

CHAPTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of The Study

The Help is the novel by American author Kathryn Stockett. The story is about African American women maids and their white women employers in Jackson, Mississippi in the early 1960s. They have been worked for their white employers to raise and nanny their white children, but most of the African American maids were not trusted by the white employers and often became a victim of racial segregation and discriminatory in Jackson, Mississippi, South America. Racial segregation and discriminatory of the African Americans in America exists in many aspects of life, including the public facilities and services, such as in bathroom, the public transportation, hospital, school, and library.

Segregation is the process of isolation of a race, class, color or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separating academic facilities, or by other discriminatory means. Racial segregation and discriminatory problems had existed in the world that caused by many conflicts and destroyed the reconciliation of mankind. This phenomenon of the lingering social issues that persisted throughout American history is racial segregation and discriminatory.

The effects of segregation in America including the education rights; the health care and services; crimes; and poverty; single-parenthood; public goods inequalities; economically costs. These effects forced the white Americans and the African-Americans to live separately. There was a civil rights movement led by the Congress during the 1964 and these laws made it illegal to separate American citizen based on race, skin color, or national origin in almost all areas of public life in America. The U.S. nation discriminated against immigrants and other minority groups from the other side of the world. The government announced within the 1924 that they had enacted quotas that benefited immigrants from Europe.

From several works, the writer chooses the novel of Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*. The novel tells an illustrative tale of what it was like to live and work as an African American maid during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s in racially conflicted Jackson, Mississippi, South America, and how is the white family's perspective towards African American during the early 1960s. This novel was published in 2009 and became a bes

tseller. In 2011, the book also became a successful and popular movie. Kathryn Stockett portrayed the life experience of black maids who worked at the white homes and also the social condition of Jackson, Mississippi, South America in the novel.

The writer has many reasons why she decided to pick the topic of America's segregation and why she decided to pick a novel by Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*. The writer is interested in this novel which involves the eyes of three main characters: Aibileen, Minny, and Skeeter, who work together to write a book to share their stories and life experiences while working for white families. Instead of doing a long march down the streets and putting up their strike board of civil rights movement, Skeeter plans to do an interview to the African American maids to write down their stories together and sell the book. There are three extraordinary women whose determination to start a movement of their own by writing, forever changes Jackson, Mississippi, and all to the Southern America. The writer also hoped that this analysis of the novel will give the reader a closer insight and information regarding racial segregation during the early 1960s in America especially in the South and the life experiences of being an African American maids through a literature such as novel.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Based on the background of the study, the writer formulates the problems the study as follows :

1. What are the causes of segregation in America as found in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*?
2. What are the impacts of segregation to the social condition and situation as found in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*?

1.3 Objectives of The Study

The objectives of the study in this study are :

1. To explain the causes of segregation in America as found in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*.
2. To explain the impacts of segregation to the social condition and situation as found in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*.

1.4 Scope and Limitation of the Study

To avoid this study being overlapped, the writer limits the discussion only on presenting the causes and impact of segregation in America using New Historicism approach, and extrinsic elements in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*. Even though there are many subject which can be found in this novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

The writer hopes that this study, which concerns about a deep understanding of segregation in America in 1960's as found in Kathryn *The Help*, will give profitable contribution for student who want to learn more about the issue in the theoretical insight. Moreover, the writer hopes that readers will have more understanding in analyzing literary works, especially Kathryn Stockett's works.

1.6 Organization of The Study

The research divided into five chapters. The first chapter is the introduction , that consists of the background of the study, statement of the problem, objectives of the study, and significance of the study. The second chapter is the review of related literature, that consists the theory that will be applied in analyzing the problems. The third chapter is the research method, that consists the method which used by the writer. The fourth chapter is the analysis of the study. In this chapter, the writer deals with the answer of statement of the problem. And the last chapter is the conclusion that presents the conclusion of the analysis. The paper also consists of bibliography, the summary of the novel, and appendixes.