

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

This thesis reports the findings of a thorough study to establish the factors that have led to the feminism in the world. What makes the writer interested in researching the film *The Help* is because this film has succeeded in conveying its main issue, namely the portrait of the issue racial discrimination that occurs in the United States. Delivery of themes discrimination in this film is conveyed lightly, but packaged interesting so it doesn't make us as the audience feel bored. By that's why *The Help* storyline is very easy to accept and follow.

A novel written by Kathryn Stokett is a fictional story. But things that happen in the film *The Help* it can also happen in real life. Overall this film delivers real pictures of the tragedies that occurred during the time the civil rights movement took place. As well as providing an overview stories about the behavior of the majority race when discriminating against racial minorities in the United States.

#### **1.1. Background of the research.**

According to Schein (2016) the culture in the world includes a way to live around the community which is existing cultures cannot be separated from a human being. Everyone has own culture because there are so many differences in culture in the world. Starting from religion, race, and customs, etc, so this is we must respect the rights of each other. The differences in the world sometimes can

create consequence problems. The problems can create division between nations or different countries.

The conflicts that occur in the world can divide the nation and social gap in the country. One of the hardest problems in the world is racist. The history that happened mostly in the past is racist. The factors that occurs racist are the differences in color skin and faith. This can lead to violence and disparity among fellow human beings, especially for people who are intimidated can cause psychological disturbances.

The most violent historical event of its time was the white skin intimidation of black skin that occurred in American. Which is at the time the white race massacred the blacks, thousands of black skin in American dies at that time. Research of black Americans say four things as fields of discrimination, namely the treatment of police officers, job, courts, and schools. While for white American, the Afro-American population believes in racial discrimination against them, whether it is in a restaurant or hospital.

With the development of technology and trade, the feminism of a country develops rapidly, which leads to a continuous increase in the degree of diversification in the country. Then, countries with good trade interests to improve life attract people from all ethnic groups. The myth of a higher race and a lesser race is an increasingly complex factor in the problem of racism. Those from the superior race often engage in racist behavior against the inferior race. This racist behavior occurs in all areas of social life, such as education, health care, entertainment, etc.

(Kulaszewicz, n.d.) said that the reality of the statement above can be looked from the situation of the United States in which there are various racial groups. Almost all sectors of life in the United States can control by white people who are a Caucasian race. At the beginning of his arrival in the American, white race people had the desire to spend all the indigenous tribes who occupied the American continent at that time, namely the Indian tribes that were part of the Mongoloid race.

The case of racist is not only in real life but it also happened in fiction work like novel. This phenomenon has been brought by many authors into a novel that people can enjoy. One of the novel that discussed racism towards race was brought by Kathryn Stockett with her bestselling novel “The Help”. Kathryn is one of American author who was born and raised in Mississippi. She was a graduate from Alabama University majoring English and Creative Writing. After she graduated from university, she moved from her hometown to New York City and work in publishing and marketing department of a magazine for nine years. She never wrote a novel before and her first novel was “The Help” which was published in 2009.

As a new author, Kathryn first novel grasp readers attention. The novel itself talk about a wealthy white lady, named Skeeter, who just back to her family cotton plantation house in Jackson, Mississippi after completing her study at Ole Miss. As a lady from wealthy family, she tried to behave like a proper southern lady like playing bridge with other upper class women, editing letter, and even enduring her mother nagging about finding a proper man to marry.

Skeeter was a lady from upper class family who owns a plantation house, but she did not like to work there. She has her own dream, to be a writer. However, she could not find a proper writing job at there and she could only find a writing job at Jackson Journal. Skeeter's job at that journal was to refill a housekeeping advice column called "Miss Myrna". Skeeter did not know about housekeeping so she asked some advice from her black woman maid, Aibileen. At first, Skeeter only wanted to seek some housekeeping advice from Aibileen, but as the story got along, Skeeter found out the tragic event black people faced from white. She also learn about Aibileen tragic past.

Inspired from Aibileen story, Skeeter decided to write a book based on the true story that happened to Aibileen, however, other white named Hilly did not like Skeeter's relation with black people, thus Hilly framed Skeeter and made Skeeter's image bad. However, Skeeter could overcome the problems and even made a book that could help black people raised their image in white people's thought. "The Help" novel was written in both black and white point of view, this novel clearly indicated the unfair treatment black people suffers from white. The treatment that portrayed in the novel showed in the black women's life who worked as maid in white people's house. Based on this reason, the researcher felt that this novel could be analyze by using feminist approach.

Feminism is interesting to discuss because for this era case it is difficult to remove in the world. By discussing this topic, we can add insight into how terrible it is when there is massive racism in the world. The present and the past are no

different, even for today there any occurrences ranging from small children and adults. I hope this topic can be useful and add to our knowledge of feminism.

Although this story comes from an old black servant, we hear it through Skeeter's voice (at this point, she is wise enough to describe the love between black and white women as something inexplicable). It's hard to find examples of white women harassing, discriminating against or exploiting black servants on the "help" page, but they are strong examples of close and intimate relationships between black women and white women.

## **1.2 Identification of the problem**

1. Unfair treatment done by white people to black people shown in “The Help” novel by Kathryn Stockett
2. Black people’s way to defend their image towards white people treatment as shown in “The Help” novel by Kathryn Stockett
3. Rights that black people should not have as shown in “The Help” novel by Kathryn Stockett
4. Ideology feminism displayed in “The Help” novel by Kathryn Stockett
5. Laws and regulations that oppress aides of African-American descent in “The Help” novel by Kathryn Stockett.

## **1.3.Limitation of the problem**

1. Unfair treatment done by white people to black people shown in “The Help” novel by Kathryn Stockett

2. Black people's way to defend their image towards white people treatment as shown in "The Help" novel by Kathryn Stockett

#### **1.4 Formulation of the problem**

1. What types of unfair treatment done by white people to black people shown in "The Help" novel by Kathryn Stockett.
2. What kinds of Black people's way to defend their image towards white people treatment as shown in "The Help" novel by Kathryn Stockett

#### **1.5. Objectives of the Problem**

1. To know about types of unfair treatment done by white people to black people shown in "The Help" novel by Kathryn Stockett.
2. To figure out about Black people's way to defend their image towards white people treatment as shown in "The Help" novel by Kathryn Stockett

#### **1.6. Significance of the Research**

1. Theoretical benefits

In the theoretical aspects, to increase insight into English literature research on the novel, apply the knowledge and theory learned in analyzing opus and understanding the structure in use in the novel.

## 2. Practical benefits

In the practical aspects, to our, it is expected that when reading the community should be more active and critical of the message that will be conveyed by a novel so that we are not easily affected and provoked by a message and the meaning contained in the novel.

### 1.7. Definition of Key Term

**Feminism** : The advocacy of women's rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes.

**Black women** : Women who are of Sub-Saharan African and Afro-diasporic descent. The term black woman is both a multi-faceted cultural identity and a social construct with different meanings in different places.

**Resistance** : Is showing the position of an attitude to behave defensively, trying to fight, opposes or attempt the opposition in general, this is attitude is not based or refers to a clear understanding.

**Controlling images** : Controlling images focuses on the negative stereotypical representations and images of black women.