

**ABSTRACT**

ANDRE DESYANA LISTIYORINI (2005). **Race Discriminations towards the Black as seen in Mildred D. Taylor's *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University.

Race discrimination has been a significant issue in human's life. Minority classes whose races are different from the race of the majority classes mostly become the victims of race discrimination. Moreover, many countries with multicultural ethnics have practiced race discrimination, one of them is the United States of America, country in which many people came to seek for their dreams. Blacks, on the contrary, came into the United States of America as the result of slavery. In the development, after some are free, they still become the target of race discrimination as many Americans see them as subordinate. Life is uneasy for them, especially when America feels the worst recession they have ever had. The Great Depression era in 1930s had torn the nations and resulted in poverty, malnutrition, unemployment and bankruptcies. Blacks as one the minority classes also felt the Depression harder than white people. Related with race discrimination, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* is the novel that the writer is going to analyze.

This thesis aims to find out how the society of black people is described in the novel and to show how racism in the United States of America in 1930s is depicted in the story.

The writer is going to compare the novel with the real condition of the 1930s using sociocultural-historical approach. The main thought of sociocultural-historical approach is that the civilization influences works. Therefore, literary works can reflect the civilization that produces them.

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* depicts the society as racist one. Through the Logan Family's experiences of racism, the readers may see the reflections of black society's life in Spokane County and in the historical facts of blacks' life in the Southern America. Both blacks in the United States of America and in the novel have to accept inequality in law, inequality in economy, inequality in education and denial in public area. Set in Mississippi in 1930s, the novel can reflect vividly the racism blacks have to accept in the Great Depression era. Blacks become the white's scapegoat from frustration that strengthens the racist attitude towards them in that era.

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Diskriminasi ras telah menjadi persoalan yang penting di dalam kehidupan manusia. Kelas-kelas minoritas yang rasnya berbeda dengan kelas-kelas mayoritas menjadi korban dari diskriminasi ras. Apalagi, banyak negara-negara dengan etnis yang multikultural telah melakukan diskriminasi ras, salah satunya adalah negara Amerika Serikat dimana banyak orang menjejar mimpi-mimpinya disana. Orang-orang kulit hitam, sebaliknya, datang ke Amerika Serikat karena perbudakan. Dalam perkembangannya, walaupun mereka sudah tidak menjadi budak, tetapi banyak orang Amerika menganggap mereka lebih rendah. Hidup menjadi sulit bagi mereka, terutama ketika Amerika Serikat mengalami resesi yang terparah. Era Great Depression di tahun 1930s telah menggoyakkan negara itu dan mengakibatkan kemiskinan, kekurangan gizi, pengangguran dan kebangkrutan. Orang-orang kulit hitam sebagai golongan minoritas merasakan era Great Depression lebih berat daripada orang-orang kulit putih. Terkait dengan diskriminasi ras, *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* adalah novel yang akan dianalisa oleh penulis.

Skripsi ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui bagaimana masyarakat orang-orang kulit hitam digambarkan di dalam novel dan untuk menunjukkan bagaimana rasisme di era Great Depression di tahun 1930s digambarkan di dalam cerita.

Penulis akan membandingkan novel dengan kenyataan menggunakan pendekatan sociocultural-historical. Pemikiran utama dari pendekatan sociocultural-historical adalah peradaban mempengaruhi karya-karya seni. Jadi, karya-karya sastra dapat merefleksikan peradaban yang menghasilkan karya-karya itu.

*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* menggambarkan masyarakatnya sebagai masyarakat yang membenci ras lain. Melalui pengalaman-pengalaman rasis dari keluarga Logan, para pembaca dapat melihat refleksi kehidupan orang-orang kulit hitam di kabupaten Spokane dan di dalam kehidupan orang-orang kulit hitam di Amerika Serikat yang sebenarnya. Orang-orang kulit hitam di Amerika Serikat dan di dalam novel harus menerima ketidakadilan di bidang hukum, bidang ekonomi, bidang pendidikan dan penolakan di tempat umum. Bertempat di Mississippi di tahun 1930s novel ini dapat merefleksikan rasisme yang harus diterima orang-orang kulit hitam di era Great Depression. Orang-orang kulit hitam mejadi kambing hitam dari rasa frustrasi orang-orang kulit putih yang menguatkan perlakuan rasis terhadap mereka di masa itu.