

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Problem

Literature and society have a fascinating interplay, reflecting and affecting the world through storytelling, reflecting values, ideologies, challenges, and victories, and encouraging introspection and change throughout history. Therefore, literary works are called as the result of social product that have many benefits to the life. There are several reasons why literary works can be seen as the social products that are equivalent to cultural, political and social studies issues. As Wellek and Warren (1949: 89) stated that literature is a social institution, using as its medium language, a social creation. Such traditional literary device as symbolism and meter are social in their very nature. They are conventions and norms which could have arisen only in society.

Literature creates different realms through showing human emotions, relationships, and struggles. There are numerous forms of in literary works, one of them is novel. According to Burgess (in britannica.com), novel is an invented prose narrative of considerable length and a certain complexity that deals imaginatively with human experience, usually through a connected sequence of events involving a group of persons in a specific setting.

In term of literature and sociology, sociology literature is the ideal approach to utilize literary work while analyzing society. The sociology of literary work is a form of cultural sociology that examines the social creation of literature and its social implications. As there is a reciprocal relationship between a literary phenomena and social structure, sociological study of literature proves very useful to understand the socioeconomic situations, political issues, the world view and creativity of the writers, the system of the social and political organizations, the relations between certain thoughts and cultural configurations in which they occur and determinants of a literary work. (Meiliana, 2019)

In the case of discrimination, according to Theodorson&Theodorson (1979:115),

it is unequal treatment against individuals or groups, based on categorical, unique attributes, such as race, ethnicity, religion or membership of social classes. Discrimination is defined as the unfair treatment of groups of individuals, which is fundamentally the same as the perpetrators of discrimination. The target of discrimination possesses some of the same capabilities and services. Through these concepts of discrimination theory, it is possible to signify that discrimination is an unfair behavior against one's specific identity and tortured reasonable views as a result of historical and present-day imbalance within the societal norms. Literary works that are considered sociological phenomena will depict social characteristics through characters if the literature is presented in the form of drama, prose, novel, poetry, or film. There is an element of prejudice experienced by the characters as part of their social identity in the literary works. As a result, this research examines discrimination theory as the relevant source in the sociological literature.

In terms of the relationship between literature and discrimination, the novel is used as a research object by the writer. The main character in *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018) receives different treatment in society owing to the fact that this story shows the unfair treatment of a group in society, which indicates discrimination. Despite discrimination is not a direct aspect of sociology theory of literature, it does include society and the social foundation of literature, which forces sociology literature to be the approach for this term project.

Where the Crawdads Sing is written by Delia Owens. She's an American author, zoologist, and conservationist. She is known for publishing her novel *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018), which was adapted into a film of the same name, *Where the Crawdads Sing*, in 2022. She has won the John Burroughs Award for Nature Writing and has been published in *Nature*, *The African Journal of Ecology*, and more. Owens has a special attachment to the wild and beautiful places in the mountains of North Carolina after she and her family spent a summer in the state. The setting of *Where the Crawdads Sing* was inspired by the lush Carolina coastal marshes.

Where the Crawdads Sing centered on Kya, a wild and unkempt girl. The novel

follows the ups and downs of life faced by Kya, known as "Marsh Girl" by her townfolk. She grew up in a cabin in the swamps bordering a small town in the coast of North Carolina. Her mother and four older siblings left to get away from their abusive father, leaving Kya to fend for herself. Though in the end, her father left her as well.

Kya has survived for years alone in the swamp she calls home, finding friends among the seagulls and lessons in sand. Until there comes a time when she longs to be touched and loved. Then two young men from town are drawn to her beauty, and Kya opens herself up to a new life. First, Tate, her brother's friend enters her life, helping her and making love. However, Tate leaves to further his education. Then comes Chase who is also attracted to Kya but Chase's family does not like him being involved with Kya.

