



#### 4.1.1.1. Macrostructure of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel

Macrostructure focuses on thematic element. Topic or theme represented in one several sentences which is the main idea. Topic also described as “*semantic macrostructure*” (van Dijk, 1985:69). Semantic macrostructures of topics define what is called the global coherence of discourse (van Dijk, 1980:136). Theme shows dominant concept and central point of text. The theme of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel is racial injustice against black people.

Harper Lee in her novel focuses on racial injustice against black people in Southern especially in Maycomb, Alabama. Some black people worked as domestic servants or had poorly jobs. And the worst thing that happened was that if they were charged for doing something to a white person and it was not true, the court would find the black person guilty over the white person. Lee uses each character to expose each type of injustice and how they correspond with the story line of the novel. There are lot of reasons why racial injustice happened. A person discriminates because it is his/her nature or character to oppress and discriminate others. One of the reasons is the culture of particular society that prejudice against other races. They have a bad perception towards the black, a black people must be an evil person. In this novel, the black is the minority and the white is the majority.

Atticus Finch is a lawyer and resident of the fictional Maycomb County, Alabama, and the father of Jeremy Atticus “Jem” Finch and Jean Louise “Scout” Finch. Atticus is a central character in the novel. Atticus is appointed





law to the day of his death; he had been tried openly and convicted by twelve good men and true; my father had fought for him all the way. Then Mr. Underwood's meaning became clear: Atticus had used every tool available to free men to save Tom Robinson, but in the secret courts of men's hearts Atticus had no case. Tom was a dead man the minute Mayella Ewell opened her mouth and screamed. (Lee, 1960:244)

The unfair trial here is due to injustice. It isn't a matter of what is right and what actually happens, but a matter of black and white, a clear difference that decided his fate in the end. The mere fact that he is black and give the towns people the sole excuse to accuse and prove his guilty of raping Mayella Ewell. Atticus Finch, Tom's lawyer, defends him and proves that Tom is almost incapable of committing this crime for he could not have caused those injuries on Mayella for reasons stated. The town of Maycomb is a typical racist, small, southern town, full of people afraid to stand up for what is right.

Atticus' closing statement talking to the jury about equality shows how serious prejudice and discrimination are during that time. He starts with this statement:

"I shall be brief, but I would like to use my remaining time with you to remind you that this case is not a difficult one... To begin with, this case should never have come to trial. This case is as simple as black and white. The state did not produce one iota of medical evidence to show or prove in any way that Tom Robinson's case ever took place." (Lee, 1960:206)

Without any medical or, reliable source for that matter of fact, the case is simply relied upon the testimony of two witnesses whose evidence has not















lowest class. And although they may be as educated and economically stable as those in the second or even first rank, because of their skin they are immediate outcasts and can obviously never move out of their strata. The blacks live apart from the whites in their own section of town and seem to have a society separate from the whites. This specific structure has influence in certain events in this novel. Segregation exists in the town of Maycomb based on skin color. During the Tom Robinson trial, black people in the town must sit up in the balcony away from the proceedings while the white people are to sit below them where the trial is taking place, they could get a better view of the trial.

The Negroes, having waited for the white people to go upstairs, began to come in. "Whoa now, just a minute," said a club member, holding up his walking stick. "Just don't start up them there stairs yet awhile." (Lee, 1960:165)

The whites are given a better seat than the blacks because the whites in Maycomb are considered more superior to the blacks. They are expected to have better treatment than the blacks, as the whites are the first to enter the room, later on the blacks could enter too. The blacks are thought to be the lower classes while the white the upper class.

The whites live with the whites and the blacks live with the blacks. Blacks couldn't go to the same school as whites and public rest rooms have separated facilities for blacks and whites. The most evident example of segregation in the novel is before the trial begins, when black and white



In examining the case, the two lowest classes in Maycomb are involved. It is the Ewells who are white trash against Tom Robinson, a kind, black man. Sure enough, when the jury comes out of deliberation after three hours, they pronounce Tom Robinson guilty. By their logic, he is a black man, and black men cannot be trusted, because the stereotypes that the jurors have against Tom Robinson's social class cloud their judgment. Black men are liars, they are rude, and they cannot be trusted. The jury's decision proves one sad, undeniable fact-when a black man's word go against a white man's word, the white man, regardless of his background, would always be victorious. Despite the jury's doubts pertaining to the Ewell's accusations against an innocent black man, they have to find in favor of Mayella because she is white. In spite of the jury's knowledge of Tom Robinson's character, they could not allow Mayella's accusations to go unanswered. To do so would have made the two races equal. There is no justice or mercy for a Negro, even one as upstanding as Tom Robinson.

Readers know that racial injustice existed in the midst of society in Maycomb could result conflict among the member of society. The racial injustice does not result conflict between black and white people only, but it could make conflict in white people circle also if there is among them known as black people defender. It is clear that racial injustice appeared because the white people still claimed that they were in the higher prestige than the black people.























