

DISCRIMINATION ENDURED BY ATTICUS IN HARPER LEE'S *TO KILL A*

MOCKINGBIRDS

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1. INTRODUCTION

Racism becomes an issue in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The novel tells repression which white people experience. The repression occurs on one white man named Atticus, who defends a black man named Tom Robinson who is accused of raping white girls. The writer is interested in reading this novel because the novel is quite different from any other novels with its story. Atticus, who is a white man is brave enough to defend Tom Robinson, who is a black man.

The writer attempts to describe the discrimination using a library research. In his library research, the writer collected some information from two research, namely "Racial Prejudice in Lee's *To Kill A Mockingbird*" by Siti Faizah (2012) and "Affection and Prejudice in *To Kill a Mockingbird* Novel by Harper Lee (1960): A Psychoanalytic Approach" by Bekti Winarni (2013). Faizah discusses how Scout is characterized as the main character; what the aspects of racism in the novel are; and how the aspects influence the characters in the novel.

In his description of the discrimination, the writer adopts the concept of Marxism in a work of literature. The concept is postulated by Rene Wellek and Austin Warren. Based on the postulate, Marxism can be usable in the study of a work of literature when it describes a social and ideological situation (Wellek and Warren, 1956: 104). To describe the discrimination, the writer uses a textual analysis. The textual analysis requires the process of

collecting the data (Mckee, 2002:1).The writer describes the discrimination through the textual analysis. The analysis shows that Atticus succeeds in practising tolerance for all people regardless of ethnic group and social status.Although at the beginning many people can not acceptthe decision of Atticus, he stands with his attitude. Even, he also educates his childrenabout the attitude.

2. SUMMARY

In 1930s, American society has a social problem, namely racism. White people assumed themselves as excellent people in society. Practising the assumption, those white people did repression to black people. Yet, the assumption would not hold out for good, since some white people also experienced repression. In this case, the story of the defense of a black man slave named Tom Robinson performed by Atticus. The writer sees that slavery in the United States at the time became natured where black peopleare just minorities who are used as slaves. Different attitude was shown by Atticus and his two children named Jem and Scout in treating Calpurnia, a black woman, who worked as amaid in their house. Atticus treated her like his own family;likewise, Calpurnia did not hesitate to reprimand Scout and Jem if they made mistakes.When the day of court session hascome, Jem and Scout come to the courthouse in a quiet manner, they wanted to watch how their father defended Tom at the courthouse as a lawyer. At the moment Scout wasshocked for what she watched about the fact that apparently adulthood was not only about black and white, good and bad. For the first time Scout learned many cases about life outside his world.

3. THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

3.1 METHOD OF DATA COLLECTION

The writer uses a library research to gather data. Library research involves the step – by – step process to gather information in order to write a paper, create a presentation, or complete

project. The data includes references from final academic papers, books and the internet. The books consists of the novel and the literary theories. The internet sources consists of digitised items for the books. The data can be categorised into primary and secondary data, primary data based on a concept of Marxist literary theory in Wellek and Warren's *Theory of Literature*. And textual analysis is useful for researchers working in cultural studies, media studies, in mass communication, and perhaps even in sociology and philosophy. The writer uses a textual analysis method to gather data.

3.2 RESEARCH OF APPROACH

The textual analysis method is based on a concept of Marxist literary theory in Wellek and Warren's *Theory of Literature*. The writer uses the theory of character, setting, and conflict in this study to analyze the intrinsic elements. The writer uses Marxist Criticism to help explain the issues in *To Kill a Mockingbird*. "Marxist criticism is its best when it exposes the implied, or latent, social implications of a writer's work Wellek and Warren.

4. ANALYSIS

Atticus Finch, a local lawyer in Maycomb County. Atticus is single parent who has two children named Scout and Jem. The three of them plus maidhouse, an African American named Calpurnia. Live in old settlement on the outskirts of Alabama, the United States. Atticus family life is typical American family in the recession of America in the 1930's. The time known as the *great depression*. Describe the situation that completely enough at the Maycomb County. A settlement where Atticus family is living. Atticus is a wise father who very loved his children. As a lawyer, he never discriminates a case he will defend, even though Atticus lets his kids call him as name only was not the father.

Atticus decides to become a lawyer for a black man in a case; because of that the life of Atticus's family is changed. For Maycomb citizens, a black man is a second class who is considered as a scum of society and always gets prejudice as a slave.

Censure comes for the Atticus family from all over the town. At the school Jem and Scout are also ridiculed by his friends because they have a father who loves nigger. Not only from the surrounding environment does Atticus get challenges than her own sister, Alexandra. Lawyer of Tom Robinson, with wisely Atticus advises to Scout and Jem that they have nothing to be ashamed of because of he defends a black man, Atticus suggests to Scout and Jem that they need to stand on their own feet and refuse to respond with violence if they receive scorn.

In Maycomb's social life people judge if become a normal person they should have their social life as Maycomb people which is have their routine activity but a family who live in Radley's place have different life with most of Maycomb people. In this case, because most of people don't know about the people who live in Radley's place regularly than they make their own assumption from irresponsible issues.

The black people always in the second list after white people in some activities in court, like when the Negroes waiting for the white people before they entrance. And the other proof was how the sitting place was arrange, which was the white people get in down stair and the black got in the upstairs it means they are separate and cannot mix in one condition or place even in a law area such a court.

From the law in that time, there was a particularly result in a court when there was a case that happened with black which was a judgment black always wrong. There was no secret when black people must be lost in a court and defending black could be something in vain.

Even they knew the reality how was something impossible fought with white. They never loose a hope.

The writer wants to extend another characteristics. First, Atticus always wants to be wise: no matter how young Jem, his children is, he shows his love for Jem by listening to the children's opinion. Second, as a lawyer, he is not picky to handle his cases: he takes the case of Tom Robinson in this case. Third, as a father, he realizes never educates Jem, but he would always let theson learn anything from him. This characteristics makes Scout, his daughter, a little girl who becomes smart and critical. She is determind, just like Atticus somehow. Besides that,Scout is quite brave to oppose things which she thinks they are bad. She has couriosity of crime against the truth. So, Faziiah and Winarni do not seem to see that Atticus is not only a reputable lawyer, but he is also a responsible father.

5. CONCLUSION

*To Kill a mockingbird*is classic novel because, one outof the many reasons, it presents the figure of Atticus. He is the figure who suffers from repression because,as a white man, he defends a black man named Tom Robinsonon a trial. The repression becomes a strong reading experience inthe novel.

This novel teaches readers about forgiveness which can be seen trough the character ofAtticus. Atticus does not get angry at his children when he takes the case of Tom Robinson. It seems like Atticus understand the children well; Atticus seems to forgive the children is complaint. Besides that most people do not seem to dissagree Atticus is decision to defend Tom Robinson. Yet, Atticus does not get irritated easily it seem like Atticus forgives the disagreement which the people put on his shoulders. Thus, the readers can learn from Atticus's a forgiveness through this novel.