

**RACIAL PREJUDICE IN "LIGHT IN AUGUST"**

**BY WILLIAM FAULKNER**



**T H E S I S**

Submitted to the Faculty of Letters, Hasanuddin University

In partial fulfilment of the Requirement to obtain

A Sarjana Degree in English Department

By

**NURWAHIDAH**

**F 211 00 003**

**FACULTY OF LETTERS**

**HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY**

**MAKASSAR**

Hasanuddin  
TAKAAN  
- B04

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*Sosok Ama & Inaku*

*Sosokmu memancari setiap langkah hidupku  
Memaknainya dengan satu kesempatan  
Menjadi anak yang mandiri*

*Ama, Ina Aku bangga dengan sosokmu  
Sebagai pedagang kaki lima & petani ulung  
Dengan keringatmu aku bersekolah*

*Kini, Ijinkan aku melangkah lebih jauh  
Restuimu adalah kunci keberhasilan  
Demi masa depan ananda*

*DEDICATED  
TO  
MY BELOVED  
AMA & INA  
All my brothers & sisters*

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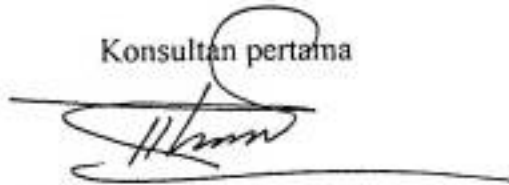
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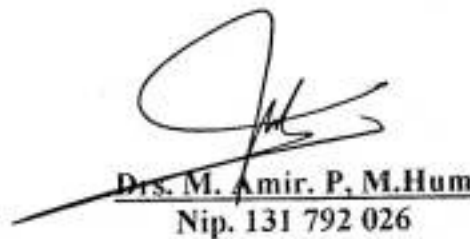
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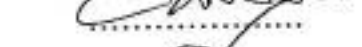
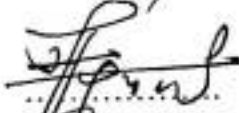




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**BY WILLIAM FAULKNER**

Yang diajukan dalam rangka memenuhi salah satu syarat ujian akhir guna memperoleh gelar Sarjana Sastra Jurusan Sastra Inggris Program Studi Kesusteraan pada Fakultas Sastra Universitas Hasanuddin

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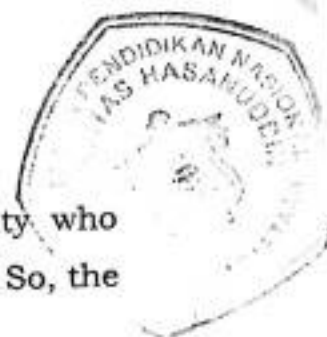
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Makassar, 30 September 2004

*The writer*

## ABSTRACT

Judul skripsi "**Racial Prejudice in "Light in August"**" by William Faulkner. Dalam skripsi ini, penulis mencoba membahas diskriminasi ras terhadap orang-orang Negro (kulit hitam) dan perlakuan kekerasan terhadap simpatisan Negro yang terjadi di Amerika pada masa Perang Saudara, Rekonstruksi dan setelah Perang Dunia I

Perlakuan diskriminasi yang dialami oleh beberapa tokoh baik orang Negro yang meliputi bidang hukum dan sosial ataupun para simpatisan Negro yang menerima teror dan terisolasi oleh masyarakat kulit putih. Para simpatisan tersebut mengalami perlakuan yang sama seperti yang dialami oleh orang Negro. Hal tersebut dihubungkan dengan keadaan sosial pada masyarakat Amerika saat karya ini ditulis.

Diskriminasi ini dianalisis dengan menggunakan pendekatan instrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Pendekatan instrinsik merujuk pada novel itu sendiri dengan sejumlah komponen yang membangun novel tersebut seperti tema, karakter dan setting. Sementara pendekatan ekstrinsik yang digunakan adalah pendekatan historical

Dari analisis tersebut, penulis menemukan adanya diskriminasi dan prasangka ras yang dialami oleh orang Negro. Dalam aspek social dan hukum, dimana orang Negro dilarang menggunakan fasilitas umum seperti sekolah, restoran dan hotel kemudian mereka tidak diijinkan untuk memeberikan hak suaranya dalam pemilihan umum karena dianggap inferior, kemudian simpatisan Negro menerima kekerasan dan terror karena telah memebantu orang Negro termasuk dalam memperjuangkan kebebasan untuk orang Negro.



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# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### I.I Background of the Problem

As human beings who live in the world, we often face many problems, such as race, sex, religious, and social stratification. Those phenomena can be found in the society. Many problems are demonstrated by the author through literary works. Furthermore, the author as the part of certain society tried to respond and to reveal the social condition of his society. One of the literature work is novel. Through this literature work, the author is able to share all his experiences and express his feeling, thought and ideas; this fact is supported by Macmillan in his definition about literary as follow that literary we may agree, is writing which expresses and communicate Thought feeling and attitude toward life (Macmillan, 1979:2)

In the other statements, Landi briefly states about the literary:

Literary includes the whole aspects of human activities, expressing, Any feeling, emotion, thought and ideas- studying it can help us to understand life and our environment ( Landi172:2)

The most basic problem is found in South America in 1932 still related to racial prejudice toward other groups, mainly to the Negroes. According to Simpson and Yinger that prejudice and

discrimination are closely related, it is suitable with their statements:

about relationship between prejudice and discrimination below :

Prejudice is an attitude or tendency to respond or a symbolic response. It never involve overt action toward members of the minority group...;Prejudice is in part the result of discrimination-a way of rationalizing getting rid of guilt feeling that arise when one has treated an individual unfairly, and discrimination is the overt expression of prejudice; it is the categorical treatment of a member of a group because he is member of that group (Simpson and Yinger1953:18-19).

Also, Harsojo has statement about prejudice as follow:

Prasangka dapat berkembang sebagai satu ideology yang kita sebut rasisme.Pada rasisme orang mencampuradukan pegertian ras sebagai konsepsi biologi dengan ras dilihat dari sudut sociocultural. Pada rasisme orang percaya pada superioritas ras sendiri dan inferioritas ras lain. Rasisme mengandung ajaran bahwa perbedaan kebudayaan dibawa oleh kelahiran dan karenanya tidak dapat diubah lagi (Harsojo,1999:87)

Based on the statement from the experts above, the writer take conclusion that prejudice is a basic attitude which is developed to be racism toward the member of minority group, they are discriminated deliberately by majority group through social cultural view.

The fundamental attitude which underlies prejudice is the ethnocentrism, a group of people who believe in the unique value and

rightness of their group in the society. It is supported by Harsojo who briefly states that:

Etnosenterisme adalah sifat manusia yang mengaggap bahwa cara hidup golongannya itu adalah cara hidup yang paling baik, sedangkan cara hidup golongan lain itu tidak baik ( Harsojo,1999:86).

The ethnocentrism spread out widely for human being to claim that their group is the best society, for instances, the nobility of the "Whites" mainly in United States that considered themselves as a better descendent compared to common people particularly upon the Negroes. It makes them think that they are the most superior or dominant group in the world.

The "Whites" superiority is characterized through their physical appearance such as skin color, nasal index, hair texture, head and lip form, hair and eyes color, face index and stature. Those characteristics further have been used as a strong reason to discriminate other groups, particularly skin color and head form which are believed to be related with the intelligence.

In other sides, the white man as superior group in all life degrees such as, behavior, language, and religious defend their superiority through special deal toward the Negroes, like the

doctrines are deliberately made to discriminate minority groups like no social equality between the white and the black.

The relationship between the white females and the black males are found in "Light in August" novel. This relationship is experienced by Joe Christmas as mulatto and the central character with the white women, one of them named Bobbie Allen in this story. This relationship appearing the problem after they know that Joe is a mulatto. The identity of Joe Christmas becomes the basis to discriminate him. Therefore, in his life, Joe Christmas is always isolated by his relatives and the society. Christmas becomes the victim of his own relatives and his society because he inherits the Negro-blood.

Knowing the fact that he is part-nigger makes people believe that he is involved in Joanna's murder; it makes him get discrimination in law and the lynching done by a *local man and the mob*, in which he is one of the racist members. In their lines Simpson and Yinger say: there were 5112 of lynchings in the period of 1882-1937, of that number 3675 were Negroes and 1455 were white (1953:463).

Furthermore, the Negroes sympathizers had to receive the terror and the violence for helping the Black, it can be found in the

novel through Reverend Gail Hightower. Also, Joanna Burden is isolated by her society because she protected the Negroes

The phenomena above demonstrate the reality of the social problems since the slavery system until the early of twentieth century in United States mainly in Mississippi, the old city of racial prejudice and discrimination upon the Negroes. Both terms have great important roles on Joe's destiny in this novel

Some phenomena appear in "Light in August" are interesting to be observed on which the descendent (blood-mixed) of the intermarriages or intercourse between black and white become the main prejudice which appear in America society. Also, we will know more that there are some reasons why racial prejudice and discrimination can happen to the Negroes in this novel.

After the writer reading some thesis related to this thesis, the writer finds that the researchers formerly only concentrate on the slavery system toward the Negroes in United States.

In this thesis, the writer focuses new analysis is more specific on the white's treatment to the part-nigger mulatto and why he is categorized as the nigger by concentrating more in blood-mixed

among different races. Also, the treatment is received by the Black during Reconstruction era. Then, the community's respond and the treatment by the White to the sympathizers for helping the Negroes.

Based on the explanation above, the writer is interested in choosing William Faulkner's novel as the object of her research. Light in August is one of his famous novels written.