Negroes lie, some Negroes are immoral, and some Negro men are not to be trusted around women— black or white. But this is a truth that applies to the human race and to no particular race of men.” that is Atticus try to make clear about the wrong assumption of society that, Negro are trash, Negro are liars, Negro are dangerous, it is a kind of prejudice that makes injustice to the life of black people.

**Nominalization** is potentially making the process and action of the investigation in that sentence into abstract thing, in other word, make a biased sentence (Fairclough, 1992:27). Nominalization is the conversion of a clause into a nominal or noun. For instance, the noun reduction derived from the verb reduce and obligation from obligate. The nominalization is one way to obfuscate agency. Actually there is no biased sentence used in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel.

Semantics analysis aims to find the meaning of the text. The meaning of the text can be seen from background, and details. Lee explains how far racial injustice constructed in the society. Through the novel, Lee describes the condition of black people in Maycomb County who always damaged by white people. She shows the readers about the trouble caused by white people. The mistakes made by whites defeat the black people in the court’s trial. Whites’ prejudice control their action and pursuer them to hurt black people.





















England colony was established there. The black people were involuntary immigrants who had been shipped by the slave traders to America. They were sold to the landlords. Some of them brought from West Indies, but most of them were taken directly from Africa to America.

These black people were mostly concentrated in the Southern, where the colonial farms were larger. The land and climate in the South were very good to support the plantation of cotton and tobacco. The Southerners developed their plantation in those good conditions, that many employees were needed for their plantation. They needed many workers to keep their farms. The strong black people seem to prove the most practical and profitable solution. As the time passed, exploring the black people as workers increased and their number in the South multiplied. The significant of development began with the success of tobacco and cotton plantation. This condition continually happened for centuries until slavery manners deleted in 1865. Whites' society has new mindset based on the history and blacks can do nothing to fight. Black people considered as competitor in looking for jobs. Moreover, there is a movement of white anti-black. Racist condition covers people life in Great Depression era. The society creates the code for white and black.

Racial injustice could walk in line with Great Depression era because black people in America still consider a lower class based on their history in the pass. It means when people were pressed by economy condition, they need a lot of worker to cultivate their left over crops. Black people did not have their own land which is why blacks always being worker and work for white people

although they are not slaves like long time ago. In the middle of economy degradation, racial injustice is growing fast together with people's needs especially white people.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is fiction, but the trial of Tom Robinson is thoroughly plausible by historical standards. In the beginning of Great Depression era, the case of the Scottsboro Boys demonstrates this all too well. Despite much speculation that this was the source for Tom's story in the novel, Harper Lee has said it was not, although she did admit that "it will more than do as an example of deep-South attitudes on race vs. justice that prevailed at the time." Lee's biographer Charles Shields points out that the drama of the Scottsboro Boys affair took place on the national stage and, in this sense, does not quite fit with the kind of story Lee wanted to tell. After all, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is an intimate story of events that take place in just one small town. But the simple fact that the Scottsboro Boys' case unfolded as it did shows how easily an injustice such as the one that befalls Tom could have occurred.

In March of 1931 a group of nine black youths was "riding the rails"—illegally jumping onto a freight car— from Chattanooga to Memphis, Tennessee. During the Great Depression this was a fairly common mode of transportation for the poor who were looking for work, or for escape. A smaller group of white youths was in the same car and a fight broke out; the white youths lost and were thrown from the train. However, they told the nearest stationmaster that they had been attacked, and he alerted the authorities at the

upcoming station to board the train and arrest the black youths. Two white women who were also on the train accused the black men of raping them. That evening the governor of Alabama had to call up the National Guard to hold back a lynch mob bent on storming the jail. The nine boys were tried in the small town of Scottsboro and rapidly convicted. Eight of them were sentenced to death, the customary penalty for rape, especially the rape of a white woman by a black man. The prosecution requested “mercy” for the final defendant, thirteen-year-old Roy Wright. It only suggested life imprisonment because the boy was so young, although another of the accused Scottsboro Boys, Eugene Williams, also thirteen, was sentenced to death. However, eleven members of the jury insisted on the death penalty, while one held out for life in prison. The jurors believed unanimously in Wright’s guilt, but were deadlocked regarding the appropriate sentence, so the case ended in a mistrial. The condition shows that race prestige defeat the law. Although blacks are not wrong, they are still sentenced wrong because they are colored. The important position in the government is majority occupied by white people.

