

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Reason for Choosing the Topic

We Cast A Shadow is a popular novel written by Maurice Carlos Ruffin. First published on 29 January 2019, this novel is one of the best novels of 2019 by Washington Post. This novel was debuted by a brave black writer from New Orleans. This novel follows the lives of people in South America, especially in New Orleans whose future is disturbed by racism. This thrilling and novel is also a sharp satire about racism that is still alive in America and very touching family story. Racial discrimination experienced in the life of the main character who is not named as a father, the second is his son, Nigel.

The main character has it's own section containing stories about experiences in the world of racial discrimination and struggle against of racial discrimination. The main character is a father, he is a black lawyer while his wife Penny is an activist in South America and the son they love is Nigel, Nigel is a biracial son from an African-American mixed whose black birthmark is getting bigger by the day. The darker Nigel, the more scared his father is. Ruffin tells of how a family of black lawyers was subjected to unfair treatment, both in racial discrimination. Racial discrimination occurs a lot in their lives. Nigel's father couldn't stand the dark birthmark that was all over his son's face, a boy with dark skin will live in the dim light.

The main character responds to racial discrimination in various ways, some of which are Nigel's father who are fighting in their law firm. He was very happy when given the opportunity to get a big bonus. So with the money, he will be able to finance a "demelanization" operation for his son and be able to erase all traces of African-American heritage. Nigel's father thought it was Nigel's only chance to live happily, but his wife Penny was not a fan of the idea, she refused when Nigel's father was given the responsibility of his company's diversity initiative. Most of them also have the power to fight racial discrimination, it is found in the novel that the main character is very struggling to work hard, sends his son to school and also very skilled in arts and sports, even the main character is also part of the black community.

From several studies conducted both through literature and internet studies, the novel *We Cast A Shadow* has never been studied, especially regarding racial discrimination and struggle against racial discrimination. This novel was published in early 2019 and still no research has been done to analyze it, while this novel has a very strong racial theme to study. In this novel the main character experiences the bitterness of life such as racial discrimination. The important meaning of this research of the story of father's struggle and his love for his family to protect his son, such as Nigel's father who tries to work hard to raise capital for his son's operating costs and its struggle against racial discrimination.

From what is seen on the novel, this significant of this research is the story of writer chooses to analyze it using the theory of discrimination, especially in relation to racial discrimination and struggle against. Besides that the writer is also interested in conducting research on this novel as a result of racial

discrimination that often occurs in the United States. It is very interesting to see racial discrimination that occurs in America, especially New Orleans as depicted in the novel.

1.2. The Objective and Scope of the Study

The object of analysis is a novel *We Cast A Shadow* written by Maurice Carlos Ruffin. In this study, the writer took data on racial discrimination experienced by the characters and struggle against racial discrimination experienced by the characters. The novel is set in South America, in the New Orleans city. The purpose of this research was to analyze racial discrimination and struggle against racial discrimination on the characters. Although this novel can be discussed from other perspectives, the writer decided to only focus on racial discrimination and struggle against racial discrimination in *We Cast A Shadow* by Maurice Carlos Ruffin.

1.3. Formulation of The Problem

Based on the objective and scope of the study, the writer finds two research questions for making an analysis of the data. There are:

1. How are racial discrimination as seen on the characters in *We Cast A Shadow*?
2. How are the struggle against racial discrimination as seen on the characters in *We Cast A Shadow*?

1.4. Review of Related Literature

Review of related literature is a description of previous research and the theoretical framework as a reference to be used as the basis for the researcher's activities. The discussion is as follows:

1.4.1. Previous Study

This novel has never been discussed by previous researcher with this theory and there has been no previous studies about novel *We Cast A Shadow* by Maurice Carlos Ruffin. By looking at these reasons, the writer decides to analyze the data from this novel *We Cast A Shadow* in discrimination.

This novel has been reviewed by several novel critics, one of them is Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah of the New York Times. She stated “*We Cast A Shadow* is the story of a black lawyer in a version of American South. Is a dropped into a future where the country is even more willing than now to follow its worst, most racist inclinations. The unnamed narrator describes how in the next state over, black people must wear tracking devices. The novel draws its power from this unnamed man’s love for his family, particularly for his biracial son, Nigel. The narrator loves his son so much it seems he can’t even see him. What he does see is the boy’s figure outlined and defined by all the lurking dangers to his person and his potential. Our narrator is especially worried because of the metastasizing birthmark that cover his son’s body is differently sized tokens of color that remind the world that Nigel is black, a fate as unfortunate as any in the mind of this father.”

