

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

Kennedy (1995:47) stated that literature is a kind of art that can offer pleasure and illumination. Literature is a creative work of the author's imagination that most commonly refers to work including, poetry, drama, fiction, nonfiction, and in some instances, journalism, and song. However, sometimes the source of inspiration for authors also comes from social facts such as culture, history, politics, religion and even social life. Wellek and Warren (1956: 14), literature must be able to produce an aesthetic creation and try to transmit the needs of human life and be a spot to aspire the ideas, thoughts, and feelings of the authors about human life.

Literature is commonly divided into many kinds of works. One of them is novel. Danziger (1973: 17) defined novel as a piece of literary which attempts to describe the universe in which we live and try to give a special value, for we can learn so much from it. It presents something that we can see in daily life. So, we can learn about the world we live in as well. There is a close connection between literature and life, because the social function of literature is how it involves itself in the midst of social life (Semi, 1989:56). Literary views its relationship with reality, the extent to which literary works that reflect the reality.

Literature appears to convey to humans as a reflection of social conditions and problems of human life. One of the social problems is racism. Racism is an ideology that bases itself on discrimination against of people, because race even becomes a political doctrine (Liliweri, 2005 : 21). Racism can be described in various forms such as prejudice, bigotry, or hostility directed at someone because of their skin colour, race or national origin are examples. Racism forms a mindset between whites to separate race from black people. In fact, racism against black people has been going on for a long time. Amir, Fathu, and Wildha (2022) in their research explain that in the Civil War (1860-1865), blacks were freed from slavery, but whites still treated them unequally because whites felt superior and saw blacks as inferior. Today, 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 (Berdichewsky, 1996: 27).

This situation is depicted in the novel *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*. It is a 2019 novel by Holly Jackson. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is a young adult mystery novel that follows the story of Pippa "Pip" Fitz-Amobi, a high school student who decides to investigate a murder case for her senior capstone project. In this novel, racism is an underlying theme that significantly influences the plot and character dynamics, though it is not the central focus of the novel. The book, which is a young adult mystery thriller, primarily follows Pippa "Pip" Fitz-Amobi as she investigates a closed murder case in her small

town, but it also subtly explores how racial prejudice impacts the lives of the characters involved.

Holly Jackson is a British author best known for her young adult mystery novel *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*. Born in 1992, she developed a passion for writing from a young age. *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* is Holly Jackson's debut novel that was published in 2019 and quickly became a bestseller. The novel is praised for its compelling characters, intricate plot, and its ability to tackle serious issues such as racism, media bias, and the justice system within the framework of a suspenseful mystery. Furthermore, in 2020, Holly Jackson published a novel entitled *Good Girl, Bad Blood* as the first sequel to the novel *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*. Last, Holly Jackson published *As Good as Dead* in 2021 which became the final sequel. The novel went viral and attracted so many fans that Netflix adapted the story of the novel *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* into a television series which released in August 2024.

The researcher chooses this novel because it reflects the social condition about racism. Racism in this novel is very important to discuss because this novel depicts the situation that racism can occur anywhere and it can have a big influence on every aspect of life so we must be more aware of this issue. Although the novel does not make racism as its central theme, yet it subtly weaves it into the narrative, reflecting how racial biases often operate in real life that is hidden, unspoken, but influential. By the analysis explained

later, the writer hopes the reader understand the form and treatment of racism from the portrayal of *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* novel.

1.2 Identification of the Problems

On the novel, the researcher has analyzed and found some problems, which are:

- a. The characters in the novel often face racial stereotypes, which influence how they are treated by others in the community.
- b. There are instances in the novel where the police are shown to be negligent or biased in their investigation.
- c. This novel portrayed juvenile delinquency includes drug use among teenagers, the dangers and consequences associated with it.
- d. The existence of social class or social status that occurs in the novel.

1.3 Scope of the Problem

From the identification of the problems, the researcher has analyzed and limited the problems to be studied which is racism. This concerns about the racial biases of the community and the impact of racism.