### **1.2 The scope of problem**

Novel "Light in August" is the reprehensive of the America society conditions. This analysis is going to portray in two parts:

Firstly, the racial prejudice or discrimination to the prejudiced person as a part-nigger and the Black, it can be seen through the treatment of the white toward Joe Christmas a mulatto and as the central character and the other blacks. The treatment toward the niggers is divided in two aspects, social life and law.

Secondly, the writer focuses the White's treatment to the sympathizers for helping Black in the novel. The writer demonstrates how they were liable to the same harassing that the Negroes received. In this case, the sympathizers receive the terror like the Negroes received. Also, they are hated by their community



### **1.3 The Formulation of Problem**

According to the explanation above, the writer tends to present the analysis on the following problems:

1.3.1. How the White treats the Negroes in law and social life which are portrayed in "Light in August."

1.3.2 How the white treats the sympathizers of the Negroes in "Light in August."

### **1.4 Objective of Writing**

In this research, the writer wants to achieve points as follows:

1.4.1 To show the racial prejudice or discrimination through the White's treatment in law and social life to the Negroes in "Light in August"

1.4.2 To show how the treatment of the Whites to the Negro's sympathizers which involve the violence and the isolation for helping the Negroes in "Light in August"

## **1.5 Sequences of Presentation**

**Chapter One** is introduction; this chapter consists of background, identification of problem, scope of problem, Formulation of problem, Objective of problem, Methodology and sequences of presentation.

**Chapter Two** explains the fundamental theory that describes about theories to be used to support the main chapter.

**Chapter Three** describes the methodology.

**Chapter Four** goes to presentation of the Analysis

**Chapter Five** is going to conclusion and suggestion.

## CHAPTER 2

### FUNDAMENTAL THEORY

#### 2.1 The structuralism-Genetic Approach

The founder of genetic-structuralism approach is Lucien Goldman, a linguist from France. This approach is able to reconstruct the world view of the author.

The structuralism-genetic approach refers to genetic factors in understanding the literary works. The genetic is the history of the literary works and some experts believe that there are a number of factors related to the history reality that influences the work before it was created.

Goldman in *Sastra dan Ilmu Sastra* points out that the works have to be started in structural analysis ( Teeuw, 1988: 153) by understanding the intrinsic elements in the works. He suggested that "*setiap karya sastra yang penting mempunyai structure significative, yang menurut Goldman bersifat otonom dan imanen yang harus digali oleh peneliti berdasarkan analisis yang cermat*". From the statement above, it can be seen that the each of the important works has *structure signivicative* that researcher has to be analyzed specifically in order to find some important values in the works.

Moreover, according to him that the structure meaning represents the world view of the authors (vision du monde). In this case, an author is not as individual but the representative of his society.

According to Culler in *Sastra dan Ilmu Sastra by A. Teeuw* that "the novel serves as the model by which society conceives of itself, the discourses in and through which it articulates the world, and our identity depend on the novel, what the others think of us, what he think of ourselves... how the others see us if not as a character from a novel?. The novelist the primary semiotic agent of intelligibility" (1988:228-229). From this statement, it can be seen that a novel is one of the expression of an author's life through a literary work. Here the readers can know how the identity of an author through a literary work is written

Shortly, the research of structuralism-genetic can be formulated as follows:

Firstly, the research is started from the intrinsic elements such as: characters, themes, setting by reading the novel thoroughly in order to understand it. Secondly, by understanding the background of the society in which the author as the part of certain

community. Finally, studying about social background and history that influence the work which is written by the author. The last point is the basic to be analyzed important roles to analyze the novel of "Light in August."

### **2.3 South America Condition in 1932**

The South in general consists of three sub regional cultures, Firstly the *Deep South*. This area includes Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina, Louisiana and Florida. Secondly, the *Border Strip* of the upper Strip includes Virginia, North Carolina, Kentucky and Tennessee. Thirdly, *Southwest* can be seen as part of another border strip includes Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. All three-unity area called the South.

Moreover, Deep South refers to Mississippi is a land of racial prejudice where the community are still strong to identifies an outsider physically. This land still put the niggers as the lowest status mainly in social life; it is seen through the treatment which is received by Joe Christmas and the other niggers.

Then, When Faulkner wrote "Light in August" Southern laws and Southern custom still put the Negroes as the inferior race, therefore, the Negroes have not any rights to vote like the white in general.

Then, When Faulkner wrote "Light in August" Southern laws and Southern custom still put the Negroes as the inferior race, therefore, the Negroes have not any rights to vote like the white in general.

The condition particularly Mississippi in 1932 was quite different from today. At the time, racial segregation between the Negroes and whites still found in public facilities such as restaurant, parks, school, church, Army, WC and more. This condition was supported by the United States Supreme Court had declared racial segregation constitutional in 1896.

Furthermore, the court has defined anyone with any black ancestry as black. In "Light in August" Joe is categorized as nigger because he inherits black blood. Hence, he is treated like the nigger in general mainly in law. It can be seen through lynching toward Joe Christmas in "Light in August". The white always lynch the niggers by labeling as justifiable. It is supported by the statements of Harper and Yinger that this condition included "self defense murder in which white man had shot the Negroes, sometime in the back and the killing were labeled as justifiable by all white coroners or juries (1953:464).

In this point, many cases may be blamed for crimes committed by whites only, so a nigger will appear to be guilty even

though he is blameless. This condition happened because the position in law is dominated by the white, it is suitable with Harper and Brother said in *Racial and Cultural Minorities* : "and it was convicted legally because most of the officer are recruited from the white lower middle class where *racial prejudice* is strong" (1953:459). Hence, most blame is vonissed by the white to the blacks were not clear or could not be proved.

In this time, The Negroes still only as objects of collective discrimination, meanwhile the "White" as the dominant defend their superiority status by getting privileges, Harper and Brother in "*Racial and Cultural Minorities*" say that : Existences of a minority in a society implies the existence of a corresponding dominant group with higher status and greater privileges (1953:21)

### **2.3. The Treatment toward the Negroes in United States**

Most of the stories in "Light in August" are flash back, it is involves during Civil War, Reconstruction period and after War I. The racial prejudice or discrimination is experienced by the Negroes until 1970s. Therefore, the writer describes those periods to demonstrate the treatment of the Whites toward the Negroes.

### **2.3.1 Before and During Civil War (1861-1865).**

Before Civil War the Negro status was largely that of household retainer and not much different from that of the white indentured servants, Most of them worked in plantation like white in general and some of them has slaves status The Negroes in general under in the condition slavery extremely backward because they lived in a slum overcrowded, hence the condition of the Negro become worse.

Also in 1861, the White man make a doctrine toward inferiority of the Negro that the Negro is incapable of standing upright, on which the Negro is inferior and the Caucasian is superiority, They believed that no Negro can speak the language of the white man correctly, because of their brain volume. Consequently, the Negroes were suitable to live in the sum and isolated from the society.

Furthermore, one important problems in this time in which Abraham Lincoln as a President in that time proclaimed freedom for slaves. It is famous by the term "Emancipation Proclamation" in 1963.

At the same time, many Northerners sympathizers tried to establish system to protect the Negro rights like the Abolition Movement supported by Quakers and other groups in 1831 under



leading *Harriet Beecher Stowe*, *Frederick Douglas*, both them are the writer who antislavery. Most of the sympathizers or northern believe that white and black were equal right in the eyes of God and should be recognized as equal in all human laws and institutional (H Lowie:289)

Furthermore. during Civil War in 1863-1865, there was a great changes Abraham Lincoln as President of America proclaimed freedom to slaves to be freed called Emancipation Proclamation. It is support by the Fourteenth Amendment that " no state make or enforce any law which abridge the privileges nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or poverty without process of law (Harper and Brother;1954:415)

Besides that, many Negroes who formerly were well educated have great roles to help slaves mainly in education. Moreover, the Sympathizers were permitted to buy their freedom or compensations to their master (slaveholder). Then, many slaves succeeded in running away from their owners and they were partly freed by their master.

Even though freedom for the Negroes is a constitutional, but it does not mean they can join with the white society, the white still keep them as the inferior by segregation in public facilities such as school, restaurant, toilet, collages, bus, parks, etc.

### **2.3.2 During the Reconstruction (1865-1877)**

Period on which the State of the South confederacy was controlled by the Federal Government before readmitted to the Union. In this period the Negroes could hope to improve their condition.

The government started to establish buildings school for the Negroes them as a policy of the federal government in managing Negro's life, while, Negro professional class started to develop education for the Negroes although handicapped by extremely limited and segregated school. Besides that, many sympathizers from Southern leaders and Northern industries establish some program to improve the industrial and economic situation of Negroes generally.

Nevertheless, after withdrawal of Federal troops from the South in support the Negro's life; the racists local group in the white population established something of reign of terror over Negroes. This group was called Ku Klux Klan (KKK), the group who often intimidated Negroes in order to keep them from demanding the right allowed by law (Main Problems In America History, pp: 483). Negro voting right were restricted and abolished.

Furthermore, they come in the night by wearing black masked, their horsing, and burning the housing or cabins of colors people. Sometimes, they kill and then hang the blacks in the woods, " Michael Person describes the treatment of the White to the Black during Reconstruction period "in Imagined Places" that:

Rekonstruksi menyebabkan timbulnya tindak kekerasan, pembunuhan racial, rentetan kengerian dimana perwira republik dicemeti, orang-orang kulit hitam di gantung dan simpatisannya ditembak, Era-rekonstruksi sebagai penaklukan terhadap orang-orang kulit putih, kekejaman ini dilemmbagakan segrasi (pemisah) dan hukum Jim Crow. tahun 1896 dengan peraturan Mahkamah Agung tentang "terpisah namun sejajar" (Michael Person:1994 :110-111)

Besides, from the statement above, it can be seen that the White who befriended or aided freedom for Negroes were liable to the same harassing that Negro received. Many whites which were categorized as the sympathizers had got terror because they have heaped the Negroes to get recognition of equal rights or to be the teachers for the Negroes school, and let them stay in their house. It is found in a teacher's testimony, Ellias Hill, a sympathizer in " *Main Problems in American History*" this is one of cases found during this period as follow:

when the cover people by horsing came to 1.0'clock p.m, and said: I want to make these nigger equal to the white man, that this is a white man's country; God dammed you, "don't you know this was a white man's country" ( Quint, Albertson, Cantor, 1968:487)).

