

**RACISM REFLECTED IN *COLOUR BLIND* NOVEL (1968) BY
CATHERINE COOKSON: CRITICAL RACE THEORY**



**Submitted as a Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements
for Getting Bachelor Degree of Education
in English Department**

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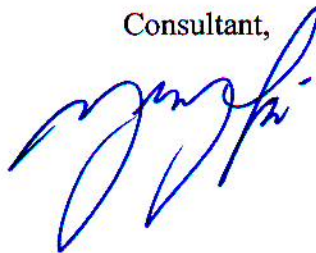
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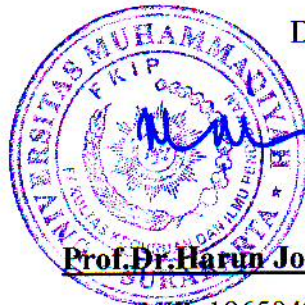

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The Researcher



Robiah Al Adawiyah

RACISM REFLECTED IN *COLOUR BLIND* NOVEL (1968) BY CATHERINE COOKSON: CRITICAL RACE THEORY

Abstrak

Penelitian ini adalah studi tentang rasisme tercermin dalam novel *Colour Blind* (1968) oleh Catherine Cookson dilihat dari teori ras kritis. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk menganalisis rasisme yang tercermin dalam novel *Colour Blind* (1968) oleh Catherine Cookson berdasarkan teori ras kritis. Metode pengumpulan data dilakukan dengan menganalisis dan menafsirkan secara deskriptif sedangkan teknik analisis data adalah teknik deskriptif. Hasil dari penelitian ini adalah: 1) Peneliti menemukan indikator rasisme dalam Warna Buta seperti yang terlihat dari teori ras kritis oleh Richard Delgado dan Jean Stefancic (2001). 2) Peneliti menggambarkan rasisme yang terjadi dalam novel *Colour Blind*. 3) Penulis mengambil isu "rasisme" karena pada tahun itu diskriminasi adalah perlakuan tidak adil yang biasanya terjadi oleh kelompok mayoritas terhadap kelompok minoritas yang mengarah pada rasisme dalam masyarakat.

Kata kunci: rasisme, novel, *Colour Blind*

Abstract

This research is the study of racism reflected in *Colour Blind* novel (1968) by Catherine Cookson viewed from critical race theory. The purpose of this research is to analyze the racism reflected in *Colour Blind* novel (1968) by Catherine Cookson based on critical race theory. Method of data collection is conducted by analyzing and interpreting descriptively while the techniques of data analysis is a descriptive technique. The results of this research are: 1) The researcher finds the indicators of racism in *Colour Blind* as seen from critical race theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (2001). 2) The researcher describes the racism happened in the novel *Colour Blind*. 3) The author takes the issue "racism" because in that year discrimination is an unfair treatment that usually happens by the majority groups towards minority groups that lead to racism in society.

Keywords: racism, novel, *Colour Blind*

1. INTRODUCTION

“Racism is an ideology of racial domination” (Wilson, 1999:14). In other words, it means that racism systems encompass economic, political, social, and cultural actions, as well believes that institutionalize and perpetuate an unequal distribution of privileges, resources, and power between white people and people of Color. This system is historic, normalized, taken for the grant, deeply embedded, and works to the benefit of whites and to the disadvantage of people of color (Hilliard, 1992). Among social scientists, the race is

generally understood as a social construction. Biologically, physical differences such as skin color do not have a relationship with ability or behavior in groups, but racial differences still have extraordinary significance in structuring social reality.

Racism involves white people and black people. People do discriminate towards white people or another people who have black skin because of their skin; this qualifies as racism according to the definition because people who have black skin cannot make another people accept their existence. History provides us with a long record of white people holding and using power and privilege over people of black skin to conquer them so that their existence always stay under white people (Paula Rothenberg Defining Racism and Sexism).

In (Sherwood, 2001) previous publication, until the mid-nineteenth century, attitudes to black peoples were fluid, with racist ideology perhaps mainly confined to those making their fortunes in the trade in enslaved Africans and from the labor of these men, women, and children on plantations in the Americas and West Indies. Racism has known a long ago; it happened and spread out since ago and until now. Yet from the 1840s, racist ideology deliberately promulgated in Britain. It was spread by all possible means, including popular culture, the media, the churches and missionaries, the education system and spokespeople from all walks of life, as well as by the burgeoning 'scientific' and imperialist associations (MacKenzie, 1986). Racist ideologies were long lasting and framed discussion and policies relating to 'race' and 'race relations' in the post-war period. Black people and Asians that entered Britain in large numbers from the 1950s onwards suffered the social, cultural, political and economic effect of this racism, which had their origin in the mid-nineteenth century onwards.

