

**PREJUDICE AND DISCRIMINATION IN OWENS’
*WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING***



A THESIS

*Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University
as Partial Requirements to Obtain Sarjana Sastra Degree
in English Literature Study Program*

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(F041201093)

ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM

FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES

HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY

2024



LEGITIMATION

THESIS

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OWENS' *WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING***

BY

SYIFA PUSPITA SARI PUTRI ASMAN

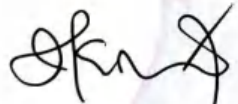
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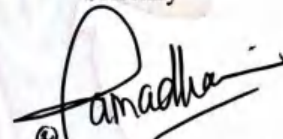
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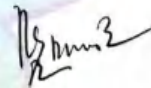
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AGREEMENT

On August 12, 2024, the Board of Thesis Examination has kindly approved a thesis by Syifa Puspita Sari Putri Asman (F041201093) entitled *Prejudice and Discrimination in Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing* submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements to obtain Sarjana Degree in English Literature Study Program, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

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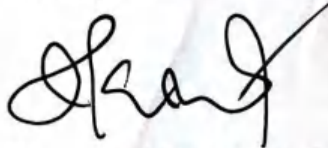
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With reference to the letter of the dean of Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University No. 1349/UN4.9.1/KEP/2023 regarding supervision, we hereby confirm to approve the undergraduate thesis draft by Syifa Puspita Sari Putri Asman (F041201093) to be examined at the English Literature Study Program of Faculty of Cultural Sciences.

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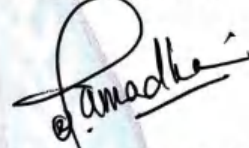
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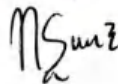
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Hereby, the writer declares that this thesis is written by herself. This thesis does not contain any materials which have been published by other people, and it does not cite other people's ideas except quotations and references.

Makassar, August 19, 2024


Syifa Puspita Sari Putri Asman



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

First and foremost, the writer would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the Almighty Allah SWT for His unwavering guidance, strength, and blessings throughout the journey of completing this thesis.

The writer is also deeply grateful to her family for their unwavering support, encouragement, and patience throughout her academic journey. Salman Yahya and Andi Asmawati, her beloved parents, have been her pillars of strength and motivation, their love and understanding guiding her every step of the way.

The writer would like to express sincere gratitude to the individuals who supported and assisted in completing this thesis. Each individual's contributions have been invaluable to both the writer's academic and personal growth.

1. Dra. Herawaty Abbas, M.Hum., M.A., Ph.D., and Rezky Ramadhani, S.S., M.Litt., who generously dedicated their valuable time to providing guidance, insight, and encouragement throughout the thesis writing process.
2. Prof. Dr. Fathu Rahman, M.Hum. and Dr. Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin, M.Hum., as the first and second examiner.
3. Dra. Nasmilah, M.Hum, Ph.D and Sitti Sahraeny, S.S., M.AppLing., as the Head and Secretary of English Literature.
4. All the lecturers and academic staff of the English Department and Faculty of Cultural Sciences for their contributions to teaching and administration.
5. All my cherished mutuals on X, as well as to all my friends and classmates in



English Department. Deep appreciation is felt for the prayers, encouragement, and moral support provided.

The writer acknowledges the imperfections in this thesis due to her own limitations and challenges faced during its writing. The thesis is presented as a dedication to inspire and improve societal perspectives. The writer views this as a significant beginning rather than a definitive conclusion to their academic journey.

Makassar, 10 July, 2024

The Writer



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ABSTRACT

SYIFA PUSPITA SARI PUTRI ASMAN. *Prejudice and Discrimination in Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing* (supervised by Herawaty and Rezky Ramadhani).

This research aims to reveal the extent of prejudice and discrimination experienced by Kya in Delia Owens' *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018). The research also examines social conditions in the United States similar to those faced by Kya during the novel's setting to illustrate how societal issues may have influenced Owens' writing.

Employing a sociology of literature approach, the analysis identifies three indicators of prejudice directed at Kya: degrading intelligence, degrading cultural/individual attributes, and degrading morality. Furthermore, the study identifies three types of discrimination against Kya: verbal expression, avoidance, and exclusion.

Additionally, the research draws parallels between Kya and the people of Appalachia, highlighting shared identity characteristics and similar experiences of prejudice and discrimination.

