

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Theoretical Framework

In this chapter, the writer reviews some literary theories and concepts which are going to be used in the study. It clarifies the whole theory relating to issues in the statement of the problem. It includes the discussion of previous studies and theory of racial discrimination. The writer applies the Sociology of Literature as an umbrella of whole discussion in her study. The discussion goes on the social matter about racism in the novel. Due to the applied of sociology of literature as the umbrella of overall discussion, African American Criticism will be useful to apply in this thesis, that the perspective is used to approach and identify the racism which operates in Jamaica sugar plantation. Those theories are explained as follows:

2.1.1 Sociology of Literature

The sociology of literature is derivative from the word sociology and literature. Alan Swingewood in his book *The Sociology of Literature* explains that sociology is essentially the scientific, objective study of man in society, the study of social institutions, and a social processes; it seeks to answer the question of how society is possible, how it works, why it persist (11). While, Rene Wellek and Austin Warren explain in the book *Theory of Literature* that the term literature seems best if we limit it to the art of literature. The art of literature here is refers to imaginative literature (11).

Sociology of literature can be analyzed literature at least through three perspectives. Firstly, the perspective of literary texts, the researchers analyzed as a reflection of people's lives and vice versa. Text is usually classified and described the sociological meaning. Secondly, biographical perspective, the researchers analyzed the author. This perspective relates to the life story of the author and social background. Thirdly, receptive perspective, the researchers analyzed the public acceptance of drama texts (Endraswara 80).

In convenient with its name, the sociology of literature is a specialized area of study which focuses its attention upon the relation between a literary work and the social structure in which it is created. It reveals that the existence of a literary creation has the determined social situations. As there is a reciprocal relationship between a literary phenomena and social structure, sociological study of literature proves very useful to understand the socio economic situations, political issues, the world view and creativity of the writers in which they occur and determinants of a literary work.

As the need of this study, the sociology of literature is applied in this study. It is due to the range of the discussion is about social phenomenon which is reflected in one of literary work *The Book of Night Women* novel. Hereby, this study uses the sociology of literature as umbrella of overall analysis toward *The Book of Night Women* novel. This study analyzes racism in the form of slavery that happened outside the United States.

2.1.2 African American Criticism

African American history and culture were excluded from American education until the late 1960s (Tyson 360). American history books did not cover slave uprisings during transportation from the Middle Passage, slave rebellions that occurred on plantations, or the underground resistance formed by slaves. African American history and literature are intrinsically connected. The first published works of African American literature came about in the 18th century, at a time when the United States was just coming into being and when newly recognized citizens, with clearly defined rights and freedoms, owned slaves. Conditions of slavery produced a certain genre of writing, as slave narratives. By the time the late 19th and early 20th centuries came around, Jim Crow policies led to enormous discrimination and violence in the South, yet novelists still produced some of works of fiction.

African American literature has become an inevitable part of American literature and culture. The significant representation of African American literature American society stands to be cleansed from the problem of racial discrimination. African American literature has examined the problem of racial discrimination in all its philosophical, existential and epistemological aspects. It has traveled from mid 18th century with slave narratives to the current times (Pankaj 1). African American Criticism is suitable to analyze the works of African American Literature because it attempts to define what it is to be an African American and the racial issues associated with being one. History has a

predominant role in African American literature and criticism due to the enslavement of African Americans.

According to Tyson, African American criticism can be both a subject matter, the study of a body of literature written by a specific group of marginalized people, and a theoretical framework. As a subject matter, any analysis of a literary work written by an African American, regardless of the theoretical framework used, might be called African American criticism, even if no attention is paid to elements in the text that are specifically African American. However, as a theoretical framework and this is our primary concern here African American criticism foregrounds race (racial identity, African American cultural traditions, psychology, politics, and so forth) as the object of analysis because race, in America, informs our individual and cultural psychology, and therefore our literature, in profound ways (394).

Moreover, as a theoretical framework, African American criticism can be used to analyze any literary text that speaks to African American issues, regardless of the race of its author, although the work of African American writers is the primary focus (Tyson 395). Tyson also states that the goal in using African American criticism is to learn to see some important aspects of literature that we might not have seen so clearly or so deeply without this theoretical perspective and to understand the challenges, responsibilities, and opportunities of living an ethnically diverse society (395).

