird is a novel by Harper Lee. It is one of the best of Lee's works which was published in 1960. The setting of the story is in America. Her book has been sold in 10 million copies which has 296 pages (first edition). Since the original publication, the book has never been out of printed. The book is bestseller and wins a Pulitzer Prize. It also wins the Brotherhood Awards of the National Conference Christians and Jews. It is also made into the film in 1990, which quickly becomes a classic film. Based on the book occupies, it is as great American literature. The first, the book is initially titled *Atticus*, but she renames it when she sights the characters portraits. The title *To Kill A Mockingbird* has a little literal connection with the plot. It carries as a symbol of innocence. Thus, *To Kill A Mockingbird* is to destroy innocence. Throughout the novel, the characters Scout, Atticus, Jem, Tom Robinson, Dill, Boo Radley, and Mr. Raymond can be identified as mockingbirds.

Nelle Harper Lee was born in Monroeville; Alabama in 1926, when she was born there was racial segregation. She was as Truman Capote, the famous writer in Huntingdon College in Montgomery. She also studied law in University of Alabama. Lee spent two and a half years to write *To Kill A*

Mockingbird novel. Yet Lee disappeared and did not write other novel. She contributed in magazine article and essay.

The novel becomes a revered chronic of the South public. It is taught in all high schools in America and is regular subjects and speeches. But, since its being as lecture of classroom study, it has significant controversy. Some people such as in Canada and United State, attempt to remove the book from standard teaching. Their complaints are reasoned as overly sensitive or appropriateness to the students.

To Kill A Mockingbird novel probably is the novel that deals with the racial injustice in America. It narrowly refers to a legalized system of domination of one ethnic group to another. The novel includes warmth and humor, despite dealing with serious issue of rape and racial inequality. Lee also addresses the issue of class, courage and compassion, and gender roles in the American Deep South. Lee's novel is reviewed by at least 30 newspapers and magazines, whose critics varied in their assessments.

To Kill A Mockingbird novel tells about the Finch family for two years in a small Alabama. The narrator is Jean Louise or Scout ten years old. She lives with her brother, Jem. And Atticus Finch, Scout's father is a lawyer. The narration is based on her memorizes of the events leading, go to, during, and after her father's defense of a black man, Tom Robinson accused of raping a white woman, Mayella Ewell. Although many of Maycomb's citizens disapprove, Atticus agrees to defend Tom to the best of his ability. Scout, Jem and Dilly get much of experiences in their surrounding, about people, their

habit and house. Through Scout's inexperienced eyes, the reader encounters a world where people are judged by their race inherited ideas of right and wrong dominate, and justice that does not always prevail.

In the first story, Lee provides the Scout family and Alabama that have the discipline, clean, and the most of communities in Maycomb are old people, so Jem and Scout always to be attention in the town. Scout, Jem and Dill are very interesting with Boo Radley place that has strange guardian and horrible story. And it slowly runs out after finding the mysterious gifts Halloween from the big tree in Radley place. Having a task of their father, they also study the social problem from Atticus.

The big problem can influence Scout and Jem life when Atticus defends black man, Tom Robinson. They are slipped from their neighbors and also their friends always mock them. Because Jem also wants to be a lawyer like his father, he is very interested with Tom Robinson defense that is very difficult because his backgrounds. Although Atticus makes sure to the jury, judge, and other people by showing the proofs and prediction of real happen, but the final decision is on jury, the white men. After the first session, Jury decision is very disappointed, and Tom can not receive and desperate it. When he wants to escape from prison in the morning when sport time, he is killed. The police shoot him when Tom reaches the top of trial fence. After that, warm news about defending a nigger is slowly away, but when Scout and Jem are going home from Halloween party, someone tries to kill them. He is Mr. Ewell, father of Mayella Ewell. The prejudice reason

maybe is caused by desire to take a revenge Atticus's family. But Jem becomes cheers, he keeps Scout. And Mr. Ewell is killed by his knife.

