

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Reason For Choosing The Topic

Ghost Boys is one of literary work that has written by Jewell Parker Rhodes. It is released on April 2018. Rhodes describes about how children and families of Afro-American face the complexities of social problems towards them and how Afro-American boys grows to understand social problems giving impact to their life but after the death menghampiri mereka. The story setting takes in some subdistrict In Chicago. This novel describe about the story of a black child whose name is Jerome, who is 12 years old. When he was playing with his toy gun in the neighborhood of his house which was lent by his friend. interesting things seen in this novel when police officers at that time were patrolling the neighborhood. then when he saw Jerome. then the police unexpectedly shot him without warning. because the police thought that Jerome was holding a real weapon and considered himself a threat to him. It is one of social problem that often faced by the children of Afro-American. He got shot with the gun by cop because racial injustice and misunderstandings. It is horrible illustration of Afro-American life. They always be a victim of mindset that was formed of social construct environment.

In this novel, Rhodes concern the social issues or social problem that faced by American society that still happening today; there are poverty, violence, crime, and racial discrimination. Generally social problems are part of basically every society. These problems occur partly due to the fact that people share the

environment they live in, and as a result, conflicts arise in their daily lives. It can also be argued that social problems affect people that live together in a given society but at varying intensities, since a problem can not influence people in equal measure. In case of the United States, there are many social challenges affecting the citizens that states and central governments have to address respectively. These problems affect both the rich and the poor, depending on the nature and intensity of the problem itself.

Rhodes achieved many award for this novel, such as New York Times bestseller 2018, the winner Kids' Indie Next Pick 2018, best Children's books of the year so far: ages 9 to 12 in Amazon, and NAIBA (New Atlantic Independence Booksellers Association) book of the year Winner 2018. Therefore, the writer assume that this novel great to analyze. Jewell Parker Rhodes was born and raised in Manchester which a largely African-American neighborhood on the North side of Pittsburgh in 1954. She is an American author and educator. Rhodes is the Founding Artistic Director and the Piper Endowed Chair of the Virginia G. Piper Center for Creative Writing in Arizona State University. She is also a professor of Creative Writing and American Literature and the former Director of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing.

The social issues faced Afro-American or Black American where their living in America that reflected from the novel are raised from the phenomenon that happen from the past. In America, the word "discrimination" is one of major social problem faced by them and it has to close with terrible dark in African-America life and history. From the past, Black American's has got unfair

treatment with American society especially white American. It had already happen since 1990s after the slavery period. they wish a freedom, a proper job, and a better life in their life. In addition the black Americans slaves in Southern got their freedom after the civil war through the thirteenth Amendment in American constitution in 1865. But though they had been freed, the blacks especially in a southern countries still have to obtain the racial treatment from whites such as, segregation and discrimination. They have controlled from society, it makes they be under pressure as minority. They did not get same right when they are in the same society in America. It pictured an unsparing condition of the poverty and feelings of hopelessness experienced by black Americans in inner cities across the country and of what it means to be black in America where is a multi-racial country.

Based on it, the interesting of this novel is Rhodes represent the social problems are faced Afro-American. The Writer also interested to analyze *Ghost Boys* because based on trueface in America, the social problem that reflected in the novel also still happening today. In this literary works the writer hope, we should aware towards what happen to Afro-American faced it is our duty together to solve it. This analysis looks carefully to the effects of social Problems in *Ghost Boys*.

1.2 The Objective and Scope of The Study

The writer uses the object for the research is a novel *Ghost Boys* that written by Jewel Parker Rhodes. This research needs to find out about the social problem of Afro-American issues happened in 21th century, especially in Chicago

and the effects of the social problems toward the black American as reflected on the novel. It is needed to find the elements in the novel that are giving insight to acknowledge what happened in the past period. The analyses used for this research is sociology approach. There are two objectives of this research:

1.2.1 To describe social problem facing Afro-American in America as reflected in *Ghost Boys* by Jewel Parker Rhodes.

1.2.2 To describe the effects of social problem toward Afro-American as reflected in *Ghost Boys* by Jewel Parker Rhodes.

In America there are many social problems that they have to face. For the scope of study this research, the writer limits and focuses on the social problems facing African Americans and the effects of social problems depicted in the novel by Rhodes the writer limit the problems to analyze the social problems and the effect towards Afro-American in America that it illustrated in *Ghost Boys*.

1.3 Formulation of The Problem

According to the theory and the problem in this research formulate as:

1.3.1 How are the Social problem facing Afro-American in America as reflected in *Ghost Boys* by Jewel Parker Rhodes?

1.3.2 What the effects of social problem toward Afro-American as reflected in *Ghost Boys* by Jewel Parker Rhodes?

1.4 Review of Related Literature

1.4.1 Previous Study

Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes published in April 2018. In this research, the writer did not find the journal or thesis that has been analysed to this novel. However, the writer found some previous researches that related to the topic and have a similarity in this research that have similarity the topic is *The Portrait of Black Americans' Miserable Life: An Analysis of Richard Wright's Native Son* by Dhony Jawandi (2001) He was discuss about the miserable life of Black American under pressure and suppression from society especially the white as the result they do not get same right and freedom which they be supposed to reach.

Besides, the writer has collected some reviews from the people who have been read *Ghost Boys*. In the web site *jewell Parker Rhodes.*, have many reviews to this novel, Nikki Grimes, bestselling and award-winning author of *Garvey's Choice* and *One Last Word* said;

“*Ghost Boys* gently walks readers through the minefield of young black boys who have been killed due to racism, dating back to the murder of Emmett Till. By exploring the fear that is at the core of these murders, Jewell Parker Rhodes suggests ways the living can crack that fear and, eventually, end this epidemic of death.”

