

CHAPTER 3

ANALYSIS

In this chapter, the research will be brought into the discussion in accordance with the issues raised in this paper. This thesis will examine and analyze more detail about discriminative treatment which is done by White Americans against Black Americans in the Southern America, and parse the effects of discriminatory treatment in the lives of Black Americans in the Southern America. However, before analyzing both issues, the thesis will be firstly directed to the assessment of the facts related to the life of White Americans and Black Americans in the novel which will be based on the suggested theories.

In the novel by Ernest J. Gaines, Black Americans who becomes free Blacks in the Southern America get a different life of Blacks in the Northern America, where Black people in the Northern America are still enslaved by Whites. The Black people in the Northern work as farmer who usually plant and harvest crops (Hatt 22). The life of Black American in the Southern looks like human life in general. They usually interact with White people, visiting to their residence, getting a decent job, and earning the right to life like other people's lives (Hargis and Griffin 115). However, on the sidelines of life and the relationship between Blacks and Whites, there is still a discrimination against Blacks. Some of the laws and restrictions are still enforced. The discrimination is

consensually accepted by Black people, because the life they have in the Southern, though it should be under the authority of White people, brings a comfort for Black people. They receive the treatment, because they believe that this is what they both deserve as free Blacks, The Black people who get a freedom, but are still limited by several law is clearly seen in the novel by Ernest J. Gaines entitled *A Lesson Before Dying*. The law will be established in the term of public facilities, religious place, education, and civil rights. Thus, the Black Americans are dominated and discriminated within those terms of law.

3.1 The Acceptance of Black Americans over The Treatment of White Americans

The acceptance of Black Americans over the treatment of White Americans will mean a process of hegemony in the first stage: domination. Domination is an exercise of power over other social groups (Bove and Kaplan 15). It is also a condition which is suffered by a social group when it depends on a social relation that other social group dominates it. The domination is performed by the apparatus state, and they dominate school, mass media and state institutions to get an acceptance of the dominated social group (Law 105). The acceptance of Black Americans can be a cause of accepting and admitting the domination of White Americans in the Southern. The Black Americans are firstly given an opportunity to live like others. The Whites give them school, profession, and religious institution that are evidently used to get an admission and an acceptance of Black Americans over the Whites domination.

A novel *A Lesson Before Dying*, one of the works of Ernest J Gaines is a novel that tells the life of Black people in the Southern America. This novel has a place in Bayonne as the setting of the novel.

Bayonne was a small town of about six thousand. Approximately three thousand five hundred Whites; approximately two thousand five hundred colored. It was the parish seat for St. Raphael. The courthouse was there; so was the jail. (Gaines 21)

Based on the above quote, Bayonne is a small town consisting of 6 thousand population with approximately 5,500 Whites and 2,500 Blacks. Courts and prisons are located in the small town of Bayonne. Bayonne is a small town which is located in the area of Southern America, where Blacks are no longer a slave to White people who live in this area. The places in Bayonne which become public facilities are differentiated by nationality: Blacks and Whites. The places can be exemplified as Catholic Church and Movie Theater.

There was a Catholic Church uptown for Whites; a Catholic church back of town for colored. There was a Whites movie theater uptown; a colored movie theatre back of town. (Gaines 21)

The separation of places as public facilities which appears in the Southern American, especially in Bayonne as narrated in the novel, shows a social problems over the population of Blacks and Whites in Southern America. Ernest J. Gaines as the writer of the novel narrates and describes the condition and situation of social and geographical portrait in his novel *A Lesson Before Dying*. In the term of separation, the separation does not only appear in the case of churches and theaters, but also educational institutions.

There were two elementary schools uptown, one Catholic, one public, for Whites; and the same back of town for colored. (Gaines 21)

The above quote explains about the separation of Whites and Blacks school. The school is an elementary school, and it is divided into two kinds of elementary schools: Catholic elementary school and public elementary school. These schools belong to Whites. For Black schools, the schools are also categorized into Catholic and public elementary school, but those schools locates in the back of town, Bayonne.

In the style of authorship and narration in this novel, the author describes more about the setting of places with a prologue, and the prologue is expressed by the author in the novel *A Lesson Before Dying*. Ernest J. Gaines completely describes about geography and social conditions in the Southern America. In the beginning of his narration of the novel, he says plainly about the condition Bayonne as a small town in the novel. In the town of Bayonne, there is a separation which is performed by the honored people: Whites. The separation does not only exist in term of places of worship and theater, but also in education. In accordance with the above quote, educational institutions for Black people is located behind the town of Bayonne.

