

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The researcher provides some explanations of the research process that were compiled from the sub-chapters in the introduction chapter. These justifications include the researcher's data-based findings, knowledge of the phenomenon of the data that has been discovered, research questions, research objectives, and the importance of the research.

1.1 Background

Giving judgement to others is easier than evaluating ourselves. Everything is deemed physically good, including appearance, character, attitude, and so forth. They have dared to pass judgement on people they have just met, notwithstanding their ignorance of the nature, character, and depth of their heart. In everyday life, people tend to judge others based on their flaws rather than their goodness. In society, this situation is regarded as normal and common. Indeed, discussing other people's failures rather than their kindness warms people up in discussion. Even though a person is as kind as any other person, if a mistake is made, it is as if the goodness is lost and leaves no trace. People frequently cover their eyes and close their ears after making a mistake, no matter how slight, in order to see the kindness of others. Unconsciously, society uses people's appearances to create

judgments about them and to determine their responses to them. Without even realizing it, assessing someone based solely on their appearance has become an instinct that simply appears in our minds.

Furthermore, it may result in prejudice or discrimination against a new acquaintance. For instance, whether consciously or unconsciously, we will look at people who are physically different from other people or who have mental problems differently and form various judgments about them. UNESCO (1960) said that discrimination against disabled people frequently takes the form of slanted opinions, fear, bullying, or demeaning remarks. Bullying is one of the factors that significantly contributes to the occurrence of social prejudice. Every human being is a member of the same species and descends from the same stock, as demonstrated in the instance of racism.

Bhugra (2016) said that social discrimination is described as ongoing inequity between people on the basis of their physical or mental condition, their religion, their sexual orientation, or any other aspect of their diversity. The goal of social justice is to advance a just and equitable society that values diversity, offers equal opportunities to all of its citizens, regardless of their disability, ethnicity, gender, age, sexual orientation, or religion, and ensures equitable resource distribution and supports their human rights. Discriminatory behaviors can be caused by a variety of different causes, such as the ones stated above but also education, social class, political

affiliation, views, or other traits, especially by people who may have some authority.

According to the Alberta Human Rights Panel, a government-created commission, physical disability is defined under the Act as any degree of physical impairment, infirmity, deformity, or disfigurement caused by bodily damage, birth defect, or sickness. This includes, but is not limited to, epilepsy, paralysis, amputation, a lack of physical coordination, vision, hearing, and communication impairments, and dependency on a guide dog, service dog, wheelchair, or other remedial appliance or equipment. Azizah (2019) said this commission's objective is to safeguard society against discrimination in specific areas. "The Alberta Human Rights Act's objective is to guarantee that all Albertans have an equal chance to make a living, find a place to live, and enjoy services that are normally available to the public without discrimination."

Azizah (2019) said that there are many different social issues that might be addressed in literature. Along with poverty, societal prejudice, which includes body shaming, is another issue that is still being explored today. From her statement concluded that social issues that addressed in literature is still being analyze nowadays. Discrimination is a typical problem that is already prevalent in our social context. It occurred in a variety of contexts, including ethnic, religious, educational, and psychological bullying. The term "discrimination" can be defined using

sociological, psychological, or political considerations. Social science examines topics from a perspective that is neither less nor more significant than either the economic or social parts of society; rather, the difference is in the human approach, which frequently combines liberalism and rationality as guiding principles.

According to the Sociological Encyclopaedia, discrimination in social life is an act of distinction that occurs when certain groups of people are treated unfairly in violation of social norms and the legal principle of equality, which is disapproved by the majority of the population but accepted by some smaller subgroups. Social scientists who practice their craft defend the strict definition of discrimination that is founded on societal norms, beliefs, and principles. The National Rehabilitation and Social Office, however, uses a definition of discrimination that is in line with modern standards.

As stated in that definition, discrimination, exclusion, and favoritism of any kind that undermines the idea of equality of opportunity or violates it are all included. Both direct and indirect types of discrimination exist in the world today. Direct discrimination is when a person or group is treated unfairly due to their actual or perceived circumstances, character, or traits as compared to a nondiscriminated individual or group in the same circumstances. Laki (2014) said that at first glance, indirect discrimination appears to meet the criteria for equal treatment, but it actually places some

people or groups in a much worse position than other people or groups who are in a comparable situation. Indirect discrimination is an act that is not considered to be directly unfavorable discrimination.