1.4 Research Questions

Based on the identification of the problem, the researcher formulated the following problem research questions:

- a. What are the acts of racism that is portrayed in the novel *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder*?

- b. How does the novel *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* depict the impact of racism on the live of the Singh Family?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Referring to the research question, the objectives of the research is to find out:

- a. The acts of racism portrayed in *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson.
- b. The impact of racism on the live of the Singh Family depicted in *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson.

1.6 Sequence of Writing

This study is organized into five chapters as following:

- a. Chapter one is the introduction that consists of the background, identification of the problem, research questions, objectives of the research, and sequence of writing.
- b. Chapter two, is literary review consists of the previous study, structuralism approach, intrinsic elements of the novel such as plot, theme, character, and setting. Moreover, this chapter also consist general concept of racism.
- c. Chapter three covers the research methodology of the study, including research design, source of data, method of collecting data, and method of analyzing data.
- d. Chapter four is the analysis which presents the result of the study.
- e. Chapter five consists of the conclusion and suggestion.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

Several researchers have conducted research about racial discrimination. The first is a study by Muh. Ilyas (2017) under the title “Violence and Racism as reflected in southern america 1950s in Lee’s *Go Set a Watchman*”. It uses 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 result of the research indicates that there are some violence which are caused by racism acts in the novel which is reflected as social condition in Southern America 1950s such as voting right revocation, and racial segregation.

The second is a study by Herny Listya Purwitasari (2020) with title “Racial Prejudice towards Asian American As Reflected on Jamie Ford’s *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*”. This study aims to examine racism issue which is racial prejudice that is reflected in the novel. Researcher employs structuralism approach and theory of racial prejudice proposed by Herbert Blumer. This study reveals that racial prejudice that occurs in Jamie Ford’s *Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet* happened in the aspect of social including economic, political, and educational. Besides, the novel also reflects

the racial prejudice in its aspects of social structure in social life seattle in 1940s during the World War II.

The third is a study by Salman (2023) that conducted a study entitled “Discrimination Toward Asian Immigrant In United States In The Novel *Quichotte (2019)*” which aims to find out how the novel shows the issue of discrimination toward Asian Immigrant which is done by the American. This analysis also intended to show how the contribution of fictional elements in revealing the issue of discrimination. This analysis is done through structuralism approach and the theory of orientalism by Edward R. Said. The result of this analysis shows the Asian Immigrant getting discriminate by the American. The discrimination can be seen through physical violence and verbal violence.

The fourth is a study by Angela Aprilyani Putri and Restu Arini (2024) “*Feminism Perspective in A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson*”. This study aims to find out the types of feminism portrayed by Pippa Fitz-Amobi in the novel *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson. This study uses the theory of Rosemarie Tong and the method used is a qualitative descriptive method in analyzing data. The result of this study reflects the aspects of liberal and radical feminism on Pippa.

The last is a study by Putri Azzafira Nadya (2024) “*Pippa Fitz-Amobi’s Journey To Be A Detective Hero In Holly Jackson’s A Good Girl’s Guide To Murder*”. This study aim to analyze Pippa Fitz-Amobi’s evolution into a detective hero in Holly Jackson’s *A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder* for several

reasons. For this research, the writer collects and analyses data through descriptivequalitative research and psychological approach. The result of the research is, throughout her journey, Pip transitions into a detective hero, facing numerous challenges that test her physical, emotional, and mental limits.

Researcher found similarities and differences between previous research and this research. For the first until third study, the similarities are type of the research which accumulating data through the qualitative method and the research material which is taken from the novel with the same focus analysis on racism, but the theory used is different. The three researches also explain racism with structuralism approach. The difference is lies in the object studied where each study uses a different object. Meanwhile, for the fourth and final research, the similarity is the object of research. The difference is the focus of the problem being studied. Therefore, in this research, the writer discusses racism on the *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* novel with the structuralism approach by Ferdinand de Saussure's theory.