The description of the Bayonne which is described by Grant Wiggins as the main character, is an illustration which explains that Bayonne is not only seen as a small town that can be said having an adequate and sufficient public facilities, but Bayonne is no more an area in the Southern America which also has a portrait of the life of bordered society.

Bayonne's major industries were a cement plant, a sawmill, and a slaughterhouse, mostly for hogs. (Gaines 21)

As above citation, it is explained that the major industries in Bayonne cover sturdy and tall crops, sawmills and slaughterhouse of pigs. It is seen that Bayonne is described as a small town whose majority are farmers on the plantation, and the above quote is a quote which is clear enough to describe the livelihoods and daily activities of people in the area of Bayonne.

From some quotes which are described in previous paragraph, it is understood that Bayonne is no more a small city, where people can live and develop their lives and fortunes, but Bayonne is said as a small town where a separation between two social groups: Whites and Blacks, is clearly portrayed. Separation is obtained from a small image of the history of Blacks in the United States. In the history, Black Americans are divided into two categorization based on where they live: the slaves and free Blacks. Slave is understood as a person who is wholly subject to the will of other, and they have no freedom of action (Child 105). Besides, free Blacks is defined as a person who is legally free who has a restriction of law and privilege of freedom (Spickard 85). The definition is obtained from Spickard's definition of free Blacks in his statement:

“...their rights were legally and socially curtailed at all times. I use the term ‘legally free’ in preference to ‘free’ to mark their difference in legal status from those who were enslaved and their difference in social status from Whites, who enjoyed all the rights and privileges of freedom (85)”.

Both categorizations between slaves and free Blacks have a different life condition one another. The slaves are available in the region of the Northern America, and the free Blacks are available in the Southern America. Southern Americans claim that the slaves in the Northern America can be a determinant of a success and economic progress in the Northern America (Maton 10). On the

other hand, one of Northern Americans finds that slavery system should be immediately terminated (Rodriguez 496). The opinion which is spoken by the Northern is a part of the spirit of Lincoln in ending system of slavery. Lincoln as the president of the United States, plans to ban slavery in the moment of Civil War (Oberle 17). Finally, during the Civil War, the Northern declared a victory in the Civil War which involved the Northern and Southern (Bergeron, Hewitt and Lawrence xvi). By the victory of the Northern, the Southern should admit for the Northern side which at the time was called as the Union.

However, the Whites in the Southern still treat Blacks like a second nation. It means that Whites become the dominant nation and become a nation who hold social control in the Southern. Thus, although Blacks in the Southern are considered as free Blacks, they still have to accept everything which is treated by the Whites in the Southern. It means that the Blacks in the Southern already have a common life like generally most people, but they are just restricted by some laws which become the basis of their action in their social life in the Southern. The acceptance of Blacks to the domination of the Whites is an early form of the successful practice of hegemony of Whites. The practice of hegemony begins with a phase of domination, where Whites give concessions to Blacks to enjoy their life in the Southern with a wide range of facilities that was given by the Whites.

Along with the stories in this novel, the acceptance of Blacks to the domination of Whites can be identified by the expression and narration of the author. Expression and narration could not be separated from the expression of Grant Wiggins as the first main character and his description of life in the

Southern. As in the novel, Grant Wiggins is an elementary school teacher for Blacks. The school building which is taken to be a place of Black children is a church which is located at the quarter nearby the cotton plantation.

My classroom was the church. My classes ranged from primer to sixth grade, my pupils from six years old to thirteen and fourteen. My desk was a table, used as a collection table by the church on Sundays, and also used for the service of the Holy Sacrament on the fourth Sunday of each month. (Gaines 29)

There was a Blackboard on the back wall, and another on the right side wall. Behind my desk was the pulpit and the altar. (Gaines 29)

In the expression, Grant Wiggins illustrates some of the classes in the church. The classes consist of first to six grade of elementary school. The classes are full of children with a range of 6 years to 13 and 14 years old. In the classroom, benches which are used are the tables used in the church in every Sunday, and also used as a facility of the Holy Sacrament which is held on the fourth Sunday of each month. The church which is used as a place where Black children study, is a Black church which is regularly exploited as facility of Black religious activity.

