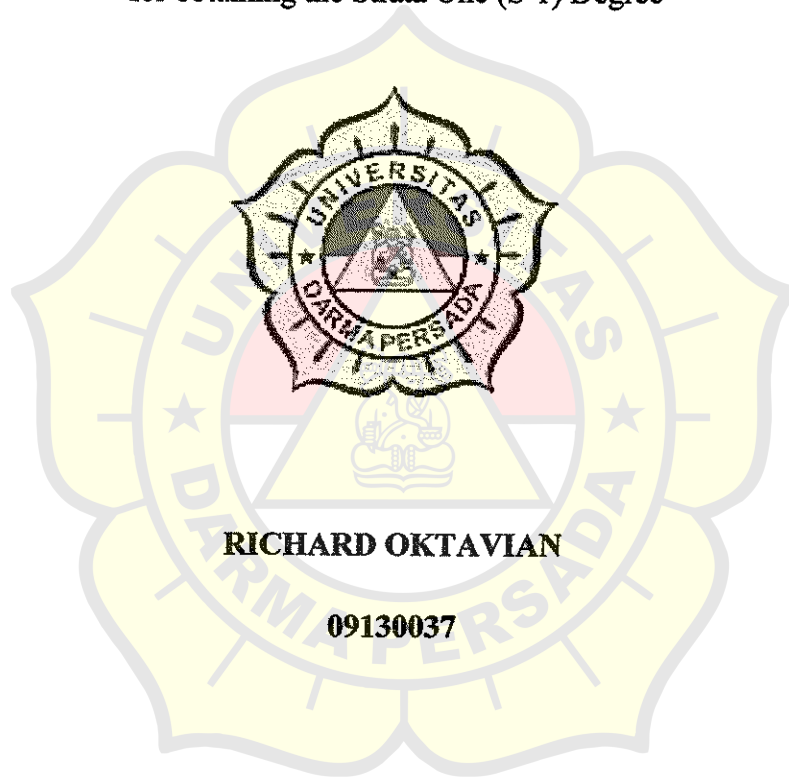


**THE FIGHT FOR FREEDOM FOR BLACK AMERICAN WOMEN IN
KATHRYN STOCKETT'S NOVEL *THE HELP*
THROUGH BLACK FEMINISM AND UTILITARIANISM APPROACH**

TERM PAPER

is submitted to the Faculty of Letters in partial fulfillment of the requirements
for obtaining the Strata One (S-1) Degree



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INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY STATEMENT PAGE

I hereby declare that the term-paper is the result of my own work and all the sources quoted or referenced have been stated correctly.

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Kathryn Stockett's Novel *The Help* Through Black
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PREFACE

Al hamdu lillahi rabbil 'alamin. All praise for Allah SWT as the conqueror of the universe. Finally, I can finish the term-paper to obtain Strata One and finish my study at University of Darma Persada. I am profoundly grateful about His blessing, without Him, I probably cannot finish the term paper. This term paper is submitted to the Strata One Program, English Department, University of Darma Persada as a part fulfillment of the requirement for obtaining the Strata One (S-1) degree.

I am so grateful that I can be a part of University of Darma Persada as the student. The one thing that I am really proud of being the student in Darma Persada University is I can get the knowledge about English Literature from all competent lecturers. I sincerely wish that the knowledge that I have got could be useful for people around me. Another thing that I have to grateful is I have friends who I can share my knowledge with and they can share their knowledge too. So, in this part of my term paper I would like to say my sincerest and warmest thankful for those who have helped during my study.