Michael Schaub from Npr stated *We Cast A Shadow* have two great loves. The first is his wife, Penny, whom he loves so much. The second is his biracial son, Nigel, a sensitive and intelligent 11 year old with a sweet disposition and child like curiosity. Nigel was perfect according to father. Nigel’s father can’t stand the dark birthmark on his face. He was worried that a dark-skinned child could expect life in dim light. *We cast a shadow* is the striking and bold debut

novel of New Orleans writer Ruffin. This is at the same time a pitch-black comedy, chilling horror tale, and an endless perceptive novel about the possible future of race in America.

Another novel critics, Renee Graham of the *Globe Columnist*, claims *We Cast A Shadow* is African-American story, with the savage intelligence of father's love story and how he tries to protect his son in a country that devours black people's lives through violence, incarceration, and poverty. This story also shows how the character of a father who struggles to procedure Nigel, his biracial son to turn white. *We Cast A Shadow* is really interesting and worth inverting in and makes us think hard about the times are living in right now.

This research mainly discusses racial discrimination and struggle against racial discrimination as seen in *We Cast A Shadow*. To maintain the authenticity of this research and avoid plagiarism, the writer has conducted a literature study to find other research related to this novel. Based on literature study, the study of *We Cast A Shadow* by Maurice Carlos Ruffin has never been done.

1.4.2. Theoretical Framework

In doing the literary research, the writer needs a theory to analyze the literary work. Research theory serves as helping the writer to understand the research problem and the writer can formulate research questions. Based on the title of this research, the writer chooses discrimination theory to analyze *We Cast A Shadow*.

1.4.2.1. Discrimination

According to Bowling (2002: 38) Discrimination consist of unequal, unfavorable and unjustifiable treatment based on a person's 'race', sex, gender,

ethnicity, culture, religion, language, class, sexual orientation, age, physical disability or any other improper ground. It includes refusal to offer employment, pay fair wages, to provide housing or medical treatment or to provide a commercial or social life.

From Bowling quotes, it is clear then that discrimination can encompass every aspects of life, which can definitely happen to anyone in the world. The discrimination action can cover all aspects of life, because pf all people can be discriminant against, not only for the minority but also among the majority as well. This doesn't just happen to the black race. Basically, discrimination can occur everyone in any part of the world, no matter who that person is and where that person is.

In addition, Sears (1985) stated that discrimination is behaviour of accepting or rejecting a person based on group membership. Influenced by group members is the group's position in the community.

Meanwhile , Hudainah (2003: 228) explains that discrimination is a behaviour directed at someone who is based solely on members of the group he have. Furthermore, discrimination issue is mention in the Law no. 39 year 1999 on Human Rights that “any restriction, harassment or excommunication which is directly or indirectly based on human distinction based on religion, race, ethnicity, group, class, social status, economic status, gender, language, political beliefs, will be ended by confinement, deviation or elimination of recognition, use of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the life of individuals or collectives in the political, economic, legal, social, cultural, and other aspects of life.”

Thus, discrimination can be mild and extreme. Ignoring someone and referring to someone by a derogatory name on their back is part of mild discrimination. Of the many characteristics of discrimination, the writer will study the racial discrimination in *We Cast A Shadow*.

1.4.2.2. Racial Discrimination

As in L.C. Dunn (1975) stated that Race is a group of individuals who interbreed with each other, a population that differs from other populations in the relative similarity of certain offspring. In other words, race is formed a group of individuals who are related in a marriage bond and have similar characteristics. In this sense, members of certain races may share similar characteristics because they are descended from a common ancestor.

Dubin (1975) stated the human race belongs to one unique species, Homo Sapiens. Current genetics knowledge shows that all people have the capacity to reason, that they are born equal, and that there are no superior and inferior racial. Its clear that everyone in the world should have the same abilities reach the highest level in intellectual, technical, social, economic, cultural, and political developments. However, in the real world there are differences between races.

Samovar (2010) stated that racism is a belief in superiority that is inherited by a certain race. Racism denies human equality and links one's abilities in area to physical characteristics. Racism is related to racial superiority. A view of superiority that allows someone to treat other groups by means of ill-treatment based on race, color, religion, country of origin, ancestry and sexual orientation.

Reskin (1998) stated that Racial discrimination can refer to the unequal treatment of people or groups based on their color or ethnicity. In defining racial discrimination, many scholars and advocates of the law distinguish between different treatment and different effects, creating a two-part definition: different treatment occurs when individuals are treated unequally because of their race. Different effects occur when individuals are treated equally according to a specific set of rules and procedures but when the latter are constructed in a way that benefits members of one group over another.

