

RACISM IN LEE'S *TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD*



A Thesis

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University in Partial
Fulfilment for The Requirement to Obtain Sarjana Degree
in English Literature Study Program*

WRITTEN BY

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HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY
MAKASSAR
2022**

THESIS

RACISM IN LEE'S TO KILL A MOCKING BIRD

By

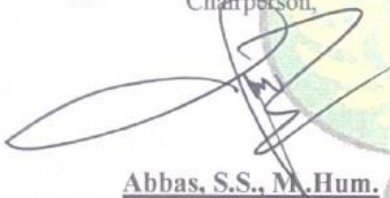
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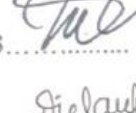



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Racism in Lee's To Kill A Mocking Bird

Submitted in fulfillment one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Degree at English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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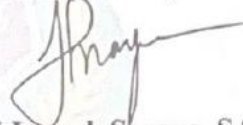
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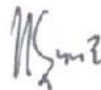
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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

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Wanda Milenia Papuandari

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ABSTRAK

Wanda Milenia Papuandari. 2022. *Racism In Lee' To Kill A Mocking Bird*. (Dibimbing oleh Abbas dan Andi Inayah Soraya)

Penelitian ini membahas tentang Rasisme yang dilakukan oleh orang kulit putih terhadap orang kulit hitam ditahun 1930-an. Melalui novel *To Kill a Mocking Bird* karya Harper Lee, penulis menjelaskan tindakan rasisme yang tergambar serta menjelaskan dampak dari rasisme itu terhadap karakter dalam novel *To Kill a Mocking Bird* karya Harper Lee.

Pada penelitian ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan strukturalisme dalam menganalisis novel *To Kill a Mocking Bird* karya Harper Lee. Pendekatan tersebut lebih fokus ke unsur instrinsik sebuah karya sastra seperti karakter, plot, setting dan tema. Dalam menganalisis novel ini, penulis menggunakan penelitian kualitatif dan dijelaskan dengan deskriptif.

Hasil dari penelitian ini menunjukkan bahwa perlakuan rasisme yang dilakukan oleh orang kulit putih yaitu jika melihat orang kulit hitam mereka mempunyai pandangan buruk tentang orang kulit hitam dan adapula diskriminasi yang dilakukan oleh kulit putih terhadap orang kulit hitam. Juga dampak dari rasisme itu selain pandangan buruk dan diskriminasi terhadap orang kulit hitam, orang kulit putih juga ternyata bisa mendapatkan dampak rasisme saat mereka memutuskan membantu orang kulit hitam saat itu.

Kata Kunci: Rasisme, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, Pendekatan Strukturalisme

ABSTRACT

Wanda Milenia Papuandari. 2022. *Racism In Lee' To Kill A Mocking Bird*. (Supervised by Abbas and Andi Inayah Soraya)

This research is aimed to discuss the racism that conducted by white people against Afro-American people in the 1930s. Through *To Kill a Mocking Bird* novel by Harper Lee, the writer explains the racism acts that portrayed and the impacts of racism toward the characters in *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee.

In this study, the writer used structuralism approach in analyzing *To Kill a Mocking Bird* novel by Harper Lee. This approach more focuses on the intrinsic elements of a literary work such as characters, plots, settings and themes. In analyzing this novel, the writer uses qualitative research and it is explained descriptively.

The results of this research indicate that the acts of racism conducted by white people is if they see Afro-American people, they already have a bad perspective of Afro-American people and there is also discrimination committed by whites against Afro-American people. Also, the impacts of racism, apart from bad perspectives and discrimination towards Afro-American people, white people also can be able to get the impacts of racism when they decided to help Afro-American people at that time.

Keywords: Racism, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, Structuralism Approach

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the writer explains the introduction of the research, consists of the Background of The Study, Identification of The Study, Research Question, Objective of The Study, and Sequence of The Writing.

1.1 Background of The Study

Racism is a social issue that always happened in society. Racism is defined as discrimination based on race, which includes skin color, eye shape, language, religion, and ethnic origin. But the racism often happened is racism against skin color, especially racism between Afro-American people and white people. Since long time ago, in America Afro-American people were discriminated because their social lives, that time the white people considered as superior to the Afro-American people as dark skin color have been seen as markers of low status and caused the Afro-American people got discrimination by white people during the time.

