

Analysis of Racial Discrimination

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**ANALYSIS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS
UNCLE TOM IN HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S
*UNCLE TOM'S CABIN***

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ABSTRACT

A racial discrimination gives the impact to other people. A racial discrimination happens because white race is more dominant than black race. A white race feels more superior to the black race. The white race is dominated than black race. The Negro lives in poverty, slavery, human trafficking and physically abused. Many of the black people struggle against the condition of poverty, physically abused and many pressure of life. There is no law for black people' right which dominated by the white race and the white race people' action to the black race cannot be stopped. Furthermore, the researcher is interested to the topic of racial discrimination in the novel of Harriet Becheer Stowe's Uncle Tom Cabin. The researcher analyzes three main problems that are how racial discrimination depicted in the novel, what are the factors of racial discrimination in the novel and what the effects of racial discrimination in the novel are.

The thesis uses descriptive qualitative research method. The data is taken from the quotations in the novel and related to the theory and the quotations will become the proofs of the analysis. The researcher uses theory of race and racism based on Les Back and John Solomos' book to analyze the data. The result of the research is that the factors of racial discrimination are slavery and human identity. The human identity refers to the identity of race. In addition, the effects of racial discrimination are human trafficking, family separation, physically abused and rebellion.

Keywords: racial discrimination, race, black race

I.INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

In the literary works, there were many good writers such as Tennessee William, Ernest Hemingway, William Shakespeare, JK Rowling, Stephen King and many more who present some

good messages in their works. One of the best writers was Harriet Beecher Stowe. Stowe was born in Hartford, Connecticut in 1811 in to a family of thirteen children. She had an ambition

to write about slavery. She saw Pro-Slavery and Anti-Slavery forces collided in Cincinnati, a city of religious revivalism, temperance battles, and race riots. Stowe believed that slavery was a cruel behavior. Stowe's novel focuses on the slavery including the whippings, beating and forced sexual encounter. She wrote the novel to be a force against slavery. Stowe was the most famous writer in the world in 1860. Stowe was an American author and best known for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. The researcher chooses Harriet Beecher Stowe because she is the greatest author who presents the literary works about racial discrimination. She picked the topic of slavery in her novel. It means that she criticized slavery through her literary works. She found cruelty or crime among the slaveholders. In addition, she presented the cruel planters of Louisiana. Stowe was the most brave author who describes slavery and racial discrimination in 1952 through her works. That was the most influential

Uncle Tom's Cabin is the most popular and sensational novel in 1852. It was a novel of anti-slavery. Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* as a symbol of cringing submission and disgraceful self-abasement in a black, a figure Lionel Trilling blamed on the stage adaptations that had little to do with Stowe's creation. The novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* gives the phenomenon of slavery in the real life. Stowe described slavery and racial discrimination to show how racial discrimination happened. The novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* described the soul of the slaves and slaveholders alike. Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was first published in a serial form. The novel published in March 1852 and sold ten thousand copies in the first week. The novel also had been sold three hundred thousand

within a year and nearly one million in England. Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* also swept across the European continent. It was the most popular novel which presenting the slavery with racial discrimination among white readers. The increase of the literacy rate in the United States was also crucial to Stowe's success which had made culture more democratic. The role of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is as a cause of the American Civil War.

Tom as the main character of the novel who got discrimination from white people. Tom was a Negro man and he was a religious man. Tom had children and lovely wife who always support him. However, slavery was affected to Tom's life and other niggers. Tom was a good man, religious man, calm, sensible and loyal. He is a good slave. In other words, Tom was a good Negro and he is a poor slave. He lived in poor condition. Tom sold and sent down to the south. However, he sold by his owner to another planter who is a cruel person. Uncle Tom has physically abused when he helps other slaves to escape. The racial discrimination can be seen clearly in this story.

There are many cases of racial discrimination. It means that people who are under estimate of other race will bring a problem to other person in the society or environment. The action of racial discrimination will give bad impact to others. Someone who is always bullying about his race will become introvert person and afraid to make a social intercourse. In short, the researcher gives the attention to the topic of discussion that is racial discrimination. The researcher wants to show the cause and the effect of racial discrimination in environment. Besides, it also shows that racial discrimination can bring the problem in one's society. It is also expected that the readers will

be more respect toward other people who have different race in their social intercourse.

1.2 RESEARCH PROBLEM

To analyze the topic of discussion, the researcher gives the attention to three main problems as follows:

1. How does racial discrimination depicted to Uncle Tom in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
2. What are the factors that cause racial discrimination to Uncle Tom in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?
3. What are the effects of racial discrimination in *Uncle Tom's Cabin*?