1. Dra. Karina Adinda, MA as the Advisor who has spent her time to help me and guide me to finish my term paper. Her advise, suggestion and knowledge as the competent and expert lecturer give me optimism that I can do the best for my term paper. She also gives me support that I could be a writer someday in the future. I really appreciate her support and it gives me another optimism to face the challenges in the future.
2. Miss Fridolini, SS, M.Hum as the Reader of my term paper who has spent her time to read and give correction to my term paper. I am really thankful to her because in her tight schedules and duties as a lecturer she can help me to finish my term paper. I cannot forget about what she has ever taught me in grammar, and also linguistics subjects.
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8. Miss Eka Yuniar and all the lecturers who have ever taught me on the subject that they are expert in English Literature. Thank you for giving me the knowledge about English Literature. I will never forget everything that has been taught for me.
9. I would also like to say warmest thanks to my family, my beloved mother Siti Kamsiyah, my beloved father Evert Harun Pattiasina and my uncle Slamet who have given me a support until I graduate from University of Darma Persada.
10. I would like to say a lot of thanks to my college friends, Kartina, Pipin, Dinda, Anggie, Ale, Desy Yuni, Yuni Herwati, Isaiah, Adi, Efriska, and Riska Novita Sari. Thanks that we all have ever known and helped each other.

This term paper is still far from perfect. Suggestions and constructive critics are necessary to improve this term paper. I hope this term paper is useful for the readers.

Jakarta, June 2013

Writer

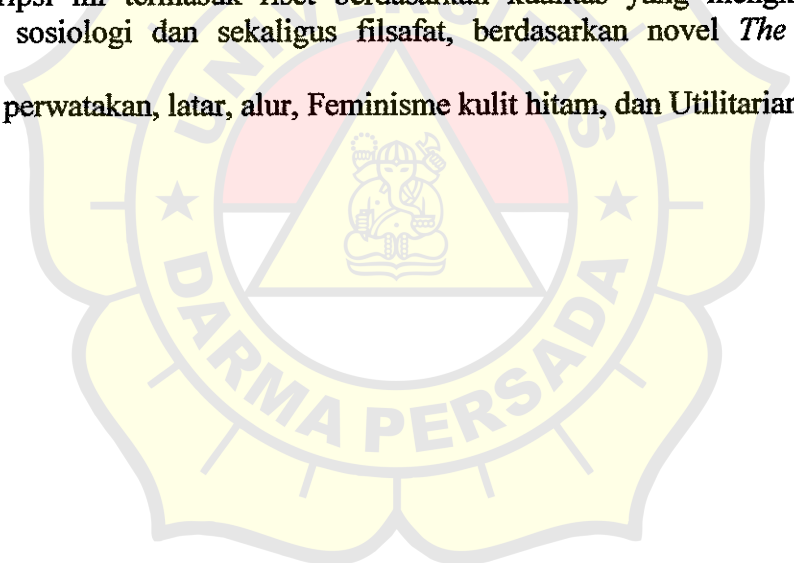
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ABSTRAK

Nama : Richard Oktavian
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Judul : Perjuangan Untuk Kebebasan Para Wanita Amerika Kulit Hitam Dalam Novel Karya Kathryn Stockett *The Help* melalui Feminisme Kulit Hitam dan Utilitarianisme

Skripsi ini membahas tentang sebuah tema karya sastra berupa novel. Novel yang ditelaah menggunakan pendekatan intrinsik dan ekstrinsik. Pendekatan intrinsik yang digunakan adalah metode *indirect* atau *showing* dan metode *direct* atau *telling*. Selain perwatakan, novel ditelaah dari sisi alur cerita dan latar. Melalui pendekatan ekstrinsik novel ditelaah dengan pendekatan sosiologi sastra yakni feminisme kulit hitam dan pendekatan filsafat yakni utilitarianisme. Skripsi ini termasuk riset berdasarkan kualitas yang mengkombinasikan pendekatan sastra, sosiologi dan sekaligus filsafat, berdasarkan novel *The Help* karya Kathryn Stockett.

Kata Kunci: Tema, perwatakan, latar, alur, Feminisme kulit hitam, dan Utilitarianisme



ABSTRACT

Name : Richard Oktavian
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Title : The Fight for Freedom for Black American Women in Kathryn
Stocket's Novel *The Help* Through Black Feminism and
Utilitarianism

This term paper explains about the theme of literary work of novel. The novel which is analyzed is using the intrinsic and extrinsic approaches. The intrinsic approaches which are used is indirect method or showing and direct method or telling. Beside characterization, the novel has been analyzed from the side of plot and setting. The analysis through extrinsic approaches, the novel has been analyzed by using sociology literature approach which is black feminism and philosophy approach which is utilitarianism. The term paper is categorized as a quality based research that combines the literature, sociology and philosophy approaches, based on *The Help* novel by Kathryn Stockett.

