

**RACISM REFLECTED IN *THE HATE U GIVE* (2017)
BY ANGIE THOMAS: A CRITICAL RACE THEORY**



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

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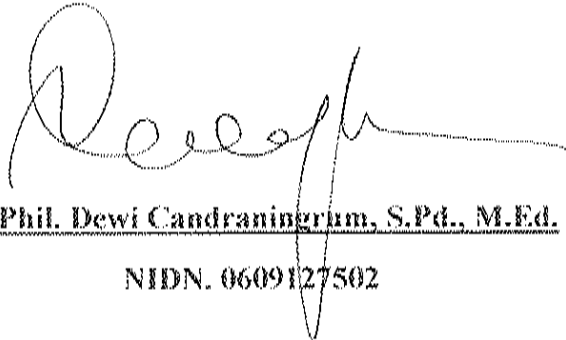
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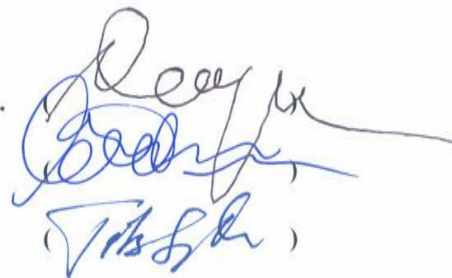
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Abstrak

Penelitian ini adalah studi mengenai rasisme yang terdapat dalam novel *The Hate U Give* (2017) oleh Angie Thomas. Novel ini menceritakan tentang tindakan rasisme dan diskriminasi yang dilakukan oleh orang berkulit putih sebagai kelompok mayoritas terhadap orang berkulit hitam sebagai minoritas. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan rasisme yang tercermin dalam novel *The Hate U Give*. Jenis penelitian yang di gunakan adalah deskriptif kualitatif sedangkan teknik analisis data adalah teknik deskriptif. Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan teori ras kritis oleh Richard Delgado dan Jean Stefancic (2001). Setelah peneliti melakukan analisis, ditemukan bahwa terdapat indikator-indikator rasisme dalam novel *The Hate U Give* dan menggambarkan bagaimana rasisme yang terjadi di dalam novel seperti dalam teori ras kritis oleh Richard Delgado dan Jean Stefancic. Penelitian ini memiliki beberapa kesimpulan: 1) Perlakuan tidak adil dan diskriminasi yang di alami oleh orang berkulit hitam. 2) Orang berkulit hitam selalu di salahkan karena mereka berkulit hitam, dianggap buruk dan jahat dalam masyarakat.

Kata kunci: rasisme, teori ras kritis, *The Hate U Give*

Abstract

This research is the study about racism that appears in *The Hate U Give* novel (2017) by Angie Thomas. This novel tells about racism and discrimination which done by the white people as majority towards the black people as minority. This research paper is aimed to analyze the racism that reflected in *The Hate U Give* novel. This type of research is qualitative descriptive, while the technique of analyzing data is a descriptive technique. In this research, the researcher use critical race theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (2001). After the data analysis, the researcher finds that there are indicators of racism in *The Hate U Give* novel and describe how racism happened in the novel based on critical race theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic. This research has several conclusions: 1) Unfair treatment and discrimination experienced by the black people. 2) The black people always blamed just because they are black and considered as bad and evil in society.

Keywords: racism, critical race theory, *The Hate U Give*

1. INTRODUCTION

Every human cannot choose how their appearance when they are born. Human are born with the differences in physic, races, ethnicity and differences in psychology.

Because of the differences, some people cannot accept the differences in their life, they can do anything because they feel superior, usually they are from the superiority of certain group. Human created an idea of distinguishing people from their skin colour, language, ethnicity, religion and living area. It called racism. Racist people believe that inheritance derived biological characteristics determine human behaviour. Based on social scientists, social construction is generally understood as the race. The differentiation of physical appearances such as skin color have no relationship with ability or behaviour in groups, but still, racial differences have extraordinary significance in social construction in the reality.

White people and black people involved in racism. The black people and colored people gets discrimination by white people just because their skin color; this qualifies as racism according to the definition because people who have black skin cannot using power and privilege, they have no money and power so that their existence always in the bottom of the stick and stay under white people.

