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## THE RACIAL PREJUDICE TOWARD THE BLACK IN AMERICA AS REFLECTED IN JAMES McBRIDE THE COLOR OF WATER

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### ABSTRACT

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This thesis discusses the issue of racial prejudice in America described in the novel *The Color of Water* written by James Mcbride. This analysis focuses on how blacks are perceived differently by other races in America such as whites. In this study, the authors analyzed three problems, the first why race prejudice occurred in America. How racial prejudices against blacks as uneducated people, how racial prejudice against blacks as criminal.

In analyzing the literary work, the author uses postcolonial theory, it is this theory that allows us to see how the colonial influence both during colonization lasted, before, and after the colonialization ended like today. This theory has

a very important meaning, The hidden problems contained behind the facts that have occurred, and very in accordance with the problems contained in the novel the color of water.

In this study, the authors found a 1). bad relationship between the minority and the majority in the United States really happened. 2). Minorities such as blacks get white prejudices. This disharmony of relationships has some impact on the minority itself, the impact of which can be seen from how the quality of life of these minorities. 3). Another consequence of the harmony of the relationship is the emergence of awareness and motivation in the minority to be equal to the majority.

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**Keywords:** *bad relationship, racial prejudice, disharmony*

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### ABSTRAK

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Skripsi ini membahas masalah prasangka rasial yang terjadi di Amerika yang di gambarkan dalam novel yang berjudul *The Color of Water* yang ditulis oleh James Mcbride. Analisa ini difokuskan pada bagaimana ras kulit hitam dipandang lain oleh ras lain di Amerika seperti kulit putih. Dalam penelitian ini ,penulis menganalisa tiga permasalahan, yang pertama mengapa perasangka ras terjadi di Amerika. bagaimana prasangka ras terhadap orang kulit hitam sebagai orang yang tidak berpendidikan,

bagaimana prasangka ras terhadap orang kulit hitam sebagai kriminal.

Dalam menganalisis karya sastra, Penulis menggunakan teori poskolonial, teori inilah yang memungkinkan kita untuk melihat bagaimana pengaruh penjajah baik selama penjajahan itu berlangsung, sebelum, dan setelah penjajahan itu berakhir seperti masa sekarang ini. Teori ini memiliki arti sangat penting, dimana teori ini mampu mengungkapkan masalah-masalah

tersembunyi yang terkandung di balik kenyataan yang pernah terjadi, dan sangat sesuai dengan permasalahan yang terdapat didalam novel *The Color of Water*.

Dalam penelitian ini, penulis menemukan 1). Hubungan buruk antara kaum minoritas dan kaum mayoritas yang ada di Amerika tersebut benar-benar terjadi. 2). Kaum minoritas seperti orang kulit hitam mendapat

prasangka-prasangka buruk dari kulit putih.3). ketidakharmonisan hubungan ini memberikan beberapa dampak terhadap kaum minoritas itu sendiri, dampaknya bisa dilihat dari bagaimana kualitas hidup kaum minoritas tersebut. Akibat lain dari ketidak harmonisan hubungan itu adalah timbulnya kesadaran dan motivasi dalam diri kaum minoritas untuk bisa sejajar dengan kaum mayoritas.

**Kata Kunci:** *hubungan buruk, prasangka rasial, ketidakharmonisan.*

## **I BACKGROUND OF THE PROBLEM**

In the novel *The Color of Water*, the story represents the life of black people in white American society. The reason for choosing the title of racial prejudice toward black in America is because the novel *The Color of Water* is the representation of James McBride feeling about racial prejudice that happens not only to himself, but also to his white mother because she marries to the black man. Both James and his mother have to go to hard times because the prejudice from the white people.

Literature represents a language or a people, culture and tradition. Literature is more important than just a historical or cultural artifact. Literature introduces us to new worlds of experience. We learn about books and literature; we enjoy the comedies and the tragedies of poems, stories and we may even grow and evolve through our literary journey with books.

