THE STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN ANGIE THOMAS' *THE HATE U GIVE*

AN UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Presented as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Sarjana Sastra* in English Letters

By

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DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LETTERS
FACULTY OF LETTERS
UNIVERSITAS SANATA DHARMA
YOGYAKARTA
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ABSTRACT


Literature can be used as a tool to fight and also to raise awareness towards the issue like racial discrimination and help people to understand the value of life. The Hate U Give (2017) is a young adult novel that centers around the life of African Americans in Garden Heights. This study focusses on two protagonists, Starr Carter, and Maverick Carter.

There are three objectives of this research. This first one is to examine how the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter are described in the novel. The second objective is to discover the racial discrimination experienced by these characters. The last objective discusses their struggle against racial discrimination.

Library research is applied in order to find reliable theories in this study. The approach used is socio-cultural historical approach. The theories used are the theory of character and characterization, theory of racial discrimination, and theory on adaptation to prejudice and discrimination.

From this study, it is found that the description of Starr and Maverick Carter’s characteristics in the novel can be seen through their characteristics in relation to their African American identity, in which their skin color and the use of African American Vernacular English (AAVE). It also can be seen through their characteristics as an individual. Both of these characters experienced individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination. These discriminations force Maverick and Starr to respond as their struggle against it. Maverick decides to work hard for his family, helping people in his community, and he also motivates Starr to use her voice. On the other hand, Starr chooses to use her voice to fight against racial discrimination. She does TV interviews as well as join a protest to raise awareness towards racial discrimination experienced by African Americans.

Keywords: African-Americans, racial discrimination, struggle
ABSTRAK


Studi pustaka digunakan dalam mencari teori-teori yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini. Pendekatan yang diterapkan ialah sosio-kultural historikal. Teori yang digunakan adalah teori karakter dan karakterisasi, teori diskriminasi rasial, dan teori adaptasi terhadap diskriminasi.


Kata kunci: African-Americans, racial discrimination, struggle
CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

A. Background of the Study

African Americans have been experiencing racial discrimination for a very long time. It affected their life as African Americans in the United States and put them in a disadvantaged situation. According to Feagin (2010, p. 142), being an African American in the United States society means that the person needs to prepare themselves for the anti-black actions from the Whites. As an African American, a person has to live and experienced various types of racial discrimination.

Literature can change people’s minds towards the issue like racial discrimination and help people to understand the value of life. As cited in Ogene (2013, p.77), African American literature themes mostly focus on the role of African Americans in society and what it means to be American. It also talks about African Americans' freedom, the lack of equality in the United States, the culture of African Americans, religion, slavery, and racism.

Similarly, Angie Thomas is one of African American authors who uses literature as the tool to fight racial injustice. *The Hate U Give* is Thomas' debut novel.
The story itself is based on Thomas' short story that she wrote in college for her creative writing program. She wrote the short story as the reaction of the death of Oscar Grant, an African American man who was fatally shot by a police officer. The project then expanded into a novel that later entitled *The Hate U Give*. The title of this book is based on African American rapper, Tupac Shakur's "THUG LIFE" concept: The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Everybody.

*The Hate U Give* is a young adult novel about an African American teenage girl named Starr Carter. She lives in a Garden Heights where most of the people there are African American, but she goes to Williamson Prep School, where most of the students in that school are White people. One day, Starr witnesses a White police officer shoot her best friend, Khalil. That police officer thinks that Khalil has a weapon and fatally shoots him. It shatters Starr's world into pieces. In this novel, we follow Starr's journey to find herself after Khalil's death and how she learns to be brave to speak out. Starr wants to use her voice to fight for the injustice that her friend Khalil and every African Americans out there get from society.

The writer chose this work because it reflects the struggle of African Americans against racial discrimination. Nowadays, racial discrimination still happens every day in the United States. We can see so many cases where African Americans treated unfairly in society; it includes prejudice, discrimination in the legal system, and also bias-based policing. For example, in 2012, Trayvon Martin, a seventeen-year-old teenager, was fatally shot by George Zimmerman, a white policeman, in Sanford, Florida. According to Karen Grigsby Bates's article in *National Public Radio News*
(2018, para. 5), Zimmerman claimed that Martin was suspicious and fatally shot him. However, Zimmerman was not found guilty and only charged with second-degree murder.

Another case that is similar to Martin's case is the death of Oscar Grant. According to Tre' vell Anderson’s article on *Los Angeles Times* (2018, para.1), Oscar Grant was fatally shot on New Year's Day 2009 by a white police officer named Johannes Mehserle. At that time, Grant was unarmed. Oscar's death then inspired Angie Thomas to write this novel. Angie then wrote Khalil Harris' character that similar to Oscar. According to Jasmine Lee and Haeyoun Park's article in *New York Times* (2018, para. 3), amongst 15 cases of African Americans who get shot by police officers in the United States from 2014 to 2016, only three officers convicted and one officer faced prison time.

The writer's focus on this study is the main characters of this story, which are Starr Carter and Maverick Carter. The writer thinks that it is essential to discuss the practices of racial discrimination experienced by Starr and Maverick and how African Americans deal with racial discrimination through these characters. Maverick Carter is aware of the racial discrimination and injustice that their people tend to get from society. He does not want his children to get hurt; therefore, he teaches them how to behave when a police officer stops them on the street and interrogate them. Starr Carter is also aware of the prejudice that her people have; hence, she decides to fight against racial discrimination with her voice.
In this study, the writer uses a sociocultural-historical approach to discuss this topic. Since one of the focus of this study is the struggle of African Americans against racial discrimination, the writer thinks this approach can be used to understand the struggle of African Americans and their spirit to fight for their freedom, justice, and equality.

B. Problem Formulation

Based on the background of the study above, the writer proposes three research questions, which are:

1. How are the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter described in Angie Thomas’ *The Hate U Give*?
2. What are the practices of racial discrimination experienced by Starr Carter and Maverick Carter as African Americans in Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give*?
3. How do Starr Carter and Maverick Carter struggle against the practices of racial discrimination in Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give*?

C. Objectives of the Study

This study aims to analyze the struggle of African Americans against racial discrimination through Starr Carter and Maverick Carter. Firstly, it discusses how Starr Carter and Maverick Carter’s characteristics are described in the novel. Both of these characters experienced racial discrimination. Secondly, it examines the practices of racial discrimination experienced by Starr Carter and Maverick Carter. Thirdly, it analyzes their struggle as African Americans to fight against racial discrimination. The
answer of the first objective is used to show their characteristics in relation to their African Americans identity and also their characteristics as an individual; the answer of the second objective show what kind of racial discrimination experienced by Starr Carter and Maverick Carter; the third objective shows how Starr Carter and Maverick Carter choose a different way to fight against racial discrimination.

D. Definition of Terms

Some terms are often used in this study. In order to avoid misunderstanding and, the writer defines the terms as follows.

According to Locke and Bailey in *Increasing Multicultural Understanding*, **African American** refers to an ethnic group of Americans with ancestry from any of the black racial groups of Africa. This term also applies to the descendants of enslaved black people from the United States (2013, p. 106).

The second term is racial discrimination. **Racial discrimination** is an attitude where some races see themselves as more powerful and better than the other (Ogene, Anyanwu, Ojiaku, 2017, p. 344). This situation put the minority group in a disadvantaged position where they often experienced unequal treatments and injustice from society.

The last term is bias-based policing. **Bias-based policing** includes the act of racial profiling in which a police officer can stop, search, and interrogate people of a certain race because members of this group are believed to be more likely criminals (Ramussen, 2006, p. 192). It also includes the discriminatory treatment of minority individuals and minority neighborhoods (Weitzer & Tuch, 2005).
CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

A. Review of Related Studies

The writer has found three studies related to the writer's research. The first study is an undergraduate thesis entitled *African American Women's Struggles Against Racial Discrimination in Sue Monk Kidd’s The Secret Life of Bees* written by Winda Anugrah (2015). The second study is an undergraduate thesis conducted by Nisa Ritma Yanti entitled *Starr Carter's Brave Decisions Against Institutional Racism in Angie Thomas’ The Hate U Give* (2019). The last related study is a journal article entitled *Racial Discrimination in Kathryn Stockett's The Help*, written by Amalia Putri Maurilla (2015).

*African American Women's Struggles Against Racial Discrimination in Sue Monk Kidd's The Secret Life of Bees* written by Winda Anugrah discusses the struggle of African Americans who experienced racial discrimination in Sue Monk Kidd's novel, *The Secret Life of Bees*. The focus of this study is the African American character in the novel, Rosaleen Daisy, August Boatwright, June Boatwright, May Boatwright, and April Boatwright. In order to figure that out, Anugrah uses the theory of character and characterization to analyze the characteristic of African American women in the novel. Anugrah also uses the theory of racial discrimination, the relation between literature and society, and theory on adaptation to prejudice and discrimination to examine the practices of racial discrimination and the struggle of
African American women against racial discrimination. From the research, Anugrah discovers that there are three types of struggle shown by the characters in the novel: frontal reaction, silent reaction, and self-separation.

The similarity of Anugrah's and the writer's study is that both of the studies examine the practices of racial discrimination experienced by the main character in the story and their struggle against racial discrimination. Another similarity is that both of the studies use socio-cultural historical as the approach of the study. The difference between both of the studies is the object of the study.

The other related study is a thesis written by Nisa Ritma Yanti entitled Starr Carter's Brave Decisions Against Institutional Racism in Angie Thomas' The Hate U Give. The focus of this study is the institutional racism that occurs in the novel and how Starr Carter deals with it. To analyze the research problems, Yanti applies African American literary criticism as the umbrella of the whole discussion in her study. She also applies the theory of racism and institutional racism to discuss further the institutional racism in the novel.

This study finds five acts of institutional racism portrayed in the novel: the ignorance toward Black Panthers' Ten-Point Program, the shooting in license checking, physical punishment in police patrol, justifying White officers in detective investigation, and injustice in grand jury announcement. Starr's brave decisions that show in the novel are telling the truth in a TV interview and joining the protest chant. Yanti then concludes that the acts of institutional racism in the novel are inhuman.
and this issue inspires Starr to keep fighting for African Americans' justice in the United States.

The similarity of this study is that both of the writers use the same object, which is Angie Thomas' *The Hate U Give*. Moreover, both of the writers also analyzes the same character, Starr Carter and discusses the racism experienced by the character. However, in this research, the writer not just discusses Starr Carter's character, but also Starr's father, Maverick Carter. Another difference is that the writer uses a socio-cultural historical approach to help analyze the study. The writer also not just focuses on institutional discrimination, but also discusses individual discrimination and structural discrimination.

The last related study is entitled Racial Discrimination in Kathryn Stockett’s *The Help*, written by Amalia Putri Maurilla (2015). In this article, Maurilla examines the racial discrimination acts toward the black maids in the novel *The Help* and also to investigate how racial discrimination affected the lives of black maids. She uses the sociological approach to analyze the discriminative treatments towards the black maids. The result of this study shows that there are two types of discrimination seen in the novel; individual discrimination and institutional discrimination. These types of discrimination also reflected the 1960s' social condition in the Southern United States. The discrimination that the maids get from their master also affects their lives in terms of distrust toward white people and insecurity. This research paper will be useful as supplementary information for the writer's research.
B. Review of Related Theories

1. Character and Characterization

According to M.H. Abrams and Geoffrey Harpham (2012, p. 46), characters are the persons that represented in a dramatic or narrative work. The reader can use what the persons say and their distinctive ways of saying it, their dialogues, and their actions to interpret the character's particular moral, emotional qualities, and intellectual. It means that characters are one of the important elements in a literary work.