Based on the characteristics, tensions, and conflicts, there are many racial injustices that are faced by Tom and Atticus and can influence Scout and Jem's safety. The victim of racial injustice in *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel is physically impaired that makes Tom can not commit the acts and ripple him, and until he is killed when he escapes from prison. It is as the example of some racial injustices which is illustrated by Lee. Racism is the belief that race is a primary determinant of human traits and capacities and those racial differences produce an inherent superiority of a particular race (<http://www.slate.com/id/2143319/>). And the product of the racism, the main idea in the novel is racial injustice. It is typically point out of taxonomic differences between different groups of people, although anyone may be injustice against on an ethnic or cultural basis (<http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/mockinng/>).

Motivated by the fact in the novel above, the researcher is interested in conducting the mayor theme of the *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel, namely racial injustice. Therefore, the researcher is using Marxist approach as the appropriate approach in this research. It is an approach which gives attention to the social stratification, discrimination, and racism, especially in racial injustices as the background of the story in the novel. The research is given a title: **Racial Injustice in the Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* Novel: A Marxist Approach.**

B. Literature Review

To Kill A Mockingbird is a famous novel by Harper Lee which contains many aspects that are interesting to be studied. Based on that, there is a researcher who studies on *To Kill A Mockingbird* Novel by using genetic structuralism approach. It is written by Arini (UMS: 2007). The research focuses on racism analysis by using genetic structuralism that views the historical and experience of the author.

The researcher will research about racial injustice in same novel, Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel. In this research, the researcher will analyze more deeply about racism. The researcher focuses in racial injustice in the novel by using a Marxist approach.

C. Problem of the Study

The problem of the study that researcher wants to analyze in the research is "How is racial injustice reflected in Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* by using a Marxist approach?"

D. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study based on the problem statement above are as follows:

1. To analyze the novel in term of its structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on the Marxist perspective.

E. Limitation of the Study

In this research, the writer only focuses on Tom Robinson problem and Scout family in the story of Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel by using a Marxist approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

1. Theoretical Benefit

This research will give contribution to the development of the large knowledge, particularly the literary study on Harper Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel, principally by a Marxist approach.

2. Practical Benefit

This research will increase the knowledge to the researcher on understanding about racial injustice and Marxist.

G. Research Method

In this research, the writer uses a library research by using restrictively qualitative method. In this study, the writer has some steps as follow:

1. Type of the Study

In analyzing *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel, the researcher uses the qualitative research. It is a type of research that does not need a statistic to collect the data.

2. Object of the Study

The object of the study is *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel, that the author is Harper Lee.

3. Type of the Data and The Data Source

In doing this study, the writer uses two sources of data, primary and secondary source. They are:

a. Primary Data Source

The primary data source is the *To Kill A Mockingbird* novel.

b. Secondary Data Source

The secondary data sources are the biography of author, the historical background of America, internet, and other relevant information that are related to the study.

4. Technique of The Data Collection

The method of data used in this research is documentation. The data from both primary and secondary sources are collected in the form of document used as evidence.

5. Technique of The Data Analysis

The writer employs descriptive analysis in analyzing the data through Marxist approach. Here, the writer tries to describe the structural elements of the novel and Marxist analysis. Hence, the collected data will

be interpreted and analyzed in detail through Marxist approach. It is by showing the racial injustice as the major object of the study to solve the problem statements of research, and getting equal right viewed by Marxist approach.

H. Research Paper Organization

The paper consists of six chapters which are presented as follows: Chapter I is introduction of the research that includes the background of the study, literary review, problem statement, limitation of the study, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research methodology and paper organization. Chapter II presents the underlying theory consist of Marxist theory, especially the nature of Marxist and the principle of Marxist includes historical materialism, dialectical materialism, class struggle, alienation, and revolution. Chapter III deals with the social background with all of the aspect of the social reality of the Southern State of America society in the early Twentieth century. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the novel by describing character and characterization, setting, a point of view, plot and theme of the novel and a brief discussion. Chapter V is Marxist Analysis deals with the problems in the novel. Chapter VI contains conclusion and suggestion.