Discrimination is the term used to describe unfair disparities made in judgments of people based on their affiliation with a certain group. It is illegal to discriminate for a number of reasons, including gender, age, sexual orientation, color, religion or belief, and disability or disease, which are referred to as the protected qualities, according to federal laws and regulations (such as the Equal Credit Opportunity Act of 1974). In the modern era, a number of prediction models have been developed around the gathering and application of previous data to make crucial judgments like employment, credit, and insurance. Laki (2014) stated that the predictive models are likely to learn the discriminatory relationship contained in the data and use it when generating new decisions if the historical data contains discrimination.

Palacio's Wonder (2012) and Davonar's *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* (2011) their work told us about physical appearance discrimination that occurs in people who have a physical defect. As we all know, it has happened in our lives. People with disabilities, both mentally and physically, are frequently mistreated in their social context. Moreover, they did not permit students to attend regular school. In truth, many of them have exceptional talent, and they are frequently recognized for their work. In

this work, the author demonstrated how the main character, who has a physical defect, may be an exceptional student in a regular school. Social capital, social contact, and the social contract all seem to be lacking. With these developments, it's possible that social prejudice is rising, along with intolerance for sexual diversity, other forms of disabilities, religion, and other characteristics that label people as "them" rather than "us."

According Esten (2013), the meaning of literature or literature is the disclosure of artistic and imaginative facts as a manifestation of human life and society through language as a medium, which has a positive effect on human life (humanity). Asis Nojeng, Jufri, Kembong Daeng (2017) stated that, a literary work is a description of the manifestation of the social life of society. The author gets an idea to make a literary work because of the social environment around them. Various social issues in society can serve as inspiration for literary works. If the author manages to describe the state of a society well, the reader will also easily imagine the circumstances referred to by the author. So that the moral message about the social life of the community that the author wants to convey can be understood easily by the reader.

This research also raises a comparative literature study. It is well known that comparative literature involves comparing one literary work with another. It is well recognized that a literary work differs from societal norms, beginning with traditions, aesthetic principles, and artistic objectives.

Comparative literature frequently has connections between itself and earlier literary works. In theory, a comparative literature research is an in-depth observational study that looks for a connection or affinity between two or more literary works while simultaneously observing both their similarities and differences.

Comparative literary studies typically examine the relationship between two or more literary works that, while coming from distinct cultural backgrounds, share a variety of similarities in both form and content. Marwati (2021) said that comparative literature is the study of two or more literary works or groups of literary works in relation to another field. Comparing literature goes beyond similarities and differences and extends beyond literary works. As Bassnett (1993) stated, comparative literature entails analyzing texts across cultures, is multidisciplinary, and is concerned with the pattern of connection seen in literature throughout time and place.

With this topic, the researcher hopes that social discrimination will be reduced and we will all respect each other more. Whether it makes them less confident so they are afraid to face the public or other influences, they also have the same rights as us. Based on the topics above, there is a relationship between what the researcher will discuss and the theoretical quote in Susan Bassnett's book (1993:3) from Charles Mills Gayley's theory. His theory quote is as follows The quote above relates to the topic of

"literature as a distinct and integral medium of thought, a common institutional expression of humanity; differentiated, to be sure, by the social conditions of the individual, by racial, historical, cultural, and linguistic influences."

Literature, according to Gayle's theory, is a unique and significant medium of thought that is a common expression of humanity. However, various social conditions, such as an individual's cultural background, history, race, and language, influence and differentiate these expressions. According to his theory, literature reflects society and culture, and differences in social circumstances and backgrounds can shape and differentiate how literature is expressed. Thus, literature can be used to comprehend and investigate the complexities and diversity of human experiences and perspectives.

According to Bassnett (1993:1)

"Comparative literature is a cross culture study texts, characterized by interdisciplinary and related to the pattern of relationships in literature across space and time."

She believed that two things should be compared in order to properly study comparative literature. The second literary category includes works written by authors from various cultural backgrounds. Herawati (2016) said that cultural background differences are inevitably accompanied by differences in location and time. As a result, the literary comparative

concluded that comparing two works of literature should concentrate on identifying differences between them rather than comparing them to other works of literature or to public or universal literature.