In the novel *The Color of Water*, the story represents the life of black people in white American society. James explains how her mother births him and also about his tragic past, the loss of her family and the constant insult to his mother and himself because of the racial issue. Even so, she has an iron strength to protect and raise her children, to be strong and overcome whatever may happen.

The major of literature include prose, poetry and drama. First prose is a form language that possesses ordinary syntax and speech rather than rhythmic structure in which regard, along with its measurement in sentences rather than lines, it differs from poetry. On the historical development of prose, Richard Graff notes that in the case of Ancient Greece recent scholarship has emphasized the fact that formal prose was a comparatively late development, an invention properly associated with the classical period.

Second poetry is a form of literary art which uses aesthetic and rhythmic qualities of language to evoke meanings in addition to, or in place of, prosaic ostensible meaning. Poetry has traditionally been distinguished from prose by its being set in verse prose is cast in sentences, poetry in lines the syntax of prose is dictated by meaning, whereas that of poetry is held across meter or visual aspects of the poem. Prior to the nineteenth century, poetry was commonly understood to be something set in metrical lines, accordingly, in 1658 a definition of poetry is "any kind of subject consisting of Rhythm or Verses". Possibly as a result of Aristotle's influence (his poetics), "poetry" before the nineteenth century was usually less a technical designation for verse than a normative category of fictive or rhetorical art. The last of major literature drama is a play or drama is another classical literary form that has continued to evolve over the years. It generally comprises chiefly dialogue between characters theatrical performance rather than at reading. During the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, opera developed as a combination of poetry, drama and music. Nearly all drama took verse form until comparatively recently. Shakespeare could be considered drama. *Romeo and Juliet* for example, is a classic romantic drama generally accepted as literature.

Novel as a literary works has known since eighteenth century in England. With the result as like novel, poem, poetry, drama, and prose. Prose is often as specific terms for all discourage spoken or written which is not patterned into recurrent matrix united that we call verse. Prose has longer meaning because it covers everything that is written as literary work but it includes some of non fiction work.

According to Ethel and Martin (1990), the relationship between black as minority and whites as majority became a crucial issue in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, by 1870, black American had been declared citizens with all the right guarantee, but, the black are ridiculed, rejected, and often left without a clear sense of self, black Americans have Often had to exist to a world where the rules are made by white Americans. This point became increasingly clearer during the late-nineteenth century, when blacks began moving from the rural south to northern cities. The way of those racial action is called a racism

Racial prejudice known as insidious moral and social disease affecting people and population all over the world. It is diagnosed by the cataloguing of its various symptoms and manifestations which include fear, intolerance, separation, segregation, discrimination, and hatred. While all of these symptoms of racial prejudice may be manifest, the single underlying cause of racial prejudice is ignorance. Historically, a race of people is defined as a population with distinguishable biological features.

In *The Color of Water*, there is a significant message about how life experiences lead Ruth McBride-Jordan, a white woman, to rebel against her own race and racism in general and come to love the black community. She went on to protect her children from racial discrimination even in times that weren't too accepting of a white Jewish woman.

This story of unnecessary tribulations, discrimination, strength and courage provides a vision for America's present day and for times to come. The brilliant combination of views from Ruth McBride-Jordan and her son James McBride proves that, one can overcome challenges. One can still be compassionate. And one can be accepting of all people, even after enduring so much ignorance and hate. A reflection of this point can be found in a conversation between James McBride and his mother Ruth McBride-Jordan. He asked her a series of redundant questions that revolved around the idea of God loving one ethnicity over another. Ruth told her son that, "...God's not black. He's not white. He's a spirit." She followed by saying that, "...God is the color of water...He loves all people".

#### 1.2. Identifications of the Problem

There are lots of problems that can be identified from the novel *The Color of Water* from intrinsic and extrinsic elements (Semi,

1993:63). From the intrinsic aspect, the problem can be identified from plot (conflict in novel's plot), character (James' struggle to live among white society), theme (social class), setting of place (the life in America), setting of time (the discrimination era in *The color of Water*), and point of view (James' narration as black people in America).

Meanwhile from the extrinsic aspect, the problem can identified from the point of formalism (the figures of speech in *The Color of Water*), history (the history of America in discrimination era), moral (prejudice and discrimination), psychology (James' confrontation with white society), sociology (white and black society in *The Color of Water*), feminist (James' mother strength character), semiotic (*Color of water* as the symbol of discrimination), and archetypal (*The Color of Water* comparison between novel and movie).

#### 1.3 Limitations of the Problem

In the research, the research choose the novel *The Color of Water* which is written by James McBride as the object to be analyzed, which is the racial prejudice in America. The research is focused in the forms of the racial prejudice toward black in *The Color of Water*.

#### 1.4 Formulation of the Problem

The present thesis provides an analysis the racial prejudice toward black in America in the color of water. Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems follows:

1. Why does the racial prejudice happen in America?
2. How is the racial prejudice toward blacks as uneducated people?
3. How is the racial prejudice toward blacks as criminal?

#### 1.5. Purposes of the Research

The writer finds that there are many things that can be analyzed by the wruter. The writer focuses on the forms of the racial prejudice toward black in the color of water. The writer will identify the problems of this research and become the purpose of the research :

1. To explain the reason that racial prejudice can happen in America.

2. To describe the racial prejudice toward blacks as uneducated people in America.
3. To describe the racial prejudice toward blacks as criminal in America.

### 1.6 Significance of the Research

Significances of the research is to add literary study in term of extrinsic side the racial prejudice toward the black in American as reflected in the color of water by James McBride. Then, the finding in this research is hopefully useful as the information whoever interested in understanding literary study that focuses extrinsic feminist analysis. The writer also hopes this analysis can become the guidance for next researchers to conduct further analysis.

For the students this analysis is hopefully as the information whoever interested in understanding literary. Finally, the writer also hopes that this writing will give the contribution to the English Department students and whoever may be interested in the subject being discussed.

### 1.7. Theoretical Frameworks

Postcolonial literatures/cultures are thus constituted in counter-discursive rather than homologous practices, and they offer 'fields' (Lee 1977:32) of counter-discursive strategies to the dominant discourse. The operation of post-colonial counter-discourse (Terdiman 1985:109) is dynamic, not static: it does not seek to subvert the dominant with a view to taking its place, but, in Wilson Harris's formulation, to evolve textual strategies which continually 'consume' their 'own biases' (Harris 1985:127) at the same time as they expose and erode those of the dominant discourse.

In challenging the notion of literary universality (or the European appropriation of post-colonial practice and theory as post-modern or poststructuralist) post-colonial writers and critics engage in counter-discourse. But separate models of 'Commonwealth Literature' or 'New Writing in English' which implicitly or explicitly invoke notions of continuation of, or descent from, a 'mainstream' British literature, consciously or unconsciously reinvoke

those very hegemonic assumptions against which the post-colonial text has, from its inception, been directed. Models which stress the shared language and shared circumstances of colonialism (recognising vast differences in the expression of British imperialism from place to place) allow for counter-discursive strategies, but unless their stress is on counter-discursive fields of activity, such models run the risk of becoming colonisers in their turn. African critics and writers in particular have rejected these models for their apparently neo-assimilative bases, and opted instead for the national or the pan-African. But if the impulse behind much post-colonial literature is seen to be broadly counter-discursive, and it is recognised that the resulting strategies may take many forms in different cultures, I think we have a more satisfactory model than national, racial, or cultural groupings based on marginalisation can offer, and one which perhaps avoids some of the pitfalls of earlier collective models or paradigms. Moreover, such a model can account for the ambiguous position of say, white Australians, who, though still colonised by Europe and European ideas, are themselves the continuing colonisers of the original inhabitants. In this model, all post-invasion Aboriginal writing and orature might be regarded as counter-discursive to a dominant.

Australian discourse and beyond that again to its European progenitor. It is this model I wish to take up later in considering J.M.Coetzee's *Foe* which explores the problem of white South African settler literature in relation to the continuing oppression by whites of the black majority.

It is possible to formulate at least two (not necessarily mutually exclusive) models for future post-colonial studies. In the first, the postcoloniality of a text would be argued to reside in its discursive features, in the second, in its determining relations with its material situation. The danger of the first lies in post-coloniality's becoming a set of unsituated reading practices; the danger in the second lies in the reintroduction of a covert form of essentialism. In an attempt to avoid these potential pitfall.

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## II METHOD OF RESEARCH

The racial prejudice toward the black in America as reflected in the color of water. The writer needs systematic ways to write this research, which are initially begun with the method of collecting the data, method of analyzing the data, technique of collecting the data and then continued with the technique of analyzing the data.

### 2.1 Method of Collecting Data

In collecting the data, the writer uses library research. This research is oriented in the library in order to find the related data, however it is not restricted in finding other written material from internet or even from the motion picture. According to Pradopo (2001:23), library research refers to the observation that is executed in the library, which the writer gains the data and information about his object through the poems.

A library is a collection of sources of information and similar resources, made accessible to a defined community for reference or borrowing. It provides physical or digital access to material, and may be a physical building or room, or a virtual space, or both. A library's collection can include books, periodicals, newspapers, manuscripts, films, maps, prints, documents, microform, CDs, cassettes, videotapes, DVDs, Blue-ray Discs, e-books, audio books, databases, and other formats.

Activity of data collection is a very important part in any form of research. In this study, the writer uses documentation. The method of documentation is to find data about the things or variables in the form of notes, transcripts, books, newspapers, magazines, inscriptions, minutes of meetings, agendas, and so forth, (Arikunto, 2006: 231). The instrument of this study is the writer. The writer is as the key or main instrument that spent a deal great or time reading and understanding the color of water.

### 2.2 Method of Analyzing Data

In analyzing the data, the information from data collection is processed and presented in form of thesis. In the application, the writer uses dynamic structuralism method.

Dynamic structuralism is a general approach to development that views psychological structure as the dynamic organization of self-constructed, socially embedded skills and activities (actions and

thoughts): This framework, and its tools, applies to both long-term development and short-term micro development (building of dynamic structures and skills), Variability is the norm, not the exception, Focuses simultaneously on variability and stability (Pradopo, 2001:69).

Etymologically, structure came from word, structural (Latin), means form or building. Structuralism is an understanding of elements of the structure itself with mechanism of interrelation, the interrelation of one element with the others, and the interrelation of one element with the totality. Dynamic structuralism was first found by Mukarovsky and Felik Vodicka. They said that literary works are the process of communication, fact of semiotic, consists of sign, structure, and values.

Definitively, structuralism gives attention to the analysis of elements in literary works. The elements of prose are theme, conflict, setting, characters, plot, point of view, and style of language. Elements in poetry are theme, stylist, imaginary, rhyme, diction, symbol, etc. Elements in Drama are theme, dialog, conflict, setting, character, plot, and style of language.

### 2.3 Technique for Collecting the Data

The writer uses documentary technique in collecting the data. This technique is attempted to trace the source of information in the form of document which are relevant to the object of the research. The writer uses reading the books and searching on internet for collecting the data.

The data of this study are taken from the novel written by James McBride. In collecting data, the writer took the following steps:

1. Reading and understanding the novel by James McBride.
2. Identifying the content of novel.

### 2.4 Technique for Analyzing the Data

Data analysis is a time-consuming and difficult process, because typically the researcher faces massive amounts of field notes, interview transcripts, reflections, and information from documents to examine and interpret, (Ary, 2002: 465). According to Bogdan (1992: 153), data analysis is the process of systematically searching and arranging the interview transcripts, field notes, and other materials that the researcher accumulate to increase her own understanding.

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To answer the research problem, after the data have been collected, the writer analyzed them systematically. The writer conducted the analysis through some steps as follow:

1. Reading the whole novel  
After identifying in novel, then the writer categorizes them into some of uneducated, uncivilized and stereotypes.

