

## ABSTRACT

The two problems which become the basis of the writing of this thesis cover the 'time-and-space-existence' of racism in America and the reactions of the characters of the novels towards racism as individuals. Thus, the objectives of this research are, firstly, to attain the fact of racism in America and see it in the right perspective, and, secondly, to find out the characters' views on racism as individuals in order to know the real feeling of the Americans, as individuals also, towards the matter.

The analysis method employed in this library research includes a brief review of the history of racism in America during two period of time: the period of slavery [1619 - 1865] and the period of 1930s. Following the historical review, the writer proceeds to analyzing the authors and their works. Every novel is analyzed from three points, namely, the biography of the writer, the summary of the novel, and a possible theme for the novel. Finally, the writer makes a comparative analysis of the characters from the novels -- one character from each novel. From Uncle Tom's Cabin, the writer chooses Uncle Tom to be analyzed. Huckleberry Finn is the second character to be analyzed as the protagonist of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. The last novel, To Kill a Mocking Bird, presents Atticus Finch as its protagonist.

From the study of the historical background of racism in America, it is found out that the three novels have described the subject of racism by using the events which really took place during the time. Concerning the characters' views on racism as individuals, the writer finds out that they have different views from one another. Uncle Tom, as a victim of the institution -- slavery, views the matter as something that cannot be avoided. He accepts his condition as a slave passively. For him, the only one who can free him from the misery of being a slave is God. So, he waits for His assistance patiently. For Huckleberry Finn, slavery is something that he cannot really understand. Due to his naivety

of moral values, Huck regards the institution as something which should be supported. Nevertheless, his conscience keeps telling him to help his friend, a runaway slave, in gaining his freedom. As the result of his internal conflict, Huck decides to do the 'wrong' thing -- helps his friend --eventhough it means that he will go to 'hell'. Atticus Finch, as an educated person, can give his judgment on the matter of racism much more profoundly than Huck. From the very beginning, Atticus has stated his opinion that everyone should be treated nicely. Thus, as a lawyer, he defends everyone who needs his help -- even a black who is regarded as a member of the despised race by the white. For Atticus, a black needs to be treated justly just as a white does too.