My students' desks were the benches upon which their parents and grandparents sat during church meeting. (Gaines 29)

The condition and facility in the classroom create an impression which is not convenient for Grant Wiggins as a teacher at the school church. Facility as a support in the process of learning is the most important thing which must be available in each institution. The condition of classrooms and the location of the church school do not fully support the activities of Black children in the

classroom. They still have some shortcomings in the term of supporting means of learning include desks, chairs, books, etc.

The students either got down on their knees and used the benches as desks to write upon, or used the backs of their books upon their laps to write out their assignments. Ventilation into the church was by way of the four windows on either side, and from the front and back doors. Our heat came from a wood-burning stove in the center of the church. (Gaines 29)

The quote above describes about how Black children do their activities in the classroom. As stated in the quotation, the Black students sit with no seat when they write. They lower their knees and lay their books on top of their seats, and begin to write. Sometimes, they write by putting a book in their lap.

For some statements of Grant Wiggins described in some previous paragraphs, those actually show a portrait of domination of Whites in education related to the right for everyone to get a decent education. However, this fact turns to the portrait of the lives of Blacks in the Southern with what has been narrated in the novel *A Lesson Before Dying*.

The acceptance of Blacks over the domination of Whites may be seen from how Whites easily fit into the social life of Blacks in which Blacks then accept it as a necessity and inevitability. The acceptance over the domination of Whites is not only available in one aspect of life. However, it can be some aspects of live dominated by Whites. A domination demonstrates the leadership of Whites. The examples of Blacks acceptance can also be seen in the explanation of Grant Wiggins about the church school which he occupies for teaching.

There were three pictures on the wall behind the altar. One was a head-and-chest Black-and-Whites photo of the minister in a dark suit, Whites shirt, and dark tie; the other two pictures were color prints of Jesus: *The Last Supper* and Christ knocking on a door. (Gaines 29)

The citation describes how Whites dominate the religious facilities belong to Blacks by placing a photo of a White character in the Black church. The photos are placed behind the worship. For a reason, photo is a symbol of the domination of Whites, and placing a photo is a form of acceptance of Blacks towards Whites' domination. That is the portrait of Whites domination described by Grant Wiggins in his depiction of the Black church school. It indicates the existence of Whites hegemony. Hegemony is the way of the dominant social group to obtain a power and to hold and maintain a control of the subordinate social group. To gain a power and hold a control, the dominant social group creates and spreads their ideas through educational, religious and social institutions.

As a teacher and a Black, Grant Wiggins indeed becomes a main character who feel about Whites domination which governs the social life of Black. It is seen in his expression, that he has been 6 years teaching in the church school in the plantation. He teaches Black children. He knows some of Whites who have an important role in the Southern, especially Henri Pichot. Henri Pichot is the owner of the plantation that once employs Miss Emma and Tante Lou as cook and housekeeper in his house. Regarding the house of Henri Pichot as a White man, as a teacher, Grant Wiggins has never come to Pichot's house through his back door.

I had been teaching on the place going on six years, and I had not been in Pichot's yard, let alone gone up the back stairs or through that back door. (Gaines 16)

I had not come through that back door once since leaving for the university, ten years before. (Gaines 16)

Based on Grant Wiggins expression that he, Miss Emma and Tante Lou have worked as a maid in the house of Henry Pichot. They serve Henry Pichot

very well, especially Miss Emma who continuously collaborate with Grant Wiggins in serving the households of Henry Pichot.

I looked around the kitchen. I had come into this kitchen many times as a small child, to bring in wood for the stove, to bring in a chicken I had caught and killed, eggs I had found in the grass, and figs, pears, and pecans I had gathered from the trees in the yard. Miss Emma was the cook up here then. (Gaines 16)

During the work to be a cook in the family Pichot, in daily life, Miss Emma wears white clothes and white shoes and kerchief around his head. She has been in the family home since before Grant Wiggins born. She does not only serve Henry Pichot, but also the whole family of Henry Pichot includes his niece and nephew. Miss Emma does not have a child, and eventually she becomes a godmother of Jefferson.

