

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Study

This study aims to discuss the issue of fighting racial discrimination through justice that is fought for by African Americans people. The African Americans group does not accept the injustice that the author is trying to fight for and prove that there is still justice in this world for minorities. Several studies have previously discussed this issue and raised the issue of racism. So to support this research, the researcher uses several studies that use almost similar topics, namely racism, and discrimination. Some of this research is expected to keep the discussion that the researcher will carry out.

Martin (2018), in her study entitled *Racism, racial discrimination, and trauma: a systematic review of the social science literature*. In order to better understand the connection between racial oppression and psychological functioning, this study attempts to provide a comprehensive evaluation of studies that explore links between racial discrimination and trauma. Researchers use study selection to find out some of the victims who have experienced this racist case. Researchers obtained data on victims suffering from trauma through google scholar, and data analysis was carried out directly. The research conducted by Christina Martin is expected to help complete this research.

Dozier (2016), based on his study entitled *A memoir of MLK, MSU and Discrimination in East Lansing* discussed the discrimination experienced by Robert L. Green and his wife Frances. Green, who at that time had graduated from MSU and already had a job, had to buy a house in West Lansing. However, an unexpected situation occurred when he met the owner of the estate who was racist to Green. In this study, the researcher used the observation method that occurred in this study of memoirs. The researcher also examines and understands the cases that occurred by the author with the research in this thesis which have similarities in the events and cases that occurred. The case that happened to the author, which is the story of his life journey, has something in common with the case that happened in this study. It is hoped that the memoir on Green's case can become an inspiration for researchers to make observations in the memoirs in this *Just Mercy* book.

Zoe (2020), based on her study entitled “*Racial Discrimination As Seen in Stockett’s Help*”. This study aims to demonstrate racial discrimination from white to African Americans as seen in Kathryn Stockts. Assist with implementing qualitative research and collecting data in the form of verbal expressions and online novels and other books. Investigation. The author collects data using two types of sources, namely primary and secondary sources. This novel represents the situation back then in the Jim Crow law era, where all aspects and accommodations for African Americans and whites are separated for equality. Still, it does not show the equal treatment of African Americans. Instead, the long perception of the African American race is inferior and dirty. For the African American race, it costs trauma, poverty, and death. They still

receive all those harmful threats even after suffering and working hard, even when they have to serve the white race and fight for their freedom. The issues in this study are the same as the problems discussed by the researchers in this journal. It is hoped that this study can help complete and provide ideas for this research.

Hafizh (2016), in his study entitled *Racism in The Post-Colonial Society: A Critical Discourse Analysis to Jacqueline Woodson's Novels*. In this research, the researcher analyzes the novels. The research he conducted raised the issue of racism in the post-colonial era. This study discusses the ideology of white and African Americans people. This study uses a CDA approach. This research is beneficial for researchers because it provides information about American life in the past.

2.2 Sociological Approach

Literature is a work of art, the result of human creativity in the form of thoughts, feelings, experiences, imagination, and the author's experience, using language as a medium. Literature and sociology share the same problem: dealing with humans in the community. A sociological approach examines literature in the cultural, economic, and political contexts in which it is written and received and explores the relationship between artists and society. An artist's culture is sometimes examined to understand the writer's literary work better. Representations of such social elements in the literature may be explored in other cases.

A major theme of sociological literature is the relationship between literature and society, how this relationship can arise, and how it affects literature and society itself. Literature and society show the relationship between people, in which literary works will give birth to creations and imagination to describe real social problems. By this, this theory combines the intrinsic elements of the work and the extrinsic elements of the literary work's historical, social and cultural context. (Mentari and Samanik, 2022). In addition, authors making literary works usually describe the realities of life, meaning that literature is a reflection of society. Therefore, this approach becomes the scalpel used by the writer to look at the social issues represented in literary work (Kurniawan and Samanik, 2022).

In addition, according to Laurenson & Swingewood (2013) there are three perspectives in literary sociology research, they are research that views literature as a social document in which it is a reflection of the situation at the time the work was made, research that reveals literary works as a mirror of the social situation of writers and research that captures literature as a manifestation of history and socio-cultural conditions. In this case, the memoir *Just Mercy* is a reflection of the situation that occurred in America.