Keywords: *social issues, prejudice, discrimination, sociology of literature*



ABSTRAK

SYIFA PUSPITA SARI PUTRI ASMAN. *Prejudice and Discrimination in Owens' Where the Crawdads Sing* (dibimbing oleh Herawaty dan Rezky Ramadhani).

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap sejauh mana prasangka dan diskriminasi yang dialami Kya dalam *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018) karya Delia Owens. Penelitian ini juga mengkaji kondisi sosial di Amerika Serikat yang serupa dengan yang dihadapi Kya dengan latar waktu yang sama di novel, untuk menggambarkan bagaimana isu-isu sosial mungkin mempengaruhi tulisan Owens.

Dengan menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi sastra, analisis ini mengidentifikasi tiga indikator prasangka yang ditujukan kepada Kya: *degrading intelligence, degrading cultural/individual attributes, and degrading morality*. Lebih lanjut, penelitian ini juga mengidentifikasi tiga jenis diskriminasi terhadap Kya: verbal *expression, avoidance, dan exlcusion*.

Selain itu, tesis ini juga mengungkapkan adanya kesamaan antara Kya dan orang-orang Appalachia, di mana keduanya memiliki ciri identitas yang serupa dan menghadapi berbagai prasangka dan diskriminasi yang sama dari masyarakat umum.

Kata Kunci: isu-isu sosial, prasangka, diskriminasi, sosiologi sastra



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background

Literature is a fictional work that reflects human life through various aspects. According to Klarer (1999:1), literature is a form of written creative expression as a whole relating to cultural and historical phenomena, to investigate the conditions of production and reception, which also emphasizes aesthetic and artistic value. Literary works can be divided into three types, they are poetry, prose, and play/drama. In this research, the writer chose prose as the object of research. So the writer only focuses on prose, in this case a novel. Aliyev (2021:21) stated that novel is a verbal object intended by the author to tell a story, written in verse and has at least 30,000 words. Although novel is categorized as fiction, authors generally reflect real-life events in their novel. This aims to make reader feel connected to the novel.

Delia Owens is one of the authors who incorporates several aspects of real life into their novel. Her debut novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing* is a crime-mystery-romance book published in 2018 and has sold over 18 million copies. Additionally, this book won the Bestseller Award in Japan and set a record for the most weeks at #1 on the New York Times Bestseller List. Owens was born on April 4, 1949 in South Georgia, America. She is an author, zoologist, and conservationist. For a significant portion of her career, spanning 23 years, Owens

and pioneered scientific research in the remote areas of Africa, focusing on a variety of various wild species such as lions and elephants. Owens has loved



writing since a young age. Her talent for writing showed itself early on when she won first place in a writing competition in sixth grade. A deep love of writing and nature, propelled Owens to international fame as the author of three bestselling nonfiction books, where she shares her remarkable experiences as a wildlife scientist.

Throughout her life, Owens found comfort in the wild, seeing nature as her lifelong companion since she was young. Her extensive research on African animals over 23 years, especially focusing on how female mammals form social groups, deeply influenced her fiction writing. This influence shines through in her debut novel, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, which explores the impact of loneliness on a young woman who grows up without a community. Owens chose a unique title for her debut novel, inspired by a phrase her mother frequently used: “go way out yonder where the crawdads sing.” This expression evokes the idea of venturing deep into nature until you reach a place where the sound of crawdads singing can be heard. It highlights Owens’ deep connection to nature and mirrors the bond between Kya, the main character in *Where the Crawdads Sing*, and the natural world. Kya’s close relationship with nature reflects Owens’ own affinity for the natural world, illustrating her understanding of the strong link between literature and society.

Literary works are made by humans whose contents are based on how humans live, and are intended for humans as well. The phenomena that occur in re always reflected in literary works. In society, there is social diversity ople are divided into race, gender, ethnicity, language, religious beliefs,



socioeconomic status, cultural background, and many more. Within this context, this diversity can lead to group segmentation, divided structure, weakened consensus, frequent conflicts, forced integration, and group domination (Nainggolan et al., 2023:815). Minority groups or individuals often feel the strongest effects of this diversity. They may be left out or pushed away from mainstream society or the dominant group. Unfortunately, they often face unfair treatment like prejudice and discrimination.

