

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1. Background of the Research.

Racism is discrimination by one or more than one person to others which could be categorized indifferent perceptions, such as skin color, nationality, languages, beliefs, cultures and customs. Since a long time ago, racism has already happened around us. Black and white people take an important role in this concept by seeing them through skin color and body properties. It is supported by Machery and Faucher in their article entitled *Social Construction and the Concept of Race*, “Social constructionists propose that the concept of race, they believe that a classification is based on skin color and other skin-deep properties, such as body shape or hair style maps onto meaningful, and important biological kinds” (2005:1208). This world has been fulfilled by the differentiation of the society. There are lots of different race lives and lots of people lives in racial equality because of the conflict that happen in the past. However, many people still cannot accept the difference. Therefore, the discrimination of race, ethnic, etc still happen currently.

In the past, the slaves got their freedom through an anti slavery movement which was raised since 1800s when black people began to fight the system, especially in the United States after American Civil War. Black people got their freedom after the 13th (1860), 14th (1868) and 15th (1870) amendments have approved by United States government. Nowadays, black people and white people

are equal, for example: the former president of United States comes from black people. Although the amendment has been published by the people in the United States and slavery officially had been ended, but the discrimination to the American black people still deeply imprinted.

Based on *Beloved* novel written by Toni Morrison, the writer sees the life of black people as a very complicated thing; many possibilities may happen because of the conflict. She creates many black characters in the novel due to Toni Morrison as the black female author wants to get respect the black society as the minority in this world. *Beloved* tells us the effect of racism on the white people and especially on the black people, As Nirupama and Laishram in their article entitled *Race and Gender in Morrison's Beloved* states that, "Beloved typically documents their lives as a struggle to claim back their sense of self, which they have either lost or not yet had. It exposes the inhumanities of the slavery system in America practiced during that time" (2016: 212). *Beloved* is pictured as a black woman who is killed while she was younger by Sethe as her mother. This happens because Sethe tries to save Beloved from the discrimination in that slavery era. White people try to snatch black people who escaped from brutality of slavery. The writer can see how they struggle from the discrimination under the power of white people.

There are lot of conflicts that happen between black and white, as Delago and Stefancic in their book *Critical Race Theory* states, "In the semantics of popular culture, whiteness is often associated with innocence and goodness, In contrast, darkness and blackness often carry connotations of evil and menace"

(2001:75). Actually, this paradigm also happens in the society. it drives black people feel that they are bad. Another ethnic also got this paradigm, such as Indian or Asian American. The writer sees this phenomenon currently happens in the modern era and possibility and hard to end. But, in *Beloved*, not all the white people mocked black people because Toni Morrison knows some white people have good behavior.

Toni Morrison was born in Lorain - Ohio in 1931, and known as the most celebrated American contemporary novelist. Awarded Nobel Prize for literature in 1993, Morrison's work has power in generating the spirit of black people. Her eight major novels, *The Bluest Eye*, *Sula*, *Song of Solomon*, *Tar Baby*, *Beloved*, *Jazz*, *Paradise*, and *Love* have received extensive critical acclaim.

Beloved is a novel written by Toni Morison in 1987. This novel was adapted into the 1998 film of the same name starring Oprah Winfrey and Danny Glover. The novel is inspired by the life story of Margaret Garner and later uses this story again in the libretto for a new opera. In May 2006, The New York Times Book Review named *Beloved* the best American novel published in the previous 25 years. In 1993, Morrison is awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. As Martinez in her article entitled *Toni Morrison's Beloved: Slavery Haunting American* states that "Toni Morrison's Pulitzer – Prize winning novel, *Beloved*, call the history back as a ghost American have buried in the darkness" (2009:1)

The writer chooses this novel because Toni Morrison reflects the condition of the black and white people in American slavery era and sees the effect of this conflict in the future. In the article by Plous and Williams entitled *Racial*

Stereotypes from the Days of American Slavery: A Continuing Legacy claims that, “The bad news is that racial stereotypes from the days of slavery are still present in American society, even among the young, and even among African Americans” (1995:795). This statement is clearly seen in the 20th century, the discrimination still happens even among young generations and among the African American people. The writer is interested to analyze this novel because of feminism, slavery, and love in there. Moreover, the writer chooses the novel because the way Toni Morrison wrote this novel and used flash back technique to tell the slavery in some part of the novel is impressive.

The writer talks about contribution of American Slavery to the development of black social life based on the novel. The writer wants to analyze how conflicts have contributed for their social life. As the people who live in this world, many perceptions of color by the people. For example, how the white people see the black, and vice versa. Toni Morrison created many characters with their own personalities and it cannot be separated each other. Therefore, the writer entitles this research as **The Contribution of American Slavery Conflict to Development of Black People Life as Reflected in Toni Morrison’s *Beloved*.**

1.2. The Identification of the Problem.

The novel sets between in the 1850s and 1873, these years portrayed the time during American slavery conflict and after the freedom of black people from slavery system. The writer tries to analyze the contribution of conflict to development of black people. The writer emphasizes the functions of conflict into five parts, such as the development of individual, family, group and out-group

and sees the contribution of the conflict to the changes of their social form. For example: Conflict can tighten the unity of black society itself.

The conflict between black and white people in American slavery era do not have a lot of contribution for the black society but in the future, the writer sees conflict make black society become stronger from time to time. Thus, the entire black and white society as the character in this novel takes an important part to show the situation and the contribution of the conflict that Toni Morrison tried portraying it for the readers.

1.3. The Scope of the Research.

In particular, People should respect each other, knowing the meaning of racial equality and realize if a conflict have function to the development of society in the future.

In this research, the writer focuses on the slavery's conflict among black and white society in *Beloved* and sees the development of society because of the conflict. In conducting the research, the writer uses the theory by Georg Simmel and Lewis Coser to see the function of conflict to develop society.

1.4. The Research Question.

To make clear the scope of the research, the writer emphasizes the analysis to answer these questions as follows:

1. What are the contributions of American slavery to the development of black people?
2. How is social life of black people in American slavery era presented in the novel through the conflict that appears?

3. How are the changes of social form by black and white people in American slavery era presented in the novel?

1.5. The Objectives of the Research.

The study aims to analyze the contribution of slavery conflict to the development of black people, to analyze the social life of black people and the relationship between black and white in American Slavery Era that described in this novel. The relationship is complex because many conflicts happen toward each other and makes the writer thinks the shape of discrimination and sees something may happen for them in the future.

1.6. The Review of Related Studies.

In order to support this research, the writer needs some previous studies that relates to this novel as a medium of comparison to achieve deeper understanding. The writer reviews several studies which are conducted by other researchers in order to find the different point and to enrich the analysis of view and opinions. There are some previous studies that talk about race as the subject of the research.

The first study by Eka Puspita Octavia from Surabaya State University entitled *Interaksi Sosial Dalam Novel Suti Karya Sapardi Djoko Darmono (Teori Georg Simmel)*. In this thesis she discusses about the social interaction of main character into the social environment, and also discuss about how conflict takes an important role in society. This study, the writer finds similar discussion about Georg Simmel theory that discuss about society, social interaction and conflict.

Based on this research the writer thinks Georg Simmel theory can be used to analyze a literary work.

The second study by Sarah Demetris Turner, B.A entitled *African American of Estrangement and Alienation: A Comparative Analysis of Georg Simmel Essay "The Stranger"*. Georg Simmel essay discussed not only the influence of society on the alienation and subjugation but also how people played a part in its own estrangement. This conceptualization of the stranger and its associated characteristics also can be applied to the African American experience. Based on this study, the writer believes that the concept about society and conflict by Georg Simmel is applicable to analyze the African American Experience, life and society because Simmel expressed many of his ideas in essays on a wide range of subjects, including art and literary criticism, women's rights, and city life.

The third study by Elza De Fatima Dissenha from Universidade Federal Do Parana, the writer's thesis is about *Unspeakable Things (Un)spoken: The Representation of Black Woman in Toni Morrison's Beloved* (1999). Using African- American criticism, this thesis investigated how Morrison represented the black woman, especially in the context of motherhood in slavery and showed how she achieved a deep sense of female identity by mingling history and magic in this representation. Based on this study, the writer believes that woman has their own role in society.

The third study by Subhanku in his thesis to reach a degree of Master of Philosophy in English entitled *Treatment of Violence: A Study of Morrison's The Bluest Eye and Beloved* (2010). In this thesis, Subhanku tried to represent the

concept of violence and kind of violence in both novels, in *Beloved* he discusses the violence inflicted on the black by the white. There are also cases of white people who tortured and suffered by their own race. The picture of discrimination and violence make the writer learns about history of slavery at that time.

Last but not least, the study comes from and alas University – English Department, This study also talk about *Beloved* by Using Psychoanalysis Approach which theory by Sigmund Freud (Id, Ego, and Superego), the title is *A Study of Psychoanalysis Main Characters as Seen in Toni Morrisons's Beloved* (2003) by Rizna Intan Rusli. This thesis shows the Id, Ego and Superego by Sethe, Paul D and Denver as the main characters in this novel. It makes the writer knows about the characteristic of the main characters deeper and the psychology of black people in their society.

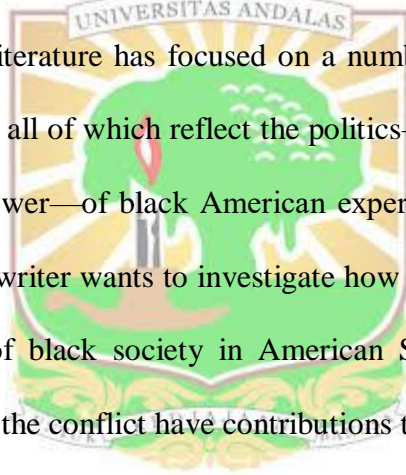
The writer has set similar study from those researchers. Those researches above help the writer in completion all of the analysis. The writer emphasizes this research on the social relationship between black and white people in Morrison's work. The writer aims to show the contribution of slavery to the development of black people in American Slavery Era.

