CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Previous Studies

There have been several studies conducted regarding journals, articles, sources, and theses that discuss hegemony. More specifically sociology and hegemony are two interrelated themes. Sociology and hegemony are closely related to understanding and analyzing social structure, power, and societal domination. The author would like to mention several previous studies related to sociological and hegemonic analyses that explore social structures, how hegemony is maintained, and how the forms of resistance by the characters in the novel are in a system of slavery against slaves in several literary works.

The first previous study is from Khatimah et al. (2020), entitled *"Rejective behaviors toward african-american slaves in Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad Novel"*(2020). The author focuses on identifying types of rejective behavior depicted in Colson Whitehead's The Underground Railroad and analyzed how the African-American slaves react toward these rejective behaviors. The researcher used content analysis approach and multicultural criticism. The research discovered that all forms of rejective behaviours were present in the novel, including verbal rejection, discrimination, and physical attack.

The second previous study is from Masnuah and Erika (2022) entitled *"The power of death-cast in They Both Die At The End By Adam Silvera : a*

hegemony analysis" (2022). The author focuses on The power of the Death-Cast over other groups that are positioned more subserviently in the novel is the subject of this study. The researcher analyzed using Antonio Gramsci's hegemonic theory. The focus of this research is the power of the Death-Cast over other groups who have a lesser position in the novel. This study aims to determine the dominant group and the lower group in the novel. The purpose of this study was to identify the dominant and subordinate groups in the novel.

The next previous research is from Abbar, Othman, and Waham (2019) entitled *"The Impact of Hegemony and Apartheid against African American women: a critical study of Alice Walker"(2019).* The researcher focuses on Walker's characters which will be examined by the researcher to provide a convincing defense of racism, harshness, unkindness, and suffering that most African American women have experienced at the hands of white Americans. The researcher examines the works through the lens of black feminist critical theory.

The last previous study is from Musmita, Ningsih, and Syafei (2016) with the title "*Seizing liberty in the novel The Underground Railroad By Colson Whitehead" (2016).* The author focuses on analyzing the issue related to seizing liberty. And the author also focuses on the plot, setting, and character in revealing the case of seizing liberty. This analysis using psychoanalysis theory by Sigmund Freud centered on the concept of self-awareness. These are supported by the text and an interpretation based on context by Crisp and Turner.

In conclusion, the novel "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead has presented a deep picture of the suffering and courage of slaves in their struggle for freedom. Through Cora as the main character, we can witness the complexity of the slavery system and the psychological impact it caused. Nonetheless, there are research gaps that could be explored further. One research gap that stands out is the focus on the role and experiences of black fugitives who fought their way through the Underground Railroad, which was actually a people-smuggling system to help slaves escape. Further research can further explore related hegemony. By looking at how the government, institutions, and individuals in the novel maintain control and influence narratives, this research can illuminate the ways in which hegemony operates and how resistance and resistance can emerge from within these structures. This new research can utilize social and cultural theories to reveal the hidden layers of meaning in the complex power relations in this novel.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The research applies Sociology and hegemony using the theory from Maximilian Weber (2006) and explains hegemony proposed by Antonio Gramsci (1982). It emphasizes uncovering and analyzing the processes of political, economic, and cultural domination in society. Understanding the dynamics of power and control in *"The Underground Railroad"* is particularly aided by Antonio Gramsci's concept of cultural hegemony. The dominance of ruling classes through the propagation of their standards, norms, and values is referred to as cultural hegemony. By using this approach, the analysis can concentrate on how the dominant white society exploits its hold on culture, language, and institutions to uphold its authority and quell marginalized groups' opposition

2.2.1 Sociological Approach

Sociology is "the science which seeks to understand social action to explain and understand its course and consequences" (Weber, 1949). Sociology theory serves to explore and guide a researcher to find data. Sociology theory can assist in understanding and then explaining social phenomena that occur in society. By creating a structured and conceptual framework for sociology, sociology theory can assist researchers in understanding the relationships between individuals, groups, institutions, and even social structures in a much broader context. Sociology theory also plays an important role in analyzing the concepts of power structure, injustice, and also social domination in society. In addition, sociology theory certainly has a close relationship with the sociological approach. In practice, sociology theory can provide a theoretical basis for a sociological approach. Meanwhile, the sociological

approach involves a systematic, analytical, and also reflective concept of social reality. For further research coverage, it is necessary to continue from the concept of sociological theory, namely the sociological approach. This is needed because the sociological approach uses a more specific scope of study. Within its branch, sociological approach has a more specific branch for studying literary works. Namely, the sociology of literature.