Racism reflected in material object of this research, *The Hate U Give* novel by Angie Thomas appeared the story of a sixteen-year-old black girl named Starr Carter who attends a party in her neighbourhood, Garden Heights. Star goes with Kenya, her friend whom shares an older half-brother, Seven. Ever since attending Williamson Prep, a primarily white school, Starr feels out of place in the Garden Heights social scene. When Kenya goes to the party with her friends, Starr runs into her childhood best friend, Khalil Harris. Gunshot from a gang fight interrupt the party, and Khalil offers to take Starr home. On the way of home, a white police officer with badge number one-fifteen pulls the over, and asks Khalil to get out from the car while Starr still inside the car, but when the police walks back to his patrol car, Khalil make sudden movement and the officer shoots Khalil for doing absolutely nothing wrong. Traumatizing Starr.

In the next day, a police officer ask Starr to go to the police station, with her mother she goes to the police station. But, in the police station the detectives are asking more questions about whether Khalil as a troublemaker and a drug dealer than about the night of the shooting. She worries that justice for Khalil will

not be served. However, she ultimately decides that Khalil needs the truth. She vows to continue fighting for justice and fairly treatment on behalf of Khalil and all other black people killed at the hands of police.

The reasons why the researcher chooses *The Hate U Give* as the object of the research is, as follows, first, this researcher interested to analyze of literature. This novel gives many moral value, it can be took for our lesson in life. *The Hate U Give* does not tells about love story like another young adult novel, it tells about racism, discrimination and the unfair treatment from the government towards the black people and colored people.

Second, in writing this novel, Angie Thomas attempted to expand readers' comprehends and awareness of the Black Lives Matter movement as well as difficulties faced by black Americans who get discriminations. Angie Thomas experiences the discrimination on her childhood times, she growing up poor in the predominantly black in her hometown in Jackson, Mississippi. So, she very relates with this issue because of her own experiences.

The last reason is the strongest aspect of this book, it is social commentary and political criticism, making aware of current issue about racism, educating and encouraging to get involved to create change.

The researcher will analyze *The Hate U Give* novel on the issue of racism by using Critical Race Theory. The tittle composed is "Racism Reflected In *The Hate U Give* (2017) by Angie Thomas: A Critical Race Theory."

2. METHOD

Qualitative research uses by the researcher in analyzing Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give*. The novel of Angie Thomas entitled *The Hate U Give* (2017) is the object of the study that published in United States by Balzer + Bray in February 28, 2017. The object of this research is novel that contains with words description or verbal not number, the qualitative research is used in this research, so the data that collected are words or sentences. The two sources of data that used by the writer in doing this study are the primary data and secondary data. Angie Thomas's *The Hate U Give* novel as primary data source. All information obtained from all the

words, sentences, dialogues, quotation and phrases stating about racism in the novel. The secondary data source are all information that related with primary data, which is dealing with racism and taken from other sources, such as biography of author, movie version of this novel, racism in this era, some books of race theory, online journal, articles and so forth.

The method of collecting data in this study is qualitative research. The data from both primary and secondary sources are collected and recorded in a sort of document as evidence. Documentation technique as the technique of collecting data that using Critical Race Theory. By reading *The Hate U Give* novel as the method that uses to analyzing the novel to find how racism happened on the novel.

Descriptive analysis is the technique that employed in analysing the data. It concerns with the relationship between the novel and the critical race theory to show how the racism is reflected in this novel.

3. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

Critical Race Theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (2001) is using in analyzing *The Hate U Give* novel by Angie Thomas based on the issue itself about racism. Racism is still appears in every society, region, and country of the world. Racism itself as stated by Delgado and Stefancic (2001:154) is “any program or practice of discrimination, segregation, persecution, or mistreatment based on membership in race or ethnic group.” It means that racism distinguish, setting some people apart from other people, and treat them differently based on the race. Six basic tenets of critical race theory of Delgado and Stefancic use in this research to get know about racism issue in the novel. The six basic tenets consist of: everyday racism, material determinism, social construction, differential racialization, intersectionality, and voice of color. For the first finding, the indicators of racism is discussed using some of six basic tenets such as everyday racism, material determinism, social construction, differential racialization, and intersectionality.

