

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

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

Literature is an expression of the experience and imagination in real life and written in the form of literature as literary work. According to Taylor (2007:24) literature consists of those works which interpret the meanings of nature and life, touched with the personality of the author, in artistic forms of permanent interest. Klarer (2004:56) states that in most cases, literature is referred to as the entirety of written expression, with the restriction that not every written document can be categorized as literature in the more exact sense of the word. The term literature is more focused and restricted to merely imaginative works, which comes up from the imaginative mind of the story writers.

One part of the literary works is novel; the novel is a literary work that tells the story of human life. Taylor (2007:46) states that “novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct”. In a novel, there is a topic that is told as experience or imagination of the author. Literary works, especially novel mostly tell about the social life of a character with its surroundings, and novel is experience or imagination from the social life of author, social life is important contained in a literary work.

Social life and social classes among humans are different. The existence of social classes in society is evidenced by the presence of the suppression of inter-group differences in social class. Social class differences are caused by different races, for example, the white and black race. Marx (1967:31) states that in the development of social life, racial conflict contains of theoretical on the process. It considered the problem of divisions within the working class and the nature of national oppression the ground for later versions of Marxism and their approaches to race.

Racism is a common problem faced by most people, especially in America, they are still distinguishing mark white and black people. Racism is to distinguish a person's background based on the biological and sociological aspects, on the biological aspects, distinguished by physical, or skin color, whereas on the sociological aspect of a human is distinguished not a physical state. They consider the race of a type of humans is as seen in their appearances such as skin color, hair color, the shape of the nose, and eyes (Smedley, 2005:75). Meanwhile, based on the sociological aspect the forms of racism are economics, law, culture, behavior, customs, and the treatment of fellow human beings.

Racial differences greatly affect the treatment of those who feel superior, one of which is the racial injustice that occurs among humans. Racial injustice is when people are denied rights based on their race or racial background, an example of racial injustice can be seen in racial segregation, which is the practice of restricting people to particular areas of residence or institutions such as schools and churches due to the race of the person. Racial injustice in America is indicated by unfair law and legal process to black people. Blacks are not allowed to vote for presidents and express public opinion. This shows that the voting system in America is based on race (Simpson and Yinger, 1985:34). Blacks do not have rights to vote in the electoral process because their race is black.

The researcher would like to examine the racial injustice that occurred in the United States and a legal ruling that granted the court against Blacks, therefore the researcher chose the *Go Set a Watchman* novel as an object of the research. Lee wrote *Go Set a Watchman* novel based on the social conditions prevailing in the United States in the 19th century. Social conditions prevailing in the *Go Set a Watchman* novel is a racial injustice committed by whites against blacks in the decision in court. In the 1960s in Maycomb, Alabama, Southern America occurred racism, racism in America occurred to differences skin color, there were black and white. Historical background of racism that occurred in America in the 1960s caused by

several factors, these factors are social life, economic life, political life, legal process, and education.

Lee wrote a novel on the grounds of her personal experience in Alabama, at the time the differences of race and discrimination is very often the case in the Alabama society. She also tells the main character of her novel, she's Jean Louise Finch (Scout), a woman who defied her father, because her father did legal injustices against blacks in court. Harper Lee also adds stories about the legal conditions in the United States based on her experience living in Alabama, United States. Harper Lee is one of the woman writers who want to show the readers of the novel that injustice because of race occurs in the place of her life, she also dared to say that black people different from them (whites) passing through one of the characters in the novel.

*Go Set a Watchman* novel was published on July 14, 2015, this novel get into 'The New York Times Best Sellers', and has sold over 3.3 million copies in the United States. The author of the novel is Nelle Harper Lee, she was born on April 28, 1926, in Monroeville, Alabama, United States. She was the youngest of four children of Amasa Coleman Lee and Frances Finch Lee, her father was a lawyer and newspaper's editor in Alabama. Lee was educated at the University of Alabama. She studied law and contributed to several campus publications. She is the author of the world's legendary "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" novel, which has received numerous awards including the "Pulitzer Prize 1961" and the "Presidential Medal of Freedom 2007". Written in the mid-1950s, *Go Set a Watchman* is a first draft submitted to the publisher prior to Harper Lee *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel.

*Go Set a Watchman* novel tells the story of racism that occurred in Alabama, Shouthern America, Harper Lee wrote this novel because of the injustice that occurs between the black people and the white people at the time. Harper Lee is an author who pays attention to the problem of racial injustice. She thinks that racial injustice must be erased, so she wrote *Go Set a Watchman* novel, this novel imparts a fuller, richer understanding and

appreciation of Harper Lee. Here is an unforgettable novel of wisdom, humanity, passion, humor, and effortless precision a profoundly affecting work of art that is both wonderfully evocative of another era and relevant to our own times, it not only confirms the enduring brilliance of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, but also serves as its essential companion, adding depth, context, and new meaning to an American classic.