Yet, It was happened to Cornelious McBrides, a preacher, his testimony as follow:

the leaser of party (KKK) said, "you God dammed Yankee." Shooting is too good for this fellow and we will hang him when we get through whipping him." (Quint, Albertson, Cantor, 1968:488)

Both quotations above are examples of the terror's cases during Reconstruction period. The treatment of Ku Klu Klan spread out the terror to the black and sympathizers. They reject the Negroes to be equal rights with them. This situation will be found in the novel through treatment by the Ku Klu Klan toward Hightower as a sympathizer.

Finally, by the end of Reconstruction period, many of the Negro leaders who received their education in the Negro colleges in the North, then made development of education in the South. In around 1868-1871 Southern politics were dominated by three groups: The freed Negro are called *carpetbaggers*, northern whose principal interested in the South was economic, and *scalawags* or larger

number of Southern white who were member of the lower class in pre-civil war. Meanwhile, KKK joined with the small farmer in effective opposition to Negroes and carpetbagger (The American People Encyclopedia, pp: 310)

### **2.3.3 After World War I and II (1918-1970s)**

After World War II government realized that many Negroes soldier who were called to die for his country should receive the fair treatment and opportunities as citizens of that country; Hence, The Negroes ought to develop themselves through recognition of equal rights by the government or the sympathizers who attempts to develop their education

During World war I and II, there were part segregated unit in army, but it was changed after President's committee confess that segregated unit can not gain in a maximal utilization. Therefore, there is no separation among different races even the education for the Negroes should be increased and segregation based on skin color in navy must be abolished

Moreover, In the same time there three important programs were done the government in that time, it was called "objective in executives order 9981" that: open up all Army jobs to

qualified personnel without regard to race or color; Open up all Army school to qualified personnel without regard to race or color; ... and abolish the racial quota (Harper and Brother, 1954: 454). This program show that race segregation between black and white was not extreme like the former time.

Even though Negroes experience progress in a education- for instances, in 1946-1947, many Negroes were awarded the Ph.p degree, it does not mean that their status automatically change. The White still keep them in the former status as the inferior group. This is pointed out by Brother and Yinger that: the progress of the Negro education did make them change status generally, although a thousand Negro student on the graduate level had been admitted by 1950-1951 to universities formerly open only white student and it is not changed significantly (1954:580)

Yet, after War II, many workplaces discharged the Negroes from their job. They were evicted from the house rented from the white owners, Negro farmers and businessmen were frequently failed to get essential business loans from the white banks. This situation happened as part of their rejection toward policy of the government in develops for the Negro's life.

Furthermore, In 1944, the Negroes were still forbidden to vote, it could be seen in this case in which a minister, the first Negro to register in Humphrey county, Mississippi was shot and killed after declining to remove his name from the voting register, and it done by **Ku Klux Klan** (The American People Encyclopedia, pp:167-168).

In 1965, segregation between blacks and whites were still found in public facilities such as church, school, hospital, prison, park, theater, hotel, restaurant, WC and sitting place in Court. This segregation demonstrates the attempts of the government or abolitionists to get justice toward the Negroes by forbidding discrimination toward the people based on race and skin color on 14 Sept, 1940, but it was ignored mainly by the white who still defend their status as the superior race

Also, in summer in 1960s, Mississippi and Ole Miss were recorded as racism symbol; it could be seen from the governor's statement at that time that he forbid to niggers attend public universities. In the same summer, June 12 1964, a number of racists did violence to the Negroes. They burned 37 black's churches, bombed 30 houses and 80 of civil workers were tortured (Michael Person, 1994:112).


Even though the government or sympathizers tried to improve Negro's life mainly in building school, houses and justice in law, but in other sides, many whites still could not accept the fair treatments to the Negroes; hence, they always give the terror for the Negroes or the sympathizers to show their disagreement to be equal with the Negroes in all degree of life. the whites keep the Negroes as the lowest status.

Finally, in 1970 the period that Negroes were free to give their voice to chose by using their own right, but this situation were not changed thoroughly because most of whites still defend their quo status as superior group by getting privileges in society and public facilities though it was not as extreme as it used to be.

#### **2.4 Mulatto**

Mulatto, the children who were born from illegal intercourse and then suspected or categorized as bastard children. He (bastard child) becomes prejudiced person as part- nigger. Thus, he will be rejected or outcasted by his relatives and community. The white believed that the mulatto has *wild blood* through combination of blood inferior ancestry in his body.





Intermarriage or intercourse among race mixture, refer to the white and black are considered taboo by the dominant group. Most of the white women were more interested to intercourse with the Negro man than white man mainly in sexual relation only. However, as the impact of this relationship a white woman was isolated from her society and her parents.

Also, the problem will be appear when a part-nigger has relationship with a white woman because most of the whites believe that a nigger is a threat for a white woman. It is found in "Light in August" Consequently, once Jefferson hears that Christmas is part-nigger, the townspeople assume that he must be related with a white woman's murder, Joanna and he must be guilty even though that accusation can not be proved.

The child of race mixture between a black man and a white woman is called mulatto. The white put in special stereotype to mulatto in which they believe that mulatto inherits the vices of both races and none of the virtues, any achievement to be attribute to the white blood, the conflict between the two sides of his inheritances inevitably pull him apart (Harper and Brother, 1953:143).

The White convicted that race mixture can be result the inferior generation and they are the curse of God because nigger blood is considered as pollution. Therefore, they have not any right to be like the white.

The Whites always reject to categorize the mulatto into their own group because they are suspected as inferior race and it is suitable for them to live in sum. Hence, most of the Negroes live in slave cabins and it is one of the heritages of the condition before Civil War. It can be seen in "Light in August" where Joe and other Negroes lives in a cabins.

Also, According to United States Census Bureau that "*a person who has any Negro ancestry is recorded as Negro even though he is undistinguishable in appearance from the white America*" (Harper and Brother,1953:36). From this statement, it can be seen that even though he has white appearance, but it is not guarantee that he can be accepted or categorized in white group; in this case, a mulatto is still identified and categorized as a nigger because there is Negro blood inherits in his body.

Interestingly, in responding of those fact about the mulatto, Mahatma Gandhi's grandson named Arun Gandhi gives the comment

about Joe Christmas as a part-nigger (mulatto) in "Light in August" that *"segumpal darah dalam tubuhmu meskipun seperenanbelas tetap akan membuatmu seorang Negro,"katanya" bagaimana dengan yang lima belas perenam belas, apakah itu tidak membuatmu seorang kulit putih* (Michael Person,1994:128). This statement demonstrates his critic toward injustice which is received by a mulatto is presented by Joe Christmas in "Light in August" and it represents the mulatto condition in general mainly in racial land like in United Stated.

### **2.5 The Sympathizers.**

The Negro existence in the South are limited in any life field as labors, janitors etc, their position are always lower than whites. They never reach the rights equality in all degrees of life and it is quite hard because it reminds the heritage of slavery is basic to discriminate the Negroes from generation to generation

The great moment came to Negro's destiny which was started since Proclamation Emancipation during Civil War in which Lincoln as President at that time freed slaves as his wisdom toward slavery. Most of the development Negro's lives were supported by the abolitionists or sympathizers who come from the North, New England

(Yankee), and by the Negroes themselves were freed by their master who have a better education after they were free

Furthermore, Northern idealists have important roles in developing the Negroes life in education, social life and human right. Most of the northern idealists believe that blacks and white have equal right in the eyes of God; hence, they had to treat fairly. Blake briefly states about rights equality toward the Negroes that northern idealists believe that white and black were equal in the eyes of God and should be recognized as equal in human laws and institutions (Nelson Manfred Blake, 1963:289). This situation can be see in "Light in August" through Joanna who consider between white and black are same in rights equality.

Unfortunately, The symphstizers always get the terror from that organization called **Ku Klu Klan (KKK)** or "Invisible Empire of the South;" A racist organization was established after Civil War as which consist of local group who give the terror not only to the blacks but also to the sympathizers of blacks. This group tried to defend their status as the superior group, they have wear uniform clothes with faces are closed by the black masks and by their horsing.

In Southern, Mississippi, the terror spread out to the Negroes and their sympathizers mainly during Reconstruction period. They come to the night by wearing masked black with their horsing. This condition will be found in "Light in August" where KKK gives the terror toward Reverend Gail Hightower, a sympathizer or abolitionist from the North.

## **2.6 The Term "nigger" for the Negroes**

Before the Civil War, the Negroes are called "Anglo-Africans." because they want to demonstrate that there is cultural relation between Negro and British. Then, by the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Negroes are called "Afro-American" and it is more familiar in that time.

In the middle of 19 century, Most of the Negroes struggle through public media like newspaper, Therefore, they can be called instead of "nigger". The term Negro is considered more logic than African or colored people by the Negroes, since the term strongly reflects their identities and finally it is succeeded.

The early of 20<sup>th</sup> century, the term of "Afro-American" is changed into "Negro" or "Colored". These terms are more familiar in that time than "nigger"; this term humiliates for the Negroes because they think the "nigger with small "n" is considered as a "thing" that

can be sold not as a "Human Being." They are more convertable to be called "Negro" with the letter "N"; because it refers to a person and demonstrates their original ethnic

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

Methodology is used to gain the clearer way in understanding the content of the text, methodology is a logical and systematical principal of a research (Maria S. W Sunardjono, 1996:8). In this analysis, the writer uses two approaches which are supported by library research that includes of some techniques the data collection.