She wore the white dress and white shoes and the kerchief around her head. She had been here long before I was born, probably when my mother and father were children. She had cooked for the old Pichots, the parents of Henri Pichot. She had cooked for Henri and his brother and sister, as well as for his nieces and nephews; he did not have any children of his own. She cooked, she ran the house; my aunt washed and ironed; and I ran through the yard to get the things they needed to cook or cook with. As a child growing up on this plantation, I could not imagine this place, this house, existing without the two of them here. (Gaines 16)

The Blacks do not only have to comply with and acknowledge the domination of Whites who have a high position, but also those Whites who are under the control of other Whites must be obeyed. Just as Paul who is known as an official guard in the police department in Bayonne. Through his conversation with the guard, Mr. Paul, Grant Wiggins has proven the existence of an obligation to honor and respect the existence of Whites as the holders of power and control in the Southern. By showing respect, Grant Wiggins as a Black man then receives

any form of decision and treatment performed by Whites against him and other Blacks.

“Paul’s not here today?” I asked.

“Mr. Paul’s got other duties,” the deputy said.

He looked at me as if to remind me that I was supposed to say Mister before a White man’s name. He stood there eyeing me until he felt that I understood. (Gaines 154-155)

Paul is a guard in a prison in Bayonne. He is also a White man. However, he is different than other Whites, especially who work as guard prisoners. He is a best friend for Grant Wiggins since Grant Wiggins visited detention Jefferson at the first time. Jefferson is a Black man who is accused of being involved in the case of theft and a murder in a store which is owned by a White man. Although he is a best friend for Grant Wiggins, but he remains a White man who must be obeyed and respected by Blacks. According to the citation above, Grant Wiggins firstly mentions the name of Paul by not adding a nickname at the beginning of Paul’s name. After another deputy who answers Grant Wiggins’ question, Grant Wiggins realizes that he has to add a title in each call Whites name. It means, although Grant Wiggins recognizes a figure of Paul who is friendly, he must still respect him as a person who deserves to be honored: the Whites.

Paul is a White. He works as a guard in the Southern prison. He keeps the prisoners in the prison, and perform what the Sheriff Guidry asks him to. Because Paul is a White man, he must be honored as other Whites, although he has his position under the command of other Whites, especially his Sheriff Guidry. It is due to the fact that Whites become a dominant social group in the narration of the

the other hand, whatever will be the decision of the conversation, it should be well received by Grant Wiggins.

In the term of Whites domination over the Blacks life in the Southern America, the Whites domination is successful through the help of some White characters that dominate the Blacks life. Henri Pichot and Sheriff Guidry are the manifestation of apparatus states. They perform a domination to Grant Wiggins and his closed Blacks. Henri Pichot has already allowed Grant Wiggins to visit his residence, although his visit remains to inappropriate treatment for Grant Wiggins that he has to pass over the back door to come into Henri Pichot's house. Visiting White's residence and meeting the Whites are the laws containing concession which have been decided by the Whites for the Blacks in the Southern. Besides, Sheriff Guidry is also exemplified as a manifestation of apparatus state. Sheriff Guidry has already given Grant Wiggins an allowance and a concession to visit one of Black American prisoners named Jefferson, although it also remains a restriction that he has to obey and perform when visiting Jefferson

Hegemony can be understood as Domination, influence, or authority over another, especially by one political group over a society or by one nation over others. Gramsci defines hegemony as the ability of the dominant social group in gaining and maintaining their power in society. As Femia in McCormack's book, mentions that hegemony can be obtained through internal and external control. The internal control is known as intellectual and moral leadership, while the external control is known as domination (32).

As to internal control, the dominant social group does not need to force the subordinate social group to agree with their ideas. It is probably due to a reason that the dominant social group is politically dominant. In this case, the dominant social group uses a media to create their images in society, especially the subordinate social group. It is proposed to make the subordinate social group believes that the dominant social groups are intellectual people who have a high moral. Therefore, the subordinate social group believes that the ideas that come from the dominant social group are actually good for them.

3.2 The Effect of White Americans Treatment towards Black Americans

Along with the story line in the novel, Black Americans in the Southern accept the domination of Whites, and admit their mastery in whole of their life. Of course, accepting the domination of Whites means that Blacks experience myriad of effects of Whites domination. The effect of Whites domination remind us to the second phase of hegemony: phase of directing. In the phase of directing, the Black Americans should be submissive to White domination and mastery in Blacks social life. In this phase, the Blacks as subordinate class accept moral, political, and cultural values which the Whites utilize for their hegemony in the Southern America. The Black Americans are directed to a dominant discourse which claims that although they live in the Southern and have a concession in their life in the Southern, but they cannot do anything and state themselves truly free. It means that the Black Americans are under the command of White Americans. Therefore, the previous core problem finds that the domination of Whites Americans has

Before Dr. Joseph leaves for the Black school in the plantation church, Grant Wiggins reveals the condition of the Black school. He argues that he needs some complementary as a support for learning in the classroom. Grant Wiggins reveals to Dr. Joseph that the school committee only provides what is needed for one year, but the school committee does not give it anymore. In fact, Dr. Joseph refuses his request and petition.

