

## **CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents the introduction of the research. It describes background of the study, previous study, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization.

### **A. Background of the Study**

Racism is the doctrine which emphasizes the importance of main characteristic of race which is used as a standard to make interaction between individual or groups (Soekanto, 1985:411). This is the popular problem on the country. There are many kinds of races such as in America. Usually racism is used to differentiate between white and black skins. The white skins are regarded as superior for all races so the black skins get injustice treatment. The black skins do not have the right to any form of opportunities enjoyed by the white skins. Black skins are seen as the pests that try to pollute the purity and superiority of the white skins. It makes black skins live uncomfortable in America. They want to fight against but they are afraid missing out their jobs.

One of movie that gives imagery of social lives is *The Help*. It is one of the most popular racial movies in America. *The Help* is an American drama film directed by Tate Taylor. *The Help* movie is released on August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2011 on blu-ray disc, DVD, and digital. It represented Jackson in 1960s. The movie is produced by DreamWorks Studios, distributed by Touchstone Pictures, edited by Hughes Winbome, music by Thomas Newman, and cinematography

by Stephen Goldblatt. The movie is adapted of Kathryn Stockett's novel (2009) with the same name. This film has three biggest actors: Viola Davis as Aibileen Clark, Octavia Spencer as Minny Jackson and Emma Stone as Skeeter. The movie uses English language and the duration is 146 minutes. The budget of making the movie is about \$25 million. *The Help* became the best movie on the box office for 25 days in a row and eventually because nearly \$200 million tickets were sold in the worldwide. In 2012, the movie received Academy Awards nominations including the Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for Octavia Spencer, Academy Award for Best Picture, Academic Award for best actress for Viola Davis and and Academy Award for Best Supporting Actress for Jessica Chastain.

Tate Taylor is an American actor, screenwriter, film producer and director. He was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. He was graduated from University of Mississippi prior. He works on a studio movie. He worked for 15 years in New York and Los Angeles. He has a best friend Kathryn Stockett, whom he has known since they were in preschool together in Jackson.

In 2004, Tate made his directorial debut with the critically acclaimed short movie, *Chicken Party*. It becomes the win in the eight festivals. He also released *Pretty Ugly People* movie. This is dark comedy that is shot on location in Montana's Glacier National Park, Chicago and Los Angeles. In spring of 2009, he released *Oil and Honey* dark comedy in Mississippi. In

summer 2009, he attached to direct *Road Signs* drama. He directed *The Help* movie in 2011. (<http://movies.yahoo.com/person/tate-taylor/biography.html>)

In this movie, racial discriminations are shown by the white women who become the employer toward the black women who become the maid. Every morning, the black women go to work together by bus but the white women go to office by car. White women work in the office but black women work in the house. There are differences of the facilities between the employer and the maid.

Aibileen is a maid of Leefolts's family. She was born in Chickasaw, Piedmont Plantation in 1911. She had thought that she would be a maid because her mother is a maid and her grandmother is a house slave. She became a maid since 14 years old. She was caring for seven teen children in her life, so she understood how to care the children. She takes care a baby named Moe Mobley. They are very intimate. She loves her like her daughter. She gives advice to Moe Mobley that "You are kind, you are smart, and you are important". She works from 8 am to 4 pm every 6 days a week. She gets wages \$ 182/month. Her employer treats her poorly. Her employer makes special bathroom for her in order to her daughter does not catch the disease. After the death of her son, Aibileen does not have the spirit for life. Her son died because he fell while carrying goods at the factory and then he crushed the truck. After she believes in God and the support from her best friend, she has the spirit for life again.

Aibileen's best friend is Minny Jackson. She was born in Belzoni, Mississippi. She is a brave woman and Mississippi's greatest chef. She is a maid of Mrs. Hilly's family. Mrs. Hilly treats her unjustly. Her employer is very grumpy and stingy. Mrs. Hilly prohibits her to defecate in her bathroom because she is afraid of disease. Mrs. Hilly knows that Minny pees in her toilet. She is very angry. She fires Minny. Then, Minny works in the Celia's family. She is so happy. Celia treats her well because she cannot cook. She learns cooking from Minny. Celia's husband does not know that Minny works in his family.

Aibileen meets Skeeter in the Hilly's home. Skeeter is a journalist. She works at the Jackson Journal. She does not have a boyfriend because she is very busy and cool. She decides to write a book from the point of view of the maids to expose racism. Skeeter requires Aibileen to help. Initially, Aibileen does not help her because she is afraid of being scolded by her friends. But because she wants to raise the degree of her community, she wants to help Skeeter. She invites her friends. Her friends are afraid but Aibileen persuades her friends. Eventually, her friends want to tell about the treatment from their employers. The book becomes a best seller. The employers buy and read the book. They are very angry. Because of the book, Aibileen gets an award from her community.

There is a Christmas Celebration at Mrs. Hilly's home. The maid is very busy to prepare the dishes for the event. But, their employers celebrate that moment enjoyable and fun. The employers order the maids to prepare the

foods and the drinks on the table. After the event, Hilly hatches a plan to depose Aibileen as Leefolt's maid. Aibileen is accused of stealing three kitchen utensils made of silver by Hilly. So, Aibileen is fired by her employer because she cannot prove that she does not steal.

The researcher chooses a sociological approach because it consists of the issue of her research. Sociological approach is close to phenomena in society and the concept of sociological theory is easy to understand not only by the writer but also the readers than other theories. Racial discrimination is the part of sociological theory.

