

ABSTRACT

YOHANES ADI APRIYANTO. **Racism Undergone by Japanese Americans as Reflected in David Guterson's *Snow Falling on Cedars***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2008.

This thesis is about racism undergone by Japanese Americans after the great bombing of Pearl Harbor. The story reveals three elements of racism that are experienced by Japanese Americans. Since the story takes place in an isolated Island whose citizens are mostly white, the racist air is around the story. The Japanese Americans who are considered inferior has accepted such racism in their life. The murder of Carl Heine has opened three elements of racism-prejudice, discrimination, and exploitation- in the story trough the Japanese Americans. There are humanity values revealed in the Japanese Americans' experiences in facing racism.

There are two problems that emerge to be analyzed in this story. First, how are the characters in the story described? Second, how is the racism toward Japanese Americans in the United States of America in 1940s-1950s depicted through the characters in the novel?

This study employs library research method. This study also applies some theories to answer the problem formulation. They are the theory on character and characterization and the theory on racism. The writer also uses socio cultural-historical approach because the focus of the study is analyzing racism undergone by Japanese Americans in 1940s-1950s depicted in the novel.

The result of this study shows two findings to answer the problem formulation. First, the characters of the novel are described clearly and uniquely. Each character in the story has such important role in the story. The characters are described through a brief description, conversation, and also trough their past life. The characterizations of the Japanese Americans are close enough with the characteristic of Issei (more Japanized) and Nisei (more American) in the real world. The white characters also got the same thing. They are described close to reality that happens in 1940-1950s. The characters are described as the citizen of the United States of America in 1940s-1950s. Second, the characters in the novel depict the condition of the United States of America in 1940s-1950s. The characters depict the condition of the United States of America trough their experience of life. Their past lives in the story are taken place in the same era of the post Pearl Harbor bombing. Japanese Americans characters of the *Snow Falling on Cedars* depict the Japanese Americans in the United States in 1940-1950s through their experiences in facing Racism from the white characters. Their experiences are similar enough with the reality in the United States of America in 1940s-1950s.

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Skripsi ini membahas rasisme yang dialami oleh orang-orang Jepang Amerika setelah pengeboman hebat Pearl Harbor. Ada tiga element rasisme yang dialami oleh orang-orang Jepang Amerika. Suasana rasis sangat kental menyelubungi cerita, karena cerita ini mengambil latar tempat di sebuah pulau yang terisolasi dimana penduduknya kebanyakan orang kulit putih. Orang-orang Jepang Amerika yang dianggap kaum minorits telah mengalami rasisme dalam kehidupannya. Pembunuhan Carl Heine telah membuka tiga element rasisme-prasangka, diskriminasi, dan eksploitasi- di dalam cerita melalui orang-orang Jepang Amerika. Nilai-nilai kemanusiaan diungkapkan melalui pengalaman-pengalamna orang-orang Jepang Amerika dalam menhadapi rasisme.

Ada dua permasalahan yang muncul dalam menganalisis cerita ini. Pertama, bagaimana karakter-karakter didalam cerita di gambarkan? Kedua, bagaiman rasisme terhadap Jepang Amerika di tahun 1940an tergambarkan lewat karakter-karakter dalam cerita?

Studi ini menggunakan metode penelitian pustaka. Studi ini juga menggunakan beberapa teori untuk menjawab rumusan masalah. teori-teori itu adalah teori karakter karakterisasi, dan teori rasisme. penulis juga menggunakan pendekatan sejarah-socialbudaya karena fokus analisis studi ini dalah rasisme yang dialami oleh orang-orang Jepang Amerika di tahun 1940an-1950an yang tergambarkan di novel.

Hasil dari studi ini menunjukkan dua temuan yang dapat menjawab rumusan masalah. Pertama, karakter-karakter di dalam novel digambarkan secara jelas dan unik mendekati kenyataan. Setiap karakter mempunyai peran penting dalam cerita. Karakter-karakter itu digambarkan melalui deskripsi singkat, percakapan, dan juga lewat kehidupan masa lalu mereka. Karakterisasi orang-orang Jepang Amerika mendekati karakteristik Issei(lebih Jepang) dan Nisei (condong ke Amerika) di dunia nyata. Karakter orang-orang kulit putih pun juga serupa. Mereka digambarkan mendekati kenyataan di tahun1940an-1950an. Karakter-karakter di dalam novel digambarkan sebagai warga negara Amerika di tahun1940an-1950an. Kedua, karakter-karakter dalam novel menggambarkan kondisi Amerika di tahun 1940an-1950an. Karakter-karakter tersebut menggambarkan kondisi Amerika lewat pengalaman hidup mereka. Masa lalu mereka mengambil latar waktu yang sama dengan era sesudah pengeboman Pearl Harbor. Karakter-karakter Jepang Amerika dalam *Snow falling on Cedars* menggambarkan orang-orang Jepang Amerika di tahun 1940an-1950an lewat pengalaman mereka menghadapi rasisme dari orang-orang kulit putih. Pengalaman-pengalaman mereka menyerupai kenyataan yang ada di Amerika di tahun 1940an-1950an.