2. Finding the theme of the novel  
To find the theme of the novel, first of all, the writer reading whole of contents.
3. Making conclusion  
After the writer finds the answer from the research problem, then the writer makes the conclusion of the analyzed data.

### **III RESEARCH FINDING**

The color of water written by James McBride is the American novel that tells about how race relation in America. The novel tells about situation American race in 20th century. As it know that America is a multicultural countries. Many people from different nations, religions, tribes, and races come to America. Race is a concept which signifies and symbolizes social conflicts and interest by referring to different types of human bodies although the concept of race invokes biologically based human characteristics, selection of these particular human features for purpose of racial stratification is always and necessarily a social and historical process. The state of relations between black and whites in the america still suffers greatly, and a lack of recognition and understanding by the public and the government only exacerbates the problem. For decades, the america government has been repeatedly accused of neglecting this problem by not properly addressing its components which are often times vividly played out in schools, on the streets, in the media, and in the workplace.

In this novel, the relationship between the whites and black are not in a good condition. As a human being, everybody in this world want to be respected by the others, yet it does not happen in the story that written by James McBride. Blacks get some prejudice from white that influence their life. Many whites do not like the blacks as it proved in the quotation below;

The few problem I had with black folks were nothing compared to the grief white folks dished out. With whites it was no question. You were not accepted to be with

a black man and that was that, they'd say forget it. Are you crazy? A nigger and you? No way (232).

The quotation above is the statement of Ruth. She is James' white mother. The statement stated when she has a relationship with the black guy, she thinks that no whites will like them together. It shows clearly how hate the whites to the blacks. Even to have relationship with them, it can not be accepted. The hatred of whites to blacks is also strengthened by this quotation as follow;

"...after which I told him one night, "let's run off to the country and get married," and he said," No way, I don't know where that's been done before, white and black marrying in Virginia. They will surely hang me"(114).

The quotation above shows the phenomena happens when the black and white have relationship, especially in marriage. It indicates that most whites totally do not like the black to be apart of their society. The quotation above is the conversation between Dennis who is a black one and Ruth who is a white one. Ruth asks Dennis to marry her, but Dennis still thinks it over, because in that community, if a black marries a white, they will hang him. hanging which is action that will be done by white to the blacks if they know a black marries a white. It is kind of hatred to the blacks. Black are prejudice

because of their black. to be prejudiced is to have and individual dislike for a group of people. Because of someone is black, he/she will be thought as same as the other blacks and hated because of their group.

### 3.1. The Racial Prejudice Happen In America

Self confidence is the difference between feeling unstoppable and feeling scared out of your wits. The self confidence of blacks is decreased because of the racial prejudice and the racism that they get from the society. We can be find it in the quotation of *The Color of Water*. I thought it would be easier if we were just one color, blacks or white (93).

The quotation above is the statement of james when he had his mom have a problem with the whites and the blacks. Meanwhile, james is a black one. He imagines and hope that there will be no differences of races in their society. It indicates that they do not one to face the fact that there is different races in this world. It also concludes that being a black in the racism world something that he does not like. Another quotation that also strenghten this research is :

Being the token negro was something I was never entirely comfortable with. I was the only black kid in my fifth-grade class at P.S. 138 in the then all-white enclave of Rosedale, Queens, and one afternoon as the teacher dutifully read aloud from our history book's one page on "Negro History," someone in the back of the class whispered, "james is a nigger!". Followed by a ripple of tittering and giggling across the room ... I was shy and passive and quite, and only later did the anger come bursting out of me, roaring out of me with such blast-furnance force that I would

wonder that person was and where it all came (89-90).

The quotation above is one of the self confidence that shows in *The Color of Water*. It happen when james in his white school get prejudice from is white friend and call him as a nigger. At that time, he is not proud to be the black one, he is shy, passive and only quite. It indicate that there is decreasing self confidence in himself to be black.