This racism does not only exist in real life but also in a fiction story. There are so many stories to with their racism acts in novels. For example, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison talks about black slave woman, *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett the story is about African-Americans working in white households, and *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker talks about the lives of African American women in early twentieth-century. One of the novels that bring Racism in its story is *To Kill a Mocking Bird*. *To Kill a Mocking Bird* tells a story about Jean Louise Finch, better known as Scout, an inquisitive and imaginative tomboy daughter of a lawyer Atticus Finch. Through point of view of Scout as narrator, she tells her story through

the eyes of her six-year-old self. *To Kill a Mocking Bird* takes place between 1933 and 1935 in Maycomb, a fictitious small town in Alabama.

Scout's narration begins with introduce her brother, explain about Maycomb and she introduces her father, Atticus. Scout and Jem soon meet Dill, the small, white-haired, six-year-old nephew of Miss Rachel Haverford, the Finch's next-door neighbor.

Jem and Scout's lives become more complicated when Atticus agrees to defend Tom Robinson, a black man who has been accused of raping Mayella Ewell, the 19-year-old daughter of Bob Ewell. During the trial it becomes apparent that Mayella's father is the true criminal, having physically and sexually abused her. Still angry because Atticus help defend Tom, Bob stalks Jem and Scout one evening as they make their way home after a school play and trying to attack them. But then Scout saw a silhouette of a second man and not the attacker, he carried Jem toward the Finch home. Sheriff Tate discovers Bob Ewell dead from a stab wound where the attack occurred. Although Boo Radley is the mysterious figure who saved Jem and Scout, Atticus and feel thankful of him.

Sheriff Tate cover for Radley by saying Ewell fell on his own knife. Boo stays with the Finches that evening until he knows Jem is safe from harm. He then asks Scout to walk him home, and she does. When Boo enters the Radley house and closes the door, that is the last she sees of him.

After reading the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, writer finds out that there are racism acts in the novel and how these racism acts can impact some people in

the novel as well, which is interesting to be studied. By doing this research, the writer can get an insight of how important to stay aware in ourselves and how racism can affect other person's life. The writer can see how the Afro-American people got struggle from the racism under the white people during that day.

1.2 Identification Problems

To Kill a Mocking Bird novel by Harper Lee has some problems between the characters after reading the novel, the writer found some problems in Lee's *to Kill a Mocking Bird*, as follows:

1. Racism issues that happened during that day and how the impact to the person who being discrimination on that day.
2. Prejudice from community and the impact for the characters in *Lee's To Kill a Mockingbird*.
3. Boo's character development in *Lee's To Kill a Mocking Bird*.
4. How people react to Scout and Jem after Atticus choose to defend Tom.
5. The impact of Atticus's decision to defend Tom.

1.3 Scope of Problem

In this novel, the writer limits the scope of the problem in this research is only to focus on analyze the racism acts toward the characters also the impact of the characters in *To Kill a Mocking Bird by Harper Lee*.

1.4 Research Questions

From Identification of the study above, the writer emphasizes the analysis to answer these questions as follows:

1. What are the acts of racism that is portrayed in *To Kill a Mocking Bird*

novel?

2. What are the impacts of racism toward the major characters in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird*?

1.5 Objective of The Study

Based on these research question statement above, the writer determines two objectives of the study as follows:

1. To explain the acts of racism that is portayed in *To Kill a Mocking Bird* novel.
2. To describe the impact of racism toward the major characters in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird*.

1.6 Sequence of The Writing

This research consists of five chapters. Chapter one is an Introduction consists of Background, Identification of The Problem, Research Questions, Objectives of The Study, and Sequence of The Study. Chapter two is Previous Study which provides an overview of several Related Research, and Structuralism Approach that contains intrinsic elements of the novel which is Character, Plot Setting and Theme. Chapter three is Methodology which contains Methodological Design, Method of Collecting Data, Method of Analyzing Data, and Research Procedure. Chapter four is about discusses data of collection and the results of research related to the *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel by Harper Lee. And Chapter Five is the closing chapter that consists of a conclusion of the research and suggestion from the writer.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

In this chapter, the writer discusses about Literary Preview, which consist of Previous Study, Structuralism Approach, and Theory of Racism in literary work.