The sociological approach too involves a comprehensive understanding of social action, considering the values and meanings recognized by individuals in social interactions." (Weber, 1922). The sociological approach explores various social aspects of social order. The sociological approach analyzes social interaction, structure, change, and conflict. The use of a sociological approach in analyzing society has several important reasons, such as comprehensive understanding, social context, critical perspective, and the influence of social structure, and providing a critical perspective. By using this approach, we can further explore social relations, social patterns, social structures, and social changes in society. The main rule of a sociological approach concept is a natural understanding of literary works and society. This is in line with what Peter Barger said about the sociological approach. "The sociological approach is a perspective that sees social phenomena as the result of human interaction and the existing social structure in society" (Berger, 1963).

Apart from that, the last sociological concept is sociology of literature. Sociology of literature is a branch of study from sociology that examines the relationship between literature and society with a sociological approach. Sociology of literature also examines scientific objects related to humans and society regarding social processes. This is in line with what Ratna said about the sociology of literature. Sociology of literature is an understanding of literary works by considering social aspects (Ratna,2003:3). Meanwhile, Fundamentally, the sociology of literature is seen as a reflection or representation of society as well as a cultural product created in a political, social, and historical context. Swingewood (1972:21) states that "The sociology of readers seeks to trace the ways in which literary works were actually received by certain people at certain historical moments. Sociology also has a close relationship with literature.

Theoretically, these two combined theories can help research and analyze the complex relationship between the two theories. Some of the links that researchers can use between sociology and literature are the social context in literature, literature as a reflection of society, literature as a story about society, literature as an influence, and the role of literature in social change. Sociology of literature is a study that relies on social events to reflect on a literary work. The author is free to write opinions and assumptions to express in his work.

In addition, through the sociology of literature approach, researchers can study social factors such as culture, politics, and the economy. Sociology of literature also helps researchers understand the role of literature in social change. According to Damono (in Wiyatmi, 2013: 5) sociology of literature is described as an approach that examines literary works for ways to understand and evaluate a literary work by

considering its social aspects. Furthermore, the sociological approach to literature investigates the relationship that exists between a literary work and the society in which it was written, read, or received. It is a literary criticism approach that focuses on situating works of literature or literary theory within a larger social context. Sociological criticism focuses on the interaction between literature and society, as well as the social role of literature.

Furthermore, the sociology of literature investigates the ways in which literary works impact and mold society. Literary works have the ability to change people's opinions, attitudes, and ways of thinking about particular subjects. A strong literary work has the capacity to bring about social change or perhaps increase awareness of problems that are pertinent to a certain period and place.

When examining literary works, historical, cultural, and social settings are also crucial. Literary sociology examines how literary works could represent societal shifts. For instance, societal shifts, political upheavals, or advancements in technology might have an impact on the author's themes, writing style, and messages. As such, the sociology of literature not only examines literary works as singular entities, but also examines their relationship with the society that produces, receives and interprets them. The discipline offers deep insights into how literary works are not only the result of individual creativity, but also a product of broader social dynamics.

In order to understand the role and significance of literary works, the sociology of literature becomes a valuable tool in revealing the complexity of the relationship between literature and society and its influence on social and cultural change.

A critical literary work will have the power to trigger awareness of the importance of social justice and the importance of criticizing a change. In addition, the theory of the sociology of literature provides a perspective for reading a literary work to be broader and more complex. In sociology of literature, the scope of perspective is complex. We can see the social structure, interaction, class differences, and social conflict. In practice, the analysis of the underground railroad novel by Colson Whitehead can be analyzed using the theory of the sociology of literature. The sociology of literature is also connected with a sociological approach in assisting the analysis. A sociological approach can open gaps for analysis and provide a foundation for understanding social themes, conflict, social class, race, gender, social change, and power dynamics depicted in literary works.

2.2.2 Hegemony

Hegemony comes from the Greek word (egemonia), meaning a form of domination and mastery of class domination over the lower classes. What is being done is forced to accept the new culture, norms, and values of new groups of people whoseclass is far below them. This can also be said to be doctrinal because, in the end, they will become a group that is dominated and influenced physically and mentallyand then follow the system made by the upper class. The concept of hegemony itselfwas born and developed in current thinking Marxism. This happened because

hegemony as a theory was born from the thoughts of the Marxists in Russia in the face of the Russian monarchy. Because of this, almost all debates about hegemony flow within the currents of Marxist thought. But lately, the concept of hegemony is required to be more neutral in viewing various forms of power relations, both in terms of politics, literature, economics, social and culture

In a simple way, hegemony can be interpreted as a form of domination and gives strong influence from a stronger upper-class group to a weaker lower-class group. In practice, this method is carried out by parties who have hegemony which influences culture, norms, ideology, and ways of thinking. This is in line with what Gramsci stated in Femia. Gramsci stated that the supremacy of a social group or class manifests itself in two different ways. Domination (dominio) or Coercion using violence and intellectual and moral leadership (1981:35). Based on Gramsci's statement, hegemony can be divided into two examples. The first example is the hegemony that is currently occurring and the second is an example of hegemony using violence.

Examples of hegemony today can be found in the sphere of social life. For example, in the context of cultural hegemony. Culture is considered a set of values, norms, beliefs, practices, symbols, language, art, knowledge, and patterns of behavior used by human groups in everyday life. The cultural hegemony that can be clearly seen today is in the popular culture of the United States. United States culture, consciously or unconsciously, has dominated world society with significant influence. The way that American culture spreads its hegemony is through the Hollywood entertainment industry including music, films, and global brands. The film and music industry exercises hegemony by featuring famous actors, the newest

technology, and having a large follower base throughout the world. Meanwhile, global brands such as Coca-Cola, Apple, Nike, and the like do this by marketing their products and then creating new lifestyle standards in line with the values associated with these brands. Hegemony is a real form of spreading the concept of great understanding to a wide domain when socially powerful people use their influence (Gulö, 2014a).

2.2.3 Hegemonic Slavery

A display of power and control by a dominating group to sustain a system of slavery and oppression is referred to as hegemonic slavery. The phrase "hegemony" refers to one group's social, cultural, and economic domination over others. Hegemonic power was invoked to justify the enslavement of specific groups of people, such as Africans and Native Americans, in the context of slavery.

Hegemonic slavery in this case refers to the system of slavery in the United States in the past. During this period, this was characterized by white hegemony and the conquest of black society. Whites created the institution of slavery due to a lack of affordable and reliable white labor to work the cheap, fertile, and abundant land that Europeans discovered in the New World. The slaves fought to overthrow the hegemonic system of slavery in various ways. This case will cause them to become obedient because hegemony takes place through various complex ways to enter their lives. Hegemony is a comprehensive process that involves all of a society's interactions, activities, and experiences (Williams 1977). Hegemony can take place in various ways such as the construction of the spread of ideology, production, and distribution of culture, oppression and repression, and persuasion and consensus.

Hegemony in the era of slavery also spread to the cultural realm of society. White people create cultural constructions that are applied in the social life of society. Gramsci developed the concept of cultural hegemony, in which the elite constructed reality that was fed to the masses through cultural institutions such as schools, political parties, and the media (Gramsci 1971).

Furthermore, according to Gramsci, hegemony will give birth to submission without resistance because the ideology instilled by the hegemonic upper class has penetrated into their minds and souls. This is related to a moral and intellectual conception of culture that will change this perspective. This is in line with what Fontana said. According to Fontana in Erika (2013:20), hegemony is a formulation and elaboration of moral, intellectual, and cultural conceptions that change people's views to change into a way of life and the characteristics of each person.

Hegemony is a chain of victory gained through consensus mechanisms rather than oppressing other social classes. There are various ways that are used, for example through existing institutions in society that determine directly or indirectly the cognitive structures of society. Therefore hegemony is essentially an attempt to lead people to judge and view social problems within a specified framework, (Patria & Andi Arief, 2003: 120-121).

In short, hegemony is a domination of the power of the dominant social class over the non-dominant social class. The practice is carried out through a structured intellectual leadership system that is supported by oppression. In another point of view, hegemony can be explained as domination control using violence or non-

violence, so that ideas that are indoctrinated by the dominant group against non-dominant groups can be accepted as something natural or acceptable to them.

According to Gramsci (in Patria and Arief, 2015:117) hegemony is the supremacy of a group that manifests itself in two ways, namely as 'domination' and as 'intellectual and moral leadership. On the one hand, social groups dominate opposing groups in order to 'destroy' or subdue them, perhaps even by using armed force; on the other hand, social groups lead their groups of kin and allies.

Furthermore, Patria and Arief (2015: 117) argue that a social group can and even must exercise "leadership" before holding governmental power (such leadership is one of the main conditions for winning such power). The social group then becomes dominant when he exercises power, but even if he has full power in his hands, he still has to continue to "lead" as well.

In a hegemony there are two different views. The first is the orthodox Marxist version and the second is the Gramsci version. The difference between these two versions is in their theoretical approach and understanding of cultural and political domination. Marxist hegemony refers to the domination of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat in a capitalist society. Marxist hegemony focuses on economic structure in controlling cultural and political domination. Marx's settlement of human life is a reflection of economic practices in society.

Meanwhile, Gramsci's hegemony puts a much broader and more complex approach to understanding domination and resistance in society. Gramsci's hegemony is more focused on morals. Moral leadership and moral awareness in which the dominated are first made aware of the hegemony's goals. In a hegemony, there are

two different views. The first is the orthodox Marxist version and the second is the Gramsci version. The difference between the two versions is in the theoretical approach and understanding of cultural and political domination. Marxist hegemony refers to the domination of the bourgeoisie and the proletariat in a capitalist society. Marxist hegemony focuses on economic structure in controlling cultural and political domination. Marx thought that human life was a reflection of economic practices in society.

In the second category, the example of hegemony in this case is hegemony that uses violence. Gramsci stated that the supremacy of a social group or class manifests itself in two different ways. Domination (dominio) or Coercion using violence and intellectual and moral leadership (1981:35). In this context, hegemonic slavery is a form of slavery that occurs when a group or government holds power and controls other groups or societies through political, ideological, and moral domination. Hegemonic slavery can occur through control of mass media, education, and other social institutions. In this case, hegemonic slavery refers to the violence that existed during the era of slavery and also refers more to a form of domination or control of one group over another group through acts of violence Violent hegemony in relations between social groups, where the group is physically stronger or a number of people hold power and control weaker groups through violence or threats of violence.

During the era of slavery, oppression often occurred because of differences in race and skin color. The black race is often considered inferior and also considered
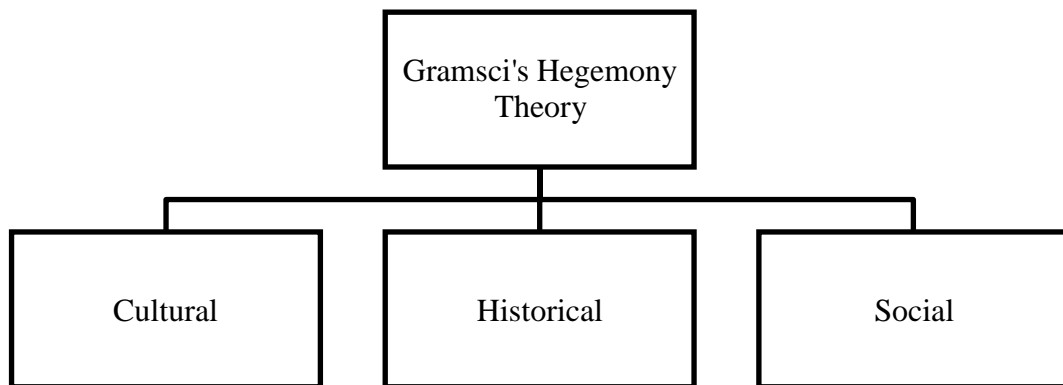
second-class humans. Race is a grouping based on biological characteristics, not based on sociocultural characteristics (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2021), (Gulö, 2014b), (Rido & Sari, 2018). A race is a type of population in a certain location that possesses characteristics that distinguish it from individuals in other areas. Race is a term used to describe groups of individuals based on purported biological or physical characteristics such as skin color, eye color, and hair texture.