Prejudice is a negative attitude towards an individual or group based on unfounded assumptions or inaccurate generalizations. Prejudice can arise as a result of distorted understanding or influence from the surrounding environment and culture. Discrimination is a negative action, intentionally treating individuals or groups differently based on certain backgrounds which ultimately causes harm to the victim. So basically, prejudice is an attitude, while discrimination is an action.

Action and attitude tend to influence each other, creating a vicious circle that seeks to increase the power and prestige of one group at the expense of other groups (Frederickson and Knobel, 1980:51). Discrimination is often based on prejudice, especially if the perpetrator acts of his own volition and not on behalf of a particular institution or authority (Fishbein, 2002:7). Prejudice begins the existence of stereotypes. Negative prejudice minimizes opportunities for contact with people from unfavored groups. If this happens very intensively, then people

prejudiced will be involved in discriminatory things against person or



groups they do not like. Therefore, it is possible to conclude that prejudice has a high potential for giving rise to discrimination.

Kya, the protagonist of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, is a young girl who lives in the marsh, far removed from the townspeople of Barkley Cove. Since she was a child, she has been abandoned by her mother and older siblings, leaving her alone with Pa, her abusive father, alone who eventually abandoned her as well. One by one, they left their rundown shack: first Ma, followed by her older brothers and sisters, until even Jodie, her closest sibling, departed. Despite her young age, Kya understands very well that they all left because they could not tolerate Pa's cruelty. Yet, she can not help but wonder why they did not take her along when they left. None of them ever return, except for Jodie, who comes back to the marsh years later as a successful soldier. However, young Kya can not shake the belief that they all made a choice to abandon her. She learns to survive in the marsh alone, growing burdened by the label of "marsh girl" enduring the prejudice and discrimination that comes with it.

Since childhood, the townspeople have avoided and exclude Kya and her family, viewing them with suspicion and ostracizing them because they live in the marsh. Some even blame them for illnesses spreading in the town, assuming the marsh is the source. In October 1969, the body of Chase Andrews, a popular guy in town, was found dead near the marsh, apparently falling or being pushed from a fire tower. Chase and Kya were once in a relationship, but he suddenly became

to a wealthy girl from town while they were still together. The people quickly suspect Kya of his murder, assuming she could not handle



being dumped by Chase. These assumptions arise from their pre-existing negative views of Kya.

Based on those explanations, the writer intends to conduct a study of prejudice and discrimination experienced by Kya, in Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*, using a sociological approach. According to Polak (1979:4-8) sociology is a branch of science that studies society as a whole, believes in the interrelationships between humans and humans, humans and groups, groups and groups, both formal and material, both static and dynamic. Through a sociological approach, the writer examines how prejudice and discrimination against Kya are depicted in Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

The writer decided to do this research because *Where the Crawdads Sing* is a novel that has a lot of potential to be explored and researched. Owens raised many social issues in this her debut novel. In today's society, prejudice and discrimination persist as major issues. Discriminatory norms and behavior remain prevalent and continue to foster social exclusion. Simply put, these issues are still commonly found in local communities, such as at work, at school, in the living environment, and so on. These are still common and occurs on a large scale since society continues to differentiate based on ethnicity, race, sex or gender, and other attributes that should not have an impact on a person's accomplishment or well-being. Therefore, writer decided to conduct a research about prejudice and discrimination by townspeople against Kya.



B. Identification of the Problem

The writer identified several problems found in *Where the Crawdads Sing*, those are discrimination, prejudice, murder case, family issues, woman's oppression, and sexual harassment.

C. Scope of the Problem

In this research, the writer only focused on the analysis of prejudice and discrimination against Kya in Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing* by using a sociological approach.

D. Research Questions

1. To what extent are prejudice and discrimination depicted in Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*?
2. How are social issues (prejudice and discrimination) in American society reflected in Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*?

E. Objective of the Study

1. To analyze the extent to which prejudice and discrimination in Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*.
2. To examine how the social issues (prejudice and discrimination) in American society are reflected in Owen's *Where the Crawdads Sing*.

F. Significance of the Study



ough this research, the writer hopes that it can give some significance to
arties, both theoretical and practical significance.

reoretical

This research can be used as a guide to find out the contents of the novel *Where the Crawdads Sing*, and how a sociological approach is applied to this novel to analyze forms of prejudice and discrimination against Kya.

