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**THE REFLECTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN  
AMERICA DURING 1964 IN SUE MONK KIDD'S  
THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**

**A THESIS**



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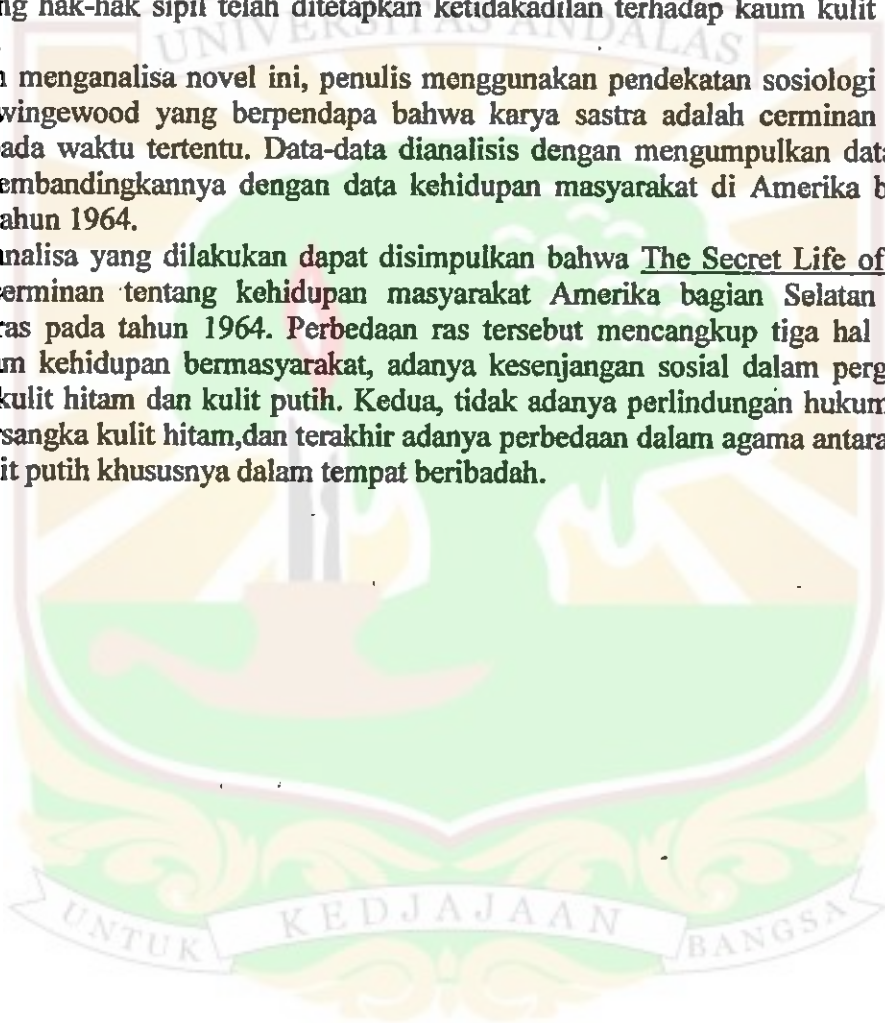
-Helsi Indriani-

## ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini menganalisa novel The Secret Life of Bees karya Sue Monk Kidd. Analisa dilakukan untuk membahas ketidakadilan terhadap kaum kulit hitam di Amerika bagian selatan pada tahun 1964, yang disebabkan oleh perbedaan ras. Pada tahun tersebut presiden Amerika telah menetapkan undang-undang tentang hak-hak sipil yang ditandatangani pada tanggal 2 Juli 1964. Namun, pada kenyataannya walaupun undang-undang tentang hak-hak sipil telah ditetapkan ketidakadilan terhadap kaum kulit hitam masih terjadi.

Dalam menganalisa novel ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosiologi sastra oleh Alan Swingewood yang berpendapa bahwa karya sastra adalah cerminan suatu masyarakat pada waktu tertentu. Data-data dianalisis dengan mengumpulkan data dari novel dan membandingkannya dengan data kehidupan masyarakat di Amerika bagian selatan pada tahun 1964.

Dari analisa yang dilakukan dapat disimpulkan bahwa The Secret Life of Bees merupakan cerminan tentang kehidupan masyarakat Amerika bagian Selatan yang berdasarkan ras pada tahun 1964. Perbedaan ras tersebut mencangkup tiga hal yaitu: pertama, dalam kehidupan bermasyarakat, adanya kesenjangan sosial dalam pergaulan antara kaum kulit hitam dan kulit putih. Kedua, tidak adanya perlindungan hukum oleh polisi bagi tersangka kulit hitam, dan terakhir adanya perbedaan dalam agama antara kulit hitam dan kulit putih khususnya dalam tempat beribadah.



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 The Background of the Research

Literature is the reflection of human life, since we have found many literary works that illustrate about all segments in life. Thus, all literary works can be analyzed in wide variety of ways and it will produce the different interpretation of the readers. Literature consists of literary works. Novel is one kind of them. It can illustrate various events in human life. One of the aspects of life that can be reflected by novel is a historical condition of a society at certain time and place. Actually, there are some novels that can be regarded as portraying historical events of the real life. For example, a novel by Sue Monk Kidd, The Secret Life of Bees is one of the novel portraying historical events. It was published by Viking in 2002. A story of racial discrimination that found in the Southern America during 1964 with the civil rights movement.

The writer analyzes this novel because of several reasons. Firstly, the writer finds an article about Sue Monk Kidd from the internet that tells this novel has been sold more than 6 million copies, spent over 2 years on the New York Times bestseller list and has been published in 35 countries. It was awarded the 2004 Book Sense Paperback book of the Year, nominated for the Orange Prize in England, and chosen as Good Morning America's Read This Book Club pick. It was produced on stage in New York by The American Place Theater and adapted

1. What are the racial discriminations in Southern America during 1964 found in the novel The Secret Life of Bees?
2. How are the reflections of racial discrimination in Southern America during 1964 presented in the novel The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd?

#### **1.4 The Objective of the Research**

The objective of this research is to analyze the racial discrimination in Southern America during 1964 as seen in Sue Monk Kidd, The Secret Life of Bees. The writer analyses this novel to show this novel contains law, social life and religion issues about the discrimination as reflected in The Secret Life of Bees. Then, the writer compares with the historical facts. Theoretically, all people in the United States have the same rights. President signed the civil rights act into law in July, 2 1964. But practically, it did not give any influences for the Black people. They always get different rights with White people. It was the contradictory condition with the human rights.

#### **1.5 The Review of Previous Studies**

After conducting the researches carefully in the library of Andalas University especially in Faculty of Letters, unfortunately, the writer does not find students, researches on The Secret Life of Bees novel by Sue Monk Kidd. The writer finds an article from the internet that tells about The Secret Life of Bees. It's written by Catherine Emanuel entitled The Archetypal Mother: the Black

Madonna in Sue Monk Kidd's The Secret Life of Bees. She states that throughout the novel, Kidd describes some symbols. Lily tries to find her mother's identity and her psychological identity from the symbol that found in the novel. One of the symbols is The Black Madona statue, the religion symbol that shows figure of mother and help Lily to learn about mother's figure.