II. RESEARCH METHOD

The researcher used a qualitative research method in this study to analyze the data found in the novel. Creswell stated that a qualitative research is an approach for analyzing and describing the meaning of the text of narrative studies without any survey and experimental research. The qualitative research method emphasized the description and interpretation of data. The data will be described and interpreted to give the readers' understanding more clearly. In conducting the research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method because the collection data was in the form of dialogues or quotations in the novel.

III. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Racial Discrimination

The phenomenon of race and racism appears in colonial and post-colonial era. Most black people, who

are primitive people, become slaves. The white people have superior power in this era. The white people are more dominant than black people. It means the impact of colonialism increases racial phenomenon. Racial discrimination refers to unequal treatment of people or group based on their race or ethnicity. This has been reflected in important and valuable accounts of the impact of colonialism on our understanding of race and culture. In addition, racial discrimination is a pervasive phenomenon in the lives of many racial minorities.

It is also the case that the expansion of colonial power during the nineteenth century helped to invent new images and to institutionalize specific forms of class, gender and racial relations. Chae states African American reports the high level of racial discrimination in housing, employment and in daily interactions. The media also reports exclusively among African American men which experiencing racial discrimination. The racial discrimination gives impact to poorer mental health among African Americans such as a greater risk for depression, anxiety, substance use and global psychological distress.

Racism designates into two different things. The first is a matter of behavior. It is the manifestation of hatred or contempt for individual who well defined physical characteristics different from our own. The second is a matter of ideology. It is a doctrine which is concerning human races. The two are not linked. In order to make these two meanings separate. Racism as a term designed behavior and racialism as a term reserved for doctrines. Racism is an ancient form of behavior that is probably found worldwide; racialism is a movement of ideas born in Western

Europe whose period of flowering extends from the mid eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth before World War II, before the rise of nazism, before the end of great European empires and particularly before the decolonization of Africa, before the urbanization of the U.S black population and the rise of the modern civil rights movement, race was still largely seen in Europe and North America as an essence, a natural phenomenon. There is a conflict between races of white and black. Most colored people are under control of white people. The racial discrimination appears in the slavery phenomenon. The colored people lives in bad condition as a slave. The white people acts brutally to colored slaves. Hooks states that the conflict between black and white women did not begin with the twentieth century woman's movement. It began during slavery. The social status of white women in America has to large extent been determined by white people's relationship to black people. It was the enslavement of African people in America's colonial that marked the beginning of a change in the social status of white women. The subjugation of black people allowed white people to the role of a superior

3.2 Religion

In defining "religion" meaning is problematic with some definitions threatening to drive theories. In the history of social science wanted a minimum definition that would prevent categorizing primitive religions with spiritualism which was in disrepute in Europe. Religion as something that would exert a certain social control but he defined it as belief about the Unseen with such attendant feelings are fear, wonder, reverence, gratitude, love and such institutions as prayer, worship and

sacrifice. Similarity, a substantive concept of religious beliefs defined to the supernatural.

3.3 Human Identity

Racism designates into two different things. The first is a matter of behavior. It is the manifestation of hatred or contempt for individual who well defined physical characteristics different from our own. The second is a matter of ideology. It is a doctrine which is concerning human races. The two are not linked. In order to make these two meanings separate, Todorov obtains "racism" as a term designed behavior and racialism as a term reserved for doctrines. Racism is an ancient form of behavior that is probably found worldwide; racialism is a movement of ideas born in Western Europe whose period of flowering extends from the mid eighteenth century to the mid-twentieth in american colonies and the United States, there are two labels of people. Both labels of people are labeled black and labeled white. The racial label is applied to people, ideas about what it refers to. The idea may be much less consensual than application of the label. It comes to have their social effects. In particular, the labels can operate and shape what people want to call "identification": the process through which an individual intentional shapes the projects and the plans for people own life by reference of available label and identities. In addition, Appiah states that race is the major forms of identification that are central or temporary identity such as white, yellow, black, Japanese, Korean-American.

3.4 Rebellion

Slavery concisely defines the effect that such an institution had on the entire

shape of a nation: without slaver, one cannot understand freedom. The United States thrived economically at the expense of millions of men and women for hundreds of ears who were not permitted to realize the freedom and right b their country.