M.J. Murphy (1972, pp. 161 – 173) describes nine ways to make characters in novel understandable:

a. Personal description
   It is the way of a character's appearance and clothes describes by the author. It is how the writer gives clues and ideas of a character's appearance to the reader. It can be the description of their physical appearances such as face, skin, or eyes.

b. Character as seen by another
   The author can describe a character through the eyes and opinions of another character. In other words, we can understand a character through a point of view of other people.

c. Speech
   It is one of the author's ways of giving an understanding of the characteristic of a character through what he or she says. Characters' speech or comment can give the reader a clue of their characteristics.
d. Past life

Through the character's past life, the author gives information about the characteristics of the person. It can be through direct comments, a person's thoughts, or the conversation of another character. These are the medium for the reader to understand the events that have helped to shape a person's character.

e. Conversation of others

We can see a person's character through the conversation with other characters. Their conversations may be implied as a meaning that shows the characteristics of the character. The author can also give a clue about a person's personality from the things that other character says about them.

f. Reactions

The author uses the reaction to give the reader a clue about how the person reacts to various situations and events. It is about what the character does to face something or conflict that happens in their life.

g. Direct comment

It is the way of how the author shows a person's character directly through their description or comment.

h. Thoughts

The author can give us direct knowledge of what a person is thinking. In this way, a character can do what we cannot do in real life, which is telling us what different people are thinking.
i. Mannerism

Mannerism is about a person's habit. Their habit can be the activity or the thing that the person always does in various situations. A person's mannerisms, habits, or idiosyncrasies can help the reader to know more about their characteristics.

2. Racial Discrimination

A race is a group of inter-marrying individuals, a population, which differs from other populations in the relative commonness of certain hereditary (Dunn, 1975, p. 41). Race is formed by a group of individuals who are related by the bond of marriage and share the common traits. Dovidio, Hewstone, Glick, and Esses (2010) stated that discrimination refers to biased behavior, which includes the action that directly harms or unfairly favors one's own group. It may involve negative or less positive behavior toward a member of a group than those toward an ingroup member in comparable circumstances (p. 9). Moreover, Allport (1954) defined discrimination as actions that involve denying individuals or groups of people equality (p. 51).

People from different races may have a perspective and prejudice towards other people based on their race. This attitude can lead to racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is an attitude where some races see themselves as more powerful and better than the other (Ogene, Anyanwu, Ojiaku, 2017, p. 344). This situation put the minority group in a disadvantaged position where they often experienced unequal treatments and injustice from society.
As cited from the *Encyclopedia of race and ethnic studies*, racial discrimination operated on the group basis, which means that it works on the recognition of attributes and deficiencies of groups, not individualized characteristics (Roth, 2004, p. 345). In other words, someone can be attached to certain traits based on their race. For example, racial discrimination towards African Americans often uses a derogatory label like "nigger" to deny access such as housing, education, and justice to an individual member of the race group (p. 345).

Fred L. Pincus (1996) divided the form of discrimination into three types: individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination (p. 186). **Individual discrimination** refers to the behavior of individual members of one race/ethnic/gender group that is intended to have a differential or harmful effect on the members of another race/ethnic/gender group. **Institutional discrimination** refers to the policies of the dominant race/ethnic/gender institutions and the behavior of individuals who control these institutions. It also includes the behavior of individuals who implement these policies and have the intention to harm the minority race/ethnic/gender groups. **Structural discrimination** refers to the policies of dominant institutions and the behavior of people control these institutions and also people who implement these policies. However, these actions are no longer intend to harm minority group of people but which have a harmful effect on minority race/ethnic/gender groups.
3. Adaptation to Prejudice and Discrimination

When a person deals with racial discrimination, they will try to find a way to respond to the difficulty in order to survive. According to Aguirre and Turner (2011), prejudice and discrimination tend to force the member of a subordinate group to respond and adapt. One of the methods of adaptation is assimilation or the elimination of distinct ethnical characteristics of subordinate groups and the adoption of the superordinate ethnic population. Another response to discrimination is rebellion, revolt, or organized protests, with the goal to redistribute the power and to change the society. However, an individual may pass through different patterns of adaptation (p. 30). In other words, everyone has their own way of dealing with the difficulty in life, especially people who experienced racial discrimination. They find their way to deal with racial discrimination and also try their best during that difficult situation.

C. Review of African Americans Struggle against Racial Discrimination in the 21st Century

The beginning of the so-called "post-racial" era happened when the forty-four president of the United States, Barack Obama, was elected on November 4, 2008. Since Barack Obama is the first African American president of the United States, people claimed that America is now a "post-racial" society. A post-racial society is an idea that the majority of the United States population considers everyone to be nonracial or not belonging to any race (Van Cleve & Mayes, 2015). This one of the beliefs that discrimination is no longer exists in America, and society doesn't see a person based
on the color of their skin anymore (colorblind). It also means that Americans believe that they are not racists since they no longer see a person based on their skin color (Siscoe, 2016). According to Bobo, citing in Siscoe, in her undergraduate thesis entitled #BlackLivesMatter: This Generation's Civil Rights Movement, stated that "by stating America is a colorblind society the assumption is that it was able to leave behind the racial divisions that have been present since the beginning of slavery” (p. 12).

However, Amina Gautier (2011), in her journal entitled On Post-Racial America in the Age of Obama, argues that the age of Obama is not a post-racial era by any definition. The term post- is a Latin word means after. It means that there must be "before" or previous. Gautier describes that the terms that using post as the prefix (post-Reconstruction, post-feminism, post-civil rights) are referring to the historical era or movement by which they have proceeded. Furthermore, Gautier states that "In order for there to be a "post-racial" America, there must previously have been a "racial America” (p. 94). In reality, this "post-racial era" or colorblind ideology is not a perfect solution to inequality. African Americans still experienced institutional racism in which the majority of them do not get adequate health care, decent jobs, and quality education (Bonilla-Silva, 2010).

In addition, Siscoe explains that the new form of racism in the United States has replaced overt racism. By quoting Bobo (2011), he argues that "the overt form of racism depicted in the belief that black people are born with a lesser ability to whites is disappearing while the colorblind form of racism shown in the belief that it is black people's lack of motivation or willpower that leads to inequality" (p. 12).
One of the racism experienced by African Americans is the prejudice about African Americans. In his book, *The Nature of Prejudice*, Allport states that prejudice is "an antipathy based on faulty and inflexible generalization. It may be felt or expressed it may be directed toward a group as a whole, or toward an individual, because he [sic] is a member of that group" (1954, p. 9). It is a human's way to attribute the general characteristics of one particular group of people and attached it to objects and people within it.

Prejudice is based on stereotypes (Matusitz, 2012, p. 91). Stereotype refers to someone's general knowledge about the characteristics of the group. People who belong to a particular ethnic group are assumed to be similar to each other (Detweiler, 1986). Prejudice is formed based on this general knowledge (stereotypes), and the expectations about each individual of a specific ethnic group will be formed based on the ethnic group in which they belong. Stereotyping is a significant issue among minorities. For example, the stereotypes of African Americans are dumb, employed in a field that does not require much skill, and poorly educated (Gamble & Gamble, 2002). Another prejudice that African Americans get from society is that they live in a ghetto. According to Anderson, "ghetto" is associated with inner-city neighborhoods where poor African Americans live or the area of the town in which African Americans have been concentrated. The African Americans neighborhood is also known as "the black side of town," or "the hood" (2012, p. 9).

Anderson also explained that the image of a ghetto is mostly negative: impoverished, chaotic, lawless, drug-infested, and rules by violence (p. 9).
Consequently, the image of both African American women and men, also associated with the stereotypes of someone that lives in a ghetto. For instance, the image of "big, black, and scary" is related to the African Americans male. It also because they have been misrepresented in mainstream movies as violent thieves and drug dealers (Orelus, 2012). As a consequence, their clothing style and other aspects of their self-presentation may reflect that they from a ghetto. Accordingly, "criminal" and "dangerous" are the common stereotype of African Americans men (Oliver, 2003, p 3). Anderson stated that "typically, the black man is treated as a dangerous outsider until he proves he is worthy of trust, and his blackness itself often disqualifies him from white society's superficial standards for common courtesy" (2012, p. 16). On the other hand, the stereotypes of African American women are aggressive, loud, and angry, in which those acts also show the violation of social norms (p. 17).

There are three points of the conclusion that can be drawn about African Americans' stereotype. First, they are mostly lived in a ghetto, a poor neighborhood where a lot of violence and crime happened. Second, the stereotypes of male African Americans are violent, dangerous, and criminals, most likely drug dealers. Additionally, the stereotypes of female African Americans are aggressive, loud, and angry. Therefore, these stereotypes are clearly against the white social norm.

Furthermore, the prejudice against African Americans like violence and robbery has been used by White capitalists to justify their poverty and inequality that they have experienced. In the city like New York and Los Angeles, African Americans tend to be racially profiled and killed on the street by prejudiced police officers (Orelus,
2012, p. 5). Because of these prejudices, African Americans people have been the first ones to be attacked by police officers on the street and to be denied equality education, decent jobs, and housing. African American children have been locked up in a school system that is structurally designed to fail them, rather than preparing them to succeed in life (p. 3).

Graff, in his article entitled Redesigning Racial Caste in America via Mass Incarceration, stated that there were 685,724 stop-and-frisks conducted by the New York Police Department in 2011 between June 2005 and June 2008. In this case, only 8% were white people (2015, p. 120). It means that an African American person is more likely to go to prison rather than a white person.

There have been numerous protests and riots due to police officers not being indicted for killing unarmed young African American men. Through these protests, a new social movement was formed that started as a twitter hashtag called #BlackLivesMatter (Siscoe, 2016, p.4). The Black Lives Matter Movement was started as a response to the deaths of Trayvon Martin and Michael Brown. This movement intended to be a celebration and humanization of African Americans' lives.

Black Lives Matter Movement aims to be a political and ideological intervention in a society where African Americans' lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise. Siscoe states that "The Black Lives Matter Movement is trying to move the mentality of those in American away from "us versus them" and, in doing so, truly free black lives from inequality" (p. 5).
The Black Lives Matter Movement becomes a new type of civil rights movement to fight against a new kind of racism (Alexander, 2010). This movement is trying to transform the criminal justice system in America and raise an awareness that African Americans' lives also matter. The Black Lives Movement is trying to show how race does matter in both the criminal justice system and society (Siscoe, 2016).

D. Theoretical Framework

In this study entitled *The Struggle of African Americans Against Racial Discrimination in Angie Thomas' The Hate U Give*, the writer focuses on Starr Carter and Maverick Carter's characters, their experiences of being discriminated against and also their struggles against racial discrimination. In order to answer the problems which are formulated in Chapter I, the writer uses some theories to gain a good and more in-depth understanding of the story itself.

The theory of character and characteristics helps the writer to analyze how the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter are described. The writer tries to see through their behavior, thoughts, and dialogues from the novel. The theory of racial discrimination by F. L. Pincus will help the writer to get more understanding of the racial discrimination itself and to show what kind of racial discrimination experienced by Starr Carter and Maverick Carter. In general, the theory of adaptation to prejudice and discrimination is useful to find the struggles that Starr Carter and Maverick Carter experienced in the story. The writer also analyzes literary works from their social, cultural, and historical backgrounds. Then, by applying all of the theories above, the
writer can figure out the characteristics of the main characters in the novel, the type of racial discrimination experienced by the main characters, and the struggle of the characters against the racial discrimination.