From some of these statements, it is clear that racial discrimination is only a theory of concern regarding physical characteristics. However, the human appearance was different. Problems arise if there is a claim that this physical appearance is closely related to moral, intellectual and other non-physical attributes or abilities. Thus, race becomes an unpleasant treatment for discriminating beliefs and attitudes towards other people who have different physical characteristics. Of the several forms of racial discrimination, racial discrimination can be direct and indirect.

1. Direct discrimination

Bowling (2002: 39) stated that a distinction can be made between direct discrimination, among the best examples of direct discrimination are those that have been perpetuated by law. South Africa's apartheid legal system, for example, forbidding black people to vote or participate in political process, creating separate 'white' residential areas and schools, and also prohibits 'mixed marriages'.

Thus, Bowling explain that direct discrimination occurs when someone is treated less favorably than another because of a protected characteristic they have or are perceived because they are related to someone who has a protected characteristic, it may also take the form of harassment. This occurs when someone treats worse than others in the same situation because of race. For example, at work, when employees receive goods or service. Its possible to be discriminated against by someone who has the same protected characteristics as the employee.

2. Indirect discrimination

Bowling (2002: 40) state that indirect discrimination or also known as subtle discrimination. Discrimination does not directly refer to treatment that may be described as 'equal' in the formal sense between different group, but discriminatory in its actual effect on certain groups. Indirect discrimination occurs where a group has condition, rules, policies, or even practices in the company, which apply to everyone, but especially harm those who have protected characteristics. Therefore, unlike direct discrimination, this type discrimination works smoothly and tends to go undetected. Most of the action deliberate but apparently hidden and almost unrecognizable.

Indirect an example of discrimination is the ability test used in job applications disqualify certain ethnic. For also example at work, if a company says that employees should not wear hats or other headgear in the workplace, as this is likely to have an unfair impact on people of certain racial backgrounds.

Meanwhile, Liliweri (2005:221) stated that discrimination into two thing. Direct Discrimination is the act of restricting a particular area, such as occupation,

settlement, public facilities, etc. When decisions are directed by prejudices against certain groups and indirect discrimination is exercised through the creation of certain racial/ethnic policies to freely relate to other racial/ethnic groups which has discriminatory rules and procedures or not. Direct discrimination has a direct impact on the individual, whereas indirect discrimination takes place under the current rules and makes the victim. Discrimination in this study are related to physical violence and coercion. The cause of discrimination are social status, fierce competition in various fields of economic life, pressure and intimidation, usually done by the majority to the minority, and the difference of status between a normal person and a person who has family.

1.4.2.3. Struggle against Racial Discrimination

Robert Blauner (1997) stated in Neubeck, racism is the principle of social discrimination in which groups are seen as inferior or different in biological characteristics and are then suspected of being socially and physically exploited, controlled, and oppressed by superordinate groups.

Liliweri (2009) stated that racism is idea of differentiating human beings based on the characteristics of these physical attributes later made humans establish hierarchies inn society. White people were considered upper class citizens, as opposed to black people who were considered second class citizens. This has an effect on stratification in various fields, such as the social, economic, and politic fields. In addition, the existence of authority tends to destroy human self-esteem based on race, where black people tend to be considered poorer, not got at being business leaders, lazier than white people.

From the two explanations above, it can be concluded that racism is act of difference, class grouping that has an impact on human life socially, economically, politically, educationally, etc. Of the social inequality that occurs as a result of racism resulting in a struggle against from a society that experiences discrimination as ever written in the theory struggle against racial discrimination.

According to Jalata (2002), “African-American racial struggle is a form of struggle caused by slavery experienced by them that affects social structural, historical, and social factors. Jalata also suggested the movement or struggle of the African-American race developed as a cultural, intellectual, ideological, and political position to American apartheid and also social development. African-American nationalism developed as a mass movement during the mid-20th century as a cultural, intellectual, ideological, and political movement to achieve civil equality, human dignity, and development by overthrowing white racial and colonial dictatorship”. There are various form of African-American struggle to fight racial discrimination including:

1. Economic

Jalata (2002) says that, although the African-American are made up of several rich and poor communities, their position is still underestimated. But the African-American have the power to a strong economy and change themselves fundamentally. Black people are highly participating with a higher rate than white people with the same socioeconomic status and the same position. Although the socioeconomic gap between blacks and whites remains very widening, significant progress towards the most open forms of racial discrimination in economic and job has gradually become strong evidence to rise.

2. Politic

Aristotle (Janet.2016) identifies humans as political beings, where the position of society as a political community is seen to exist naturally. So Aristotle sees human relationships in groups or society as a creation of nature and man, he is seen as a political animal.