The writer also finds some readers review about the novel The Secret Life of Bees. As Erin Collazo Miller state in her review, that The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd centers on Lily's search for a connection to her mother who died in a tragic accident when she was a little girl. This novel take place in South Carolina in the 1960s, The Secret Life of Bees explores race and love. She highly recommends this novel especially to women and women's book clubs. Another review in Suite 101.com by Melissa Howard said that Sue Monk Kidd's first novel The Secret Life of Bees is a novel full of memorable characters and have a good plot. She tells that this work is a good novel. Educate because this novel have a good plot and strong character.

Besides that, in library of the faculty of letter, the writer also finds a thesis uses the sociology approach to analyze the literary work. First research is a thesis written by Cory Diana (2004), a student in Andalas University Padang, her thesis entitled The Unfair Treatments of the Black by The White Southerners in 1930s as Reflected in Erskine Caldwell's Trouble in July. In analyzing this novel, Cory Diana uses sociological approach. In this research, she applies first perspective by Alan Swingewood. This thesis focuses on unfair treatment in education and Mob Lynching for the Black people in Southern America during 1930.

Second, the writer analyzes a thesis by Retno Fani (2007), the student in Andalas University Padang, her thesis entitled The Impact Of Racial Discrimination Toward The Development of Pecola Breedlove's Personality In Tony Morrison's The Bluest Eye. In her analysis, Fani focuses on two parts with apply two approach: first, she focuses on the social impact of the racial discrimination on Afro-Americans in Northern America during 1940 by using sociological approach with apply third perspective by Alan Swingewood and Second, she focuses on how the personality impact of racial discrimination in the main character in Morrison's The Bluest Eyes by using psychological approach by Sigmund Freud.

#### **1.6 The Theoretical Framework**

In analyzing The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd, the writer uses Sociological approach by Alan Swingewood and applies the traditional critical theory to support in analyzing the data. According to Abrams in A Glossary of Literary Terms, "Types of traditional critical theories and of applied criticism can be usefully distinguished according to whether, in explaining and judging a work of literature, they refer the work primarily to the outer world, or to the reader, or to the author, or else treat the work as an entity in itself" (51). The traditional critical theories are mimetic criticism, pragmatic criticism, expressive criticism, and objective criticism. In this research, the writer applies mimetic criticism. As Abrams states in his book in A Glossary of Literary Terms:

Mimetic criticism views the literary work as an imitation, or reflection, or representation of the world and human life, and the primary criterion applied to a work is the “truth” of its representation to the subject matter that it represents, or should represent (51).

The quotation above means that literary work as a mirror or reflection of the real aspect in human life. Literary work is an imitation of reality which uses language as a media of the author to transfer his thinking and feeling.

Based on the explanation above, the writer applies Sociological approach to analyze the novel. Sociological approach means general understanding of the development of the problem. According to Horton and Leslie in their book,

The Sociology of Social Problem:

Sociological approach is a general understanding why and how problems develop. Of how people are affected by them and what is involved in dealing with them. (1965: 16)

It means that sociological approach is a critic focuses on the analysis of social condition. It aims to find out the impact of the social condition problems in the society, so that the sociological approach is used to see closer the real phenomena of the society.

Literary works are based on social phenomena of the society. It is comprehended that literary work is not only the imagination of the author, but also the reflection of the society. The main point in sociology of literature is the mirror concept. Literature serves us the mirror based on evidences, facts, and also full of



imagination. Sociological approach also has relationship with the author, whether the author launches his/her works by imagination and evidence, as Leo Lowenthal states in The Sociology of Literature by Alan Swingewood and Diana Laurenson:

We learn both of the nature of society and the ways individuals experienced it, through the fictional characters who see and record not only the reality around them, but their hopes, wishes, dreams, and fantasies (16)

The essence of the sociological approach is a general understanding of why and how the problem develops, of how people get affected by them and what are involved in dealing with them. In other words, the sociological approach is an approach to find meaning of imaginary in literary works that learns about the society, social class, love affair, religion, nature, etc. Sociological approach can be used to develop what author sees within society, which is delivered in his/her own style. Laurenson and Alan Swingewood in their book The Sociology of Literature state that there are three perspectives related to Sociology of Literature. The first perspective is “Sociology of literature is a direct reflection of various facets of social structure, family relationship, class conflict and possibly divorce trends and population composition.” (13) This quotation means that, sociology of literature is a reflection of social condition. Sociology tries to analyze literary work as a reflection of the social condition at the time the work was written.

The second perspective is “the second approach to a literary sociology moves away from the emphasis on the work of literature itself to the production side, and especially to the social situation of the writer.” (17) From the quotation

above, it can be concluded that the writer and his work is related each other. Usually the writer will relate his/her work to the patronage and the cost of production. Here, the patronage determines how the works are published.

The third perspective is “one demanding a high level of skills, attempts to trace the ways in which a work of literature is actually received by a particular society at a specific historical movement” (21) the third perspective concern to the paradigm of the people to the literary work. This perspective influenced by the historical movement. It means that in understanding the literary work, it relates to the time where the readers live.

The three perspectives above may be used currently in a literary research, or we may also choose one of them. The complete understanding will be achieved if we use the perspective concurrently in conducting the research. Alternatively, we can choose one of them if we want to get the deepest point.

From the three perspectives proposed by Alan Swingewood, the writer sees The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd deals with the first perspective to analyze this novel, because this novel completely transforms the social and historical situation of the writer’s experience to their character. As Alan Swingewood says in his book:

It is the taste of sociology of literature to relate the experience of the writer’s imaginary characters and situations to the historical climate from which they derive. He has to transform the private equation of theme and stylistic means into social equation.

(1970; 14)

The quotation implies that the story is derived from Sue Monk Kidd's own observation in her life. The writer transforms the situation through her imaginary characters. Kidd shows her experience of historical moment and socio-cultural situation of racial discrimination as reflection of racial discrimination in Southern America during 1964. The significance of this theory is to show the appropriate connections between the literary work and its society. The related of Sue Monk Kidd's experience to her work is really shown in a special note in the last part of the novel, A Conversation with Sue Monk Kidd:

Yet despite the African-American women who prominently populated the world of my childhood, there were enormous racial divides. I vividly remember the summer of 1964 with its voter registration drives, boiling racial tensions, and the erupting awareness of the cruelty of racism. I was never the same after that summer. I was left littered with memories I could not digest. I think I knew even back then that one day I would have to find a kind of redemption for them through writing. When I began writing The Secret Life of Bees, I set it during the summer of 1964 against a civil rights backdrop. It would have been impossible for me to do otherwise. (4)

The quotation above really shows how Sue Monk Kidd improves her childhood experience when Black people in 1964 register their name to vote with boiling racial tensions. Kidd makes The Secret Life of Bees from the real condition at the time, setting during the summer of 1964 in a civil rights backdrop

to represent Black people in Southern and the racial discrimination of Black people by the White people.

## **1.7 The Methods of the Research**

### **1.7.1 Collecting the data**

In this research the writer applies qualitative research to collect the data by doing library research. The writer divides the data in two categories which are primary data and secondary data. For primary data the writer uses novel The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd. Then, the secondary data are the relevant books, journals, articles that are related to this novel and the theory

### **1.7.2 Analyzing the Data**

In analyzing the data, the writer begins by reading the novel first to get any evident that is related with the research. After that, the writer tries to find out the relationship between the content of the novel with the social condition in Southern America in 1964 to get the correlation between the novel and the social condition related to social fact and racial discrimination in Southern America 1964 because in this study the writer uses mimetic approach.

### **1.7.3 Presenting the Research**

In presenting the research, the writer applies qualitative method from Bodgan "Qualitative is descriptive" (1982:28). By this method, the writer presents the data descriptively in the form analysis. Descriptive method is used to present the result of the analysis by quoting the sentence from the novel relevant to the analysis.

## CHAPTER II

### PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

This chapter is used to explain a literary work based on several elements that build a novel. Those elements compose the novel as a unity and cannot be separated each other. They are character, setting, plot, theme, and point of view. In this research, the writer will focus on the explanation of each element that builds up the novel in order to give a brief explanation about the novel.

#### 2.1 Characters

Characters are fundamental elements of fiction. As stated in A Glossary of Literary Terms

Characters are the persons represented in a dramatic or narrative work, who are interpreted by the reader as being endowed with particular moral, intellectual, and emotional qualities by inferences from what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it- the dialogue- and from what they do-the action (1999:32-33)

There are two types of characters; major and minor characters. Major character in literature is character that plays a large role in the story. Minor characters are the people in a story who are not the main point of the story, but still interact with or grab the attention of those main characters.

The Secret Life of Bees creates many characters, but the writer focuses the analysis on major and minor character. The writer describes the several characters

that play significant and important role in supporting the research. Here are some characters in The Secret Life of Bees.

### **2.1.1 Major Charactersa**

#### **2.1.1.1 Lily Mellisa Owen**

Lily Owens is a fourteen year old girl. She is the main character of this novel. Lily is a narrator in The Secret Life of Bees. Lily has lived alone with her cruel father since her mother's mysterious death ten years ago. She always feels she kill her mother and think her mother hate her, because as far as she remembers when she was four, she shot her mother by accident. She is ridden by guilt, loss, and confusion about her mother. Her father tells that her mother, Deborah, actually left them and it is true that Lily kill her mother. Lily disagree and run away with her Black housekeeper Rosaleen as her mother figure, she helps her escape and brings Rosaleen on a journey. Lily tries to learn about her mother in Rosaleen character, as seen in the novel;

I got barred because I didn't have a mother, a grandmother, or even a measly aunt to present me with a white rose at the closing ceremony. Rosaleen doing it was against the rules. I'd cried till I threw up in the sink. (9)

### **2.1.2 Minor Characters**

#### **2.1.2.1 Rosaleen**

Rosaleen is African-American woman who is not certain of her age. Rosaleen is Black people who get violence by White people. She becomes the Owens family's housekeeper after Lily's mother dies. She loves Lily very much.

She is a large and temperament. Her temperament showed when she gets unfair treatment with White people, as seen in the novel;

There was Rosaleen, grabbed and thrashing side to side, swinging the men like pocketbooks on her arms, and the men yelling for her to apologize and clean their shoes. (32)

#### 2.1.2.2 T. Ray Owens

T. Ray is Lily's father, he pulled Rosaleen of the peach orchard where she worked as one of his picker into his housekeeper. After his wife left him and later died, he became a bitter and resentful man. He abuses and punishes Lily. He is the novel's antagonist, throughout the novel:

He had orneriness year-round, but especially in the summer, when he worked his peach orchards daylight to dusk. Mostly I stayed out of his way. His only kindness was for Snout, his bird dog, who slept in his bed and got her stomach scratched anytime she rolled onto her wiry back. (3)

T. Ray is a cruel man who pays little attention to Lily. He always yell and disciplining her. T. Ray makes Lily's life miserable and will not tell her anything about her mother except that Lily was responsible for her death.

#### 2.1.2.3 Deborah Owens

Deborah is Lily's mother, who died when Lily was only four years old. She grew up in Richmond, Virginia, where August Boatwright worked as her housekeeper. She moved to Sylvan and marry with T. Ray to discovered her

pregnant. After Lily's birth, Deborah depression with T. Ray, she left T. Ray and Lily to live with the Boatwright. As August said in the novel:

She said she was leaving T. Ray that she had to leave home. She wanted to know if she could stay with us here for a few months till she figured out where to go. Of course, I said, that would be fine. When I picked her up at the bus station, she didn't even look like herself. She had gotten so thin and had these dark circles under her eyes. (251)

After shaking her depression, Deborah went back to Sylvan to take Lily. In Sylvan, she and T. Ray got into a fight, which resulted in Lily picking up a gun and accidentally shooting Deborah, and killing her.

#### 2.1.2.4 Zach

Zach works for August. Zach is African American. He is smart and is a talented football player. He is a character who has love filling to Lily. He is handsome and has one dimple when he smiles. He is ambitious and hopes to be a lawyer someday, although he has never heard of a Black lawyer. Zach goes to jail for a short time when he will not admit which of his friends was involved in an altercation with some White men.

He would never open his mouth. He was trying to say to me, I am sorry, but these are my friends.

He chose to stand there and be one of them. (179)



### 2.1.2.5 August Boatwright

August is a beekeeper who lives in a pink house in Tiburon, SC. She studied at a Black college and became the housekeeper for Deborah's family. She is a good African-American woman and sells Black Madonna Honey. She makes sure her sister to accept Lily and Rosaleen to stay with them although she does not know who they are. It shows in this quotation:

But they're in some kind of trouble and need a place to stay. Who's gonna take them in if we don't a white girl and a Negro woman? Nobody around here? (86)

### 2.1.2.6 May Boatwright

May is August's sister. She is sensitive, because her twin sister, April, killed herself when she was fifteen years old. Since that time, May has become sensitive. When sad, May sings the song "Oh! Susanna" and removes herself to spend time alone in a special wall outside the house. As state in the novel;

A few times she cried so bad, ranting and tearing her hair, that Rosaleen had to come get August from the honey house. August would calmly send May out back to the stone wall. Going out there was about the only thing that could bring her around. (85)

She kills herself when she finds out that Zach is in the jail.

### 2.1.2.7 June Boatwright

June is August's other sister, she is volunteers as a cellist for the local hospital. She is an egoist woman, she does not want to marry her boyfriend because she has ever broken heart with his boyfriend before. And she is not happy

to have Lily staying in their house, because they are different, and Lily is a White people. As describe in this following quotation “But she’s white, August.” (87). June is rude to Lily until the day that Lily wets her with the sprinkler that she, May, August and Rosaleen are playing in. June finally accepts Lily, even though she is White.

#### **2.1.2.8 Brother Gerald**

Brother Gerald is minister of the church. He has bald space in his head. He is a pious man with racist tendencies. He prohibits Lily to bring the Black people in her church. As describe in this following quotation “We loved them in the Lord, Brother Gerald said, but they had their own place” (30).

#### **2.1.2.9 Franklin Posey**

Franklin Posey is known in Sylvan as one of the most violent and reactionary racists. He is a cruel man who hates the Black people in sylvan as state in the novel “he is the meanest nigger hater in sylvan. He’d be soon to kill her as look at her.”(38). He gets angry to Rosaleen because she is Black and she defiles his shoes.

#### **2.1.2.10 Avery Gatson**

Avery Gatson is The Sylvan police that arrests Rosaleen for pouring snuff spit on three White men’s shoes. His friends call him “Shoe.” He is racist. He always helps White people to treat Black people both outside and inside the jail. It show when Roseleen arrest, Gatson as a police helps White people to treat Roseleen. As state in the novel “after you left, that policeman called Shoe let those men come in for their apology” (46)

## 2.2 Setting

The next element of fiction that will be analyzed is setting. Setting is very important because it can give detail information about where and when the story takes place. To analyze the social condition of the story, of course it must be known first about time and place is set. According to Abrams in A Glossary of Literary Terms:

The setting of a narrative or dramatic work is the general locale, historical time, and social circumstance in which its action occurred; the setting of an episode or scene within a work is the particular location in which its take place. (1999:284)

The Secret Life of Bees is set in South Carolina during the turbulent time frame of 1964. The author draws from many of her own memories of this time about the civil rights movement and the racial tension of the period. Kidd describes several places which build the story. In the beginning of the novel takes place in Sylvan. Lily family lives in Sylvan, Lily lives with her father who has peach farm in Sylvan. As described in this following quotation “T. Ray and I lived just outside Sylvan, South Carolina, and population 3,100. Peach stand and Baptist crunches, that sums it up” (8). Sylvan is the place where Roseleen get problem with White men.

After Roseleen gets problem with White man in Sylvan, Lily help her, and bring her to Tiburon, South Carolina. Tiburon is place where Lily tries to find secret life of her mother life. Lily find Tiburon back on her mother picture and decide to go there.

Suddenly I stood still. Tiburon, South Carolina. Of course. The town written on the back of the black Mary picture. Hadn't I been planning to there one of these day? It made such perfect sense: my mother had been there. Or else she knew people there who'd cared enough to send her a nice picture of Jesus mother. And who would ever think to look for us there? (43)

### 2.3 Plot

Plot is one of the primary elements of the fiction in literary work. By knowing the plot of the story, it will be easy to understand how the author set up the story. As Abrams state in A Glossary of Literary Terms says that

The plot (which Aristotle termed the mythos) in a dramatic or narrative work is constituted by its events and actions, as these are rendered and ordered toward achieving particular artistic and emotional effects (1999:224)

Generally, plot can be divided into five essential parts; introduction, rising action, climax, falling action and conclusion.

Sue Monk Kidd starts the novel very dramatically. The introduction begins when the civil right act release and the president give information in television. Roseleen sees the information in television and she asks Lily if she can go to the town to register her name to follow the vote. When they are in the way to the town Lily and Rosaleen meet some White people who under estimated Rosaleen, they say that the Black people cannot follow the vote because they cannot write their

name in the register paper. Roseleen get angry and write her name with snuff jug of the men's shoes. As describe in:

Rosaleen lifted her snuff jug was filled with black spit, and calmly poured it across the tops of the men's shoes, moving her hand in little loops like she was writing her name (32)

She gets fight with White man, they get angry to Roseleen and asks her to apologies but, Roseleen refuse. The man getting angry, they beat Roseleen and sent her into the jail.

The rising action is where the characters face an increasing tension. The rising action in the story is when Lily frees Rosaleen, from the hospital where she was sent after her accident with White men. Rosaleen and Lily go to Tiburon, South Carolina, the place that Lily find Deborah had a picture of a Black Madonna on the back of which she wrote "Tiburon, SC.". In Tiburon Lily wants to rent hotel or room to her and Roseleen. But there are no hotels want to receive them because she walks with Black people Rosaleen. Then, Lily and Rosaleen find the pink house and they find three African American sisters, August, June and May. Lily tells them that they ran away from their house and they do not have place to go. August tells Lily and Rosaleen that they are welcome to stay for now until they figure out what to do. She says that Lily can help her with the honey business and Rosaleen can help May with the house work. June is not happy about having Lily stay with them because she is White. When Lily overhears June saying that she dislikes her because of her skin color, Lily realizes how absurd racism is.

The climax of this story is when Lily is home alone and T. Ray comes to the door. He found out where she was because she called him with collect call and asking him to accept the charge. T. Ray went to the place she called from and a woman told him where she was. T. Ray demands that Lily come home with him. When T. Ray notices the pin that Lily wears is a pin that he gave to Deborah. Lily explains that Deborah came to the pink house when she left him. T. Ray goes into a rage and beats Lily, all the while calling her Deborah.

The falling action happens when August and Rosaleen returns to the house. August tells T. Ray that Lily can stay, because she can care of her and she promise to send Lily to school and make her to be a beekeeper. T. Ray agrees and leaves. Lily chases his father car and asks him if she was responsible for her mother's death. T. Ray says it was an accident, but Lily killed her. As following quotation "it was you who did it, Lily. You didn't mean it, but it was you". (299).

The conclusion in this novel is when Lily finally learns to forgive her mother and herself. As following quotation:

I guess I have forgiven us both, although sometimes in the night my dreams will take me back to the sadness, and I have to wake up and forgive us again (301)

She is happy to live with August family. Lily realizes that every woman has mother's figure in her self, who can support each other and the colored does not make them to be different.

## 2.4 Theme

William Kenney defines theme as the meaning of the story. It describes setting, and portrays characters. Theme is the meaning of the whole story, the idea or point formulated as a generalization (88).

The theme of the novel is bees as the reflection of human life. Bees live together in the hive with different job. In the hive there finds queen bee, and the worker. All workers depend on existence of queen, or they do not do their job correctly. When one of queen bees disappears, August needs to replace it in order to save all workers. Similarly, the queen bee depends of the worker to keep the hive function. The bee's interdependence is the reflection of interdependence of humankind. It represents people working together in a society.

In the novel August tell that, the heat makes the bees have different act. It show when Lily get sting from the bees although she sent love for bees. As the following quotation:

I manage to get stung on my wrist while replacing a lid onto a hive box. August scraped out the stinger.

"I was sending them love," I said, feeling betrayed.

August said, "Hot weather makes the bees out of sorts, I don't care how much love you send them." (167)

This statement could also be applied to humans and the character in the novel. For example, May is so emotional when her twins died. August also tells Lily that T. Ray was not always the cruel man he is now. He was sweet and become to be cruel man when Deborah died. Lily also finds out that her mother was not the

perfect women she imagined. This action, like of the bees in the heat, is completely different with their characters. In the novel, Lily learns people, like the bees, it shows how most characters are not what they seem on the surface. People's lives are usually much more complex and complicated than they appear.

## 2.5 Point of View

Abrams states that:

Point of view signifies the way a story gets told—the mode (or modes) established by an author by means of which the reader is presented with the characters, dialogue, actions, setting, and events which constitute the narrative in a work of fiction (1999:231)

In The Secret Life of Bees the writer uses First person point of view. The narrator of this story is Lily. The narrator describes the situation, feelings, thoughts, and analysis through his own mind. They use the word “I” that indicates the first person point of view in the whole chapter of the novel.

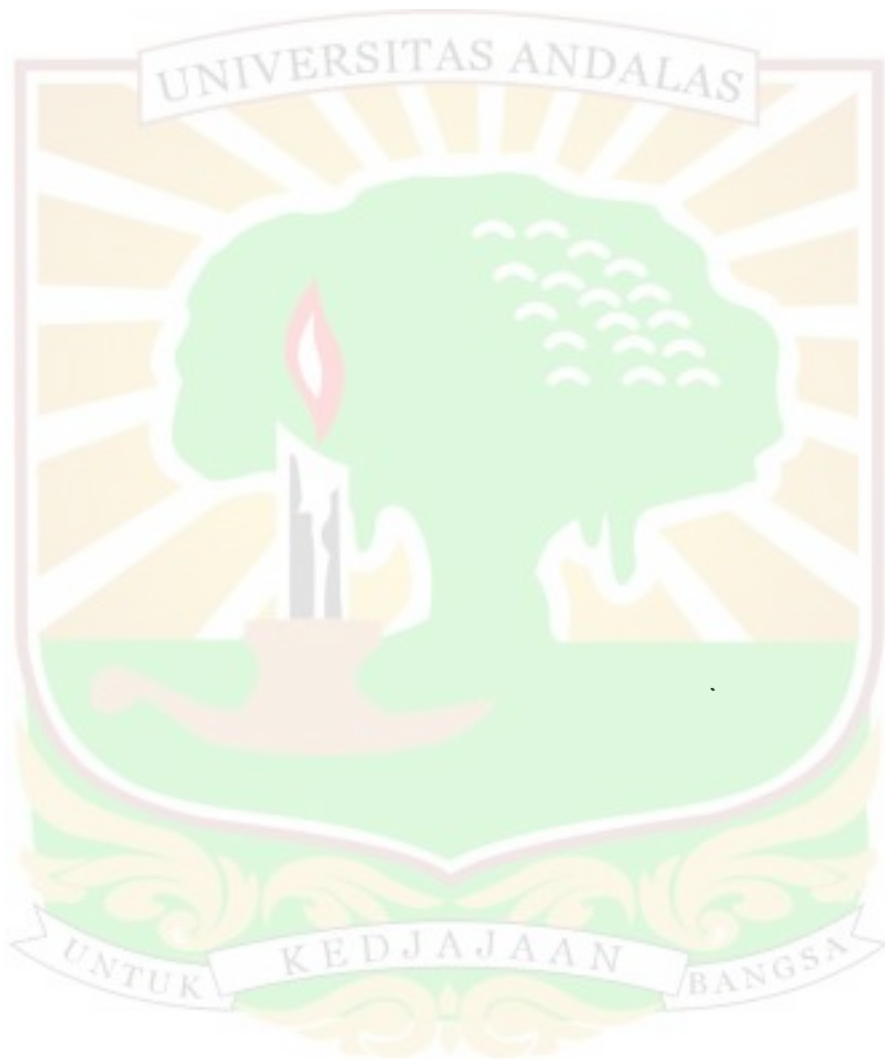
It is stated in the novel by Sue Monk Kidd;

The bees came the summer 1964, the summer I turned fourteen and my life went spinning off into a whole new orbit, and I mean whole new orbit. Looking back on it now, I want to say the bees were sent to me... (2)

The quotation describes the first person point of view, because the novel is told by “I”. By using this first point of view, the writer can see how is the situation that faced by Lily thought toward the other characters in this novel. By using the first



point of view from the author, the writer can see how Lily faces the problem and conflict about the racial discrimination of Black people.



### CHAPTER III

#### THE RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN AMERICA DURING 1964

This chapter is the supporting chapter which gives knowledge to the writer and also the readers to understand the next chapter. Since the approach is mimetic, thus the writer relates this additional chapter to racial discrimination in Southern America during 1964.

Racial discrimination of Black people life in Southern America during 1964 is a part of racial discrimination history in America. Racial discrimination in sociological seem to be a frame in which individuals categorize others based on skin color. According to L.C. Dunn and Th. Dobzhansky in Heredity, Race and Society, race people differ in the color of skin, eyes, hair in stature, bodily proportions, and in many other traits (1946: 117). Race is a significant social issue because people use racial differences as the basis for discrimination. Races are studied to determine, how the different racial group come to differ from each other, without referencing to such categories as superiority and inferiority. Actually, then the fact race makes the racism. According to Lois Tyson in Critical Theory Today:

Racism means the unequal power relations that grow from sociopolitical domination of one race by another and that result in systematic discriminatory practices (for example segregation, domination, and persecution) (2006: 360).

It implies the racism has been used to justify slavery, genocide, and other form of domination of one or more group of people over other. Race is a significant social issue because people use racial differences as the basic for discrimination. This racism happens toward Black people because their origin characteristics: not free, not innocent, and not white. The Black race as the minority is responsible to be used as objects to White race as majority.

Racial discrimination as the United Nations uses a definition laid out in International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and adopted in 1965 means:

any distinction, exclusion, restriction or preference based on race, colour, descent, or national or ethnic origin which has the purpose or effect of nullifying or impairing the recognition, enjoyment or exercise, on an equal footing, of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural or any other field of public life.

(Article 1, p. 1)

It means that racial discrimination is a general surface manifestation created by the majority race to oppress the minority race, which has deep impacts in all aspects of their life. Racial discrimination of Black people gives bad impacts to their law, social life and their religion.

### 3.1 Racial Discrimination in Law

The discrimination of Black people actually happened before 1964 in Southern America. The discrimination looked involves in many aspects. They are discriminations in social, socio-economic, religion, law, education, etc. In 1964 the discrimination should not happen again, because in 1963 the civil rights revolution reached a dramatic climax. As state in An Outline of America History:

The civil rights revolution reached a dramatic climax in 1963. After massive black demonstration in the segregated deep-south city of Birmingham, Alabama, President Kennedy told the nation in televised speech that it had a moral obligation to secure full equality for black Americans. He then proposed to Congress the most sweeping legislation in this century to eliminate discrimination in voting, education, employment, and public accommodation. (166)

The quotation above shows that the President Kennedy proposed to eliminate discrimination and make Blacks and Whites had the same rights and opportunities in all aspects. After President Kennedy died, President Lyndon Johnson released the civil rights act in July 2, 1964. It is explained in the article Reagan, the South and Civil Rights by Juan Williams:

The Civil Rights Act, signed July 2, 1964, by President Lyndon Johnson, ended legal discrimination against blacks at hotels, restaurants and department stores. (2004)

President Johnson signs the Civil Rights Act of 1964. The most sweeping civil rights legislation since Reconstruction, the Civil Rights Act prohibits discrimination of all kinds based on race, color, religion, or national origin. The law also provides the federal government with the powers to enforce desegregation.

The President oration about The Civil Rights Act means that there are no differences between Blacks and Whites, and there are some equal rights in all aspects. The discrimination of Black people should not happen again, because in this year the American government released the Civil Rights Act to make equal rights between Black and White. Although the Civil Rights Act released on 2 July 1964 it did not mean the end of racist attacks.

Only one month later, the bodies of three civil rights workers were found in Mississippi. They were killed when they work to help the register of Black people voter. As Borgna Brunner and Elissa Haney in their essay, The Civil Rights Timeline Milestones in the Modern Civil Rights Movement state:

Aug 4, the bodies of three civil-rights workers two white, one black are found in an earthen dam, six weeks into a federal investigation backed by President Johnson. James E. Chaney, 21; Andrew Goodman, 21; and Michael Schwerner, 24, had been working to register black voters in Mississippi, and, on June 21, had gone to investigate the burning of a black church. They were arrested by the police on speeding charges, incarcerated for several hours, and

then released after dark into the hands of the Ku Klux Klan, who murdered them. (2010)

The quotation above shows that discrimination still happen although the civil rights act has been released in July 2, 1964. Ku Klux Klan killed three bodies who working to register Black voters in Mississippi. It shows how the racial discrimination of Black people happens in Southern America. Ku Klux Klan is a group to oppose the Black people. As stated in Jim Crow law article, "Ku Klux Klan is a racist, with commitment to violence to achieve goal of racial segregation and white supremacy of all of rights hates a group that exist in the United States" (2010). In Southern America Ku Klux Klan have 5 million members anti Black people. They always performing campaign anti Black people and they focus its anger and violence the Blacks people. They do not accept when government released the civil rights act, and killed the black people when they try to get their rights.

Law discrimination has relation to police force, according to Hornby in Advanced Learner's Dictionary of English, "police" means "men and women belonging to a department of government with the keeping of public order" (646). It means that a police is persons or systems to uphold the law for all people without any imbalances. In fact during 1964 it was a theory in the Southern. Practically, the Police had function as the Whites server and did their duty as what they wanted and are interested. Here, the police force cannot help the people but they have more participants to treat the Black people. The writer get the racial data from Jim Crow law article that "Jim Crow was the name of the racial caste

system. Under Jim Crow, African Americans were relegated to the status of second class citizens". (2000) Jim Crow represented the legitimization of anti-Black racism. Jim Crow law makes the differences between Black people and White people. Jim Crow system makes Whites were superior to Blacks in all aspect of life. This law shows how the police treat the Black people and do not do their duty. As stated in Dr. David Pilgrim states in his article about What Was Jim Crow? :

The police force, more than any other institution, was invariably involved as a precipitating cause or perpetuating factor in the riots. In almost every one of the riots, the police sided with the attackers, either by actually participating in, or by failing to quell the attack. (2000)

The writer thinks that the Whites could do anything toward the Blacks and no body could stop them to do such a thing including the police. When the Blacks commit a crime, they would be punished directly. The police could not protect them from the Whites. Even though, half of them wanted to do their duty. They were prevented by Whites authority. They just kept silent for what Whites has done as if they did not know about it since the Whites had chosen the police.

### **3.2 Racial Discrimination in Social Life**

Racial discrimination of Black people happened in the United States, especially in the Southern. There was separation for Blacks and Whites as stated

by Dr. David Pilgrim, a Professor of Sociology in his article about What Was Jim Crow? :

Jim Crow states passed statutes severely regulating social interactions between the races. Jim Crow signs were placed above water fountains, door entrances and exits, and in front of public facilities. There were separate hospitals for Blacks and Whites, separate prisons, separate public and private schools, separate churches, separate cemeteries, separate public restrooms, and separate public accommodations. In most instances, the Black facilities were grossly inferior -- generally, older, less-well-kept. In other cases, there were no Black facilities -- no Colored public restroom, no public beach, no place to sit or eat. Plessy gave Jim Crow states a legal way to ignore their constitutional obligations to their Black citizens. (2000)

The quotation above shows how Jim Crow make differences between Blacks and Whites. They are separated in all of the public facilities. They were separate in hospital, school, restaurant, and many public facilities. White people facilities are more inferior than Blacks facilities. White people have a good and safety place. It is very different with Black facilities they just get minimum facilities.

The racial discrimination in social life is clearly shown in the segregation of the social life. The White people do not want to share the public facility, in this case the hospital, with the Black people. It can be seen in the following quotation:



**Mental Hospitals:** The Board of Control shall see that proper and distinct apartments are arranged for said patients, so that in no case shall Negroes and white persons be together. (2000)

Black people have different place with White people, they can not be together, in the hospital Black people do not have more facilities like the White people, and they also have special balcony in the hospital for colored or Black race.

### **3.3 Racial discrimination in religion**

In the religion, there is also found the discrimination in place of worship. The Black and White people have different places to worship. The different church can also be seen in Southern America. They have their own place to worship. Willie White says in his article Separate unto God:

For too long black Christians believed that the reason they had their own churches and ministers was that white Christians barred them from their "houses of God." It is true that after the founding of the black church community, blacks were barred from white congregations. (1974)

The quotation above shows how the racial discrimination finds in the place of worship. The Blacks have their own church and the White also have their own church. It means that, Blacks can not enter the Whites church likewise White can not enter Blacks church.

Finally the writer concludes that racialism existed in South America during 1964 as portrayed in the novel. Even though the civil rights act was

released in this year and theoretically, they had the same right in all aspects of life but still they were treated unfairly for the reason of the race. Whites put their race in a higher class than the Blacks that they treated the Blacks badly. Black people suffered in their life because they were Blacks and they could not enjoy public facilities like the White people.



**CHAPTER IV**  
**THE REFLECTION OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN SOUTHERN**  
**AMERICA DURING 1964 AS SEEN IN SUE MONK KIDD'S**  
**THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES**

In this chapter, the writer focuses on racial discrimination in Southern America in the novel. There is a comparison that will be drawn between the events as found in the novel The Secret Life of Bees to the events as occurred in the real life. The reflection of discrimination in Southern America during 1964 is shown completely in Sue Monk Kidd's The Secret Life of Bees, and the real event of the real life that occurred in Southern America in the same time. This analysis will be developed by presenting a comparison of the sociological event within the same period and proves the reflection of historical moment and social cultural condition of Black people in The Secret Life of Bees. The analysis of the reflection of racial discrimination will be divided into three: racial discrimination in law, racial discrimination in social life, and racial discrimination in religion.

#### **4.1 Racial Discrimination in Law**

According to Hornby (1987), "law" means "rule made by authority for proper regulation of community or society of for correct conduct in life" (478). Theoretically, law was made for all humans without distinguished their skin. Practically, around 1964, the law enforcement was in contradiction with the theory of human right. There were many violence and intimidations law

enforcement. The Whites treat the Blacks as their properties and the advantages from them. When the Black makes a mistake, they would punish them slavery.

In Sue Monk Kidd's novel The Secret Life of Bees, the racial discrimination in law is shown in how White people treat Black people in Southern America during 1964 where the civil rights act has been released in that year, but the discrimination still happens for Black people. As the writer has explained in previous chapter, President Lyndon Johnson signed the civil rights act on July 2, 1964 to end discrimination toward Blacks people.

In the novel, the discrimination can be seen through the way they are forbidden to follow the vote and they do not have the same rights with White people in law. Actually in that year, the government tries to end the discrimination of Black people by releasing the civil rights act. Even though, the freedom has become reality, their status is still in question. The status of Black people was not as strong as the Whites. Officially, Black people have been the citizen of the USA with full rights and they have rights to register their names to vote, but practically the White could not accept them yet. This situation means that they get the discrimination from Whites people.

The writer finds in the novel, the discrimination in law shown when Roseleen watches the television and find Mr. President releases the civil rights act. She is very happy and tells Lily, that she wants to register her name to vote because she has rights to vote now. Lily is very scared when she hears Roseleen wants to follow the vote, although the civil rights act has been released. She knows that White people could not accept them yet. She thinks that it is

impossible for Roseleen because last night Lily shown in television that a man in Mississippi was killed when he try to register his name to vote. And she also hear Mr. Bussey says to T. Ray that, Black people also can not follow to vote if they not correctly to write their name. As found in the quotation from the novel:

Last night the television had said a man in Mississippi was killed for registering to vote, and I my self had overheard Mr. Bussey, one of the deacons, say to T.Ray, “don’t you worry, they’re gonna make’em write their name in perfect cursive and refuse them a card if they forget so much as to dot an I or make a loop in their y. (27)

Actually after the civil right act released in July 2, 1964 Black people have same rights with White people. They can register their name to vote and they also can use all facilities like White people. But in the novel, we can see the discrimination in law still happened in this year.

The previous chapter pages 28 shows that the writer finds the similarity from the event of the American history and social situation with the event in the novel. The writer finds it is true that the men in Mississippi were killed when they want to register their name to vote. It indicates that the Black people can not get their right. The minority of their status is the reason why they cannot get their rights in law.

Black people also get the unfair treatment with the police, as the writer has explained in previous chapter. This condition also happens in the novel. When Black people are accused of crime, they can be punished directly by the White

people without giving them a fair trial in the law for defending themselves and the police often give the Black people harsh treatment in the jail.

This situation is described by Rosaleen. Rosaleen gets the unfair treatment with White people, Franklin. Rosaleen gets unfair treatment when she defiling on White people's shoes because White people underestimate her when she follow the election. She gets punishment directly by police. As Kidd describes in the novel:

Rosaleen lifted her snuff jug, which was filled with black spit, and calmly poured it cross the top of the men's shoes, moving her hand in little loops like she was writing her names-Rosaleen Daise-just the way she'd practiced.

For a second they are stared down at the juice, dribble like car oil across their shoes. They blinked, trying to make it register. When they looked up, I watched their faces go from surprise to anger, then outright fury. They lunged at her, and everything started to spin. There was Rosaleen, grabbed and thrasting side to side, swinging the men like pocketbooks on her arms, and the men yelling for her to apologize and clean their shoes.

"call the police," yelled the dealer to a man inside.

By then Roseleen lay sprawled on the ground, pinned, twisting her finger around clumps of grass. Blood ran from a cut beneath her eye. It curved under her chin the way tears do.

When the policeman got there, he said we had to get into back of his car.

You're under arrest, "he told Rosallen. Assault, theft, and disturbing the peace. (32-33).

From this quotation above we can see that the policeman arrest Roseleen but he frees White people who treat Rosaleen. It shows how the discrimination in law exists for Black people. It can be investigated that the Whites could do anything toward the Blacks and no body could stop them to do such a thing including the police. The police, who should actually protect their society, could not do anything toward discrimination. So the Blacks could not call the police to protect them from the Whites intimidation. It is caused by the weakness of the Southern Policeman in their functions.

The weakness of the Southern Policeman is clearly shown when the police just silent and could not protect Roseleen in the jail from Franklin and the dealer when they lift the flashlight over his head, and smash it into Roseleen's forehead. As described in the following quotation:

"Come on Rosaleen", I said. "What can they do to you with a policeman right here?"

That was when the dealer lifted the flashlight over his head, then down and smashing it into Roseleen forehead. She dropped to her kness.

I don't remember, but the next thing I knew, Mr gaston had his hand clamed over my mouth. "Hush", he said. (35)

The quotation shows that, the police could not protect Black people by the Whites because the White people had an authority to treat the Blacks as they want. It means that the southern policemen do not do their duty to protect people. Actually police institutions can help the people but they discriminate Black people.

The weakness of the Southern Policemen is also shown when Zach and Lily go to the town to buy radiator. Zach meets his friends in the store, when he talks to his friends. They look at some White men who holding a shovel handle, waiting in front of Movie Theater because they believe that one of White artist comes to Tiburon with his colored woman. One of Zach friend's gets altercation with some White men. Because of the altercation, Zach and his friends go to the jail. Police arrest all of them in jail and free the White men. As Lily says in the novel:

I watched the policeman put Zach and the other three boys in his car. Driving away, he turned on his siren and red light, which seemed unnecessary, but I guess he didn't want to disappoint audience on the side walk. (180)

Based on the quotation above, it can be seen how the police treat the Blacks. When the Blacks make a mistake, they would punish them severely although they are not being guilty.

Here, the writer finds the similarity from the event of the America history and the event in the novel. The writer finds that during 1964 the racial discrimination in law still happened in Southern America. Legalization of the civil right act does not give many impacts for Black people. They still underestimate by Whites,



while the police as persons to uphold the law for all people could do nothing to protect the Black rights. They did not do their duty as they supposed to.

#### 4.2 Racial Discrimination in Social Life

In this sub chapter, the analysis will emphasize on how the White in Southern treat Black people in social life in 1964 as seen in the novel The Secret Life of Bees. The racial discrimination in social life means the prevention of Black people to get equality in their social life. As found in data in chapter 3 pages 31. There are many discriminations happened toward Black people. The social conditions are locked into the racial segregation as the racial situation at that time. Black people get equality in the surface, but they are treated differently in terms of manner and services. In other words, Black people are acceptable but their facilities are still different from White people.