In the last part, the writer puts the historical background of African Americans' struggles against racial discrimination in the 21st Century to show the racial discrimination experienced by African Americans in the United States. The historical context is also used to complete some reviews and give more ideas about racial discrimination towards African Americans in the novel.
CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY

A. Object of the Study

A novel entitled *The Hate U Give* is the object of the study that the writer uses to analyze the struggle of African Americans against racial discrimination in the United States. This novel is written by Angie Thomas. *The Hate U Give* is Thomas' debut novel and first published by HarperCollins Publishers in 2017. This novel consists of 444 pages, and it is divided into five parts. It is set in Garden Heights, a fictional town in the United States. The novel became number one on *The New York Times* young adult best-seller list for 50 weeks and adapted into a movie by Fox 2000 in October 2018.

*The Hate U Give* tells the story of a 16-year-old African American girl named Starr Carter. Starr lives in two separate worlds, the poor neighborhood where she grows up and the fancy suburban private school that she attends. Her two worlds are shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of Khalil Harris, her childhood best friend, at the hands of a white police officer. Soon afterward, Khalil's death becomes national news. Some people accuse Khalil of being a thug and a drug dealer. Protesters are taking over the street in Khalil's name and demand for justice. Starr then realizes that she cannot be silent. She must speak out to fight for Khalil's justice and people in her community.
B. Approach of the Study

The approach used in this research is Sociocultural-Historical approach. This approach deals with the social, cultural, and historical background of particular literature work. As Mary Rohrberger and Samuel H. Woods stated in their book *Reading and Writing about Literature*, the sociocultural-historical approach is helpful to locate the real work in reference to the civilization that produces it. Civilization in here is the attitudes and actions of a specific group of people and point out that literature takes these attitudes and actions as its subject matter. This approach also leads us to ethnical judgment concerning the truth of the author's statement (1971, pp. 9-10).

The purpose of applying this approach in studying the novel is to know further about the social, cultural, and historical background in the novel. In this approach, the social condition and cultural values of the society have a significant influence on people's attitudes that they express in their daily life. The racial discrimination towards African Americans is related to the social and cultural concepts in society. The struggle against racial discrimination in this novel is associated with the social history of African Americans who has been trying to end racial discrimination and fight for their justice and freedom.
C. Method of the Study

In this research, the writer used the method of library research with a socio-cultural historical approach to analyze the novel. Library research is a type of research in which it uses some materials as the source of information to study literary work. The writer used two sources of data to make the research understandable: primary data and secondary data. The primary data is *The Hate U Give* novel written by Angie Thomas. Secondary data belongs to other researchers, theory of racial discrimination, theory of character and characterization, theory of adaptation to prejudice and discrimination, and some relevant books and articles on racial discrimination; *Understanding Unseen* by M.J. Murphy, *Discrimination Comes in Many Forms* written by Fred L. Pincus, and *American Ethnicity: The Dynamics and Consequences of Discrimination* by Aguirre and Turner. The data is also collected by using the source from the internet.

The following are the steps for analyzing the novel. First is the writer read the novel several times to gain a good understanding of the content of the story and to find some interesting points of the main characters: Starr Carter and Maverick Carter. Second, the writer chose some problem formulation to be analyzed and finding the approach that could be used for the analysis. By quoting some reliable dialogues, the writer collected some data from the novel. In order to get the best answer to the problem formulation, the writer also collected the data from references that are related to the topic. Third, the writer analyzed the character of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter and
their struggle against racial discrimination using the socio-cultural historical approach.

In the end, the researcher will conclude the analysis.
CHAPTER IV

ANALYSIS

This chapter analyses the three problems that have been formulated in the first chapter. The first discussion is the portrayal of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter as African Americans. The second discussion is the practices of racial discrimination experienced by Starr Carter and Maverick Carter in relation to their portrayal of African Americans. Finally, this chapter discusses Starr and Maverick Carter’s struggles against the practices of racial discrimination.

A. The Characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter

In this part, the writer analyses how the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter as the African American described in The Hate U Give. Character is one of the important elements in literary works. As the persons that represented in narrative work, the reader can analyze what the persons say, their distinctive ways of saying it, their dialogues, and their actions to interpret the character’s moral, their emotional qualities, and intellectual (Abrams & Harpham, 2012, p. 46).

The writer uses M.J. Murphy’s theory of character and characterization in order to analyze Starr Carter and Maverick Carter's characteristics. There are nine ways to make characters in novel understandable: personal description, character as seen by another, speech, past life, conversation of others, reactions, direct comment, thoughts, and mannerism. However, not all of these ways are applied to analyze Starr Carter and Maverick Carter’s character due to the insufficiency of data presented in
the novel. This section is divided into two parts. The first part is about the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter in relation to their African Americans Identity. The second part discusses their characteristics as an individual.

1. The Characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter in relation to their African Americans Identity

In this part, the writer analyzes the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter in relation to their African Americans’ identity. The writer only focuses on their physical appearance and the use of African American Vernacular English (AAVE). Starr Carter and Maverick Carter are the protagonists in the novel. Starr Amara Carter is a sixteen-year-old African American teenager who lives in Garden Heights. It is a lower-class neighborhood located in the Southern part of the United States. Maverick Carter, Starr’s father, is a former gang member in Garden Heights. However, being a father motivated him to be a better person. He has to spend three years in jail in exchange to get out of the gang system. After getting out of prison, he owns a small grocery store in Garden Heights. He also a believer of tenets of the Ten-Point Program espoused by The Black Panther Party.

First, Starr Carter’s physical characteristic as African American is analyzed through personal description. Starr Carter has long eyelashes, thick eyebrows, big
brown eyes, and broad forehead. The most noticeable feature of her body is her skin color, which is medium brown complexion.

As for me, it’s as if God mixed my parents’ skin tones in a paint bucket to get my medium-brown complexion. I did inherit Daddy’s eyelashes – and I’m cursed with his eyebrows too. Otherwise, I’m mostly my mom, with big brown eyes and a little too much forehead (Thomas, 2017, p. 35).

Second, Maverick Carter’s physical appearance is also reflected in his personal description. In the novel, Maverick’s appearance is described by Starr. As well as Starr’s physical characteristics, the most noticeable feature of Maverick’s body is his skin color. He is also described as bald-headed and has thick eyebrows and long eyelashes, which Starr inherited.

They’re dark brown, slender, and have thick eyebrows and long eyelashes that almost look feminine. Seven’s dreads are long enough to give both bald-headed Daddy and short-haired Sekani each a head full of hair (Thomas, 2017, p. 35).

Starr Carter and Maverick Carter’s characteristics as African Americans can also be seen in the use of African American Vernacular English (AAVE). There are features from AAVE that Starr uses in her daily conversation, like “done,” (Wardhaugh, 2006) “ain’t,” (Howe, 2005) and “nigga” (Mainingrum, 2018). Most of the time, Starr uses AAVE to talk with her family, and also with her friends in Garden Heights. Starr’s linguistic characteristic is examined through her speech.

And she pulls him to their bedroom and closes the door. Suddenly, their TV blares real loud, and Jodeci sings over it from the stereo. If that woman ends up with a fetus in her uterus, I will be completely done. Done.” (Thomas, 2017, p. 272).
The quotation above refers to the reconciliation between Starr’s parents after arguing about moving out of Garden Heights. Starr uses the word “done” to express that she already gives up in terms of dealing with her parents’ interaction. It implies that she never understands how her parents can get into an argument easily but also can easily reconcile as well.

Starr also uses AAVE with his family members. In this case, it is revealed through her conversation with his father, Maverick. The word “nigga” is the result of clipping from the noun “nigger” which frequently used to address black people (Mainingrum, 2018).

“I ain’t say you needed it. When we get back, we can watch that Harry Potter shit you like so much.”
“Nooooooooo.”
“What?” he asks.
“Daddy, you’re the worst person to watch Harry Potter with. The whole time you’re talking about” – I deepen my voice – “Why don’t they shoot that nigga Voldemort?” (Thomas, 2017, p. 165).

Similarly, Maverick also use AAVE in his daily conversation. Words like “y’all,” “ain’t,” “gon’,” “a’ight,” “’til,” “wanna,” and “’lil” that Maverick frequently uses in his daily conversation are the features of AAVE (Mainingrum, 2018). Maverick usually uses AVVE in his daily conversation with his family. It can be seen through his speech. The word “y’all” is the clipping word from “you all.” (Mainingrum, 2018).

In here, Maverick uses “y’all” to refer to his children, Seven and Starr.

I pray he doesn’t get out because knowing Daddy his legs are ashy and he’s wearing Nika flip-flops with socks. “What the hell y’all thinking, leaving the house without telling nobody?” he yells (Thomas, 2017, p. 147).
Moreover, Maverick also uses AAVE with people in his community. It can be seen through his conversation with DeVante. The word “ain’t” is one of the features of AAVE. It is usually used to replace the marker of the present tense to be (Mainingrum, 2018).

“Man, I can’t go back to Garden High,” DeVante says. “All them King Lords up in there. You know that’s a death wish, right?”
“I ain’t say you was going there. We’ll figure something out. In the meantime you can work here in the store. You been staying home at night?” (Thomas, 2017, pp. 175 – 176).

Howe (2005) stated that African American Vernacular English is a variety of speech adopted by working-class descendants of United States slaves in colloquial contexts. It is also known as one of the English dialects which are spoken by African Americans, specifically in the United States (Wardhaugh, 1992). Thus, the use of AAVE shows the identity of African Americans in society.

2. The Characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter as an Individual

In this part, the writer analyzes Starr and Maverick’s characteristics as an individual. Throughout the novel, Starr shows her characteristics from being insecure and reluctant to speak to become more confident and brave. On the other hand, the most noticeable characteristics of Maverick is well-respected. Maverick has a commitment to help his community; therefore, people in their neighborhood respect him for what he is trying to do for his community. He is also an overprotective parent, but also a loving husband and father for his family.
a. **Starr Carter**

Starr has been living in two worlds: Williamson Starr and Garden Heights Starr. She changes the way she acts and talks when she is with her high school friends. She does not want her friends to think that she comes from a ghetto. Starr’s insecurity comes from different social status with her high school friends. She also does not sure whether she can speak up for Khalil or not. However, she then decides to be confident with herself and be brave to speak up for Khalil’s justice. Starr’s characteristics are analyzed through her thoughts, direct comment, character as seen by another, and conversation of others.

i. **Insecure**

Starr’s insecurity is examined through her thoughts. Her insecurity comes from the fact that she lives in Garden Heights, a poor African American community. At the same time, she attends Williamson, a private school where most of the students in there are white and wealthy people. In her class, there are only two African American students, the one is Starr, and the other one is a boy named Ryan.

I suddenly remember how different I am from most of the kids here. Nobody would have to drag me or my brothers to the Bahamas – we’d swim there if we could. For us, a family vacation is staying at a local hotel with a swimming pool for a weekend (Thomas, 2017, p. 79).

Since her friends went to foreign countries during their spring break, it makes Starr feel insecure because she did not have any spring break vacation like any of her friends. Her friends went to Taipei, the Bahamas, Harry Potter World, whereas she
stayed in her neighborhood and saw her friend killed by a police officer. Thus, she silently hopes none of her friends is going to ask her about her spring break.