As the subject of researcher investigation, the researcher chose R.J. Palacio's novel *Wonder* (2012) and *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* Agnes Davonar's novel (2011). The researcher discusses the social conditions that occur, namely the existence of social discrimination towards people with disabilities, in these two novels. In reality, children are innocent people who do not deserve to be mistreated by those around them. The main character of *Wonder* is a youngster with an odd face named August Pullman. August, who has a severe condition, faces discrimination in society due of his physical appearance. Auggie in this novel has encountered something that most youngsters do not, namely social discrimination from his peers or those who notice his face. This occurs because Auggie's physical state is not as usual as that of other persons. As a result, he is harmed when he meets new individuals.

In Davonar's work *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* (2011) In her writing, Agnes Davonar depicts the trials of a little girl named Angel in her quest for a better life. This girl is physically handicapped, specifically, she is deaf. However, some people are unable to accept her presence. Discrimination against social groups in the novel *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* (2011) The work of Agnes Davonar essentially discriminates

against those who have disabilities. The little girl named Angel frequently experiences unfair treatment from her peers as a result of having a disability. Because of how her physical restrictions are handled, Angel frequently endures taunts, ribbing, and bullying from her schoolmates.

People were continually staring at them, which made the main character in the novel *Wonder* and *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* uneasy. It's fascinating to note how most individuals make snap judgements about other people based on their appearance. Essentially, the appearance is not the only place where one may reflect on oneself, and about the main character in *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* Angel is deaf, people sees her as a different, unlike the other person. This is really intriguing because the problem of discrimination or bullying has not yet been resolved. The bulk of people continue to judge others from the outside. The prevalence of societal discrimination that the main character in both novel faces, lower their confidence and makes them ashamed of their physical appearance.

1.2 Statement of Problems

The researcher discusses the social conditions that occur, namely the existence of social discrimination towards people with disabilities, in *Wonder* novel by R.J. Palacio and *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* novel by Agnes Davonar. The statement of the problem in this study is why social

discrimination occurs in the two novels, which then raises the following research questions:

1. What is the impact of social discrimination on the main characters in the two novels?
2. What does the form of social discrimination occur in both novels?

1.3 Research Objective

To describe and examine the problems above, the author set out a several goals to help readers of this research, the research objectives based on the problem formulation are:

1. To describe the impact of social discrimination on main characters in the two novels.
2. To describe the occurrence form of social discrimination explained in the two novels.

1.4 Research Significance

This purpose of this study is to provide knowledge about comparative literature.

Furthermore, there are some benefits from this research:

1. Theoretical Significance
 - a. This significance of this research is to add insight the impact of social discrimination and intended for readers, critics, especially of English literature Students. The reader will gain awareness of

"discrimination" as well as prejudice against those with special needs or disabilities as a result of this issue.

b. It can give more knowledge and more understanding of comparative literature theories and the methods used to examine the object in question.

2. Practice Significance

Readers are anticipated to benefit from the study's findings by learning how to compare literary works. In particular, for individuals who are interested in research in the same area but with distinct components, this study might be utilized as a reference.

1.5 Conceptual Framework

The structuralism approach is used by the researcher in analyzing the novel. The structuralism approach assumes that the convention can be detected and described autonomously through the analysis of the structure of the literary text, independent of the writer's background history or the so-called extrinsic elements.

According to Abrams (1981:87):

“structuralist criticism stands free from poet, audience, and its environment. It describes the literary work as a self-sufficient object”

Abrams defines a self-sufficient object as a system made up of inseparable interconnected elements. Nurchayadi (2020) said the identity of one element determines the identity of the others, and vice versa. Furthermore, structuralist criticism holds that a literary's product should be analyzed and judged based on intrinsic criteria such as complexity, coherence, equilibrium, integrity, and the interrelationship of its component elements. According to the explanation above, the researcher's analysis of the study shows that structuralism is the idea of a system. Individual works, literary genres, and the entire body of literature are all related systems.

Yanti (2021) said that the structuralism approach would rule out a view of what should be expressed through literary works, whereas theory is the analysis of the main. From her statement she suggests that a structuralism approach to literary analysis focuses on the underlying structures and patterns within a work, rather than the author's intended message or what should be expressed. Meanwhile, theory is used to analyze the central themes and ideas within the work.

