CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

*To Kill a Mockingbird* was published on July 11, 1960. It was published by J.B. Lippincott Company. It has 285 pages and copyright renewed on 1998, published by arrangement with McIntosh and Otis, Inc. Country America, language English, scanned & proofed 30 March, 2005, html proofed and formatted to version 2.0. The author of this novel is Nelle Harper Lee. The primary theme of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is racial injustice. Racial injustice is a condition where people get different treatment because of their race. Nelle Harper Lee is an author who pays attention to the problem of injustice. She thinks that injustice must be erased, so she wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird*.

Nelle Harper Lee was born and raised in Monroeville, Alabama. She was the youngest of four children of Amasa Coleman Lee and Frances Finch Lee. Lee was educated in the University Of Alabama. She studied law and contributed to several campus publications. *To Kill a Mockingbird* became her first and last novel. Because of her novel, she got Pulitzer Award 1961 and Presidential Medal of Freedom 2007. She lives in New York now. (Syahrani, 2009: 07)

The story begins when Scout was nearly six and her brother Jem was nearly ten in Maycomb, Alabama. They are being raised by their father
Atticus Finch. Scout, Jem, and their friend Dill are curious to a man named Boo Radley because he never leaves his house. Their live change when their father decides to take on a case involving a black man named Tom Robinson. Tom has been accused of raping a white girl named Mayella Ewell. The whole town seems against the Finch family. They face harsh criticism because of Atticus’ decision to defend Tom.

Atticus was lost the case. Tom Robinson is sent to a work prison to await another trial, but before Atticus can get him to court again, Tom is shot for trying to escape the prison. It seems that the case is finally over and life returns to normal. Meanwhile, Mr. Ewell threatens Atticus and other people connected with the trial because he feels he was humiliated. He gets his revenge one night while Jem and Scout are walking home from the Halloween play at their school, but Boo Radley stabs Mr. Ewell and saves the children.

Since its publication, To Kill a Mockingbird has been enormously popular with the reading public and has sold millions of copies. The initial critical response to Lee’s novel was mixed. Many reviewers said that this novel is great. “To Kill a Mockingbird was an astonishing first novel. It was publised in 1960 and in the following year won three awards: the Pulitzer, the Alabama Literary Association Award and the Brotherhood Award of the National Conference of Chirstian and Jews. It also won the Best Seller’ Paperback of the Years Award for 1962. It has sold millions of copies and had been translated in to many languages” (Hardrace, 1976: 5-6). Others,
however, found fault with Lee’s use of narrative voice, asserting that she fails to effectively integrate the voice of the adult Scout with the childish perspective of the young girl who narrates much of the novel.

There are five reasons why the writer is interested in studying this novel. First, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is an interesting title of novel. Why is the book called *To Kill a Mockingbird*? Does it the literal meaning or figurative meaning? It is vague, so the reader wonder what the title means. Then they would make the meaning clearer by reading the novel. Although the title of this novel is *To Kill a Mockingbird* it is not a novel that tells about bird. The title of *To Kill a Mockingbird* comes from something both Atticus and Miss Maudie tell Jem and Scout: “It’s a sin to kill a mockingbird”. The mockingbird comes to represent true goodness and purity. Tom Robinson is one example of a human “mockingbird”. Boo Radley is another example of a human “mockingbird”. The mockingbird represents true goodness and innocence that should always be protected.

The second interesting point of this novel is the characters. One of the most important aspects of writing a novel is the characters. Every author has their own way of creating characters. Lee’s characters hold the reader’s attention so they keep turning those pages looking for what is going to happen next; what the character will do next. There are so many characters that appealed the readers, and it would be the main character such as: Jean Louise Finch, Jeremy Atticus Finch, Atticus Finch, or Arthur “Boo” Radley. Characters in this novel are based on Lee’s personal experience. She
describes the characters clearly. The reader is always reminded of the characters in this novel.

The third is the setting. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is set in Maycomb County, an imaginary town in southern Alabama. This fictional town is made up for this story, and does not exist in real life. The period of the story of *To Kill A Mockingbird*, some 30 years before the growth of the Civil Right movement is the tie of a New Deal, the name given to the social and economic policies introduced by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in 1933 to meet the acute depression which had begun in 1929 after widespread series of bank failures. (Hardrace, 1976: 8). By making use of fictional towns, as opposed to using a real one, Harper Lee has a much greater freedom to write her story. Through the setting of this novel we may learn Americans society, especially Southern State of America in the 1930s.

The fourth is the point of view. The first-person narrator is Scout Finch, who is five when the story begins and eight when it ends. Writing from a child’s point-of-view is not easy. For the most part, Scout recounts the events from her childhood perspective. Scout’s narration usually doesn’t comment much on the action. It just presents what happens as a series of facts. Scout is also a fairly neutral character as she doesn’t have any of this prejudice and this means the reader is able to see the events as they truly happened, as young Scout does not prejudice about the things that happen in her thoughts as she is still learning and hasn’t had enough experience to even think about discriminating as the main influence she has is of her father who is also a
very moral man. As a child Scout narrate the story naively and that makes the novel interesting.