2.1 Previous Studies

This chapter consists of relevant research in related to this thesis, Structuralism Approach as an Approach used by the author in analyzing this novel. Relevant research is used to find out these thesis related to the writer thesis. Some data can be obtained from relevant or close to previous research. There are other writers who have addressed the same problem and approach from what the writer analyzed. The writer finds things related to this thesis and most about racism aspect. There are similarities and differences in this study.

The first study is written by Muh. Ilyas (2017) under the Novel title *Violence and Racism as Reflected in Southern America 1950s In Lee's Go Set a Watchman*. It uses Genetic Structuralism Approach to Explain about Violence which are caused by racism acts in the novel which is reflected as social condition in Southern America 1950s. This research focused in the relationship between the characters of white and black is also influenced by paternalism principle, heterophobia, and political condition of Maycomb.

The second is written by Marwan (2013) under the Drama title *Racism in Donald Greaves's The Marriage*. The writer is using Genetic Structuralism Approach for the thesis. The writer analyze racism in Donald Graves's The

Marriage which is reflected in African-American society in *The Marriage* then to reveal education and economic condition of African-American society.

Another thesis is written by Muh. Alwi (2019) under the novel title *Racism in Twain's The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The writer used Genetic Structuralism Approach. The study is focused in early 19th century, racism was a social phenomenon conducted by white people toward the Afro-American people in the form of Afro-American people slavery. Despite the fact that slavery was legal at that period, some Afro-American people who becomes slaves were treated inhumanely. They were exploited and sold as if they are commodities.

After reading some of the previous studies above, the writer see that all the previous studies have some common study with this thesis it is focus on social conditions and issues about racism to Afro-American people. The difference between this thesis and Muh. Ilyas (2017) is this research more focus on Violence which are caused by racism acts as social condition in Southern America 1950s, while this thesis only focuses on racism during 1930s that happened in Maycomb, Alabama. And the difference between this thesis and Marwan (2013) is the writer using Drama as object for the research and focus on the social conditions of America after the second world war, while this thesis using Novel as object for the research and focus on social conditions in Maycomb. Lastly, the difference between this thesis and Muh. Alwi (2019) is the thesis focus on about slavey that conducted by white people toward Afro-American people, while this thesis more focus on racism and discrimination to Afro-American people because their prejudice toward Afro-American people. From the research that conducted above, the writer

examined the issue of this study is Racism act that occur in novel *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee as the object of study.

2.2 Structuralism Approach

The structuralism approach is an approach in literature that is work to analyzes the structural elements that build literary works from within, as well as looking for a relationship or interrelationship of the elements with other elements in order to achieve some meaning. Structuralism approach is very important for an analysis of literary works. A masterpiece Literature is built by elements that form a unified whole in a work literature. Literature is a structure. Pradopo (2012: 14) state that Structure here in the sense that the literary work is a systematic arrangement of elements, between the elements there is a relationship reciprocal. So, the unity of the elements in literature is not just a collection or collection of elements piles or things, or things that stand alone, but things that are mutually related, and interdependent

Structuralism is a genre of philosophy that appears in France. The term "structuralism" often confuses various circles. This is because the term "structure" itself is widely used in various fields or disciplines as well as structuralism.

According to Luxemburg (1986:38) the intended structure contains an understanding of reciprocal relations between its parts and between them. According to Sumoharjo (1991:54) states the structure of literature consists of elements of flow, characterization, theme, background and mandate as the most supportive and dominant element in building literary works.

Structural approach is also termed as intrinsic approach, which discusses the work on the elements that develop literary works from inside. It could tell that the intrinsic elements are elements of the story itself. There are some elements that build a novel, namely character, plot, setting, and theme. It is very important to look deep in element by element and see the relations in between to understand what is in the author's mind. Tyson (2006: 209) states For structuralism sees itself as a human science whose effort is to understand, in a systematic way, the fundamental structures that underlie all human experience and, therefore all human behavior and production.

