

## ABSTRACT

The two problems which become the basis of my thesis include how the protagonists of the two novels faced their problems concerning racism in America, and the 'time-and-space' of racism in America. Thus, the aim of this research are, firstly, to know the protagonists' views on racism as individuals, and, secondly, to know the fact of racism in America.

The analysis method used in this library research covers a brief review of the writers and their works. The novels are arranged according to the year of writing. Every novel is discussed from two points, namely, the biography of the writer, and the summary of the novel. Following the writers and their works, there is a brief review of the history of racism in America during two periods of time, firstly, the period of slavery ( 1619 - 1865 ), and, secondly, the period of 1930s. Finally, I make an analysis of characters in relation with 'racism in America.' We know that among the characters that exist in a novel, the protagonist has the most important role for the reader's understanding of the story. So, in my thesis I only analyze the protagonists of the two novels for the understanding of the way the protagonists face their problems concerning racism in America. Huckleberry Finn is the character to be analyzed as the protagonist of *The Adventures of*

*Huckleberry Finn*, while the next novel, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, it presents Atticus Finch as its protagonist.

From the characters' views on racism as individuals, I find out that they have different views from one another. *Huckleberry Finn* is indifferent towards the public opinions on many matters, including the matter of slavery. For him, as long as he can take his own way with his life, he does not care about everythings or in other words, people can do anything they want. As an individual, he is free to decide whether he will help his friend, Jim -- a runaway slave, towards his freedom or not. Huck, as an individual, does not see any reasons why such a good man like Jim has to become a slave to others. Obviously, the public opinion which says that the place of the black is below the white is not in accordance with Huck's opinion. Atticus Finch, as an educated person, can give his judgment on the matter of racism much more profoundly than Huck. From the beginning, he 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 society. From the study of the historical background of racism in America, it is found out that the two novels have described the subject of racism by using the events which took place during the time.