

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason for Choosing the Topic

Life in modern times is defined by the existence of freedom, peace, far from the word poverty and also criminal acts. But, that is only the result of a general view, in fact, if it is examined more deeply there is still such thing as poverty, crime, and injustice. For example, a developed country like America is known for its technological sophistication and cultural diversity. In this country, there still exists discrimination towards certain races such as Chinese and Blacks. White or Caucasian people who feel that they are better than other races, especially the black races. It happens because white people think black people are the race at the lowest level. They live in areas where poverty rates are very high and it causes them to commit criminal acts such as selling drugs, stealing or robbing to get money. Because of this, white people look at them with a racial stereotype in mind. Whereas not all black people behave in such away. From this explanation, those attitudes by whites against blacks are called prejudice.

Prejudice can be positive or negative, but, people often understand that it is based on the negative attitude from certain social groups towards another group. Examples of prejudice can be found in literary works such as poems, drama, short story or even novels. One of the literary works that depict

prejudice of black people is a novel entitled *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. The author was born, raised and still resided in Jackson, Mississippi. She was the first winner of the 2015 Walter Dean Myers Grant, which was awarded by *We Need Diverse Books*. *The Hate U Give* is her debut novel published in 2017, February 28. The novel had 100,000 copies in its first month and sold more than 850,000 copies in June 2018. The author began writing her novel when she became inspired from an incident in 2009, the shooting of Oscar Grant who was a black man by white police named Johannes Mehserle. After that incident, there were many murders of black people followed by white police like Trayvon Martin in 2012, Mike Brown in 2014, and Tamir Rice also in 2014.

This novel tells about a 16-year-old black girl, Starr Carter, who lives in a place known as Garden Heights. She attends a school that is dominated by white people, Williamson Prep. The main reason that she goes to that school is that her mom is concerned about their neighborhood which is very dangerous. When she is in school, she acts not like black people usually do. There is no slang. She just keeps her style always on the flick with the sneakers that she wears every day. And while she is in Garden Heights, she becomes the original Starr.

One night she visits and joins a party for the first time. There are lots of black teenagers that join the party. She comes with Kenya, and meets with her childhood friend named Khalil. While they are still in a conversation, they hear

a gunshot all of a sudden. Starr and Khalil get out of there and go by car. He is bringing her home but they are stopped by white police. He asks Khalil to show his license and get out of the car. At first, he does not want to give it to the police but Starr begs him to do what the police want. While that police is checking the license at his car, Khalil opens the driver's door to make sure of Starr's condition but suddenly the police officer fires three shots at Khalil and he dies.

Khalil's death becomes a major national news story, however, the press describe him as a drug dealer and it became a reason for the white police to shoot him dead. As a witness, Starr does two investigations first with two detectives and then the Grand Jury, but it is useless. Even though Starr already gives all the information that they need, it doesn't affect the result that the white cop isn't guilty and Khalil dies as a drug dealer. Because of all this, Starr feels sick of society's views and joins a protest to speak the truth.

This book is already read by many people and they give various responses over it. The reviews were taken from *Amazon* website. One of the reviewers who gave 5 stars to this book was Ashley Elliott. In her opinion, this book was amazing. She said that even the author described the brutality of police officers, this makes no sense. On the other hand, there is also a negative response towards this book which is also taken from the same website. The account named ShinesReasonably gave 1 star for this book. This account said it

was the opposite, the book was totally biased and showed an anti-police attitude.

There are some reasons why the writer chooses this book as the subject of study. First, the writer is curious about the kind of prejudices that are directed by white people and how the main character struggling over it. Secondly, because this book is very interesting to read. There is an element of racism as well as depictions of how black people live, like how they communicate and look. The language is not difficult to understand because the writer herself uses language not too stiff, also, the book contains a sense of family and a touch of romance.

From the explanation above, you can see that the writer is interested to analyze the kinds of prejudices that are directed towards black people by the whites in *The Hate U Give* novel. This study will be analyzed by using the prejudice theory. Therefore, this paper is entitled PREJUDICE TOWARDS BLACK PEOPLE AS REFLECTED IN THE NOVEL THE HATE U GIVE BY ANGIE THOMAS.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of the Study

The objectives of the study are:

1. To discuss how are the prejudices toward black people represented in the novel *The Hate U Give*.

2. To discuss how the black people struggle against the negative prejudice in *The Hate U Give*.

This research focuses on the prejudice theory that contains the forms of prejudice and the struggle by the black people.