#### **3.1 Approach**

An approach is a theory used to support the research, and the writer uses both extrinsic and intrinsic approaches.

##### **1. Intrinsic Approach**

Basically, the research of a literary works refers to its own internal aspects and how the writer interprets and analyzes it (Wellek and Warren, 1993:157). It means that a literary work has correlation with the structures in the text

This approach is used to analyze some literary works through some aspects which are described explicitly such as character, plot, themes and conflicts. In this analysis, the writer concentrates on the theme, the racial prejudice. The writer finds out this theme through understanding character who is prejudiced and

discriminated by the white society in the novel. Also, the sympathizers are treated unfairly for helping the black in "Light in August."

## **2. Extrinsic Approach**

According to Wellek and Warren (1993:79), a literary work especially builds external aspects such as setting and environment which are related with the author's character of art.

This approach reflects various sources especially some aspects outside the text or external factors which account for existence or the its special features (Brumfit1983:23). Extrinsic approach involves histories values and social condition of the society. The writer focuses her analysis on understanding the background of the history of American society in general which are used as a setting in this novel. The background of the history which is concerned with American condition is found in the chapter 2 of the thesis.

## **3.2 Techniques**

Some techniques are used to collect data in order to be able to analyze this story. They are as follows:

### **1. Library research**

The activities that the writer did in doing library research are as follow:



a. Find the text

Firstly, the writer collected some novels and decides one; it "Light in August". The writer reads carefully the novel and found the main idea of the story to be analyzed. The text is based on the original edition published by Penguin Books.

b. Find books about the literature

The writer collected some books to support the analysis.

c. Find books about the story of American.

This analysis has to be related with the story of America particularly related to the prejudice or discrimination toward the Negroes who live as the inferior ethnic in America, Also, the phenomena which is concerned to the sympathizers who are treated unfairly and isolated by the white society. Therefore, the writer collected some books related to the history of the Negroes and the sympathizer's condition in United State

## 2. Identification

The following information is the activities that the writer did in making identification:

- a. Identify the theme through important characters in the novel.

After reading the novel, the writer identified some characters who have important roles in this novel. In this case, the characters are divided in to two groups; firstly the niggers as the victim of racial prejudice and the sympathizers who receive terrors from the White; secondly, the Whites as characters who treat the niggers and the sympathizers unfairly

- b. Identify all the important events in the novel that are related to racial prejudice
  1. Joe's father is killed by Hines because he is a black and let Joe's mother dies when she took birth, hence Joe become orphaned.
  2. Hines took Joe away and put him in an orphanage when he was a baby because he inherits nigger-blood.

3. Joe has to leave the orphanage after the matron knows his identity as a part-nigger.
4. Joe is avoided by his friends when they know that Joe is a part-nigger.
5. Joe's lover named Bobbie Allen leaves him after she knows that Joe is part-nigger.
6. Joe is beaten in the restaurant and in the hotel because he is a nigger.
7. Joe is accused as a murderer of a white woman, the accusation fall to him after the society know that Joe is a nigger.
8. Hightower, a minister accepts the terror for helping the blacks from the racist organization named Ku Klu Klan (K.K.K).
9. Hightower is beaten because he still lets the black live in his house
10. The black men whipped by the masked man
11. Joanna Burden and her family are hated by the white for helping the black

### **3. Note Taking**

The note taking activities include the following steps:

1. Reading the novel of "Light in August" carefully.
2. Writing the important quotation from the dialogue and the statement of the some characters that are related to racial prejudice or discrimination in the novel.



**CHAPTER IV**  
**THE ANALYSIS**

**4.1. The White's Prejudice and Discrimination to the Negroes**

"Prejudice maybe partly understood as a manifestation of the "needs" of individual personalities (1953:64)." This statement is pointed out by Yinger and Brother in their book, Racial and Cultural Minorities. This statement demonstrates that prejudice happened because there is tendency behind that attitude; one of it is the need of individual personalities.

In the novel "Light in August", the prejudice and discrimination are experienced by the Negroes (Blackman) as the inferior or minority group in United stated, particularly in South America which is recorded as the racial land.

The position of the Negroes in the South America in 1932s still keep them separate from the white in public facilities such as school, hotel, restaurant, church, parks, toilet, etc. also, This segregation has been supported by declaration of United State Court in 1896 and it is famous by term "Jim Crow, equal but separate."

According to the Chief Justice Taney of the United States Supreme Court in 1875 that the Negro had been regarded for more than a century as being of an inferior order, and they were unfit to associate with the white race, either in social or political relations (Brother and Yinger, 1953:338). The Negroes were considered dirty, smelly and careless of his personal appearance and it is found in his flashy clothing. Hence, they are suitable live in backward and become inferior by had no right to be like the white

Furthermore, the court definite to anyone with any black ancestry as black. It can be seen through one of major character in the novel, Joe Christmas. He is a mulatto, the result of race mixture between the white and the black. Therefore, Joe Christmas is treated like a nigger in general by the white because he inherits nigger blood in his body.

Besides, "Light in August" tells the story about the discrimination experienced by the Negroes during the Civil War and Reconstruction period. In this time, most of the White put the Blackman as a "thing" and not as "person". Hence, they are categorized as the inferior group.

Furthermore, The Negro's condition is worse.. They are not only is discriminated in law but also they have to receive the terror from the racist group is called Ku Klu Klan (K.K.K). This terror will be experienced by the Negroes, Also the sympathizers for helping the Negroes. Therefore, most of them consider both periods mainly during Reconstruction as the horrible period for the Negroes and the sympathizers.

Meanwhile; the white Americans always consider that their race is superior than the other mainly to the Negro. It can be seen in the scene:

... and a belief that the white race and that the American is superior to all other white races and that the American uniform is superior to all men, and that all that would ever be required of him in this payment for this belief, this privileges (Faulkner;1932:339)

From the statement above, it can be seen that the white put themselves as the superior race in the world. And it is a privileges for them as the white.

In this analysis, firstly, the writer analyzes the prejudice is experienced by the nigger in 1930s which is represented by Joe Christmas as the part-nigger and the black man during Reconstruction period in the novel.

In order to be easier in analysis, the writer describes the important characters in the novel. They are:

1. **Joe Christmas:** He is straightforward, He is a part nigger who looks like a White man. Joe is confuse about his identity because he was orphaned when his mother, Milly died in childbirth and his father was killed. He lives in Jefferson Mississippi and working in a knitting mill.
2. **Reverend Gail Hightower.** He is a minister in Jefferson. He is a Whiteman who obsessed the memory of his grandfather, who died in Jefferson during the Civil war. He is one of the Negroes sympathizers.
3. **Byron Bunch:** Joe Christmas's partner in knitting mill. He is nigger. He always spends his time in Saturday to go to the church. He is good man. He is story teller in this story.
4. **Joanna Burden:** She is a daughter of a Northern abolitionist family who move to the South during Reconstruction, after the Civil war. They come to the South to stirs the Negroes up in progressing Negro's life.
5. **Uncle doc Hines:** Joe's grandfather, a racist member who hate Joe because Joe inherits the negro-blood in him. He put Joe in



a white orphanage when Joe was a baby. Also, he killed Joe's father because he is a Blackman.

6. **Miss Atkins** : The dietitian in Joe Christmas's childhood orphanage. She tells and reports to the matron that Joe is a part-nigger. Hence, the matron looking for an adoptive father as soon as possible to adopt Joe because the matron is afraid of receiving terrors for letting the nigger live in the White orphanage.
7. **Bobbie Allen**; A waitress and a prostitute, she is Joe Christmas's first lover. She loves Joe so much, but after knowing that Joe is a nigger, she avoids and rejects him.
8. **Joe Brown alias Lucas Burch.**, a white man and Joe's partner in knitting mill. He is selfish and coward. He reports that Joe is a murderer of the white woman named Joanna Burden. Lucas fires the house of Joanna and tells to the sheriff that Joe did it. It is done because Brown is interested in the money which is offered by Joanna family for anybody who knows the murderer of the woman
9. **Percy Grimm**,; a racist colonel, he becomes the leader to stir mob up to lynch Joe Christmas

10. **Sartoris** : is a Confederate troops during the Civil war, he kills Joanna father, Burden, and her brother named Calvin when they tried to help a negro to vote in election.

11. **Burden and Calvin**: both of them are Joanna father and her brother, they are shouted by Sartoris for helping the black.

In this analysis, firstly, Joe is explained as a prejudiced person as a nigger. He is categorized as a nigger for the nigger blood in him. Therefore, he is treated and discriminated like the Negroes in general. About Joe's identity, it can be seen in the scene below

' What is it haven't heard yet?. About Christmas, about yesterday and Christmas. Charismas is part-nigger. Part-negro Hightower says. (Faulkner;1932:68)

Secondly, the writer describes the Black man who received from the racist member during Reconstruction. In this novel, the author does not tell their name but he only calls them as the black.

The prejudice and discrimination which is happened to Joe Christmas in 1930s, after World War as a nigger; and the Blackman during Civil War and Reconstruction involves two aspects: social life and law aspects.

#### **4.1.1 Social life**

##### **a. The Negroes Condition in 1930s**

In this analysis, the writer describes about the treatment and the status of the Negroes in 1930s when the novel is written. In this time, it was still found segregation in public facilities between the white and the black such as at school, hotel, restaurant, park etc.

The white consider that if they play or join with the Negroes, it is a humiliation for them as the majority group or the superior. Hence, the white avoid playing or joining at the same place with the Negroes. It can be seen to Joe Christmas as a nigger in the novel.