Bring up racism reflected in material object of this research, *Colour Blind* novel by Catherine Cookson showed the story of the child of mixed parentage being brought up in Newcastle, England and the struggles and prejudices she has to endure. The story opens before the main character is

born. It is 1915 in Newcastle, England - the coal capital of the world. Bridget McQueen has sent a letter home to her parents to say that she will be coming to tea that afternoon to introduce her new husband to the family. Bridget's brother, Matt, is angry that his sister has married before the family has met her husband. When Bridget arrives, the family are in a state of shock to find that Bridget's husband is black. The family is still reeling from the shock when it is discovered that Bridget did not get married in a Catholic Church and that she is pregnant with James's child.

Matt is the evil character in the book. None of the family want the child to be born. Bridget's mother tries to get a local midwife to attend the birth, so that should the baby not be white, it can be killed. Rosa Angela is born. Then, Rose grows up and goes to school, where she has to suffer prejudiced behavior from both pupils and teachers alike. Her Uncle Matt is always threatening her and being verbally abusive. Her life is a misery. One day, one of the girls tell her she will not go to heaven because heaven is for whites only. Rose goes to see the local church to ask the priest if this is so, he says, no, God is colour blind.

The researcher chooses *Colour Blind* as the object of the research based on some reasons. First, this researcher is interested to analyze of literature. *Colour Blind* is inspiring because this novel gives some moral value, which can be our lesson in life and has an interesting literary value to discuss. This novel does not only tells about an unwanted child in their parent's family because of skin color but also about racism, discrimination and destroy in the family.

Second, this novel is a real story life, the characters in this book are fictitious and this book does not relate to any living person. The setting of the place is in Tyneside, there are any several actual place-names used in this novel, with the fifteen names of streets like Casey's Wharf, and other parts of Holborn are imaginary.

The last reason is the researcher wants to share about social justice which is happened in 1968 especially racism in Britain as depicted in this novel.

The researcher will analyze *Colour Blind* novel on the issue of racism by using Critical Race Theory. The title composed is “Racism Reflected In *Colour Blind* Novel (1968) By Catherine Cookson: Critical Race Theory.”

2. METHOD

In analyzing Catherine Cookson’s *Colour Blind*, the researcher uses qualitative research in the form of literary works and intends to identify the social justice which is happened in 1968 based on different status. The object of the study is the novel of Catherine Cookson’s *Colour Blind* (1968) that published in Great Britain by Macdonald & Co. (publishers) Ltd. It was analyzed by using Critical Race Theory. The main data in this research is character, punctuation, words, phrases, sentences, paragraphs/discourse in novel *Color Blind*. In addition, the writer also uses electronic books to support the writer about the theory. The primary data are novel *Color Blind*, reader’s response, reader’s reception, and the secondary data is previous study, and supporting data, which are from the biography of the author, some selected materials and references which relate to the study (Bachtiar, 2017).

The data also taken from many resources like online journal, thesis, research that related with this research, movie version of this novel and other sources that supported this research. The technique of collecting data in this research is documentation technique using Critical Race Theory. Documentation method is a method that searches data about things or variables like notes, transcriptions, books, newspapers, magazines, agendas, etc. (Arikunto 2006:31). The method used by reading *Color Blind* novel and then analyzing the novel to find the racism occurs in the novel. After analyzing, the researcher lists the racism happen in 1968 based on the novel.

In analysis data, the researcher will use descriptive analysis; “descriptive analysis is the transformation of raw data into a form that will

make them easy to understand and interpret; rearranging, ordering, and manipulating data to generate descriptive information”. (William G. Zikmund, 2003), it means that all of the primary data analyzed and interpreted descriptively by using Critical Race Theory of literature to get the conclusion about racism in 1968th based on *Colour Blind* novel.

3. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

In analyzing *Colour Blind* novel by Catherine Cookson based on the issue of racism and using the Critical Race Theory by Delgado and Stefancic (2001). The researcher answer the problem statement and discuss the result of the analysis to be some parts, there are:

The race is a classification system that is used to categorize people in different populations or groups through physical characteristics, skin color, face shape, which has been inherited. *Colour Blind* clearly shows the racism committed by people towards black people, a form of discrimination that is constantly carried out regardless of how good humans are, both in terms of physical, brain volume and posture, because humans are now more advanced in thinking so that all humans are equal. Therefore humans should not be distinguished by race.

Racism is one of the things that often appear in a country that has a variety of cultures, of various kinds of race and ethnicity. For example, in *Color Blind* novel, the assumptions and thoughts of black races people are known as lazy, less educated and often commit criminal acts. While the white race is known for people who are smart, highly educated, and have decent work and are always on top. This is what breaks the two sides. Supposedly, the people establish harmony in social life, a sense of togetherness and mutual respect must be built so that it can avoid the adverse effects of racism.