Fifth, *To kill a mockingbird* is a story that has many themes. The primary theme of the novel is against racial injustice. A literary work should have a message for the readers. It conveys a message that the racial injustice must be erased, because all people of all races are equal before the law. Through her novel, miss. Lee wants to against racial injustice. She represents the message through Atticus Finch. He is the major character in this novel. Atticus fights against racial injustice, he defends a nigger named Tom Robinson. Although Atticus lost the case, he did a good work. It can be seen through the jury’s lengthy deliberation period. Usually, such a trial would be decided immediately. Atticus is brave to defend a black man in the face of whole town criticism.

Therefore, based on the racial injustice, the writer will analyze Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird* using A Sociological Approach. The writer interested to analyze this novel with the title “AGAINST RACIAL INJUSTICE IN HARPER LEE’S *TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD* NOVEL (1960): A SOCIOLOGICAL APPROACH”
B. Literature Review

In order to make this research valid, the writer takes some literature review to support the writer’s research. Novita Indriana (2011) wrote “Analysis of Twentieth Century Southern American Society Reflected in Harper Lee’s To Kill A Mockingbird”. The writer of this research explores the characters, actions, and behaviors through sociological approach to literature. There are two research questions proposed. The first is what are the historical background of the novel. The second is how the social tensions in the novel reflected to the American South and social change in the 1930s. The objective of this research is to examine how the novel reflected Southern American society. The sources used in this research are in the form of written documents. In her research she wants to know how the novel reflected Southern American society. At the end of her research, she found that Harper Lee Succeed in expressing her childhood experiences through the novel and portrayed accurately some important issues in America during 1930’s.

Fauziah Arini (2007) wrote “Racism in Harper Lee’s To Kill A Mockingbird: A Genetic Structuralism Approach”. This research is about identifying the racism in Harper Lee novel, To Kill A Mockingbird. The problem of this study is how racism is reflected in Harper Lee’s To Kill A Mockingbird. The objective of this study is to analyze the novel based on the structural elements. This study belongs to qualitative method. In this method, there are two types of data source, namely primary and secondary data source. The primary data source is the novel itself, meanwhile the secondary
data source is any literature related to the study. The researcher collects the
data from both primary and secondary data source in a short of document as
evidence. The study uses library research of descriptive analysis. The study
has four findings. First, in genetic perspective, a literary creation is a
meaningful response of the writer toward particular social reality where the
author lives. Second, in *To Kill A Mocking Bird*, Harper Lee creates structural
elements that are over character and characterization, setting, plot, point of
view, theme and style to make a whole unity. Third, Harper Lee’s view is a
response toward racism, which happened in America in the mid twentieth
century. The last finding shows that racism that remained until the mid
twentieth century brought a contradictory response of white people and black
people.

Different from the research conducted by Novita Indriana and Fauziah
Arini. In this research the writer want to know how racial injustice reflected
in Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird*. This study is focused to study racial
injustice faced by Blacks in the novel.

C. Problem Statement

Regarding the title and background of the study clarified above, The
major problem of the studying is “How racial injustice is reflected in Harper
Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird*. 
D. Limitation of the Study

The writer will make a limitation in accordance with the discussion of the problem. This study will be focused to study racial injustice faced by Blacks in Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird* using sociological perspective.

E. Objective of the Study

The objectives of the study will be as follows:

1. To analyze the novel based on the structural elements.
2. To analyze the novel based on the sociological approach.

F. Benefit of the Study

The result of the study is expected to give benefit as follows:

1. Theoretically, to give contribution to the body of knowledge, particularly the aspect of sociological literary study.
2. Practically, to give benefit to the researcher in understanding Harper Lee’s *To Kill A Mockingbird* from Sociological perspective.

G. Study Method

1. Type of Research

   In analyzing this novel, the writer uses qualitative method in the form of library research.
2. Type of Data and Data Source

The writer uses two kinds of data source, there are primary and secondary data source.

a. Primary data source

The primary data is taken from the novel *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee.

b. Secondary data source

The secondary data are taken from other references, such as books or internet that have relation to the study.

3. Technique of Data Collection

The method of data collection is library research. In collecting data, the writer will takes some steps as follow:

a. Reading the novel repeatedly to get deep understanding.

b. Reading some related books to find out the theory, data, and information required.

c. Taking notes of important part in both primary data and secondary data sources.

d. Arranging the data into several parts based on its classification.

e. Analyzing the data.

f. Drawing conclusion based on the analyzing data.

4. Technique of Data Analysis

In analyzing data, the writer uses descriptive technique. The technique is used to describe the elements of the novel and make some
understanding toward the novel. The writer identifies the relationship between the novel and the sociological background of the twentieth century American society in the sociological perspective.

H. Study Paper Organization

This research paper consists of six chapters. Chapter I is introduction dealing with background of the study, literature review, problem statement, limitation of the study, the objective of the study, benefit of the study, research method, and paper organization. Chapter II contains underlying theory. It deals with the notion of sociology of literature, types of sociology of literature, structural element of the novel, and theoretical application. Chapter III presents the social historical background that consist of social, economic, political, science and technology, cultural, and religious aspect. Chapter IV is the structural analysis of the novel, as character and characterization, setting, plot, point of view, style, and theme. Chapter V is the sociological analysis of the novel. Chapter VI is conclusion and suggestion of the research.