In the color of water, sometimes the blacks feel less of confidence to come in the white's society, they think that white's society is not theirs. It also shows in a quotation below:

Mommy beat helen harder this time, then talked to hours. Helen cried after the beating, promised to change after the talks, the shrugged and kept on missing school, but she quit both, declaring, "the white men's education is not for me" (72-73).

Helen is a sister of james. According to the quotation above. Helen feels uncomfortable with her school which is white school. She tries to tell her mom that she absolutely does not want to join the white school. She tells white's school is not for her.it just totally shows that helen as a black one is less of self confidence because of what whites prejudice to her.

Sense of alienation and race discriminations are two equally forceful elements of james McBride, which gives the costitutive formation to the novel *The Color of Water*. These two elements have been presented as two sides of a single coin because the very cause of race dicrimination has been resulted in the sense of elemenation. The whole novel moves around the pathetic conditon of race dicrimination, which has alienated to the all balcks.

Alienation refers to an individual's estrangement from traditional community or other in general, the dominant values of society, or even themselves, but in the general the term implies a lack of indentification

between a person and another entity. On the other word, it means that something that different, unfamiliar, unacceptable, and repugnant.

The alienation in a society is happening when some people are not accepted in a society. The reason of why a society do not accept some people can be in their paradigm or their prejudice that those people do not deserve to live together with them. It also happens to blacks in America who get alienation from the society they live. See the quotation : they didnt have to run for their life like we did. Me and Dennis caused riots on 105th street once (202).

Based on quotation above, there is a word “ run”. It means that some people have to run from the society that do not like them. It happens to Dennis and Ruth. Dennis is a black person who wanted to marry Ruth at that time, together. They live in a white society as majority. Whites do not like to have a relationship with the blacks. If they see there is a white who has relationship with black, moreover having married. They are going to drive them out. It seems that blacks are alienated from the society. Another quotation in *The Color of Water* that proves there is an alienation to the blacks in the society, exists in the quotation below:

By age twelve. I was travelling an hour and a half one way to junior high school by my self, taking two buses each direction everyday. My homeroom teacher, Miss Allison, a young white woman with glasses who generally ignored me, would shrug as I walked in ten minutes late, apologizing about delayed bus. The white kids stared at me in the cafeteria as I gobbled down the horrible school lunch (89).

Based on the quotation above, it is described that James a black child, is ignored by his white teacher. It means that, ignoring someone is also alienate them. Because they

will feel unaccepted by the others and they will feel alienated.

### 3.2. The Racial Prejudice Toward Blacks As Uneducated People

Facts about other successful black schools, past and present, get very little attention from the people because the stories of these school would not forward the agendas of the left.

According to the articles and books that researcher read, the researcher finds that during the era of slavery, it was illegal to teach slaves to read write, throughout the Western Hemisphere. In pasts of the antebellum south, it was also illegal for free blacks to be educated, and there was no provision for them to be educated in much of the north. Yet the census of 1850 showed that more than half of the 500,000 free blacks were able to write and read.

That is history of the blacks when they came to America. It is still left in people’s mind especially whites who still have a paradigm in themselves that blacks are always uneducated.

It shows that the blacks have low standard of education. If they are blacks, they will always become the lower one in education which are compared to the whites. They believe that whites is much better than blacks in education. This prejudice also can be seen in the quotation the color of water :

“white folks, she felt, were implicitly evil toward blacks , yet she forced us to go white schools to get the best education. Blacks could be trusted more, but anything involving blacks was probably slightly substandard” (29).

Based on the quotation above, it is written that James’ mother chooses to force her children to enter white’s school. James’ mother is a white. She does it, because in her paradigm, the best education can she get in white’s school. She thinks that blacks school are less standard than white.

In that novel, the author describes that people have paradigm that black people have less standard of education than the whites.



People think that the white's school is much better than the blacks.

According to four decades ago Gunnar Myrdal summarized the economic status of black Americans in dismal terms, except for a small minority enjoying upper or middle class status, the masses of American Negroes, in the rural south and in the segregated slum quarters in southern and Northern cities, are destitute. They own little property: even their household goods are mostly inadequate and dilapidated. Their incomes are not only low but irregular. They thus live from day to day and have scant security for the future.

The 1940 census confirmed Myrdal's assessment. Crippled by the Great Depression, America was poor, and blacks were very poor. In 1939, incomes of 48 percent of white families and 87 percent of black families are estimated to have been below the federal poverty thresholds. According to Tynes, a total one-half of all white families were below the poverty line, the per capita income of blacks was only 39 percent of white income. In addition to cash income, much of the population- including a slight majority of all blacks-lived on the land and depended on home-grown food and fiber, one-third of southern blacks were sharecroppers or tenant farmer, who scraped together a meager subsistence primitive conditions of work and life. That is the pact about the blacks in America for a long time ago and it is still left in people's paradigm if they see blacks. To strengthen the prejudice that blacks are the poor people in people's mind, there is a quotation in the color of water that indicates it

Tateh hated black people. He'd call little children bad names in Yiddish and make fun of their parents, too, "look at them laughing," he'd said in Yiddish, "they don't have a dime in their pocket and they're always laughing" (61).

What Ruth's father thinks about blacks according to the quotation in the color of water above, indicates that blacks will be always seen as the poor one. That image lives in blacks. People ignore the successful blacks

who become rich. They do not see that. Because, on their mind blacks are the poor one who have lived as slaves for many years in America.

Thus, realizing or not, people in America will think that whites look like better than blacks. It is kind of prejudice that shown in novel the color of water, because novel reflects the real world, so, that prejudice also happens in the real world, especially in America.

The history of blacks as the slaves make them get prejudice from the society who are white as a majority. According to the data that researcher gets, the blacks are prejudice as the criminal, low-level society, and have bad appearance. It really happens in the real world and in the literary work that becomes a mirror of a reality.

Even after the end of slavery, however, American blacks were hampered by segregation and inferior education. In search of opportunity, African Americans formed and internal wave of immigration, moving from the rural south to the urban North. Although blacks can live in America, but they get a low position in society. The researcher finds the quotation in the color of water that proves it.

"you now, the thing was, I was supposed to be white and "number one," too. That was a big thing in the South. You're white you're better than a so called colored" (113).

The statement "you're white you're better than a so called colored", absolutely shows there is race that another. The higher one in that quotation is whites and the lower one is the blacks. According to Marryanne, Joann and Edward in their book *American ways* (2005), stated that,

If, for example, the slaves system of the South were allowed to spread into the frontier regions of the West, poor and middle-income whites could no longer look to the Western frontier as a land of equality and opportunity where people could be better their position in life. Rather, whites would have compete with unpaid slaves labor, a situation that they believe would degrade their work and lower their social status (24).

The quotation above clarifies that whites do not want to compete with the slave labor who mostly are black people. They believe that the social status of whites is higher than blacks, so they totally do not want to do that, because it just lower their social level. It absolutely shows that blacks in America get prejudice as the people who live in low-level society.

The history of blacks as the slaves makes them in a low position of America society. It can not be separated from people's mind that in past time, blacks are slaves, so, it still impacts to blacks previous time. As it happen in the color of water. Some prejudice about blacks people in having society are, they are uneducated people and they are poor.

### 3.3. The Racial Prejudice Toward Blacks As Criminal

Black people are portrayed as the people who are not appropriate to live in white's society. Many of whites think that blacks are criminals, whites believe that blacks should be avoided because they can do something bad to them. They also believe that blacks level is lower than them because of some reasons that they think belong to the blacks. Thus, some prejudices about blacks that thought by the whites are blacks are criminal and black have the lower level them. Those all are the images of blacks, beside the bad images which belong to the blacks, the another prejudice which they get also through the actions of whites to blacks. The researcher will elaborate it in these below subchapters.

As the minority group in america, blacks are portrayed badly. Their images cannot be separated from the criminals and low-level society. People who commit crime are called criminals, it is the breach of rule or laws for which some governing authority through mechanisms such as legal system. In nineties, the blacks are identically known as those kind of people.