According to Ryan (2007), a structural approach is one that only focuses on the intrinsic elements of literary works. This is a literary theory that departs from the assumption that a literary work consists of several interconnected elements. These elements interact with one another and eventually function as a self-contained structure. From his statement, he explains that a structural approach to literary analysis involves examining the fundamental components of a work of literature, such as its characters, plot,

and themes, and how they relate to one another to form a cohesive structure. This approach assumes that the work is a self-contained entity that can be understood by analyzing its internal elements and their interactions.

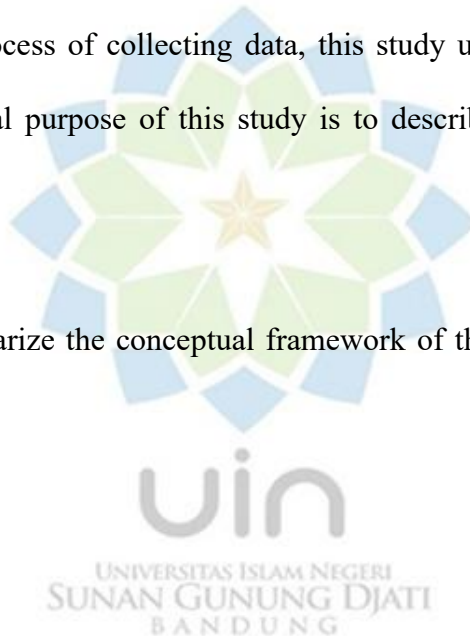
Piaget (1995), identified three key concepts that constitute structuralism. The idea of wholeness first suggests that each intrinsic component of the story is essential to determining the overall structure and other parts of her statement, each character, setting, plot development, and theme are interconnected and contribute to the overall coherence of the work. Second, there is the idea of transformation, which denotes that new materials are produced as a result of the structure and guiding principles of transformation. This implies that a literary work is never static but is instead always changing and evolving, and that the process of transformation is necessary for the development of new meaning. The third concept is independent order, which denotes the autonomy and self-control of a literary work. It is important to keep in mind that the thing at work is autonomous and has the power to stop itself from changing on its own without help from anyone else.

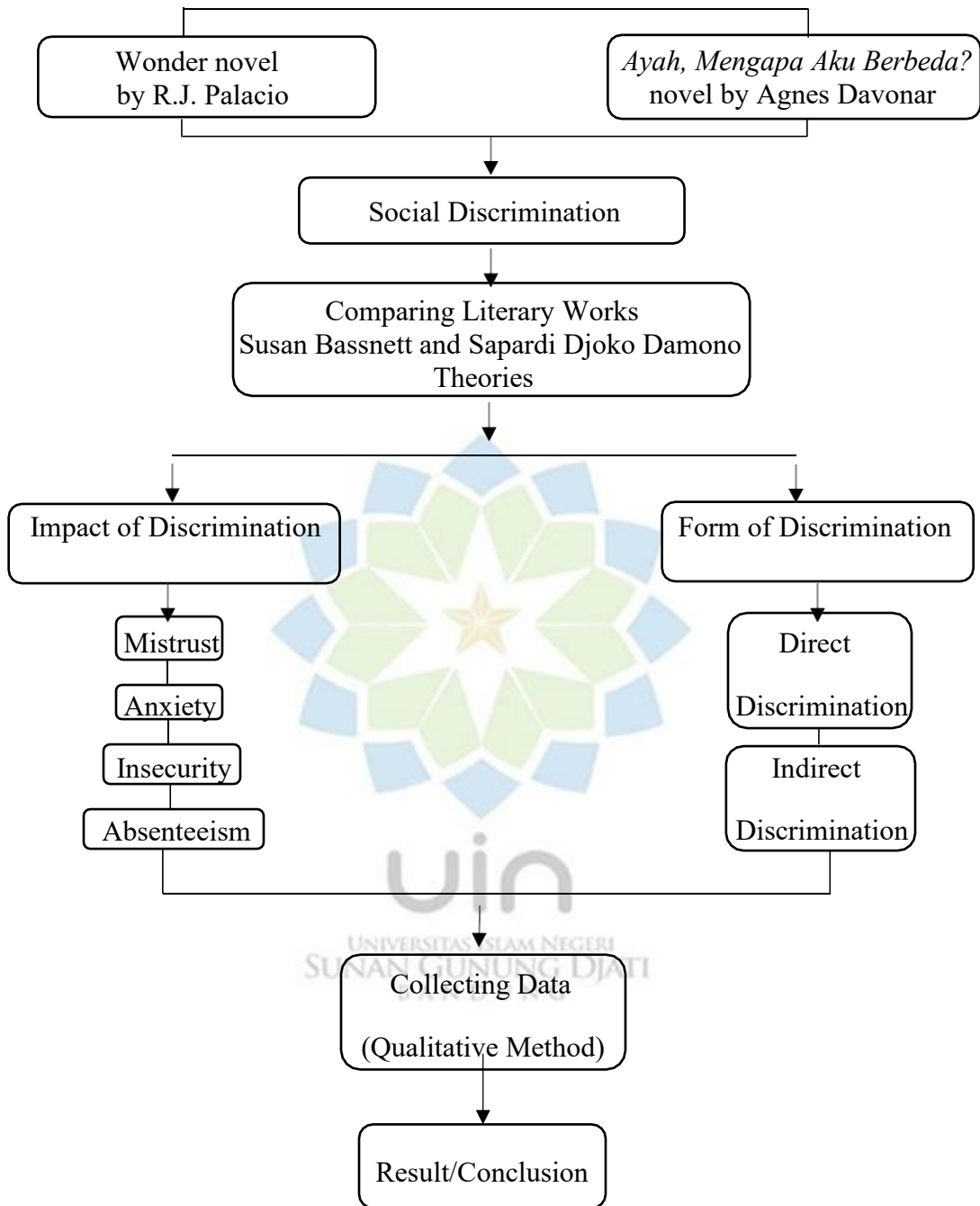
This research uses Wonder novel by R.J. Palacio and *Ayah Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* novel by Agnes Davonar as the primary data sources for this study. The researcher discovers similarities between the novels after reading the books, they have the same topic or theme about social discrimination. The researcher compares the two literary works using a related theory, specifically the theory of Susan Bassnett (1993) and the theory of Sapardi Djoko Damono.

