#### **CHAPTER III**

### **ANALYSIS**

In this chapter, this analysis attempts to analyze Discrimination which William Blake tells in his poem. The main theory focuses on analyzing about experiences of racial discrimination of black people who has described in William Blake poem *The Little Black Boy*. Meanwhile, to answer statement of problems this study uses orientalism approach by Edward Said and uses racial discrimination as supporting theory.

There are two parts in this discussion, the first part discusses about the portrayal of Black child. This section explains about role of black child in *The Little Black Boy*. Second, explain the factors that caused the segregation in *The Little Black Boy*. Theory of orientalism is suitable to reveal both of questions.

To make better understanding these Blake's experiences on Black Child explains in this part. This parts show about Blake's experiences has connected with *The Little Black Boy* in William Blake's poem.

After the peace established in 1762, the British Empire seemed secure, but the storm wave begun with the American Revolution in 1775 and the French Revolution in 1789 changed forever the way men looked at their relationship to the state and to the established church. Poet, painter, and engraver, Blake worked to bring about a change both in the social order and in the minds of men (Reinhart 1). The statements below, it proves to indicate the appearance of William Blake's idea. He uses his experiences based on years, time, and place. Actually, this study uses *The Little Black Boy* that belonging to *Songs of Innocence's*.

Indeed, Blake always combines stories around him such as society. The majority of the *Songs of Innocence* deals with relations between children and parent-figures. Blake was a man who responded strongly to the world around him, both the natural world and the society in which he lived. Although we know from accounts of his childhood that he took special delight in the country round London ('the fields from Islington to Marybone' for example) and absorbed impressions of it into his imagination as the setting of Innocence, nature in his poems has something of the air of being taken for granted (Kennedy 10-11). *The Songs of Innocence* was created at 1789. When French revolution, Blake write his poems based on what happened in the society. He used child as his object to create the poem, such as *The Little Black Boy*.

This part explains the idea William Blake's about black child. William Blake (1757-1827) was born in London on 28<sup>th</sup> September. Blake is an engraver, painter, mystic and poet. At the age of four he claimed to have seen God looking at him through his windows and at eight he saw visions of angels in the fields. Blake questioned the accepted values of his time and point out to an inhumanity and cruelty under the surface of civilization, convention and religion.

Blake emphasizes the equality of the black and white child under God. He also suggests the joy of the black child in giving necessary help to the white one: The central idea of the poem, that we are put on earth a little space that we may learn to bear the beams of love, may owe something to the Puritan tradition of life as a trial deliberately imposed by God (a 'vale of tears'), but Blake has considerably refined it. Though it introduces a suggestion of moral complexity which anticipates *Song of Experience*, the human beings in the poem long to rejoice 'like lambs' round the tent of God: the ideal is simple happiness.

William Blake's poem inspires by the poet's concern of the contemporary racial discrimination and lists among poems in *Songs of Innocence*. The poem inspires by the poet's

concern for black races. It voices the little black boy's self hatred. On account of having been denied whiteness he feels deprived of God's light.

# A. The Portrayal of Black Child in Blake's Poem

The portrayal of black child is shows black boy in the past time which they get negative attitude from the other group. Colonialism emerges from inequality racial in the region. In England, as in France, in polemics concerning slavery, the most fervent abolitionists were almost always avid advocates of colonialism. Seen as an obvious fact, belief in racial inequality nourished a certain paternalism (which was not devoid of traces of sympathy for these "children," i.e., indigenous peoples) (Benoist 17). Indeed, an obvious fact polemics about racial becomes a topic in the past. It has proven the appearance of colonization.

Only after colonization occurs and the colonized people have had time to think and to write about their oppression and loss of cultural identity does postcolonial theory come into existence. Postcolonial theory is born out of the colonized peoples' frustrations, their direct and personal cultural clashes with the conquering culture, and their fears, hopes, and dreams about the future and their own identities (Guevara 202). Postcolonial theory is created from colonized feeling where they cannot get a position in a region. So that colonized peoples received the impact of colonization. Segregation is the separation or isolation of a race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separate educational facilities, or by other discriminatory means (Merriam-webster.com). That means segregation includes to the impact of colonization which separate a groups in the region.

Here, the portrayal of Black Child in Blake's poem it has proven in *The Little Black Child* who explains about segregation. That appears the impacts of segregation. Segregation significantly hurts black outcomes relative to non-black outcomes (Cutler and Glaeser 843).

The poem can be divided into three sections who explain about the contents in every stanza which show in every line, for instance, the little boy's agony, his mother effort to lesson the pain and the heightened awareness of the black child.

## a. Little boy's darkness

My mother bore me in the southern wild,

And I am black, but O! my soul is white;

White as an angel is the English child:

But I am black as if bereaved of light.

