

**RACIAL SEGREGATION ANALYSIS IN KIDD'S
"THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES"**



THESIS

Submitted to the Faculty of Cultural Sciences Hasanuddin University

In partial fulfillment of the requirements to obtain

Sarjana Sastra in English

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F211 15 523

**ENGLISH LITERATURE STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF CULTURAL SCIENCES
HASANUDDIN UNIVERSITY**

2022

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
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THESIS
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On Tuesday, 26th July 2022

And is declared to have fulfilled the requirements

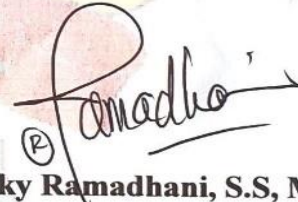
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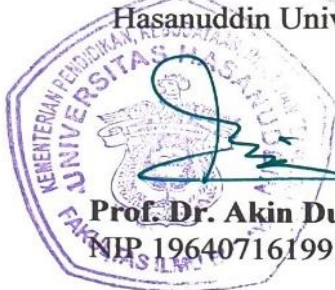

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RACIAL SEGREGATION ANALYSIS IN KIDD'S
“THE SECRET LIFE OF BEES”

Submitted in fulfillment of one of the requirements of undergraduate thesis examination to obtain Sarjana Sastra (S.S) Degree at the English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University.

Makassar, 26th July 2022

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The thesis by **ANANDA SARASWATI** (Student Number: **F21115523**) entitled, **Racial Segregation Analysis in Kidd's "The Secret Life Of Bees"** has been revised as advised during examination on 26th July 2022 by the board of Undergraduated Thesis Examiners:

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Makassar, 2nd August 2022



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Bismillahirrahmanirrahim

Alhamdulillah, Thank to Allah Subhanahu Wataala for mercy and help, for the health and strength so the writer is able to finish this thesis entitled “**Racial Segregation Analysis in Kidd’s The Secret Life of Bees**”, and also Shalawat and salam also goes to our prophet Muhammad Sallallahu ‘alaihi wa sallam, the greatest of human kind.

In completing this thesis, the writer realized that he has many problems and difficulties. However, those problems could be solved by the supports and helps from the people around him. For this reason, he would like to express his deepest and sincere gratitude to the following persons because of their help, correction, suggestion, and encouragement. They are:

1. **Dra. Nasmilah, M. Hum., Ph.D** and **Sitti Sahraeny, S.S., M.AppLing.**, as the Head and the Secretary of English Department.
2. **Dr. Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin, M.Hum.** and **Rezky Ramadhani, S.S,M.Litt.** as his first and second consultants, for their valuable advices, times, guidances, encouragements, corrections, comments, and constructive criticism from the early on until the very end of this thesis.
3. All lecturers and staff of English Department, Faculty of Cultural Sciences, Hasanuddin University, who have helped the writer during studying and administration process.

4. My beloved parents **Alm. Akung Kompoi** my super father and **Tuti Herawati** my strong mom who have gave me a life in this world. I would like to say thanks to you for everything, I promise I will do the best for you.
5. Great thanks to **Suci Ayu Lestari** and **Sarifah..** The person who helped in giving the ideas supports the writing of this thesis. May God Bless all of you.
6. I want to say thanks to my best friends **A. Rahma Papatih, Meidita Famirah , and Haidir Agun** in the community of **HAND** for all the helps, laughs, taunts, conflicts and stories we have share. Hopefully we will meet again in another time.
7. The best appreciation goes to my friends **Sri Wahyuni Al-aqzah, Dian Ekawati, and Sirni Nirwana** as my encouragement during writing this thesis. Thanks for your time and everything you did to me. Hopefully, God bless you and give you happiness as long as you life.
8. And also my special thanks to my partner in everything **Yuda Sabrang Ainan Lu'lu Ismail**. I would not have reached this point without his support and help. Thank you for always being by my side.

Finally, I want to say many thanks for **Lobe-lobe squad** and everybody who has important to the accomplishment of my thesis, as well as for my apology if I cannot mention personally one by one.

In conclusion, the writer points out that this work still have many weaknesses and hopes that it will be useful to students at the English Department. The writer recognizes

that this work is far from perfect, so suggestion and criticism to improve it are welcome.

Thank you.

Hopefully, Allah SWT will always be with us.

Makassar, 22th of July 2022
The Writer,

Ananda Saraswati

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ABSTRAK

ANANDA SARASWATI. 2022. Ketidakadilan sosial dalam novel *The Secret Life of Bees* karya Sue Monk Kidd. (Dibimbing oleh **Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin** dan **Rezky Ramadhani**)

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menggambarkan segregasi ras yang dialami tokoh-tokoh dalam novel *The Secret Life of Bees*. Novel ini merefleksikan isu-isu rasisme, yang terjadi di Amerika Serikat masa itu. Selain itu, penelitian ini juga menunjukkan dampak-dampak yang ditimbulkan oleh segregasi ras yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokoh dalam novel.

Penulis menggunakan metode penelitian deskriptif dalam mendeskripsikan segregasi ras yang dialami oleh tokoh-tokoh dalam novel ini. Dalam menganalisis, penulis menerapkan pendekatan struktural pada novel *The Secret Life of Bees* karya Sue Monk Kidd yang terdiri atas penokohan, alur, latar, dan tema.

Berdasarkan hasil analisis, penulis menemukan bahwa tema dari novel *The Secret Life of Bees* adalah rasisme, kekerasan pada anak dan kesehatan mental. Penulis juga menemukan beberapa bentuk segregasi ras dalam novel, seperti aktivitas dan perilaku. Dari analisis, penulis juga menemukan dampak-dampak yang ditimbulkan oleh segregasi ras, seperti perbedaan fasilitas umum antara masyarakat kulit hitam dan kulit putih, persepsi, dan hak asasi manusia.

Kata kunci: *Rasis, Segregasi Ras, Pendekatan Strukturalisme, Novel The Secret Life of Bees*

ABSTRACT

ANANDA SARASWATI. 2022. Racial Segregation Analysis in Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bess*. (Supervised by **Muhammad Syafri Badaruddin** and **Rezky Ramadhani**)

This research aims to describe racial segregation that occurs to the characters in the novel of *The Secret Life Of Bees*. It reflects racism issues that happen in United States of America at that time. In addition, this research also shows the impact of racial segregation that the characters in the novel experienced.

Writer employed descriptive analysis in analysing racial segregation experienced by characters in this novel. In looking for discussion point, the writer applied structural approach. It consists the intrinsic elements of *The Secret Life Of Bee* novel by Sue Monk Kidd such as character, plot, setting, and theme.

The writer found that the theme of *The Secret Life of Bees* is racism, child abuse, and mental health. The writer also found forms of racial segregation in the novel such as racial activity and behavior. From the analysis, the writer also found the impact caused by racial segregation like differences in accessing public services between the white and the black, perceptions, human right issues.

Keywords: *Racism, Racial Segregation, Structuralism Approach, Novel The Secret Life of Bees* .

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

The first chapter of the thesis is an introduction that includes an overview in the preparation according to the title. The writer discusses the introduction, which consists, background, scope of problems, research questions, objectives of the writings, and the significance of the study.

1.1 Background of The Study

Humans were created by God with different characters and physical characteristics. Humans do not have the right to choose skin color and physical shape when born, because all of that is a gift from God. God created the human condition differently must have a purpose. These differences are not something that functions to make people think that a race is higher in rank than other races, but the diversity and differences should be understood as plurality so that humans can learn and get to know each other ethnic or race.

After humans become more modern-minded, humans are increasingly showing cultural differences that lead to conflicts, such as religious conflicts, political conflicts, and ethnic conflicts in social life. The conflict is the impact of prejudice that arises because of the assessment of a person or group, attitude or behavior towards them.

The novel reveals a concentration of life at a time when social problems occur, and concentrates on human life (Semi, 1998: 32). Literature appears to convey to humans as a reflection of social conditions and problems of human life. Some of the social problems that occur in humans described in the novel such as racism, discrimination, and social conflict problems

Racism is an ideology that bases itself on discrimination against of people, because race even becomes a political doctrine (Liliweri, 2005 : 21). Racism can be described in various forms such as prejudice, bigotry, or hostility directed at someone because of their skin colour, race or national origin are examples. Racism forms a mindset between whites to separate race from black people. Today, the term of racism is used more broadly to apply to racial unfairness and discriminatory beliefs, actions, desires, projects, persons, groups, social institutions, and practices (Garcia, 1997 :1436). One of the examples of racism is racial segregation.

Racial segregation is discrimination based on racial, racial identical with skin colour, shape of eyes, language, religion, and may just from our origin. Race segregation as a general term, which includes the separation of facilities and services such as housing, medical care, education, employment, and transportation based on race. The term often refers to the legal or social coercion of African-Americans from other races, but also refers to discrimination against people of colour by the white community. In conclusion, racial segregation is a type of segregation activity and behavior in which people are treated differently based on their skin colour, ethnicity, or religion.

Racism has been addressed by a number of authors such as, Sue Monk Kidd novel *The Secret Life of Bees* is one of the literary works that addresses racism. Racism in the form of racial segregation is depicted in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees* which was set in 1964 in South Carolina, America. The novel tells about the depicts of the racial atmosphere between Blacks and Whites towards the attitude of Lily, the main character of this novel and as a White girl living in Black community, South Carolina.

Lily Owens argues that not all white people have the same opinion of Black people, especially about their race. Lily tries to resist and fights against her father's desire to hate Black people. In the story, the racial atmosphere influenced Lily's attitude at that time and how that attitude had an effect on the Black community, especially in the Boatwright family. At the end of story, Lily chooses to live with the Boatwright family instead of returning to her father's house.

The reason why the writer chose this novel is based on what has been explained above about racial segregation. Through this novel, the writer wants to explore the racial segregation of Afro-Americans in the 1940-1960s. By the analysis explained later, the writer hopes the reader understand the form and treatment of racial segregation from the portrayal of *The Secret Life of Bees* novel.

1.2 Identification of the problem

There are problems that can be found in Sue Monk Kidd in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*. They are:

1. The novel's portrayal of the racial segregation issue.
2. The causes of racial segregation.
3. The effect of racial segregation are discussed.
4. The character, plot, setting, and theme in novel.

1.3 Scope of the problem

The writer recognizes that the background explanation will be used to describe societal phenomena in Sue Monk Kidd's work *The Secret Life of Bess*. The writer discusses the portrayal of racial segregation as the central theme of this novel.

1.4 Research Question

To broaden the inner thoughts of the writing, the writer proposes some questions:

1. How are the portrayal of racial segregation in *The Secret Life of Bees*?
2. What are the effects of racial segregation in *The Secret life of Bees*?

1.5 Objective of study

Based on research question above, the aims of study are:

1. To discuss the issue of racial segregation in the novel *The Secret Life of Bees*.
2. To elaborate the effect of racial segregation in the novel *The Secret life of Bees*.

1.6 Sequence of the chapter

In order to make this thesis easy to be followed, the writer gives some order for the thesis organization. It is divided into five chapters. Chapter one is introduction, It contains the background of the study which explains the reasons why the writer chose to analyze Racial Segregation in Kidd's *The Secret Life of Bees*. It also contains identification of the problem, scope of the problem, research questions, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and the sequence of chapters. Chapter two contains literature review that explains the previous studies that has been analyzed by other researchers. It also describes theories and approach that is used in this thesis. Chapter three contains the research methodology. This chapter explains about the method of analyzing the data. The research methodology contains methodological design, method of collecting data, method of analyzing data, and research procedure.

Chapter four presents the novel analysis by using structuralism approach. The writer also explained the analysis of racial segregation and the effects of racial

segregation. Base on the novel finally, Chapter five contains conclusion and suggestion of the analysis. This chapter includes the result of the analysis in relation to reveal the answer of the research questions. Besides, the writer also tried to show the important points presented in the analysis chapter. In this chapter, it also presents the suggestions that generate further discussion on the analysis.

CHAPTER II

LITERARY REVIEW

This chapter contains previous study, structural approach and theory of racial segregation which will be explained by the writer.

2.1 Previous study

In the process of solving problems that are raised and examined by the author, the writer seeks several relevant sources. In this process, the writer finds several theses which discuss of racism in the novel, such as Anugrah (2015) from Universitas Sanata dharma Yogyakarta, Noviyanti Rusnanila (2019) from Universitas Thaha Saifuddin jambi, and Ndiba (2016) from Universitas Sam Ratulangi Manado.

Anugrah (2015) wrote the thesis entitled African-American Women's Struggle against *Racial Discrimination in Sue Monk Kidd's The Secret Life of Bees*. In this thesis, the writer focuses on African-American women's struggle against the racial discrimination. There are five women characters; they are Rosaleen Daise, August Boatwright, June Boatwright, May Boatwright, and April Boatwright.

The library research method is used in analyzing the work. Sociocultural-historical approach is also applied in this thesis. Through this approach, the writer can get an understanding about the life of African-American in 1960s.

Then, Noviyani Rusnanila (2015) in her thesis is entitled *Racial Discrimination as Seen in The Help Film By Tate Taylor*. It explained about humans were created with physical characteristics which differ as a result of genetic factor so that they can respect

each other and live in the same harmony. But, in the film the differences in physical characteristics is actually used as an excuse by some people to discriminate. This case experienced by Aibileen who is known as black people who work as housemaid in the white's house and she received discrimination from white people caused by racial discrimination. This study divided into three parts.

The last one is from Ndiba in the thesis, entitled *Racial Discrimination in Novella Heart of Darkness work Joseph Conrad*. It described the true story that happened in that era reflected to the social life of the African people to face the racial discrimination through the story and characters in the novella. This thesis used a descriptive approach to explain the contents of the novel and the theory of genetic structuralism. The aims of this research are to analyze the reflection of racial discrimination by the white people in the novel and to analyze the social effect of racial discrimination to the Black people in Africa. The writer uses theory from Aristotle, Wellek and Warren, and De Bonald to describe how the racial discrimination in Africa and what the effect to the people who face discrimination.

All the previous research topics above were racial discrimination, all of them used descriptive methods, genetic structuralism, and pure structuralism. In this study, the writer also uses the same descriptive method and structuralism approach, but this study focuses on the portrayal and effects of racial segregation on the Black community.

2.2 Structural approach

To analyze the problem in this thesis, the writer used structural approach to get the comprehension on the basic problem of this thesis. In this chapter, the writer would like to give a brief definition and explanation about the structural approach because it is crucial to support the analysis.

Bertens (2001: 55) explained that firstly, structuralism was introduced in France by the Swiss linguist Ferdinand de Saussure who developed the study of language in the early 20 century. Ferdinand de Saussure is a linguist who is interested in study of language. He used structuralism to discover his study of language. Structuralism develops the idea that literary text is a structure where its elements are interrelated and influence each other, because it is a whole entity (Bertens, 2001: 43). It explains that literary text consists of structures which build its form and the elements which related to each other. Moreover, each single element has a function which is related to the work as a whole structure. Therefore, structuralism in literary text is standing alone. Outer elements or other aspects do not influence the text as theory of pure structuralism said the elements of literary works contained in the structure need to be analyzed because external elements have nothing to do with it (Pradopo, 2001:124). The characteristic of structuralism is the relationship between patterns or between elements in the text that produce meaning. There is no meaning taken from the outside of the text that produce meaning, for example, involving the role of the author or reader.

In analyzing text using structural approach, the writer analyzes the text only. The text will be the main object and the writer ignores other aspects that influence the text. It is because the text has already had its wholeness to be analyzed. The intrinsic aspects can be seen only by reading the story as the main object.

The intrinsic elements in a literary work are the elements that directly have contribution to build the story. Wellek and Warren (1949:139) introduced intrinsic approach as a study of literary work based on analyzing the internal elements that build that work. Based on the definition, the writer concludes that the structuralism approach is an approach in analyzing the intrinsic elements in literary work. The intrinsic elements consist of character, plot, setting, and theme. These are the elements that participate in forming a story in literary work.

2.2.1 Character

Character is a person in a story or play. Characterization or character study is the general process of using words on a page to create the illusion of a living person. Character are usually presented through their action, dialect, and thoughts, as well as by description. Characterization can regard a variety of aspect of a character, such as appearance, age, gender, educational level, vocation or occupation, financial, status, marital status, social status, cultural background, hobbies, sexual orientation, religious beliefs, ambition, motivations, personality, etc. Reaske (1966:28) gave comment about the definition of character as follows:

“Some characters in novel don’t change beginning as the some kind of characters as there are in the end. These passive characters are acted upon by

the events of the novel, they are usually static or unchanging conversely, and some characters are active. They perform act, they have a large part in the play, and the usually undergo certain change as the result of the action of the play. Instead of being static, they are considerate dynamic.”

Character in a novel or story is a human figure that has a particular characteristic, talent, behavior that is given by the author in the order to set up a story. In this case, the author usually connects with the available facts, as there is a good character and the bad character. Thus, the performed characters can be seen and studied which is based on the experience and the available reality.

In a novel, one finds some characteristic which are described by the author such as, good characters performs friendly, polite, helpful, and so forth. Nevertheless, sometimes it can be found an actor plays the character of a thief or even a hypocrite, which sometimes caused conflict in a story.

2.2.2 Setting

Another part of structure in a literary works is setting. The setting is a description of the time, place, and atmosphere of the events in the story. The characters in the story live on a certain place and time (period). Therefore, the events experienced by the characters of the story occur at a certain time and also place. So, where it happened and when it happened is called setting. The background which is referred in a story can be either factual or imaginary. Scholes (1981: 36) said that setting is a term that, in it is broadest sense, encompasses both the physical local that frame the action and the time of day or year, the climatic conditions, and the historical period during which the action takes place. At it is most basic, setting helps the reader visualize the

action of the work, thus adds credibility and an air of authenticity to the characters. Setting in fiction is called on to perform a number of desired functions. Setting may serve (1) to provide background for the action; (2) as an antagonist; (3) as a means of creating appropriate atmosphere; (4) as a means of revealing character; and (5) as a means of reinforcing theme. These function must not, however, be thought of as mutually exclusive. In many works of fiction, setting can and does perform a number of different functions simultaneously. Pickering and Hoepfer (1981: 37) Setting is divided into two kinds, they are physical setting and also the social setting.

1. Physical setting includes the time, places, and the conditions when the story happens.
2. Social setting is also called as abstract setting. Because it includes the implicit settings of the story. Such as the conditions of the characters when the story happened and the relations of the culture, psychology, society, and others implicit setting else.

2.2.3. Plot

Plot is a literary term used to describe the events that make up a story, or the main part of a story. These events relate to each other in a pattern or a sequence. The structure of a novel depends on the organization of events in the plot of the story. Plot is known as the foundation of a novel or story, around which the characters and settings are built. It is meant to organize information and events in a logical manner. When

writing the plot of a piece of literature, the author has to be careful that it does not dominate the other parts of the story.

Scholes (1981:21) stated that the plot is often conceived of as moving through five distinct sections such as expositions, rising action, climax, falling action and resolution.

a. Exposition or Introduction

This is the beginning of the story, where characters and setting are established. The conflict or main problem is introduced as well.

b. Rising Action

Rising action which occurs when a series of events build up to the conflict. The main characters are established by the time the rising action of a plot occurs, and at the same time, events begin to get complicated. It is during this part of a story that excitement, tension, or crisis is encountered.

c. Climax

In the climax, or the main point of the plot, there is a turning point of the story. This is meant to be the moment of highest interest and emotion, leaving the reader wondering what is going to happen next.

d. Falling Action

Falling action, or the winding up of the story, occurs when events and complications begin to resolve. The result of the actions of the main characters are put forward.

e. Resolution

Resolution, or the conclusion, is the end of a story, which may occur with either a happy or a tragic ending.

2.2.4. Theme

Theme is the main subject of the story that is being discussed and described many times. Abrams (1988: 25) theme is a salient abstract idea that emerges from literary works treatment of its subject-matter; or a topic recurring in a number of literary works. Theme is the reason of the author's purpose to write a story to become a main idea of story. The plot, characters, setting, symbols and the other elements of unifying point of work can provided by a theme to organize. The most contemporary understanding of theme is an idea or concept that is central to a story, which can often be sum in a single word (Scholes 1981:52). A novel may have complex themes, many characters of various atmospheres. Novel can be divided in three themes. They are romantic novel, adventure novel and fantasy novel (Sumardjo & Saini 1991:29). Theme gives a strong explanation about the unity of what is happening in the story, and tells about the story of life in a common context (Stanton 2007:24). It is conclude the whole action, and what is happening in the story to know the theme.

From the explanation above, the writer concludes that theme is the main idea of the story that is being discussed and described many times that contain in the whole content of the novel. The reader only can understand the theme of the story after reading the whole content of the novel with paying attention to the elements of the story. Theme is also a basic idea or concept of the whole story. The theme can be something around

the writer such as morality, culture, religion, racism, love, pain, fear, maturity, confidence human betrayal, and so on.

2.3 Racism

Racism is a debatable term among people around the world. The emergence of racism often causes the fanaticism of people to their race's member. The fanaticism will make people give different treatment among people in the world. There are some people who consider their group as better group than other groups. Afterwards, they will regard their group as superior than other. People who consider them self as superior, think that they have special rights among the inferior races. This condition is later known as racism. According to Giddens (2006 : 18), racism as a system of domination that operates in social processes and social institutions; others see it as operating in the individual consciousness. In sum, racism is a negative treatment that is given by group that regards their group as the superior which has better condition in many aspects, such as biological, economic and education aspect. George M. Fredrickson in his book *Racism: a short History* (2005) stated that racism is not kind of attitude or belief in society. Racism is all about practice, institutions and structure based on strict differentiation. It also can create kind of social order of society, not only theory about human's differentiation. The practice of racism may be done by every person, whether individually or in a group.

2.4 Theory of Racial Segregation

There are many differences appear in human being's life. The significant difference takes place when people in this world have different skin colors, language, religions, and customs. Those aspects can cause the stratification of human being. According to Thio (1991:177) segregation means more than spatial and social separation of the dominant and minority groups. It means that minority groups, because they are believed inferior, are compelled to live separately, and inferior conditions.

Racial segregation over Afro-Americans done by the white at time 1940-1960s in many aspects of life that can be seen in public services, such as: housing, bus or public transportation, hospital, library, and the others. The Black people always get the second facilities compare to the White. They are separated in the public service like in a bus. The White and the Black get the same bus, but they have separate seats (Stockett, 2009: 13). The Black people have a separate hospital from the White. The Black can not come to the White hospital and the other way. The White or the Black doctors do not want to help the other skin patients (Stockett, 2009: 154). In addition, the Black and the White also have separated libraries. The Black library not only has incomplete collection of books, but also the less of facilities. The Black people can not enter to the White library and the Black can not borrow books from the White libraries (Stockett, 2009: 157). Also, the Black people get minimum educational services, facilities, and access. Lastly, the school is also separated for the Black and the White. They study in

different school. The Black people only can enter certain schools and the White people do not allow the Black people to be in the same schools.