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THE SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WHITE TRASH CLASS OF SOUTH AMERICA AS REFLECTED IN HARPER LEE'S TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

A THESIS



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"Sesungguhnya sesudah kesulitan itu ada kemudahan maka apabila telah selesai (dari suatu urusan) kerjakanlah dengan sungguh-sungguh (urusan) yang lain dan hanya kepada Tuhanlah hendaknya kamu berharap" (Qs. Alam Nasyrah: 7,8)

Verily when every hardship has gone there is relief then so when it is finished (from a matter) keep doing for more another matters indeed and strive to please thy Lord Allah. (Qs. Alam Nasyrah: 7, 8)

**One pace was over happily
One goal has grasped
yet...
That was not the end of the journey
But the beginning of a struggle**

**Mom...
Your benedictions keep my spirit blazing
Your affection makes me stronger
Thus I am being a patient
through dace any temptations of life
until my expectation have grasped**

**Dad...
Your tip like a lamp, lead my way heading to Allah
Your sweat like water, wipe all my drying thirst
My beloved parents....
I'll face my future with your blessings
I'll reach my dreams with your sacrifices
Thank you for your inseparable praying and big supports**

With all my affection, I dedicate this thesis for My Beloved Family :

**Mama 'Sastrawati, Ayah' Wetri Abidin, Dearest brothers (Aul and Iki), Bu'Ongah 'n family.
and all of my sibs**

**Not exceptly , to all my friends who helped and cheered me up until this work is completed.
Until I wrote this ...I too realize how it could not be accomplished without you all.**

Thank you for all... 😊

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The writer certain this thesis is far from perfect and ideal research. I expect the suggestion from the readers. From all my heart humbles, the writer hopes this thesis gives information to other students in studying literature. Thank you.

Padang, October 2012

Nevia Sarifianti

ABSTRAK

Skripsi ini membahas tentang diskriminasi sosial terhadap kaum kulit putih kelas rendah *white trash* di Alabama, negara bagian selatan Amerika pada novel To Kill A Mockingbird karya Harper Lee. Istilah *white trash* ini muncul dikarenakan keadaan mereka yang miskin dan status mereka yang rendah sehingga menimbulkan perbedaan kelas antara kaum kelas atas atau *upper class* dan kaum *white trash*. Dalam menganalisis permasalahan ini, penulis menggunakan pendekatan mimetik dengan mengaplikasikan teori sosiologi sastra yang dikemukakan oleh Alan Swingewood pada perspektif pertama yaitu pandangan bahwa karya sastra sebagai sosial dokumentasi yang mencerminkan kondisi sosial suatu masyarakat pada zaman tertentu. Dari penelitian ini, penulis menarik kesimpulan bahwa To Kill A Mockingbird adalah sebuah karya sastra yang merefleksikan bagaimana diskriminasi sosial terjadi diantara kaum kulit putih akibat perbedaan sistem kelas sosial. Dalam novel ini terdapat tokoh kaum kulit putih kelas atas yang membenci dan mengucilkan tokoh kaum kelas *white trash* sehingga mereka mendapat reputasi buruk di setiap generasi mereka. Selain itu tokoh *white trash* tinggal di pemukiman kumuh tepatnya dibelakang tempat pembuangan sampah dan kaum *upper class* tidak ingin berinteraksi dengan mereka dalam pergaulan sosial. Kaum *white trash* juga bekerja sebagai petani miskin yang disebabkan oleh sistem kelas sosial sehingga tidak pernah merubah kehidupan mereka yang miskin dan status sosial mereka yang rendah

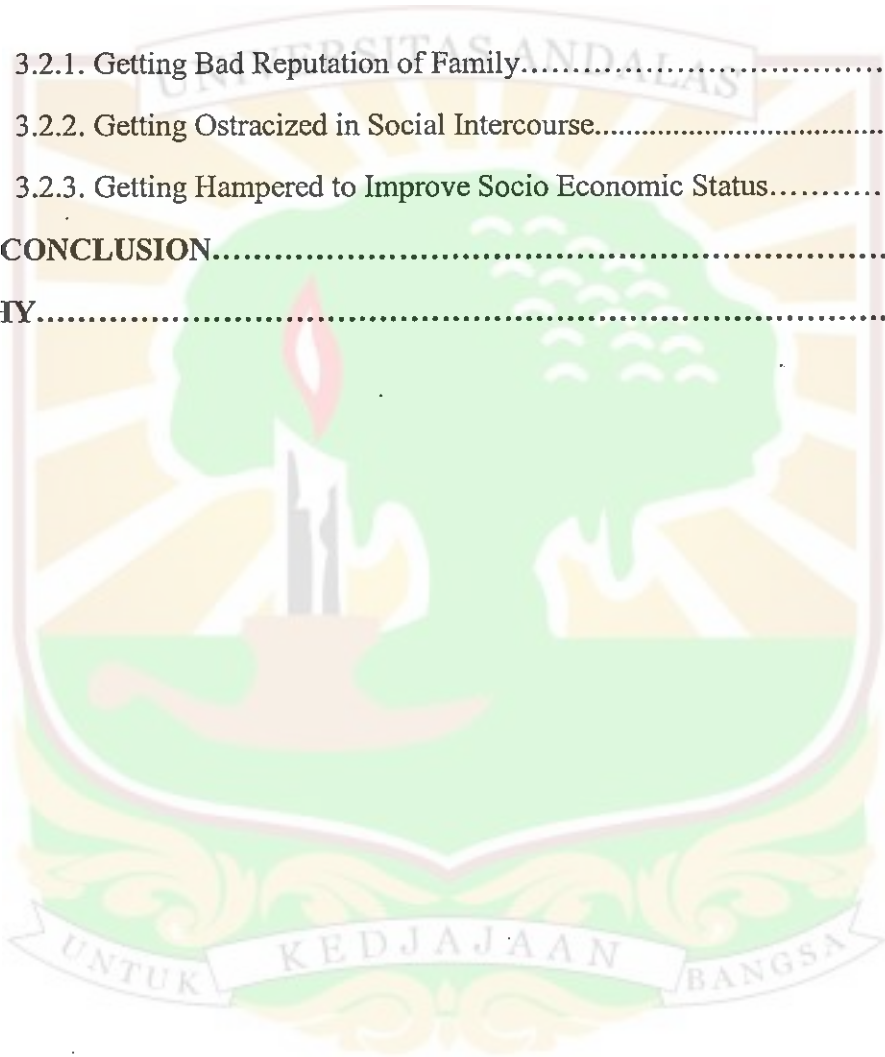
Keywords : *upper class, white trash, kelas sosial, diskriminasi sosial, sosiologi sastra.*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.....	i
ABSTRACT.....	ii
TABLE OF CONTENTS.....	iii
CHAPTER I . INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1. The Background of The Research.....	1
1.2. Identification of The Problems.....	4
1.3. The Objective of The Research.....	5
1.4. The Scope of The Research.....	6
1.5. The Review of Related Literature.....	6
1.6. The Theoretical Framework.....	9
1.7. The Method of Research.....	12
CHAPTER II. THE PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS.....	13
2.1. Characters.....	13
2.2. Plot.....	21
2.3. Setting.....	23
2.4. Theme.....	24
2.5. Point of view.....	25
CHAPTER III. THE SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINTS WHITE TRASH CLASS OF SOUTH AMERICA AS REFLECTED IN HARPER LEE'S <u>TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD</u>.....	25
3.1. Social Class of South America in <u>To Kill A Mockingbird</u>	28
3.1.1. Upper Class or High Class.....	29

3.1.2. Middle Class.....	33
3.1.3. Poor White or White Trash.....	35
3.1.4. Low Class.....	36
3.2. Social Discrimination Against White Trash Class as Reflected in Harper Lee's <u>To Kill A Mockingbird</u>	38
3.2.1. Getting Bad Reputation of Family.....	39
3.2.2. Getting Ostracized in Social Intercourse.....	47
3.2.3. Getting Hampered to Improve Socio Economic Status.....	49
CHAPTER IV. CONCLUSION.....	55
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	59



CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Research

Literature is an artistic writing that reflects human life. William Hudson in his book An Introduction to The Study Literature states “Literature is a vital record of what man have seen in life, what they have experienced of it, what they have thought and felt those aspects of it, which have the most immediate and enduring interest for all of us”(10). It means that a literary work is a product of human thought in different way. The authors can deliver their feeling and experience in their works from their own perspectives about various aspects of human life.

One of literary works that portrays social life condition in certain time and place within a society is a novel entitled To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. In her novel, Lee does not only bring the issue of the racism in South America but also portrays about social class problem toward white trash people in 1930s. Nancy G. Anderson in her article entitled “Harper Lee” states:

Lee's Pulitzer Prize-winning novel explores the dimensions of prejudice, hate, loyalty, and love through the eyes of a young girl as she awakens to the complexities of human nature and its capacity for both good and evil. [...]The success of *To Kill a Mockingbird* was so immediate that the novel's release was described as a “summer storm.” Critics praised Lee for capturing the setting of a small southern town with its complex social fabric of blacks and whites of all classes, from aristocratic to hard-working middle class to white trash”. (Anderson, Encyclopedia of Alabama,)

The data above shows that To Kill A Mockingbird is one of the greatest novels in the world depicts the social problem of human life such as prejudice, hate, love, loyalty from narration of an child. Besides, the novel shows the relationship between black and white and also the relationship amongst white people from different class.

To Kill A Mockingbird tells about a professional and respected lawyer Atticus Finch who defends a black man, Tom Robinson who was accused of raping Mayella Ewell, the oldest daughter of a poor white Bob Ewell. At the trial, Atticus gives his powerful defense for Tom and show the evil and false testimony from Mayella at the trial. He hates and he has no respect to all member of Ewell family. Besides the Ewells, there is another poor white family, the Cunningham family. Both families are poor and getting their reputation because their low social economic status in society those make them discriminated by the upper class.

To investigate the existence of the white trash people further, it is important to find out the history of social class of South America. Social class depends on social economy condition in South America. Historically, South America has own characteristics that differs from another part of American States. This country was agricultural supported by the condition of land and climate factor. Agriculture becomes main factor in economy system of South America since that time. The owner of plantation land and slaveholder becomes the highest position of social class structure in South America. This upper class needs black farmers to cultivate their broad lands. Furthermore, it creates a slavery system.

The upper class people did not only oppress black people but also hates poor white people. These people are the lowest class of white people because their low economic status. As Stowe (1854) states, “[...] the institution of slavery has accomplished the double feat, in America, not only of degrading and brutalizing her black working classes, but of producing, notwithstanding a fertile soil, and abundant room, a poor white population as degraded and brutal as ever existed in any of the most crowded districts of Europe.[...] They are the pest of the neighborhood, the scoff and contempt or pity even of the slaves. The expressive phrase, so common in the mouths of the negroes, of *poor white trash* says all for this luckless race of beings that can be said”(366).

In other words, slavery system did not only violate the black people but also humiliated the poor whites people. Even the poor whites condition are worst than black. These people become the subject of contempt of upper class because they regarded as the pest people in society.

Furthermore, Hundley in Social Relations In Our Southern State states “poor whites of the South live all together in hill and mountainous regions generally, in one community the country, in one community, and far removed from the wealthy and refined settlements. It caused by the slaveholders have kept on all the fertile lands.”(259). It shows that the poor white lives in mountain and hilly area. The upper class does not permit poor white farmer to cultivate their main and pure land area who have not cultivated yet before. Although they are white people, the upper class separated them in isolated area.

According to Jacobs in The American South : Portrait of A Culture, poor whites build a place illegally on border line of plantation area. They are called by *po' white trash* originated from the word *po'buckra* in South America. They live in swamps and hills in separated group. For all generations of poor white known as really poor people and susceptible to some diseases, such as malaria, hookworms, trichinosis, and pellagra that made their way of life different from the entire of white class until the twentieth century (Jacobs 215)

The writer decides to do the research because To Kill A Mockingbird deals with the existence poor white trash class and the discrimination toward this class. Furthermore, the writer applies sociology of literature theory proposed by the sociology of literature by Alan Swingewood in The Sociology of Literature .The writer assumes that sociology of literature is suitable to do the research because she wants to portray the social problem that existed in a society based on social class, from upper toward lower white class.

1.2 Identification of The Problem

In this research, the writer sees the problem in To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Besides it is amazing novel talks about racial problem from white and black, there is another problem about social class discrimination againts poor white people in Alabama, southern part of America. They are lowest class of white people. Social class system separates poor white people because their poor condition and having low status. Class discrimination occurs from the upper class toward the poor

white trash or white trash people. White trash or poor white trash historically is term to refer to poor white Southern in the United States. Matt Wray stated in his book White Trash: Race and Class in America, literally white trash referring to the poor rural white Southerner (42). It shows that the members of white trash are referring to lower social class and they get different treatment from upper class.

In this novel, there are two white trash families in Maycomb County; they are the Ewell and Cunningham. In this novel, both of two families are regarded as white trash people. They get bad reputation from upper class. They also live far away from another white in dirty and remote area where vulnerable to some diseases. Nobody wants to interact with these families. White trash people just worked as poor farmers and the upper class does not let them to reach better social life although they are white people.

1.3 The Objective of Research

The objective in doing this research is to analyze the discrimination against white trash class in Southern society as found in To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. By using the sociology of literature theory by Alan Swingewood that views the literary work as mirror of social condition in specific place and certain place. Here, the writer highlights supporting data that show the discrimination toward the white trash as results of social class system. The aim of this research is to show the social discrimination against white trash class in South America and describing about Southern part of America classes system historically as reflected in Harper Lee's To Kill Mockingbird.

1.4 The Scope of Research

In order to limit her scope analysis, the writer limits the research by two topics, they are:

1. Social classes that are represented in To Kill A Mockingbird
2. Social discrimination toward poor white trash in South America as reflected in To Kill A Mockingbird

1.5 The Review of Related Literature

To Kill A Mockingbird is one of the great famous novels in the world. Therefore, many people who interested to read and analyze her novel. In analyzing this novel, the writer needs another opinion from some critics, experts and students. The writer shows that the writer and the other researchers that have different point of view in analyzing this novel.

To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee has ever been analyzed by other English Department students in Andalas University. Firstly, the title is The Impacts of Racial Prejudice and Discrimination in Alabama during the 1930-es as seen in Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird by Trias Noverdi (1999). In conducting his research, he applies mimetic theory and historical approach to reveal the exact situation and condition in Alabama during 1930s when at the period gives strongly influences in the making of novel. He found the kinds of racial prejudice at the 1930s such as the black southerner has triggered some evil assumptions and attitude about the black and also there is impacted in a tragic death of a black man. He also found the racial discrimination of 1930s in South America, such as segregation, the social class

society who considered the black people inferior than white and the practice of lynching by means the punishment of black people directly without giving him fair trial. This research is different with the writer's research because the writer examines about the white trash people who are getting discrimination from upper class. The writer has different findings that focused about the white trash society who getting marginalized treatment because their low socioeconomic status in social class hierarchy that existed in the Southern of America society.

Secondly is a research using the sociological approach from Andalas University student that entitled Racial Prejudice and Discrimination by White Southerners toward the Black in Alabama during 1930s as reflected in Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird written by Indra Feni (2010). She conducts her research by using the sociological approach by Hippolyte Taine. She argued that the literary works can reflect real life and nature and To Kill A Mockingbird is microcosm of human life which represent a real life of black race in Alabama during 1930s (9). She found that the racial prejudice experienced by black race such as anti-miscegenation. As she states "The practice of miscegenation lead the white race makes a law prohibits of miscegenation because any interracial marriage"(36). It means white people must be married with white people too. Then, the discrimination toward black people is lynching which means executes the black people illegally, and segregation.

Finally, the writer read a thesis that entitled The Effects of Maturity to Scout's Personality as Reflected in Harper Lee's To Kill A Mockingbird (1999) by Ridwan. M. In his research, he uses objective theory and psychological approach to shows the

maturity in character, Scout Finch. As he states in his thesis, "Scout's development into a person capable of assuming that outlook marks the culmination of the novel and indicates that, whatever evil she encounters, she will retain her conscience without becoming cynical or jaded. Though she is still a child at the end of the book, Scout's perspective on life develops from an innocent child into a mature person." (23) It shows the process of Scout to become a mature child is motivated by her environment.

There are also books discusses about To Kill A Mockingbird. Firstly, Claudia Johnson in her book To Kill A Mockingbird: Threatening Boundaries (1994). According to Johnson, there are some similarities between the trials of Tom Robinson Scottsboro Incident in South America. The events that culminated in the trials began in the early spring of 1931, when nine young black men were falsely accused of raping two white women on a train. The cases were tried and appealed in Alabama and twice argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. Despite evidence that false accused and even the claim was repealed by one of the accusers, the state pursued the case and all-white juries delivered guilty verdicts that initially carried the death penalty.

Secondly, a book by Terry O' Neill (2000) which entitles Readings On To Kill A Mockingbird tells about a brief biography of Harper Lee by consisting four main unit, first contemporary review from time and Christian century. The second point is literary techniques in the novel, which consists of three symbols; they are the mad dog, the mockingbird, and racism. O'Neil also shows the issues about gender

roles, and shows the difference between legal codes and human perceptions of justice and review of the characters and plot of the novel.

In the research analysis, the writer concerns with the existence life of poor white trash in To Kill A Mockingbird, especially the writer concerns with the social discrimination toward the white trash in South America as reflected in To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. The writer analyzes sociological approach proposed by Alan Swingewood in first perspective by focusing on the portrait of white trash society in South America.

1.4 Theoretical Framework

In this research, the analysis of To Kill A Mockingbird begins with a literary theory which is called mimetic. Abrams states in A Glossary of Literary Criticism “Mimetic criticism views the literary work as an imitation of 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). It means a literary work can be considered as imitation of the real world. Thus, the writer also needs the extrinsic element beyond the literary work itself such as social condition at certain place in specific time.

As Taine states in The Sociology of Literature (Laurenson and Swingewood) : Plato’s conception of imitation implies a view literature is reflection of society”(23). It means as process imitation, a literary work can be as a mirror to reflect social life condition and various societal problems.

Furthermore, Laurensen and Swingewood state “Art begins when the human being recall within himself feelings and idea that he has had under the influence of the reality surrounding him and give them a certain figurative expression“(51). Sociology of literature can be defined as a study to literature about the fact of social life in certain place. Sociology of literature as the extrinsic approach to develop what the author sees in society about various aspects of life then delivers his/her own idea through their works.