The Book of Night Women novel tells about racism in the form of chattel slavery. While, racism is one of African American issues. By using the African American Criticism as theoretical perspective will help the writer to analyze the data.

In analyzing racism, the writer uses some elements from African American Criticism; these are race, racism, white privilege, prejudice, segregation and discrimination. These elements are used by the writer to find out how the racism occurs in the novel and the effects towards Lilith's life.

2.1.2.1 Race

Most of countries consist of several races. Racial diversity gives many benefits if it is utilized properly, such as the country becomes increasingly rich in culture. Cultural property would bring many benefits, not only in the form of material but could also be a science. However, it is more often causing conflict because people tend to think if the difference is a threat that could destroy their group. In fact, the difference was created by God to be complementary to each other.

Race is always the issues. Williams, Mourey and Warren define race is an unscientific, socially constructed taxonomy that is based on an ideology that views some human population groups as inherently superior to others on the basis of external physical characteristics or geographic origin (26).

Moreover, Haney-Lopez defines race as neither an essence nor an illusion, but rather an ongoing, contradictory, self reinforcing, plastic process, subject to

the macro forces of social and political struggle and the micro effects of daily decisions... terms like 'black' and 'white' are social groups, not genetically distinct branches of humankind (65).

Sacknell states that race is a concept that signifies and symbolizes social conflicts and interests by referring to different types of human bodies. It is a socio historical process by which racial categories are created, inhabited, transformed, and destroyed (2).

According to Brues, a race is a division of a species which differs from other divisions by the frequency with which certain hereditary traits appear among its members (1-2). Among these traits are features of external appearance that make it possible to recognize members of different populations by visual inspection with greater or less accuracy. Members of such a division of a species share ancestry with one another to a greater degree than they share it with individuals of other races. Finally, races are usually associated with particular geographic areas.

Taylor defines race in the United States is not defined by one single definition, but simultaneously by several definition. Six definition of race were explored here. One's race is defined by a combination of the following: by one's physical appearance, such as by skin color (the biological definition); by social construction (any definition arising out the process of human interaction, such as how these around you define you); as an ethnic group (Hitler defined the Jews as a race); as a social class rank (as in Brazil); as racial formation (such as the U.S.

government's definition an who is American India); and finally, by one's own self-definition. No one definition is dominant over another in U.S society. Each definition shows the significance of society in defining race (53).

All in all, from the kinds of definition of race in above, the writer concludes that the definition of race can be viewed from two perspectives. Firstly, defines race from biological perspective which view from the physical appearance such as from the skin color. Secondly, defines race from social construct perspective, the process of defining the races is usually favor those powers and privileges over the others.

2.1.2.2 Racism

Audre Lorde defines racism as the belief in the inherent superiority of one race over all others and thereby the right to dominance (115). Within white-dominated communities, racism has historically imposed incredible hardships and injustices on people who are not white. Racism has been heavily integrated into social systems; in the past, racism was legal and demanded by many governments across the world. Racism has led to unimaginable acts of violence, to the murder and genocide of millions (and perhaps cumulatively billions) of human beings across the world.

According to Hoyt, racism is the belief that all members of a purported race possess characteristics, abilities, or qualities specific to that race, especially so as to distinguish it as inferior or superior to another race or other races. Racism

is a particular form of prejudice defined by preconceived erroneous beliefs about race and members of racial groups (225).

According to Michel Leiris, racism is one of most disturbing phenomena of the great revolution of the modern world. At the very time when industrial civilization is penetrating to all points of the globe and is uprooting men of every colour from their age-old traditions, a doctrine, speciously scientific in appearance, is invoked in order to rob these men of their full share in the advantage of the civilization forced upon them (8).

Fredman (cited in Bhavnani et al. 15) conceptualizes racism as a process that can be recognised by its penchant for stereotyping which may lead to violence if not prejudice. Racism has two forms of racial relation; they are the form of acceptance and the form of rejection. The forms of acceptance are assimilation, accommodation, amalgamation, and pluralism. The forms of rejection are prejudice, segregation, and discrimination (qtd. In Bintan 18). The form of racial relation in *The Book of Night Women* novel is rejection. So that the form of racism in this novel are racial identity (white privilege), prejudice, segregation and discrimination.

