

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

Literature, as Roberts says, refers to compositions that tell stories, dramatize situations, express emotions, and analyze and advocate ideas (1). Moreover, Jones states that literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination (1). Based on the above statements, it can be said that literature is a part of human life that reflected the reality in what happened in each aspect of life. It represents life which deals with internal and external factors of human life. Therefore, analyzing literature means analyzing human life in the sense of experiences, ideas, motivations, emotions or expectations which are expressed in the works. People may get a solution of their problems or a suggestion what they should do in the social interaction by analyzing literary works.

Peck divides literature into three genres. Genre means a type or a class of literature. The three genres are drama, poetry and prose (1). Roberts states that drama is literature designed to be performed by actors (2). It is derived from Greek word 'dran' that means 'to do' or 'to act'. Meanwhile, Kennedy states that poetry is a rhythmical composition of words expressing an attitude, designed to surprise and delight and to arouse an emotional response (628). It deals with emotion and presents the emotions of the poet as they are aroused by some scene, some experience and some attachment. Kasim defines prose as a fictitious

narrative kind of writing. Based on the form it can be classified as romance, novel, and short story (13).

However, in this study the writer is only going to discuss about the novel. As Burhan says, novel is a fiction which has elements such as plot, theme, character, setting, point of view (10). Novel can give many experiences, suggestion, and motivation that can be used to make a better life. Lawrence quotes that among many kinds of literary works, a novel is seen as a literary work that can represent life in all its fullness (16). Whatever the explanation, novel is not escaped from story about real life and also the condition around the author.

Richard Taylor in *Understanding the Elements of Literature* (46) explains that a novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct. This statement affirms to what Wellek and Warren state that literature 'represent' 'life'; and 'life' is, in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and the inner or subjective world of the individual have also been objects of literary 'imitation' (94). Novel is one of the fictitious stories. Fiction describes invented people and event, not real ones. It originates not in historical facts but in the creative, imaginative powers (qtd in Haloho 2).

One of the novels which reminds the reader not to discriminate other people because freedom is something that should be owned by the human is *The Book of Night Women*. It is a 2009 fiction novel by Jamaican author Marlon James. "*Every Negro walk in a circle*" says the narrator of *The Book of Night*

Women. The phrase is repeated throughout Marlon James's darkly powerful second novel. It seems to mean that black life in the Americas was a vicious circle, full of the terrible things that whites did to blacks and that blacks did to whites and to blacks because of whites (*The Book of Night Women* novel).

Marlon James was born in Kingston, Jamaica, in 1970 and now he is living in Minneapolis. James teaches literature at Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota. He has published three novels: *John Crow's Devil* (2005), *The Book of Night Women* (2009) and *A Brief History of Seven Killings* (2014), which was the winner of the 2015 Man Booker Prize. James' second novel, *The Book of Night Women*, won the 2010 Dayton Literary Peace Prize, The Minnesota Book Award and was a finalist for the 2010 National Book Critics Circle Award in fiction, and an NAACP Image Award (Macalester College).

The Book of Night Women traces the life of Lilith, a mixed race slave on a Jamaican sugarcane plantation in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. Orphaned when her mother dies giving birth to her, Lilith more or less raises herself in the hell of the Montpelier Estate. Lilith has an opportunity to shed her isolation when she was invited to join a group of her half-sisters, the "Night Women," a clandestine slave sisterhood conspiring to stage an island wide revolt. Lilith eventually becomes involved with Robert Quinn, a White overseer who previously supervised her regular beatings. Lilith and Quinn have a daughter, and at the end of the novel the daughter reveals herself as the narrator of her mother's story.

The writer chooses the author Marlon James because he writes about racism, a topic that drives the writer to conduct the study. With his most recent winning the 2015 Man Booker Prize, James become the first Jamaican recipient of the prize. He is making a name for himself as one of the most important and exciting contemporary writers to come out of the island nation. His works are an expression of Jamaica's violent past. He is powerful in writing about his homeland with the experience of an expat (Theculturetrip).

The writer chooses *The Book of Night Women* novel because this book tells about racism in the form of slavery that happened outside the United States. The writer is eager to know how racism operates in other part of the world. Racism becomes the main topic of this study because it always be interesting topic to discuss. In real life, the whites are still considered better than the blacks, even though this is not the case in all countries. In some countries, most of companies put whites in higher positions than blacks.

The writer employs African American Criticism to help analyzing racism and its effect in *The Book of Night Women* novel. Although the story does not happen in the United States, the writer believes that this criticism is still suitable because it focuses on a number of racism themes that include surviving the horrors of slavery and segregation struggling for freedom and equality. Thus, based on the explanation above, the writer will discuss under the title RACISM IN MARLON JAMES'S *THE BOOK OF NIGHT WOMEN*.

1.2 Statement of The Problem

Based on the background of the study explained above, the writer is interested in analyzing the problems, which are formulated as follows:

1. What form of racism occurred in *The Book of Night Women* novel?
2. What are the effects of racism towards Lilith's life in the novel?

1.3 The Objective of The Study

In accordance with the statement of the problem stated above, this study has two objectives that can be stated as follows:

1. To examine what form of racism occurred in *The Book of Night Women* novel.
2. To reveal the effects of racism towards Lilith's life in the novel.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of Study

In order to make this study focus, the writer gives the scope and limitation for the discussion. Marlon James writes some novel but only one novel from James with the title *The Book of Night Women* will be analyzed in this research. This novel tells about discrimination of racism which is written in the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The analysis limits on the form of racism and its effect towards Lilith by employing African American Criticism.

1.5 Significance of The Study

The writer hopes this study will help students of literary class and any readers who are interested in literature to understand the racism which is described in Marlon James's novel *The Book of Night Women*. It is also expected that all reader will be able to catch the deep meaning and the morality of his novel. Also, the writer hopes this study can be a helpful reference for other researchers who are interested in conducting further research and how to use African American Criticism in analyzing a literary work.

1.6 Method of The Study

This study is a qualitative research. A qualitative research is a research which does not use any calculation or enumerating (Moleong 2). The main reason is that because the writer just collects the data, analyses them and then draws conclusion. It is a library research that merely focuses on the analysis of textual data.

1.6.1 Object of the Study

The writer takes *The Book of Night Women* novel as the object of the study. This novel is written by Jamaican author Marlon James.

1.6.2 Instruments

Research instrument is important to obtain the data of this study for it is a set of method which is used to collect the data. The main instrument of this research will be human. In this research, the instrument will be the writer self,

because it is impossible to collect, analyze and interpret the data directly without the writer herself.

1.6.3 Data and data Sources

1.6.3.1 Type of Data

The data of this research are taken from *The Book of Night Women* novel. The data consists of words, phrases, dialogues and sentences that are related to the statement of the problems.

1.6.3.2 Data Sources

In study, there are two sources of data namely primary and secondary data sources. The primary data source is the novel *Book of Night Women* written by Marlon James. Secondary data sources are reference and materials related to the study, including books, thesis, journal or internet.

1.6.4 Data Collection

The writer uses documentary technique to collect the data. The writer reads some related books, theses, or journals to find out the theory and supporting data which have similarity in idea. Specifically, to collect the main data is done by close- reading the novel several times and determining the data that will be analyzed, taking note of important parts in both primary data and secondary data, then discussing them. After data collecting, the next step is analyzing them.