2. Practical

This research can develop the writer's ability in applying sociological approach. This research also may be useful for the future writer who might examine related matters.

G. Sequence of Writing

This research consists of five chapters. The first chapter is an introduction which consists of background, identification of the problem, scope of the problem, research questions, objective of the study, significance of the study, and sequence of writing. The second chapter is a literature review which consists of previous related studies, the approach to be used (sociology of literature), and concept of prejudice and discrimination. The third chapter is a methodology consisting of types of research, data sources, data collection, and data analysis. The fourth chapter is findings and discussion which contains the results of the writer's analysis of the chosen topic. The fifth chapter is the closing which contains conclusions on the research that has been done and suggestions.



CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

A. Previous Related Studies

In order to produce accurate data and analysis, it is necessary to have some relevant previous research with the aim of becoming the basis or reference for writers in collecting data and conducting analysis. As mentioned above, there are several previous studies that are relevant to this research.

The first study is a thesis written by Wahyudi (2011) entitled, “Stereotypes, Prejudice and Discrimination in Tony Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye* (1970): Social Psychological Approach”. This thesis analyzed the social psychological aspects of the novel based on the analysis of social relations proposed by Tony Morrison which includes stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination of each character in the novel, which is all of that influence other social psychological based on their character and characterizations. As a result, Wahyudi found that Morrison attempts to point out to the readers that the story deals with “beauty is social construction”, which is determined by the dominant culture. The social relations (in this case, Wahyudi referred to stereotypes, prejudice, and discrimination) in *The Bluest Eye* is covering up the complexity of cross cultural between black and white races.

The second is a thesis written by Ahmad Choironi Yahya (2021) entitled “Discrimination Faced by Huey Fairchild in *They Come in All Colors* by Malcolm

This study aims to explore the various types of discrimination
ed by people of color depicted in *They Come in All Colors* from a



sociological perspective. In conducting this research, he used Newman's theory, which categorizes discrimination into five forms: verbal expression, avoidance, exclusion, physical abuse, and extinction. After data collection and analysis, it was found that four out of the five forms of discrimination were present in the novel: verbal expression, avoidance, exclusion, and physical abuse. Additionally, the study identified four distinct responses among people of color to the discrimination they faced: withdrawal, resignation acceptance, verbal confrontation, and physical confrontation.

The third is a journal article written by Gustaman and Lolowang (2021) entitled, "Struggle as Seen in *Where the Crawdads Sing*". Through qualitative research methods, they revealed kinds of struggles were experienced by the main character in the novel, Kya. Based on the data collected, they concluded that there were three forms of struggle. Those are: accept the facts of life, achieve a goal, and get affection.

The fourth is a thesis written by Salsabila (2022) entitled, "Prejudice and Stereotype in Kevin Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* 2013 Sociological Approach". She analyzed the indicators of prejudice and stereotypes in Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*, how prejudice and stereotypes are described, and what are the reasons Kwan addresses prejudice and stereotypes in the novel. Through a sociological approach, she found: 1) indicators for prejudice in Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians* are antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, physical attacks, and extermination,

h the stereotype is indicated by the role of woman in patriarchal n and ethnocentrism, 2) there are two stereotypes that appeared in



Kwan's *Crazy Rich Asians*, those are gender stereotype and ethnic stereotype, and 3) Kwan addresses stereotypes and prejudice into his novel to reject the idea of women's reductive worth when her work is not exercised to pander to fathers, husbands, or the state.

After reviewing several relevant studies, it is apparent that while there are some similarities with this research, there are also significant differences. The first and second studies examined prejudice and discrimination, but they focused on black people, whereas this study centers on Kya, a white girl experiencing discrimination due to her socioeconomic status and residential location. Additionally, the choice of research object differed; while this research used *Where the Crawdads Sing*, the previous studies used *The Bluest Eye* and *They Come in All Colors*. The third study used the same object as this research, Kya in *Where the Crawdads Sing*. However, that research emphasizes more on the struggles that Kya went through during her lifetime, while this research focused on prejudice and discrimination against Kya. The fourth study used the same approach as this study, sociological approach. However, the object of study is different, they used *Crazy Rich Asians*. The fourth study also put more emphasis on gender stereotypes and ethnic stereotypes.