2.2 Structuralism Approach

Structuralism is a literary approach that considers a text to be a structured system of signs and symbols that convey meaning. According to Saussure, A language is a system in which all the elements fit together, and in which the value of anyone element depends on the simultaneous coexistence of all the others (Saussure, 1966:). It focuses on the concept that meaning evolves from the connections between the individual elements of a text and the

larger structure they form, rather than from the elements themselves. One of the pioneers of this approach was a Swiss linguist and semiotician Ferdinand de Saussure. The structuralist approach to literature was developed in the early 20th century.

Bertens (2001: 55) explained that firstly, structuralism was introduced in France by the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure who developed the study of language in the early 20 century. Ferdinand de Saussure is a linguist who is interested in study of language. He used structuralism to discover his study of language. Structuralism develops the idea that literary text is a structure where its elements are interrelated and influence each other, because it is a whole entity (Bertens, 2001: 43).

According to structuralism approach, a text is more than just a collection of individual words; it is a complex system of signs and symbols that work according to particular rules. This approach is concerned with revealing the internal structure and investigating how they form the meaning of a text. The structuralist approach to literature is concerned with uncovering these underlying structures and exploring how they shape the meaning of a text.

Structuralism approach examining the interactions between the various elements of a text, such as character, plot, imagery, and narrative, to determine how they interact to convey meaning. These structures are intrinsic elements that shape human experience and determine the way people think, communicate and understand the world around them. In other words, it emphasizes that the meaning of any given phenomenon is not found in the

individual elements that make it up, but rather in the relationships between these elements and the underlying structure they form. The theory of structuralism by Ferdinand de Saussure argues that these structures are universal and exist independently of individual experiences, and that human behaviour and cultural practices can only be fully understood in the context of these underlying structures.

A. Theme

A theme is the main idea or meaning contained in a story. These problems can relate to issues of power, affection, jealousy, et cetera. The theme is the main thought in a story that is conveyed through the fabric of the story. So, a story not only contains a series of events arranged in a chart but also has a specific purpose.

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 is based on the reader's perspective. The meaning of a literary work is implicitly informed by the author. According to Hartoko and Rahmanto (1986), 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 researcher must read the novel and understand what the story tells about. According to Stanton (1965:7) 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 researcher concludes that theme is the central aspect or element of literary work. The researcher 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.

B. Character and Characterization

A character is someone in a literary work who has an identity that is formed by appearance, conversation, conversation, action, name, and (possibly) ideas in the head. In literature, a character is a verbal representation of a human being. Through action, speech, description, and commentary, authors portray characters who are worth caring about, cheering for, and even loving, although there also characters you may laugh at, dislike, or even hate (Roberts and Zweig, 2012:156). A story cannot be called a story unless it contains characters. Characters and characterization are commonly used in narrative or dramatic works.

The character can be divided into two types, namely minor and major characters. The major character is a character that plays the most important

role in the storyline, while a minor character is a supporting character that has a minor effect on the storyline. Based on the role, the characters are divided into protagonists and antagonists. The protagonist is the main character in the story, the series of events and conflicts in the story is centered on the protagonist. The protagonist usually has a goal to be achieved. To achieve that goal the story is developed into a conflict that will be resolved at the end of the story. The antagonist is the opposite of the protagonist, the antagonist character is usually the main character who prevents the protagonist from achieving his goals, causing conflict. Antagonists are usually described as characters with negative characterization.

Characters can also be presented indirectly to the reader through their actions, speech, and behavior. In this type of presentation, the reader must make inferences about the character's traits and motivations based on what they say or do in the story. The author does not directly tell the reader what the character is like, but instead allows the reader to form their own impressions based on the character's actions and interactions within the story. This type of characterization is often considered more subtle and nuanced, and allows the reader to form a more personal connection with the characters and to engage more actively with the story (Johnson & Arp, 2017:143).

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.