Key words: Theme, characterization, plot, setting, Black Feminism and Utilitarianism.

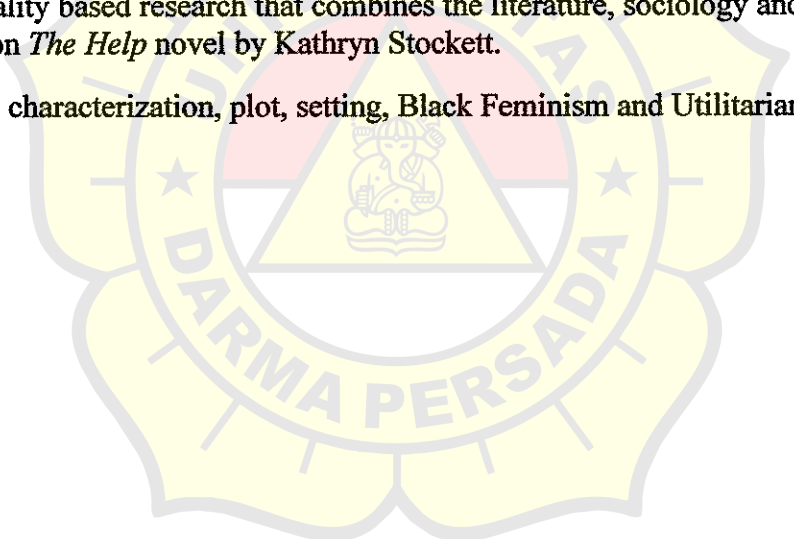


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SCHEME OF THE RESEARCH

BIODATA

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Story

The slavery in America is one of the black and gloomy history that happens since the big expansion of European people to the west and then to the whole America.

The main factor of slavery in America was the rise of cotton plantation in South America which was promoted by the recognition of new cotton's variants. Eli Whitney was an inventor of the chemical medicine to make cottons loosen from their seeds (Gray, 1997: 78).

The impacts of that invention are first, the order of cotton is increasing, second many lands are used to plant the cotton and third, it makes textile industry bigger than ever in 18th Century. This cotton plantation is expanded from Mississippi river until Texas. In the other side, the sugar cane plantation is rising and expanding the slavery. The fertile soil in Louisiana is good for sugar cane plantation. Finally, the plantation of tobacco is moving to the west and bringing the slavery to the west.

The different necessary and business of South and North about slavery was emerging to the surface. Some people in South admitted that the slavery was good and could be used for their tools to increase profit in their private financial or economy sector. In the other hand, some people in North admitted that slavery must be erased in America (Gray, 1997: 93).

Before 1830, the supervision or the monitoring of slave was done by the owner of the slave. But after 1830, the order of cotton was increasing. The system was changed. The owner of the slave was not monitoring again but he or she could have somebody else to back up his or her job. Even though a lot of people who treated well the slave but there were still people who treated the slave with rudeness. Some people criticized the way of that people forbade human rights of slave to be as free as human (Gray, 1997: 94).

Continuing about the slavery in the history of America, there was an incident that one book made a big influence to erase the slavery. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that was

written by *Harriet Beecher Stowe* showed about how the cruelty could not be cut from slavery and how free people and slaves could not be united. Generation from North came up because of that book and invited many people (young or old) to struggle with anti-slavery. The book touched everybody's feeling to help the slaves (Gray, 1997: 98-99).

Another movement besides slavery from Negro or African-American descendant is the feminist movement. Frances Wright was the one who encouraged American women to get equality same as like a men in law, education and economy and also election. This right was held in Seneca Fall, New York and it was also supported by men such as Ralph Waldo Emerson, Abraham Lincoln and Horace Greeley (Gray, 1997: 87-88).

