

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter is divided into five subchapters: background of the study, statement of research question, objectives of the study, significances of study, and scope and limitation.

1.1 Background of The Study

Human cannot be separated individually from others. They need others to undergo their lives. Indeed, they do social interaction to express, fulfill, and require their need, importance and thought. From this reality, there are people who successfully obtain their rights, but there are also people discriminated. The discrimination appears in social construction, either to individual or group. It has various factors that endanger or influence people's right, one of them is racism (Clapham. 2007:72).

Dealing with issue that people often find is racism. When people are born, they cannot choose to be members of race, culture or nation origin, or being white or black people, Asian or American. Because of their differences, some of them classify human by the physical appearance and the identity. Clpaham (2007:72) sates one of them justify themselves superior and the others inferior by using physical differences as parameter, whereas the only capacity and quality that probably classify them.

According to Delgado and Stefancic (2017:21), race is a social construction, not a biological reality. Human creates an idea of distinguishing people from their skin

color, language, ethnicity, religion, and any else, it is called racism. This construction builds racial hierarchies that determine who get privilege, status and tangible benefits such as the best schools, the best jobs and the best services. The race is generally biological and physical differences such as skin color do not have a relationship with ability or behavior in group. But racial differences still have extraordinary significance in structuring social reality.

Racism involves the existence of white people and black people. The white people discriminate the black people or another people who have different origins, nationality, history and physical appearances; this statement qualifies as racism according to definition. Both of colors result various stereotypes linked to their behaviors. Black people cannot hold and use power and privilege over what they want to do, thus their existence always stays under white people.

In this study, the writer chooses a novel entitled *On The Come Up* as source of data. This novel is the second book of Angie Thomas. The first book is *The Hate You Give*.. Based on the topic, Racism reflected as the object of this research in *On The Come Up* Angie novel by Thomas Angie. The novel tells sixteen years old of black girl, Brianna, a girl who fights her dream to be one of the greatest rappers of all the time, or at least win her first rap battle. As the daughter of an underground hip hop legend who died just before her success, Brianna was under a lot of pressure such as economic pressure, unfavorable family environment, and under the shadows of her father as a legend of hip hop.

When in school she also gets a lot of racism, a little example is when they (white people) look at in Brianna and her friend (as a black people). Moreover, it was hard for Brianna to become a rapper when she was labeled a thug at school, and the refrigerator was empty after losing his job. Thus, Brianna poured her anger and frustration into the first song, which went viral the title is *For All The Wrong Reasons*.

Brianna soon finds herself in the middle of a controversy, who is described by the media as a threat and a bad influence for the younger generation. But warnings of expelling her family from their rent-delinquent home, she is supposed to be successful for the sake of his family, losing who she is and becoming what the public wants her to be. This novel does not only talk about a fight to achieve her dreams, but also racism accepted by the main character.

The writer chooses Angie Thomas's *On The Come Up* novel because (1) this novel gives the reader moral values, (2) it can be implemented for our lesson in our lives. (3) *On The Come Up* novel does not tell much about love story like another adult novel. Its issue is very close to what happens in the reality. It tells about racism, discrimination, oppression, the effort of proving truth, and the unfair treatment over the black people. This moment makes the superiors treat unfair to certain groups and they do what is being profit for their own interest.

Angie Thomas' own expertise as a rapper seems to be one of her biggest inspirations when she wrote the novel *On The Come Up*, where one of the scenes in the story she wrote several rapper songs which also told about Brianna's racism. It is very

related with the plot of the story based on her own experiences. The last reason in the strongest aspect of this book is social commentary and also criticism, making aware of current issue about racism, educating and encouraging to get involved to create change (Putri. 2020:2).

Furthermore, there are previous studies which analyze literary work by using critical race approach. Those are *Racism Reflected in Color Blind Novel (1968)* by Catherine Cook Son; *Critical Race Theory* by Robiah Al Adawiyah (2018); *Racism in Benjamin Zephaniah Selected Poems; Critical Race Theory* by Ririn Wulandari (2018); *Racism Reflected in Nic Stone's Dear Martin: Critical Race Theory* by Ary Prastya Anjasmara (2017); *Psychological Impacts On The Characters as Seen in On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas, by Nurulzada Aini Putri (2020); and *An Analysis of The Racial Discrimination Suffered by Edgar Allan in John Neufeld' Edgar Allan* by Muhammad Idris (2017).

From the previous studies listed above, the writer analyzes novel Angie Thomas's *On The Come Up* by using Critical Race Theory. The title composed is "Racism Reflected in *On The come up* (2019) by Angie Thomas: Critical Race Theory". This study is the first research which analyzes novel *On The Come Up* using Critical Race Theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic. Therefore, this study is obviously different with other previous studies in the source of data and the theory chosen.

1.2 Research Question

Based on the background the study above the writer would like to discuss about the six tenets of racism based on Critical Race Theory in *On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas, and the problem is formulated as follows:

How are the tenets of racism reflected in novel *On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas?

1.3 Objectives Of the Study

In line with the previous statement of the research question, the objective of the study is:

To find out the tenets of racism in *On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas.

1.4 Significance of Study

This research aims to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the writer expects to contribute to literary criticism or to give additional information especially in novel *On The Come Up*. This study also gives knowledge about racism on literature.

Practically, the writer expects to give deeper understanding in literary studies, and it can be used as references to other writers about Angie Thomas's *On The Come Up* novel based on Critical Race Theory, especially for the students of English Study Program in University of Trunojoyo Madura.

1.5 Scope and Limitation.

Based on the theory which is applied to discuss this novel, the scope of this study focused on the tenets of racism and how it occurs in novel Angie Thomas's *On The Come Up* using Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic's Critical Race Theory.

Meanwhile, this study limits to discuss the indicators of racism by analyzing the narrator's narrations and the characters' utterances of racism in novel Angie Thomas's *On The Come Up*. Therefore, the writer hopes for the other writers can give better understanding in analyzing this novel by applying other theories.