In a nut shells, racism is a distinction to understand the attitude or treatment against individuals or groups because of racial differences. Racism is rooted in the belief that some people are superior because they are from a certain race. The concept of race came from the social construction, not a scientific thing.

The person who adopts this presumes that their race is superior so that they consider have the right to organize and belittle other races.

2.1.2.3 White Privilege

Essed says that white privilege is the belief that White is the dominant race and includes many social advantages, benefits, and courtesies. White privilege is a form of everyday racism because the whole notion of privilege rests on the concept of disadvantage. That is, one can be privileged only in contrast with someone else who is not privileged. So if whites enjoy a system of everyday privileges because they are White, this means that Blacks are deprived of these privileges because they are Black. And this is, of course, a form of racism. More often than not, white privilege is unconscious because it is taken for granted, seen as a natural part of daily life, by those who have it (205).

According to Kendall (1) white privilege is an institutional (rather than personal) set of benefits granted to those of us who, by race, resemble the people who dominate the powerful positions in our institutions. One of the primary privileges is that of having greater access to power and resources than people of color do; in other words, purely on the basis of our skin color doors are open to us that are not open to other people.

Rothenberg argues that white privilege is the other side of racism (1). While this exploration of white privilege as the corollary to racism emerges in the literature on white privilege, it is rarely discussed explicitly in explorations that

focus on racism specifically. The normalization of whiteness is indicative of the power that has been accorded the white race.

Kirwan argues white privilege is an innate collection of favoured benefits or circumstances which are not earned, that have been granted to white people, who are often considered to be ‘the mainstream’ in Canada and the U.S. Thus, one is born into white privilege based on the colour of one’s skin and for no other apparent reason. This is sometimes termed ascribed status, that is, a standing that is innately assigned or attributed to an individual, and it can be contrasted with achieved status, which is a position that has been earned or deserved based on actions of the individual (3).

Peggy McIntosh argues that many white people refuse to acknowledge this privilege. Her paper, *White Privilege and Male Privilege*, grew from the identification of a white privilege not dissimilar to the male privilege she was working to expose through her faculty work in Women’s Studies. She examined how her own white privilege operated and defined her everyday life, discovering in the process 46 assets that she believed she had accrued based solely on the colour of her skin. Her conclusion that “[my] skin color was an asset for any move I was educated to want to make”, helped redefine racism as privilege for white people (11). Consequently, racism was reconstructed as a white problem with an emphasis on both the ways in which Western institutions perpetuate this privilege and the complicity of white people in this.

All in all, White Privilege is special advantage or benefit of white persons; with reference to divine dispensations, natural advantages, gifts of fortune, genetic endowments, social relations, etc.

White Privilege is one of elements in African American Criticism which has the important role in this study to analyze how the Whites take advantage of that trust to behave arbitrarily to black slaves. They believe that Whites got a gift from God to be a special race than other races. So that, they consider the Whites is the best among them in every way.

2.1.2.4 Prejudice

Tatum states that prejudice is one of the inescapable consequences of living in a racist society. Cultural racism, the cultural images and messages that affirm the assumed superiority of Whites and the assumed inferiority of people of color, is like smog in the air (125). Prejudice is biased and predetermined opinions or feelings of hatred, resentment, or superiority towards people different from oneself.

Hoyt defines prejudice is preconceived opinion not based on reason or actual experience; bias, partiality (225). Baron & Byrne argue prejudice refers to “a negative attitude toward members of some social group based solely on their membership in that group,” (Qtd in Her 9). Prejudice also means a preconceived judgment, opinion or assumption about particular groups of people. These stereotypes are usually based on generalizations and a lack of close experiences with the issues, people, or behaviors.

According to Allport prejudice is an antipathy based upon a faulty and inflexible generalization. It may be directed toward a group as a whole, or toward an individual because he is a member of that group” (9). This definition contains three key components worth specifying. First, prejudice is negative in nature and can be individually or group focused. Second, prejudice is based on faulty or unsubstantiated data. Third, prejudice is rooted in an inflexible generalization (Ponterotto 12). Prejudice is common against people who are members of an unfamiliar cultural group. Therefore, certain types of education, interactions, and relationships with people from different cultural groups can reduce prejudice.

