

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five sub-chapters. Those are background of the study, statement of research question, objectives of the study, significances of the study and the last is scope and limitation of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Racism in the United States has grown since the colonial era. Racism is a belief that certain groups are inherently, socially, morally superior to other existing groups, based on what is attributed to their racial composition. Meanwhile, the impact is the inferior groups suffer from racial breakdown that reduces of living the normal life (Brennan, 2017, p. 13). It means that white people think that black people are a source of trouble, a source of chaos, bad people and so on. Black people and white people engage in racism. Blacks were discriminated by white people. It occurs because of the color of their skin. Black people cannot use power and privileges. They are considered as rioters and sources of crime. Their existence is not appreciated and always under the dominion of white people.

Racism occurs in the United States consists of negative attitudes and views towards race or ethnicity related to one another. It is shared by various people and groups in the United States and has been reflected in discriminatory laws, practices, and actions in the United States. Throughout American history, white Americans have generally enjoyed legal or socially approved privileges and rights that have been denied to members of various ethnic or minority groups at various times. The issue of racism seems unavoidable in public life in America. The racism that has occurred against black groups has become a problem recorded in American history. The act of racism has also made a huge impact on every social aspect of white American society (Harrison P. Pinckney, 2018, pp. 269-270)

Mostly, black people is commonly getting discrimination from white people. White people often do disgraceful acts or bullying to black people. The different skin color, race, and others lead white people to do racism toward black people. The white people do not like black people because they think that black people are cruel and need to be avoided by white people. The treatment of racism and discrimination against black people still continues. This unfair attitude even happens in many sectors such as education, living environment, and in many various places.

Racism is the subject of this research. Those happened in the novel *Ghost Boys* by officer Moore. Twelve-year-old Jerome Rogers was shot by a white police officer who mistook his toy gun for a real gun. He was killed by someone who was afraid of Jerome just because he was black. Jerome was playing with his friend's toy gun, Carlos had loaded him when he was shot by officer Moore. He claims he is in fear for his life, Jerome is a thug threat whose threats are such. So, officer Moore had no choice and reach his gun then eliminate the threat.

Jerome, as a ghost, he observes the devastation wrought upon his family and community after what they see as an unjust and brutal murder. As a ghost, Jerome is finally free to roam Chicago to see a city far more beautiful than he ever imagined. He haunts Sarah Moore, the daughter of the officer who killed him, and begins to understand how special and protected white children are to black children. Soon Jerome meets another ghost: Emmett Till, a boy from a very different time but similar circumstances. Jerome understands Emmett Till's story and begins to learn about racism. He begins to see the ghosts of other young black boys. He is realizing that his mission as a ghost is to ensure that there are no black boys who is murdered by white people, after Jerome that he lost his life to senseless violence. On the other hand, Jerome's family filed criminal charges against his death. They do not get justice. After months of trial, officer Moore was not charged with any crime, even though Jerome could see how distraught he was about the shooting. In Jerome's end, he takes on the task reconciling Sarah with her father and encouraging her friend Carlos to tell the truth about his role in Jerome's death to move on to the

wider world. In the end, Jerome has a greater understanding of the history of race and prejudice.

The writer uses the novel *Ghost Boys* as a source of data. This novel was published in hardcover on April 17, 2018. There are some reasons which make the writer choose that novel, namely: first, the writer is interested in analyzing matters related to racism. In the novel *Ghost Boys*, there are many moral values that can be taken as a lesson in our life which is how to live without looking at the race of the group or in terms of skin color. The novel *Ghost Boys* tells the story of racism, racial discrimination, and unfair treatment of black people by white people, where the government is more in favor of white people. The last, Jewell Parker Rhodes as the writer of the novel *Ghost Boys* provides a broad understanding and awareness of the reader about how life and the difficulties faced by black Americans who get racially discriminated against. This can provide the understanding and encourage them to be involved in creating change on issues of racism. So that the writer will analyze the issue of racism that occurs against black people which appears in the novel *Ghost Boys* using the *Theory of Race and Racism* by Les Back and John Solomos (2000).

This study is very important for social life in responding to existing issues. It will be described namely: racial discrimination, and the impact of racial discrimination on black people. It increases understanding of discrimination in any form that cannot be easily accepted. On the other hand, there are five previous studies that analyzed by five writers.

The first previous study used the same source of data but has different theory. This study was written by Halimatul Fitri (2018) from Bung Hatta University entitled *The Effects of Social Problems of Afro-American in The Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes. This study using Sociology of literature.

The second previous study used the same issue but used different theory. This study written by Anita Rahmayanti from University of Sunan Gunung Djati Bandung, (2020) entitled *The Representation of Racial Discrimination in Harriet*

Beecher Stowe's novel "*Uncle Tom's Cabin*". The study using race and a mimetic approach.

The third previous study, written by Chandra Arifin. W from Satya Wacana Christian University Salatiga (2013) entitled Double Consciousness in *The Help*: An Analysis of Black's Perception of Black.

The fourth previous study, written by Cassandra Chaney. Ray V. Robertson from Louisiana State University & Lamar University (2013) entitled Racism and Police Brutality in America (Journal of African American Studies).

The last previous study, written by Amalia Putri Maurilla (2015) entitled Racial Discrimination in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* (Journal of English Language and Literature).

1.2 Statement of Research Question

This study will be focused on acts of discrimination that occur to black people to reveal the conditions they experience in the novel *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes. Related to the background of the research above, the research questions are formulated as follows:

1. What are the triggers of racial discrimination experienced by black people in *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes?
2. What are the types of the discrimination in *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes?
3. What are the impacts of racial discrimination on black people in *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

Based on the research questions of the study, it is intended to describe:

1. The triggers of racial discrimination experienced by black people in *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.
2. The types of discrimination in *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

3. The impacts of racial discrimination on black people in *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes.

1.4 Significances of The Study

This study uses theory of Theory Race and Racism, hopefully that it gives the theoretical and practical contributions as below:

- Theoretically, this study provides understanding, knowledge and further information about the use of racial discrimination that happen in Jewell Parker Rhodes' *Ghost Boys*.
- Practically, this study is expected to be useful to find out how to analyze literary works using the Les Back and John Solomos perspective.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of The Study

The study discusses the issue of discrimination, which happen to black people done by white people in novel *Ghost Boys* by Jewell parker Rhodes. This study uses the theory of Theory Race and Racism, the theory is used in analyzing discrimination that is experienced by black people.

This study is limited to analyze the data which represent the happenings of discrimination, the way of black people against discrimination, and the impact of discrimination which are found in the novel.