

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher jot down the research background, statement of problems, objective, research significance, the definition of key terms, and organization of writing.

1.1 Background of Research

Literary works always attract a lot of attention, especially with novels. The researcher is interested in analyzing the theme of racial discrimination in Slavery in Uncle Tom's Cabin because the novel depicts the evils and inhumanities of slavery in America where slavery is an important issue to discuss. The novel not only describes the suffering of the slaves themselves but also how slavery is something that harms everyone involved in it. It also shows the struggle of black people to face their master and be willing to suffer worse if sometimes they do not do something according to the order. They were treated like animals brought to the slave market and became a means of trade between slave owners. This is a serious issue to discuss because it concerns human rights.

Among the novels about discrimination is the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin by Harriet Beecher Stowe. There are several types of discrimination, namely religious discrimination, color discrimination or race. Based on the Dictionary reference Discrimination is an action or treatment or consideration in making a difference to fight a person or thing based on a particular group or stratum. Discrimination can also mean an unfair or unequal treatment of a person which is usually accompanied by physical violence, harassment or slavery. Novel Uncle Tom's Cabin's own tells the story of skin color discrimination that ends in slavery.

That happened not only in America, but also in other countries. Slavery is a system where people are treated as property to be bought and sold and forced to work. Slavery in America began when African slaves were first brought to the North American colony in Jamestown, Virginia, to help produce profitable plants. Slavery

was practiced throughout the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries, and African-American slaves helped to build the nation's economic foundations. The discovery of the cotton gin in 1793 established the importance of slavery for the Southern economy. Cotton is very important, not only for the South but for the nation. In 1840, cotton was more valuable than the others, so the value of the slaves was extraordinary. Cotton plants produced by slaves make America important to the world.

Uncle Tom's cabin is known as a genre Anti-slavery novel, and it is arguably the most popular and certainly the most influential novel ever written by an American. This Novel was published in March 1852 in Brunswick Maine. The story in the novel was taken from a true story of the situation of South America in 1851, where a lot of slavery in South America is used to benefit the national economy. The background in the writing of this novel is the incident about the cruel story of slavery and also the Law of Runaway Slaves that obliges the Northern States to send back slaves who fled to South America. Abraham Lincoln said that Stowe's writing was one of the triggers of a civil war in the United States in 1861-1865 due to conflicting states in the North and South, one group still wanted slaves and another group did not want slavery (Stowe, 1852: 7).

Most of the slaves lived on large farms or small plantations. Slave owners make their slaves dependent on them. They are prohibited from learning to read and write, and their behavior and movements are restricted. Many masters take sexual freedom with slave women, and value obedient slave behavior with help, while rebel slaves are brutally punished.

Married slaves and raising families is a Most slave owner encouraged this practice, but still did not hesitate to divide slave families by sale or transfer. Slavery has many effects on those who are included. Through slavery, slaves were separated from their families. Slaves were not allowed to speak their native language, and that did not allow them to communicate effectively. The teacher also prevents their slaves from learning to read and write, so their potential to be able to communicate is very limited. Slavery put slaves at a great disadvantage, which had taken them

more than a century to fight, and they still did not completely overcome this misery. Slavery has left an impact on African-Americans as a whole. Memories of slavery will always be stored in it. Their restrictions as slaves and the effects of slavery after emancipation all harmed the culture they had created. This is what Uncle Tom Cabin wants to show to readers and the world about the cruelty of slavery that influences black people's behavior and culture.

Slavery has many implications for those who belong to it. Through slavery, slaves were separated from their families. Slaves were not allowed to speak their native language, and that did not allow them to communicate effectively. Masters also prevented their slaves from learning to read and write, so their potential for communication was limited. Slavery cost slaves dearly, who took more than a century to fight, and they still had not fully overcome this tribulation. Slavery has left an impact on African-Americans as a whole. The memories of slavery will always remain in it. Their restriction as slaves and the aftermath of slavery after emancipation all negatively impact the culture they created. This is what Uncle Tom's Cabin wants to show readers and the world about the atrocities of slavery that affect the behavior and culture of black people.

The ideas depicted in this novel focus on arbitrary acts against black people as slaves. The researcher is interested in analyzing the theme of slavery at Uncle Tom Cabin because his novel clearly illustrates the crime and inhumanity of slavery in America. This novel portrays not only the suffering of the slaves themselves but also the manner of slavery as something that endangers everyone involved in it. It also shows the struggle of black people to face their masters and be prepared to suffer worse treatment if sometimes they do not do as they are told. Besides that, each character in this novel has a unique character. Each character seems to be separated from each other, but a common thread will appear at the end of the story.

In analyzing the theme of slavery depicted in the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin, the researcher uses Mimetic theory and Theory Race and Racism. This research was written under the title The Representation of racial discrimination in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin".

Mimetic theory is the most primitive approximation of the four categories. Mimesis is the idea of the art of imitating reality, an idea that traces back to Aristotle who argued that the universal can be found in the concrete. The mimetic theory defines literature concerning life, seeing it as a way of reproducing or re-creating the experience of human life in words. This theory focuses on the relationship between the literary text and the extra-textual “universe” which provides a source and stimulus for what the literary text represents.

The view of this mimetic approach is the assumption that literature is an imitation or depiction of the world and human life. The target being studied is the extent to which literary works present the real world. The relationship between reality and sensitivity in literature is the relationship between mimesis and creation. Mimesis is impossible without creation, and vice versa, creation is impossible without mimesis.

Race is a classification system that is used to categorize humans into large populations or groups and is different from the inherited steno-type, geographical, physical, and ethnic characteristics.

Another notion of race, in general, is a grouping based on biological characteristics, not according to sociostructural characteristics. Can be interpreted as a race as a population group of a region that has certain hereditary characteristics that are not the same as the residents of other regions.