Milner states that “prejudiced attitudes ... are irrational, unjust, or intolerant dispositions towards other groups, and they are often accompanied by stereotyping. This is the attribution of the supposed characteristics of the whole group to all its individual members. Stereotypes exaggerate the uniformity within a group and similarly exaggerate the differences between this group and others” (5).

Yuni argues that the word prejudice refers to prejudgment or making a decision before becoming aware of the relevant facts of a case or an event. Initially this is referred to making a judgment about a person based on their race, religion, class, without even knowing them personally (35).

Fishbein adopted a definition of prejudice that closely follows the ideas of Allport and Milner: Prejudice is an unreasonable negative attitude toward others because of their membership in a particular group (4-5). Aboud defines racial

prejudice as “...an organized predisposition to respond in an unfavorable manner toward people from an ethnic group because of their ethnic affiliation” (4).

Blumer define race prejudice is a defensive reaction to such challenging of the sense of group position ... As such, race prejudice is a protective device. It functions, however shortsightedly, to preserve the integrity and position of the dominant group’ (5). Moreover, Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, and Esses conclude that prejudice is an individual level attitude (whether subjectively positive or negative) toward groups and their members that creates or maintains hierarchical status relations between groups (7).

All in all, prejudice is a decision or conclusions made before obtaining evidence. The conclusion is still “pre” means not tested by objectivity. This is because a person or a group has the pleasure or displeasure. The dominant element of feeling more used than the element ratio. Prejudice was originally just an attitude of negative feelings that gradually reveals itself in discriminatory measures against persons, including those groups that prejudge the absence of objective reasons in the person that is subject to discriminatory measures.

Prejudice is one of elements in African American Criticism which has the important role in this study to analyze how the Whites believe that the Blacks are inferior races and always have criminal behavior. Even every criminal case, they accuse the Blacks as the villain without reason and evidence properly.

2.1.2.5 Segregation

Segregation as a form of separation of ethnical groups imposed by law or by custom, is an extreme form of discrimination. Segregation refers to that restriction of opportunities for different types of associations between the members of one racial, religious, national or geographic origin, or linguistic group and those of other groups, which results from or is supported by the action of any official body or agency representing some branch of government (Clark, Chein and Cook 495). Williams and Collins define racial segregation as the physical separation of the races in residential contexts (147). Racial segregation is often blamed for part of the achievement gap between blacks and whites.

Moreover, Massey, Rothwell and Domina state that during the first two-thirds of the century, segregation was defined by the spatial separation of whites and blacks. What changed over time was the level at which this racial separation occurred, as macro-level segregation between states and counties gave way steadily to micro-level segregation between cities and neighborhoods. Segregation involves the separation of socially defined groups in space, such that members of one group are disproportionately concentrated in a particular set of geographic units compared with other groups in the population. The groups themselves may be defined on the basis of any socially meaningful trait race, ethnicity, income, education, age, etc (1).

Yuni states that racial segregation is the separation of different racial groups in daily life, such as eating in a restaurant, drinking from a drinking

fountain, using a rest room, attending school, going the movies, or in the rental or purchase of a home. As an integral part of racial discrimination, segregation cover every crucial and fundamental aspect of life. It could be found in the practice of hiring and in the rental and sale of housing to certain races (41).

All in all, segregation of race is the separation, isolation, exclusion of a certain group based on race. Segregation is a forcible separation. Segregation is a form of institutionalized discrimination applied in the social structure.

By using segregation, the writer will analyze how the black slaves and white masters or overseers experience separation. Although they live in one house, but there is a separation and distinction facilities.

2.1.2.6 Discrimination

Discrimination is behavioral because of those attitudes or beliefs. Discrimination occurs when individuals or institutions unjustly deprive others of their rights and life opportunities due to stigma. Discrimination may result in the exclusion or marginalization of people and deprive them of their civil rights, such as access to fair housing options, opportunities for employment, education, and full participation in civic life (Disability Rights California, 1).

Fershtman, Gneezy, and Verboven state discrimination is defined as differential treatment of people depending on their group affiliation (371). The emphasis in the definition of discrimination is on the differential treatment of individuals on the basis of their group membership. However, in principle, one can distinguish between “discrimination against,” which captures the disutility

caused by associating with someone, and “discrimination in favor,” which implies nonmonetary gains from associating with an individual of a particular group (372).