Based on Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (2001:7) “Everyday racism is a common, ordinary experience for the coloured in this country. Ordinarity itself means that racism is difficult to cure or address.” Furthermore, racism is not simple such as physical or verbal attacks against the colored. However, it can be in the form of racist behaviour or activity in everyday life. In Angie Thomas’s *The Hate U Give*, everyday racism happens in teenager who get physical attacks against the colored in their society. Black teenager named Khalil who get a mistreatment, physical against from a officer to his citizen. When Khalil takes his friend, Starr, on their way back home they stopped by a police who asks them about papers and license than asks him to get out from the car while Starr still inside the car. When the police walks back to his patrol car, Khalil makes sudden movement by walks to his door’s car and make sure if Starr is okay inside the car, but suddenly the police shot him down for three times. Because it’s not smart enough to make a movement while the police has his back to them. Khalil dead for doing absolutely nothing wrong. It’s unfair action from a police.

Delgado and Stefancic (2001:7) asserts that races are products of social of thought and relations. Society frequently chooses to create a group based on financial, gender, race, and economy categorization. In society, innocence and goodness is often related with the white, while the black and the colored often carry connotation of evil and violence. Minority of groups is always identical with evil, menace and arrogant while the white is always identical with innocent and goodness. The example differential racialization that appears in *The Hate U Give* comes from Detective Gomez at the police station when she asks several questions about Khalil’s death to Starr:

“Now, do you know if Khalil sold narcotics?”

Investigating or justifying?

But what the hell does that have to do with him getting murdered? Is that supposed to make all of this okay?

I straighten up, look Gomez dead in her eyes, and say,
“I never saw him sell drugs or do drugs.”

“But do you know if he sold them?” she asks.

“Did you consume any alcohol at the party?” she asks.
“You haven’t asked my child about the cop yet,”
Momma says. “You keep asking her about Khalil, like
he’s the reason he’s dead. Like he said, he didn’t pull
the trigger on himself.” (THUG:69-70)

From the quotation above shows that, colored people get unfair treatment and be accused of being a rebel, evil, drinker, sold narcotics, and doing another bad deeds. They are blamed for the acts that have no relation with the Khalil’s death and blamed Khalil like he is the reason he’s dead. Whereas the police shot him for no reason, and the police not blamed because of his own action, the police and the detective acts innocent and goodness. Feels like colored people didn’t get any fair treatment, treated differently, they always blamed for everything and the white didn’t want to take any responsibility.

Khalil is a good guy, he’s not the criminal, he just killed for doing absolutely nothing wrong, an officer named Cruise shot him down, so the criminal is Officer Cruise not Khalil, unfortunately, Khalil is a black boy, every black people do is wrong, black people are not good, and assumed a criminal. The mindset of people is black and colored people is bad, evil, violent, and criminal, whereas it’s not all of them but because of some people, everyone think all black people is bad. People have to change their mindset about that, cause not every black and colored people is bad. Don’t discriminate them, treat them fair, don’t classifying people based on their race, ethnicity, skin color and other appearances. Just because they black doesn’t mean they are bad, they white people also not always innocent or goodness. So, every human deserve to be treated fairly.

There is difference that causes racism between white people and black people in *The Hate U Give* novel. Because of the differences it makes some problems, people who have money and have power treated unfairly to the people who don’t have power and don’t have money, in this case they are the black people and they are the minorities in the society. The black people gets discrimination in every circumstance of their life, treated so bad by the white people cause they are the majorities, they can do everything because they have

money and have power and thinks that the black people is weak cause they have no money and they have no power in society. The ugly truth. It can be seen from the data as belows:

“Black people, minorities, poor people. Everybody at the bottom in society.”

“The oppressed,” says Daddy.

“Yeah. We’re the ones who get the short end of the stick, but we’re the ones they fear the most. That’s why the government targeted the black Panthers, right? Because they were scared of the Panthers?” (THUG:112-113)

The text above shows that, black people is the minorities, they’re poor and black people is in the bottom of the society, it means that black people have no power in society and they can’t do anything. Black people are poor, they have no money so they have no power too. The white have money so the white have power. The black is the ones who the white or government fear the most, so the black people always targeted and be accused of doing bad things. This is racist that happens in society, the black gets discrimination for treated like this, in the bottom of society, oppressed, and have no power.

Humans in the world can be categorized into four major races, they are white people, black people, red people, and yellow people. The concept of race was introduced by Charles Darwin. The characteristics biological and physical is something that related to race, and the most obvious characteristic is the skin color.

