

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background of the Research

Literary works often originate from reflections of the real world. The relationship between the real world and works of fiction cannot be separated. What is written in a literary work is assumed to be what is happening around or in society. Literary works tend to question man and humanity, life and life as well as the world of reality that lasts all day and throughout the ages. Literature presents a picture of life, and life itself occurs largely from social realities. Nowadays, there are many literary works written mainly by black writers who takes racism as the main theme of its content. One of them is *The Underground Railroad*.

*The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead is a work of speculative fiction that follows a runaway slave, Cora, on a grisly tour through the American South. Cora was a slave on a cotton ranch on the Randall Manor, Georgia. Life as a slave felt like hell, indeed more regrettable for Cora. He was ostracized among his individual African slaves, too harmed. When a slave from Virginia, Caesar, arrives and tells him approximately the Underground Railroad, Cora takes the chance of getting away from Randall's Plantation. But things didn't go agreeing to arrange. On their way north, they were chased down. Cora and Caesar's to begin with halt was South Carolina, a city that looks like paradise, but is really amazingly perilous for blacks. I assume that what happened to the Cora and Caesar was an act of racism. Racism may be a social issue among society which is persistently curiously to be talked around.

The term racism which refers to negative action towards inferior people may be caused by the improvement of a few faces who regard their bunches as the finest group. One factor they commonly utilize to determine the prevelance is the color skin. People with white skin color accept that they are the foremost amazing product of human evolution. As the result, they consider their races as overwhelming than other. Race refers to the social construct and practice of categorizing humans based on their skin tone, physical features (e.g. eye and/or nose shape, hair texture, etc.), and/or language (Carter and Pieterse, 2005:447-

476). This grouping practice, particularly prevalent in North America, includes the grouping of all people: Whites, people of Color (Blacks, Asians, Latinx, Native Americans), refugees, immigrants, and biracial people. The terms race, culture, and ethnicity are often confused or used interchangeably. Within the United States (U.S.), racial groups have been socially and legally separated for centuries.

The development of the history of racism itself cannot be separated from the improvement of the white supremacist occasion which is the cause of the creation of occasions of bigotry around the world. Within the mid-15th century, when the Portuguese started to require African individuals into slavery outside of the region, was the starting of the method of the oppression of millions of African individuals in America and Europe. The social construction of the white race was moreover shaped after the revelation of blacks within the African region.

This research departs from a similar case that occurred in 2020 where a black citizen named George Floyd had to lose his life at the hands of a white police officer. This case is rife in America and this not one of them. As explained in the paragraph above, it can be concluded that when one race has the power, they will dominate the minority to serve as a resource. I took this issue because the case that happened recently was closely related to what I am going to research. The novel that I will be researching is also related to a black teenage girl who wants to feel the freedom she dreams of despite the slavery activities that occur at that time. Unaccepted by racist treatment, this character must fight and fight to gain her dream.

In this research, I use Genetic Structuralism theory which include Human Fact, Collective Subject, and World View by Lucien Goldmann that focuses on historical background of the creation of literary works by looking at the literature from two angles, namely intrinsic and extrinsic. Literary works as a reflection of the times can reveal social, cultural, political, and economic aspects. Important events in his era will be related to the intrinsic elements of literary works, for example themes, plot, characters, and characterizations as well as settings in the form of time, place and social settings (Endraswara 2003:56). After examining its intrinsic elements, the next study examines the extrinsic elements of Genetic Structuralism research, namely Human Facts, Collective Subjects, World Views,

to find out the historical background of the creation of these literary works. I also use *The Concept of Liberty: The Positive Freedom* by Isaiah Berlin. According to Berlin, the concept of positive freedom could be a view which states that people fundamentally can and must actualize the possibilities that exist in themselves. For this reason, humans can select the objectives they need to realize in their lives, and get the implies that can support the accomplishment of these life goals.

Through the explanation above, I invite the reader to see, feels, and appreciate the meaning of life experiences as the author feels through his work. Colson Whitehead brilliantly reproduces the dread of the pre-war period, he weaves stories, from the brutal kidnappings of Africans to guarantees that have never been kept to the show day. *The Underground Railroad* may be a holding story around a woman's will to elude the repulsions of subjugation - and it's a reflection for all of us approximately one of the world's most vital histories.

## **1.2 Identification of the Problem**

Based on the background of the problems above, I want to reveal the problem of Cora's struggle in pursuing her dream of freedom in *The Underground Railroad* Novel. The struggle that happened in the story begins when Cora's land is given by her grandmother and other slave try to taking over the land. Cora's struggle not only safeguards the piece of land she owns, but she tries to fight injustice and even discrimination and conflicts to reach her dream of liberty.