There are four reasons why the researcher is so interested in studying this movie. The first is the structural elements. The title of the movie is interesting because it represents the story of the movie. Black skins need the help. The theme is popular and influential even in the following decades. The setting of the movie is superpower country in the world. The stars act up their characters well. The movie uses the familiar words and the pronunciation is clearly. So, the researcher can understand the story and the message that is conveyed through *The Help* movie easily.

Second, *The Help* movie has an attractive plot. The researcher wants to know more about plot in this movie. The plot makes the researcher interested, because the story of *The Help* is told in detail. The event that follows the story is the real of the event that happened in America. It has the causality from the previous event to the next event.

Third is the subject matter. *The Help* is a movie based on true story. The image that is based on true story makes this film more alive and has real soul. It can give the researcher and the reader more inspirations, awareness to social condition and think of problem solving to solve the social problem. The reason of the director to make this movie is to show the injustice in America.

The last is educational factor. It is to supply theoretical framework in the research of literature in the English Department, especially *UMS*. It gives positive contribution to the development of the large of knowledge and to enrich the literary study.

Based on the background above, the researcher is encouraged to entitle the research as following:

**RACIAL DRISCRIMINATION REFLECTED IN TATE TAYLOR'S  
*THE HELP* MOVIE (2011): A SOCIOLOGICAL APROACH**

**B. Previous Studies**

The study on *The Help* movie is first being conducted in this research paper due to its latest publication, it is in 2011. The researcher researches through local and digital libraries and found none of it. Library of *UNS*, *IAIN*, *UGM* have reported zero call on the research of *The Help* movie. Thus, this study is first ever conducted at least in *UMS*.

### **C. Problem Statement**

Based on the phenomena mentioned above, the researcher formulates the problem of the study is “How is the racial discrimination reflected in *The Help* movie (2011)?”

### **D. Limitation of the Study**

In this research paper, the researcher focuses on describing racial discrimination that is reflected in *The Help* movie (2011) using a sociological approach.

### **E. Objective of the Study**

Based on the research problems, the researcher formulates the objective of the study in the following:

1. To analyze racial discrimination in Tate Taylor’s *The Help* movie (2011) based on structural elements.
2. To analyze against racial discrimination in Tate Taylor’s *The Help* movie (2011) based on sociological analysis.

### **F. Benefit of the Study**

From this research, the researcher hopes that this study has the benefits that are divided into theoretical and practical benefit, they are as follows:

### **1. Theoretical Benefit**

The researcher hopes this result can be useful as references, contribution and additional information to the larger body of knowledge especially for the literary study on *The Help* movie.

### **2. Practical Benefit**

The result of this research hopefully enriches the researcher's knowledge and her experience dealing with sociological approach in deeper. Then, it is also hoped that it can be useful input for the other researcher in analyzing *The Help* movie into different approach.

## **G. Research Method**

The research method is divided into five subs, namely (1) type of the study, (2) object of the research, (3) type of the data and the data source, (4) technique of the data collection, and (5) technique of the data analysis.

### **1. Type of the Study**

In doing this research, the researcher uses qualitative research because she intends analyzing the structural element on *The Help* movie and describing the racial discrimination reflected in *The Help* movie.

Based on Moleong (1991:3) descriptive qualitative is a type of a research, which results the descriptive data in the forms of written or oral from observed people or behaviors. The objective is to describe the actual uses of language for communication. The nature is not to test or prove, but to explore and to describe.

## **2. Object of the Study**

The object of this research is Tate Taylor's *The Help* movie. In conducting the research, the researcher is going to analyze it by using a sociological approach.

## **3. Type of the Data and the Data Source**

There are two types of data, namely Primary Data Source and Secondary Data Source as follows:

### **a. Primary Data Source**

The primary data source is *The Help* movie. This movie was released on August 10, 2011 in Jackson, Mississippi by Tate Taylor.

### **b. Secondary Data Source**

The secondary data sources are books or any information related to racial discrimination.

## **4. Technique of the Data Collection**

The writer uses documentation as the method of collecting the data in this research. The steps are as follows:

a. Watching the movie repeatedly.

b. Taking notes of important parts both primary and secondary data.

c. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category.

d. Selecting particular parts considered important and relevant for analysis.

e. Drawing conclusion and formulate its pedagogical suggestion.

## **5. Technique of the Data Analysis**

In analyzing the data, the researcher applies a descriptive analysis. The steps taken by the writer in analyzing the data are as follows: the first in analyzing the data based on its structural elements. Focus will be paid on the structural analysis of the movie. The second step is analyzing the data based on sociological approach. Focus will be paid on the meaning of racial discrimination.

## **H. Research Paper Organization**

This research paper organization of Racial Discrimination in Tate Taylor's *The Help* movie (2011) using A Sociological Approach is divided into six chapters. Chapter I deals with introduction that covers the background of the study, literature review, limitation of the study, problem statement, objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method and research paper organization. Chapter II covers with the underlying theory that consists of describing sociology of literature containing major principle in sociology of literature, notion structural element and also theoretical application. Chapter III concerns with social background of American society in late 20<sup>th</sup> century until the beginning 21<sup>st</sup> century. Chapter IV deals with structural analysis containing the structural elements of the movie and discussion. Chapter V presents sociological analysis. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion.