

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents background of the study, statements of the problem, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and scope and limitation of the study. Those subchapters are required to inform this scientific study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Literature has been widely known by many people and experts. Through the creativity process, an author who not only uses his or her mind but also soul will create the literature. They would produce literary works that discuss everything about life. Literature and life have a relationship. Both of them are impossible to be separated. Life is the source to create literature. There are many types of literary works such as poetry, novel, and play. One of literary works that is going to be discussed in this study is poetry.

According to Oxford Advance Learner's Dictionary (1995 : 890) poem is a piece of creative writing in verse especially the deep sense. Many poems deal with social life, social status, and phenomena or problems which may have relations with human's life which their relation can be noticed. The problems might be from gender, economy, education, art, society, and all aspects of life. An author explores his or her idea creatively to make a good and interesting poem that might include gender, economy, education, art, society, and all aspects of life.

In a literary work, often the people heard or saw the term mimetic. Merlin Donald in *Perspectives on Imitation: From Neuroscience to Social*

Science writes that mimesis is a reflection of life as outlined in the form of literature. This study discusses the black community life reflection as outlined in the form of literature, that is poetry. American public life had been influenced by racism, the racism which is very detrimental to blacks and very profitable for whites. Bobo and Fox (2003:319) *Race, Racism, and Discrimination: Bridging Problems, Methods, and Theory in Social Psychological Research* write that:

We conceive of racism as a set of institutional conditions of group inequality and an ideology of racial domination, in which the latter is characterized by a set of beliefs holding that the subordinate racial group is biologically or culturally inferior to the dominant racial group.

White people still assume that blacks are not American citizens .

A. William, Jr. Darity and Mason L. Patrick wrote in *The Journal of Economic Perspectives*, Vol. 12, No. 2, (Spring, 1998), pp. 63-90 write that:

Prior to passage of the federal civil rights legislation of the 1960s, racial exclusion and gender-typing of employment was blatant. Therefore a lot of differences in the treatment of blacks, such as building facilities such as shopping malls difference to blacks and whites, blacks have never served as a leader in a company or wherever, because white people still consider that black people as slaves.

The power of black people arises to fight against the injustice, the resistance is not only kind of violence but also a form of writing. Therefore, the purpose of the black american movement term is trying to search for identity. The pioneer writer who supported the movement is Nikki Giovanni.

The writer choose "All I Gotta Do" because this poem is very suitable to the condition of the American people, a racism was happening that was very detrimental for blacks and very profitable for whites." "All I Gotta Do" here talks

about white's oppression against blacks. Nikki Giovanni criticizes the government at in 1975th by using her poem, the most famous poem of Nikki at that time was "*All I Gotta do*", that she explained how miserable feeling of blacks in 1975th.

Mimetic criticism has been used by two peoples before, that is Dafna Ganani-Tomares (2007) and Roli Garcia Dela Cruz (2004). Dafna Ganani used mimetic criticism for analyzing tragic art in Judith Butler conception and Roli Garcia used mimetic criticism for analyzing mimetic cross referencing in the Bezan text of Luke.

1.2 Statements of the Research Problem

Based on the background of the study, this study focuses on three questions relating with the theme of black art movements. Those are stated as follows:

- 1) What are the meaning of poem "All I Gotta Do"?
- 2) How are the effects of discrimination on black women in America based on mimetic criticism?
- 3) How the attitude of black women in discrimination era based on mimetic criticism?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

In line with questions above, the purposes of this study are divided into three objectives, those are:

- 1) To explain the meaning of poem "All I Gotta Do"
- 2) To explain the effect of discrimination on black women in America based on mimetic criticism.
- 3) To explain the attitude of black women in discrimination era based on mimetic criticism.

1.4 Significance of the Study

The study is expected to be able to provide theoretical and practical benefits. Theoretically, the study is expected to give contribution to the study of

Mimetic Criticism in literary works, especially in poem. Practically, the results of the study could be use for showing to the society that the author of literary works such as poem, song lyric, novel, short story and etc has been influence by the social condition surroundings.

1.5 Scope and Limitation of the study

The scope of this study is Mimetic criticism and the application of the theory in analyzing a poem, especially in Nikki Giovanni's "All I Gotta Do" The discussion of the study is limited on the words which are relevant with this study employed in Nikki Giovanni's "All I Gotta Do."