

ABSTRACT

**Wicaksono, Adrian Bayuaji. (2014). Racial Discrimination Experienced by The African Americans as Reflected in Langston Hughes' Poems *Merry-Go-Round* and *Children's Rhymes*. Yogyakarta: English Language Education Study Program, Department of Language and Arts Education, Faculty of Teachers Training and Education. Sanata Dharma University.**

This research discussed Langston Hughes' poems *Merry-Go-Round* and *Children's Rhymes*. Those poems were selected based on the hypothesis that they would give a clear reflection of African Americans' struggle. There was one question to answer in this study: "How is racial discrimination against African Americans depicted in Langston Hughes' *Merry-Go-Round* and *Children's Rhymes*?"

In order to find the answer to the question above, I implemented socio-cultural historical approach. This approach helped me analyze the cultural and social content of the literary works. I also applied library research in conducting the study. There were two data sources contained in this thesis, primary and secondary sources. The primary sources were the two poems written by Langston Hughes, *Merry-Go-Round* and *Children's Rhymes*. The secondary resources were gathered from definition of racism, definition of racial discrimination, types of discrimination, definition of Jim Crow, and historical review of The United States between 1920s and 1960s.

After understanding and analyzing the poems, I concluded that both poems depicted racial discrimination experienced by African Americans. Based on the theory on types of racial discrimination, the first poem, *Merry-Go-Round* depicted that African Americans experienced segregation, denial, and institutional discrimination in their daily lives. They were not equally treated. They were not allowed to get the same public facilities as the White Americans. Those discriminatory actions were supported by a series of law namely Jim Crow system. Meanwhile, *Children's Rhymes* depicted that African Americans experienced denial. African Americans were denied to get jobs. They were not given their freedom of life, liberty and justice as the citizens of The United States. Another conclusion that could be drawn from the both poems was that the racial discrimination was deeply ingrained in the mind of African American kids. They often judge themselves as second-class citizens.

In the last part, I gave suggestions to future researchers and English teachers. For future researchers I suggested them to conduct a deeper study focusing on the relation between the writer, Langston Hughes and the poems, *Merry-Go-Round* and *Children's Rhymes* by using biographical approach. In addition, I suggested English teachers to use both poems as teaching materials for reading activity.

**Keywords:** racism, racial discrimination, African American

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*Penelitian ini membahas dua puisi karya Langston Hughes yang berjudul Merry-Go-Round dan Children's Rhymes. Kedua puisi tersebut dipilih berdasarkan anggapan bahwa keduanya bisa memberikan cerminan atas perjuangan orang-orang Afrika Amerika. Rumusan masalah dari penelitian ini adalah "Bagaimanakah diskriminasi berdasarkan ras terhadap orang-orang Afrika Amerika digambarkan dalam puisi-puisi Langston Hughes yang berjudul Merry-Go-Round dan Children's Rhymes?"*

*Untuk menjawab pertanyaan tersebut, saya menggunakan pendekatan sosial-budaya dan sejarah. Pendekatan ini membantu saya menganalisa hal yang berifat budaya dan sosial dari karya-karya sastra tersebut. Saya juga menggunakan studi pustaka sebagai dasar dari skripsi ini. Terdapat dua sumber data dalam skripsi ini, yaitu sumber utama dan sekunder. Sumber utamanya adalah kedua puisi karya Langston Hughes, yaitu Merry-Go-Round dan Children's Rhymes. Adapun data-data pendukung diambil dari pengertian dari rasisme, pengertian dari diskriminasi berdasarkan ras, tipe-tipe diskriminasi berdasarkan ras, pengertian dari Jim Crow, dan kajian sejarah Amerika Serikat tahun 1920an sampai 1960an.*

*Setelah memahami dan menganalisa kedua puisi tersebut, saya menyimpulkan berdasarkan pada teori tentang tipe-tipe diskriminasi berdasarkan ras, bahwa Merry-Go-Round menggambarkan orang-orang Afrika Amerika mengalami segregasi, penolakan, dan diskriminasi institusional di kehidupan sehari-hari. Mereka diperlakukan secara berbeda. Mereka mendapat kendaraan umum yang berbeda dari orang-orang kulit putih. Tindakan-tindakan diskriminasi tersebut didukung dengan peraturan-peraturan yang disebut dengan sistem Jim Crow. Sementara itu, Children's Rhymes menggambarkan bahwa kaum Afrika Amerika mengalami penolakan. Mereka dipersulit untuk mendapat pekerjaan. Kebebasan akan hidup, kemerdekaan, serta keadilan sebagai warga negara Amerika Serikat tidak mereka dapatkan. Kesimpulan lainnya yang dapat diambil dari kedua puisi tersebut adalah bahwa diskriminasi berdasarkan ras sudah tertanam dengan dalam di fikiran anak-anak Afrika Amerika. Mereka cenderung menilai diri mereka sebagai warga negara kelas dua.*

*Di bagian terakhir saya memberi saran untuk peneliti-peneliti yang akan datang dan guru-guru Bahasa Inggris. Untuk peneliti-peneliti yang akan datang, saya menyarankan mereka untuk meneliti lebih lanjut hubungan Langston Hughes dan Merry-Go-Round serta Children's Rhymes dengan menggunakan pendekatan riwayat hidup. Selain itu, untuk guru-guru Bahasa Inggris saya menyarankan mereka untuk menggunakan kedua puisi tersebut sebagai materi ajar untuk kegiatan membaca.*

**Kata kunci:** racism, racial discrimination, African American