Apart from that, slavery by whites against blacks was often carried out because one of the reasons was related to the perception of slavery. During the period of slavery, whites often looked down on blacks and viewed them as mere slaves to serve their desires. This resulted in a social structure that supported oppression repeatedly at the time. Racism was also used as a justification for exploiting slaves. This ideology claims that black people are fundamentally inferior to white people. It is used as a moral justification for oppression, slavery, and systemic oppression applied to Black people.

2.2.4 Gramsci's Hegemonic Theory

Antonio Gramsci (1891-1937) was an Italian philosopher, political theorist, and intellectual. He was born in the city of Ales, Sardinia, Italy. Gramsci had joined the Italian Communist Party which was later imprisoned under Benito Mussolini's fascist regime. His famous theory titled "Hegemony" is considered an extraordinary thought and beyond his time. Gramsci's theory of hegemony involves understanding the concepts of power, hegemony, culture, and social changes. Hegemony is built on Gramsci's idea of efforts to make radical and revolutionary social changes. The ideas of Gramsci hegemony contain points of marginal culture,

pluralism, and multiculturalism. Gramsci's theory of hegemony explains that a consensus organization in which submission is carried out by the ideology of the hegemonic class. Antonio Gramsci started his starting point about hegemony at the beginning of the 20th century in a socio-political context.

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Graphic 1 Types of Hegemony

Some of Gramsci's starting points for forming a theory of hegemony were his reflections on political observations and his involvement in the political labor movement in Italy. Then his observations while he was imprisoned by Mussolini's fascist regime in Italy. During his time in prison, he created and deepened his understanding of the important concepts of power dynamics. Furthermore, Gramsci realized that the concept of traditional Marxist hegemony was too rigid. Gramsci tries to expand his focus to become more complex in the realm of ideology, politics, and culture while remaining in the context of hegemony to maintain class domination. Then he was also influenced by the thoughts of Marx and Lenin. Gramsci built his own way and developed the concept into a wider area. He

highlighted the social construction that includes culture, ideology, and moral awareness in maintaining class domination.

According to Faruk (2013: 142) defines hegemony as something complex, which is both economic and ethical-political. This complexity occurs, because of the principle that Gramsci firmly adheres to unify and perfect the opinions of orthodox Marxism and liberal philosophy.

Gramsci created the concept that the combination of ideology and knowledge of a new belief that is indoctrinated covertly continuously will create habituation into massive collective consciousness. Collective awareness in the context of hegemony will refer to the agreement and understanding that is built in society against the values, ideology, and norms of the dominant class. This will affect the process of controlling the way of thinking and beliefs of other groups in society. This collective awareness plays an important role. Collective consciousness plays an important role in maintaining the hegemony of the ruling class because it allows them to gain support and approval from groups that should be in the opposition. Through the construction of ideology and culture, the ruling class creates stories and understandings about the world that benefit their own interests. They shape public opinion and control the media, education, and other institutions to promote and reinforce the values that support their government.

Gramsci also developed the concept of "historical grouping", which includes various social groups with different interests. A historical bloc consists of the ruling class and other groups that have the potential to join political struggles and influence the course of social change. In hegemonic conflicts, historical bloc groups

struggle to construct hegemony that suits their interests and expands a wider class consciousness.

According to Gramsci, the state also plays an important role in the struggle for hegemony. The state is not only a direct instrument of the ruling class but also an ideological and political battlefield where various forces interact. The state can be used to maintain and strengthen the hegemony of the ruling class, but it can also become a battlefield where other social groups can fight and fight for their interests. Gramsci developed his hegemonic concept of domination and power. Gramsci suggests three levels of hegemony, namely integral hegemony, decadent hegemony, and minimum hegemony (Patria & Arief, 2015)