Moreover, Starr’s insecurity is revealed through her conversation with others. In this case, it is her conversation with her boyfriend, Chris. Starr feels insecure because she has a different social status with her boyfriend, Chris, who is a rich white boy. She feels like they should not be together. She is aware of the fact that her friends expect her to date Ryan, the other African American boy in her grade. Starr thinks they are so different because Starr’s father, Maverick, was a gang member, and even Starr’s house in Garden Heights can fit in Chris’ House.

“You ever notice how people look at us?”
“What people?”
“People,” I say. “It takes them a second to realize we’re a couple?”
“Who gives a fuck?”
“Me.”
“Why?”
“Because you should be with Hailey.”
He recoils. “Why the hell would I do that?”

The quotation above shows Starr’s insecurity as Chris’ girlfriend. Hailey is one of Starr’s best friend in Williamson who is blond and rich, the type of girl that Starr thinks should be together with Chris.

ii. Reluctant to speak

After witnessing a white police officer fatally shoots Khalil, Starr realizes the same thing that always experienced by African Americans happened again. This time it happens to someone close to her. She knows for the fact that Khalil gets killed
because of his race. However, earlier in the novel, Starr shows her struggle between two choices, the need to speak about what happened that night or to keep quiet.

Starr’s reluctance to speak can be seen through her thought. Every time something like this happened to other African Americans, Starr always tries to show her support for justice like tweeted RIP hashtags, reblogged pictures on Tumblr and signed every petition out there. Her reluctance to speak comes from the fact that she is not ready yet. Starr is still trying to deal with the trauma, and she also not sure whether the truth can help bring justice to Khalil or not.

I always said that if I saw it happen to somebody, I would have the loudest voice, making sure the world knew what went down.
Now I am that person, and I’m too afraid to speak (Thomas, 2017, p. 38).

Moreover, Starr also afraid of the police after she saw what happened to Khalil. Starr’s uncle, Carlos, who is also a police officer, tells Starr that the detectives want her to come into the police station and answer a few questions about Khalil’s case. Starr does not sure whether she can do it or not. Her trauma causes her reluctance to speak after she saw one of a police officer killed Khalil. It is also revealed through Starr’s thought.

I swallow. I wish I could say yes, but I don’t know. On one hand, it’s the cops. It’s not like I’ll be telling just anybody.

On the other hand, it’s the cops. One of the killed Khalil (Thomas, 2017, p. 58).
Another event that makes Starr reluctant to speak the truth is when two police officers harass her father, Maverick. It can be seen through Starr's conversation with her friend, Kenya.

She stares at me a second, then says, “Were you really the one with him?”
My throat is thick. “Does it matter?”
“Yeah, it matters. Why you keeping quiet ‘bout it? Like you hiding or something.”
“Don’t say it that way.”
“But it is that way. Right?”
I sigh. “Kenya, stop. You don’t understand, all right?”
Kenya folds her arms. “What’s to understand?”
“A lot!” I don’t mean to yell, but damn. “I can’t go around telling people that shit.”
“Why not?”
“Because! You ain’t see what the cops just did to my dad ‘cause they know I’m the witness” (Thomas, 2017, p. 195).

After witnessing two police officers harass her father to threaten Starr, it makes her afraid to speak out. Thus, Starr calls herself a coward because she is too scared to say anything.

**iii. Confident**

As mentioned above, one of Starr’s characteristics is insecure. However, throughout the novel, we follow Starr’s story to gain her self-confidence. At first, Starr has to change the way she acts or speaks when she is with her high school friends. She does not want her wealthy friends to label her as Starr from the ghetto.

Starr’s portrayal as a confident person is shown through her direct comment. The trauma that Starr experienced after Khalil’s death is a turning point in her life. She
decides to be confident with herself. Starr decides to break all of her Williamson Starr rules, and she does not care what others think of her.

In class I toss my backpack on the floor and throw myself into my seat. When Hailey and Maya come in, I give them a stank-eye and silently dare them to say shit to me. I’m breaking all of my Williamson Starr rules with zero fucks to give (Thomas, 2017, p. 181).

Furthermore, Starr also shows her confidence to end the friendship with Hayley through her direct comment towards Hayley’s attitude.

My classmate stampede toward the door. Maya’s the last one out. She glances back at me then at Hailey who motions her to come on. Maya follows her out. I think I’m done following Hailey (Thomas, 2017, p. 182).

The quotation above implies Starr’s confidence to end the friendship with Hayley. Starr’s two best friends, Hayley and Maya, decide to protest for Khalil, but the reason for the protest is not for Khalil’s justice. They want to use the protest as an excuse to skip the class. Additionally, Hayley said some racist jokes, and she also thinks that Khalil deserves to die because he is a drug dealer. Thus, Starr realizes that Hayley is not a good friend and decides to end their friendship.

iv. Brave

One of the most noticeable characteristics of Starr is her braveness. It is revealed through her conversation with Maverick. As mentioned above, earlier, Starr is torn between the need to speak and the urge to stay quiet. At first, Starr is not brave enough
to talk for Khalil’s justice. The fear after seeing police officers harassing her father and also the threat from the King make Starr reluctant to speak. Starr is afraid that it is going to affect her normal life, and it can also put her family in danger. Eventually, Starr realizes that she cannot be silent when she can use her voice to change society. She knows her voice can help people who end up like Khalil, an African American that has to die because of bias-based policing.

“That’s why people are speaking out, huh? Because it won’t change if we don’t say something.”
“Exactly. We can’t be silent.”
“So I can’t be silent” (Thomas, 2017, p. 170).

The first step that Starr does is to create a Tumblr blog called The Khalil I Know. Starr uses this platform to upload Khalil's photos and describes the Khalil that she knows in the caption. She wants people to realize that Khalil does not deserve to die. Moreover, Starr also wants people to understand that Khalil’s lives matter, and they should not judge him by being a drug dealer. Starr’s Tumblr posts are liked and reblogged by hundreds of people in two hours.

In addition, Starr's braveness is also examined through character as seen by others. April Ofrah, a lawyer who also a community organizer who leads an organization called Just Us for Justice, thinks that Starr's willingness to be interrogated by the police is brave.

“It takes a lot of guts to be as upfront as he is. I meant what I said at Khalil’s funeral, Starr. It was very brave of you to talk to the police” (Thomas, 2017, p. 213).
Ofrah also encourages Starr to use her voice for activism. After knowing the fact that Starr’s motivation to speak up is because she wants everyone to know that Khalil’s lives matter, Ofrah offers to be Starr’s lawyer for free. She promises Starr and her parents that she will make everyone hear Starr’s voice.

b. Maverick Carter

In this section, the writer analyzes Maverick’s characteristics as an individual. Maverick is an overprotective parent. Everything he has done is for his family, and he will do anything to protect his children. However, he is also a wise and loving person. People in Garden Heights also respect him for the things that Maverick does to help his community. Maverick’s characteristics can be seen through his speech, conversation with others, and character as seen by another.

i. Overprotective Parent

Maverick is an overprotective parent. Maverick’s portrayal as an overprotective parent can be seen through his conversation with others. First, this characteristic is shown through his conversation with Mrs. Rooks, a regular in Maverick’s store. It shows how he does not allow Starr to be in a relationship with anyone because she is still a teenager.

“And look at this girl,” Mrs. Rooks says, eyeing me. “Every bit of Lisa. Maverick, you better watch out. These lil’l boys around here gon’ be trying it.”

“Nah, they better watch out. You know I ain’t having that. She can’t date till she forty” (Thomas, 2017, p. 45).
Moreover, Maverick’s characteristic as an overprotective parent is revealed through his conversation with the King, the gang leader in Garden Heights. Maverick is trying to protect Seven, his oldest son, from the King. Seven is Starr’s half-brother. His biological father is Maverick, and his mother, Iesha, is the King’s girlfriend. The King is a criminal and an abusive person. Because of this, Maverick does not want Seven to get hurt while associating himself with the King.

Daddy leans onto the window and says, “But if you touch Seven again, I’ll owe you an ass whooping. Remember that, now that you done moved back in with his momma” (Thomas, 2017, p. 54).

After Khalil’s death, Maverick becomes more protective of Starr. He strongly disagrees against Carlos’ suggestion to let Starr does an interrogation for the case. Maverick knows that the system is not going to give justice to people like them. He thinks by making Starr goes into the interrogation might hurt her, since she has to remember the Khalil’s incident again. It is revealed through his conversation with his brother-in-law, Carlos.

“You really think we gon’ let them talk to our daughter and twist her words around because she doesn’t have a lawyer?”
“Nobody’s going to twist her words around! I told you, we want the truth to come out too.”
“Oh, we know the truth, that’s not what we want,” says Daddy. “We want justice” (Thomas, 2017, p. 56).

Lastly, Maverick’s conversation with Starr is used to examine Maverick’s characteristics as an overprotective parent. Maverick has tattoos of three of his children’s in his arms. The word ‘Something to live for, something to die for’ written
below those tattoos. The tattoos of his children imply that he would do anything to protect his children.

He rolls up his shirt sleeve, revealing the tattoo of my baby picture on his upper arm. “What it say at the bottom?”

“Something to live for, something to die for,” I say, without really looking. I’ve seen it my whole life.

“Exactly. You and your brothers are something to live for, and something to die for, and I’ll do whatever I gotta do to protect you” (Thomas, 2017, p. 198).

ii. Wise

Maverick is a former gang member. He used to be the King Lord because he followed his father's steps. However, when Lisa, Starr’s mother, was pregnant, Maverick realized that being a gang member was not worth dying for. He then decided to go out of the gang. In order for him to go out, he has to go to jail for three years.

Maverick’s portrayal as a wise person is examined through his speech. As someone who has experienced racial injustice for being African American, Maverick already teaches Starr and Seven how to behave when a police officer stops them and interrogates them in the street. He knows that being an African American makes them a target for bias-based policing. He does not want his children to lose their life because they are not behaving properly when a police officer stops and searches them. It is revealed through his speech to Starr.

“Starr-Starr, you do whatever they tell you to do,” he said. “Keep your hands visible. Don’t make any sudden moves. Only speak when they speak to you” (Thomas, 2017, p. 24)

Even though Starr was only twelve-years-old at that time, Maverick argues that she needs to know about this. He thinks that Starr was not too young to get arrested or shot.
Starr half-brother, Seven, get accepted into six colleges, but he decided to not going away to college. Seven wants to stay in Garden Heights and go to Central Community, a junior college in Garden Heights. Seven admits that he wants to take care of Kenya and Lyric, his half-sisters.

“Look, you not responsible for your sisters,” Daddy says, “but I’m responsible for you. And I ain’t letting you pass up opportunities so you can do what two grown-ass people supposed to do.”

“I love that you look out for Kenya and Lyric,” Daddy tells Seven, “but there’s only so much you can do. You can choose whatever college you want, and you’ll be successful. But you choose because that’s where you wanna be. Not because you trying to do somebody else’s job. You hear me?” (Thomas, 2017, p. 307).

The quotation above shows Maverick’s characteristics as a wise person through his speech. He wants Seven to choose his decision wisely, mainly because this is about his future. Since Maverick does not finish his high school education, he does not wish Seven to end up like him. He works hard to be able to give better education to his children. Therefore, Maverick does not want Seven to feel responsible for something that parents should do.

Moreover, Maverick also shows his wise characteristics through his speech to his family at Khalil’s funeral. During Khalil’s funeral, some people and Khalil’s classmates are holding posters with Khalil’s face on them and signs that say “Justice for Khalil” outside of the church. They are planning to go on the march after Khalil’s funeral. Maverick wants to stay and also asks Seven and Sekani to join the march as well. He wants them to be part of this and realizes that it is a reality that their people have to experience in this country.
I can tell when it’s Daddy who’s rubbing my back without him even saying anything. “We gon’ stay and march, baby,” he tells Momma. “I want Seven and Sekani to be a part of this” (Thomas, 2017, p. 134).