Based on structuralism approach above, the writer only focuses on this approach as an approach that used in this research. In literature that works with analyze the structural elements that build literary works from within, and look the relation of elements with one another, and the basic elements of the structure of literary works are characters, plot, setting, and theme, as the writer explain shortly.

2.2.1 Character and Characterization

Characters and characterizations are the most important part of a story. Characterization is the process of conveying information about characters in a fictional work. The information may be such as personality, appearance, age, gender, social status, sexual orientation, beliefs, motivation, others. Through the characterization, the reader can understand each character and therefore be able to understand the whole story. Martin (1994: 95) states the characters tell to the readers about the physical and non-physical characteristics of the person in the story. Each character is interrelated and playing their role to build a story. Usually, an author

describes the character directly or indirectly. According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro, (2005: 165) character is a person who appears in a narrative or drama work and is perceived by the reader to have certain moral qualities and tendencies as expressed in words and actions. According to Langhlin, (1989: 375) character development is one of the most important aspects of a literary novel or short story. Characterization is a problem that is present in a very important and necessary fiction because there cannot be a literary work without a moving character and eventually becomes a plot. Each character has a different personality, which can lead to conflict. Therefore, character is the quality of mind and soul that distinguishes one character from another.

Protagonist is the character which the reader admires to, sometimes called the hero of the story. This is the personification of norms and values which are ideal for the reader. Bennett and Royle (2004: 60) states Characters are the life of literature, they are the objects of our curiosity and fascination, affection and dislike, admiration and condemnation. It is such an important part of a story that has minor contribution to the plot of the story. The position of characters in the story can be divided into some categories based on the point of view taken is major and minor character, protagonist and antagonist character.

The writer concluded that the character is a person created by the writer as a play in their story. Characterization is a description or image of the character in the story that the writer explains. To know the characteristics or characterizations in a story, the reader can identify it through the character while expressed it in word or action in the story. And the kind of characters divides two, such as major and

minor character. Then, the role of characters divides to be protagonist and antagonist.

2.2.2 Plot

Plot is one of the most important aspects of any literary work. It is a chronologically ordered series of events in a story. The plot is used to determine how the events of the story must be connected. In other words, plot is the sequence and stages through which the author can tell the story. The plot creates a desire for the reader to go on reading by absorbing them in the middle of the story, ensuring they want to know what happens next. Plot, according to Foster (2002: 94-95) is a work of fiction that has a mysterious and intellectual properties. A plot demands intelligence and memory on the part of the reader, to remember incidents and create connecting threads between them. The plot displays the events that had the conflict and is able to attract or even gripping the reader. It encourages the reader to know the next events. According to Luxemburg (1992: 150) One of the essential elements in the plot is events. The event can be defined as a transition from one situation to the other situations.

Plot is the whole sequence of events that are related to each other in the story. Generally, plot has a convention structure in the literary works according to Chartes (1987: 136-137) divided into five parts such as exposition, rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution.

1. Exposition is the part in which the author introduces the characters, scene, time, and situation.
2. Rising action is the dramatization of event that complicates the situation (complication) and gradually intensifies the conflict.
3. Climax is where the rising action (complication and conflict) come to further development and to a moment of crisis.
4. Falling action is the problem or conflict proceeds towards resolution. Plot has a relation with characters that are reflected by their attitude or characteristic in thinking, action, or feeling.
5. Resolution is the last event in a novel or the out come of a conflict. The main character has finished solving this problem and this result in a happy or sad ending. Resolution refers to stage where the crisis or conflict is resolved either for better or for worse.

Based on the whole explanation above, the writer concludes that plot is a chronological arrangement begins with what happens first, second, so on, until how the story is related and end. As it knows that plot is the sequence of incidents or events of which a story is composed. a plot is a narration of event. In arranging the events of a story or a novel the author creates plot.