1.3 Formulation of the Problem

From the objective and scope of the study, the writer found two problems in this research, they are:

1. How is the prejudice represented towards black people in the novel *The Hate U Give* ?
2. How do black people struggle against the prejudice in the novel *The Hate U Give* ?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Study

This research discusses the kinds of prejudice towards black people directed by whites as well as forms of resistance or struggle carried out by black people over an attitude of legal injustice due to negative prejudices that are embedded in the novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. The novel previously has been studied by 5 researchers; Irawati (2018), Nurhayati (2019) and Yunitri, et al (2019), Christianti (2019) and Yanti (2019).

Irawati (2018) discussed the novel by using the extrinsic and intrinsic approach. She found that there are still racial and discrimination problems that caused a psychological problem as a result and a little action to struggle or fight the discrimination. In 2019, Yunitri and friends also studied the same topic. It is

just that, they focus more on one element, namely the extrinsic element. They found five elements in the novel, which are proposed by Wellek and Warren, Biography, Psychology, Society, Ideas, and Other Forms of Art. Christianti (2019) described double consciousness of the main character, Starr Carter. As a result of her research, the impact of this double consciousness of the main character in the novel *The Hate U Give* not only made Starr Carter an identity crisis but the positive side gave her the power to talk about justice towards herself and all blacks and Yanti (2019) mention and explain the types of institutions that did racist acts in the novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas like ignorance of Black Ten Points Panthers Program, shooting in license, physical examination punishment in a police patrol, confirming White officers in a detective investigation, and injustice in the grand jury announcement.

Also in 2019, Nurhayati discussed the influence of racial prejudice on the law enforcement issue. She used the sociology of literature as her theory. As the result, at first, she found that there are five indicators of racial prejudice, namely unfair behavior, stereotypes, segregation systems, prohibitions on marriage between racial differences, and injustice in getting job opportunities. Second, the author conveys ideas about racial prejudice through character, settings, events, and style contained in the novel. Third, the author chooses the theme of racial prejudice against the implementation of the law is based on the author's environment.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

The research is a study about the prejudice that conducted in the novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas. The whole study is based on prejudice theory. According to Kite and Whiteley (2010, p. 11), they agreed with the opinion by Brewer and Brown (1998) who stated that prejudice is an attitude directed at people because they are a member of a specific social group. Attitude is considered as an evaluation of a whole social group or individual because they are a member of that group; for example, people might view the older group of the adult as a positive or negative or older individual as good or bad individual. The prejudice itself divided into two forms there is negative and positive prejudice.

Prejudice as the main phenomenon that comes from group processes. There are three things that are closely related to where this happens. First, prejudice defined as an orientation toward all categories of people rather than isolated individuals. But, if the target is for the individuals, it can be the characteristics of the person are much smaller than the marker that allocates him to one group than other groups by the accent, with skin tone, etc. The second reason for prejudice should be regarded as a group process because it is most often happens in social shared orientation. And the last reason follows the first two. To the extent that prejudice is usually directed at certain groups by several other groups.

1.4.2.1 Forms of Prejudice

Based on Kite and Whiteley (2010, p. 11) they stated that prejudice is divided into two forms which are positive and negative. Both forms of prejudice which are preferred in the novel are discussed in the following discussion.

1.4.2.1.1 Positive Prejudice

According to Brown (1995), he mentioned the example of positive prejudice towards a group like Italian. He mentioned that the Italian foods are tasty and their cinemas are great. From the previous example, positive prejudice is a positive attitude directed toward an entire specific social group or the individual of the group itself.

1.4.2.1.2 Negative Prejudice

There is an example by Carrie Fried (1996) has stated in his research that white people read some lyrics from the 60s folk song that contains violence, and it was from a rap song. It gets a negative rating if it labeled a 'rap song'. And it can be worse if the song sung by a black singer rather than white, it was the race of the lyrics. Racist behavior can also be carried out under government authority, as illustrated by crime and 'driving while black' which means when blacks are driving their vehicle, they will be the next target for sure to get arrest. There is also research by Horowitz (1936), he questioned 'show me the one you like the best' by using 12 photographs of black and white children. And the result is quite shocking, black children preferred to choose the white children's photographs. It confirmed by Clark and Clark (1947) when

they were using the doll. The black children choose the lighter doll and it indicating that the lighter doll is looked-nice. White children are shown a very strong and preference for stimuli that represented their ethnic group while Black children are subordinate or minority. From Goodman's research (1952, p. 47), her studies made some clearly prejudiced comments such as the lighter doll looks good not the black one, the lighter doll has a good and fresh look while the darker is not, and then the lighter doll being called as a good man while the darker is bad.