Jean Louise Finch or Scout who was on holiday in his hometown greeted by Henry his childhood friend, now she has become a prodigy than Atticus. Scout is back to Maycomb, Alabama to visit Atticus, her father. Scout must struggle to overcome personal issues and politics of his father in her small town. Scout someday inadvertently peep people of Maycomb council meeting where Atticus and Henry included. Scout is surprised how racist views toward blacks freely and vulgar presented at the meeting, and she was angry because Atticus and Henry are not saying anything against such exposure. Atticus who raised Scout with the principle does not discriminate against people on the basis of his skin color, now draw a line to where she can tolerate blacks in their daily lives. She felt in lying by her own father. A man who had been praised and admired her because of what happened twenty years ago become different attitude in dealing with similar issues. Scout also hit because of Calpurnia, black people who raised her since her mother passed away and see her as another white person. The novel is essentially telling it, how the idealism of a young woman that she got from her father that she adored, trampled by the fact the environmental conditions at the time and by the closest people, including her own father. To worship against her father finally destroyed, and accept that the father also ordinary people who have to adjust her circumstances, and how that racism did exist and must be accepted by her. Scout tells how to accept and adapt to change and tumultuous events shaping America in the mid-1960s, *Go Set a Watchman* novel provides a new view of Harper Lee's classic tale. Evocative, funny and kicked off the social fabric of American society at the time. The plot is a bit slow, the book reached the top of the plot in the last third of the story.

Based on the condition that occurs in the *Go Set a Watchman* novel the researcher decides to use a Marxist Criticism to research and analyze this novel. Marxist Criticism starts with a conviction that art's relations to social classes are vitally important and that the investigation of these relationships may organize and deepen one's aesthetic response to a work of art. The researcher is going to research a social condition in the novel, the social condition is racial injustice in Southern America in the 1960s.

Racial injustice means discrimination of race based on social, economic and political, based on these conditions, the researcher uses the Karl Max theory to analyze *Go Set a Watchman* novel. Marxist is a cultural theory that embodies a set of social, economic, and political ideas that its followers believe will enable them to interpret and change their world (Hay 2001:31). Marxist is a form of dialectical materialism which states that all matter is fundamentally social reality which has its origin in a different form. Marxist literary theory can be used as one of the key to analyze the phenomena of cultural, economic and social. In this study, the researcher will examine the social life in the *Go Set A Watchman* novel by Harper Lee.

Marxist criticism is not merely a 'sociology of literature', concerned with how novels get published and whether they mention the working class. Its aim is to explain the literary work more fully, and this means a sensitive attention to its forms, styles, and meanings. Marxist theory talks about the capitalism that happens to the lower class, this theory firstly introduced by Karl Marx. In 1960s capitalism happens to the lower class in Alabama, South America.

Kolakowski (1975:37) stated, "For Marxism, getting and keeping economic power is the motive behind all social and political activities, including education, philosophy, religion, government, the arts, science, technology and so on". We can see that Marxist is a theory which focuses on the motive behind the power of the economic system. In this analysis, the researcher focuses on the hegemony by Antonio Gramsci. The problem in this novel is specifically about the class conflict between the lower and the upper

class. The upper class is more dominant than the lower class. They give everyday practice and share beliefs for them. They also provide the foundation for a complex system of the domination. All Marxist literary theory has the same simple premise that literature can only be understood in a larger frame of social reality (Jefferson & Robey, 1986: 43). Marxist literary theory expected to reveal the social class conflict that occurs in the community, in this case, social class to be studied is racial injustice in the termination of legal action by the leaders of the highest court against Blacks.

The researcher is going to study the social circumstances that occurred in America in the mid-1960s with Marxist Criticism. This study uses a Marxist theory focusing on the hegemony by Antonio Gramsci, the social situation is racial injustice between white and black people. Thus the researcher write a research entitled: **RACIAL INJUSTICE REFLECTED IN HAPER LEE'S *GO SET A WATCHMAN* NOVEL (2015): A MARXIST CRITICISM.**

## **B. Problem Statement**

Based on the title and background of the study that has been described above, the main problem faced is the racial injustices experienced by black Americans in particular injustice in sentencing. Based on the problem statement, the researcher formulates the research questions as follows:

1. How is racial injustice reflected in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* novel?
2. What causes racial injustice in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* novel?

## **C. Objectives of the Study**

The researcher formulates the objectives of the study as follows:

1. To describe how racial injustice is reflected in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* novel.
2. To explain the causes of racial injustice in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* novel.

**D. Limitation of the Study**

The researcher focuses this research in analyzing racial injustice in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* novel (2015) on Marxist Criticism.

**E. Benefit of the Study**

The results of this study have several benefits, the benefits provided are;

**1. Theoretical Benefit**

The result of the study is expected to give a contribution to the body of knowledge, and contribution to the larger of knowledge particularly the aspect of the Marxist literary study, a Marxist criticism especially related racial injustice reflected in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* novel.

**2. Practical Benefit**

The researcher hopes that this research will give benefit to the researcher in understanding the approach, especially for literature students in English Department, it also references for students when they are interested to study with similar topic, it can provide information to increase their knowledge in analyzing the literary work especially *Go Set A Watchman* novel by Harper Lee using Marxist Criticism.

**F. Paper Organization**

This research paper "Racial Injustice Reflected in Harper Lee's *Go Set A Watchman* novel (2015): A Marxist Criticism" is elaborated in sixth chapters. Chapter I is an introduction. It consists of background of the study, problem statement, the objective of the study, benefits of the study and research paper organization. Chapter II is a literature review. It presents about underlying theory and previous study. Chapter III is research method. It is dealing with the type of the research, object of the research, type of data and data source, method of collecting data and technique of analyzing data. Chapter IV is a historical background. It consists of the conditions of United

States in 1960s, the conditions consists of social conditions, ecoomic life, political life, legal process in United States and the education life. Chapter V is an analysis of the research paper. In this chapter, the researcher will analyze the racial injustice in Harper Lee's *Go Set a Watchman* novel and the racial injustice reflection in 1960s Southern America. The researcher used the Marxist Criticism to analyze the racial injustice in this novel. Chapter VI is conclusion. This chapter consists of conclusion, implication and suggestion for the future researcher and the readers.