

ABSTRACT

Gretha Celia (2005): Alice Childress's *Wine in the Wilderness*: The Black's Reactions toward Class Division and Racial Discrimination in America. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Sanata Dharma University, 2009.

In this thesis, the writer discusses a play written by Alice Childress entitled *Wine in the Wilderness* (1969). This play addresses issue of socioeconomic conflict within the African-American community. *Wine in the Wilderness* tells the underclass, undereducated heroine of "*Wine in the Wilderness*" as the true Africentrist, proud of blacks and her blackness. She stands in stark relief to bourgeois, intellectual blacks whose white assimilationist and classiest values expose their racial dishonesty.

This fact motivates the writer to focus on the topics about class division and racial prejudice in America as revealed in the play. Firstly, the writer focus on how the African American characters in Alice Chlildress '*Wine in the Wilderness*' are described and later present African American class division. Secondly, the writer focuses on how Alice Childress depicts class racial discrimination in America through her play. And lastly the writer focuses on how Alice Childress conveys her reactions toward class division and racial discrimination through the characters in her play. In analyzing the play, the writer applies the socio-cultural historical approach. This theory is applied in order to find the element of socio, cultural, and historical background of the story. This approach also helps the writer to find the application of class division and racial discrimination in America in Alice Childress' play. Through this approach, the writer can get a thorough understanding of social stratification and the condition of African American people in America at that time.

In the first analysis the writer finds that the difference characterizations of the five black characters in the play represent the difference characteristics of African American class division in America. Bill, Cynthia and Sonny-man as general are described as educated, talented, and guarded black people who represents the characteristics of black middle class. They have better opportunity to access some resources such as education, employment, and service. While, Tommy and Oldtimer are described as uneducated, poor, unemployed, and worthless black people. As general they represent the characteristics of black lower class. For the second problem, the writer finds that both black middle class (Bill, Cynthia, and Sonny-man) and black lower class (Tommy and Oldtimer) have to face racial discrimination due to their identity as black. It results on interpersonal conflict and discrimination in housing, education, and employment. Finally, from the last problem it can be seen that there are some different reactions toward class division and racial discrimination that are shown by both black middle class and black lower class characters. Their reactions are influenced by their position in social stratification as revealed in the play.

ABSTRAK

Gretha Celia. *Alice Childress' Wine in the Wilderness: The Black's Reactions toward Class Division and Racial Discrimination in America*. Yogyakarta: Jurusan Sastra Inggris, Fakultas Sastra, Universitas Sanata Dharma, 2009.

Dalam skripsi ini, penulis membahas sebuah drama yang ditulis oleh Alice Childress pada tahun 1969 berjudul *Wine in the Wilderness*. Drama yang ditulis oleh Alice Childress ini mengangkat permasalahan sosial ekonomi diantara masyarakat kulit hitam. *Wine in the Wilderness* menceritakan tentang seorang wanita kulit hitam yang pemberani yang disebut "*Wine in the Wilderness*" yang berasal dari kelas sosial yang rendah, tidak berpendidikan dan bangga terhadap latar belakangnya sebagai orang kulit hitam. Dia bertahan diantara golongan kulit hitam yang berstatus sosial lebih tinggi dan berpendidikan yang kemudian tindakan pengasimilasian mereka terhadap kebudayaan orang-orang kulit putih menunjukkan penolakan terhadap ras mereka sendiri.

Kenyataan ini memotivasi penulis untuk fokus terhadap topik mengenai pembagian kelas sosial dan diskriminasi ras, seperti tergambar dalam drama ini. Awalnya penulis fokus terhadap bagaimana tokoh-tokoh kulit hitam dalam karya Alice Childress yang berjudul *Wine in the Wilderness* digambarkan dan kemudian menunjukkan perbedaan ciri-ciri kelas social diantara kulit hitam. Kedua, penulis fokus terhadap bagaimana Alice Childress mengilustrasikan diskriminasi ras yang terjadi di Amerika melalui dramanya. Terakhir penulis fokus pada bagaimana Alice childress mengekspresikan reaksinya terhadap pembagian kelas sosial dan diskriminasi ras di Amerika melalui tokoh-tokoh dalam karyanya. Penulis menggunakan pendekatan sosial, kebudayaan dan sejarah dalam menganalisa drama ini. Pendekatan ini digunakan untuk mengetahui aspek-aspek sosial, kebudayaan dan latar belakang sejarah dari cerita tersebut. Pendekatan ini sekaligus membantu penulis untuk mengetahui penerapan pembagian kelas sosial dan diskriminasi ras terhadap kulit hitam dalam drama ini.

Dalam menganalisa masalah pertama penulis menemukan bahwa perbedaan penokohan kelima tokoh dalam drama ini menggambarkan perbedaan ciri-ciri kelas masyarakat kulit hitam di Amerika. Bill, Cynthia dan Sonny-man secara umum digambarkan sebagai orang kulit hitam yang berpendidikan, berbakat, dan terjamin kehidupannya dan mereka menggambarkan cirri-ciri orang kulit hitam kelas menengah. Sedangkan Tommy dan Oldtimer digambarkan sebagai orang kulit hitam yang bodoh, miskin, pengangguran dan tidak berguna. Secara umum mereka menggambarkan cirri-ciri kulit hitam kelas bawah. Kedua, penulis menemukan bahwa baik orang kulit hitam kelas menengah maupun kelas bawah harus mengalami diskriminasi ras yang disebabkan oleh identitasnya sebagai kulit hitam. Akhirnya, penulis menemukan bahwa kulit hitam kelas menengah dan kulit hitam kelas bawah menunjukkan reaksi yang berbeda terhadap pembagian kelas dan diskriminasi ras seperti tergambar dalam drama ini.