When Joe Christmas was five years old and lived in an orphaned White. He was avoided by the other children after they knew that Joe is a part-nigger. They rejected to play and join with Joe Christmas because there is nigger blood inherits in his body. It can be seen in the scene

Why don't you play with them other children like you used to?" It is because they call you nigger?" and he didn't say nothing and old Doc Hines said" Do you think you are a nigger because God has marked your face." That bastard, Lord! And God said, It's that bastard. He is a pollution and a abomination on My earth (Faulkner, 1932:289-280)

Joe's identity was revealed by his grandfather, Doc Hines who came to the orphanage as a janitor, and he deliberately came there because he wanted to tell the other children that Joe Christmas is a nigger. It can be seen when Miss Atkins said to him

Watching him and hearing the other children calling him Nigger. That's what you are doing. I know, you come here just to do that, to watch him and hate him (Faulkner, 1932:97)

Besides that, Hines told Atkins that Joe is a part-nigger; Then Atkins reported to the matron about Joe's identity. It is deliberately done by Atkins in order to force Joe to leave the orphanage because she is afraid if Joe opens her secret intercourse with a man in her room to the matron.

After knowing that Joe is a part-nigger, without telling anybody, the matron looked for somebody to adopt Joe as son as possible without anybody knows. It can be seen in the scene below

We must place him, we must place him at once. She said immediately, almost a little too immediately: 'We make no effort to ascertain their parentage. As I told you before, he was left on the doorstep here on Christmas eve will be five years this two weeks. (Faulkner, 1932:109).

From the scene above, the writer takes conclusion that Atkins discriminates Joe Christmas for her own need. It can be seen when

she tells the matron about Joe's identity because she is afraid if her secret is known by the matron.

Furthermore, the matron deliberately let Joe to be adopted by the other man because she is afraid of receiving terrors from the white racist for letting a nigger lives in the white orphanage. This treatment demonstrates discrimination in public facility like orphanage because they reject to live together with the nigger.

Also, in the past, Hines killed Joe's father. Hines believes that Joe's father must be black because he has ancestry from the Mexican. Hines killed the man when he found his daughter, Milly met the black man in the hidden place. Hines shot the man when it is raining and then the man is put in the road. It can be seen in scene below:

He found them like he had known all the time just where they would be, like him and the man that his gal told him was a Mexican had made a date to meet there. He rode up on the right side of it and he leaned down, still in the pitch dark and without saying a word and without stopping his horse, and grabbed the man that might have been a stranger and grabbed him by one hand and held the pistol against him with the other and shot him dead and brought the gal back home behind him on the horse. He left the buggy and the man both there in the road. It was raining again too,' (Faulkner:282).

From the all scenes above, the writer takes conclusion:

Firstly, the treatment which is experienced by Joe Christmas demonstrates the discrimination in public facilities like the orphanage. The orphanage rejects Joe Christmas to live in it because he is a part-nigger

Secondly, the killing which was by Hines to the Blackman when he met his lover, Milly, daughter own Hines demonstrates that Hines rejects to let his daughter to have a love with the Blackman. Hines hates the black because they are curse of God. Therefore, Hines shot the black man and put him in the road.

Furthermore, when Joe Christmas was seventeen years old. He has an affair with a white woman prostitute named Bobbie Allen. Both of them love each other. At first, Bobbie did not know that Joe is a part nigger. However, after Joe honestly told her that he inherits the nigger-blood in him. Bobbie hated Joe Christmas because previously she had treated like the white man.

Until one day Joe Christmas comes to the restaurant where Bobbie was working to ask her to marry him. She was screaming and calling him a bastard and son of a bitch, even she let her friends to beat Joe Christmas to get out of the restaurant. It can be seen in the scene below

I come to get Bobbie. . . and to get married; . . . then her face is strained, the mouth screaming, the eyes screaming, even her mouth, in contrast to the hair as still as a dead mouth in a dead face, "bastard! Son of a bitch. Getting me into a jam that always treated you like you were a white man. A white woman! (Faulkner;1932:164)

Several years later, after he was betrayed by Bobbie Allen, he was wandering from city to city, until one day he came to the hotel to have an intercourse with a white prostitute. Firstly, the white woman considers that Joe is a foreigner not a nigger. Then, when Joe told the woman that he is a black. It made the woman screamed and kicked him until the police came to subdue Joe Christmas.

Most of the white prostitutes think that accepting the black customers humiliate them. Therefore, the woman kicks Joe out without making him pay. Then, Joe Christmas was beaten by the other patrons for his braveness to have intercourse with the white woman and came to the place which was dominated by the white. It can be seen in the scene below:

. . . He was still in the South, it was quite simple. Usually all he risked was a cursing from the woman and the matron of the house. Though now and then he was beaten unconscious by the others patron. . . . The "Rizt Hotel." Because one night it did not work. He rose from the bed and told to the woman that he was a negro... her mouth open to scream. Then she did scream. It took two police to subdue him (Faulkner;1932:169)

The unfair treatment which was done by Bobbie Allen in the restaurant and the white woman in the hotel show the discrimination in social life mainly in using in public facilities.

Firstly, the relationship between the white woman and the Negro man can raise the problem. It can be seen when the patrons beat Joe Christmas because Joe Christmas has braveness to come to the place which is dominated by the White men. Then, the white woman consider that receive the black customer will humiliate them as the white women.

Secondly, discrimination in using the public facilities because they forbid the nigger to come to restaurant or the hotel which are dominated by the white men.

After accepting the unfair treatment from both White women, Bobbie Allen in the restaurant and the White prostitute in the hotel. Joe was asking to himself, whether, the White women who will accept him with nigger blood inherits in him. It can be seen through the scene below

He did not know until then that there were white women who would take a man with a black skin  
(Faulkner;1932:169)



From the treatments that are experienced by Joe Christmas, the writer takes conclusion in general that Joe is the victim of racial prejudice because he is a nigger

b. The Negroes Condition during Civil War and Reconstruction

In this part, the writer analyzes the White's treatment toward the black during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. In the Reconstruction period, the condition of the black man is worse than their condition after World War I. Even, most of the Blackman considers that Reconstruction as the horrible period for them.

In this time, most the Negroes were violanced by the White. The Black has to receive terrors from the racist White group; it is called Ku Klu Klan (KKK). They were very well -known to spread the terror for the black in the night. They worn black masked and rode horse.

The treatment of the racist group can be found in "Light in August". It was experienced by a Negro woman who lives in a minister's house named Hightower. One night, the party or the racist group came to Hightower's house and ordering Hightower to fire the Negro woman. Therefore, the Negro woman who works as the cook

must be quit because she was afraid if the masked man will come again. It can be seen in the scene:

One day the cook quit. They heard how one night a party of carelessly masked men went to the minister's house and ordered him to fire her. Then they heard how the next day the woman told that she quit herself because her employer asked her to do something which she said was against God and nature (Faulkner;1932:55)

One day, Hightower found a new cook, a Negro man, too. Then, in the evening the masked man came to Hightower's house and whipped the Negro man. They ordered the Negro man to leave the house as soon as possible. It can be seen in the scene

... One day that he had a Negro man to cook for him. And that finished him, sure enough. Because that evening some man, not masked either, took the negro man out and whip him (Faulkner;1932:55-56)

The treatment and the violence which are experienced by the Negro woman and the Negro man indicates that the racist White reject to live in harmony with the black man. It happened because they consider that the black is not suitable to live with them, they are the inferior group and it is suitable for them to live in the poverty or in the slum.

#### **4.1.2 Law Aspect**

In law aspect, the writer divides discrimination to the Black into two parts. Firstly, the rights of the Black to vote in the election during the Civil War and Reconstruction periods. Secondly, the lynching is experienced by the nigger who is represented by Joe Christmas in the novel happened around 1930s.

##### **a. Voting**

In this analysis, the writer describes the condition of the Negroes to vote in both civil War and Reconstruction. In this time, American custom mainly in Southern still prevent the black from the voting. Then, most the Negroes accept the terror from the racist group (Ku Klu Klan). Therefore, Most of the Negroes consider that Reconstruction as the horrible period for the black.

Its condition can be seen in the novel through the character in the novel. They were Joanna's father, Burden and her brother, Calvin. Both of them were killed by a colonel Sartoris when they tried to help a Negro to vote in the election. They were shot in the town. It can be seen in the scene:

. . . , father was the last two, and Calvin was the last of all, He had just turned twenty when he was killed in the

town to miles away by an ex-slaveholder and Confederate soldier named Sartoris, over a question of negro voting (Faulkner; 1932:187)

Also, a Negro boy and onearmed were killed by Sartoris when the boy tried to vote in election for the first time in his life. It can be seen in the scene

I suppose that Colonel Sartoris was a town hero because he killed with two shots from the same pistol an old onearmed man and a boy who had never even cast first vote (Faulkner;1932:187)

Furthermore, the Negroes have no rights to vote in the election during the Civil War. It can be seen when Joanna's grandfather and her brother want to let a Negro to vote. However, both them are killed by an enslave-owner

The fact that it is now sixty years since her grandfather and her brother were killed on the square by an enslave-owner over a question of negro votes in a state election (Faulkner1932:37)

From all scenes above, the writer takes conclusion that in that time, the black had no any rights to vote in the election. Even, they were shot by the white man for the voting in election.

The treatment are experienced by the Negroes above demonstrate discrimination in the law because the black is still prevented by the White to use their rights as the American citizen.

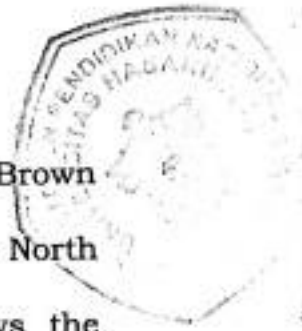
### **b. Lynching**

Lynching can be defined as "a mob action which deprives a person of his life without due process of law" (Harper and Brother; 1953:983). Lynching had developed in United States mainly in the South and most of the victims of lynching are the Negroes because they are the object of discrimination in American society.