(2005). To answer the research questions in this paper, the researcher employs a structuralist approach in analyzing the novels.

Furthermore, the result of this research is the impacts of social discrimination, namely mistrust, anxiety, insecurity, and absenteeism, and the form of social discrimination, which is divided into two, they were direct discrimination and indirect discrimination. This study is concerned with comparing both novels to analyze the similarities contained in the two literary works. In the process of collecting data, this study uses a qualitative method because the initial purpose of this study is to describe a literary work under analysis.

To summarize the conceptual framework of this research, the diagram follows:





1.6 Related Previous Studies

The researcher discovered several studies that are similar. The first previous work was Laeli Nur Azizah's thesis titled *Social Discrimination As A Result of Stereotyping As Reflected in The Palacio's Wonder* (2019). This study describes about the stereotyping of the main character's appearance and examining the aspects of stereotyping of physical appearance, social discrimination, and social treatment toward people who has physical disability. This study results social discrimination of the people with disability around society. August Pullman or Auggie as the main character in this novel who has physical disability tried to facing up the stereotype from society.

The second work is article by Dinesh Bhugra entitled *Social Discrimination and Social Justice, International Review of Psychiatry* (2016), this article describes more definition about social discrimination and social justice from some expert, and then describe about stigma and many kind of discrimination. The third work is article by Aniek Rizka, R. Myrna Nur Sakinah, Arief Luqman entitled *The Comparison of Characters, Setting and Characterization Analysis Between Novel and Film of Paper Towns (A Study of Comparative Literature)* (2020), this article describes various types of characters, settings, and characterizations, and compared between novels as stories and films with different medium. The next work is article by Ildikó Laki entitled *The Concept of Discrimination Nowadays* (2014), this article describe more about what discrimination is, and explained about what kind of definition

of discrimination by experts. The next work is diploma thesis by Dea Herawati entitled Comparative Study on The Plot of Percy Jackson and The Olympians The Lightning thief's Novel and Movie.

The next work is sarjana thesis by Dwi Indah Fitriati entitled The Impact of Discrimination in Taylor The Help Movie (2017), this work describe about more about racial discrimination that exist in The Help movie can happen on individual and institutional, those study focus on the impact of discrimination in Taylor The Help movie. The next work is sarjana thesis by Sopa Marwati entitled Social Class Conflict in Parasite (2019) and Joker (2019) Movies (2021), this thesis describe about social class conflict and its consequences in Parasite and Joker movies, this article describes about social class conflict in the two movies.