B. Sociology of Literature

Literary works are a reflection of the reality of people's lives. Literary works are not created out of thin air. There must always be a moral message and purpose contained in it. Basically, literary works are made by humans and presented to humans themselves. Relationships between humans and how they



interact are found in many literary works. The approach to literary works through the aspects of sociocultural interaction of society is also known as the sociological approach. Both sociology and literature have the same object of study, it is humans in society. Sociology is interested in how we humans interact with one another (patterns of social interaction); the laws and principles governing social relationships and interactions; influence of the social world on the individual, and vice versa (Doda, 2005:5). As with sociology, literature is also closely related to the social world of humans. Literature goes beyond mere description and objective scientific analysis. The novel, as the main product of literature, is not just an art, but one of the faithful efforts to create this social world, starting from humans and their families, to politics, to the dynamics between social groups and classes (Swingewood and Laurenson, 1972:12).

The sociology of literature is considered a development of the mimetic approach put forward by Plato in the Classical Greek era, around the fifth to fourth century BC. The emergence of this perspective comes from the concerns of structural literary studies that are fixated on the object of the work. Plato considers works of art as mimetic or imitations of world ideas and works of literature or art are considered to distance humans from the reality of life (Wiyatmi, 2013:12). In the era of scientific positivism, Hippolyte Taine (1766-1811) emerged, a French philosopher, historian, politician and literary critic considered the founder of modern literary sociology. Taine implicitly stated that

relationship between the literature created by the author (through his own perception and understanding of what is happening in his society) with the



norms and reasoning of society that records the place where the author and readers live (Wiyatmi, 2013:19).

According to Bressler (1999:213-214), a sociological approach requires researchers to focus on four key elements: placing a literary work in its historical context, learning about the author's personal life, identifying the period of the novel's creation, and the last one, understanding the society and culture that influences both the author and the book. This holds significance as, within sociology, analysis does not only concern intrinsic elements such as storyline or characters in literary works, but also the authors, readers, and social reality. Damono (2002:38) stated there are several steps that can be followed in conducting research using the sociology of literature approach:

1. Research always begins with questions related to symptoms that arise as a result of the relationship between literary works and their environment. Based on these questions, determine the main problem that is expected to be solved through the analysis and research that will be carried out.
2. A clear research plan is needed so that research is not easily tempted to solve irrelevant problems.
3. As an effort to answer the main problem, determine the main research objectives accompanied by a number of side objectives that support them.
4. To arrive at an answer, a series of activities such as data collection and data analysis is required. In the sociology of literature approach, the data collected can



in various matters relating to the relationships between literary works and the social system that forms their environment.

5. Sociology of literature does not only focus on research on texts as autonomous cultural objects, sources outside of literary texts are also important materials. Knowledge of history, social and political situations, media and religious developments, social structures, values and norms prevailing in society, the process of literary reproduction, the biography of authors are very valuable resources.

C. Diversity and Intersectionality

Diversity encompasses the wide range of differences among individuals and groups, reflecting their unique characteristics. These differences can include but are not limited to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, socioeconomic status, religion, disability, and more. Loden and Rosener (1990) developed a framework known as the diversity wheel, which is valuable for understanding how various personal traits and environmental factors interact with the systems and structures around us, affecting how we perceive and navigate our experiences. Loden developed this framework because he believes it is crucial to have discussions about diversity, ensuring that individuals learn to integrate into society without any subgroup feeling excluded or marginalized. The framework categorizes diversity into three main aspects. Firstly, personal characteristics include fundamental attributes such as race, gender, age, ethnicity, sexual orientation, personality, sex, disability, neurodiversity, and cognitive style.



Secondly, social and cultural factors include elements such as language, nationality, racial background, socio-economic status, geographical location, and beliefs. Lastly, organizational dimensions cover aspects related to the

work environment, including management status, seniority, division or unit, union affiliation, field of work, and functional level.

The term “intersectionality” was coined by Kimberlé Crenshaw in 1989. Crenshaw, a prominent scholar in critical race theory and civil rights advocate, introduced this concept to address how traditional discussions of discrimination often focus on single aspects like race or gender separately. She observed that individuals, particularly women of color, experience discrimination based on multiple intersecting identities, such as being both female and a person of color. Crenshaw created the term “intersectionality” to emphasize how these different aspects of identity—like race, gender, and others—combine or intersect to shape individuals’ experiences and treatment in society. This concept helps us recognize that some people face greater challenges because of how these different parts of their identity intersect (Crenshaw, 1991:1245).