As reflected in the novel, Sue Monk Kidd explores the discrimination in social life when Martin Luther King as the minister is arrested when he tries to eat in White people's restaurant to show he gets his rights and he has the same rights with White people. As Lily says in the novel:

When that minister from Alabama, Reverend Martin Luther king, got arrested last month in Florida for wanting to eat in a restaurant, the men at church acted like the white people's team had won the pennant race. I knew they would not take this lying down, not in one million years. (21)

The quotation shows how the Martin Luther king as a famous minister cannot get his rights and he is arrested because he tries to eat in White people's restaurant. It shows that although the civil rights act has been released, it does not give many impacts for Black people. The discrimination still happens for Black people, they still have different rights with White people. Black people can not eat together in White people's restaurant.

The racial discrimination in social life also show when Lily wants to rent motel or room for her and Roseleen when they arrive in Tiburon. She wants to rent hotel for them, but Rosaleen remind Lily that if she walks with Black people like her, she can not rent hotel or room for them because there is no place for Black people in the hotel. As seen in the quotation below:

Lily, child, there ain't gonna be any place that will be take a colored woman. I don't care if she's the Virgin Mary, nobody's letting her stay if she's colored (60)

This quotation describe how hard life for Blacks. They are not allowed to rent hotel or room. White people do not want to share the public facility with Black people.

The situation is also shown in newspaper, when Lily buys news paper to find information about her and Roseleen when their escaped from T Ray and police:

It was full of Malcom X, Saigon, the Beatles, Tennis at Wimbeldon, and a motel in Jackson, Mississippi, that closed down

rather than accepts Negro guest, but nothing about me and Roseleen. (66)

From this quotation, we also see how the White people treat the Black people. They choose to close their motel for Black people. It implies that discrimination still happened in 1964. They could not get their rights as well as the Whites people, even though the civil rights act has been released.

The writer also finds discrimination in public facilities like hospital. It is one of the discrimination which accepted by Black people. As stated in the previous data, they have different place in the hospital. Black people do not have the same facilities with White people.

As reflected in the novel when Lily looking for Roseleen in hospital. She finds the different place and facilities between Blacks and Whites. As following quotation;

Sylvan memorial hospital was a low brick building with one wing for whites and one for blacks.

I stepped into a deserted corridor clogged with too many smells. Cornations, old people, rubbing alcohol, bathroom deodorizer, red jell-O. air conditioners poked out from the windows in the white section, but back here there was nothing but electric fan moving the hot air from one place to another. (45)

It implies that Black people have different place with White people in the hospital. They have special balcony for black people because they do not want to contaminate with Black people. Black people do not have same facilities like

Whites people. Their balcony is dirty. They even just have electric fan in their room. This condition is different from Whites balcony. Their balcony is clean and their have more facilities than Blacks.

Here, the writer finds that as if there was convention that Black people were not allowed to stand in such area while the White people around. It seems that the White did not want to be contaminated with Black people because White people thought that the Blacks is conotated with “dirty” thing and the Whites is conotated with the “holy” thing. So it was not allowed for the black being closed to the Whites because they could contaminate the Whites race.

It implies the faces of racial discrimination in social life. There are no equalities between Black people and White. Black people always get violence and underestimate from White people. It implies that everything about Black people is bad in their social lives. It seems that Black people are the target for certain rejection and displacement in Southern America during 1964. Unconsciously, the Whites are over concerned on the thing of Black people especially in social life, because it the place where they can interact each other.

#### **4.3 Racial Discrimination in Religion**

In the novel, the discrimination in religion is clearly shown in place of worship. Both of the Blacks and Whites have their own churches. The discrimination in the place of worship, in this case church is described when Roseleen want to register her name in colored church, as stated in following quotation “For the fourth of July they’re holding a voters rally at the colored

church. I'm registering my self to vote" (27). The quotation means that Black people have different church with White people.

It also shows when Brother Gerald talks to Lily and Roseleen when they stopped in the church to cool off.

It's funny how you forget the rules. She was not supposed to be inside here. Every time the rumor got going about a group of Negroes coming to worship with us on Sunday morning, the deacons stood locked-arms across the church steps to turn them away. We loved them in the Lord, Brother Gerald said, but they had their own place. (30)

Both quotations can be assumed that Black and White have different place of worship. They have their own churches and they are not allowed to go to other church belong to another race, in this case, Lily is a White people. So, she is not allowed to go to the church that belongs to Rosaleen as a Black people.

Discrimination in church can also be seen in Southern America. As the previous chapter pages 32 shows that they have own place to worship. Black people have their own church to worship like White people. It is concluded that discrimination also existed in religious life. The church is a place where people are supposed to worship the God equally, but the fact it is also discrimintated.

From all the evidence the writer has described, it is clear that discrimination of Black people in all aspect in Southern America in Kidd's novel parallels with the racial discrimination in Southern America during 1964. Black people become the victims of policy made by the White people. They cannot get

the equality as human in many sides. The Black also faces the segregation policy where every aspect of Southern America is racially segregated.



## CHAPTER V

### CONCLUSION

After analyzing the novel The Secret Life of Bees by Sue Monk Kidd, the writer finds that the novel contains the reflection of social condition during 1964. The discrimination of Blacks by White Southerners in 1964 in all aspects of life mostly happened in the South. Those discriminations are divided into three aspects: discrimination in law, discrimination in social life and discrimination in religion. The way Sue Monk Kidd illustrates those discrimination has given such impression to the writer that those unfair treatments refers to the racial discrimination in the 1964, the period in which the novel was written.

In this novel, Kidd's describes the Whites have racial thought toward the Blacks, that can be seen in the discrimination of Black people. The first is the discrimination in law. Black people have different treatment with White people. Although, the civil right act maintaining about the Black can follow the vote but the fact is they still cannot follow the election. They also get unfair treatment in the judgment when they make a mistake or accused of crime, they are punished directly by the White people without giving them a fair trial in the law for defending their self and the police often give the Black people harsh treatment in the jail. The police do not do their duty, actually they should protect their society, but they could not do anything toward discrimination. So the police could not protect Blacks from the Whites intimidation.

The second aspect is the discrimination in social life, Black people are segregated in many places in society, such as in the restaurant, hotel and in the hospital, Black people have separate places with White people.

The last discrimination is discrimination in religion. In the religion part Black people also get the discrimination, they have different places of worship and they can not entry the White people church.

From the novel, the writer concludes that there are some similarities between the facts and the novel. The first one is the civil right act released at July 2, in 1964 as portrayed in the novel. The second one is the differences between Black people and White people in many places in society. There are many discriminations of Black people in 1964. The discriminations are involved more in law and social life. In religion the discrimination happen in the place of worship, but the discriminations do not involve than in the social life and law because they have some religion is Christian religion.

By applying Swingewood theory of sociology of literature which says that a literary work is the mirror of the society, the writer strongly believes that the story of the novel is a reflection of the social condition in Southern America during 1964.



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