

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1. Background of Study

Slavery has existed throughout the world for millennia. Slavery enters human history with civilization. According to historian, slavery firstly known occur in the Sumerian society, which now is Iran, which more than five thousand years ago. Slavery also occurs in China, Indian, Africa, Middle East, and America. After 1619, the Dutch ship carrying 20 Africans in a british colony from Jamestown, Virginia, spread slavery throughout the American colonies (History.com). In 17th and 18th century slaves worked mainly in tobacco and rice plantations in the south coast. African American slaves helped to build the foundations of the new economy nations. Slavery developed, along with the development of trade, industry and agriculture. The increase of trade and industry make the demand of labor to produce the export goods.

Along the increase of human labor, American choose African to be slaves. Mostly, African people are black. Black people are considered like cattle that are of no value at all. They are forced to work on plantations, mines, and other projects that require a lot of man power. The slave mostly did those job. Most ancient people argue that slavery is a natural condition which can happen in anyone and anytime. Few saw it as evil or unfair. But in most of the cities, slaves could be freed by their owners and become citizens. In another country and then make them as slaves or buy them in slave trade. In most countries, slave can be freed by their owners to become ordinary citizens.

Theodore in James (2004:28), stated that:

Slavery is a sin and a curse upon humankind. Slaveholders try to defend themselves with talk of their kind treatment of slaves, when in fact slaves are overworked, underfed, and brutally flogged and even branded for transgressions against their masters.

Based on statement above, it means that slavery is a system for someone that can be controlled or be treated arbitrarily, on the other hand, slavery is a group of people who seeking the freedom of their life, as long as we are the owner, we can utilize them to get the profit without thinking of their needs and freedom, and their status also like the goods that can be traded. So that, by reading this novel with the title is "*Underground To Canada*" by Barbara Smucker, in raising the history of slavery that was happen in North America. This novel gives us the living conditions towards upper class to lower class society.

This story set the time around 1800s when it was legal to use black people as a slave in America. Now its illegal in Canada and America to use black people as a slave. Julilly is 12 years old slave that worked in Virginia Plantation with her Mammy, Sally. Her moms ask her to came in Canada, because in that city, the law did not allow for any slavery there. Her moms want her to be free and she also would not be sold from Sims (slave traders). The slave traders comes to buy a slave because Massa Hensen (cotton plantation) is poor because all the cotton crops were dieing and dissapearing.

So that, the writer is interested in discussing this topic because the writer wants to know more about the living condition of black slave at that time on 18's

century, since this novel also illustrating the history of slavery on 18 centuries and because slavery also part of history, and history itself concerns the continuity and change from which every human being can learn. On the other hand, in order that every human being certainly does not want to repeat mistakes in the past (Sam Wineburg, 2006). And for literature student, after reading this thesis, the writer hope that the reader can get the inspiration in making the literary work, especially that focusing in historical cases.

Hence, by writing this paper, the writer has the purpose is to reveal the historical information that had happened in the past, this historical information also can be benefit for us to explore more knowledge especially about the slavery, and living conditions problem that was happen at that time.

1.1 Research Question

Based on the focus of the study, the writer has arranged a research question as below:

How is the potrayal of human slavery that was reflected in *Underground To Canada* novel ?

1.2 Objective Of Study

Based on the explanation of the problem that already stated by the writer previously, the purpose of this paper is to reveal the historical information that was happen in the past about slavery that was happen in Mississippi, this historical information also can be benefit for us to explore more knowledge especially about the slavery and the living conditions.

1.3 Uses Of Study

By doing this analytical study, there are several uses for the readers to whom the writer desire to share with, namely:

a) Theoretical Use

In doing this analysis, the writer has a purposes, the analysis is made to broaden the sociohistorical approach from Vygotsky that used by the writer.

b) Practical Uses

Practically, this analysis will assist the reader to get more understanding and to get in touch with the approach and analysis offered related to the problem in deeply.

1.4 Scope of Study

In this study, the writer wants to limit this research, concerning about this research, the writer using material object in the form of novel entitled is *Underground To Canada* by Barbara Smucker, and in this research only focusing in the slavery issue discussion and to make this research to be clearer and deeper.