Maverick’s characteristic as a wise person is also revealed through conversation with others. First, it can be seen from Maverick’s conversation with Starr. Maverick realizes that Khalil’s death is a result of bias-based policing. He makes Starr understand the whole situation by giving her questions about racial discrimination that African Americans get from society. He wants to know Starr’s opinion about Khalil and the police officer who shot him.

“A’ight, so what do you think it means?”
“You don’t know?” I ask.
“I know. I wanna hear what you think.”

Two police officers harassed Maverick because they know Starr is a witness for Khalil’s case. It makes Starr afraid to speak out. However, Maverick reminds Starr not to be scared of what the police officers do to him. It can be seen through Maverick conversation with Starr. It implies that he wants Starr to be wise and to fear nothing but God.

“Hey.” Daddy takes my chin so I have no choice but to look at him. “Don’t fall for that trap. That’s what they want. If you don’t wanna speak out, that’s up to you, but don’t let it be because you’re scared of them. Who do I tell you that you have to fear?”
“Nobody but God. And you and Momma. Especially Momma when she’s extremely pissed.”
He chuckles. “Yeah. The list ends there. You ain’t got nothing or nobody else to fear” (Thomas, 2017, p. 197).

Second, Maverick’s conversation with his family also shows his character as a wise person. At first, Maverick does not want to move out of the Garden Heights. One
of the reasons is because he wants to help his community. He thinks that he needs to stay in Garden Heights if he wants to help the community, even though Garden Heights’ neighborhood is not safe for his family. Maverick and Lisa often get into an argument because of this issue. Nevertheless, Maverick realizes that he can help his people without staying and living in Garden Heights.

“But I realize being real ain’t got anything to do with where you live. The realest thing I can do is protect my family, and that means leaving Garden Heights.”

“What else?” Momma questions, like he’s being grilled in front of the class. “And that living in the suburbs don’t make you any less black than living in the hood” (Thomas, 2017, p. 304).

iii. Loving

As explained above, Maverick is an overprotective parent. Despite being an overprotective parent, Maverick is also a loving parent. Maverick’s characteristic of being a loving parent is analyzed through his speech, character as seen by another, and conversation of others.

Maverick shows his characteristic of being a loving parent through his speech. After Khalil’s accident, Maverick wants to make sure that Starr feels safe. Thus, he asks Starr to help him in the store because he wants to distract her.

We roll through the streets, Tupac blasting through the subwoofers. He’s rapping about keeping your head up, and Daddy glances at me as he raps along, like he’s telling me the same thing Tupac is.

“I know you’re fed up, baby’ – he nudges my chin – “but keep your head up” (Thomas, 2017, p. 166)
The quotation above shows Maverick’s characteristics as a loving parent. It implies that Maverick understands that Starr is sad and upset about what happened to Khalil, but he wants Starr to stay strong.

Another way to examine Maverick’s characteristics as a loving parent is through character as seen by others. His loving personality is revealed through the way Starr sees Maverick. Maverick has tattoos of his children’s faces in his body. Beneath their faces, there is a sentence, “something to live for, something to die for,” written in it. In Starr’s opinion, it is a love letter in the simplest form.

“... You see this?” He rolls up his shirt sleeve, revealing the tattoo of my baby picture on his upper arm. “What it say at the bottom?”

“Something to live for, something to die for,” I say, without even looking. I’ve seen it my whole life.

“Exactly. You and your brothers are something to live for, and something to die for, and I’ll do whatever I gotta do to protect you.” He kisses my forehead. “If you’re ready to talk, baby, talk. I got your back” (Thomas, 2017, p. 198).

Moreover, Maverick wants Starr to know that he loves her. He does not give any pressure to Starr if she does not want to talk about what happened to Khalil. It can be interpreted that Maverick wants Starr to know that if she ready to speak, he will always be there for her.

Maverick’s characteristic as a loving person is also can be seen through conversation with others. Starr sees his father as a loving father and husband. Starr thinks Maverick is a loving person because he quits smoking for Starr, and he is also always praying for the safety of his family. Starr loves how much her parents love each
other, and in Starr’s opinion, Maverick has set a good example of what a man should do.

“Ay, I’m being honest. My thing is, girls usually date boys who are like their daddies, and I ain’t gon’ lie, when I saw that white – Chris,” he corrects, and I smile. “I got worried. Thought I turned you against black men or didn’t set a good example of a black man. I couldn’t handle that.”

I rest my head on his shoulder. “Nah, Daddy. You haven’t set a good example of what a black should be. You’ve set a good example of what a man should be. Duh!” (Thomas, 2017, p. 267)

iv. Well-respected

Maverick’s characteristic of being well-respected is shown through character as seen by another. Starr is aware of how well-respected his father is in their community.

Kenya, one of Starr’s best friends, is the type of person who likes to pick a fight with somebody and will always report it to her father, the King, to punish that person.

It’s easy to hang out with Kenya because of our connection to Seven. She’s messy as hell sometimes, though. Always fighting somebody and quick to say her daddy will whoop somebody’s ass. Yeah, it’s true, but I wish she’d stop picking fights so she can use her trump card. Hell, I could use mine too. Everybody knows you don’t mess with my dad, Big Mav, and you definitely don’t mess with his kids. Still, you don’t see me going around starting shit (Thomas, 2017, p. 10 – 11).

The quotation above implies that Maverick is a well-respected person in Garden Heights. Starr describes him as a person who never says something unless he means it.

Starr compares Kenya’s behavior with her because, just like Kenya is the King’s daughter, everyone in Garden Heights know who Starr’s father is. Hence she does not try to cause trouble with other people.
Another character who respects Maverick is Khalil. Just like DeVante, Khalil was about to ask for help from Maverick. Both Khalil and DeVante’s opinion on Maverick’s characteristic shows that he is well-respected in his neighborhood since people like Khalil and DeVante come to him and ask for advice or help. Moreover, Rosalie, Khalil’s grandmother, also revealed that Khalil respected Maverick. One of the reasons is because Maverick is like a father that Khalil never had.

“But he wanted to stop,” Ms. Rosalie says. “He told me, ‘Grandma, I can’t stay in this. Mr. Maverick said it only leads to two things, the grave or prison, and I ain’t trying to see either.’ He respected you, Maverick. A lot. You were the father he never had” (Thomas, 2017, p. 67)

Moreover, Maverick’s portrayal as a well-respected person is also shown through Mr. Wyat’s opinion. Mr. Wyat was the owner of a grocery store that is now owned by Maverick. Maverick is a former King Lord. His father, Adonis Carter, was a King, and because of it, he followed his father’s step. Adonis went to prison when Maverick was only eight. Maverick then became the King at the age of twelve, and he did not have any option because it was the only way to survive. When Lisa was pregnant with Starr, Maverick decided to quit being a gang member. However, he had to go to prison for three years in order to get out of the gang. When Maverick got out the prison, Mr. Wyatt was the only person who would hire him. Mr. Wyatt then decided to retire and gave his store to Maverick. It implies that Maverick also earns respect from Mr. Wyatt. The other reason is that Mr. Wyatt thinks Maverick is the only person he can trust to run the store.
B. The Practices of Racial Discrimination

The writer has read *The Hate U Give* several times to examine and understand Starr and Maverick’s Carter characterization in the novel. Their portrayal as African Americans has also been analyzed using Murphy’s theory of character and characterization. Now, the writer analyzes the practice of racial discrimination experienced by Starr and Maverick Carter. In order to examine the practices of racial discrimination, the writer applies Fred L. Pincus’s theory about the type of racial discrimination.

Racial discrimination is an attitude of superiority by one race that is dominant and having more power, language, culture, political, and economic control and civilization than the other. It placed the minority race in a disadvantaged position as it compels them to appear inferior, and they even get inhuman treatments, injustice, and dehumanization (Ogene, Anyanwu, Ojiaku, 2017, p. 344). A person from any race, ethnic, or gender group can practice discrimination. Pincus states that “a person from any race/ethnic/gender group can carry out acts of individual discrimination. A woman employer can refuse to hire a man just as easily as a White man refuse to hire a Hispanic. Similarly, a Black can attack an Asian for simply being Asian just as the Klu Klux Klan can burn a cross in front of a black church.” (1996, p. 189). The key to discrimination is the intent to treat unequally or to cause harm because of someone’s group membership in society.
According to Pincus, there are three forms of racial discrimination: individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination (1994, p. 83). Individual discrimination refers to the behavior of individual members of one race or ethnic group that is intended to have a harmful effect on the members of another race or ethnic group (p. 83). Both institutional discrimination and structural discrimination refer to the policies of the dominant race or ethnic group and the behavior of individuals who implemented these policies. However, the issue for structural discrimination is whether the goals of the dominant race policies are worth the negative effects (p. 84).

In the novel, Starr Carter and Maverick Carter experienced these three types of discrimination. They are aware of the prejudice that people attached to African Americans and also received the unequal treatment of law as a citizen of the United States. The practices of racial discrimination experienced by Starr Carter and Maverick Carter are explained as follows:

1. **Individual Discrimination**

   According to Pincus, individual discrimination includes the wide range behavior of the individuals of the major groups to the minority group of other races that are intended to cause a harmful effect (p. 82). Prejudice and harassment are the two forms of individual discrimination that the writer finds in the novel.

   a. **Prejudice**

      At the beginning of the novel, Starr feels like she lives in two different worlds; therefore, it makes her struggling to find her identity. She has to be a different person when she is in her neighborhood and when she is in school. It is mainly because of the
prejudice that people give to people who live in the area occupied by African Americans. It also the reason why she feels insecure when she is with her high school friends.

I just have to be normal Starr at normal Williamson and have a normal day. That means flipping the switch in my brain so I’m Williamson Starr. Williamson Starr doesn’t use slang – if a rapper would say it, she doesn’t say it, even if her white friends do. Slang makes them cool. Slang makes her “hood.” Williamson Starr holds her tongue when people piss her off so nobody will think she’s the “angry black girl.” Williamson Starr is approachable. No stank-eye, side-eyes, none of that. Williamson Starr doesn’t give anyone a reason to call her ghetto (Thomas, 2017, p. 74).

Starr cannot stand herself for doing it, but she does it anyway in order to blend in with her white friends. She knows about the stereotypes of female African Americans for being aggressive, loud, and angry. That is why Starr changes the way she behaves, talks, and sounds.

Moreover, African American Vernacular English (AAVE) frequently labeled as bad, substandard, incorrect, impoverished, deprived, and non-language (Wofford, 1979). As mentioned before, Starr usually uses (AAVE) in her daily conversation with her family and also with people in Garden Heights.

“Hello.” My voice is changing already. It always happens around “other” people, whether I’m at Williamson or not. I don’t talk like me or sound like me. I choose every word carefully and make sure I pronounce them well. I can never ever let anyone think I’m ghetto (Thomas, 2017, p. 97).

From the quotation above, “other people” implies to strangers or people that are not close to her. Because of the prejudice, Starr has to change the way she talks when she is with other people. She chooses her words carefully and makes sure she pronounces
it well. Starr is aware that by doing that, it makes her not look like someone from a 
ghetto, and people will take her seriously.