Rhodes writes in short, poetic chapters that offer graphic depictions of avoidable tragedies; her hope for a better world packs a powerful

punch, delivering a call to action to speak out against prejudice and erase harmful misconceptions.(Publishers Weekly)

Another review that having credibility to rate a book is Chicago Tribune which responded, “Rhodes has achieved something remarkable here: a kid’s-eye-view of violence and racism that balances innocence and outrage, wrenching loss and hard-won hope”.(Chicago Tribune)

From reference of research which related and reviews above, we can know that this novel tells novel about the issues which still happening today, it is still faced by us what they want to say to us are the image of African-America in society, and how we can prevent the kind of issues of social problem which are faced by them.

1.4.2 Theoretical Framework

To understand the topic of this research, the writer needs theory that supported and related to the research on the novel *Ghost Boys*. In doing of the study, sociology of literature as one of the analysis method that using to get information how the social giving influence the literary work. Laurent and Swingwood state that,

Sociology is essentially the scientific objective study of man in society, the study of social institution and of social processes. Literature too is pre-eminently concerned with man’s social world, thus. The novel, as the major literary genre of industrial society, can be seen as a faithful attempt to recreate the social worlds of

man relation with his family, with politics, with the State. (Laurent, Swingewood p11-12).

We can know that sociology of literature about the scientific study of man's social world and the processes that there is conflict and tension between group and social classes which the literary work be the major of this study.

Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood in their book *The Sociology of Literature* state that there are two approaches for sociology of literature:

The first one is "sociology of literature is a direct reflection of various facets of social structure, family relationship, class conflict and possibly divorce trends and population composition. The last is "the second approach to a literary sociology moves away from the emphasis on the work of literature itself to the production side, and especially to the social situation of the writer.(Laurent, and Swingewood p13-17).

From two approaches above that proposed by Diana Laurenson and Alan Swingewood, the writer choose the first approach used to analyze this novel. This approach useful to analyze the social phenomenon that reflected into the literary work.

In Taine theory, Laurent and Swingewood state "he assign some kind of causal sovereignty either to one or to a clustering of these factors, Taine that is three factors are interdependent: at some times the racial element is emphasized at others, moment, and milieu. The interaction of race, moment, and milieu produces either a practical or a speculative 'mental structure', and this leads to development

of the ‘germinal ideas’ characteristics of certain centuries and epochs,” (Taine, p 33)

1.4.3 Social Problem

In this study, the writer will analyze the social problem as reflected on Ghost Boys. The writer needs the theory to understand of this analysis. According Jhones, Bartlett, they states that,

Social problem is a social condition that is perceived to be harmful to more than just a few people. It divided to an objective reality and a subjective perception. As an objective reality, social problem is absolutely or intrinsically real in that it possesses a harmful quality that can be verified by the experience of some people. The harmful nature of this experience is universal, existing all over the world. Suicide, poverty, violence, alcoholism, terrorism, human trafficking, and many others social problems are harmful wherever that take place. However, a social problem is also a matter of personal perception; that is, whether something constitutes a social problem, it is depends on how people see it.(Jhones, and Bartlett p5)

We can conclude that social problem is anything social condition being someone or some peoples danger. It is divided to an objective and subjective.

1.4.4 Historical Approach

For this analysis, the writer also applied historical approach to know the situation of Afro-American. Russel, he assures that “the critic interprets the poem

within the history, or contemporary frame of reference, behind the poem. In other words, Historical approach is one of the method to analysis literary work in which the author and the reader comprehend the message of the literary work by remembering the moment/historic moment a long with the literary work written“(Russel,1966 p52).

Another perspective from Griffith he said that, “method studying literature by period and movement. This approach recognizes that literature is phenomena methods of composition, subject matter and philosophical out look characterize various historical period” (Griffith,1986 p144). It can be seen that to know the background of literary work it needs historical approach to get the fact that reflected on the novel.

1.5. Method of Research

To analyze this subject in this research, the writer need some process to make the analysis is more accurate and appropriate with the data, the writer choose to use descriptive method, according to Stanley, “Descriptive is the describing of some elements to the readers about what something to look like.” (Stanley, 1985 p148) It means that this method used to explain the information and phenomena that found in a literary work. In this case, the writer uses descriptive method to explain the social problem and the effect towards of Afro-American that happen to them.

To do analyze the data, the writer need follow several steps. First, the writer collects the data. It is divided into two of sources, there are primary and secondary sources. The primary source will be taken from the novel itself; it

includes the words, phrases, clauses, sentences, or even form of all statements and dialog in the novel of *Ghost Boys*. Beside that the secondary source are taken from the other references such as books, article, and journal, which are related also supported to the research.

Then, the writer focus on the actual fact objectively that happening in twenty century To understand the problem, the information concerning the social problem and effect to them Afro-American life is very important to know. The writer uses sociology of literature approach, It is also supported with historical approach will be used to portray the society and social phenomenon in the past then will be related in nowadays.

The writer also using interpretation method to get is using close-reading method based on Jacobus (1995). According to Jacobus, the method is that the researcher notes specific use of language, such as imaginary, symbol, repeated terms, pattern of expression, to tone of speaker and the main ideas the writer introduces. The writer takes novel *Ghost Boys* as a subject. In chapter one describe the reason of writer choose the novel. Then, chapter two, the writer will discuss about the social problems of Afro-American. In chapter three, the writer will discuss the effect to the African American towards the social problems that faced by them.