Based on the explanation above, the writer applies Sociology of Literature to analyze the novel by Laurensen and Swingewood (1972). There are three perspectives of sociology of literature. First perspective as Swingewood states “the most popular perspective adopts the documentary aspect of literature, arguing that it provides a mirror to the age [...] On this view literature is direct reflection of various facets of social structure, family relationship, class conflict, and possibly divorce trends and population composition (13). In other words, a literary work concerns with various social problems in human life. This perspective is viewed as a reflection that portrays social condition in certain time. The second perspective concerns with the work of literature itself to production side, side, and especially to the social situation of the writer (17). It means that the writer and his work are related each other. The third perspective is concerning with the paradigm of the people to the literary work. According to Swingewood, 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 moment (21).

From three perspectives which have been discussed above, the writer chooses the first perspective in which views the literary works as a social documentation of social condition and situation when the literary work was written.

To Kill A Mockingbird shows the social class discrimination is occurred because from the upper class toward lower class because of the differentiation of social economic level. According to George Ritzer, wrote in Sociology: Experiencing A Changing Society “class is social ranking made on the basis of economic factors” (198). It means social class determines the position of each member of groups in a society based on socio-economic status.

The writer concludes that sociology of literature is appropriate to analyze To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. This literary work historically contains the social economy condition in Southern America society and also carries the issue the discrimination toward poor white trash society in South at early twentieth century.

1.7 Methods of the Research

In this research, there are three steps to complete this analysis. The first step is collecting the data. For this, the writer uses a library research. The primary data are taken from the novel itself, To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. Since the writer focuses on both intrinsic and extrinsic elements to reveal how far the novel depicts certain period, secondary data are needed. Secondary data are any information taken

from the books and articles concerning with the novel and also sociological context that are available in the library and internet.

In analyzing data, the writer reads the story extensively in order to understand not only about the story but also relate the story to the sociological issues that indicate the social condition in America. Then, the writer tries to analyze intrinsic elements of novel. After that, the writer applies the theory and the approach that are suitable for the analysis.

In presenting the data, the writer uses the qualitative method to prove the analysis by emerging arguments and opinion since the data are words, statement or paragraph and not in the form of number. According to Robert C Bogdan and Sari Knopp Bikten writes in Qualitative Research for Education: An Introduction to Theory and Methods “Qualitative research is descriptive. The collected data is form of words of pictures rather than numbers. The written result of the research contains quotation of the data to illustrate and substantiate the presentation” (20)

It shows the data is not presented in form of numbers, but in form of words. The writer uses the data in forms of words and then the data are collected and quoted to support her research.

CHAPTER II

PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS

In this chapter the writer gives a preliminary analysis of the novel. The aim of this preliminary analysis is to describe about intrinsic elements of the novel of each tales to see the social problems which will be the further analysis.

2.1 Characters

Character plays important role in delivering a story, because its action is union that will develop the story. As Mario Klarer states in his book Introduction To Literary Studies that “character in a text can be rendered either as types or as individuals.”(17) It shows that the personality of people in a literary work can be seen through characters that have existed in story.

Characters from the complexity of their characteristic can be divided into two kinds, flat and round characters. According to Kenney in How To Analyze Fiction (1996) flat characters are less the representation of human personality (28), while complex characters are obviously more lifelike than the simple (29). To be understandable, the writer will explain some characters that supporting by conversation and quotation in some event. The list of characters in To Kill a Mockingbird below:

2.1.1. Jean Louise Finch (Scout)

Scout is the daughter of Atticus Finch and at once the central character of the novel. At the beginning of the novel, Scout is an innocent child who has no

experience with the evils around her world. Her first feeling touched with the bad thing because racism since her father roles to defend a black man. She cares about the unfair treatment that received Helen Robinson, a wife of accused black man Tom Robinson. As her conversation with her black housekeeper, Calpurnia :

“Cal, I know Tom Robinson’s in jail and he’s done something awful, but why won’t folks hire Helen? Just what did he do, Cal?”

Old Mr. Bob Ewell accused him of raping his girl and had him arrested and put in jail

Well, if everybody in Maycomb knows what kind of folks the Ewells are they’d be glad to hire Helen” (125)

The passage shows Scout respected to the problem of Helen Robinson. She shows her sympathetic about the unfair that was faced by Helen Robinson in a while she knows how badly the reputation of Ewell family.

2.1.2 Atticus Finch

Atticus is flat and protagonist character. He is the oldest son of Simon Finch, a rich pharmacist. He is a respected lawyer in Maycomb County. He decides to defend a black man, Tom Robinson who was accused of raping white girl. Atticus also hates if white person calls African American people by nigger, for him it is really not polite because however the black people are equally social human being. As he tells to her daughter, Jean Louis Finch or Scout Finch:

“Scout, nigger-lover is just one of those terms do not mean anything—like snot-nose. It’s hard to explain—ignorant, trashy people use it when they think somebody’s favoring Negroes over and above themselves. It’s slipped into

usage with some people like ourselves, when they want a common, ugly term to label somebody.” (112)

From the passage above, it shows that even Atticus is white but he really appreciates about the justice and truth. He teaches Scout about moral lesson. The name *nigger* only used by white trash people whom uses it name to cover their low status position amongst whites people.

2.1.3 Jeremy Finch (Jem)

Jem is Scout's older brother. He is a mature boy, especially in looking the racial problem. It can be proved when he argued that it is just about color of skin. As he discussed about the case of Tom Robinson with his father Atticus:

“No sir, they ought to do away with juries. He wasn't guilty in the first place and they said he was.”

“If you had been on that jury, son, and eleven other boys like you, Tom would be a free man,” said Atticus. In our courts, when it's a white man's word against a black man's, the white man always wins. They're ugly, but those are the facts of life.” (224)

It is clearly seen that Jem did not agree about the execution of Tom Robinson. He argued that the punishment is not fair because he argues that Tom is not guilty. Jem was disappointed about the injustice toward black people.

2.1.4 Calpurnia (Cal)

Cal is a black housekeeper for Finch family's housekeeper. She is protagonist and flat character. Although she only works as housekeeper, she is important in Finch family. She has role to teach Jem and Scout about the moral values. One example can be seen in the novel when Calpurnia teaches Scout to appreciate a person who different in status, especially when the person visits to her house. As seen in novel:

“he ain’t company, cal, he’s just Cunningham.”

“hush your mouth! Do not matter who they are, anybody sets foot in this house’s yo’ comp’ny, and don’t you let me catch you remarking on their ways like you was so highly and mighty! Your folks might be better in the Cunningham but it don’t count for nothing the way you are disgracing them
(34)

The passage above shows that Calpurnia teaches to Scout that all people is equal. Even the Cunningham is poor and scout is richer than Walter but it means nothing if Scout disgraces him. Calpurnia teach to Scout that all human being is equal.

2.1.6 Tom Robinson

Tom is a black man who stands falsely accused of raping white girl and he must faces the charges to all white jury. He is kind and a hard worker even his left arm is shriveled and useless. As Tom witness in the trial:

“then you were mighty polite to do all that chopping and hauling for her, weren’t *boy*?”

“I was just trying to help her out, *Suh*.” (196)

The quotation above describes the polite language of Tom. Even though he is called by *boy* who implied impolite name by the white people, he still answers by polite name *Suh* or *Sir*. The language of Tom Robinson is polite.

Tom Robinson was manipulated by white girl Mayella Ewell however he tried to help her. It can be seen in the novel when Tom Robinson tells about the chronological incident between him and Mayella to Judge Talor:

“Then what did she do?”

The witness swallowed hard. “She reached up and kissed me side of the face. She says she never kissed a grown man before an’ she might as well kiss a nigger. She says what her papa do to her don’t count. She says, ‘Kiss me back, nigger.’ I say Miss Mayella lemme outa here and tried to run but she got her back to the door and I had to push her. I didn’t want harm her, Mr. Finch, and I say lemme pass, but just when I say it Mr. Ewell yonder hollered through the window.”(197)

It clearly seen that Mayella forced Tom Robinson to kiss her. Tom tried to avoid Mayella but she still arrested until Bob Ewell screamed. The data above also implies that Bob Ewell forces Mayella for flirting with him.

2.1.7 Alexandra Finch (Aunt Alexandra)

She is Atticus's sister who has very strict about traditional ideas in southern society and the role a Southern woman should play. She obsesses with the honor of the Finches, as Jem pointed about his aunty “she would never let an opportunity to show the superiority of our family” (251).

Especially for Scout, Alexandra teaches Scout how she should try to behave like aristocrat lady style. As Atticus tells about Alexandra’s willingness as the quotation below:

“Your Aunt has asked me to try and impress you and Jean Louis that you are not from run of-of-the mill people, that you are the product of several generations’ gentle breedin and you should try to live up to your name. She asked me to tell you about the family and what it’s meant to Maycomb county through the years, so you’ll have some idea of who you are, so you might be moved to behave accordingly”(134).

It describes that Aunt Alexandra will Scout learn about how to be a good girl with several knowledge about the history of family background in order to show the high status of Finch family.

2.1.8 Mayella Ewell

She is the oldest daughter of Bob Ewell. The people ignore her because the bad reputation of her family. Mayella violated cultural code when she kissed a black man as Atticus reminds the jury in his closing argument:

“She has committed crime, she has merely broken a rigid and time-honored code of our society, a code so severe that whoever breaks it is hounded from our midst as unfit to live with [...] She knew full well the enormity of her offense, but because her desires were stronger than the code she was breaking, she persisted in breaking it [...] What did she do? She tempted a Negro. She did something that in our society is unspeakable. She kissed a black man. “(203).

From the quotation, Mayella embarrass in the name of white people in county. She forced black man kiss her. Her attitude

2.1.9 Bob Ewell

He is the head of Ewell family. He lives in a shack near the town dump. He is an alcoholic. As illustrates by Atticus:

“Atticus was quietly building up before the jury a picture of the Ewells’ home life. The jury learned the following things: their relief check was far from enough to feed the family, and there was strong suspicion that Papa drank it up anyway—he sometimes went off in the swamp for days and came home sick “ (185)

It shows that the bad characteristic of Bob Ewell such as drunken and abusing of his children.

The simple way from Atticus to show the evil of Bob Ewell is by proving the injury of Mayella was done by someone who left handed in while Tom's left hand was defect. Atticus states at the law trial :

“ Her father saw it, and the defendant has testified as to his remarks. What did her father do? We don't know, but there is circumstantial evidence to indicate that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left. We do know in part what Mr. Ewell did: he did what any God-fearing, persevering, respectable white man would do under the circumstances—he swore out a warrant, no doubt signing it with his left hand, and Tom Robinson now sits before you, having taken the oath with the only good hand he possesses—his right hand.” (208)

It shows Bob Ewell did cruelty to her daughter, Mayella but he lied for what he has done. He was manipulated black people to cover his evil. He gives the false testimony in the trial to get sympathy from Maycomb society.

2.1.10 Walter Cunningham

Walter Cunningham is Scout's classmate. His family is poor white farmer Maycomb County. He also has some diseases because living in dirty environment. As stated in the novel: "Walter Cunningham's face told everybody in the first grade he had hookworms. His absence of shoes told us how he got them" (19). This passage shows the Cunninghams have no money at all. This quote also shows that the Cunningham's are so poor they cannot even afford a pair of shoes.

2.1.11. Arthur Radley (Boo)

Arthur is called 'Boo' by Scout and Jem. He is mysterious person, who never steps out of his house, nor maintain any relation with other people in county. It can be seen from the dialogue between Scout and her neighbor, Mrs.Maudie Atkinson:

“Miss.Maudie, Do you think Boo Radley’s still alive? His name’s Arthur and he’s alive. She was rocking slowly in her big oak chair. Do you smell my mimosa? Its like angel’s breath this evening.”

Yessum. How do you know ?

Know what,child?

That B—Mr.Arthur’s still alive

What a morbid question. But I suppose it’s a morbid subject. I know he’s alive Jean Louis, because I haven’t seen him carried out (44)

2.2. Plot

Plot is one of intrinsic elements of novel to construct all events in the story.

According to Klarer in An Introduction to Literary Studies , “Plot is the logical, interaction of the various thematic elements of a text which lead to change of the original situation as presented at the outset of the narrative not only in their temporal, but also their casual relationship. Plot is the logical interaction of the various thematic elements of a text which lead to a change of the original situation as presented at the outset of narrative. An ideal traditional plot line encompasses the following sequent levels: exposition, complication, climax or turning point, resolution” (15). It shows that plot deals with some events that are build a whole story in a literary works.

To Kill A Mockingbird has a flash back plot. This novel begins with a narration about the origin of Finches family in Alabama by Scout Finch and description the broad Finch landing that has inherited from the ancestor Simon Finch. Scout Finch tells about her family background that generated from a rich pharmacist, Simon Finch who has migrated from English to Alabama. The novel sets in fictional town in Alabama, Maycomb. This town has three kinds of communities: the white folk, the black community, and the white trash.

Scout has black house keeper who has worked for a long time in Finch family,

she is Calpurnia. Then, Scout and her brother introduced about their friend, Dill. These three children share stories about fantasies about the mysterious man who named Boo Radley who lives with his family near the house of Scout.

The first problem has come when Atticus is assigned to defend black man, Tom Robinson. He must oppose poor white family Bob Ewell. Watching the trial, Scout and Jem cannot understand how can the court convict Tom Robinson based on the Ewell's manipulating testimony.

The problem achieves as climax through the story. The climax of the novel revolves around the trial in which Atticus defends Tom Robinson, a black, who has been accused of having molested a white trash girl, Mayella Ewell. The children follow the case proceedings avidly and are inconsolable when their father loses the case. The case is not simply because is still impossible despite statutory laws protecting them for a black man to attain victory over a white in the South. In spite of Atticus's capable and impassioned defense, the jury finds Tom Robinson guilty. The verdict forces Scout and Jem to confront the fact that the morals which Atticus has taught them cannot always be reconciled with the reality of the world and the evils of human nature. Tom Robinson has been shot by police when he is trying to escape from prison and he was died.

In the ending of story, Bob Ewell assaults Scout and Jem when the walk home one night, but it is unpredictable when their recluse neighbor, Boo Radley saves them and fatally stabs Bob Ewell. The sheriff tells that Ewell trips and falls on his own knife. After sitting and talking with Scout, Boo Radley comes back to his house and

Scout never sees again.

2.3 Setting

Setting relates to a place, time, and situation in a story in which the action take a place in the work. As Mario Klarer states in an Introduction to Literary Studies, “The term setting denotes the location, historical period and social surroundings in which the action of a text develop.”(24). It means that setting is an element of a literary work that shows the reader about specific time and events where the story happens.

To Kill A Mockingbird took place in Alabama , Southern part of United states. As depicted in the novel:

“Maycomb, some twenty miles east of Finch’s landing was the county seat of Maycomb County. Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop. Somehow it was hotter the bony mules hitched to Hoover carts flicked flies in the sweltering shade of the live oaks on the square. Men’ stiff collars wilted by nine in the morning. Ladies bathed before noon, their three o’clocks naps, and by nightfall were like soft teacakes with frostings of sweat and sweet talcum. There was no hurry, for there was nowhere to go, nothing to buy it with, nothing to see outside the boundaries of Maycomb County. But it was a time of vague optimism for some of the people: maycomb had recently been told that it had nothing to fear it itself. (9)

The data above is introduced by Scout to describe about Maycomb County in the Great Depression of 1930s when poverty is widespread but the society still tries to grow up by doing their usual activities.

2.4 Theme

Theme is one of important elements of fiction that the readers need to understand in reading a literary work. It is fundamental and often universal idea explored in a literary work by considering the essential message in this novel. It

concerns to what the main point of wholeness signified in the story. Through the theme, a reader can get more profound understanding about the story. Kenney defines “theme is the central idea and the main problem, which is raised by the author to develop the story by presenting some action and characters” (91). This novel tells about story about a lawyer, Atticus Finch who defended black man for case of raping white girl in South America and he roles to fight against the social injustice toward the innocent of African American. He also hates some poor white people whom he calls by white trash. The writer sees interesting thing like the author explored the societal problem from complexity of human being from perspective of children, especially from Scout Finch and Jem Finch.

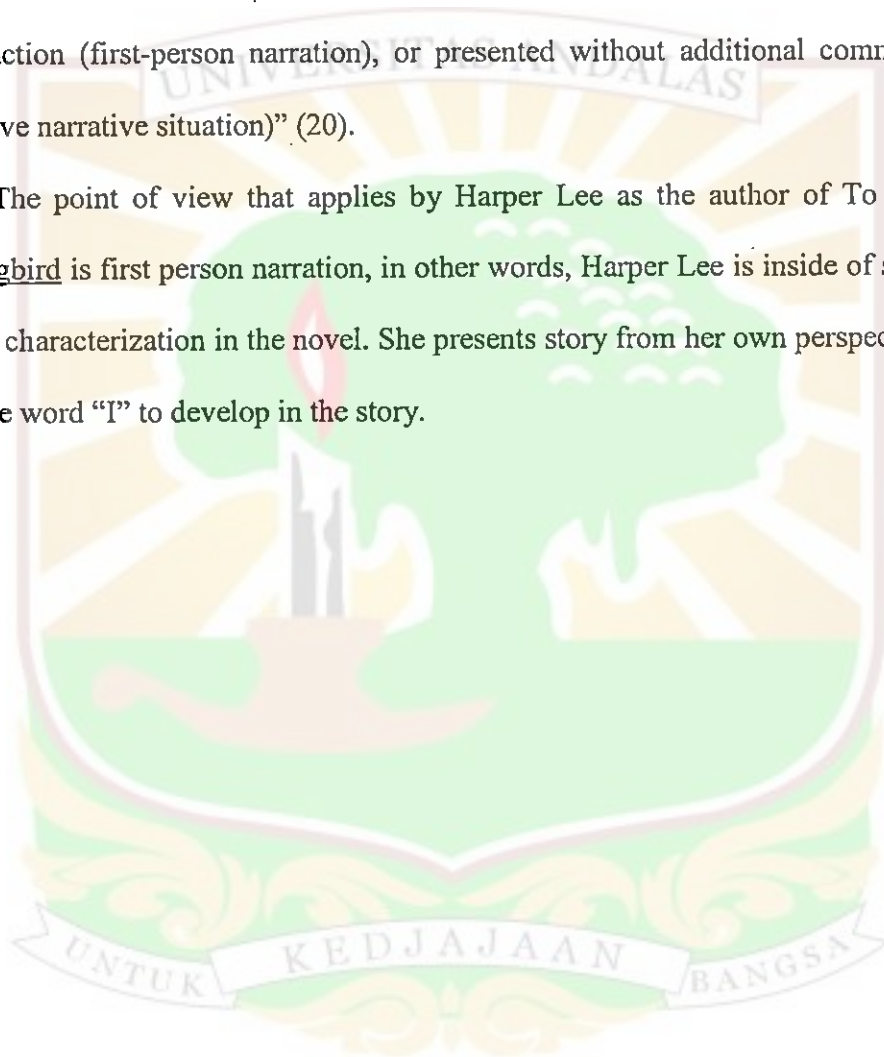
After analyze the story, the writer take conclusion about the main theme of To Kill A Mockingbird is how people live in rigid social division. The social division resulted social problems in form of discrimination. The different of skin makes African American people separated them with white people and deals with racial discrimination. The different social status also creates the disparity of social class problem between high or educated people toward poor people. When Tom Robinson, an African-American man, is accused of raping Mayella Ewell, Atticus is appointed as the attorney. Mayella and her drunken father, Bob Ewell, live in poverty on the outskirts of town. The family is known as trouble and disliked by the townspeople.

2.5 Point of view

Point of view sees the way which the author relates to the reader’s response about the character, the events, and the conflicts. According to Mario Klarer states

“the term of point of view, or narrative perspective, characterizes the way in which a text presents persons, events, and settings (20)”. He classifies three basic positions the point of view as he states “the action of a text is either mediated through an exterior, unspecified narrator (omniscient point of view), through a person involved in the action (first-person narration), or presented without additional commentary (figurative narrative situation)” (20).

The point of view that applies by Harper Lee as the author of To Kill A Mockingbird is first person narration, in other words, Harper Lee is inside of story to delivers characterization in the novel. She presents story from her own perspective by using the word “I” to develop in the story.



CHAPTER III

SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION AGAINST WHITE TRASH CLASS OF SOUTH AMERICA AS REFLECTED IN HARPER LEE'S TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD

In this chapter the writer investigates the social discrimination toward white trash class as reflected in To Kill A Mockingbird. As the approach is mimetic that used in this research, the writer needs the additional chapter as the factual data of the research about the social discrimination toward white trash class in South America in the early twentieth century. The data had taken from several sources such as books, journals and article on the internet that related to the social discrimination toward white trash class of South America in twentieth century.

The writer divides this chapter into two; first is the social class of the South America in To Kill A Mockingbird and the social discrimination toward white trash class in South America. Before going into the main sub chapter, to make it comprehensive, the writer provides the data about historical background of social economy condition of South America.

Southern part has specific characters that differ from other areas of American States. According to Tindall in America: A Narrative History, there are two main issues as the specific characteristic of the South America. The first issue is the climate factor and geography, and the second one is the effects of human decisions and actions. The South's warm and wet climate are really supported the growing of staple

crops. Furthermore, Southern areas are filled by plantation land which really needs black farmers to run the land. Since that matter, the slavery system was formed. (Tindall 354)

In addition, Brown stated in his book Southern Honor “bondage was an answer to economic need. The South was not founded to create slavery, slavery was recruited the South“(16). The quotation means that the socio economical condition of South cannot be separated from the role of slaves.

But furthermore, slavery becomes a way to exploit humankind. As Tindall states in his book America : A Narrative Story “gentle old masses become the arrogant, haughty, imperious potentate, the very embodiment of sin, the central target of anti slavery attack. He kept a slave mistress; he bred these black like cattle, and sold them down to river to certain death, in sugar mills, separating families if that suited his purpose, white southern woman suffered in silence the guilty knowledge their men’s infidelity”. (354)

From this data, it is clearly that the plantation owner as the master will dominate all plantation lands and enjoy the yield without caring about the labor. It is in contrary with humanity because the slaves are really influential to grow the plantation. Under slavery institution, the role of plantation owner was hierarchical and patriarchal.

Not only black people were suffered, since slavery institution placed the rich plantation owner as the upper class, it caused class problem between the poor white and the rich white people. As Tindall states “the masses of white folks were, once

again, poor whites relegated to ignorance and degeneracy by the slavocracy”(355). It shows that since the slavery system was existed, the condition of poor white become worst and lack of attention.

In addition, Brown states in his book entitled Southern Honor “slaves, in both the ancient world and later centuries, were deemed incapable of reliability and therefore impervious to the dictates of community judgment. Similarly, poor whites since the Old south were subjected to the ancient prejudice against menials, swineherds, peddlers, and beggars (46). The data shows that poor whites also get bad assumption in society, although they are white. They have bad reputation for their works. They also are living in poor and dirty condition.

According to Jacobs in The American South: Portrait of A Culture, poor whites build a place without permission or illegally on border line of plantation area, and then they called by the name *po' white trash* that originated from the word *po'Buckra* that was existed in society. They live in swamps and hill in separated group. For all generations of poor white known as really poor and their life are susceptible to some diseases, such as malaria, hookworms, trichinosis, and pellagra that made their way of life different from the entire of white class until the twentieth century (Jacobs 215)

From these data above, it can be sum up the social economy in American South basically supported by climate and its geography where commendable to grow the staple crops, thus the plantation land was spread in this country. The plantation

owner needs the black farmers to cultivate their land. Then, it creates a slavery institution. Furthermore, the slavery as form of a human explanation not only separated the black people but it also brings social class problem between white southerners. In this case, the class conflict was happened between the upper class toward poor white people. The upper class people are ignorant to the bad condition of poor white. Moreover, they have bad reputation about their work and attitude. Unfortunately, the bad of white trash people still have not changed until twentieth century.

3.1 Social Class System of South America in To Kill A Mockingbird

Social class may also refer to any particular level in such a hierarchy. According to Jeannette L. Nolen in Encyclopedia Britannica Online (2009) , social class is a group of people in a society who possess the same socioeconomic status. The term class first came into wide use in the early 19th century, replacing such terms as *rank* and *order* as descriptions of the major hierarchical groupings in society. This usage reflected changes in the structure of western European societies after the industrial and political revolutions of the late 18th century. (Britannica Encyclopedia, social class)

In this subchapter the writer would like to shows the social class in To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee. This social class divided a group of society who possess the same social economy status. This condition makes society divided into group and each group cannot be seen equally.

John Dollard in his book Caste and Class in A Southern Town argues that

southern stratified society was upper class, the middle class, poor whites, and slaves.

(7) It shows the Southern class system was divided into four classes.

3.1.1. Upper or High Class

The upper class is assigned in the highest position of social class. It can Dollard states “at the top is the plantation owner and slave holder” (7). It can be seen the southern upper class consist of the owner of land and slaves. They have authority to run their own land and employ their slave farmer.

For the first of the opening of the novel, it describes that the Finch family fits into the upper class based on their characteristics and their life style. It can be seen when Atticus as the head of Finch family tells to his children about the grandfather, Simon Finch who worked as rich apothecary. As seen in novel on page 16:

“Simon made a pile practicing medicine, but in this pursuit. He was unhappy lest he be tempted into doing what he knew was not for the glory of God, as the putting on of gold and costly apparel. So Simon, having forgotten his teacher’s dictum on the possession of human chattels, bought three slaves and with their aid established a homestead on the banks of the Alabama river some forty miles about Saint Stephens only once, to find a wife, and with her established a line that ran high to daughters. Simon lived to an impressive age and died rich.”(4)

From the data above, it shows that Simon finch, the first descendant is rich and educated. It can be proved he was able to buy his own plantation land and also he is able to buy the slaves to cultivate their land and he still also died by leaving much inheritance for his next generation.

It is also supported by Brown in Southern Honor state “Land and slaves are the symbol of attribute to see their power as the highest people in society in every

aspect of life among Southerners. Slaves not only symbolized wealth, but they also attributed to their owner's honor, prestige, and portrayal of outward power" (114). It means slave also as tool to show the power and to improve social status in South America. Slave is not only as the wealth but also as property to assign someone into highest position in South America. Mean that slaves as symbol of honor, status, power in the South.

The upper class focused on values of old Europe such as chivalry, education, leisure, elegance and social grace. Both men and woman of the Planter class had specific roles of social elegance in southern society. Southern planter is a perfect gentleman, of high standing, well educated, fine commanding, and prepossessing appearance. (Brown 95)

Simon Finch has three children; they are Atticus Finch, Alexandra Finch, and John Hale Finch. With this wealth, he was able to put his son into the best schools. Harper Lee describes in the beginning of her novel,

The tradition of living on the land remained unbroken until well into the twentieth century, when my father, Atticus Finch, went to Montgomery to read law, and his younger brother went to Boston to study medicine. Their sister Alexandra was the Finch who remained at the Landing. (4)

From the quotation below we can see the Finch family is being upper class also because education. It also supported by Brown that "southern planter is a perfect gentleman, of high standing, well educated, fine commanding, prepossessing appearance who had to be regarded as high-minded as anyone could be (40). It means

that being a southern gentleman must be supported by well education too. Simon Finches realized that education is important in his children life, which furthermore it can be seen in the novel Atticus Finch become professional lawyer and his brother John hale Finch become a doctor.

Besides that, the Southern upper women embedded with the name Southern Belle who must have skills associated with woman. As Seidel states in Southern Belle in American Novel “it went without saying that the belle was white and of aristocratic origin. She was lively, little bit vain, rather naïve and had few tasks other than to be obedient, to ride, to cook, and perhaps to learn reading and writing” (6). From this passage, it shows that being a southern ideal woman not only need a beauty but also a skill that show her active and has special place in society.

Aunt Alexandra or Alexandra is the only women in Finch family who fits the stereotype of an aristocrat southern lady. Through the appearances, manners and tasks by Southern lady that brings femininity influence in Southern society. As seen in the novel,

“When she settled in with us and life resumed its daily pace, Aunt Alexandra seemed as if she had always lived with us. Her Missionary Society refreshments added to her reputation as a hostess; she joined and became Secretary of the Maycomb Amanuensis Club. To all parties present and participating in the life of the county, Aunt Alexandra was one of the last of her kind: she had river-boat, boarding-school manners. (283)

From data above, it can be seen clearly how Aunt Alexandra is highly respected in

Maycomb County. She shows her activeness by join with religious missionary organization without leave her natural woman tasks by make a cake. Her cleverness and good attitude make her being famous in Maycomb Society.

Women from upper class or aristocrat woman must keep on her beauty social grace, and social status. It can be seen from their physical appearance with special attributes to show their high style. An Article by Biljana Oklopcic entitled "Southern Belle Deconstructed" supported it Southern tradition of idealization of woman's beauty perceives herself as a beautiful object which has to be properly decorated in order to sell well. It depends exterior beauty markers – dresses, hats, jewelry, perfumes, and cosmetics which are, in her brother-in-laws's discourse, magnified into solid-gold dress[es,] genuine fox fur-pieces, pearls, bracelets of solid gold, and diamonds (Biljana ,Americana E-Journal)

Alexandra Finch also teaches her nephew, Scout Finch to behave like proper lady because they are came from the honorable family in Maycomb County. She tells to Scout to change her appearance as how the southern upper lady looks her appearance by wearing the dresses and the glamorous accessories. She reminds to Scout about the girly duty. It can be seen in the novel:

Aunt Alexandra was fanatical on the subject of my attire. I could not possibly hope to be a lady if I wore breeches; when I said I could do nothing in a dress, she said I wasn't supposed to be doing things that required pants. Aunt Alexandra's vision of my department involved playing with small stoves, tea sets, and wearing the Add-A-Pearl necklace she gave me when I was born;

furthermore, I should be a ray of sunshine in my father's lonely life. (83)

The data above shows Alexandra really disagrees with the boyish style of Scout. Aunt Alexandra forced Scout to custom being like a good southern lady and shows the aristocrat style that differ her with another girl. She wants her looks like an elegant girly that usually with wearing a skirt or dress completed with beautiful accessories. She hopes Scout to learn about feminine tasks from during her activity.

3.1.2. Middle Class

The next social class as the second class was formed by the middle class. The members of this class owns property but were not as rich as the upper class. They still hard work to reach their need. According to Hundley in his book Social Relation in Our Southern States "middle class belong to many different calling, professions, and trades, furthermore depend on what was this class pursued". This class consist of traders, shop-keeper, artisans, mechanics, a few manufacturers, and a goodly numbers of school teachers, and a host of half-fledged, country lawyers, and doctors, parsons, and the like"(71). The previous data shows that the member of middle class is the majority professional workers who still pursue their high status in society.

In To Kill A Mockingbird, they are professional white workers, such teacher, dr.Reynold, Judge Taylor. Mrs. Caroline. One of the characteristic of this class can be seen when Jean Louis Finch (Scout) tells about the style her teacher:

Miss Caroline was no more than twenty-one. She had bright auburn hair, pink cheeks, and wore crimson fingernail polish. She also wore high-heeled pumps

and a red-and-white-striped dress. She looked and smelled like a peppermint drop. She boarded across the street one door down from us in Miss Maudie Atkinson's upstairs front room (14)

The data shows that Mrs. Caroline's life style represents the professional workers in society with comfortable lifestyle. She is still able to rent a room but she has not land and slave like as the characteristic of upper class.

3.1.3. Poor White or White Trash

The poor white is the lowest class of white people. These people are poor people although they are white. According to Matt Wray in Not Quite White: White Trash and The Boundaries of Whiteness that the term of white trash historically refers to poor white Southern farmers in the United States. It is common for usage of American people that referring to the poor rural White Southerner (Wray 44). It describes that poor white is the poor white farmer who live in separated in rural area from white people.

In To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee, poor whites are represented by two families, they are The Cunningham and the Ewells. Both two white families which represented in the novel are poor people.

The poor condition of Cunningham family can be seen when Scout says to her teacher, Mrs. Caroline tells about Walter Cunningham. She tells the reason of Walter did not bring his meal to school because he has not much money. As seen in the novel

“What, Jean Louise?

“I thought I had made things sufficiently clear. It was clear enough to the rest of us: Walter Cunningham was sitting there laying his head off. He didn’t forget his lunch, he didn’t have any. He had none today nor would he have any tomorrow or the next day. He had probably never seen three quarters together at the same time in his life” (20)

It shows that Walter comes from poor family because they do not have money to prepare their meal. They never have had money along their life. It shows their poor condition of poor white. Scout Finch as the upper class shows the poor condition of poor white as if she did not believe that Walter cannot return back Ms. Caroline’s money.

In addition, according to Dollard in Caste and Class in A Southern Town, poor white trash hates the existence of black people, because the upper planter seems to commend the black slaves to cultivate the land. They assume the black people are their competitor. (Dollard 75)

In To Kill A Mockingbird, the poor white family, Ewells show their hatred toward black people. The head of this family is Bob Ewell. The old daughter of Mayella accused a black Tom Robinson raped her. It can be seen from her testimony to the lawyer of Tom, Atticus Finch in the novel:

“I got something to say,” she said.

Atticus raised his head. “Do you want to tell us what happened?”

But she did not hear the compassion in his invitation. “I got somethin’ to say an’ then I ain’t gonna say no more. That nigger yonder took advantage of me

an‘if you fine fancy gentlemen don’t wanta do nothin’ about it then you’re all yellow stinkin’ cowards, stinkin’ cowards, the lot of you.”(191)

It shows Mayella tries to get empathy from all guest of court about the evil that have done by Tom. She also called tom by *nigger* with refer to black people by white people because of different skin.

3.1.4. The Low Class

The lower class consists of black slaves. The slaves is offensive word in which originated from slavery era than further changed to African American people since slavery system was ended. Slavery was abolished in the early twentieth century by the Emancipation Proclamation issued by President Abraham Lincoln. Freedom for all slaves happened in 1865 when civil war ended.

The power of black people still has been encouraged by Civil Rights movement. Daniel Harrison and Larry W. Issac in article entitled “Social Class and Southern Civil Right Movement” states:

“The Civil Right Movement in the South was clearly successful in number of respects—its abolition of the Jim Crow stem of racial apartheid; providing the call action the call to action behind the Civil Right Act of 1964 and the Voting Rights Act, and perhaps most importantly for creating a new culture of racial pride and dignity among African American.”(6)

The quotation above shows that the civil right movement forms the struggle of black people to get their equality of human right. Since that time, the black people show their movement in socio economic even politically.

In the novel To Kill A Mockingbird, social life condition of black people is better than poor white people. It can found in the novel, when they still has own church which has build by the fund of black people themselves. As seen in the novel “First Purchase African M.E. Church was in the Quarters outside the southern town limits, across the old sawmills tracks. It was an ancient paint-peeled frame building, the only church in Maycomb with a steeple and bell, called First Purchase because it was paid for from the first earnings of freed slaves The warm bittersweet smell of clean Negro welcomed us as we entered the churchyard—Hearts of Love hairdressing mingled with asafoetida, snuff, Hoyt’s Cologne, Brown’s Mule, peppermint, and lilac talcum. (119). The data shows the black people still can build their own church by their own money. They also go to church with good and clean dress with perfume.

The black people also can help their friends who is having problem by collecting their own money. As illustration in the novel:

“This is not enough, we must have ten dollars.” The congregation stirred.

“You all know what it’s for—Helen can’t leave those children to work while Tom’s in jail. If everybody gives one more dime, we’ll have it—”Reverend Sykes waved his hand and called to someone in the back of the church. “Alec, shut the doors. Nobody leaves here till we have ten dollars.”(123)

It can be seen in the novel when devotion event. After his speech, the priest has initiated all congregations to support Helen Robinson by collecting donation.

From this explanation in this sub chapter, the writer can be seen that the social class of South America as portrayed in To Kill A Mockingbird influenced by the social economy condition of South America as agricultural country. South America has four social classes; they are upper class, middle class, poor white, and black people. The upper class in To Kill A Mockingbird is the Finch family. This family is descended from the rich man Simon Finch who has land and slaves. The land was inherited for the next generation of Finch that name Finch Landing. Mostly, the Finch family is well educated and high of respect. The middle class that found in the novel consists of the school teacher, the judge and sheriff. They have good enough life style. The existence of poor white class also found in the novel, they are lowest of poor white people in society even they are called by white trash. They do not have money for their life needs. They also really hate the black people. The black people are the low class in the South, but their condition in novel not bad as the poor white people. They still have own church although separated to white people and they still have their own money to help their friends. It can be concluded that Harper Lee in To Kill A Mockingbird shows the existence of the poor white was is bad condition in the society.

3.2 Social Discrimination Against White Trash Class as Reflected in To Kill A Mockingbird

Social class discrimination can be defined as the discrimination based on

social class. It means that class discrimination occurred from the upper class to lower class. Since the plantation system as a way of human exploitation by slavery institution, it was not only creates racial problem between white and black but the class conflict between rich and poor. According to Dagrendorf in his book Class and Class Conflict in Industrial Society the definition of class conflict is the tension or antagonism which exists in society due to competing socioeconomic interests between people of different classes (207). In this case, the upper class people were not only treats black unfair, but also poor white or white trash people were got the social discrimination because they are low class amongst white people.

In this sub chapter, the writer shows the social discrimination toward white trash class from the upper class in South America as reflected in To Kill A Mockingbird. The social discrimination had taken in form getting bad reputation of family, living in dirty and remote place, and economic differences.

3.2.1. Getting Bad Reputation of Family

White trash is separated by upper class. They are regarded as the bad people who embarrass white people because well known bad characteristic through the history. As Jim Goad stated in his book The Redneck Manifesto: How Hillbillies Hicks and White Trash becomes America's Scapegoats states “the immoral, degenerate and violent scapegoat of the poor whites was used as an example of the need for the elite to protect others from this underclass who did not have a role in society” (20). It can be seen the upper classes do not pay close attention to the existence. They get bad assumption from the white because they are considered as the

disgrace of white people. The bad morality of the poor white caused them discriminated in reputation. The upper class hates the existence of these white people.

In To Kill A Mockingbird, the Finch family show their much hatred toward two poor white families, they are Ewell family and the Cunningham. Both two families get bad reputation. In this case, the discrimination was happened in two groups. At the first, the social behavior is happened toward the parents from each head of two families. Secondly, the social discrimination also impacted toward the children.

Ewell is the poor white farmer family in Maycomb County. Bob Ewell as the head of Ewell family really were disliked by the white , especially for Atticus Finch who comes from the upper class. Atticus Finch is a lawyer who defends the black man, Tom Robinson. He did the pleas because he was looking for the evil of the white toward black people by poor white Ewell. As Atticus said :

“The Ewells had been the disgrace of Maycomb for three generations. None of them had done an honest day’s work in his recollection. He said that some Christmas, when he was getting rid of the tree, he would take me with him, they were people, but they lived like animals. They go to school any time they want to, when they show the faintest symptom of wanting an education There are ways of keeping them in school by force, but it’s silly to force people like the Ewells into a new environment”(31).

It can be seen clearly that Bob Ewell is well known for his bad characteristic and they never have worked in right way. All people were disgusted about them since

long time ago. The existence of Ewell family is untouched by upper class because they are regarded as uneducated people

Matt Wray states in his book Not Quite White: White Trash and The Boundaries of Whiteness “poor white live outside society because their immoral rejection of the work ethic. White trash live in bad condition and they prohibited to contact and to get out from their specific region because most people really know about their bad ethic.”(142)

According to Matt Wray in same book, “the term poor white and or poor white trash outcasts from respectable society living on the fringes of the social order that seen dangerous people because they may be criminal, unpredictable, and without respect for authority whether it be political, legal, or moral”(143). It describes poor white trash is excluded from the white because their well-known bad reputation and they are separated from the upper white by their worse background of life since their early ancestry.

In the trial of Tom Robinson who was accused raping the daughter of Bob Ewell , Atticus tried to being fair about the justice because he really know that this family. As he said trial, Atticus also proves that Bob Ewell is a jobless and drunken. The Ewell family is regarded as beggar in Maycomb because they just from the charity from county .Lee poured this case in her novel on page 185:

Atticus was quietly building up before the jury a picture of the Ewells' home life. The jury learned the following things: their relief check was far from

enough to feed the family, and there was strong suspicion that Papa drank it up anyway—he sometimes went off in the swamp for days and came home sick; the weather was seldom cold enough to require shoes, but when it was, you could make dandy ones from strips of old tires; the family hauled its water in buckets from a spring that ran out at one end of the dump—.(185)

It show that Atticus had shown to all of audience the bad characteristic of the Bob Ewell as long as he know in purpose to see that Bob Ewell is dishonored because of their shame attitude which contrast with the norms in Maycomb society. Besides that, they are poor although this family has gotten the charity from the government. It supported by Jacob's statement in The American South: Portrait of a Culture "relishing whiskey and sex are tradition of low life in the South." (228).

In addition Brown also the bad reputation of poor white trash that placed this group as low as black by pointed, "Those who lacked honor also lacked reputation. Slaves, in both the ancient world and later centuries, were deemed incapable of reliability and therefore impervious to the dictates of community judgment. Similarly, poor whites in the Old South were subjected to the ancient prejudice against menial, swineherd, peddlers, and beggars." (46) It shows that the bad reputation of poor white trash placed this group as low as black people. They lost of all honor who embedded belong white people. They were considered as lazy and unskilled people.

Furthermore, discrimination in bad reputation can be seen from the way of Atticus defends Tom Robinson in the climax of trial. He reveals to all of audience

about the brutality of the Bob Ewell but her daughter successfully in covering this case by false witness a black people was raped her. It can be seen in novel:

What was the evidence of her offense? Tom Robinson, a human being. She must put Tom Robinson away from her. Tom Robinson was her daily reminder of what she did. What did she do? She tempted a Negro. She was white, and she tempted a Negro. She kissed a black man. Not an old Uncle, but a strong young Negro man. No code mattered to her before she broke it, but it came crashing down on her afterwards. Her father saw it, and the defendant has testified as to his remarks. What did her father do? We don't know, but there is circumstantial evidence to indicate that Mayella Ewell was beaten savagely by someone who led almost exclusively with his left. We do know in part what Mr. Ewell did: he did what any God-fearing, persevering, respectable white man would do under the circumstances—he swore out a warrant, no doubt signing it with his left hand, and Tom Robinson now sits before you, having taken the oath with the only good hand he possesses—his right hand(207).

It shows that Atticus emphasized that his inner self summoned for his responsibility for a social human who did not get fair treatment and social justice. Atticus realizes that Tom and his black friends and had desperate if they have affair with white people. He more appreciates a black man than the poor white trash that use black people to manipulate arbitrarily. It means that just only for her sexual desire make poor white trash girl do something illegal depend on the social norms. Atticus as the professional lawyer deliberately revealed the bad reputation of Ewell as the trash of white society because his really hatred about Ewell, he also describes the Ewell is truly trash because they were manipulated black people for their interest. As Atticus tells to his children:

“As you grow older, you'll see white men cheat black men everyday of your life whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how

rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash. There's nothing more sickening to me than a low-grade white man who'll take advantage of a Negro's ignorance" (361).

The data shows that the evil of Ewell until Atticus shows his hatred toward the Ewell by calling trash to all the people of the county. It shows how social behavior from upper white man toward the white trash in society. In this definition Atticus presents the word trash in terms of a bad characteristics especially who manipulated the fact by using the ignorance and the weakness of black people for their own guilty.

In To Kill A Mockingbird, Tom Robinson also get a plea by his master, Mr.Link Deas. Although he accused of raping poor white trash girl in society, Mr. Link Deas also defend Tom in the trial. It is seen in the novel:

"Atticus sat down. Mr. Gilmer was making his way to the witness stand, but before he got there Mr. Link Deas rose from the audience and announced: "I just want the whole lot of you to know one thing right now. That boy's worked for me eight years an'I ain't had a speck o'trouble outa him. Not a speck."(199)

The passage shows the confession from Mr. Link Deas as long as he has being master of Tom in purpose to defend his worker. He believes that Tom is hard worker and loyal person.

Social discrimination also happened toward the children of Bob Ewell who named Mayella Ewell. In the novel Mayella is alienated from the society because his

family reputation. As Atticus said in the trial:

Mayella Ewell must have been the loneliest person in the world. She was even lonelier than Boo Radley, who had not been out of the house in twenty-five years [...] white people wouldn't have anything to do with her because she lived among pigs; Negroes wouldn't have anything to do with her because she was white. That's just their way about the Ewells. Maycomb gave those Christmas baskets, welfare money, and the back of its hand. Tom Robinson was probably the only person who was ever decent to her. But she said he took advantage of her, and when she stood up she looked at him as if he were dirt beneath her feet. (195)

The data shows that Atticus mocked Mayella as lonely girl because nobody will be her friend and interact with her, because her poor life. Ironically, when black people tried to help her yet she manipulated the kindness of Tom. She lied that Tom raped her. This is the way and the reason how Atticus show Mayella was alienated from society as victim from the bad reputation of her father.

The second family who gets discrimination is the Cunningham. The Cunningham is poor white family. The head of this family is Mr. Cunningham is poor farmer. Aunt Alexandra or Alexandra Finch forbids her niece play with Walter Cunningham. As seen in the novel:

"Don't be silly, Jean Louise," said Aunt Alexandra. "The thing is, you can scrub Walter Cunningham till he shines, you can put him in shoes and a new suit, but he'll never be like your brother Jem. Besides, there's a drinking streak in that family a mile wide. Finch women aren't interested in that sort of people. She took off her glasses and stared at me. "I'll tell you why," she said. "Because—he—is—trash, that's why you can't play with him. I'll not have you around him, picking up his habits and learning Lord-knows-what. (228)

The data above shows that Aunt Alexandra forbids her niece because the Cunninghams discriminated from the poor status and bad reputation such as drunk.

Alexandra Finch also said that the Cunningham is *trash* because their bloodline of ancestry. Aunt Alexandra also believes the Cunninghams are originated from bad folk. She does not believe they are good people simply because of their bad background of family. Based on Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, trash is offensive word to people that have no respect; white trash refers to poor white people especially those living in the southern US (1384)

Furthermore, in order to show how social discrimination represents in To Kill A Mockingbird, the writer provided the quotation from Jem who was talking about the rank structure in Maycomb society with her sister Scout Finch. Divisions of people can be seen from this following dialogue in the novel:

“You know something, Scout?