1.7. Theoretical Framework.

According to Abrams in his book *The Mirror and the Lamp: Romantic Theory and the Critical Tradition*, states that “the explanation of art as essentially an imitation of aspect of the universe [...]” (1976:8). This means mimetic is a compatible approach which discusses the literary text as a reflection of society or universe. For the specific, literature also speaks about human, social, economic

also political conflicts. It can be seen in *A Glossary of literary terms* written by Abrams, he states that “literary masters are said to reflect the class conflict, contradiction, crippling, economic and intellectual condition and alienation from of the individual human being under capitalism” (1981:171).

This research applies Sociological approach focused on the Conflict Theory by Georg Simmel and also helped by Lewis Coser, this theory reveals that conflict is not only has a negative effect on society but also the positive one, and it can be used to analyze how conflict have lot of contribution to develop black people life, as Tyson said in his book *Critical Theory Today* that, “critics agree that African American literature has focused on a number of recurring historical and sociological themes, all of which reflect the politics—the realities of political, social, and economic power—of black American experience” (2006:385). Based on quotation above, the writer wants to investigate how conflict take an important role in the social life of black society in American Slavery Era and how the sociology of society and the conflict have contributions to their development.



Sociological Approach

Wellek and Warren explain in *Theory of Literature* that, “literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation” (1949:89). Based on this statement, literature has connected closely to the society. The close connections of society give influence to the development of literature which means society creates literature and literature describes the position of society through the works. Therefore, the reader knows the history and talks about economic, social, political system in certain society.

His contribution is important for contemporary sociology in his point of view of the society, and emphasis on social interaction because he thinks what the society felt each other is different, as stated as follows in *The Sociology of Georg Simmel: Secrecy* (1950), Georg Simmel says that:

“Every relationship between two individuals or two groups will be characterized by the ratio of secrecy that is involved in it. Even when one of the parties does not notice the secret factor, yet the attitude of the concealer, and consequently the whole relationship, will be modified by it (1950:330)

The writer applies his study to show how conflict works in the social life of black people exactly in American slavery era, through their self and literary works. Finally, the writer wants to prove by using this theory, and prove that conflict has contributions to the development of black people.

The Conflict Theory.

According to Georg Simmel in his book *On Individuality and Social Form* states that “Conflict is admitted to cause or modify interest groups, unifications, organizations” (1971:70). And in *The Function of Social Conflict* by Lewis Coser, Simmel states that, “conflict sets boundaries between groups by strengthening group consciousness and awareness of separateness from other groups” (1956:34). According to Lewis Coser in *Sociological Theory* that, “the function of social conflict are: Conflict within a group may help to establish unity or re-establish unity and cohesion where it has been threatened by hostile and antagonistic feelings among the members, and conflict is also tightening the unity of a group”

(1976: 181 – 184). Based on those quotations above, it means the conflict has many functions to the development of black society, through conflict people are able to change and the cultures of society also are able to transform into another form

It can be concluded that George Simmel Theory is applicable to be used in analyzing a literary work, because the writer has found some similar discussion that also uses his theory to analyzing a literary work. Simmel expressed many of his ideas in essays on a wide range of subjects, including art and literary criticism, women's rights, and city life. He describe about the function of conflict and the social interaction in the society. In the result, conflict has many effects on the development of a group. It is not only in negative effect but also the positive one. The writer uses this theory to analyze the function of conflict to the development of black people in American Slavery Era.

1.8. The Methods of the Research.

In conducting the research the writer follows three steps. They are collecting data, analyzing data and presenting the result of analysis.

1.8.1. Collecting Data

In collecting the data for the research, the writer conducts library research. There are two kinds of data that are used in this research; there are the primary data and the secondary data. The primary data are taken from the novel itself, *Beloved* by Toni Morrison and the secondary data are reached by collecting some information from some books, notes, essays, and articles that related to the subject of this study.

1.8.2. Analyzing the Data

In analyzing the data, the writer uses descriptive method. The writer starts by reading the primary data. Then, the writer conducts the preliminary analysis and takes some data by quoting them from the novel. The writer continues the next step by analyzing each parts of the novel which supports the analysis by using the theory and the application of literary theory that related to Sociological Approach which supports the analysis, especially the concept of social interaction and conflict by Georg Simmel and Lewis Coser

1.8.3. Presenting the Data

The writer presents the data descriptively. It means serving to describe an observation. By using this method, the writer shows how slavery conflict has contribution to the development of individuality and social interaction of black people, and how slavery conflict pictured their relationship and attitude each other in American Slavery Era.