The main conflict faced by Kya's character arises after Chase is found dead, which makes the townfolk suspect Kya as the one responsible for his murder. Kya who rarely socializes with the surrounding community makes her avoided and considered different from other residents. This puts her under pressure from all directions, especially Chase's family. Although there are some people who help her to handle the case she is accused of.

The researcher wants to analyze the discrimination experienced by the main character of *Where the Crawdads Sing*, Kya. This literary work shows the discrimination that is experienced by Kya, as she barely socializes with the town folks. Discrimination actions performed against her considering of her differences, such as her socioeconomic situation and uneducated. As it relates to discrimination theory, which involves the forms and factors that cause it.

1.2 Identification of the Problem

Based on the background of the problem above, I identify the problem as follows: Kya, the main character, has seldom socialised with the local community since she was a child, has had to live alone without her family, and has never been to school, which

causes her to experience negative stereotypes from the citizens of the town where she lives. Then, combined with Chase's death case, which has no bright points, the surrounding community blames Kya, who also has a love relationship with him, for being the mastermind behind it, resulting in his arrest by the police. As a result, this study employs a literary technique to investigate the literary work from a sociological perspective that examines discrimination through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

1.3 Limitation of the Problem

Based on identification of the problem above, I limit the problem of this research regarding the *Where the Crawdads Sing* novel by Delia Owens to the study of discrimination experienced by the character Kya. The theories and concepts used are through a literary approach, characterization, plot and setting. I also use a sociological approach to literature that discusses aspects of discrimination in its various forms experienced by the character Kya and factors that cause it.

1.4 Formulation of the Problem

Based on the limitation of the problem, the problem is identified according to the discrimination theory. I formulated the problems as follows:

1. How is the third person point of view methods being used to analyze the characterization of the characters, plot, and setting?
2. How are the concepts of discrimination being used to analyze *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018) novel?
3. How can the theme of the novel be analyzed through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches?

1.5 Objectives of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem, the purpose of this research is to answer the following problem in the assumption of discrimination through the Kya character in *Where the Crawdads Sing* novel. Therefore, implications in this study are aimed to:

1. To analyze that the third person point of view methods can be used in the

characterization of the characters, plot, and setting.

2. To analyze that the concepts of discrimination can be used to analyze the theme of *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018) novel.
3. To analyze that *Where the Crawdads Sing* (2018) novel can be analyzed through intrinsic and extrinsic approaches.

1.6 Benefit of the Research

This research is considered to be valuable for anyone who want to learn more about literary criticism studies. This research is expected to be useful for people who have similar analyses or require similar references concerning discrimination, particularly discrimination based on economic class and status. This study supports theories of discrimination experienced by Kya's character. This study is beneficial to individuals who want to learn more about Delia Owens' novel *Where the Crawdads Sing* since it expands on discrimination theory, its forms, and factors that caused it.

1.7 Systematic Organization of the Research

Based on the title of the research, the framework of the term paper is written as follows:

CHAPTER 1 : INTRODUCTION

It consists of The Background of the Problem, Identification of the Problem, The Limitation of the Problem, The Formulation of the Problem, The Objectives of the Research, The Benefit of the Research, The Systematic Organization of the Research.

CHAPTER 2 : THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

This chapter consists of a review of previous research related to the material and theoretical framework, which includes the use of an extrinsic approach, that is the sociology of literature approach to discrimination.

CHAPTER 3 : RESEARCH METHOD

This chapter will explain the research method that I use in this study with the data collecting technique that is appropriate for this research.

CHAPTER 4 : DISCRIMINATION EXPERIENCED BY KYA CHARACTER IN “WHERE THE CRAWDADS SING” (2018) NOVEL BY DELIA OWENS

This chapter consists of an explanation of the intrinsic and extrinsic analysis of Where the Crawdads Sing. The concepts above are organized into a number of sub-chapters.

CHAPTER 5 : CONCLUSION

This chapter contains an evaluation of the previous chapters and implications of the research results.