Sociology is a division of the science of human interaction. This is its essence. Sociology is the systematic and unbiased examination of humans in society, the scrutiny of establishments and social methods. Sociological exploration on human

finances, politics, faith, family, and community. Sociology is the systematic and unbiased examination of humans in society, the scrutiny of social establishments and methods: endeavors to solve the problem of what society is like, its potential, how it operates, and why it continues. through stringent social framework, faith, finances, political and familial, forming the so-called Social structures, which do not always provide a distinct view. How humans adjust and adapt to particular things in society; the method of socialization, its process of cultural learning in which individuals are aligned and accepted their respective roles in social structure (Larenson & Swingwood, 1972).

Based on the above statements, sociology is the interaction between humans and society and human society and includes Social institutions, religion, economy, politics, one's relatives, and social figures. Sociology is social relations and assumes that they relate to all the different social institutions that are necessary and correct, and connected between people. Sociology is not only focused on the durability of social frameworks and connections but also on the indications and indications of social transformation in an individual and the transformative essence of society. Literature as sociology is mainly centered on the social universe of humans, their adjustment to society, and their aspiration to modify it. It can be viewed as an endeavor to accurately replicate the social world of their association with their family, government, and the nation, along with their position within the family and other establishments, and the frictions among groups and social strata. Strife and stress are also illustrated. (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972).

The discipline of literary sociology shares similarities with sociology in terms of the objects and goals discussed. Its focus is on all aspects related to society, including its male targets. However, literary sociology is a relatively new field compared to other established disciplines such as religion, education, politics, and social change. Despite its ideological inaccuracies and questionable nature, the discipline of literary sociology attempts to establish a corpus of knowledge that explores the correlations between literary texts and social history.

In essence, literary sociology is an academic discipline that examines the social aspects of literary works and their relationships with social phenomena from a sociological perspective. It encompasses various elements of literature, including social class, status, ideology, national affairs, economics, education, religion, and social change in society. There are three distinct approaches to the sociology of literature, which include:

2.2.1 A Literary Work as a Mirror of the Times

This approach pertains to the source of literary pieces. Laurenson & Swingewood (1972) assert that literature is a reflection of the past. This implies that literary works can serve as a platform for readers to discuss social phenomena that occurred during a specific period and location in society. Consequently, literary works mirror the condition and circumstances of social existence in society. Laurenson & Swingewood contend that "the most prevalent perspective considers the documentary feature of

literature since it reflects the times." This implies that the mirror reflects itself, and literary works now mirror society. Scholars scrutinize literary works that mirror society and social existence. It must regard literature as a reflection of social reality.

2.2.2 Literary Work Deals with The Social Situation of the Author

The writer is a part of society and is thus impacted by the circumstances and events that surround the literary world. However, it is essential for authors to be more attuned to the social phenomena that are present around them. Laurensen & Swingwood's (1972) stated that the focus shifts from the literary work itself to the social situation of its production and, most importantly, the author.

Laurensen & Swingwood (1972, p. 18) state that "*the writer's position in mass society, in contrast to their early social situation, is of great importance and can have a significant impact on their creative potential in many ways.*" The connection between the historical context and the evolution of literature is a critical area of literary sociology. Academic sociology examines the relationship between the author's life experience and the era in which they live. Therefore, a literary work is often based on the author's social background.

Memoirs, for example, are narratives that stem from the author's social experiences. Consequently, a literary work typically delves into the historical backdrop of the author's life. Furthermore, there is a harmonious relationship between the author and

their social life. The author's inspiration does not arise from their imagination alone but also from the world around them. As a member of society, the author's inspiration must come from their community. In other words, a literary work examines the author's situation.

2.2.3 A Literary Work as a Specific Historical Moment.

This approach explores the condition of society at a specific moment. Obtaining and comprehending written works is undoubtedly acquired from a particular society at a particular point in history. This standpoint focuses on written works as a representation of reality during that time. In essence, a written work mirrors a historical moment. Most sociologists and literary critics concur on this matter: one studies great research. Writers and their texts, purely because of their greatness. However, it provides profound insights into human and societal composition. Queries about mainstream culture, the essence of popular sociology, for instance, a culture devoid of a message, offer profound insight into human social and societal life (Laurenson & Swingewood, 1972).

