

## CHAPTER 4

### CONCLUSION

Grant Wiggins is the main character who plays an important role in the narrative events in the novel *A Lesson Before Dying*, especially in telling and revealing the atmosphere of the novel. He is also the writer of the novel *A Lesson Before Dying*. His name is Ernest J. Gaines. He is one of Black Americans who lives in the Southern America, especially in the quarter nearby Whites' plantation in Bayonne. He has a capacity of his intelligence that he has been graduated from an outstanding university in the United States. He contributes his knowledge to Black children who learn in the school church in the quarter. He lives with his aunt: Tante Lou, an old Black woman. In Grant Wiggins' daily, he performs his daily activities for the sake of him and Black Americans in the Southern.

The result of this thesis shows that *A Lesson Before Dying* is about the portrait of White and Black Americans in the Southern America. The Black and White Americans are the Southerners as narrated in the novel. The Black Americans are the free Blacks. Free Blacks are said as Blacks who have legal status and not being as slaves. The free Blacks live in the Southern, and they have few of restrictions that must be obeyed within their lives in the Southern. The restrictions are made by the Whites. The writer of the thesis argues that the restrictions given to the Blacks seem to be a discrimination. From this view, Whites can be said dominating the Blacks lives in the Southern. The domination

itself signifies the discourse of hegemony. Therefore, the writer assumes that the portrait of Black and White relation in the Southern as narrated in the novel conceives the hegemonic discrimination.

As the hegemony itself, the White Americans firstly dominate the life of Blacks in the Southern. In the case of White domination as the first stage taken, the White Americans begin to show their domination and power in some aspects of life. It can be said that school, social law and public facility are the media of White domination in the way of reaching a successful hegemony in the Southern. The domination of White in the school of Blacks can be seen from the existence of Dr. Joseph as the superintendent for the Black school and as the White man. He visits the Blacks school once in a year. Besides, he implements some regular tasks during his visit to the Black schools.

In the case of social law, the domination of White American can be seen from the restriction and the law given by the Whites when Blacks intend to visit the residence of White and calling the name of White man. Once Grant Wiggins, Miss Emma and Tante Lou visit the house of Henru Pichot as a White man that they should pass the back door in which the back door is directed to the kitchen of Pichot's house. Besides, Grant Wiggins should also respect White American though he has a lower position than other Whites. Like Paul, the White American whose profession is the guard of the prison in the Southern. Grant Wiggins should respect Paul as White man though they have recognized one another. Grant Wiggins should perform his sign of respect by calling 'Mr' before Paul's name.

The White Americans also become a determinant and a mastering social group. It can be seen from the portrait of geographical condition in the Southern, that Bayonne as the small city in the Southern contains myriad of public facilities that are separated according to the existing social group: Blacks and Whites. The public facilities can include church, school, and movie theatre.

After being successful in dominating the lives of Blacks in the Southern, the White Americans begin to show the effect of their domination in the Southern. The effect of White Americans treatment can be seen from the beginning case of one of Black Americans named Jefferson in the trial. The effect has been felt by Jefferson's people, especially Grant Wiggins who has a significant role in the sake of Jefferson. The jury in the trial is a White man who claims Jefferson as a hog, not a man. Besides, he also mentions that the Blacks who attend in the trial are just the one who act on a command: a command of White Americans. The effect of White Americans treatment directs Black Americans especially Grant Wiggins, Miss Emma, and Tante Lou are to be submissive on anything commanded to them. The submissive signifies how Black Americans cannot survive for White Americans' domination any longer.

Finally, over all the portrait of Blacks acceptance and Whites domination and hegemony, it can be said that the Whites have been successful in maintaining their stability of hegemony over the Blacks in the Southern America. Their hegemony is successful through the help and involvement of apparatus state and intellectual leadership. Henri Pichot, Sheriff Guidry, Paul, and the juries of the trial are tied up in the term of apparatus state. Besides, Dr. Joseph is mentioned as

the manifestation of intellectual leadership. The intellectual spreads a power of hegemony through religion and education. Meanwhile, the apparatus state assists the power of White hegemony through the law which is made for the Black American. These elements of hegemony have gotten the consensus of Black Americans in the Southern as narrated in the novel *A Lesson Before Dying*.