In this analysis, the writer demonstrates that lynching happened to the Negroes because there is tendency behind that. It is not only triggered by the Negro's status as the inferior group but also the economic factor. It can be seen to the anybody want to lynch because they interested to the reward which is offered and most of the lynchers from the poor man or having the low economic.

The lynching in "Light in August" can be found through one of the character in the novel, Joe Christmas. In this case, he represents the Negro's condition particularly in 1930s.

It is started when Joe Christmas is accused as the murderer of a white woman, Joanna Burden. This accusation was committed by



the white man named Joe Brown (Lucas brunch). It is done by Brown because he is interested in a thousand dollar money from the North where Joanna's family lives offered for anybody who knows the murderer. It can be seen when Brown comes and reports the sheriff that Joe Christmas is the murderer. It can be seen in the scene

The last night Brown showed up, he come onto the square about eight o'clock, wild, yelling about how it was Christmas that killed her and making his claim on that thousand dollar . . . . he's got nigger blood in him, One time he even admitted it, told me he was part nigger (Faulkner;1932:71)

Moreover, when Brown tells the sheriff that Joe Christmas has murdered the white woman, Brown tried to hide the fact that he actually is related to the murder. Therefore, the sheriff distrust implies that Brown might be the culprit. However, after Brown tells the sheriff that Joe is a nigger, the townspeople's and the sheriff's attitudes in the office changed directly. It can be seen in the scene when Brown said that Joe is a nigger:

Accuse me!, accuse the white man that's trying to help you with what he knows. Accuse the white man and let the nigger to free, accuse the white man and let the nigger run, nigger?" the sheriff said, nigger. . ., fooled for three years calling him a foreigner for three years (Faulkner;1932:75)

Even though there is no proof to support the accusation to Joe Christmas, they believe that he must be blame because he is a nigger. It can be seen in the scene when Brown told the sheriff about Joe's identity, the sheriff and the townspeople's attitude changed directly. Also, it is supported by the White man's myth that the Negro man is a threat for the white woman.

Furthermore, the townspeople asked and demanded the sheriff to lynch Joe Christmas, but the sheriff rejects to do it. He asked them to respect the law by giving Joe Christmas a chance to defend himself. However, the townspeople rejected and they suspect the sheriff that he does not want to lynch Joe. It can be seen when one of them says to the sheriff

Asking the folks to respect the law and that him and the Jefferson sheriff both promised that the nigger would get a quick and fair trial; and then somebody in the crowd says, "Fair, hell. "Did he give that the white woman a fair triad"? And they hollered then, crowding up, like they were hollering for one another to the dead. We reckon you don't want him lynched. (Faulkner, 1932:267)

Even though, the sheriff tells them that he has to be fair to Joe Christmas, it does not mean that he has sympathy to the nigger,

he tried to give the fair trial because the sheriff does not like the trouble happened later. It can be seen in the scene:

I have no more sympathy with nigger murderers than any other white man here, he says, but it is my sworn oath, and by God I am to keep it. I don't want no trouble (Faulkner; 1932:267)

Furthermore, one of them (town people) said to the sheriff that if Joe Christmas is suspected as the murderer of the white woman and lynched. They will receive the thousand dollar reward. It can be seen in the scene:

"we reckon you don't want him lynched, but he aint worth any thousand dollar to us. He aint worth a thousand dead matches to us." And then he sheriff says quick: "What if Halliday don't want him killed? Done we all want the same thing? Here it is a local citizen that will get the reward: the money will be spent right here in Mottstown (Faulkner;1932:267)

From the scenes above, the writer takes conclusion that the White people have two reasons and tendencies to discriminate Joe Christmas in law aspect.

Firstly, Joe Christmas is a nigger and he is accused as a murderer of a white woman. Even though Joe is not related with the murder, he must be guilty because there is nigger-blood inherits in



him. It is support by the White's myth that the white men are a threat for the White woman.

Secondly, the White society want to lynch Joe Christmas because they are interested one thousand dollars which are offered by Joanna family for anybody knows the murderer of Joanna.

Moreover, after the sheriff rejected to lynch Joe Christmas, Percy Grimm appeared as the hero in the time because he was ready to be A lyncher for Joe Christmas. Though, the sheriff asked Grimm to give Justice to Joe by brings this case to the court. However, Grimm said that the government has not any rights to hold this case. However, Percy Grimm thinks that it is the internal case and it will be over through their own way. It can be seen in the scene

This is not the government trouble yet, Kennedy might not like it. This is Jefferson's trouble, not Washington's. Make him like that, Grimm said. What does your religion stand for, if not for the protection of American and Americans? (Faulkner;1932:341)

In other sides, Hines did as same as Grimm. After Hines hearted that Joe Christmas was captured, he wanted Joe to be lynched. He come from Mottstown to Jefferson to stir townspeople up to lynch own grandson, Joe Christmas. It can be seen when Byron

tells to Hightower that Hines reaches Christmas and strikes him and yells kill the bastard

"Kill the bastard! "Kill him". Kill him !. He was trying down in Mottstown yesterday to get the folks worked up top lynch him", lynch him?' Hightower said Lynch his own grandson (Faulkner; 1932:259 & 279)

Also, Percy Grimm stirs the townspeople up to find Joe Christmas from his hiding place Until one day, they find Joe Christmas is running through a small garden. Even though Grimm saw Joe, he did not shot because Grimm knows that Joe is running into Hightower house, it can be seen in the scene

He did not fire, because Christmas was now running through a small garden and straight toward a house. Running, he saw Christmas 'Hah,' grim said. The preacher's house. Hightower's house.(Faulkner, 1933:348)

After Grimm enters Hightower's house, he asked Hightower about Joe. However, Hightower tried to give alibi to Grimm that Joe was with him when the night of the murderer. Unfortunately, the alibi is fail. It can be seen in the scene

He was here that night,. He was with me the night of the murder. I Swear to God, but Grimm flung the old man aside and ran on (Faulkner;1932:348)

Finally, Grimm and mobs into the room until they find Joe is hiding under the table. Then, Grimm shoots Joe Christmas five times, then, they castrate him and yell "now you'll let white woman alone even hell, it can be seen in the scene below

. . . , Grimm emptied the automatic's magazine into the table; later somebody covered all five shots with a folded handkerchief

But the player was not done yet. When the others reached the kitchen they saw the table flung aside now and Grimm stooping over the body. When they approached to see what he was about, they saw that the man was not dead yet. And when they saw what Grimm was doing one of the man gave a choked cry and stumbled back into the wall and began to vomit. Then Grimm sprang back, flinging behind him the bloody butcher knife. "Now you'll lets white woman alone, even in hell," he said. But the man on the floor had not moved, he just lay there, with his eyes open and empty of everything save consciousness (Faulkner348 & 349)

From all the scenes above, the writer takes conclusion:

Firstly, Joe Christmas is lynched by a racist member and the townspeople without any proof which support that Joe Christmas is guilty for the murder. Therefore, Joe has to die tragically. The lynching which is experienced by Joe Christmas demonstrates the discrimination in law because Joe is not given any chance to defend himself that he is not a murderer.

Secondly, Most of the blame is committed by the white only. It can be seen from Brown as the witness toward the murder of the white woman. Honestly, the murderer who fires the white woman is Brown himself, it can be seen when a country man passed Joanna's house and saw smoke in the house. The country man found the drunken man in the house but he does not know that it is Brown

The countryman did not know it was Brown that he found drunk in the house (Faulkner;1932:71)

Then, Brown forbids the countryman to help Joanna up stair. However, the countryman shaver him and go to the up stair. The countryman find Joanna died in the room. After the countryman come down, the drunk man has gone. It can be seen in the scene

The drunk man was trying to keep him from going up stair, So he started upstairs, and the drunk fellow trying to hold him back, and he shaver the drunk man away, and when he come back down again , the drunk fellow, he was gone (Faulkner;1932:70)

Even though Joe is blameless, he can not get the justice until he has to die tragically because he inherits nigger-blood in his body. The blame is committed by a white man only, Joe Brown. Joe Christmas is not given to defend himself that he is blameless because he is a nigger. It can be seen in the scene

He never admitted that he killed her. And all the evidence they got against him is Brown's word (Faulkner;1932:293)

From the statement above, the writer takes conclusion that Joe is blameless. He is lynched by the white for his nigger-blood in him; then, this moment is deliberately used by Brown to revenge Joe Christmas because Joe is richer than him when they work in a knitting mill.

Furthermore, The discrimination is experienced by Joe Christmas can be related with the white man's myth that a negro man is a threat for the white woman where Grimm said when he shots Joe Christmas "Now you'll lets white woman alone."

## **2.2 The White Treatment to The sympathizers of the Negroes**

The white's treatment toward the sympathizers can be categorized into two parts. Firstly, the terror which is accepted by the sympathizer for helping the black, like Hightower. Secondly, the white treatment like the isolation for the sympathizers because she or he is included the abolitionist's family, it is experienced by Joanna Burden and her family.

The condition of the some characters as the sympathizers which are analyzed in the novel represent the condition the sympathizers in general in United States

### **2.2.1 The Terror and Violence**

One of the treatments of the white upon the sympathizer in the Reconstruction is the terror from the racist group named Ku Klu Klan (K.K.K). It is experienced by one of the character in the novel; He is a minister named Reverend Gail Hightower.

He always helps the black by letting them in his house. One of them is a Negro woman. She works as the cook in his house. One day, the racist group come in the night and order to Hightower to fire her. However, Hightower does not do it. Then the Negro woman is quit to be the cook and leave the Hightower's house.