Those are two different histories of America as the background. First, the slavery that is happened in America where white people discriminate and separate black people. Second, the women's movement to get recognition to be as equal as men. Actually, those explanations can be concluded that anti-slavery and women's movement are the ways to get freedom from discrimination of race, gender, and ethnicity.

It is quite difficult but interesting to analyze the discrimination of race that is happened to women. My analysis is related with these two main points which are about discrimination of race and women. The novel tells about the discrimination of race, especially the colored skin (in this case black) and women. The story of *The Help* has the similar plot with my beginning statement which talks about the enslavement or slavery in America. It is happened on African – American descendant in 18th Century. It also talks about feminist movement in Seneca Fall. There is similarity about the racial discrimination that happens on black people especially black women in Jackson, Mississippi, U.S.A in 1960.

Well, it is started when one black woman maid tells her own story to the white woman about how she feels about being a black woman and maid. Her name is Aibileen a black maid who works for a white family, The Leefolt's family. The woman who interviews her is Eugenia Skeeter Phelan or as known as Miss Skeeter. She works for one of the newspaper company, Jackson Journal. Actually, she wants to be a writer in

Harper and Row publishing but she has to write something controversial to get that job. She thinks and intends to write about racial discrimination that happens in Jackson, Mississippi by interviewing all black maids in Jackson. It is begun with Aibileen.

Minnie Jackson is the second black maid who is interviewed by Skeeter after Aibileen because she is her best friend. Aibileen and Minny tell about how they become black maids and their sufferings of being separated from white people and their facilities. They are forbidden to use the bathroom, so they use their own bathroom that has been built outside the white people's houses. This situation is happened because of Jim Crow Laws. The laws say that all black Americans have to use different facilities from the whites.

Skeeter as the person who interviews the black maids also writes her own story about Constantine. She is her lovely black maid who has raised her. Constantine has dead after being thrown away from the house by Skeeter's mother.

Three women who have three different stories of their life struggle to make their stories are published. So, people will act and fight the racial discrimination which has segregated black and white Americans in whole United States of America. They just want to be free, accepted, and equal.

That is the brief explanation about the concise of *The Help* that I relate to the real situation that has been happened in America in the 18th century.

B. Identification of the Problem

According to the background of story on *The Help* above, I identify the problem from the novel *The Help* is that the people in America still discriminate colored people and many minority class or group by its gender, race, and ethnicity. The racial discrimination that is happened in America in 18th Century is still embedding until now. The story of *The Help* is related to the history of America but it is not 18th Century but in 1962. This discrimination is happened to Black women. Aibileen, Minny and Skeeter are best friend. They struggle to be accepted as the same person and get the equal rights as American people without any discrimination by race, gender and ethnicity. They need help in order to get the freedom that they want. So, I consider that there is the

harmony or the connection between the story of *The Help* and my assumption about discrimination by race and gender in this case colored people and women. Therefore, I assume that the theme of this novel is *The Fight For Freedom For Black American Women in Kathryn Stockett's Novel The Help Through Black Feminism And Utilitarianism Approach*.

C. Limitation of the Problem

Based on the explanation of my assumption in identification of the problem above, I limit my research about the analysis of *The Help* by analyzing the Black Feminism as the concept to support the discrimination by race and the theory of Utilitarianism as the second concept about the Greatest Happiness Principle. I limit it with another analysis by using intrinsic approach such as the method of characterization by using indirect (showing) and direct (telling). Then I use setting and plot.

D. Formulation of the Problem

Based on restriction of the problem above, I formulate the problem of the novel to this question. Whether true or not that the theme of this novel is *The Fight For Freedom For Black American Women in Kathryn Stockett's Novel The Help Through Black Feminism And Utilitarianism*. To answer that question that to test my assumption, I formulate the problems as follow:

1. Can the direct (*telling*) and indirect (*showing*) method be used to analyze the main character and the other character's characterization?
2. Can the method of setting and plot be used to analyze my assumption about racial discrimination through Black Feminism approach?
3. Can the concept of Black Feminism be used to analyze this novel?
4. Can the concept of Utilitarianism be used to analyze this novel?