“I’ve got it all figured out, now. I’ve thought about it a lot lately and I’ve got it figured out. There’s four kinds of folks in the world. There’s the ordinary kind like us and the neighbors, there’s the kind like the Cunninghams out in the woods, the kind like the Ewells down at the dump, and the Negroes.”(230)

The data above shows that there are social groups that each group people have each characteristic to be ranked in a Maycomb society. The Finches and other whites were assigned to upper class. The second class seems like another white, they are the Cunninghams, the Ewells. They were considered the lower class of white and excluded from the upper white. Both Ewell and Cunningham were represented by two phrases, such as out in the wood and down at the dump. The phrase *out in the wood* refers to a difficult or hazardous situation; in a position of safety or security. (<http://www.macmillandictionary.com/dictionary/american/wood>). In similar way,

the description of the Ewells with *down at the dump* according to The American Heritage Dictionary (2000) refers to a state of gloomy; depression. It can be concluded that both of two families get discrimination because they are lower class.

From this explanation in this sub chapter, it can be concluded that the poor white trash have bad characteristics that made them different and separated from another white. Furthermore their long bad reputation being them discriminated by the white upper class. It can be proved by the several ways, such as the defending from upper white class toward black people to show the bad reputation of poor white. The social discrimination also caused the children of poor white people are moved away from white society. The upper class family also prohibits their children to play with poor white children.

3.2.2 Getting Ostracized in Social Intercourse

Poor white trash is not able to buy the best land for their life. It is supported Weston in his book The Poor White of the South states “the poor white back upon the hills and upon the sterile soils mere squatters, without energy enough to acquire title even to the cheap lands they occupy, without roads, without schools, and at length without even a desire for education.”(24)

It is not surprising, if the upper class people are unwilling to interact with the poor white because they live in disgusting and vulnerable to some diseases. Atticus also illustrates the way of Ewell’s family life in To Kill A Mockingbird during the trial as purpose to show the disgusting life and far from the centre of county.

Maycomb's Ewells lived behind the town garbage dump in what was once a Negro cabin. The cabin's plank walls were supplemented with sheets of corrugated iron, its roof shingled with tin cans hammered flat, so only its general shape suggested its original design: square, with four tiny rooms opening onto a shotgun hall, the cabin rested uneasily upon four irregular lumps of limestone. Its windows were merely open spaces in the walls, which in the summertime were covered with greasy strips of cheesecloth to keep out the varmints that feasted on Maycomb's refuse. The varmints had a lean time of it, for the Ewells gave the dump a thorough gleaning every day, and the fruits of their industry (those that were not eaten) made the plot of ground around the cabin look like the playhouse of an insane child (172)

The data above clearly illustrates the way how the Ewell family life. They live in old house which black cabin before and breakable build. The house nearly to garbage dumps who fully of the bacteria from the dump. The children of Ewell also look abandoned and filthy.

The location of the house shows far from society. Nobody in Maycomb society cares about the Ewell and they are excluded from the other white people. As illustrates in the novel:

Nobody was quite sure how many children were on the place. Some people said six, others said nine; there were always several dirty-faced ones at the windows when anyone passed by. (173)

It shows how remote the Ewells and his children lives and nobody care how bad they live and nobody want makes any business with this family.

"Nobody had occasion to pass by except at Christmas, when the churches delivered baskets, and when the mayor of Maycomb help the garbage collector by dumping our own trees and trash." (173)

It can be seen that the Ewell white people living in dirty and remote place which untouched by the other white people. The people also will not interact to this people. There were just the trash guard who through the garbage

The Cunningham family also gets discrimination because their poor living. As Scout said her class mate to all students about Walter Cunningham:

“Walter Cunningham’s face told everybody in the first grade he had hookworms. His absence of shoes told us how he got them. People caught hookworms going barefooted in barnyards and hog wallows. If Walter had owned any shoes he would have worn them the first day of school and then discarded them until midwinter”.(19)

The data above shows that the Walter Cunningham also living in the dirty area and slough cattle. This place also caused physical disease such as stomach worm. All students really know how the way they live in worried condition and they stayed away from Walter to be careful about his diseases.

3.2.3. Getting Hampered to Improve Socio Economic Status

Social discrimination also happened based on socioeconomic aspect of poor white trash. Beside social status, the upper class did not permit to improve their economic status. The upper class keeps poor whites ever to cultivate the main farm soil in the South America.

According to Wilbur J. Cash in The Mind of The South, the demand for cotton channeled funds for the improvement of infrastructure into routes which

served only the plantations, leaving the backwoods farms to their obscurity and inaccessibility. This isolation kept the lower classes from social and economic mobility. The poor white trash were simply the weakest link among the backcountry population, whom these effects of the plantation had worked themselves out to the ultimate term (Cash 23)

Harper lee in her novel To Kill A Mockingbird also portrays this problem. Both the Ewells and the Cunninghams are poor families who difficult to improve their economy status in the society. It proves by the quotation:

“Every town the size of Maycomb had families like the Ewells. No economic fluctuations changed their status—people like the Ewells lived as guests of the county in prosperity as well as in the depths of a depression. No truant officers could keep their numerous offspring in school; no public health officer could free them from congenital defects, various worms, and the diseases indigenous to filthy surroundings.” (172)

It shows that the poor condition of the Ewell family from white trash class cannot changed their status because their poor ancestry sincerely, no matter the country is in economic crisis whether in economic improvement. They just work as poor farmers who never have had land. Even they are white, the upper class people do not care about their poverty. The upper class hampered white trash class to get prosperity of life because they have low social status. Thus, the upper class did not let the white trash class position improve their status. The upper class never regarded white trash class people are equal with another white people.

According to Trina Jones in her article “Race, Economic and Employment Opportunity” wrote economic status differentiated members of poor whites community from upper class. They have no privilege like white people. The upper class muted the power and influence usually associated with their race. Many poor whites who are unfortunately caricatured pejoratively as *poor white trash (PWT)*, *trailer trash*, *rednecks*, and *crackers* are denied the socioeconomic benefits afforded to other more prosperous members of the White race. Insofar as these poor Whites lack access to education, health care, jobs, and home-ownership, the fact that they are White—to the extent that Whiteness connotes status, influence, and economic power—loses much of its force (62-63).

It shows that even though white people, they are suffering because their poverty. All of this causes make they are difficulties to reach prosperity life and high economic status. It also make the upper class regards them as shiftless and mutes their power in social hierarchy.

In same problem, the Cunningham also face the discrimination because economic differences. The economic depression was impacted hardest toward this family. Atticus tells that Scout that The Cunningham is poor white farmer who pay anything with their crops because they never have money. He said in the novel:

“The Cunninghams are poor county farmers. As the Cunninghams had no money to pay a lawyer, they simply paid us with what they had. Did you know that Dr. Reynolds works the same way? He charges some folks a bushel of potatoes for delivery of a baby.”(21)

Scout Finch shows her discrimination toward her classmate, a poor white child from Cunningham, Walter. When a lunch time, Scout knows that Walter never bring the food because he is poor. Sadly, when the teacher will help Walter, Scout tells that it will be useless because Walter could not pay back the money and never have money in a whole of his life. It can be seen the novel: Miss Caroline, he's a Cunningham.

What, Jean Louise? I thought I had made things sufficiently clear. It clears enough to the rest of us: Walter Cunningham was sitting there laying his head off. He didn't forget his lunch, he didn't have any. He had none today nor would he have any tomorrow or the next day. He had probably never seen three quarters together at the same time in his life. Walter's one of the Cunninghams, Miss Caroline.(20)

It describes the way of Scout Finch implicitly shows the poor status of Walter Cunningham and his family in front of all of students. Walter and his Cunningham family is poor family, the Cunninghams just relies on their crops to fill their needs of life. She already regards that Walter as poor people because Walter family never has money along their life.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

Literature is mirror of certain society in specific era. One of literary works that portrays social life condition is a novel by Harper Lee entitled To Kill A Mockingbird. Having read To Kill A Mockingbird, the writer finds in the novel the issue of social discrimination toward poor white people. It is caused by the social class system based on the socio economic status.

The social class structure causes the class conflict that further leads to social discrimination. Particularly, social discrimination appears from the upper class toward the lower class of the white or white trash class. This poor white consists of the poor white farmers who are discriminated by the upper class because their low social economic status. There are forms of social discrimination that were faced by white trash at that time such as getting bad reputation, getting ostracized in social intercourse because they live in dirty and remote place, and getting hampered to improve socio economic status

Firstly, social discrimination in terms of bad reputation has affected for all members of white trash family. The head of family from white trash class has been mocked and hated by the upper class. It can be seen when the upper class defends the black farmer to show their bad reputation. As long as the plea, the upper class shows the disgrace of white trash people. White trash people have lost of honor because the

upper class did not respect toward them completely. The children from white trash family also were alienated because of bad family's bad reputation.

Secondly, white trash people are getting ostracized in social intercourse. It caused by the poor and filthy way life. They live nearly from the garbage dump and far away from the centre of the country. Their lifestyles are susceptible from several dangerous diseases. Nobody wants to interact with them except the trash guard and the church guard that throw the relief basket.

Thirdly, social discrimination in terms of getting hampered improving happened toward the white trash because the upper class does not allow them to improve their economic status and getting prosperity of life. The upper class keeps white trash class works as poor farmers and live miserable condition.

The writer concludes To Kill A Mockingbird by Harper Lee portrays social life condition of American South society in 1930s. Lee tries to show that there are white trash class people who are discriminated by the upper class because their low social economy status.

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