The race is a taxonomic concept with limited use as a tool for classifying humans, but perhaps less useful than a more general population concept. The first term is used to refer to 'groups of people who show physical differences that are well developed and mainly inherited from other groups'. The latter refers to a group whose members marry members of another group more often than people outside the group' and therefore have a relatively limited and distinct reach. genetic characteristics. However, whether we use the concept of race or population, experts agree that human population groups constitute a continuum and that the genetic

diversity within groups may be as great as the diversity between groups (Solomos, 2000)

The word racism, "in its usual sense, actually denotes two very different things. On the one hand, it is a matter of behavior, usually a manifestation of hatred or contempt for individuals who have physical characteristics distinctly different from ours; on the other hand, it is a matter of ideology, a doctrine of the human race. The two are not necessarily related. Ordinary racists are not theorists they are unable to justify their behavior with "scientific" arguments. On the other hand, a racial ideologue is not necessarily a "racist", in the usual sense: his theoretical views may not have any influence on his actions, or his theories may not imply that a particular race is inherently evil. To keep these two meanings separate, I will adopt the distinction sometimes drawn between "racism," a term denoting behavior, and "racism," a term reserved for doctrine.

The reason, researchers chose the object of this study was because no one had ever examined the novel Uncle Tom's Cabin at the Sunan Gunung Djati State Islamic University in Bandung. Besides that, this novel also became a controversy that rocked America in 1851, because this novel aimed to eradicate slavery and racism against blacks. Harriet Beecher Stowe made an anti-slavery movement or movement to eradicate slavery with the writing of this novel. After this novel was published and the ministers and even President Abraham Lincoln read it after that Stowe was invited to the White House by Abraham Lincoln and talked about the novel that Stowe's made had become a topic of conversation and controversy for North and South America. Thus causing a civil war.

1.2 Statement of Problem

The explanation in the background section above describes the issues of racial discrimination that are raised in a novel, including the factors that cause and the impact of the discrimination. Based on that, the problems in this study formulated into the questions:

1. How is racial discrimination depicted in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
2. What is the effect of racial discrimination in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?

1.3 Research Objective

Following the above problem formulation, the objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To describe racial discrimination depicted in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.
2. To find out the effect of racial discrimination in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

1.4 Research Significance

1. Theoretically, this thesis is expected to enrich literary studies in general, especially those relating to novels and their relationship to social problems such as slavery.
2. Practically, this thesis is expected to be a source of reading that helps readers understand the story of Uncle Tom Cabin's novel and as an adjunct to the study of literature relating to social issues. This thesis will show readers the facts and ideas about slavery that occurred in America. That makes the reader more aware of slavery-related to human rights.

1.5 Theoretical Framework

In this study, the authors collected several theories and resolutions that discussed topics that addressed social issues and were related to racial comparisons. First, the author uses Wellek and Warren's theory in the book *Theory of literature* by Wellek and Warren (1979; 89). Stating that literature is an imitation or imitation of life on a large scale, a social reality, the reality of the developing world and the subjective world of individuals can be imitation objects of literature. And based on the theory from De Bonald (1979; 90).

So, the book *Theory of literature* by Wellek and Warren explains that literary works are imitations or reflections of life on a large scale that are closely related to the real-life between Uncle Tom's Cabin novels and the social conditions or society at that time. Even Harriet Beecher Stowe's explained clearly in the novel based on the real-life of the people at that time. Based on the theory from De Bonald which states that literature is a social reality, here we can see social realities that are

exposed between people's lives and those in the novel. Uncle Tom's Cabin about racial injustice that leads to slavery.

1.6 Previous Study

1. Racism analysis in Novel The Bluest Eyes Karya Toni Morrison Pattihahuwan (2008). Pattihahuwan used the mimetic theory of Wellek and Warren in their book Theory of Literature (1979) to find facts about social problems in a literary work. He explained a picture of racism to people who were born black who could be seen in the story. He concluded that racism in the novel The Bluest Eyes was the biggest problem in society.
2. Conflict Analysis in the Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad written by Anwar Encroachment (2007). Encroachment uses an intrinsic approach to provide information about the characters and the various conflicts that occur between them. He also uses the theory of William Noble (2006) which states that conflict is the essence of a story. He explained the conflict illustrated in the novel Heart of Darkness between Marlow and Kurtz, Marlow and the workers, Marlow with the natives, and Marlow with his mind. In conclusion, he found that the conflict in the novel Heart of Darkness created a dramatic situation that focused on the actions of the characters in the story.
3. The Impact of Jim Crow Laws on Black People Described in The Help by Kathryn Stockett's Novel written by Indah Wonua (2015). Wonua uses the mimetic theory of Wellek and Warren (1995) and the theory of George Luke (2005) that provides information about the author of The Help who applies a picture of the experience of black people in a work of fiction. In his research, he found information about the conditions of African-Americans who experience separation and discrimination from white people and the struggle they face such suffering.

The similarities and differences from the previous research above are the similarities in this study also using mimetic theory which applies the description of the real-life of blacks in a novel. This study also found information related to the

conditions of American society who experience racial discrimination from white people and the struggles they face.

While the difference is that the research I use is not only with the analysis of mimetic theory, but I also discuss a little about what race and racism are. The novel that the researcher raised is also different because the racism in the novel Uncle Tom's cabin is a novel that can be said to be history. After all, this novel was written by Stowe's which caused a lot of debate between slavery in the north and south. Because this novel was written in conjunction with the social reality of American society at that time. This novel caused a civil war between North and South America. The reason is that South America strongly agrees with the existence of slavery while North America does not approve of slavery which concerns human rights.