Discrimination is the differential allocation of goods, resources, and services, and the limitation of access to full participation in society based on an individual’s perceived membership in a particular social group. Discrimination is negative action toward an individual because of one’s membership to a particular group (Allport 51; Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, and Esses 9).

Jones defines discrimination as “those actions designed to maintain own-group characteristics and favored position at the expense of the comparison group” (4). While, racial discrimination refers to unequal treatment of persons or groups on the basis of their race or ethnicity (Pager and Shepherd, 2).

Marpaung states discrimination is due to something that the individual did rather than to a person’s group membership. For instance, people who are caught cheating on their taxes suffer inequality in the form of punishment from their society, which is not inflicted upon those who are not caught cheating on their taxes. Discrimination is differences in treatment of people on the basis of characteristics which may be classified as racial, including skin color, cultural heritage and religion (25).

Fiske (Qtd in Keene 2) defines discrimination is the denial of equal rights based on prejudices and stereotypes. Discrimination differs from prejudice and stereotyping, in that it is not a belief, but rather the application of beliefs. Race

discrimination means that someone treats you unfairly or unfavourably, or harasses you, because of your race, colour, descent, ethnic, national origin, nationality (Human Rights and Discrimination Commissioner, 1).

Baron & Byrne argue discrimination refers to “negative behaviors directed toward members of social groups who are the object of prejudice” (Qtd in Her 9). Moreover, Esposito states discrimination refers to the differential treatment of an issue, a person, or a behavior based on a prejudice (Qtd in Her 9).

Yuni in her thesis states that racial discrimination is one of the worst social problems that still exist up to this very moment in every part of the world. It can be defined as the mistreatment of a group of people on the basis of race, color, and religion. Racial discrimination is also the belief that race accounts for differences in human character and that a particular race is superior to others. This problem is very serious because it always leads to destruction, not only to certain human being but also to the society (6).

Discrimination occurs as a result of the belief that their race was the most superior and looked at the other lesser races. This is a result of white privilege system that encourages action to judge anything without a reason because of a belief that feels themselves superior. Moreover, there was segregation and discrimination, either physically or verbally to those who are considered low.

The writer uses African American Criticism towards the grand theory of this study, because this theory discusses a number of racism themes that include surviving the horrors of slavery and segregation struggling for freedom and

used another novel. The difference is the writer will analyze *The Book of Night Women* novel using African American Criticism to know the form of racism in the novel.

Second, the student of University of Sumatra Utara, The Impacts Of Segregation And Discrimination Reflected In Kathryn Stockett's Novel *The Help* written 2014 by Rini Sijabat. She explored the kinds and impacts of segregation and discrimination. From her analysis, there are four kinds of segregation, they are, segregation in housing, public school, public transportation and hospital. It happens because the minority groups believe that they are inferior and cannot struggle against the whites' power. And as the result, the neighborhoods, schools, and other public facilities for the dominant group are both separated from and superior to those of the minorities. And there are three kinds of discrimination, they are, discrimination in economy, politic, and social issue. The impacts of discrimination is poverty, unemployment, violence, alcoholism and high disease.

Rini Sijabat thesis has similarity with this study. The similarity is the topic of the study which is about racial discrimination. The differences are first, the object of the study that is different novel and the author. Then, the writer will analyze the topic using African American Criticism while Rini Sijabat used sociological approach.

The third review comes from the student of The State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya, Discrimination in William Blake's *The Little Black Boy* written 2015 by Anitya Hendri Prawesti. She found the depiction of black

children were divided into three parts. The first is black children feel disappointed and he is motivated by his mother and at the end of the poem, black children have high expectations that black children and white boys can be together in the future life. Second, this study showed the factors that lead to segregation in *The Little Black Boy*. There was segregation that includes colonialism, racial discrimination (race, racism, racial discrimination). Racial discrimination in *The Little Black Boy* is when black children are treated differently than white children.

Anitya Hendri Prawesti thesis has similarity with this study. The similarity is the issue about discrimination. The differences are, first the object of her study is poem while the object of this study is novel. Then, she used Postcolonialism and Structuralism theory, while the writer will analyze the issue using African American Criticism.