In first stanza, *The Little Black Boy* was born in the southern wild. He says that his body is black but his soul is white. The boy feels bereave of light, because he has black skin. It means, there is a difference between black boys with the others.

In Blake's writings, as he has warned us 'there are many *angels* an even the historical angel is never constant. The bard to 'walk up and down in 6000 years', transposing furiously, translating the acts of Robespierre into those of Moses or abstracting the British heroes into their spiritual forms or telescoping together the biblical and modern rebellions of slaves against Pharaohs in 'Dark Africa'. Sometimes we can understand a good deal of Blake's argument without paying much attention to his historical referents. Or even being aware them. A great deal of Blake's criticism, some of is very valuable in literary and philosophical inside gets along famously in the swirling vortex of Blake's oratory without attending to what, in the narrowest literal sense, he is talking about, or, to put the matter another way without asking just precisely which historical persons or events have appeared to Blake as manifestations of eternal art. The increasing interest in Blake's social though, however, and in his excitement about the industrial revolution which did-and the social revolution which did not take place while he was writing,

now makes imperative the clearest possible definition of his minute particulars, especially of the dates and contexts of those works in which he deals with the history of his own times (Abrams 76).

In the last line, for instance; *But I am black as if bereaved of light*. Little black boy feels agony. He thinks different with the other people. He has black skin. There is sadness from his soul. There is discrimination between the black child and the other child. The difference is their race. Race is the categorization of people based on visual differences which are imputed invisible differences. Furthermore, race is a part of racism.

"Racism involves the subordination of people of color by white people. While individual persons of color may well discriminate against a white person or another person of color because of their race, this does not qualify as racism according to our definition because that person color cannot depend upon all the institution of society to enforce that prejudice.... History provides us with a long record of white people holding and using power and privilege over people of color to subordinate them not the reverse. (Paula Rothenberg: Definition of racism)

This part explains about the little boy agony which he feels colonized by colonizer. The fact that orientalism is one of postcolonial that explains by Edward Said. Orientalism produces and manages the Orient. Orientalism expresses and represents that part culturally an even ideologically as a mode of discourse with supporting institutions, vocabulary, scholarship, imagery, doctrines, even colonial bureaucracies and colonial style (Said 2). Postcolonial theory relates well with colonizer more to hegemony than colonize. Colonizer has a power of group so strong to colonizing a colonized. The prove of those statements above are in the first stanza.

My mother taught me underneath a tree

And sitting down before the heat of day,

She took me on her lap and kissed me,

And pointing to the east began to say.

In the stanza above explains about his mother that gives affection to the black boy. There is treatment between mothers with her child. His mother reveals the affection with a kiss.

There is affection from parental that she shows to her child. His mother gives explanation to the black boy about color differentiation. It means there are colors differences which groups in regions such as white skin as dominated group. Dominate group to colonizer black skin who they have a power to lead.

In third line, black boy get good treats from his mother. For instance, *she took me on her lap and kissed me*. That is concern of treatments who give quiet to black boy, in order to her child more patient, calm, and grateful to God. So, this treats point out to mother's care with her child.

Look on the rising sun: there God does live

And gives his light, and gives his heat away.

And flowers and trees and beasts and men receive

Comfort in morning joy in the noon day.

In third stanza, she explains that it is his light and warm that we received through the Sun. His mother says that flowers, trees, human and animals receive the light of the Sun alike. Everyone enjoys the blessing of God. Black boy tries to put minds at rest. He believes justice in his self.

## c. Awareness of Black Child

Such beliefs directly affected the ways in which the colonizers treated the colonized.

Using its political and economic strength, Great Britain, the chief imperialist power of the

nineteenth century, dominated her colonies, making them produce then give up their countries raw materials in exchange for what material goods the colonized desired or were made to believe they desired by the colonizers (Guevara 200). It is proven in the stanza below:

For when our souls have learn'd the heat to bear

The cloud will vanish we shall hear his voice.

Saying: come out from the grove my love & care,

And round my golden tent like lambs rejoice.

Then in fifth stanza, the mother explains that they (the blacks) are so placed as to learn to receive God's love in the next life. She pacifies the boy saying that their black bodies and sun burns faces like a cloud veil the body in order to shield this body (grove) from the scorching heat.

In first line, For when our souls have learn'd the heat to bear explains the important of meaning of life. the human learn to grateful to God, because what they get is the beautiful thing.