The next work is sarjana thesis by Alviani Hidayat entitled The Similarities and Differences of Character and Pots in Big Fish Film and *Ayahku Bukan Pembohong* Novel, this work describe more about how the character roles in both novels and then describe the similarities and differences of character from both novel. The next work is journal by Meilyana Indi Rananda, Agnes Setyowati H, and Ni Made Widisasti S (2020) entitled Social Discrimination as Part of The Process of Forming The Main Character's Social Identity in The Novel Wonder by R.J. Palacio, this work more describe the process of the main character's social identity in his school environment and how the main character accepted how his friend discriminatory that he got. The

goal of this study is to describe the problem of social discrimination that occurs in the novel's sequence of problems and experiences by the main character. Through the literature study techniques, descriptive analysis methods and intrinsic and extrinsic elements are used to collect data. As a result, the analysis focuses on social discrimination and the role of family action as a system support for the novel's main character. Finally, the main character suffers from social discrimination, either directly or indirectly, as a result of this research.

The next research study discovered by the writer named Afnani (2019), she examined *Living in Diversity in R.J Palacio's Wonder Novel: A Sociological Analysis*. The goal of her study is to determine the types of diversity that are reflected in Palacio's novel "Wonder", how it reflected to the characterization analysis, and finally, the reason why the author described diversity in Palacio's novel. The author using techniques to collect data by reading, taking notes on important data, and analyzing it using sociological theory to assess the data's validity. The findings of her investigation are first the types of diversity found in Wonder novel, second the types of diversity explained through the characterization, plot, settings, symbols, and imagery, and points of view, and third the author addressed the issue of diversity in Palacio's novel as a result of her personal experience.

The next study was conducted by Nuriza (2014), who examined the study titled *A Child Character's Development in R.J. Palacio's Children's Realistic Fiction Novel Wonder*. The purpose of this research is to look into the

character development of children in realistic fiction and to identify the character development of the main character using Bal's theory. The data in this study is also being analyzed using descriptive qualitative methods. And the result is about the main character's character development, which was determined by four key narrative events and different focalizations, both of which determined the changes in his personality and attitudes, which were contributed by six characters. Its focalization manifests primarily in direct or indirect speech, perceptual views, and cognitive abilities.

The next study discovered by Sompotan (2019) conducted research on Moral Values in the Film *Wonder* by Stephen Chbosky. The goal of this research is to analyze the moral value and the data from the film “Wonder” about the main character, and to identify the problems that the character faces. This study draws on the theories of several experts, including Pojman, who explains the general theory of morality, and Bohlin, who discusses morality and the conflict that the characters face based on literature. As the result, August Pullman, the main character, has to deal with some problems in his life, such as conflict with his bestfriend, dealing with his low self-esteem, dealing with bullying, and so on. And moral values of those conflicts are that we are need to have good personalities, that true beauty comes from within, and that we must not lose faith in our relationship the difference between his research and this research is the use of data from the novel “Wonder” by R.J Palacio and the film “Wonder”.

The next study that the researcher discovered is Safnidar Siahaan (2019), who examined Values of Being Analysis in R.J Palacio's novel "Wonder". The purpose of her study is to discover the values of being described in the novel "Wonder" as influenced by Linda's theory of educational values. The author collects primary and secondary data using the qualitative method. The primary data is drawn from R.J Palacio's novel "Wonder", while the secondary data is used to supplement the primary data, such as dialogues, actions, appearances, thoughts, and other characters reactions. Her research focused on the value of being, which includes courage, honesty, peace, and potential.

The author concluded from the preceding studies that the difference between this study and previous studies is that this study uses comparative literature theories to discuss social discrimination contained in the two novels which is R.J. Palacio's (2012) work entitled *Wonder* and Agnes Davonar's (2011) work entitled *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?*, and in this study uses comparative literature method, in previous research no one has compared these literary two works which is *Wonder* (2012) and *Ayah, Mengapa Aku Berbeda?* (2011) this is what makes this research different from previous studies, hence this research uses several theory of social discrimination by Dinesh Bhugra, absenteeism and so on. Another term that makes this research different from previous research, is in this research the author examine more deeply about social discrimination, such as the impact of social discrimination and the form

of social discrimination in both novels, additionally the researcher includes some quotations from each novels with the aim of being more accurate.

