

ABSTRACT

SALSABILLAH, REYNA QOTRUNNADA. (2025). **Young's Five Faces of Oppression: Double Oppression Experienced by Black Women in Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad***. Yogyakarta: Department of English Letters, Faculty of Letters, Universitas Sanata Dharma.

As a form of artistic communication, literature serves not only to express ideas and views, but also to reveal the historical, cultural, and political realities of its time. Through various forms such as poetry, drama, and novels, literature becomes a medium for reflecting a society. Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* exemplifies this function by exposing the harsh realities of slavery and the ongoing racial and gender injustices faced by Black women. The novel presents a powerful portrayal of how systemic oppression is embedded in the social structures of different regions in the United States. This study explores the characteristics of society depicted in the novel and its contribution to the double oppression endured by Black women, particularly through the main character, Cora.

The researcher formulated two problem formulations In this study. The first question analyzes the characteristics of society reflected in the setting of *The Underground Railroad*, and the second is how those societal characteristics contribute to the double oppression of Black women, particularly through the character of Cora.

This study uses library research as the method of relatable data collection and applies a socio-historical approach to analyze the social and cultural realities reflected in the novel. Apart from that, to analyze the problem formulations, the researcher uses two kinds of sources. The primary source is Colson Whitehead's novel *The Underground Railroad*, and the secondary sources are Wellek and Warren's theory of setting, and Iris Marion Young's theory of the five faces of oppression.

Based on the analysis, it shows that each setting such as Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, and Indiana, represents a different characteristic of racial oppressions that reflects the cruelty and complexity of American society during slavery. The protagonist, Cora, experiences brutal labor, psychological abuse, sexual violence, medical exploitation, cultural erasure, and constant fear in every steps of her journey. These societal characteristics contribute to her double oppression as both a Black person and a woman. The novel ultimately portrays how setting and society work collectively to enforce systemic injustice and highlights the persistent impact of racial and gender-based oppression.

Keywords: *The Underground Railroad*, double oppression, characteristics of society, socio-historical, slavery

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Sebagai bentuk komunikasi artistik, sastra tidak hanya berfungsi untuk mengekspresikan gagasan atau pandangan, tetapi juga untuk mengungkap realitas historis, kultural, dan politik pada masanya. Melalui berbagai bentuk seperti puisi, drama, dan novel, sastra menjadi wadah untuk merefleksikan kondisi suatu masyarakat. *The Underground Railroad* karya Colson Whitehead menunjukkan fungsi ini dengan mengungkap kenyataan pahit perbudakan serta ketidakadilan rasial dan gender yang terus dialami oleh perempuan kulit hitam. Novel ini menyajikan gambaran kuat tentang bagaimana penindasan sistemik tertanam dalam struktur sosial di berbagai wilayah Amerika Serikat. Penelitian ini mengeksplorasi karakteristik masyarakat yang digambarkan dalam novel dan kontribusinya terhadap penindasan ganda yang dialami oleh perempuan kulit hitam, khususnya melalui tokoh utama, Cora.

Peneliti menyusun dua rumusan masalah dalam penelitian ini. Pertanyaan pertama menganalisis karakteristik masyarakat yang tercermin dalam latar novel *The Underground Railroad*, dan pertanyaan kedua adalah bagaimana karakteristik masyarakat tersebut berkontribusi terhadap penindasan ganda yang dialami oleh perempuan kulit hitam, khususnya melalui tokoh utama, Cora.

Penelitian ini menggunakan metode studi pustaka sebagai teknik pengumpulan data yang relevan dan menerapkan pendekatan sosio-historis untuk menganalisa realitas dan budaya yang tercermin dalam novel. Selain itu, untuk menjawab pertanyaan penelitian, peneliti menggunakan dua jenis sumber. Sumber primer dalam penelitian ini adalah novel *The Underground Railroad* karya Colson Whitehead, kemudian sumber sekundernya adalah theory of setting oleh Wellek dan Warren, serta theory of the five faces of oppression oleh Iris Marion Young.

Berdasarkan hasil analisis, setiap latar seperti Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, dan Indiana menunjukkan karakteristik penindasan rasial yang berbeda dan mencerminkan kekejaman serta kompleksitas masyarakat Amerika pada masa perbudakan. Tokoh utama, Cora, mengalami kerja paksa yang keji, kekerasan psikologis, pelecehan seksual, eksploitasi medis, penghapusan identitas budaya, dan ketakutan tanpa henti dalam setiap langkah pelariannya. Karakteristik masyarakat tersebut berkontribusi terhadap penindasan ganda yang dialami oleh Cora sebagai perempuan dan sebagai individu kulit hitam. Pada akhirnya, novel ini menunjukkan bagaimana latar dan masyarakat bekerjasama dalam membentuk ketidakadilan yang sistemik, serta menekankan dampak yang terus berlangsung dari penindasan berbasis ras dan gender.

Keywords: *The Underground Railroad*, double oppression, characteristics of society, socio-historical, slavery