Antonio Giddens (Baiq. 2010:4) stated that social movements as collective efforts to pursue common interest or movements that achieve common goals or collective movements through collective action (action collective), outside the established circle of institutions.

So political struggle is an effort for social change using socio-political movements, in the form of organized movements that are recognized by the masses to achieve a goal.

According to Jalata (2002), politically conscious freedmen and their children used different platforms to fight against racial slavery and to promote civil equality. In a political world will find visionary and democratic leaders to create a multicultural, just society where all people can live freely together, live as brothers and sisters and where everyone will respect the dignity and values of human personality. Through this movement formed organization or social group such as activists, communities to defend the truth.

3. Education

Paulo Freire (1999) A philosopher of education who is committed to eliminate human inequality in society, because there are still many humans who are limited in their freedom so they are not can develop human values. Humans

are being free but imprisoned in various lives social so that humans lose their consciousness to be creative and develop its humanity. But the implementation of the principle Justice has not been fully equality implemented in society.

Jalata (2002) argues that the African-American antebellum scholars wrote several, magazines, newspaper, and journal that later helped build Black cultural memory and popular historical consensus. These scholars and activists, although fighting racial slavery and segregation, also attempted to capture intellectually the past African cultural experience, evaluated the negative and positive sciences of African and rejected American racist cultural elements and structures. They produced an alternative knowledge that laid the foundation of an Afrocentric scholarship, the paradigm that promotes the idea of multicultural society. The educated class and other activists who were previously isolated from slaves found a fertile social ground in which they would sow their ideas of social change and struggle. African-American also raises the standard of education and strong skills so that African-American can be appreciated and equaled by the people.

4. Motivation

Motivation is something people have in their life. This stimulates them to do something that will affect their life or fulfill their desires. According to General Psychology states that motivation is a general term that refers to an arrangement individual behaviour as an inner need or impulse that stimulates a person to satisfy its needs or to achieve the desired goals (Crow, 1973: 132). The motivation can be spurring someone to do something to achieve what they want. Advanced function of an Encouragement, even when there have been one or two frustrating experiences, is evidence of powerful motivation for someone to achieve is a

significant motivational characteristic (Crow, 1973: 132-133). This theory explains that there must be a reason behind someone's actions. There is an urge to take some action to achieve their goals and fulfill those desires. There must be a desires that can be called motivation so that they strive hard achieve it. We can know someone who is motivated by something will try hard to achieve it wants, needs, and goals. This theory is useful for understanding the people do something, in this struggle. This can also find out someone's goals want by doing things like that. It is definitely have something behind their actions and by understanding this theory can to understand why people do that particular thing.

From the description above, discrimination has many negative impacts, especially experienced by the main character. Therefore, in this study by the writer decided to analyze the types of racial discrimination and forms of struggle in dealing with racial discrimination against the characters in the novel *We Cast A Shadow* by Maurice Carlos Ruffin. All kinds of racial discrimination are experienced by the characters; meanwhile, the struggles take the form of economic, politic, education, and motivation.

1.5. Method of the Research

This study focuses on racial discrimination in the novel *We Cast A Shadow* from the perspective of discrimination studies. This study concentrates on racial discrimination and the struggle against racial discrimination that is depicted in the novel. To conduct the research, the writer applies the method of interpretation and closed reading.

According to Jacobus (2002, p.4), close reading is a significant exploration where the significant is clearly seen at the first reading in a work. Literature is not

a self-proven work but must be interpreted carefully. Even though a work is clearly visible at the first time when reading, reading deeper can provide benefits because it can have subtle implications that are more revealed only after further reflection. The details of close reading must include interpretation as evidence to support reading. Close reading examines details and interpretations aims to establish the overall meaning of a work.

From this study, the writer chose the close reading method to understand the text. Jacobus (2002, p,29) stated that close reading fiction usually involves taking note of details that may be of significance to an interpretation, such as underlining and making an important list of important details that helps to interpretation the story. In doing close reading, the writer underlines and makes an important list of the data that is significant to the interpretation.

In this study, the writer conducted an analysis by reading and understanding the text of the novel. The writer finds the meaning of the text to answer the research by examining words and taking notes in a notebook and noting sentences related to the problem to be studied. After discovering texts about the theory of racial discrimination and struggle against racial discrimination. The writer develops and analyzes the data using silent observation techniques so that the theory can is easily understood.

The details are examined on the basis of the discrimination theory. In discrimination, related discrimination is about racial discrimination and struggle of the main character against racial discrimination faced by the main character. This struggle is a form of resistance carried out against the oppression experienced by the main character. To find out about forms of racial discrimination and struggle

against racial discrimination in novel, the writer searches for words, phrases, and sentences.