## **B.** Factors of Segregation in the Poem

Segregations constitute of ill treatment toward the human, because there is disparities between one group and the other in the region. For postcolonial culture include both a merger of and antagonism between the culture of the colonized and that of the colonizer, which, at this point in time, are difficult to identity and separate into discrete entities, so complete was the British intrusion into the government, education, cultural values, and daily lives of its colonial subject (Tyson 419). One definition of culture is that of "modes of behavior learned within the community" (Hannerz [1969] 2004: 180). Culture is one of the factors that caused the segregation in *The Little Black Boy*.

And we are put on earth a little space,

That we may learn to bear the beams of love,

And these black bodies and this sun-burnt face

Is but a cloud, and like a shady grove.

The mother explains that they (blacks) are placed in a small area in the world. So they have to learn thankful to god who gives warm of the sun and their black skin. Their black skin is like a shield which protect them from the scorching heat.

### a. Culture

Blake from British region who write this poem based on what he see. That means he connected his poems to the happened in the society. Many people formerly colonized by Britain speak English, write in English, use English in their schools and universities, and conduct government business in English, in addition to the local languages they may use at home, are an indication of the residual effect of colonial domination on their cultures (Said 491). In the statement above, *The Little Black Boy* concerned problems which appear the impact. It is include of postcolonial culture which shows about language differences that can not to combine, because between one culture and the others have a rule of culture.

# b. Race

Then, race is the impacts of segregation in *the Little Black Boy*, because race refers to groups of persons who are relatively alike in their biological inheritance and are distinct from other groups (American Anthropological Association 1997: 2). Race is socially constructed, and the notion that persons "belong" to a particular race was developed in the last century based on the belief that there was a biological basis for categorizing groups of people. In this study, race is one of the factors that caused the segregation in *The Little Black Boy*.

After explaining race, racism has relation which will define below. According Rothenberg, racism is any policy, practice, belief or attitudes characteristic or status to individual based upon their race (12). Then, Racism is the overarching societal paradigm that tolerates, accepts, and reinforces racial inequalities, and is associated with racially unequal opportunities for children to learn and thrive (NASP, 2010a). Racial inequalities result in the discriminatory treatment of people of minority status. In fact, there were many of people were apparently white as dominant cultural and found a black people. Then, dominant cultural become ostracized as racially inferior. It is proven in the stanza below:

Thus did my mother say and kissed me,

And thus I say to little English boy;

When I from black and he from white cloud free,

And round the tent of God like lambs we joy:

In sixth stanza, in line one and two her mother still gives him affection. Then, the black boy nurtures a hope for the union. He tells the white child that once they leave this body they will be united in heaven. The presence of racism in educational settings harms everyone, but has the most negative and lasting impact on racial minority groups (Pollock, 2008). That means racial minority groups get a negative impact to the racial discrimination.

*Individual racism* refers to an individual's racist assumptions, beliefs or behaviors and is "a form of racial discrimination that stems from conscious and unconscious, personal prejudice." (Henry and Tator 329). This is a form racial discrimination that indicates a group gets bad treatment.

Systemic racism consists of the policies and practices of organizations, which directly or indirectly operate to sustain the advantages of peoples of certain "social races".

Cultural racism is the basis of both other forms of racism, as it is the value system which is embedded in society which supports and allows discriminatory actions based on perceptions of racial difference, cultural superiority and inferiority.

Class constitutes a factor that caused the emergence of segregation, because some a groups in a region. When I from black and he from white cloud free, in this line shows inferior groups who black groups as minority do not That is attitude the colonizer who differentiates class of superiority and inferiority. It is influences to a feeling of black boy who has different color skin. It challenges the superiority of the dominant Western perspective and seeks to reposition and empower the marginalized and subordinated "Other" (Smith 12). So, the little black boy is included to the orient as a colonized.

I'll shade him from the heat till he can bear,

To lean in joy upon our fathers knee.

And then I'll stand and stroke his silver hair,

And be like him and he will then love me.

The black boy proposes to shade the white boy from the heat. He will lovingly caress his silver hair. He believes that finally both of them will be free from the color prejudice and the white boy will also love him.

For instance, individuals from historically marginalized racial groups may be perceived as less worthy or less intelligent than those from the majority culture. At the same time, children or communities from the majority culture are allowed to maintain their established privileged and valued status. This privilege can result in better treatment and opportunities than are afforded to others within educational systems and other social institutions. The presence of racism in

educational settings harms everyone, but has the most negative and lasting impact on racial minority groups (Pollock, 2008).

As a Muslim, the writer wants to give Islamic point of view in live together and do not discriminate other people who have different culture and race. The messages of live together and do not discriminate others are also delivered in the al-Qur'an Surah Al-Hujurah 13 which the meaning is "O mankind, indeed We have created you from male and female and made you peoples and tribes that you may know one another. Indeed, the most noble of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you. Indeed, Allah is Knowing and Acquainted."