Race itself grouping people into many. Because of the race, there are race superiority, a superior, and lower race. In general, racism can interpreted as an attack on attitudes, tendencies, statements, and action that have favour or hostile community groups, especially because of racial identity. Racism is also viewed as ignorance because it does not base (itself) on any knowledge, and is contrary to ethical norms, humanity and human rights. As a result, people from other ethnic groups are often discriminated against, humiliated, oppressed, exploited, and killed by the majority.

Racism already exist long before ago. Racism arises due to differences, including skin color because Starr and Khalil comes from black people. They raised in black people society in the middle of white people society. Starr, Khalil and other black people gets discrimination and treated unfairly by other people, especially the white people. It can be concluded that black people didn't deserve to gets discrimination, unfair treatment and assumed as bad, evil and violent. People needs to stop thinks that black and colored people are bad people. Don't give them hates just because they are black. Humans needs to live together peacefully without discriminating and distinguishing other people just because their appearances.

4. CONCLUSION

4.1 Conclusion

The tittle of this research is Racism Reflected in *The Hate U Give* (2017) By Angie Thomas: A Critical Race Theory. This research is study about racism. The researcher analyze the problems using Critical Race Theory. Critical Race Theory is related with the racism and discrimination in society and human life. The researcher analyzed the indicator of racism into five indicators using Critical Race Theory, as follows: everyday racism, material determinism, social construction, differential racialization, and intersectionality.

It can be seen from the indicators above, the indicators classified using Critical Race Theory according to Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic (2001). There are many cases of discrimination, the actions of discrimination such as treating people unfairly than other people because of their races, skin color or their ethnic. Individuals, group and organization carrying the discrimination. Racism distinguish, setting some people apart from other people, and treat them differently based on the race. In the world record, western countries had a difficult time due to racial discrimination based on skin color. The black colored skin treated unfairly by the white people.

Racism in daily life is a common, ordinary experience for the coloured in this country. Racism is difficult to cure or address, racism is not simple such as

physical or verbal attacks against the colored, but it can be in the form of racist behaviour or activity in everyday life that contains of violence such verbal or physical are racist. The black people as minority of groups is always identical with evil, bad behaviours and arrogant while the white is always identical with innocent and goodness. The black people always treated badly just because they are black. Don't discriminate them, treat them fair, don't classifying people based on their race, ethnicity, skin color and other appearances. The black people also gets discrimination of dominant toward minority group related to the financial or social status. It makes them hard to get a job in government, the best school or the best treatment in their life.

The second is the researcher describe racism occur in *The Hate U Give* novel. People from other ethnic groups are often discriminated against, humiliated, oppressed, exploited, and killed by the majority. The conflict of racism begins to appear when black teenager named Starr and Khalil on their way back home suddenly stopped by white police with One-Fifteen number badge. The police asks about their license, registration, and proof insurance. Afterwards, the white police asks Khalil to get out from the car, meanwhile Starr still inside the car and asks them to do not any sudden move. When the police walks back to his patrol car, suddenly, Khalil comes to door's car and asks Starr if she was fine, make sure that she was okay there. But, it's not good to make any movement, because it makes him killed by the white police. The police shot him down for three times. Khalil dead for absolutely doing nothing. It's not fair, at all.

In conclusion, the black people gets discrimination, hate, oppressed, and unfair treatment because of they are black. Many people thinks that black people is bad, evil, violent, and criminal, whereas it's not all of them but because of some people, everyone think all black people is bad. People have to change their mindset about that and start to treat the black and colored people fairly same as the other people in the society.

4.2 Suggestion

The Hate U Give is the one of masterpiece novel that written by Angie Thomas. This novel is very interesting and inspiring to read because there are many moral value that provided in this novel which can be our lesson in life. *The Hate U Give* novel by Angie Thomas reveal the racism in 21 century. The black people is the main character who gets many discrimination and unfair treatment in their life. Racism provided in this novel so the readers can be learn about the discrimination and different treatment from the white people the black people.

This research was less then from perfect, so critics and suggestions are needed due to researchers' limited knowledge of literary work based the Critical Race Theory. The researcher hopes this research is useful for the readers and the researcher suggests to the next researcher to study further investigation and make deeper research about *The Hate U Give* novel with the different issue and different approaches since they are important and needed to be discussed.

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