In the color of water, black also are described as the criminals people by white.

They can not be believed in doing something, because they are close to crimes, that is what whites have in mind about the blacks. According to the color of water, there is a statement that strenghten it, "black males are closely associated with crime in America" (220).

If the blacks act something unnormal actions, whites think that blacks will commit crime. Some crucial prejudice about blacks as criminals are, the whites believe blacks are murderer and blacks are thieves, to elaborate all the prejudices about blacks as the criminals, the researcher will explain in the sub chapters below.

As it has been mentioned above, blacks closed to the criminal things, one of those is being thief. If there is something strange that seen in black actions, people will have negative thinking about them. once when he was unloading 100-pound flour bags at a downtown pizzeria where I worked,

The cops came zooming up the sidewalk, got out of their cruiser, and pushed his pal and co-worker, willie Brown, against the wall, they did not touch him. Willie, an illiterate black man then in his forties, had done nothing. He protested and the cops sped off as quickly as they had come: "sorry, kid, we got a call that somebody was stealing", but the only somebody they grabbed was the black man, and the only apology they issued was to the white boy.

The experience of john above that shown in his article clearly shows that blacks is prejudiced as someone who will do a crime such as stealing. The cops just point directly that the blacks one is the suspect without doing the investigation first, this phenomena also exists in the novel the color of water that shows black are prejudiced as thieves. It can be proven by the quotation below:

Any black man who loiters in front of a building for a long time looking it over is bound to draw suspicion from cops and others who probably think he's looking for an open.

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#### **IV CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION**

From the analysis above, the researcher concludes that the racial prejudice toward blacks in America really exist. There are some racial prejudice happen. Blacks get bad images from whites. They also get violence from whites.

The prejudice toward blacks give the impact to the society it self. It is really important to be analyzed. Because it is related to the human right. The right for everybody to have a good life, but, in this novel, the right of the blacks are violated because of the prejudice.

There are some forms of racial prejudice that researcher finds. Those are blacks are as the criminals, blacks have low-level society. It is reflected in many plot and dialogue of the characters that shown in that novel. Beside the bad images, blacks also get violence physically and mentally.

The prejudice toward blacks have existed since blacks come to America as the slaves. There, the whites have their superiority to force the blacks work for them. Although the slavery has been abolished, but, there is stereotype in people's mind that blacks are the people who have low-level society. Although we can find the blacks who are success in their life, but people ignore that, because there is paradigm and prejudices on their mind that blacks are slaves, come from the low-level society, and will be always like that.

All those prejudices make the blacks live in troubles. They can not really do what they want to do. According to my research blacks get some bad effects of racial prejudice to their life. Their quality of their life is decreased and they can not enjoy their life too happily. As the result, they also realize that they should do something for the equality. Thus ,they do resistance. It can

be seen from actions and thought of the blacks which resist the prejudice toward them.

Thus the novel the color of water totally shows how the racial prejudice toward blacks in America and what the effects of it to the blacks it self. This novel visualizes the reality of racial relationship in America, what happen to the blacks as the minority and how they face that inequality.

All of us face peer pressure when confronted with a joke which puts down a certain minority. It takes courage to raise objections to these jokes and pejorative names and to actively fight the prejudice and bigotry which they foster. It is important to stand up against injustice, and fight the discrimination, stereotype, and scapegoating which have served as the precursors to perscution, violence, and genocide.

#### **4.2. Suggestions**

##### **1. Other researcher**

There are still many aspects can be analyzed about the novel and racial prejudice finally, other researcher can analyze other aspect in racial of English Literature and the result of this study may be used as early information to conduct further researcher.

##### **2. The reader**

The writer aspect that the readers are eager to study about literature, especially understanding the novel. The writer hopes that the readers can be know about the porpuse of racial prejudice and apply that in their life. The writer also hopes the thesis enrich the reader's knowledge about theory of literature.

##### **3. The student**

The student need to enrich knowledge about racial and novel ,they also need to increase motivation and interest to learn about English Literature such as novel.

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