In addition, Anderson, his article entitled *The Iconic Ghetto* (2012) stated that the image of a ghetto is mostly negative: chaotic, rules by violence, lawless, impoverished, and drug-infested (p. 9). The negative image of ghetto makes Starr never invites her best friends, Hailey and Maya, to a sleepover at her house again. She did it one in seventh grade, and it did not go well. It also makes Starr realizes that both Garden Heights and Williamson are two different worlds that she has to separate.

I made the mistake of inviting them to a sleepover in seventh grade. Momma was gonna let us do our nails, stay up all night, and eat as much as pizza as we wanted. It was gonna be as awesome as those weekends we had at Hailey’s. The ones we still have sometimes. I invited Kenya, too, so I could finally hang out with all three of them at once.

Hailey didn’t come. Her dad didn’t want her spending the night in “the ghetto.” I overheard my parents say that. Maya came but ended up asking her parents to come get her that night. There was a drive-by around the corner, and the gunshots scared her (Thomas, 2017, p. 39).

Consequently, the image of African American men also associated with the stereotypes of someone that lives in a ghetto. For instance, the image of "big, black, and scary" is related to the African Americans male (Orelus, 2012). Accordingly, "criminal" and "dangerous" are the common stereotype of African Americans men (Oliver, 2003, p. 3). One of Starr’s best friends, Khalil, is one of the victims of this prejudice. Starr then points out that Khalil’s died because of the assumption and prejudice.
Ms. Ofrah open a folder that’s on her desk, takes a piece of paper out, and pushes it toward me. It’s a photograph of Khalil’s black hairbrush, the one he used in the car.

“That’s the so-called gun,” Ms. Ofrah explains. “Officer Cruise claims he saw it in the car door, and he assumed Khalil was reaching for it. The handle was thick enough, black enough, for him to assume it was a gun.”

“And Khalil was black enough,” Daddy adds.

A hairbrush.


The quotation above shows how the assumption can cause costs someone’s life. The police officer simply interrogates them in the street because he thinks Khalil is suspicious. Maverick said that Khalil was black enough implies that the prejudice that African Americans males are criminal is the reason why Officer Brian shot Khalil. Therefore, Maverick already teaches his children to be wise in front of the police since they were a child.

The prejudice of African American males also shows in how the media portrays Khalil. They are trying to justify what the police officer did by labeling Khalil as a drug dealer. Starr is aware of the fact that it does not matter if Khalil is only a suspect, because drug dealer is louder than suspected ever will be. What happened to her and Khalil is based solely on assumption and prejudice.

“I don’t understand how everyone can make it seem like it’s okay he got killed if he was a drug dealer and a gangbanger.”

A hook straight to the jaw.

“The media?” she asks.

“Yes, ma’am. It seems like they always talk about what he may have said, what he may have done, what he may not have done. I didn’t know a dead person could be charged in his own murder, you know?” (Thomas, 2017, p. 284).
Starr is aware of the stereotypes that society gives to African Americans. She knows that people in her school see her as cool kids because she is an African American. Starr uses the sentence “It’s dope to be black until it’s hard to be black.” to explain the life of African Americans. For Starr, white people see them as experts of trends. They like to mimic the trend of African Americans, but they do not want to do anything in terms of fighting against racial discrimination and injustice experienced by African Americans.

b. Harassment

Maverick experienced harassment from two police officers because of the prejudice of African Americans males. As mentioned before, the image of an African American male who lives in a ghetto is closely related to being a criminal or drug dealer. Typically, an African American male treated as a dangerous outsider until he can prove that he is not dangerous. Consequently, the clothing style and self-representations are used to reflect whether that person is from a ghetto or not (Anderson, 2012).

After Khalil’s incident, people in Garden Heights trying to do everything that they can do to get justice for Khalil’s death. Mr. Lewis, who owns a barbershop next to Maverick’s store, decides to do a live TV interview. During the interview, he tells the reporter that the thugs have been terrorizing Garden Heights for years. He even says the name of the leader gang, the King.

Maverick then warns Mr. Lewis that he is in danger now because he tells everyone about the King. The King’s people are going to hurt him or kill him. Mr.
Lewis, on the other hand, does not afraid. He does not feel scared of the King, and he does not afraid to die because he tells the truth.

When Maverick and Mr. Lewis start to argue about this matter, two police officers who are patrolling near the area approach Maverick and Mr. Lewis and stop next to them. One of the officers named Larry is an African American. He accuses Maverick of harassing Mr. Lewis. However, Mr. Lewis denies the claim and said that they were just talking. Both Maverick and Mr. Lewis have their hands in their sides, make it visible to be seen by the officers.

“To me it looks like this young man was harassing you, sir,” the black one says, still looking at Daddy. He hasn’t looked at Mr. Lewis yet. I wonder if it’s because Mr. Lewis isn’t wearing an NWA T-shirt. Or because there aren’t tattoos all on his arm. Or because he’s not wearing somewhat baggy jeans and a backwards cap (Thomas, 2017, p. 189).

The quotation above shows how easily Maverick gets interrogate and even humiliated in the middle of the street because of the way he looks. The officers never know about the fact that, in reality, Maverick is a caring and loving person. It implies that they easily targeted Maverick because of his baggy clothes and tattoos. It all happened because Maverick does not fit with the ordinary expectations of respectability.

The officer then asks for Maverick’s ID. Maverick shows his ID, still, the officers decide to search Maverick. They force him to the ground and thrusts his knee into his back as they search him. The officer pats Maverick three times before he decides to stop because they do not find anything suspicious.
Starr realizes that the harassment his father gets is because he looks like a thug. She also questions where the camera operator is, suggests that it needs to be on the news, so people can see the discrimination that African Americans get from a police officer who supposed to protect them. Consequently, it makes her reluctant to speak about Khalil because she is afraid it might put her family in danger.

2. Institutional Discrimination

Institutional discrimination refers to the policies of major institutions. With institutional discrimination, discriminatory behavior is embedded in prestigious social institutions. The purpose of the policies is to keep the minority group in a subordinate position in society (Pincus, 1994, p. 83). The form of institutional discrimination that the writer finds in the novel is discrimination in the criminal justice system.

After Khalil’s incident, Starr then decides to be a witness and cooperate with the detectives. Starr hopes that it can help to bring justice for Khalil. However, during the investigation, Starr realizes that the detectives, Detective Gomez and Detective Wilkes, are not helpful at all. They even trying to make like Khalil’s death is his own fault because he is a drug dealer.

“Khalil pulled over to the side of the road and turned the ignition off,” I say. “One-Fifteen put his brights on. He approached the window and asked Khalil for his license and registration.”

“Did Khalil comply?” Gomez asks.

“He asked the officer why he pulled us over first. Then he showed his license and registration.”
“Did Khalil seem irate during this exchange?”

“Annoyed, not irate,” I say. “He felt that the cop was harassing him.”

[.....]

“And why was that?”

[.....]

“Because we weren’t doing anything wrong,” I say. “Khalil wasn’t speeding or driving recklessly. It didn’t seem like he had a reason to pull us over” (Thomas, 2017, p. 100 – 101).

The quotation above shows the institutional discrimination experienced by Starr. Starr realizes that the detectives do not care about the fact that Officer Brian (One-Fifteen) killed Khalil. She knows that both of the detectives do not believe her. It implies that what they want from her is not to give justice for Khalil but to provide proof that Khalil is a criminal. It happens because a white police officer kills Khalil, and they are trying to justify it by making him looks like a criminal. Starr then points out that even if Khalil is a drug dealer, it does not have anything to do with him getting murdered.

“Now, do you know if Khalil sold narcotics?”

[.....]

All the sympathy, the smiles, the understanding. This chick was baiting me. Investigating or justifying.

I know the answer to her question. I knew it when I saw Khalil at the party. He never wore new shoes. And jewelry? Those little ninety-nine-cent chains he bought at the beauty supply store didn’t count. Ms. Rosalie just confirmed it.

But what the hell does that have to do with him getting murdered? Is that supposed to make all of this okay?” (Thomas, 2017, pp. 103 – 104).
It is confirmed that Khalil is a drug dealer. However, Starr argues that Khalil matters to people that love him. Just because he is a drug dealer does not mean that his life does not matter. Moreover, Khalil and Starr did not do anything wrong that night when Officer Brian suddenly stopped their car in the middle of the street. Starr then realizes that she is just wasting her time doing the interrogation because it does not bring justice to Khalil.

“Whoa, wait one second,” Momma says. “Are y’all putting Khalil and Starr on trial or the cop who killed him?”

Wilkes looks up from his notes.

“I – I don’t quite understand, Mrs. Carter?” Gomez sputters.

“You haven’t asked my child about that cop, yet,” Momma says. “You keep asking her about Khalil, like he’s the reason he’s dead. Like she said, he didn’t pull the trigger on himself.”

“We just want the whole picture, Mrs. Carter. That’s all.”

“One-Fifteen killed him,” I say. “And he wasn’t doing anything wrong. How much of a bigger picture do you need?”

Fifteen minutes later, I leave the police station with my mom. Both of us know the same thing:

This is gonna be some bullshit (Thomas, 2017, p. 105).

From the quotation above, Starr’s mother, Lisa, argues why the questions that the detectives give to Starr are only about Khalil, not about the police officer who killed Khalil. It is clear for both of them that the authorities do not have any intention to put Officer Brian on trial.

Even after giving her testimony, Officer Brian is not arrested yet. The authorities announced that they do not see any reason to arrest him. Starr’s uncle,
Carlos, who is also a police officer, tries to give her a reason that cases like this are complicated. Still, it is not difficult for Starr, and Officer Brian should be in jail because he killed Khalil. Also, there is a high possibility that Officer Brian is not going to get charged since the one who gives the decision is the grand jury.

“At the end of the day, the court or public opinion has no say in this. The grand jury does. If they see enough evidence, which they should, Officer Cruise will be charged and tried.”


3. Structural Discrimination

Structural discrimination and institutional discrimination are slightly similar. Both structural and institutional discrimination refers to the policies and behavior of the individual who controls the institution. According to Pincus, the difference between these two types of discrimination lay in the issue of the intent (1996, p. 190). The point in structural discrimination is that discrimination acts have a negative impact on minority groups (p. 191). Structural discrimination that the writer finds in the story is bias-based policing, lack of opportunity towards African Americans, and the injustice in the Grand Jury decision.

a. Bias-Based Policing

According to Witzer & Tuch (2005), bias-based policing includes the act of racial profiling, racial prejudice among police officers, and discriminatory treatment of minority individuals and minority neighborhoods (p. 1009).
Starr and her best friend, Khalil, also experienced the bias-based policing. They were going home after the party at Big D’s house when a police officer named Brian Cruise, stopped their car in the middle of the street. Both of them were unarmed, and Khalil also had his license and registration with him. Khalil was trying to ask the police officer why he told them to stop and suddenly interrogate them in the middle of the street.

Starr remembers the talk that her parents gave to her when she was twelve. The one is about courtship and sexual intercourse, and the other one is about what she should do if a police officer interrogates her. Maverick said that it is important for Starr to know it because it could happen anytime. Maverick thinks that Starr was not too young to get arrested or shot.

“Starr-Starr, you do whatever they tell you to do,” he said. “Keep your hands visible. Don’t make any sudden moves. Only speak when they speak to you. I knew it must’ve been serious. Daddy has the biggest mouth of anybody I know, and if he said to be quiet, I needed to be quiet. I hope somebody had the talk with Khalil (Thomas, 2017, p. 24).