Then, Hightower finds the new cook; he is a Negro man too. In the evening, the racist groups come to Hightower's house and whip the negro man. They order the Negro man to leave the house or they will come again to whip him the day after.

Furthermore, Hightower receive the terror too from the racist group named Ku Klu Klan (K.K.K). They order to Hightower and the Negro man leave the town, Jefferson. However, Hightower reject to leave the town. Therefore, in the morning his windows is broken and find a note is signed by K.K.K. The note orders Hightower to leave the town before sunset. It can be seen in the scene below

One day that he had a negro man to cook for him. And that finished him, sure enough. Because evening in some men not masked either, took the negro man and whipped him. And when Hightower waked the morning his study windows was broken and on the floor lay a brick, with a note tied to it, commanding him to get out of town by sunset and signed **K.K.K** (Faulkner;1932:56)

Hightower rejects to leave Jefferson, therefore, he is beaten until he is unconscious and tied to a tree in the next morning. This treatment has to be accepted by him for helping the niggers. It can be seen in the scene below

And he did not go, and on the second morning a man found him in the wood about a mile from town. He had been tied to a tree and beaten unconscious (Faulkner;1932:56)

Even though Hightower is terror and beaten, he still stay in the Jefferson. He has spent his time to be a minister in town; besides that, his grandfather is graved in Jefferson. Therefore, it is difficult for

him to leave the town. Besides that, He wants to continue his grandfather to help the black man.

The treatment is experienced by Gail Hightower demonstrates the violence which has to be received by him for letting a Negro in his house.

Meanwhile, whites who have the sympathy toward Hightower advise to him order to leave the town. They think that one day the racist group can kill him. Besides that, the town people are still curious about the accident happened to Hightower; who has done it, but Hightower refuses to tell to them who had done it. It can be seen in scene below

He refused to tell who had done it. The town knew that that was wrong, and some of the man come to him and tried again to persuade him to leave Jefferson, for his own good, telling him that next time they might kill him. But he refused to leave (Faulkner, 1932:56)

From the scene above, the writer takes conclusion that the treatment which is experienced by Hightower the same as the treatment the Negroes man received. Hightower has to accept the terror because he has let the Negroes live in his house. Therefore, he is treated like the Negroes in general. It suitable with Quint, Albertson, and Cantor' statement in "Main Problems In American



Story" that "Whites who befriended or aided freedmen were liable to the same harassing that Negroes received" (1968:483)

### 2.2.2 The Isolation

The treatment which is experienced by the other sympathizer is isolated from their community, in this case, the community who hates the Negroes for they are inferior and put themselves as the superior. The isolation can be found in the novel through one of the character in the novel, Joanna Burden.

She is a daughter of a Northern abolitionist family, who moved to Jefferson during The Reconstruction after The Civil War. Her ancestors come from New England, Yankee, but she was born and lived in Jefferson all her life. She is a rich spinster. She comes to South as their way to develop and help the niggers

Joanna and her family believe that The Black is the same as the White in every degree of life. Hence, The Black should be treated fairly like the human in general. It can be seen in the quotation below:

She is Yankee. Her folks come down here in the Reconstruction, to stir up the nigger. Two of them got killed. They say that she is mixed up with the niggers. Visit them when they are sick, like they was white. Wont have a cook because it would have to be a nigger cook. Folks say claim that that niggers are the same as white folks (Faulkner, 1932:42)

Joanna is a spinster who comes from the North during The Reconstruction. She lives in a big house alone. She fights to help the Negroes in improving their life. It can be seen in the statement of the worker below:

She lives in a big house alone, a woman middle age. She has lived in the house since she was born, yet she is still a stranger, a foreigner whose people moved in from the North during Reconstruction. A Yankee, a lover of the Negroes, about whom in the town there is still talk of queer relation with Negroes in the town and out of it (Faulkner, 1932:37)

The quotation above shows Joanna's identity. Also, he is the protector of the Negroes. She still is considered as the foreigner by the community because she is seldom to go out or interact with them except she goes to visit the Negroes schools

Joanna Burden have attitude like above; It is probably affected by the accidents in the past where her family as the sympathizers are hated by the community and killed by the white racists. It can be seen in the scene when her grandfather and her brother are killed because they want to let Negro to vote in election.

The fact that it is now sixty years since her grandfather and her brother were killed on the square by an enslave-owner over a question of negro votes in a state election (Faulkner 1932:37)

Sixty years ago, her grandfather named Calvin and her brother killed by an enslaved owner because they tried to defend the slaves' rights in order to the Negroes can vote in the election.

Furthermore, Joanna tells Joe Christmas who lives in her house that her grandfather tells to Joanna's father that he has to hate two things in the life, one of it is slaveholder. Its way is cursed by God and these have to be avoided.. It can be seen in the quotation below:

... and his loud voice cursing slavery and slaveholders, .  
. . 'I'll learn you to hate two things, he would say, or I'll  
frail the tar out of you, and those things are hell and  
slaveholders. Do you hear me?. 'Yes,' the boy would say.  
(Faulkner: 182-183).

Joanna tells him that her father, Burden, kills a man when he tries to defend a slave. It happens when they live in the Northern. The accident makes them move from the North. Joanna's family moves westward and stays in a democrat country to continue their attempts in improving the Black's life.

Burden killed a man in an argument over slavery and he had to take his family and move, leave Saint Louis, He moved westward to get way from Democrat,' he said (Faulkner:182).

Furthermore, Joanna's father believes that one day or a hundred years later the Black status will be as equal as the White status. Joanna's family as the sympathizers tried to be order the blacks is recognized as the white. Hence, they tried to develop the education for the black by building the school like is done by Joanna now, his daughter. It can be seen when Joanna father said in this quotation.

"We done freed them now, both black and white alike, They'll bleach out now. In a hundred years they will be white folks again, then maybe we'll let them come back to America (Faulkner;1932:186).

Moreover, Joanna's father (Burden) and her brother (Calvin) dead during Reconstruction period. They were shouted by an ex-slaveholder and Confederate soldier named Sartoris because they want to let the black to vote in election, it can be seen in the scene below:.

And father was the last of two, was the last of all,' He has just turned twenty when he was killed in the town to miles away by an ex-slaveholder and Confederate soldier named Sartoris, over a question Negro voting. (Faulkner;1932:187)

The killing toward her family is done by Sartoris as an ex-slaveholder was experienced by Joanna' family as consequences

which should be received by them as the abolitionists. This accident happened in Reconstruction period in 1863 where the White still intimidated the Blacks to vote in election.

Then, Sartoris becomes a town hero after he killed the Joanna,' father and her brother. This condition is same experienced by Percy Grimm in which he becomes the hero town after he took decision to punish Joe Christmas based on their own law by lynching

Furthermore, Joanna tells to Joe that she has to hide the graves her family for years. The grave involves her grandfather, her father and her brother to avoid digging by the white who hate them member toward those graves. Hence, she never tells to anybody where the grave of her family. She is scared if the community dig them up. It can be seen when she tells to Joe Christmas below:

she told Christmas about the graves- the brother's, the grandfather's, the father's,. She never mentioned the graves because when they brought grandfather and Calvin home that evening until after darker and buried them and *hid* the graves, leveled the mounds and put brush and things over them

'Hid them?' Christmas said. There was nothing soft, feminine, mournful and retrospective in her voice, 'So they would not find them. Dig them up, maybe butcher them (Faulkner;1932:187).

From the statement above, it can be seen the isolation which is accepted by them for helping the black. Joanna has to hide the grave is one of proof that the society reject existence the sympathizers to help the black man.

Besides, Joanna realizes that his family is quite hated by the community because they help the black. The White community always consider that Joanna's family as their enemies and **carpetbaggers**; the Negroes are freed during Civil War period and the end of Reconstruction period they have dominated the Southern politics around 1868-1871. It can be in the quotation below:

'She went on, her voice a little impatient, explanatory: They hated us here. We were Yankee, Foreigners. Worse than foreigners: enemies, *Carpetbaggers*. And it the War- still too close for even the ones that got whipped to be very sensible. String up the Negroes to murder and rape, they called it. Threatening white supremacy. So I suppose that colonel Sartoris was a town hero because he killed with two shots from the same pistol an old one armed man and a boy who had never even cast his first vote (Faulkner;1932:187)

From quotation above, it can be seen how the White treat them as they do toward the Black in general. The white hate them because they are considered as the person whom threat their supremacy as the superior group

One way is demonstrated by Joanna as the sympathizers in the novel is asking Joe Christmas to work in her company. Joanna gives Joe support in order to he is able to rise his life and the others niggers. Hence, she wants to Joe to help her to manage and teach in colleges of the Blacks or working in law for the Negroes. It can be see when she asks to Joe to work in his company below:

" They will take you, any of them will. On my account. You can choose any one you want among them, we wont even have to pay. "to school,' his mouth said. A nigger school. Yes, you can go to Memphis. You can read law in Peebles's office. He will teach you law. Then you can take charge of the legal all business. All this, all that he does, Peebles does (Faulkner:208).

Joanna is a rich woman in Jefferson. She can help the Negroes By her wealth. She is hated and isolated by the community because she helps the Negroes. Therefore, when her house is burned, most of them are excited with the burning. It can be seen in the scene

It is a big fire, another said. What can it be? I don't remember anything out that way big enough to make all that smoke except that Burden house.

He can remember how fifty years ago folks said it ought to be burned, and with a little human fat meat to start it good.' Maybe your pappy slipped out there and set it afire, a third said. They laughed. Then they went back to work, waiting for the whistle, pausing now and then to look at the smoke. (Faulkner:39)

The statement above, the writer takes conclusion that the community only looks the smoke without trying to help the house burned. It means that they do not care the accident happened to Joanna. They only laughed when they look it. This community's attitude shows that they like the accident happened toward Joanna.

