

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

Racism is relation in a society of a race-based worldview with prejudice, labelling and discrimination. Racism can be happened in social actions, practices, or political systems which are support the expression of prejudice or dislike in unfair practices. It is would be ocured in all around the world. But most of them happened in America especially when it is still in 90's century era. At that time many of "negro" have diversification in all aspects than "white man".

In 1930s racism was not illegal in America, still widespread at the time. Whites and blacks were separated and blacks were considered as 2nd class societies. Black people must to paid less than white and work harder than everyone else, often given the more 'dirty work'. Then black people wanted to change the way they were treated but it was very difficult to do this, because these were a number of laws in America compulsory between 1876 and 1965 that gave a legal basis for separating and differentiating against Africans-Americans.

Nowadays, in 20's century racism have any difference in some reason in america. News.mic did a research about this and in a statistics. These reveal disparate dimensions of racism as it exists in the United States today and a stark reminder of how far the country needs to go in the problem. Firstly, Hate crimes are inspired by race more than anything. The second is black men are far more liable to be shot and killed by police than white men. Third, there are involved hate groups in every single part. Fourth blacks always earn less than whites. And the last racial partiality is established in freedom.

Harper Lee is a *To Kill A Mockingbird* author. She was born on April 28, 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama. She has best known for writing the *Pulitzer Prize-winning novel To Kill a Mockingbird (1960)*. The youngest of four children, she

grew up as a tomboy in a small town. Her father was a lawyer, a member of the Alabama state legislature and her mother suffered from mental illness, rarely leaving the house. It is believed that she may have had bipolar disorder.

To Kill A Mockingbird takes place during three years (1933–1935) in the fictional "tired old town" of Maycomb, Alabama, the seat of Maycomb County. Racism in this novel Tom Robinson problem character. Tom Robinson that accused a white girl. At the time has differentiate for all aspects between a negro man and white man. But in this novel a lawyer, Atticus Finch is a brave man want to help the negro in the court. But as long as in this case many of them against to racism because they are dislike to a negro man which are in 19th century was happened injustice. Actually this novel based on story life of the author, Harper Lee. In this story Harper Lee as Scout Finch.

Judge Taylor appoints Atticus to defend Tom Robinson, a black man who has been accused of raping a young white woman, Mayella Ewell. Although many of Maycomb's citizens disapprove, Atticus agrees to defend Tom. Other children taunt Jem and Scout for Atticus's actions, calling him a 'nigger-lover'. Atticus establishes that the accusers Mayella and her father, Bob Ewell, the town drunk are lying. It also becomes clear that the friendless Mayella made sexual advances toward Tom, and that her father caught her and beat her.

Despite significant evidence of Tom's innocence, the jury convicts him. Jem's faith in justice becomes badly shaken, as is Atticus, when the hapless Tom is shot and killed while trying to escape from prison. Despite Tom's conviction, Bob Ewell is humiliated by the events of the trial, Atticus explaining that he destroyed. Ewell vows revenge, spitting in Atticus' face, trying to break into the judge's house, and take Tom Robinson's widow. Finally, he attacks the defenseless Jem and Scout while they walk home on a dark night after the school Halloween pageant.

One of Jem's arms is broken in the struggle, but amid the confusion someone comes to the children's rescue. The mysterious man carries Jem home, where Scout realizes that he is Boo Radley. Sheriff Tate arrives and discovers that Bob Ewell has died during the fight. The sheriff argues with Atticus about the prudence and ethics of charging Jem (whom Atticus believes to be responsible) or Boo (whom Tate believes to be responsible). Atticus eventually accepts the sheriff's story that Ewell simply fell on his own knife.

There are main reasons I decide to choose this novel as the object of this research. First, *To Kill A Mockingbird* is an inspirational novel for all people. Because this novel not only tells about a child but also about how a parent teaches a good perspective of diversification in all aspects.

Second, this novel is a real story of the author, Harper Lee. Which are Scout Finch as Harper Lee when she was a child. At the time Atticus Finch, father of Scout Finch, always gave more detailed answers to all her questions. On the other side, Atticus always looks so patient and calm when he has many problems in his job. The last reason is I want to share about social justice which happened in 1960 while at the time racism is still common in societies.

Based on all of the descriptions above, I propose to conduct a research entitled **“Reader Response to Racism in Harper Lee’s novel : *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1960).”**

B. Problem Statement

Based on the Background of the Study, the researcher is intended to analyze several problems of How is Readers Support to Racism in Harper Lee’s Novel : *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1960) such as:

- 1) What dominant issues are responded by the readers ?

- 2) How is the relation between the issues and the background of the readers ?
- 3) What is the reason reader disagree on racism ?
- 4) Why the readers interested in racism issues ?

C. Limitation of the Study

I focus on the research in analyzing How is Reader Response to Racism in Harper Lee's Novel : *To Kill A Mockingbird* (1960).

D. Objectives of the Study

Conducting the research, the researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows :

- 1) To analyze the dominant issues are responded by the readers.
- 2) To know the relation between the issues and the background of the readers.
- 3) To know the reason of reader response interested in racism issues.
- 4) To know a reason the readers interested in racism issues.

E. Benefit of the Study

The researcher hope that it can give benefits as follows :

1. Theoretical Benefits

The result of this study is expected to be able to give much information about Racism in real life and can be a good contribution for academic references. In addition it is would be a additional object in literature.

2. Practical Benefits

The study is expected to increase knowledge and experience of the researcher. It is can be applied for a real life to appreciate a contradiction in all aspects.

F. Paper Organization

This research paper organization of *Reader Response to Racism in Harper Lee's novel : To Kill A Mockingbird* (1960) is as follows:

Chapter I is introduction, which consists of background of study, problem statement including research question; limitation of the study; objective of the study; benefit of the study, and paper organization.

Chapter II concerns with Reader Response of Literature, underlying theory, previous studies.

Chapter III is research method. It deals with types of study, types of data and data source, data collection method, data analyzing technique.

Chapter IV describes the problem statement analysis and discusses the analysis with the psychosocial theory.

Chapter V elaborates conclusion and suggestion.