The quotation above shows that bias-based policing is frequently happen to African Americans to the point where they know what they should and should not do. Maverick and Lisa have not raised Starr to fear the police, but to be smart around them. Because of this, Starr knows that it is not smart to move when a police officer has his back to her. At that time, Khalil broke the rule. Khalil thought that the police officer was harassing him; therefore, he reluctant to cooperate. Starr wishes that somebody
had this talk to Khalil. The police officer then shot Khalil when he made a sudden move.


Starr realizes that she sees it happened again; an African American gets killed because of their race. Before Khalil’s incident, Starr always does anything that she could, like tweeted RIP hashtags, reblogged pictures on Tumblr, and signed every petition out there. This time, it happened to someone close to her.

“A sixteen-year-old black boy is dead because a white cop killed him. What else could it be?”

[...] “This isn’t about black or white,” he says. “Bullshit,” says Daddy. “If this was out in Riverton Hills and his name was Richie, we wouldn’t be having this conversation.” “I heard he was a drug dealer,” says Uncle Carlos. “And that makes it okay?” Daddy asks.


The quotation above shows that it is clear for Maverick that what happened to Khalil is a bias-based policing. The police officer assumes that Starr and Khalil were up to no good based on their race. Maverick implies that if Khalil is from Riverton Hills and his name is Richie, the incident probably never happens. Moreover, Starr also explains that the assumption killed Khalil, and that assumption could even kill her.

“This all happened because he” – I can’t say his name – “assumed that we were up to no good. Because we’re black and because of where we live. We
were just two kids, minding our business, you know? His assumption killed Khalil. It could’ve killed me” (Thomas, 2017, p. 285).

Weitzer and Tuch also explained that bias-based policing could lead to more frequent and severe confrontations between police and citizen. It can also create distrust of the police (2005, p. 1009). In the novel, it describes that African Americans do not believe the police anymore, mainly because a case like this rarely brings justice to African Americans.

“Maverick, she’s seen two of her friends get killed,” Momma says. “Two! And she’s only sixteen.”
“And one was at the hands of a person who was supposed to protect her! What, you think if you live next door to them, they’ll treat you different?” (Thomas, 2017, p. 55).

It also caused the fear towards the police (Weitzer & Tuch, p. 1009). Since the police do not fulfill their job to protect people and can kill African Americans based on bias-based policing, African Americans tend to fear the police as their life depends on their hands. As for Starr, when Maverick was harassed by two police officers, simply based on the assumption that he harassed an older man, she has the fear that his father is going to die on those police officers’ hands. It also shows in Starr and her brother, Seven’s behavior when they see a police patrol car.

We stop at a red light. A Riverton Hills patrol car pulls up beside us. Seven straightens up and stares ahead, barely blinking and gripping the steering wheel. His eyes move a little like he wants to look at the cop car. He swallows hard.
“C’mon light,” he prays. “C’mon.”
I stare ahead and pray for the lights to change too.
It finally turns green, and Seven lets the patrol car go first. His shoulders don’t relax until we get on the freeway. Mine neither (Thomas, 2017, p. 90).
Furthermore, Starr’s fear towards the police also happens because at that night, after Officer Brian shot Khalil, he kept his gun towards Starr until another officer come to handle the situation. She describes that Officer Brian treated her like a threat when, in this case, Starr was not the one with the gun. She is aware of the fact that not all police officers are bad, but she just wants them to stop assuming when it comes to African Americans.

“Has this situation made you fearful of cops?” she eventually asks.
“I don’t know,” I say truthfully. “My uncle’s a cop. I know not all cops are bad. And they risk their lives, you know? I’m always scared for my uncle. But I’m tired of them assuming. Especially when it comes to black people” (Thomas, 2017, p. 285).

It shows that bias-based policing is structural discrimination. It also shows the prejudice that African Americans are criminals. Consequently, it has a negative impact on African Americans. Since the police do not hesitate to shoot someone based on assumptions, it caused the lives of African Americans because they frequently get bias-based policing, and also it creates a fear towards the police.

b. The Lack of Opportunity towards African Americans

Pincus stated that the lack of opportunity that the minority group gets from society is also part of structural discrimination. He further explained that, for example, a bank refused to give loans to African Americans and Hispanics because of their bad credit histories. However, if banks still act in a race-neutral manner towards each customer by considering their “creditworthiness,” African Americans and Hispanics would still be less likely to get loans because of their lower incomes. Therefore, this
legal lending policy is structural discrimination because it has a negative impact on low-income minority groups (1996, p. 191).

Both Starr and Maverick realize the lack of opportunity that their people get. The word “THUG,” which also becomes the title of this novel, comes from African Americans rapper, Tupac Shakur’s “THUG LIFE” concept: The Hate U Give Little Infants Fucks Everybody. Maverick and Starr discuss the meaning of “thug life” and realize that it more than just about youth.

“A’ight, so what do you think it means?”
“You don’t know?” I ask.
“I know. I wanna hear what you think.”
Here he goes. Picking my brain. “Khalil said it’s about what society feeds us as youth and how it comes back and bites them later.” I say. “I think it’s about more than youth though. I think it’s about us, period.”
“Us, who?” he asks.
“Black people, minorities, poor people. Everybody at the bottom in society.”
“The oppressed,” says Daddy.
“Yeah. We’re the ones who get the short end of the stick, but we’re the ones they fear the most” (Thomas, 2017, p. 167).

Maverick also tries to make Starr understand the bigger picture. He asks Starr about the hate that society gives to their people in today’s society. Maverick wants Starr to realize that it is more than just racism and think about Khalil and his whole situation before he died. He wants Starr to see why Khalil becomes a drug dealer in the first place.
“Why was he a drug dealer? why are so many people in our neighborhood drug dealers?”

I remember what Khalil said— he got tired of choosing between lights and food. “They need money,” I say. “And they don’t have a lot of other ways to get it” (Thomas, 2017, p. 168).

The quotation above implies that poverty is the reason why so many people in their neighborhood become drug dealers. The low-income and lack of opportunity force them to find another way to survive. Moreover, Khalil also confesses to Starr that he gets tired of choosing between lights and food. He also admits that he hates selling drugs, but he had to do it because his grandmother is sick, and he also has to take care of his little brother. It makes Starr realizes that she is lucky. If she was Khalil, she does not sure she would have another choice either.

Maverick also points out that African Americans rarely get hired by corporate America, and their neighborhood also does not have schools with the proper education system. Maverick himself does not get a diploma. Therefore, he works hard so he can provide proper education to his children. A lot of young people in their community also rarely finish their school. Some of them even do not make it to eighteen because being a gang member is a risky job.

“Right. Lack of opportunities,” Daddy says. “Corporate America don’t bring jobs to our communities, and they damn sure ain’t quick hire us. Then, shit, even if you do have a high school diploma, so many of the schools in our neighborhoods don’t prepare us well enough. That’s why when your momma talked about sending you and your brothers to Williamson, I agreed. Our schools don’t get the resources to equip you like Williamson does. It’s easier to find some crack than it is to find a good school around here” (Thomas, 2017, p. 168).
The quotation above shows the lack of opportunity that African Americans get from society. It is clear for Maverick that poverty lead so many people in their neighborhood join as a gang member to sell drugs. Some of them roaming around the Garden Heights and causing troubles. Starr’s parents even do not allow her to walk alone in her neighborhood because she can get shot or be in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Furthermore, robberies frequently happen at Garden Heights to the point where people who live alone need to stay inside and do not let any strangers in. People in Garden Heights often hear gunshots, and they need to protect themselves; otherwise, they can get hit by the bullet.

For Maverick, the drugs business is a multibillion-dollar industry. However, even though half of the people in their community are drug dealers, he does not know any people in Garden Heights, who owns a private jet. It hinted that Maverick is aware that drugs come from somewhere, and it destroys their community. It destroys their people and creates stereotypes or prejudice towards their people.

“You got folks like Brenda, who think they need them to survive, and then you got Khalils, who think they need to sell them to survive. The Brendas can’t get jobs unless they’re clean, and they can’t pay for rehab unless they got jobs. When the Khalils get arrested for selling drugs, they either spend most of their life in prison, another billion-dollar industry, or they have a hard time getting a real job and probably start selling drugs again. That’s the hate they’re giving us, baby, a system designated against us. That’s Thug Life” (Thomas, 2017, p. 169).
c. The Injustice in The Grand Jury Decision

The issue for structural discrimination is whether the goals of the dominant group are worth the negative effects (Pincus, 1996). As explained before, both institutional and structural discrimination are slightly similar. The one that makes these two types of discrimination different is whether the acts of discrimination cause negative effects for the minority group or not. The way to combat this type of discrimination also different (p. 192).

Pincus further explained that if one is trying to combat institutional discrimination, they need to convince the leaders or policy-makers of the particular institutions that it is wrong to treat minority groups in negative ways purposely. However, this argument is irrelevant to eliminating structural discrimination (p. 192).

As explained before, the discrimination in the justice system during Khalil’s case investigation is part of institutional discrimination. The reason is that the people behind Khalil’s case intended not to bring justice for Khalil and make him the bad guy using his background as a drug dealer.

However, the decision of whether Officer Brian Cruise, who killed Khalil, is guilty or not still is in the Grand Jury’s hands. During the trial, Starr gives her testimony about what happened that night. Both of them are only minors, and they do not have any weapons or guns with them. It then revealed that the thing that Officer Cruise thought as a gun is only a black hairbrush.

“This is the hottest station in the nation, Hot 105,” the DJ says. “If you’re just tuning in, the grand jury has decided not to indict Officer Brian Cruise
After the trial, Starr and the rest of their people waiting for the Grand Jury’s decision for ten weeks. However, the Grand Jury then decides that Officer Brian Cruise does not found guilty. The Grand Jury’s decision is structural discrimination because it has a negative impact on African Americans. Khalil is not the first African American who gets killed in the hands of a police officer. Officer Brian is also not the first white policeman who does not found guilty for kills someone based on bias-based policing or assumption. The Grand Jury’s decision does not give justice towards Khalil and the rest of African Americans who has to see once again as if their lives do not matter.

C. The Struggle against the Practices of Racial Discrimination

After analyzing the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter and also the practices of racial discrimination experienced by these characters, the last discussion of this chapter is about their struggle against the practices of racial discrimination. Angie Thomas, as the author of The Hate U Give, tries to represent the struggle to fight against racial discrimination in the novel. It also becomes a reflection of African Americans’ lives in the United States.

According to Aguirre and Turner, discrimination often forces their target to respond and adapt. Everyone has their struggle against racial discrimination. It can be organized protests to fight for equality. The extreme ones are rebellion and revolt against the superordinate ethnic groups. Moreover, acts like passive acceptance,
marginal participation, assimilation, withdrawal, and self-segregation are also the
responds that someone has while dealing with discrimination (2010, p. 25).

Both Starr Carter and Maverick Carter have their own way to fight against racial discrimination. As someone who knows how the racial discrimination against African Americans works in their society, Maverick chooses to help his community by doing anything that he can do. As explained before, everyone in Garden Heights respects Maverick for things that he has done to his community.

Maverick is an ex-convict. He also got caught in the drugs world when he was young. When he got out of jail, no one wanted to hire him. Mr. Wyatt was the only person who would employ Maverick. When he decided to retire, Mr. Wyatt gave his store to Maverick. Because of this, Maverick has been working hard, so his family does not have to suffer, and his children do not have to sell drugs in order to survive, like any other teenager in Garden Heights.

“That’s why when your momma talked about sending you and your brothers to Williamson, I agreed. Our schools don’t get the resources to equip you like Williamson does” (Thomas, 2017, p. 168).