In this study, the analyst utilizes the initial perspective, employing written works to scrutinize the social circumstances in memoirs and the actual social conditions that transpired in the city of Alabama. The first standpoint states that the analyst examines a written work. In this instance, the disparity in power is evident, with white people belittling African Americans. They still believe that white people are the highest caste in western countries. The historical impact witnessed in antiquity has led them to

believe in social class disparities in society. The 20th century saw white people employing African Americans as slaves and discriminating against them, a history that persists until today.

2.3 Racial Discrimination

This feeling encourages the community that certain races feel superior to dominate and dominate other racial communities (Amelia and Gulö, 2022), therefore they can oppress other racial communities. Moreover, this discrimination occurs in various community institutions such as political institutions, law, and the world of education which results in a person or group being treated unequally to other groups.

2.3.1. Types of Racial Discrimination

According to Pincus (1996), racial discrimination is divided into three types, they are individual discrimination, structural discrimination and institutional discrimination.

2.3.1.1. Individual Discrimination

Individual discrimination is the result of a close relationship between discrimination and individual behavior, usually the act of different treatment by members of the majority or dominant group against members of a minority. This individual discrimination is usually carried out directly, usually from superior to those who are considered inferior. So, basically this type of discrimination includes all actions and words of someone who is consciously committed to humiliate another race. This action is usually due to envy of something that is obtained by an individual which

makes a person start to discriminate when they start to get the achievement of what they want.

2.3.1.2. Structural Discrimination

Structural discrimination leads to policies by dominant people. Dominant in this regard is the dominance of race, ethics, gender institutions and the behavior of individuals implementing this policy. Actually, the policy making institution on structural discrimination aims at neutral race. However, in fact this policy has a different effect and is detrimental to minority groups.

2.3.1.3. Institutional Discrimination

Institutional racism refers to differences in access to goods, services and opportunities for people based on ethnicity. It can be argued that this type is also deliberate discrimination but perpetrated by a wider range of practitioners. This is because institutional discrimination is carried out by policy makers both in law and government and also by individuals who implement it. Thus, this type has a wider impact on minority groups. The main purpose of institutional discrimination is to keep minority groups in a lower position in society.

2.4 Racial Discrimination in Alabama the U.S

The City of Alabama has long practiced and adhered to white Supremacy and put their welfare aside. White people who act against their rules by grabbing their land with the excuse that they are in power make African Americans people unable to do

anything. The city of Alabama whose residents separated their rights from white people such as prosperity, health and infrastructure that were usurped by white people. The police who are more pro to white people make innocent African Americans people do not have the authority for them to be able to defend themselves to fight for their right to freedom.

The prison population, which is mostly inhabited by African Americans, has shown how the police system can side with whomever they are in upholding justice. The part of serious talk about education, society, government and justice occurred in the city of Alabama, which is the basis of common knowledge for all people has been divided into sections of social strata. For example, in distinguished colleges and top universities funded by the government, most of them are white students. This imbalance has become a very common thing that happens to residents of the city of Alabama until now.

2.5 Bryan Life

Brian Stevenson, who graduated from Harvard in 1985 and earned a Master of Public Policy degree from the Kennedy School of Government, as well as a Juris Doctor degree from law school, became part of the clinical department at New York University School of Law in 1998. In the past, he was employed as a prosecutor at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, Georgia. Since 1989, he has been the Executive Director of the Equality and Justice Initiative (EJI), a non-profit legal organization he founded, which focuses on social justice and human rights in the area

of criminal justice system reform in the United States. EJI aids imprisoned convicts, juvenile delinquents, individuals who have been wrongly convicted or prosecuted, impoverished individuals who have been denied proper representation, and those who have been subjected to discriminatory practices or prosecutorial misconduct during their trials. It also manages litigation on behalf of other individuals. Stevenson's achievements have garnered him national acclaim. He received the prestigious MacArthur Fellowship Award in 1995. He has also authored several manuals that are widely used in criminal justice and has extensively written on criminal justice, capital punishment, and civil rights issues. He is also the author of the New York Times bestseller *Just Mercy* and has won the 2015 Carnegie Prize for Best Nonfiction, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the NAACP His Image His Award for Best Nonfiction. Stevenson believes that attending law school "enables law students to consider the legal needs of the poor and effectively serve those in need in resource-poor areas such as the Deep South of the United States." It provides an excellent opportunity to explore how to train.