Rationalism in rational thinking is a form of racial prejudice. Based on Chambers English Dictionary, 1988 (in Brown, 2005) prejudice is defined as an assessment or opinion formed without prior examination. It can be defined that racial prejudice is negative attitudes and judgments that are formed based

on improper generalizations towards members of certain racial groups solely because of their origin without looking at one's good or bad behavior. Whereas in the form of attitudes and values, racism is in the form of character and discriminatory behavior that separates ethnic groups, nation and race, and acts of discrimination in the social environment. Discrimination is a different treatment of groups based on race. In *Color Blind* novel, rise to racism problems that are still difficult to solve, because the white race is considered superior to the black race. Therefore, it is part of a joint movement and commitment to realize a world of peaceful life without racism.

The problem of racism is not an important issue in the literary and social world politics in America. In addition, the problem of colonialization does not only occur between the colonizing and colonized people with different nationalities, but also between the state's citizens. *Colour Blind* give some example how to make bad situation because of racism. So, If the state wants to be strong, then all elements of the nation must together, living together in harmony and peace, without discriminating between religious, skin color, and minority aspects.

4. CLOSING

4.1 Conclusion

The title of this research is Racism Reflected in *Colour Blind* Novel (1968) by Catherine Cookson: Critical Race Theory. Further, this research is about racism, which the researcher found the indicator of racism in this novel, describing racism occurs in this novel and the reason why the author in the work of *Colour Blind* novel specifically addresses racism. The researcher makes the conclusion based on the finding that has explained in the previous part. The researcher identify the indicator of racism into six indicators using Critical Race Theory, it is conceptually as the following: (1) Unmasking Color Blindness; (2) Race; (3) Class; (4) Welfare; (5) Poverty; (6) Globalization.

From the indicators above, something triggered racism in *Colour Blind* novel. The indicators classified using Critical Race Theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (2001). In the community, there are many cases of discrimination; the actions of discrimination such as treat one person or one group unfairly than other people or groups. Discrimination carried out by individuals, groups, or policies and organizations. Discrimination interpreted as a treatment of individuals differently based on gender, race, religion, age, or other characteristics. One of the most common forms of discrimination is social discrimination. People who go through social discrimination placed in lower dignity than other races. In the world record, western countries had a difficult time due to racial discrimination based on skin colour. The people who have black colour skin, they treated unfairly and often become slaves.

The second is the researcher describes racism occur in *Colour Blind* novel. Racism already exists long before Rose Angela's main character was born. Racism occurs when Bridget McQueen married with James Patterson, racism arises due to differences, including skin color because Rose Angela's father comes from black people. The differences cause the racist behavior to continue, until finally she was born of the mother who has white skin and the father who has black skin, but she is more dominantly black skin. Rose Angela also feels and accepts racism by others towards her since she was a child until she grows into a teenager, even though she never does racism towards other people.

The third is the researcher reveals the reason why the author in the work of *Colour Blind* novel specifically addresses racism. *Colour Blind* published in 1968. The author takes the issue "racism" because, in that year discrimination, unfair treatment is the act that usually happens by the majority toward minority groups that lead to racism in society. That is what often happens in America, where racism practices still occur in the country. The discrimination or racism in America is not something that happened early and occurs in a few years, but it has been going on for a long time in America, since the 17th century. *Colour Blind* has a grim storyline that makes prejudice

and ignorance applicable in society at the beginning of the 17th century, the author tells the events and actions of racism in those days with great enthusiasm and well conveyed, various forms of discrimination committed by white people towards black people. Characters play a role make the reader curious, the author also gives a moral message and an example of a form of strong determination to be a lesson in strong economic conditions that must be taken into account during this era. So, every line in this novel is a text that contains fictional stories and will not be forgotten by the readers.

4.2 Suggestion

After explaining the conclusion and educational implication of the research, the researcher has some suggestions that are hopefully useful for all the readers. *Colour Blind* is an inspiring novel because this novel gives some moral value, which can be our lesson in life and has an interesting literary value to discuss. This novel not only tells about an unwanted child in their parent's family because of skin color but also about racism, hate and how it destroys a family. From this novel, we can know how the indicators of racism (unmasking color blindness, race, class, welfare, poverty, and globalization) racism occurs in social life and the negative impact for life.

The researcher suggests to the next other researchers to make deeper research of the novel *Colour Blind* by Catherine Cookson (1968) with another issue that suitable with *Colour Blind* novel. After analyzing this novel and write the conclusion, this research paper is far for perfection because of the researcher's limited knowledge and understanding of literary work based on the sociological approach. The researcher hopes that this study can inspire other researchers to analyze the same issue in different novels and take values from *Colour Blind*.

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