2.2.3 Setting

Wellek and Warren (1956: 131) states The setting surrounds the place, time, and describes the main background and condition of a story as concerned setting with the places and the locations of story. It refers to geographical location of the story, time period, daily lifestyle of the characters, and climate of the story. When

the readers read a novel, they actually are faced a world that had been completed by the character and the events in the novel. But of course, those things are less complete because the characters need living space, place and time like human's living in the real world. According to Abrams in Nurgiyantoro, (2002:216), setting is also referred to as the foundation of the story, suggesting the sense of place, time relationship, the social environment the occurrence of events. Based on the statement, setting generally serves as background of events in the story consists of place, time, and society.

1. Setting of Place

Setting of place directs to the location where the event happened in a story. The use of setting which certain name should reflect the geographical condition of place. Each place must have their characteristic, which differentiate with the others. The description of the place is important to give impression to the readers, because they will consider that the event really happened in the place of the story. Settings of place in a novel usually consist of several locations and it will move from one place to another place because there's a development of plot and characters. Setting of places is decided by the accuracy of description, function and the unity with another setting's elements

2. Setting of Time

Setting of time is related to the problem of when the event happens in a story. The problem of when is usually connected with factual time, that has connection with Historical events. The readers try to understand and enjoy the story based on the period.

3. Setting of Society

Social setting directs to the problem which are related to the behavior of social life in certain place and certain time in a novel. Social setting has connection with the system of social life that contains many problems in complex scope, it can be habits, costumes, religion, ideology, and the way of thinking.

The writer concludes that setting always appears as place, time, and background or society where the story takes place. Setting becomes one of the important elements of story since it can make the reader feel the atmosphere of the story and bring readers to the situation that the authors create in their story.

2.2.4 Theme

The main idea in a story or the main idea of something to make an article, such as a novel, short stories, or other literary works is called the theme. The underlying message, or big idea, of a story is its theme. In other words, in the writing of a novel, play, short story, or poem, what critical belief about life is the author attempting to convey.

Theme is a meaning or purpose of a story which the author expresses. It is usually decided or concluded by the reader because a theme of a story based on the reader's perspective. The meaning of a literary work is implicitly informed by the author. According to Hartoko and Rahmanto (1986:142), theme is a general idea which conducted a literary work and it contains in the text as a systematic structure also about the similarities and different.

Theme is defined as a main idea or an underlying meaning of a literary work which may be stated directly or indirectly. A theme must represent the whole part of the story because theme is a basic development of a whole story. It is not easy to find out the theme in a novel, the writer must read the novel and understand what the story tells about. According to Stanton (2007:7) theme gives a strong explained about the unity of what is happening in the story and tells about the story of life in a common context.

Based on the explanation above, the writer concludes that theme is the central aspect or element of literary work. The writer assumes that theme is the main idea of a novel or a story which represents the whole contents, and theme is different with plot because plot has sequence time or chronologically while theme is not chronologically. And the theme has been created by author in before he started to write novels.

2.3 Racism

Racism is discrimination based on racial, racial identical with skin color, shape of eyes, language, religion, and may just from late origin. Garcia (1997: 1436) states that the term of racism is used more broadly to apply to racial unfairness and discriminatory beliefs, actions, desires, projects, persons, groups, social institutions, and practices. According to Fairchild (1991: 101), Racism has been hereditary from generation to generation, recurrent feature of the social sciences has been efforts to prove that there are inherited racial and gender differences these efforts, although earlier debunked, become reincarnated under different guises.

People who do not accept the differences between each other, create the gap and social classification based on race and put them self in top of classification. This social classification inherited from generation to generation and makes the great depression in America society.

William, et al, (1994: 26) states that Race is an societally constructed taxonomy that is based on (physical characteristics and geographic origin) with its roots in an ideology that situates human beings within a hierarchy of social value. The term "racism" is often used in a loose and unreflective way to describe the hostile or negative feelings of one ethnic group or "people" toward another and the actions resulting from such attitudes.

Since the social classification exist in society, people who felt they are superior and their races better and at the top of the classification will doing racial discrimination to the other races. It was because they felt that they were more powerful and civilized than other races. Racism is also understood as the perspective that is a form of prejudice. In this case racism is a belief (belief) that human beings can be differentiated into various races and a member of a race will be inferior to other races. Basically, the term racism is used to identify people and not to classify people based on their physical condition, but at the field people use racism to classify people and as a reason to deal inappropriate action toward other races.