By introducing the concept of intersectionality, Crenshaw aims to highlight how multiple dimensions of identity/characteristic intersect and interact to shape individuals’ experiences of oppression and marginalization. Individuals may face oppression and discrimination not only based on race and gender but also because of other intersecting identities such as class, sexuality, and age. She emphasizes the importance of considering multiple dimensions of identity when analyzing how social structures and power dynamics contribute to marginalization and inequality. Individuals with multiple marginalized identities may face unique

discrimination that cannot be fully understood by examining each separately. Intersectionality theory allows a deeper understanding of how



individuals' experiences of prejudice and discrimination are shaped by the interaction of various social categories.

The relationship between diversity and intersectionality lies in the need for diversity initiatives to consider how individual identities intersect. Simply representing different identities does not fully address the specific challenges faced by individuals who belong to multiple marginalized groups. Intersectionality encourages a more detailed approach to diversity efforts, ensuring policies and practices address the unique needs of individuals with multiple identities. Diversity focuses on recognizing differences, while intersectionality highlights how these differences interact to shape experiences of privilege and marginalization.

D. Concept of Prejudice and Discrimination

1. Prejudice

The nature of prejudice transforms in three stages. Starting from "*praejudicium*" which means judgment based on previous decisions or experience. Subsequently, the term developed in English to be interpreted as a decision made before examining and considering the existing facts, usually also called a premature or hasty judgment. Ultimately, this term is associated with emotional feelings, especially favorableness or unfavorableness which is accompanied by prior and unsupported judgment (Allport, 1954:6). He personally defined prejudice as a hostile attitude towards a person who is considered to have able qualities just because the person belongs to a certain group (p. 7).



In general, prejudice has two directions: positive and negative, but tends towards the negative. Prejudice is also more often experienced by certain groups, but it is not impossible for individuals (Bruehl, 1996:43). Slightly similar to Bruehl's thoughts, Ehrlich (1971:8) also argued that prejudice is an attitude towards any group. It could be in a positive or negative form, but he completely sees prejudice as a negative attitude.

Effendi (as cited in Liliweri, 2018:3) stated that prejudice makes us unable to think objectively and everything we see will always be assessed negatively. This is caused by emotions that force us to draw conclusions based on suspicion without using our thoughts and views on real facts in any case. In general, Liliweri also classified prejudice into three types: (i) affective—which is related to negative feelings; (ii) cognitive—always thinking about a stereotype; and (iii) behavioral—constitutes actions in the form of discrimination.

Hogg and Vaughan (2010:375) argued that victims of prejudice generally come from groups that are not given access to the resources provided for society to develop and be successful, such as good education, health, housing and employment. They also stated that prejudice is dangerous because it has the opportunity to create stigma towards groups and people who are members of these groups. The impacts vary, especially on the victims of prejudice themselves, ranging from relatively minor inconvenience to enormous suffering.

According to Milner (1983:5), prejudiced attitude has almost certainly since groups of people first differentiated themselves from each other. He defined prejudice as *“irrational, unjust, or intolerant dispositions towards other*



groups, and they are often accompanied by stereotyping” (Milner, 1983:5).

Prejudice has indicators that cannot be separated from the assessment made by a person or group of other individuals or groups. The following are the three main indicators of prejudice according to Milner (as cited in Abidin, 1999):

a. Degrading intelligence

This is an attitude of degrading someone intellectually, underestimating their brainpower and even making fun of their lack of understanding.

b. Degrading cultural or individual attributes

This is an attitude of degrading character traits and physical characteristics of an individual.

c. Degrading morality

This is an attitude of degrading integrity or perceived moral character of an individual.

Based on some opinions expressed above, the writer draws the conclusion that prejudice is an attitude that tends to be negative towards a person or group without any relevant basis or reason. Generally, prejudice arises when people are faced with a different reality, they will seek their own justification and take actions that involve emotions.

2. Discrimination

According to Theodorson and Theodorson (1979:115), discrimination is treatment of individuals or groups based on several attributes, such as ethnic, religious, and social class membership. They describe it as *“the action of a dominant majority in relation to a weak*



minority, therefore implying immoral and undemocratic behavior” (p. 115).