E. The Purpose of the Research

Based on the formulation of the problem above, I have a purpose to show that the theme of the novel is *The Fight For Freedom For Black American Women in*

Kathryn Stockett's Novel The Help Through Black Feminism And Utilitarianism. In order to get the point or the purpose that I want to reveal, I have done these steps as follow:

1. According to the intrinsic approach, I analyze the characterization by using direct (*telling*) and indirect (*showing*) method in order to strengthen the characterization.
2. To analyze the plot and setting of this novel in order to strengthen my assumption.
3. To analyze this literary work by using extrinsic approach: Black Feminism and Utilitarianism approach.
4. To reinforce the theme of this novel by the result of analysis: intrinsic approach and extrinsic approach.

F. Framework of the Theory

Based on the purpose of the research above, I use the theory and concept that are applied in intrinsic approach and extrinsic approach. The theories of literature that I use in my analysis are direct method that is included characterization through the use of names, characterization through appearance and characterization by the author. Indirect method that is included characterization through dialogue, characterization through action, setting and plot. According to sociology of literature approach, I use the concept of Black Feminism as the minority criticism in feminism approach and the philosophy approach that I use is Utilitarianism.

1. Intrinsic Approach

According intrinsic approach, I use the concepts as follow:

a. Characterization

The term character applies to any individual in a literary work. For the purpose of analysis, character of fiction are customarily described by their relationship to plot,

by the degree of development they are given by the author, and by whether or not they undergo significant character change (Pickering, 1981:24).

In presenting and establishing character, I use these methods:

1. Direct method (Telling)

Direct method is one of the method that always be used to analyze characterization. In telling method or direct method the author's influence is very big. The author still controls the story, so it can be concluded that the guiding hand of the author is very much in evidence (Pickering, 1981: 27). Direct method as revealing characters are divided into three steps:

a. Characterization through the use of name

Names are often used to provide essential clues that aid in characterization. Some characters are given names that suggest their dominant or controlling traits. Other characters are given names that reinforce their physical appearance (Pickering, 1981: 28).

b. Characterization through appearance

Although in real life most of us are aware that appearances are often deceiving, in the world of fiction details of appearance about what characters wear and how he or she looks. Those things are often being essential clues to characters (Pickering, 1981: 29).

c. Characterization by the author

In the most customary form of telling the author interrupts the narrative and reveals directly, through a series of editorial comments, the nature and personality of the characters, including the thoughts and feeling that enter and pass through the characters' minds. The author asserts and retains full control over characterization (Pickering, 1981: 30).

2. Indirect method (Showing)

Indirect method (showing) is the other method after direct method (telling) which involves the author stepping aside, as it were, to allow the characters to reveal themselves directly through their dialogue and their actions.

By contrast, there are essentially two methods of indirect characterization by showing: characterization through dialogue (what characters say) and characterization through action (what characters do).

It is a rare work of fiction, whose author does not employ dialogue in some way to reveal, establish and reinforce character. For this reason the reader must be prepared to analyze dialogue in a number of different ways: for (a) what is being said, (b) the identity of the speaker, (c) the occasion, (d) the identity of the person or persons the speaker is addressing, (e) the quality of exchange, and (f) the speaker's tone of voice, stress, dialect, and vocabulary (Pickering, 1981: 27& 31-32).

a. What is being said

To begin with, the reader must pay close attention to the substance of the dialogue itself. Is it small talk, or is the subject an important one in the developing action of the plot? In terms of characterization, if the speaker insists on talking only about himself or only on a single subject, we may conclude that we have either an egoist or a bore. If the speaker talks only about others we may merely have a gossip and busybody (Pickering, 1981: 32).

b. The identity of the person

Obviously, on balance, what the protagonists says must be considered to be potentially more important (and hence revealing) than what minor characters say, although the conversation of a minor character often provides crucial information and sheds important light on the personalities of the other characters (and on his or her own) as well. (Pickering, 1981: 32-33).

c. The Occasion

In real life, conversations that take place in private at night are usually more serious and, hence, more revealing than conversations that take place in public during the day. Talk in the parlor, that is, usually more significant than talk in the street or at theater. On the whole, this is probably also true in fiction as well, but the reader should always consider the likelihood that seemingly idle talk on the street or at the theater has been included by the author because it is somehow important to the story being told (Pickering, 1981:33).