“I’d have to buy it,” I said.

“The school board doesn’t give it away. They already gave me what they said was enough for the year. They’re not giving us anymore. Do you understand what I’m saying to you?” (Gaines 31)

Grant Wiggins still strives for the sake of the Black school, and he reveals that he is doing what is best, but he thinks that he does not have the books he needs in the classroom. He describes how two students in the class learn with one book. Moreover, some pages in the books has gone. He is constantly expressing his need to Dr. Joseph. He needs more limes, writing papers, some pencils, and better heater.

“I do the best I can with what I have to work with, Dr. Joseph,” I said. “I don’t have all the books I need. In some classes I have two children studying out of one book. And even with that, some of the pages in the book are missing. I need more paper to write on, I need more chalk for the Blackboards, I need more pencils, I even need a better heater.” (Gaines 47)

Dr, Joseph responds Grant Wiggins by saying that the Whites school also suffers the same fate as the Black school. He asserts that there is no difference between Blacks and Whites that they also suffer the same fate, He says. Dr. Joseph says that they, the Whites take what is given by the State to them.

“I said we’re all in the same shape, Higgins, the Whites schools just as much as the colored schools. We take what the state gives us, and we make the best of it.” (Gaines 47)

Wiggins. The restriction is caused of the existence of the Whites' command on Blacks. In short, the Whites do not help the Black in which at the time was sentenced to death due to his involvement in murder and theft.

Overviewing the case of one of Blacks named Jefferson, that the court's decision is complied with and led by White people, make Black people especially those people who are closed to Jefferson as a suspect in the involvement of murder and theft cannot do anything. They are resigned to what the trial sentences for Jefferson. Grant Wiggins says that Jefferson is dead. Grant Wiggins also reveals that there nothing what he and they can do for the death of Jefferson. They cannot postpone and deny the death.

“Tante Lou, Miss Emma, Jefferson is dead. It is only a matter of weeks, maybe a couple of months —but he’s already dead. The past twenty-one years, we’ve done all we could for Jefferson. He’s dead now. And I can’t raise the dead. All I can do is try to keep the others from ending up like this—but he’s gone from us. There’s nothing I can do anymore, nothing any of us can do anymore.”(Gaines 14)

Over the case of one of Black Americans, Jefferson, Grant Wiggins must be the one who claims for his submission on the death of Jefferson. He convinces Tante Lou and Miss Emma that there is nothing he can do for postponing the death of Jefferson. Through this, the Whites does not only plays a domination in the Southern, but they manages to win the active consensus of the Blacks in the Southern. If it is based on the theory of hegemony, a sanction and punishment can be legally right for the Whites as a dominant social group. The Whites as a dominant social group also establishes sanctions or punishments to influence the behaviour and choice of subordinate group

(<http://hegemoniwacana.blogspot.co.id/2013/04/hegemoni.html>. June 21, 2016 at 07:23 PM).

The domination which takes a control to the lives of Blacks becomes a problem that cannot be separated from Blacks' life. In this quote, Grant Wiggins tells that how he hate the place where he lives. He hates the place and all he wants is blurred and away from the place, Bayonne. He has revealed to her aunt that he hates teaching. However, her aunt does not listen to him. Finally, Grant Wiggins reveals that how hard he screams, his aunt will not hear it.

I wanted to scream at my aunt; I was screaming inside. I had told her many, many times how much I hated this place and all I wanted to do was get away. I had told her I was no teacher, I hated teaching, and I was just running in place here. But she had not heard me before, and I knew that no matter how loud I screamed, she would not hear me now. (Gaines 14)

The effect of Whites domination has been truly real when the case of one of Black Americans named Jefferson has been sentenced to death due to his involvement in a theft and murder in a store. The Blacks include Grant Wiggins, Miss Emma, and Tante Lou have felt the other side of White domination which is no longer beneficial and good for them: for their lives in the Southern. There is nothing what they can do toward Jefferson's death, because the trial has decided a punishment for Jefferson. For the sake of her lovely son, Miss Emma have decided to visit Henri Pichot's house to ask permission of teaching Jefferson to be a man. Her ways of asking a permission to Whites who concern with the case of Jefferson, signifies how Blacks are submissive on White domination and command.