From the previous examples, negative prejudice is defined as a negative attitude directed toward an entire specific social group or the individual of the group.

1.4.2.2 Black People Protest

Due to the prejudice which directed to the black people, they carried out mass protests as a form of disappointment with the applicable law. unilateral laws that continue to prioritize whites. According to Ornek and Ultan (2014, p. 12-16), they said that there are two kinds of protest. First, by Martin Luther King Jr. and then, Malcolm X. Both of these men are African American civil rights activists who fought for racial equality, it is just that they have differences in their approaches.

1.4.2.2.1 Martin Luther King Jr.

Burns and Siracusa (2007) stated that Martin was born in Atlanta in 1929. He was a son of Baptist minister. He became a pastor at eighteen years old. After finishing his study, he moved to study theology in the North; first in

Pennsylvania and then in Boston. His first involvement in *the American Civil Rights Movement* was at the time of the *Montgomery Bus Boycott*. He became a spokesperson of the *Montgomery Bus Boycott* and a national figure, the being elected as president in the *Southern Christian Leadership Conference*. In 1960 he was arrested for allegedly violating the one-year probation he served for beliefs arising from a protest demonstration. Jackson (2008) said that over the next few years, King worked in Atlanta, Georgia, and Birmingham promoting civil rights and campaigning against segregation. He does not use violence; he followed the example of Mahatma Gandhi who, through a long struggle that excluded violence, finally succeeded in gaining independence for his homeland in India.

According to Lytle (1966) in the summer of 1963, there are examples of pressure from mass interest groups. Around 200,000 people participated in a march in Washington to protest against discrimination. Also, Rathbun (1968) said that the most important part of the march was when Martin Luther King Jr. gave a speech that expresses his ideas and feelings. It was a speech that contained the dream of a colorless community which he delivered when receiving the Nobel Peace Prize. And the speech was called *I Have A Dream*.

1.4.2.2.2 Malcolm X

Rummel (2005) said that Malcolm was also the son of a Baptist minister who was involved in organizations to improve the rights of African-Americans. He was born in Omaha, Nebraska, but his family moved to Wisconsin also Michigan. According to Takamura (2012), he said that

Malcolm's family moved because of the racist incidents, and since that time his views towards white people and institutionalized racism developed at an early age. Rummel also said that when Malcolm moved to Boston, he got prison for burglary in 1946. There, he became acquainted with the teachings of Elijah Mohammad, leader of the Nation of Islam and Takamura said that he became a Muslim after he released from prison he also became a minister for the Nation of Islam.

Also, after he was released from prison, Palmer (2006) said that he quit his job to focus on his missionary work. Different from King, he sent nationalistic messages to his followers, convincing them that they deserve to have self-esteem and self-respect for being black. He criticized King's speech, "I have a dream". Malcolm said, when the King had a dream, all Negroes had nightmares.

Takamura said that Malcolm advocated a much more aggressive approach in the fight for the civil rights of African –American. His speech was attracted to his audience and sound terrified to his enemies. In another word, Malcolm's approach to fighting against racial equality would be violent.

1.5 Methods of Research

This research uses a close reading method to analyze the novel *The Hate U Give*. According to Greenham (2019), he said close reading is the most important skill that literary students have continued to develop throughout their studies. The basics of close reading itself are formulated to unify reading fun and analytic techniques that will engage students' literature and enhance their reading experience.

The writer collects the data by starting with her initials intuitive pleasure in reading, then improve this by focusing on individual words before moving to the sentence, and then out to the paragraph, stanza or chapter, then to the entire text, eventually moving further to world concerns: its politics, its history, and its contemporary preoccupations. The writer also researching some journals to supports the theory. Then finding the previous study that has the same novel to analyze, therefore, the writer knows if there is similarity and builds the differentiation. After collecting the data, the writer will use the method of research to analyze it.