d. The identity of the person or persons the speaker is addressing

Dialogue between friends is usually more candid and open, and thus more significant, than dialogue between strangers. The necessary degree of intimacy is usually established by the author in setting a scene or through the dialogue the dialogue itself. When a character addresses no one in particular, or when others are not present, his speech is called monologue, although, strictly speaking, monologues occur more frequently in drama than in fiction (Pickering, 1981:33).

e. The quality of exchange

The way a conversation ebbs and flows is important, too. When there is real give and take to a discussion, the characters can be presumed to be open-minded. Where there is none, one or more of the characters are presumably opinionated, doctrinaire or close-minded. Where there is a certain degree of evasiveness in the responses, a character may be secretive and have something to hide (Pickering, 1981: 33).

f. The speaker's tone of voice, stress, dialect, and vocabulary

The speaker's tone of voice (either stated or implied) may reveal his attitude toward himself (whether, for example, he's confident and at ease or self-conscious and shy) and his attitude toward those with whom he is speaking. His

attitude to others may, for example, be either warm and friendly or cold, detached, and even hostile. Moreover, the reader must also be alert to suggestions of irony in speaker's voice, which would suggest that what is being said is quite the opposite from what is actually meant. Finally, dialect, stress, and word choice all provide important clues to character: they may reflect the character's origin, education, occupation, or social class (Pickering, 1981: 33-34).

g. Characterization through action

To establish character on the basis of action, it is necessary to scrutinize the several events of the plot for what they seem to reveal about the characters, about their unconscious emotional and psychological states as well as about their conscious attitudes and values. Some actions, of course, are inherently more meaningful in this respect than others. A gesture or facial expression usually carries with it less significance than some larger and overt act. In either case, whether the action is large or small, conscious or unconscious, it is necessary to identify the common pattern of conduct and behavior of which each separate action is a part (Pickering, 1981: 34).

b. Setting

Setting in fiction is called on to perform a number of desired functions. Setting may serve (1) to provide background for the action ; (2) as an antagonist; (3) as a means of creating appropriate atmosphere; (4) as means of revealing character; (5) as a means of reinforcing theme. These functions must not, however, be thought of as mutually exclusive. In many works of fiction, setting can and does serve a number of different functions simultaneously (Pickering, 1981: 38).

c. Plot

When we refer to the plot of a work of fiction, then, we are referring to the deliberately arranged sequence of interrelated events that constitute the basic narrative

structure of a novel or a short story. Events of any kind, of course, inevitably involve people, and for this reason it is virtually impossible to discuss plot in isolation from character. Character and plot are, in fact, intimately and reciprocally related, especially in modern fiction. The plot has five stages structure as follow:

1. Exposition

The Exposition is the beginning section in which the author provides the necessary background information, sets the scene, establishes the situation, and dates the action. It may also introduce the characters and the conflicts, or the potential for conflict. The exposition may be accomplished in a single sentence or paragraph, or, in the case of some novels, occupy an entire chapter or more. Some plots require more exposition than others. A historical novel set in a foreign country several centuries ago obviously needs to provide the reader with more background information than a novel with a contemporary setting (Pickering, 1981:67).

2. Complication

The complication, which is sometimes referred to as the rising action, breaks the existing equilibrium and introduces the characters and the underlying or inciting conflict (if they already been introduced by the exposition). The conflict is then developed gradually and intensified. (Pickering, 1981: 17).

3. Crisis

The crisis (also referred to as the climax) is that moment at which the plot reaches its point of greatest emotional intensity; it is the turning point of the plot directly precipitating its resolution (Pickering, 1981: 17)

4. Falling Action

Once the crisis, or turning point, has been reached, the tension subsides and the plot moves toward its appointed conclusion (Pickering, 1981: 17).

5. Resolution

The final section of the plot is its resolution; it records the outcome of the conflict and establishes some new equilibrium or stability (however tentative and momentary). The resolution is also referred to as the conclusion or denouement, the latter a French word meaning “unknotting” or “untying” (Pickering, 1981: 17).