In addition, there was a fire on Kensington estate in St. James. A slave rebellion swept the Western parishes of the island.in 1831. It was one of the most important sugar growing parishes in Jamaica with Negro slave rebellions in the United States. The Jamaican rebellion was characterized by the fact that missions were the source of the slaves' philosophy and the missionaries themselves were cast in the role of the slaves' allies. Further, a network of independent religious meetings which had developed round the mission churches served the slaves as a read made political organization and thus supplied an element for which there is no parallel in American slave revolts

The violent protest against slaver in the form of rebellion had been endemic in eighteenth-century Jamaica. The outbreaks occurred on average every five years. The abolition of the slave trade in 1808 and the stabilization of areas of settlement produced more settled condition; the Negro villages were no longer dominated by immigrant Africans and a creole slave society emerged. It was not until in 1820s under the influence of the anti-slavery agitation in England. The most important was in Demerara in 1823; in Jamaica, the slave conspiracies were discovered in 1823 and 1824.

3.5 Human Trafficking

The history of slave trade in New york spans several countries. It began in 1646 when the Dutch West India Company faced the imminent loss

of its foothold in Pernambuco. The company sent a ship from Brazil with a full complement of bond people to be sold in northernmost colony. Despite of a federal government decree abolishes the trade in 1807. It revived in New York in the 1850s. The final expression at the end of decade involved fitting out vessel for sale of human merchandise in the lucrative Cuban market. It began with Brazil and ended with Cuba. The other intriguing interlude came during the first half of the eighteenth century. The period resembles no other in the long history of New York slave trade. In the first place, it rises to the New York professional, the few wealthy merchants who concentrated on the trade in chosen carefully the geographical range for supply and sale of captives. The second group is unique to the period which consisting in merchant and traders who had abundant Caribbean contacts from long ears in the provisions trade. In addition, now it began either dipping in and out of the slave trade or receiving bond people from Caribbean on consignment for sale on the mainland. The trade spread out broadly across the Americans. As a result, a considerably larger proportion of captives sent to New York which destined for sale to residents of the province. It was the case of other northern slave trading colonies. The market fluctuations had immediate impact on African trade. In 1698 an Act of Parliament finally banned the Madagascar slave trade after years of pressure. It is happened in both the East India Company

3.6 Physical Abuse

In the post-colonialized era, the white race maintained the social status through the constant assertion of the

superiority over the black woman and man. The black women workers were exploited to enhance the social standing of white families. All colonial of white women, particularly those who were slave mistresses, chose to differentiate their status from the slaves by treating the slave in a brutal and cruel manner. When the enslaved black woman expressed contempt and disregard for white female authority, the white mistress often resorted to brutal punishment to assert her authority. However, even brutal punishment could not change the fact that black women were not inclined to regard the white female with the awe and respect they showed to the white male.

3.7 Family Separation

Enslaved people lived with the perpetual possibility of separation through the sale of one or more family members. Slave owners' wealth lay largely in the people they owned, therefore, they frequently sold or purchased people as finances warranted. A multitude of scenarios brought about sale. An enslaved person could be sold as part of an estate when his owner died, because the owner needed to liquidate asset to pay off debts or because the owner thought the enslaved person was a troublemaker. A father might be sold away by his owner while the mother and children remained behind or the mother and children might be sold. Enslaved families were also divided for inheritance when an owner died or because the owner's adult children moved away to create new lives, taking some of the enslaved people with them. The decisions were beyond the control of the people whose live they affected most. Sometimes an enslaved man or woman pleaded with an owner to purchase his or her spouse to avoid separation. The intervention

was not always successful. Michael Tadman is a historian who has estimated that approximately one third of enslaved children in the upper South states of Maryland and Virginia experienced family separation. The family separation can be caused by three possible scenarios such as sale away from parents, sale with mother away from father or sale mother or father away from children.

IV. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

The researcher finds the proofs of racial discrimination based on the white people's act, behavior, speech which refer to a bad thing. The racial discrimination can be seen through the master's way in responding and talking to black people or slaves. The white people do not like black people because they think that niggers are lazy people, bad, deceiver and more sinful than white people. Besides, the niggers are poor and a lower class. The racial discrimination also refers to the black people's religion. The racial discrimination shows how Africa expresses race. Many African slaves live in poor condition and suffer. Besides, there is no law for niggers or slaves. The white people can do anything brutally to black slaves without punishment from the law. The white people or race does not care about slaves' life. Most white masters have tyrannical character and behavior. In addition, there are also good white people or masters. However, most masters or white masters are bad and cruel person. The slaves do not permit to have animal and freedom. The slaves are in the lower race and level. That makes white people show their superior character and action.

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