

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1. The Background of the Research

Segregation is implemented by the ruling group, which directly requires minorities to live or use facilities separated from the ruling group (Wishart and Reichman 356). In the 18th and 19th centuries, the United States made the law of segregation several times because some people believed that blacks and whites could not coexist.

According to History.com, in its article states that, segregation became an official policy shortly after, with a succession of southern legislation enforcing it. The rule is known as the Jim Crow law, and it divides everything from schools to residential neighborhoods, parks, theaters, swimming pools, cemeteries, shelters, jails, and homes (“Segregation in the United States”). President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Civil Rights Act in 1964, putting an end to Jim Crow laws that had entrenched segregation. Although Jim Crow laws were officially repealed, this did not necessarily ensure complete integration or adherence to anti-racism legislation across the United States (“Jim Crow Laws”).

In modern times, segregation is still not spared in the lives of Americans. The writer quotes the news from cbsnews.com, which discusses school segregation on the rise 65 years after Brown v. Board of Education. This news was published in 2019. CBSN invited Gary Orfield, a professor at UCLA and the co-founder of The Civil Rights Project, to explain how Supreme Court decisions made in the 1990s caused schools to start becoming resegregated. According to

Orfield based on his findings, in a case from Oklahoma City, the Supreme Court ruled in 1991 that desegregation was a temporary punishment, not a long-term requirement. Many school districts reverted to segregated neighborhood schools, putting pressure on judges to end the desegregation. Since then, segregation has been increasing.

He continued, white students are becoming a minority in the public school system. According to the report, the average white student attends a 69 percent white school. The average Hispanic student attends a school with a Hispanic population of 55 percent or a 66 percent mix of black and Hispanic students. Similarly, the average black student attends schools where 47 percent of the students are black or where 67 percent of the students are black and Hispanic. On average, Asian American students attend schools with a 24 percent Asian American population.

But now, Orfield claims that schools with a majority of brown kids frequently lack the resources and chances that schools with a majority of white students have. Regional desegregation, implementing fair housing policies, educating the school community and staff on the importance of desegregation, training school staff in dealing with diversity, and accountability in serving all students when implementing school choice programs are among the recommendations in Orfield's report for ending the segregation (Runcie "School Segregation On the Rise"). Based on the news above, the United States is still inseparable from segregation.

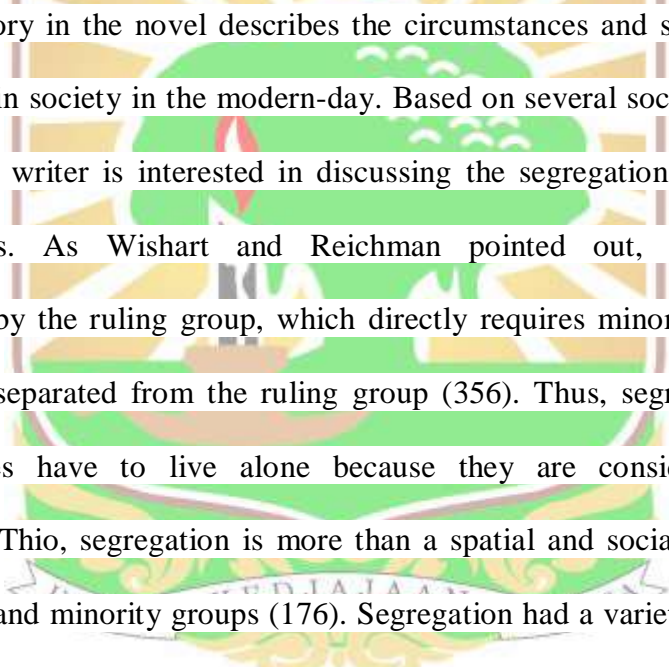
To discuss this topic, the writer uses literary works as an object. Literary works cannot be separated from life. The creation process of literary works may be affected by sociological conditions in a certain period of time. As stated by Abrams, The economic situation of the author's profession, the publication and distribution of books, social class, ideas, and the audience value of the reader's attention to the author also affects literary works (367). This is the ideal idea of the author's views on social conditions. In addition, we can simply conclude that there is a close relationship between literary works, life, and society. As a reflection of social conditions, the author created literary works (such as novels) to express and reveal a certain society and its phenomena and problems.

Literary works can explain various problems in human life, including explaining historical events or social conditions at a specific time and place. It is certainly not easy to carry out such work according to the actual situation. However, certain authors have shown to be capable of producing excellent works in this genre. Nic Stone is one of them.

Nic Stone is a bestseller author of The New York Times with her greatest debut novel, *Dear Martin*. She stated that after the death of 17-year-old black high school student, Jordan Davis, she began to write novels. A white man fatally shot Jordan Davis in 2017 due to a loud music controversy. Stone's novels focus on contemporary social issues from various angles. She often writes to solve problems or explore certain experiences (Stone 171).

Nick Stone's *Dear Martin* is a novel that takes place in Atlanta, United States in 2017. Dear Martin is also a young adult novel, which is a genre that

targets young readers. This novel depicts racism, puberty, and identity, seen from the viewpoint of an African American teenager named Justyce McAllister. A 17-year-old black student struggled to be a minority in his preparatory school. Despite his difficult background and differences from the majority of Braselton Prep students, he made close friends with Manny Rivers, another black student. Until one day he was arrested and received racist treatment by the police. When people judge him without even asking what happened, it made him feel that society no longer cared about African Americans' efforts to succeed.

The image contains a large, semi-transparent watermark of the University of Jember logo in the background. The logo features a central green shield with a white figure, surrounded by yellow and green geometric patterns and a banner at the top with the text 'UNIVERSITAS JEMBER' and '1963'.

The story in the novel describes the circumstances and social problems that occurred in society in the modern-day. Based on several social problems in the novel, the writer is interested in discussing the segregation that occurs in modern times. As Wishart and Reichman pointed out, segregation is implemented by the ruling group, which directly requires minorities to live or use facilities separated from the ruling group (356). Thus, segregation means that minorities have to live alone because they are considered inferior. According to Thio, segregation is more than a spatial and social separation of the dominant and minority groups (176). Segregation had a variety of effects on society in the past, and it still exists when people are treated unfairly because of their race, gender, age, or ethnic group.

To analyze this novel, the writer uses a sociological approach. Sociology of literature is a type of literary research that is based on the author's sociological perspectives presented in his or her literary works in order to comprehend actual social events. Swingewood and Laurenson describe sociology as scientific research, an objective study of people in society, and a

study of social systems and social processes (11). As a result, sociology is a study of social life in society.

According to Swingewood and Laurenson, the sociology of literature includes three types: (A) Sociology of the author or writer, which studies the social outlook of the writer. (B) The sociology of the author's society, its the study of the influence of society on literary works, and it always arises in the social environment, and social conditions become an issue for literary works. (C) The sociology of readers focuses on the impact of literary works and how literary works affect readers as a society (17). As can be seen from the quotation above, sociology provides a wide range of perspectives, which aid the writer in their interpretation of literary works such as novels.

The writer is interested in the novel *Dear Martin* because the novel raises racial issues, which is very suitable for the writer to discuss topics. Among the many racial issues, the writer chose to discuss modern segregation in the United States using a sociological approach. The writer uses the sociological approach to show Nic Stone's portrayal of social issues, particularly segregation, in the novel *Dear Martin*. Therefore, the authors propose to conduct a study entitled **American Segregation in Modern Time Reflected in Nic Stone's *Dear Martin*.**

1.2. The Identification of Problem

In Nic Stone's *Dear Martin*, some plots have many racism issues. The author will focus on one issue, namely segregation. In the novel, the writer observes that the main character's environment is still segregated. Blacks are

always looked down upon by whites. This kind of thing keeps happening and will prevent blacks from developing themselves. Even in schools, segregation still occurs there with the dominance of schools by certain races. He only has a few black friends at his school. Students are usually grouped according to their skin color. They are often debating, fighting, and even bullying. It can still be seen that segregation still exists even though the law on separation between whites and blacks has been abolished. This novel also gives an example of one of the special schools for black people who still exist in the United States.

1.3. The Review of Related Literature

In order to perform proper research, past relevant research must be reviewed so that it can be proven that this thesis does not duplicate previously published work. In this regard, the writer has come across various research on the subject, which will be discussed in this subsection.

The first is a thesis about racism written by Etika Rahmi entitled "Racism in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*" (2018). In this thesis, she analyzes the racial issues in Alice Walker's novel, and studies how black people experienced racist attitudes in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. The author uses the genetic structuralism approach. In order to reveal the racial issues in this novel, the author also used qualitative methods. The results of the study found by the author that this novel show traces of racism in black Americans. In this research, the racist behavior of whites is reflected in the relationship with blacks. Its relationship is manifested in some ways. First, the prejudice of whites against blacks is to maintain the supremacy of whites. Second, discrimination and

segregation are constructed through verbal expression, avoidance, rejection, physical abuse, and extinction. Third, blacks are against racism. Although this thesis does not thoroughly discuss the segregation issue, the writer is greatly helped by the understanding of segregation in this thesis.

The second is a thesis that uses a sociological approach written by Devita Normalisa entitled “Resistance to Marginalization in America As Reflected in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*” (2020). In this research, she discusses slavery and racial segregation that reflected in Kathryn Stockett's novel *The Help*, which mainly depicts the life of black maids under the laws of Jim Crow in Jackson, Mississippi, in the 1960s. The purpose of this research is to discover resistance to marginalization caused by racial discrimination and the factors that cause such resistance. The author uses a qualitative research method. The data is analyzed using Gramsci hegemony theory and sociology of literature. The data analysis method is based on the character conflicts in the novel, black and white characters. The author found in *The Help* that the opposition generated by racial hegemony created the marginalization of African Americans. Also, she found that *The Help* shows that if subordinates can view racial discrimination from a different perspective, they will resist and make them aware of some deficiency in this mainstream ideology. This research helps strengthen the writer's understanding of segregation and the sociological approach.

The third is a thesis by Alfrido Lambi entitled “Segregasi Sosial dalam Novel Otobiografi *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings* Karya Maya Angelou” (2016). In writing, particularly in prose, the author concentrates on the societal issue as an external feature because of the strong theme and atmosphere of

social issues presented in Maya Angelou's autobiographical novel. The author chose it as the subject of this study. The issue highlighted in this study is social segregation as a form of discrimination. The author analyzes the problem by using the theory of sociology in literature by Alan Swingewood. The research results obtained by the author show that Maya Angelou expresses the story of childhood life through dialogue and narration between characters and depicts social segregation in autobiographical novels, which is also her social criticism. Through this research, the writer learned about segregation and discriminatory behavior, especially racist behavior, because these behaviors still exist even in this modern era. From this study, the writer can take several references related to segregation because the topics discussed are the same as the writer's research topic.

The fourth is a thesis by Fajri Khaimara Utama entitled "Racial Segregation in Langston Hughes's *I Too*" (2017). According to the author, the poem is about segregation between whites and blacks in the United States. The author examines racial segregation via the poem's intrinsic and extrinsic elements. For the intrinsic factor, the author discusses imagery and diction, whereas, for the extrinsic aspect, racism is discussed. The author discovered that white people believe they have a better social standing than black people. The whites think blacks are slaves rather than citizens of the United States, and blacks believe whites one day would realize they are wrong and feel ashamed. This research has the same topic, but the object was poetry. However, this research can also strengthen the writer's argument about racial segregation.

Based on the whole review that the author has reviewed, the weakness of the four reviews above is discussing segregation in the past, while the author discusses segregation that occurs in modern times. There are not many thesis that discuss segregation in modern times and the author is a little difficult to understand segregation in modern times. However, from the four reviews above, the author gains sufficient understanding starting from the theory that the author uses to deepening the topic of segregation.

1.4. The Research Question

To make clear the scope of research, the writer has to limit the analysis by focusing on answering the questions below:

- 1) What are kinds of segregation happen in The United States through this novel?
- 2) What are the impacts of segregation on Black people in The United States seen from this novel?

1.5. The Scope of Research

In order to make the limitation of the research scope, the writer just focuses on the issue of segregation to avoid too broad analysis. The analysis also finds how segregation in residential and schools affects the lives of black people. The writer uses Alan Swingewood's sociological approach to analyze the segregation seen in the novel Dear Martin. This research is expected to have significance in the theory and practice of literary works.

In theory, the writer hopes that this research can contribute to academic research, especially in the analysis of literary works related to the sociology of literature. In practice, it is expected that this study will help the next researcher of similar research by using different objects.

This research is different from previous studies because the writer discusses the phenomenon of segregation in the modern era that is vague to see but still exists.

1.6. The Objective of Research

The purpose of this study is to identify, describe, and analyze the segregation shown in Nic Stone's *Dear Martin*, based on the above questions. This thesis aims to understand that segregation in residential and schools still exists in modern life, illustrated in the modern American novel. This novel was written by a black woman in the United States and was inspired by the author's experience. This study views segregation from the perspective of black Americans. This thesis also aims to see the impact of segregation on black people in the novel, especially the main character, Justyce.