After identifying, I found the efforts that Cora is doing to pursue her dream of freedom. Cora who is the main character in this novel, is a young slave on a Georgia cotton plantation.

## **1.3 Limitation of the Problems**

Based on the identification of the problem above, I limit the problem on analyzing with theory and concepts as follow:

1. Through an intrinsic approach: Characterizations by showing and telling method, Plot and Settings
2. Through an extrinsic approach: which is sociology of literature, and the theory of Genetic Structuralism by Lucien Goldman which included Human

Facts, Collective Subjects, and World Views and The Positive Freedom theory by Isaiah Berlin.

#### **1.4 Formulation of the Problem**

Based on the limitation of the problem above, I identify the effort to seize freedom on main character in *The Underground Railroad* Novel, it can be formulated to prove that there is a struggle. I did several research stage as follow:

1. What are the characteristic of the main character presented in *The Underground Railroad* Novel?
2. What are the plot and setting in *The Underground Railroad* Novel?
3. What are the theory of Genetic Structuralism through characterization, setting, and plot in *The Underground Railroad* Novel?

#### **1.5 Objectives of the Research**

Based on the formulation of the problem above, the purpose of this research is to answer following problem in the Genetic Structuralism analyzed of the main character in *The Underground Railroad* Novel. In order to reach this aim, I did several stages as follow:

1. To explore the characteristic of the main character is presented in *The Underground Railroad* Novel.
2. To analyze the plot and setting through telling and showing method.
3. To elaborate the theory of Genetic Structuralism through characterization, setting, and plot.

#### **1.6 Method of the Research**

In this method of research, I use a qualitative research method that pay attention to natural data, which may be a concepts that incorporates a few shapes of examination that offer assistance in understanding and clarifying the meaning of normal social wonders without any treatment.

Qualitative research is used to understand how people experienced the world. While there are many approaches to qualitative research, they tend to be flexible and focus on retaining rich meaning when interpreting data. According to Creswell (1994) “ A qualitative study is defined as an inquiry process of understanding a social or human problem, based on building a complex, holistic

picture, formed with words, reporting detailed views of informants, and conducted in a natural setting.

Qualitative research is about immersing oneself in a scene and trying to make sense of it, whether at a company meeting, in a community festival, or during an interview. Qualitative researchers purposefully examine and make note of small cues in order to decide how to behave, as well as to make sense of the context and build larger knowledge claims about the culture. (Tracy, 2013: 3)

The phrase *qualitative methodology* refers in the broadest sense to research that produces descriptive data, people's own written or spoken words and observable behavior (Taylor, Bogdan, & DeVault, 2016: 7)

Based on the definitions of qualitative research above, I conclude that qualitative research is a means to describe a topic or phenomenon and to understand people's experiences and perspective through descriptive data, people's written and observable behavior.

First, I use collecting data as the technique, several things to do are read, observe, and understand the novel "*The Underground Railroad*". The primary source is the novel "*The Underground Railroad*", another supporting data are books and articles from internet about literary research and sociology theory. I also analyzed the data with the formulation of the problem and associated with theory and concept.

### **1.7 Benefit of the Research**

Based on methods of the research above, this research is expected can be accepted for those who wants to know deeper about racism. The story of Cora within *The Underground Railroad* reminds me of the cruelty of discrimination within the world. For the audience, in this case, the students, this research intends to assist developing point of view towards literature. It also makes them to discover reference within the way to do their own research. Discrimination studies in the world are quite diverse. However, very little research has specifically focused on fighting discrimination. Therefore, it is hoped that this research will be able to provide new references on the struggle of black teenage girl to gain her dream of freedom.

## **1.8 Systematic Organization of the Research**

In accordance to the title of the research above, the order of the presentation is written as follows:

### **CHAPTER I : INTRODUCTION**

It consists of The Background of the Problem, Identification of The Problem, The Limitation of The Problem, The Formulation of The Problem, The Objective(s) of The Research, The Methods of The Research, Benefit of The Research, and The Systematic Organization of The Research.

### **CHAPTER II : FRAMEWORK OF THEORIES**

It consist of intrinsic approaches, such as showing and telling methods, characterization, plot and setting. And extrinsic approach, which are psychological theory, exhaustion and depression.

### **CHAPTER III : THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD THROUGH INSTRINSIC APPROACHES**

It consists of point of view, characterization of the characters, plot, and setting of the novel. The concepts above appear in the number of sub-chapters.

### **CHAPTER IV : THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD THROUGH EXTRINSIC APPROACHES**

It consists of analysing the extrinsic approaches by sociological concept of structuralism genetic on main character.

### **CHAPTER V : CONCLUSION**

It consists of an evaluation from the previous chapters and the implication of the evaluated result. The chapters above are followed by references, scheme of the research, research poster, curriculum vitae, and other required attachment.