Miss Emma comes to meet Henri Pichot to his residence. She comes along with Tante Lou and Grant Wiggins. In her meeting with Henri Pichot, Miss Emma begs to Henri Pichot in order that he can deliver a permission to Sheriff Guidry. She wants to deliver her permission to Sheriff Guidry through Henri Pichot. The permission contains about Grant Wiggins' visit to the prison to teach and sensitize Jefferson to become a man. Miss Emma does this for the sake of Jefferson before he receives his sentence in the electric chair.

“I need you speak for me, Mr. Henri,” Miss Emma said. “I want the teacher visit my boy. I want the teacher make him know he's not a hog, he's a man. I want him know that 'fore he go to that chair, Mr. Henri.” (Gaines 18)

Grant Wiggins becomes a character who indeed feels what happens in the Southern towards himself and other Blacks. In his confusion, Grant Wiggins meets a woman he loves as his idol. The woman is a Whites woman who teaches at one of schools in Bayonne. In their meeting, Grant Wiggins experiences a situation which does not make him comfortable. He then asks the woman about when they can leave for this place and start to live like other people. He realizes that the place where he lives at is a hell for him.

“You hit the nail on the head there, lady—commitment. Commitment to what—to live and die in this hellhole, when we can leave and live like other people?” (Gaines 25)

The next day, in a moment, Grant Wiggins visits the residence of Henri Pichot to know and get a certainty about the timing of the beginning of his visit to Jefferson. Upon his arrival at the residence of Henri Pichot, precisely in his kitchen, he waits Henri Pichot and Sheriff Guidry who are still discussing

something in a room in Henri Pichot's residence. Grant Wiggins thinks that he is waiting for a form of condescension toward him.

..... and it seemed that he and the sheriff were doing everything they could to humiliate me even more by making me wait on them. Well, I had to put up with that because of those in the quarter, but I damned sure would not add hurt to injury by eating at his kitchen table. (Gaines 38)

Grant Wiggins waits for Henri Pichot and Sheriff Guidry who are talking in a room at the Residence of Henri Pichot. He is waiting for them in the kitchen of Henri Pichot's residence. In this excerpt, he is still muttering about the action of how he acts against such the White men. In his mind, he wants to test how these two White men taunt him with their lack intelligence level. He wants to prove how great and mighty intelligence he has as a mockery to them.

I decided to wait and see how the conversation went. To show too much intelligence would have been an insult to them. To show a lack of intelligence would have been a greater insult to me. I decided to wait and see how the conversation would go. (Gaines 39)

When Henri Pichot and Sheriff Guidry finish deliberating on a matter related to the visit of Grant Wiggins to a prisoner named Jefferson, they head to the kitchen where Grant Wiggins stands. Inez as a maid at the residence of Henri Pichot, leaves for the kitchen when the White men come. She knows that what will be discussed will sound very important and confidential. Grant Wiggins finally meets with both White men. In the meeting with both White men, he is still puzzled or confused of how he acts to both White men: whether he should act as a teacher or as a Negro.

Inez left the kitchen as soon as the White men came in. I tried to decide just how I should respond to them. Whether I should act like the teacher that I was, or like the nigger that I was supposed to be. (Gaines 39)

When two White men meet with Grant Wiggins in Henri Pichot's home kitchens, they listen to the purpose of Grant Wiggins' visit, and finally he explains the purpose of his visit. Sheriff Guidry then interrupts and tells the truth about a discourse which is spoken by many people concerned with the intention of Grant Wiggins which will make Jefferson a man. Sheriff Guidry seems demeaning the objectives of Grant Wiggins that he will visit Jefferson and teach him to become a man. Grant Wiggins cannot respond to question raised by Sheriff Guidry on him, and he can only say that he has no idea at all about what he will say and do for Jefferson in the prison.

“You're not trying to play with me, now, are you?” Guidry asked.

“No, sir, I'm not. But I have no idea what I'll talk to him about.”