Therefore, they conclude that discrimination is an overt aspect of negative prejudice against a person or group.

Sowell (2019:125) divided the meaning of discrimination into two types. The first is discrimination in the broader sense, which means the ability to see differences in the qualities of people and things, and choose accordingly. Through this definition, he emphasized discrimination as a form of assessing each person as an individual, regardless of which group the person belongs to. The second is in the narrower sense, which means in the form of action, treating people negatively based on arbitrary aversion or hostility towards individuals of a different race or gender.

Rasmussen (2014:15) considered discrimination as different, unfavorable treatment towards other people. He concluded that discrimination against a person or group is the same as treating them at a disadvantage compared to other people because they are believed to have certain characteristics that other people also differ or do not have. Similar to Rasmussen’s thoughts, Lang (2007:266) also believed that discrimination occurs when an action has a negative impact on an individual so that the individual feels disadvantaged by the action. He found that rational responses to imperfect information can lead to treatment differently based on their membership in a class or what he interpreted as discrimination.

Williamson (1990:1) believed that differences are often the potential cause of discrimination. He also argued that discrimination must have a cognitive component. As he emphasized, *“failures of discrimination are cognitive failures,*



so discrimination is a cognitive act” (p. 5). Because the processes involved in discrimination can also lead to ignorance or errors.

According to Milner (1983:41), there are a number of factors that can be potential causes of discrimination: (i) clear physical and cultural differences between racial groups; (ii) perceived competition to obtain scarce resources, so that individuals discriminate to gain profits; (iii) a history of hostility between groups that allows them to discriminate; (iv) the perpetrators of discrimination often do not know each other so there are no social relationships that can mitigate or reduce the acts of discrimination.

According to Newman (as cited in Miharso, 2009:88), discrimination is divided into several forms as follows:

a. Verbal expression

Discrimination occurs not only through physical actions, but also verbally which can have an impact on the victim's psychology, such as intimidating, insulting, shouting, cursing, scolding and frightening by uttering inappropriate words.

b. Avoidance

Avoidance is a form of discrimination where the perpetrator avoiding or staying away from a person or a group who is different from them or who they do not like personally.

c. Exclusion

Exclusion is a form of discrimination carried out by excluding a certain person/a their social environment.



d. Physical abuse

This is a dangerous form of discrimination where the perpetrator attacks the victim physically, such as hurting or hitting.

e. Extinction

The last one is discriminatory treatment by exterminating or carrying out large-scale killings or what is also commonly called genocide. This form is the most extreme act of discrimination and is a criminal act under international law.

Based on some opinions expressed above, the writer draws the conclusion that discrimination is an unfair and immoral attitude towards an individual or a group based on the specific characteristics of that individual or group such as race, ethnicity, religion, gender, social and economic class, etc. Discrimination can take the form of verbal insults, avoidance, exclusion, physical violence, and worst of all, genocide.

E. Appalachian Stereotypes and Discriminatory Practices

Appalachians are defined as individuals or communities living within the mountainous expansion of Appalachia. In 1965, the Appalachian Regional Development Act (ARDA) delineated the Appalachian Region to include 360 counties across 11 states: Alabama, Georgia, Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

According to data accessed from the Appalachian Region Commission website,



Appalachian currently comprises of 423 counties spanning 13 states: Alabama, Kentucky, Maryland, Mississippi, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and includes the entirety of

West Virginia. Subsequently, the region's official boundaries underwent expansion on multiple occasions, with the inclusion of New York in late 1965, incorporating an additional 13 counties into the designated area.

Rhee and Scott (2018:533) expressed that Appalachians have been subjected to stereotypes, biases, and misconceptions due to their geographic identity, leading to discrimination and marginalization. They also emphasized how Appalachians have been stereotyped as a marginalized, poor White minority, perpetuating negative perceptions and assumptions about their identity, lifestyle, and socioeconomic status. Appalachians has historically faced significant social issues, including poverty, limited economic opportunities, and lack of access to resources, such as education, infrastructure, healthcare, and others. They are often associated with poverty and economic underdevelopment, leading to stereotypes that they are less educated, unskilled, and economically powerless. These stereotypes obstruct their access to quality employment and fair wages, driven by prejudicial beliefs that they are less skilled or competent compared to individuals from other regions.