Character is different from characterization. Characterization is the way in which a character is created. Characterization is a method used by writers to reveal a character's personality. Characterization is revealed through both direct and indirect characterization. Characters are all the outcome of the characterizations. The author has chosen to characterize his or her character in specific ways, such as the types of conversations they have, the things they do, their appearance, and so on.

The researcher concluded that the character is a person created by the author of a novel in the story. Characterization is a description or image of the character in the story that the author explain. 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.

C. Plot

A plot is a narrative of events that emphasizes causality. It means that is the sequence of event in a story based on cause and effect. Gustaf Freytag in Suroso (2015: 14) argues that the plot has shaped the story. In a narrative, plot refers to what happens and how it happens. Any written work that tells a story, such as a short story, novel, or play, is considered a narrative. Plot can also be described as a "story, play, or movie plan of action." The plot is typically the most important aspect of a story. These section consists of the exposition, complication/rising action, climax, falling action, and resolution/denouement.

1) Exposition

Exposition is the part in which the author introduces the characters, scene, time, and situation.

2) Rising Action

Rising action is the dramatization of event that complicates the situation (complication) and gradually intensifies the conflict.

3) Climax

Climax is where the rising action (complication and conflict) come to further development and to a moment of crisis.

4) Falling Action

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

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 researcher 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.

D. Setting

A setting is the time and place a story occurs. It is one of the literary elements used in novels, short stories, dramas, films, etc. and is usually introduced at the beginning of the story (exposition). The setting can also include the story environment, which can consist of physical location, climate, weather, or social and cultural environment.

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 researcher 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.

2.3 Racism

Social science literature has come up with many different definitions of racism. Wilson (1973) offers a particularly cogent definition of racism as an

ideology of racial domination or exploitation that incorporates beliefs on the cultural or biological inferiority of particular race and employs those beliefs as a justification and prescription of inferior or unequal treatment for that group.

Marger (2014) states that racism has three basic ideas as a belief system. First, humans are divided naturally into different physical types. Second, physical characteristics such as the displays of people are inherently associated with their culture, personality, and intelligence. The last, the differences between groups are innate, not subject to change, and in some groups, their genetic inheritance is innately superior to others.

Racism is an ideology that exist in multicultural society and its belief is the one particular racial group is better or superior than others. Thus, Silva (2006) argues that racism means that the subordinate group is treated unequally by dominant group, so that human racial structures exist. Consequently, Little (2014) considers racism is also a type of prejudice that is used to justify the belief that one racial category is somehow superior or inferior to others.

Dovidio and Gaertner (2000) stated that, racism has been likened to a virus that mutates, taking on different forms as it adapts to a changing environment. Its mutation is made harder to observe by it being deeply embedded, not only in our traditions and institutions, but also in our unconscious lives. Public attitudes to race have certainly changed, and surveys have measured this evolution over many decades.

According to Neubeck (1991: 86), there are two types of racism. The first type is Personal Racism, and the second type is Institutional Racism.

1) Personal Racism

Personal racism occurs when individuals or small groups have suspicious attitudes and engage in discriminatory behavior. The manifestation of personal racism is individual stereotyping of alleged racial differences, insulting names and references, discriminatory treatment during interpersonal contact, threats, and acts of violence against members of minority groups who are suspected of being racially inferior. For example, one teacher assumes that children in the class who are not white members cannot learn and are therefore given little attention.

2) Institutional Racism

Institutional racism involves special treatment for minority communities at the hands of institutions. Institutional racism draws attention to the fact that groups such as Native Americans, African Americans, Latin Americans, and Asian Americans are often victims of the organizational structure of routine work. Unlike some forms of personal racism, racism that occurs during the daily and annual operations of large-scale institutions is often difficult to detect without investigation. An example of an act of Institutional Racism is the

Seniority rule applied only to employed whites. Recently minority workers are more subject to layoffs than whites.

Based on the explanation above, the researcher can conclude that, racism is understood as the perspective that is a form of prejudice. 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. In this case racism is a 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.