Also, from the scenes are demonstrated about the isolation above, the writer takes conclusion that isolation is experienced by the sympathizers or abolitionists; Joanna Burden and her family in the novel

Firstly, the isolation happened to the sympathizer because they help the Negroes, freedom for the Negroes to be equal like the White mainly confession in status equal with the woman. It can be seen when Joanna's father said "one hundred later, the black will be whites folks again" and Joanna said that "the niggers is same like the white."

Secondly, the sympathizers tried to develop or progress the Negroes life through building the school or the company for the Negroes. It can be seen when Joanna builds the school and the company for niggers. For instances, asking Joe Christmas works in



her lawyer company and teaches the Negro's school in improving their life.

The treatment is experienced by the sympathizers as a consequence as the sympathizers for helping the Negroes. They are not only receive the terror from the racist organization called Ku Klu Klan like Hightower and his servants received but also isolated by the community like Joanna burden, it is suitable with the statement of Quint, Albert, Cantor that "the sympathizers were liable the same harassing that the Negroes received" Main Problem in America History'1968 :483)

## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

#### 1.5 Conclusion

The racial prejudice or discrimination has become the main problem in American society. Racial prejudice is not only experienced by the Negroes as the inferior group but also the mulattoes which are still categorized as a nigger by the White which is seen through ancestry view. Therefore, Joe Christmas is treated like the nigger in general. Also, the sympathizers receive the same treatment like the niggers receive from the White for helping the Negroes.

Moreover, the literature tried to represents the part of the realities in that society by an author's view. Picturing the racial prejudice through a literature, a novel will be complexities thing in enrich literature world view. It means that a literature is not limited in imagination only but it reaches a reality by experience of an author as an certain community for his life.

The unfairly treatment experienced by Joe Christmas as part nigger [mulatto] and other niggers in "Light in August" by William Faulkner is one of the White's responds to show that they reject the niggers to live close to them. They reject the niggers as a part of their

community because they are the inferior and it is suitable for them to live in slum.

The treatments are accepted by the Negroes demonstrates the discrimination in some aspects such as law and social life. This discrimination happened because they have tendency behind that, for instances, Joe Christmas has to be treated unfairly because there is nigger-blood inherits in him, besides that, it is triggered by the economic factor. Furthermore, the sympathizers have to accept the treatment like the Black received for helping the Black such as the terror, isolation and the violence.

In this analysis, the writer find one; even though a mulatto has white appearance but it does not mean that he can be accepted in White society. Interestingly, the treatment toward Joe Christmas in "Light In August" is responded by Mahatma Gandhi's grandson named Arun Gandhi when he visit to Mississippi in 1948, South America. Arun Gandhi said that "segumpal darah Negro dalam tubuhmu meskipun seperenambelas tetap akn membutmu seorang Negro." This statement has proved that the discrimination in America still becomes the main problem in that time.

## **5.2 Suggestion**

There are many aspects in literary work that can be analyzed as an object of observation to develop a thesis. Hence, the writer hopes that the students of the literature are able to choose one of the aspects by focusing more on the external aspects like social, culture, etc.

These aspects are interesting to be analyzed because we will know that a work is not limited in the internal aspects only, it involves external aspect. Therefore, the students are able to enrich their knowledge from the both of the aspects. Also, the writer suggests to the student of literature always tried to find the "something new" to develop an analysis in literature

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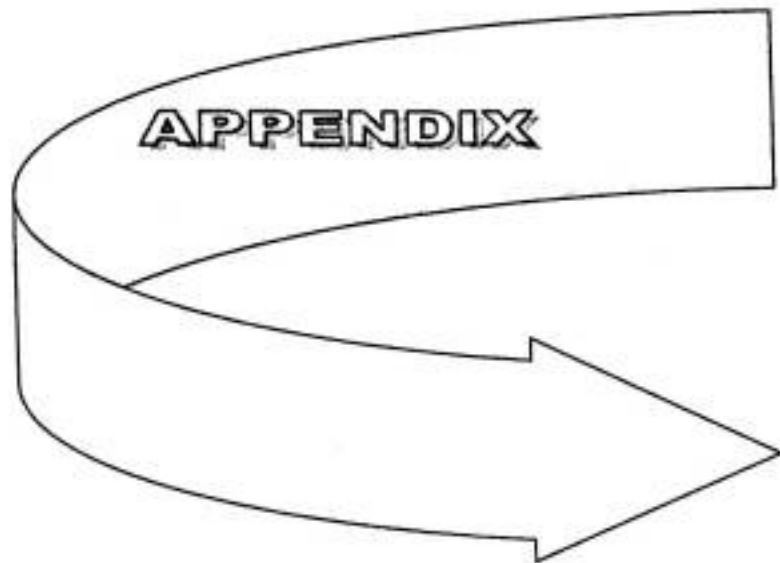
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**APPENDIX**



## **The Summary of "Light in August"**

"Light in August" tells Joe Christmas as a part-nigger [mulatto]. He is orphaned when his mother [Milly] dies in childbirth and his father is killed by Milly's father [Eupheus Hines]. Hines believes that Joe's father is a black.

Furthermore, Hines leaves the infant [Joey] at a white orphanage until Joe is five years old. Then, Joe is adopted by a puritanical farmer named McEachern. Joe has to leave the orphanage after the matron (the leader of the orphanage) knows that Joe is a part-nigger from the dietitian. Joe lives his adoptive father from the age of five until 18 years old.

For 15 years he wanders from city to city, when he is 25 years old, he lives in Jefferson, Mississippi, and become the lover of Joanna Burden. Joanna is a rich white woman from New England who moved during reconstruction period to support the Negro's life.

One day, the home of Joanna Burden is burned and she is found dead. A man named Joe brown [Lucas brunch] comes to claim the thousand dollars reward for information of murder. Lucas Brunch claims that that Joe Christmas is a nigger and he is the murderer of Joanna burden.



Even though there is not enough proof toward the accusation, but the sheriff and the townspeople believe that Joe is a murderer because he is a nigger. They believe that a Blackman is a threat for the white women.

Furthermore, Joe is captured in Mottostown by the accusation of that murder. The townspeople are outraged that Joe is a nigger who killing a white woman. Meanwhile, Joe's grandfather [Eupheus Hines], a racist member live in the same town where Joe is captured hears about the capture. Hines want to kill Joe or have him lynched.

After Joe brings in Jefferson, Joe escapes and runs to Hightower's house where he is killed. Hightower is a minister 25 years ago. He always helps the Negroes [Reconstruction period], hence, he receives the terror from the masked man named Ku Klu Klan (KKK). KKK is white organization which is performed after Civil war. They have mission to give the terror to the Negroes or any body who help the Negroes. Moreover, Joanna Burden is isolated by his community for helping the black

Before Percy Grimm, a racist army captain kills and castrates Joe Christmas; Hightower tries to give alibi that Joe Christmas was with him in the night of the murder. Unfortunately, the claim is fail.

Finally, Joe is shot for five times by Grimm without giving him justice through law processing (lynching).

## WILLIAM FAULKNER'S BIOGRAPHY

William Faulkner (originally Falkner), he was born in New Albany, Mississippi in September 1897 and he died in Mississippi in 1962. he grew up in oxford, Mississippi . His father named Murry who worked on the railroad but only as a fireman, engineer, and conductor, meanwhile his mother is Maud Butler worked a passenger agent.. He is the second son in his family and his eldest brother named William Cuthbert.

The united Stated had entered World War I the years before, Faulkner tried to enlist for flight training but he was rejected as too short. He then applied to the Canadian royal air Force. To help him get accepted, he invented a British background an added the letter "u" to his last name to make it sound more British. The Canadian took him, but the war ended before Faulkner got to flay a single mission. Perhaps this experience helped Faulkner create the frustrated, would-be soldier named Percy Grimm, who kill Joe Christmas in "Light in August."

Faulkner has a great-grandfather named William Clark Falkner; he was a Civil war veteran who known as the "old colonel". Faulkner's grandfather is a novelist too. One of his a popular romance, "the White Rose of Memphis (1882). When still a boy, William Faulkner heard many inspiring tales about this family patriarch. One day he told to his teacher that " I want to be a writer like my great-granddaddy."

In 1924, with the financial help of his friend named Phil Stone, Faulkner published a book of poems like the marble faun. Unfortunately, the book is ignored by the public.. then Faulkner visits

New Orleans, Faulkner became friend with the writer named Sherwood Anderson who encouraged him to concentrate on fiction. In 1926 his first novel was published. It was *Soldier's pay*, a story about postwar disillusionment, then *Mosquitoes* (1927)

The works were written by William Faulkner

1. *Soldier's pay* (1926) is his first novel, it tells the story about postwar disillusionment.
2. *Mosquitoes* (1927), a satire on New Orleans literary life.

Both works were written in Paris, after he leaves Paris; Faulkner tried to concentrate in Mississippi condition as a subject in his writing. They are:

1. *Sartoris* (1929), in same year he married Estelle Oldham. The first novel that takes setting in Mississippi.
2. *The Sound and the Fury* (1929)
3. *As I Lay Dying* (1930). It reveals the physiology relationship of a subnormal poor-white family.
4. *Sanctuary* (1931), it is a sadistic horror story.
5. *Light in August* (1932), it tells about the relationship between a part-nigger and a part-whiteman and a Blackman.
6. *Absalom! Absalom!* (1936), set in 19<sup>th</sup>-century.
7. *A Fable* (1954). Faulkner received the Pulitzer Prize for this work.
8. *The Reivers* (1962), this work published just before Faulkner's death and it received the Pulitzer Prize.

Many works were written by William Faulkner. Most of his works is related to his hometown, Mississippi.