The trial was a farce. As with Tom Robinson’s trial, the jury was composed entirely of white men, all of them relatively poor farmers; townfolk with professional jobs were routinely excused from jury duty at this time. The young defendants were not so fortunate as to be represented by an Atticus Finch. Instead their legal representation consisted of an alcoholic real estate lawyer from Tennessee who was unfamiliar with Alabama law and an elderly lawyer who was several decades removed from trying a criminal case. The two

main witnesses were the two women, who, it soon emerged, had worked as prostitutes, and were terrified that they would themselves be arrested on morals charges if they had not claimed rape. There was no reliable forensic evidence to suggest rape had occurred, and no bruises or other signs of struggle.

The Scottsboro Boys trials took place between 1932 and 1938, and the controversy raged over decades. It became a national news story and an international embarrassment for the United States, showcasing the barbarism of Southern “justice” when it came to matters of race and sexuality. It did, however, result in an important Supreme Court victory, which essentially abolished the Southern institution of all-white juries in trials of this nature.

A law in the Great Depression era actually has the strength to force all of people in the Southern America to obey it. The case of Scottsboro Boys leads to describe how political condition at that time. It shows that law still influence by race. The fact that economy condition in 1950s is better than 1930s cannot change racist culture. Some factor such as class position and race became pursuer to keep justice. Their mindset about race influences each decision they made. Although at that time government system of United States was democracy and every people could deliver what’s on their mind bit there was a changing in society. The issue of race impacts their way of thinking in Sothern America. Even the incident happened in 1930s was repeated again in 1950s which the condition of America was better than before.

In the novel the white people discriminate and prejudice to the black because they do not black people in their life. White people treat black people



like trash and act like evil. White people cannot control their behaviour in hurting black people until blacks become a small part in society.

In political view, there is no difference between black and white in the government lens. The government system is democracy. It means everybody can deliver what in their mind to government. In fact, the system cannot protect the life of black people in the society. Racism defeats the law that the only wishing of black to get security and justice. The condition above makes the situation becomes very awful. If black people gets trouble with white people and the juries are white people, it is automatically makes whites win. The law is blind to solve the problem related to the race prestige. The mindset that white people is higher than black people, they always be over confident to do anything under humanity.

Racism makes the life of black people get injustice because the law is blind to defend the rights. Moreover, there is a group of white people that has different point of view about racial injustice. They know how to perceive this condition. This point maybe Lee want to show to the reader through she writes the novel. The strength from a group of anti racist cannot compete with a big community that has the same bad opinion and thought about black people. the community has strong passion to damage black people. here, the position of the writer as a part of anti-racist community (such as the main character Atticus and the supporting, Miss Maudie Akitson). The mindset of white people may be influence by the historical background. There is no reason can be accepted if the society has to ignore them from Southern American's life.

#### 4.2.2. Discussion

After analyzing the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee using the text structure analyzed based on the three level of text (macrostructure, superstructure, and microstructure) that proposed by Teun A. van Dijk, the writer found the theme, schemata, semantics, syntaxes, stylistic, and rhetoric used in the novel coverage. Then, the writer found the social context of the author through her writing.

The theme or macrostructure of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel is racial injustice against black people. There are no superstructure (headlines, lead, main events, previous events, background and verbal reaction) used in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel.

Analyzing the linguistic features of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* novel or microstructure, the writer found the semantic style; the condition of black people in Maycomb County who always damaged by white people, syntax style; Harper Lee was successful in illustrating how different characters react to discrimination and injustice by used good sentence arrangement, stylistic style; Nigger and Nigger-lover are the words used by Harper Lee in her novel to show the racial injustice against black people, rhetoric style; the author used metaphor of Mockingbird as the symbol as innocent men. The social context of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is the social condition which racial injustice becomes the most powerful issue in the Southern society. Moreover, the novel describes the people at Great Depression era. In the case, the black people become the victim of white mind's prejudice.

In addition there is different focus in this study among other studies done before. In this study, the writer focused in the text structure and the social context. Whereas, in previous study such done by Ningsih (2013) that focused on the meaning behind the text and ideological background underlying the text made, or studies done by Safitri (2015) and Nugraha, although they used different object for their study but both of them are same focus on the text structure of the text. While, study done by Prihandoko (2013) focused on the racism issue used critical discourse analysis belongs to Norman Fairclough.

*To Kill a Mockingbird* is a novel that much explores about moral. Moral is concerned with goodness or badness of characters, or a basic of human to distinguish among right and wrong intensions, thoughts or actions and to arrange of human conducts. In literature moral is a message conveyed or a lesson to be learned from a story or event. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Lee explores the morality about racial injustice, underestimate and slander that changes human's social status and destroy human's interaction. From the novel, the researcher found some goodness that can be learned, such as sympathy, understanding and love each other.

Racial injustice is a negative attitude that makes a person judge another based on the color of skin without knowing her or his good attitude as a human beings. Racial injustice usually makes a person cannot see the equality that given to him since he was born. In this novel, people make a social class based on their color skin. Moreover, a black man was suffered and dead just because of racial injustice. A person who is a victim of racial injustice will be so suffer