“I hear from people around here you want to make him a man. A man for what, at this time?” (Gaines 40)

At the end of the meeting, Sheriff Guidry finally allows Grant Wiggins to visit Jefferson. He can visit him soon. However, Sheriff Guidry tells him to always report to him and Chief Deputy Clark when he is not in the office. In addition, Sheriff Guidry also provides requirements that must be honored and implemented by Grant Wiggins when he is going to meet Jefferson. The requirements include that he is prohibited not to carry a thing made of glass such as knives and razors. Although Sheriff Guidry has given a permission for Grant Wiggins to meet Jefferson, but he argues that Grant Wiggins just waste of time visiting Jefferson to teach him to be a man. It indicates that a little possibility of Grant Wiggins as a Black man to carry out the purposes Miss Emma such creating and reviving Jefferson to become a man.

“When can I start coming up there?”

Hegemony is a kind of strategy to hold control of people or a group of people. In a social life, the practice of hegemony is usually done by a group of people who have authority in society. This kind of people is called the dominant social group. In the process of hegemony, the subordinate social group puts its trust on the dominant social group. Through this, it indirectly portrays a domination of dominant group in whole aspects of life. The dominant social group freely dominates the other social group. The subordinate social group may feel comfortable in the first phase of dominant group's domination, but the subordinate social group should have meet an effect after admitting the domination of dominant social group over their lives. The effect can be understood as a form of submission toward the dominant social group. A submission to any command and decision of the dominant social group. Thus, the dominant social group can be said successful in reaching and maintaining the domination over the subordinate social group.

Overviewing the trial on the case of Jefferson's involvement in the conflict of robbery and murder in a store owned by Whites. The trial which goes fiercely, initially led by the majority of White people. The White people are divided into those who organize the run of the trial, and those who state a sentence for Jefferson. They say that a Black man should die. On the other hand, the White man set a schedule of his execution without involving a negotiation with the Jefferson's people and other Blacks.

Twelve White men say a Black man must die, and another White man sets the date and time without consulting one Black person. Justice? (Gaines 129)

During the trial, the jury of the trial says that Jefferson almost does not resemble a man. He says and taunts when a trial is held after the report of Jefferson's involvement in the theft and murder is reported.

“Gentlemen of the jury, look at this—this—this boy. I almost said man, but I can’t say man. (Gaines 9)

The jury runs the trial with his personal insult to Jefferson. He says to the audiences that what he sees is not a man, but a foolish and stupid boy. He also states that he and the other White people call them civilized man, and they have reached a capacity of being a man.

Oh, sure, he has reached the age of twenty-one, when we, civilized men, consider the male species has reached manhood, but would you call this—this—this a man? No, not I. I would call it a boy and a fool. (Gaines 9)

In this citation, the jury clarifies what is meant by the words he says about Jefferson. He mentions that the fool is he who is not aware of and understand the right and wrong. A fool is doing what is commanded by another person: the Whites. The jury provokes his emotion and movement of Black people who are available at the trial. He mentions that there is a fool who boards a car, walking to the grocery, standing up and seeing what happens now. There is nothing intention to run out from the trial. It means that, although the White people and the judges talk to mock and insult them, they do not run out of the trial, but they still take a concern of what happens in the trial.

A fool is not aware of right and wrong. A fool does what others tell him to do. A fool got into that automobile. A man with a modicum of intelligence would have seen that those racketeers meant no good. But not a fool. A fool got into that automobile. A fool rode to the grocery store. A fool stood by and watched this happen, not having the sense to run. (Gaines 9)

done by the coercive help of the state which can include the police force and the army.

For the overall analysis, the domination of White Americans as seen in the novel *A Lesson Before Dying* has reached a legal status on the population of Black Americans. This phenomenon has been legally mentioned as hegemony. For a reason, in the last stage of White Americans, Black Americans are treated uncomfortably. They are directed to an ideology that they just remain a small community which only has a narrow opportunity to live and claim for their rights as nation in the Southern America. The effect of White Americans treatment is clearly seen by the incoming problem of one of Black Americans: Jefferson. The effect has been experienced by Black Americans, and it is also felt by Grant Wiggins as the main character who plays an important role in the story and in the case of Jefferson.

The effect of White Americans treatment remains to a submission of Black Americans. The Black Americans are indirectly to be submissive on White Americans, includes the way of White Americans treat, say and act for them. As consequence, the Black Americans include Grant Wiggins, Miss Emma, and Tante Lou cannot do anything such postponing and condemning the sentence of Jefferson. During the case of Jefferson as one of Black Americans, Grant Wiggins as a main character feels that the White Americans who are involved in the case of Jefferson, underestimate them as Black Americans. They, the White Americans indirectly assume that the Black Americans remains a social group which do not have any power to show their identity and strength in the Southern America.