2. Extrinsic Approach

According to extrinsic approach, I use concepts as follow:

a. Black Feminism

Feminism concerns with the marginalization of women and focuses on the absence of women from discourse because of the culture of patriarchal that many things are related to interests of men.

Feminism is concerned with difference and marginalization of women. Feminists believe that our culture is a patriarchal culture that is one organized in favor of the interest of men. Feminist literary critics try to explain how what they term engendered power imbalances in a given culture are reflected, supported, or challenged by literary texts. Feminists critics focus on absence of women from discourse as well as meaningful spaces opened by women’s discourse (Gurien, 1960: 182)

There are four practices to analyze feminism: gender studies, Marxist feminism, psychoanalytic feminism, and minority feminist criticism. I choose the fourth practice which concerned with minority feminist. There are two main points in minority feminist criticism: 1. Black feminism and 2. Lesbian feminism. Both of them are included in minority feminist criticism. But I’ve chosen one approach from these approaches, Black feminism.

Within the feminist minority there are still other significant minorities, most prominently black and lesbian feminists. While it is true that many black and lesbian feminist include each other in analyses of the problems of their group, it may seem violate their most fundamental ideas to address them in a single section, since they have strongly protested both their marginalization in society and their often unwanted

groupings with other minorities. But they have become a widespread pairing among feminist minorities within the minority (Gurien, 1960: 207).

b. Utilitarianism

Utilitarianism is a theory in normative ethics holding that the proper course of action is the one that maximizes utility, specifically defines as maximizing happiness and reducing suffering. According to utilitarianism the moral worth of an action is determined only by its resulting outcome although there is debate over how much consideration should be given to actual consequences, foreseen consequences and intended consequences. Two influential contributors to this theory are Jeremy Bentham and John Stuart Mill.

Mill is brought up as a Jeremy Bentham with the explicit intention that will carry on the cause of utilitarianism. Mill's book *Utilitarianism* first appeared as a series of three articles published in *Fraser's Magazine* in 1861 and was reprinted as a single book in 1863 (<http://utilitarianphilosophy.com/definition.eng.html>, May 17th, 2013).

G. Methods of the Research

Based on the framework of the theory above, I use the methods of the research by using qualitative research. It is the kind of research for literature or documentation. Characteristic of the research is interpretative or analyzing by using the collection of data such as literary work from the novel *The Help* written by Kathryn Stockett as the main source of primer source. It is supported with another literature which is related to the theories, concepts, and definitions as the second source.

H. Benefit of the Research

Based on the method of the research above, this research hopefully can be useful for those who want to analyze or study it extremely deeper, in order to get the knowledge about *The Help* written by Kathryn Stockett. This research probably will be beneficial because it is done through new perspective by applying concepts: Black Feminism to get the assumption of discrimination by gender and race, then

Utilitarianism to get the understanding about the Greatest Happiness Principle. So, this research will not close the possibilities on the same subject.

I. Systematic Organization of the Presentation

According to the benefit of the research above, the presentation is served systematically as follow:

Chapter one is Introduction which contains: Background of the study case, Identification of the problem, restriction of the problem, formulation of the problem, purpose of the research, framework of the theory, method of the research, benefit of the research, serving presentation systematically.

Chapter two is The Analysis of *The Help* Novel by Kathryn Stockett Through Intrinsic Approaches which contains: characterization of main character and another important characters using the direct and indirect method. Setting and plot as the other intrinsic approach to analyze the novel.

Chapter three is The Analysis of *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett Through Extrinsic Approaches which contains: analysis novel by using the concepts or extrinsic approaches to prove the assumption, analysis the theme by using the result of intrinsic and extrinsic approaches to strengthen the assumption.

Chapter four is Conclusion which contains: the conclusion that proves the theme of this novel about "*The Fight For Freedom For Black American Women Through Black Feminism and Utilitarianism Approach*" delivers contemplation about the main research that is embraced inside the chapters and implication from the research to the other variables.

SCHEME OF THE RESEARCH

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BIODATA