Maverick also works hard so he can give a better education for his children. Because of the structural discrimination experienced by African Americans, Maverick realizes that African Americans rarely get hired, and even schools in Garden Heights does not provide a good education for people in their community. Therefore, Maverick and his wife, Lisa, trying their best so they can give a better education for Starr and her brothers.
Moreover, Maverick tries to make his children understand the discrimination that their people get from society. When people start a protest for Khalil’s justice at Khalil’s funeral, Maverick invites Seven and Sekani to be part of this and join the march. He teaches his children about The Black Panther Party Ten-Points Program. Maverick teaches his children how to behave when a police officer stops and searches them on the street as well. Because of this talk, it saves Starr’s life and also it makes her have a better understanding of the discrimination towards African Americans.

My brothers and I learned to recite the Black Panther Ten-Point Program the same way other kids learn the Pledge of Allegiance. [...] Seven and I could recite Malcolm X quotes by the time we were thirteen. Sekani hasn’t gotten there yet (Thomas, 2017, p. 316).

Additionally, Maverick motivates Starr to use her voice to fight against racial discrimination.

“And we won’t stop getting fucked till it changes. That’s the key. It’s gotta change.”
A lump forms in my throat as the truth hits me. Hard. “That’s why people are speaking out, huh? Because it won’t change if we don’t say something.”
“Exactly. We can’t be silent.
“So I can’t be silent?”

Even though Maverick is worried about Starr’s safety, he still supports Starr if she wants to speak up. He makes Starr realizes that she cannot be silent, and her voice can help bring justice to Khalil. Maverick also aware that Starr’s voice can help raise awareness and also helps other African Americans so they would not end up like Khalil.
Maverick also has his own principle to help people in his community. Because of it, Maverick refuses to leave Garden Heights even though the neighborhood is not safe for his family. Maverick helps helpless teenagers like Khalil and DeVante who get caught on gang stuff and selling drugs in order to survive. Maverick gives a job to Khalil at his store, so he does not have to sell drugs like his friends. When he failed to help Khalil, Maverick tries to help DeVante. He asks for Maverick’s help because he wants to get out of the gang and stop selling drugs. Maverick decides to protect DeVante from the King. Later on, Maverick realizes that he can still help his community even if he does not live in Garden Heights anymore.

Another action that Maverick does as his way to fight against discrimination is to help educate his community to keep a peaceful protest. While waiting for the Grand Jury’s decision, Maverick wants to help his community to understand that burning down the whole neighborhood is not helping at all. He then organizes the meeting with two gangs in their area, the Goon and the Garden Disciple, to help educate people in their neighborhood that violence is not going to bring justice for Khalil.

“We can all agree that riots got outta hand, right?” says Daddy. He gets a bunch of “yeahs” and “rights.” “Then we can make sure it doesn’t go down like that again. Talk to these kids. Get in their heads. Yeah, they mad. We all mad, but burning down our neighborhood ain’t gon’ fix it” (Thomas, 2017, p. 341).

On the other hand, Starr has her own way to fight against racial discrimination. She chooses to use her voice to fight. As mentioned before, one of Starr’s characteristics is reluctant to speak. She was afraid to speak about Khalil because she
was not ready yet. She was still dealing with the trauma after witnessing a police officer killed Khalil in front of her. However, when she still not sure whether to speak out or not, she decides to be a witness for Khalil’s case. Moreover, after having a conversation with Kenya, Starr then creates a Tumblr blog for Khalil. It shows her determination to do something even though she is still afraid and not ready to speak out yet.

In just two hours, hundreds of people have liked and reblogged the pictures. I know it’s not the same as getting on the news like Kenya said, but I hope it helps. It’s helping me at least” (Thomas, 2017, p. 203).

After having a conversation with her father, Maverick, Starr realizes that she can use her voice to fight against racial discrimination. It also helps her to understand that if she wants society to stop giving hate towards African Americans, she cannot stay silent. She needs to be brave to fight for Khalil’s justice.

This is bigger than me and Khalil though. This is about Us, with a capital U; everybody who looks like us, feels like us, and is experiencing this pain with us despite not knowing me or Khalil. My silence isn’t helping Us” (Thomas, 2017, p. 170).

Starr then decides to help an organization called the Just Us for Justice. It is a small organization in Garden Heights that advocates for police accountability. April Oprah, one of the people who work for Just for Justice, first approaches Starr at Khalil’s funeral. She offers herself to be Starr’s advocate for free to make sure her voice is heard. Mrs. Oprah is also the one who organizes the march for Khalil. Starr helps out around Just for Justice office by doing anything that she could do, like answers phones and passes out flyers. Starr sometimes listens to some of Just Us for Justice’s meetings.
Moreover, Starr uses the television interview as the opportunity, so her voice can be heard. Starr also uses it to bring justice for Khalil. Since Khalil’s case getting national attention, the media has been portraying Khalil as a drug dealer. In the interview, Starr wants to give a different perspective to the audience. She acknowledges the fact that she can use her voice to fight for Khalil.

“I don’t understand how everyone can make it seem like it’s okay he got killed if he was a drug dealer and a gangbanger.”
A hook straight to the jaw.
“The media?” she asks.
“Yes, ma’am. It seems like they always talk about what he may have said, what he may have done, what he may not have done. I didn’t know a dead person could be charged in his own murder, you know?” (Thomas, 2017, p. 284).

However, after all that she does, it still failed to bring justice for Khalil. Eventually, the Grand Jury decides not to indict Officer Brian. It makes Starr frustrated and angry. She already tells the truth and does everything that she is supposed to do, but it is not good enough. Starr is upset because Khalil’s death is not horrible enough to be considered as a crime.

“Starr, what you wanna do?”
They gave me the hate, and now I wanna fuck everybody, even if I’m not sure how.”

The quotation above shows Starr’s final decision to fight against racial discrimination: join the protest for Khalil. She realizes it is the hate that the system gives to African
Americans. She feels helpless now, and she does not know how to handle the anger of the justice that Khalil does not get.

“Starr, think about this,” Chris says. “That won’t solve anything.”

“And neither did talking!” I snap. “I did everything right, and it didn’t make a fucking difference. I’ve gotten death threats, cops harassed my family, somebody shot into my house, all kinds of shit. And for what? Justice Khalil won’t get? They don’t give a fuck about us, so fine. I no longer give a fuck” (Thomas, 2017, p. 384).

Starr feels like talking is no longer useful. She thinks that using violence or tear something up will make people listen. During the other protest, Starr just watched. She never joins any protest before because she has been doing her own fight behind the scene. Since all of her efforts do not give justice to Khalil, she decides to be one of the speakers at the protest.

“My name is Starr. I’m the one who saw what happened to Khalil,” I say into the bullhorn. “And it wasn’t right.”

I get a bunch of “yeahs” and “amens” from the crowd.

“We weren’t doing anything wrong. Not only did Officer Cruise assume we were up to no good, he assumed we were criminals. Well, Officer Cruise is the criminal.”

The crowd cheers and claps. Ms. Oprah says, “Speak!”

That amps me up.

I turn to the cops. “I’m sick of this! Just like y’all think all of us are bad because of some people, we think the same about y’all. Until you give us a reason to think otherwise, we’ll keep protesting.”

[…]

“Everybody wants to talk about how Khalil died,” I say. “But this isn’t about how Khalil died. It’s about the fact that he lived. His life mattered. Khalil

The peaceful protest, however, turns into chaos when the police use force to disperse the crowd. It shortly turns into a riot. Some of African Americans-owned businesses are destroyed and burn, including Maverick’s store. It does not stop Starr. She realizes that it might be easy to destroy wood and brick, but it is really difficult to destroy a movement.

Lastly, Starr decides to keep fighting with her voice. Before Khalil, there are so many people who do not get justice: Emmett, Aiyana, Trayvon, Rekia, Michael, and many more. Starr realizes that all of this cannot happen in one day. This time she is ready to fight. People in Garden Heights also do not stop fighting. Starr then makes a promise to herself that she will never forget about Khalil. She will never give up, and she will never be quiet. She will continue to use her voice to fight for discrimination.
CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

This chapter concludes the explanations and analyzes in the previous chapters. The thesis examines the struggle of African Americans against racial discrimination in the novel *The Hate U Give*, written by Angie Thomas. As stated in the first chapter, there are three problem formulations that the writer analyzed. First is about how the characteristics of Starr Carter and Maverick Carter described in the novel. The second question is about the practices of racial discrimination experienced by both of these characters. Then, the last problem question is about their struggle to fight against the practices of racial discrimination. These are the several findings in this analysis.

The writer applies the theory of character and characterization to answer the first analysis. From the analysis, first, the writer discovers that both Starr and Maverick’s characteristics can be seen through their characteristics in relation to their African American identity and also their characteristics as an individual. The most noticeable physical characteristic from Starr and Maverick is their skin color, which shows that they are African Americans. Another characteristic that shows Starr and Maverick’s characteristics as African American is the use of African American Vernacular English (AAVE). AAVE is a variety of speech that is commonly used by African Americans. The writer also found Starr and Maverick’s characteristics as an individual. Starr Carter shows her insecurity with her high school friends because of their different social status. She is also reluctant to speak for Khalil’s justice because
she does not sure that it can bring justice for Khalil. However, she decides to be confident with herself and also to be brave to speak out for Khalil’s justice. It is revealed through her thoughts, conversation with others, direct comment, and character as seen by another. On the other hand, Maverick shows that he is an overprotective parent and a well-respected person in Garden Heights. He is also a wise and loving person. It is revealed through his speech, conversation with others, and character as seen by others.

In the second problem, the writer finds three types of racial discrimination experienced by Starr and Maverick Carter. The first is individual discrimination. The form of individual discrimination experienced by Starr and Maverick Carter is prejudice and harassment. The prejudice makes Starr have to pretend to be a different person in front of her high school friends. She also does not use AAVE when she talks with people outside of her community. The “ghetto” image that closely related to African Americans makes Starr feel insecure. However, Starr decides to be confident with herself and end the friendship with her racist friend. The prejudice of male African Americans as criminals or thugs also makes Maverick receives harassment from two police officers. Meanwhile, in reality, Maverick is a loving person and also well-respected in Garden Heights. It also makes Starr become reluctant to speak about Khalil’s case because she is afraid it might put her family in danger.

The second one is institutional discrimination. The institutional discrimination experienced by Starr and Maverick is the discrimination towards African Americans in
the criminal justice system. Therefore, decides to not stay silent and to be brave and fight for Khalil’s justice. The last type of discrimination that the writer finds in the novel is structural discrimination. Bias-based policing, the lack of opportunity for African Americans, and the injustice in the Grand Jury decisions are the structural discrimination experienced by Starr and Maverick Carter. Most of them live in poverty because of the lack of opportunity that society gives to African Americans. It makes them selling drugs in order to survive. Therefore, it creates the prejudice that African Americans are drug dealers and criminals. The prejudice of African Americans makes them become the victim of bias-based policing. The Grand Jury’s decision not to indict Brian Cruise shows that once again, the life of African Americans does not matter.

The last problem that the writer analyzes is about the struggle of African Americans against racial discrimination. Both Starr and Maverick Carter show their own struggle against racial discrimination. Maverick decides to work hard, so his family does not have to end up like most of the teenagers in Garden Heights who selling drugs to survive. Because of this, Maverick also tries to help kids in his neighborhood as much as he can. He also makes his children understand the racial discrimination that their people get from society. He teaches Starr and Seven about how to behave when a police officer stops and searches them based on bias-based policing. Furthermore, Maverick motivates Starr to fight for Khalil’s justice and reminds her that he always there to support Starr.
On the other hand, Starr decides to use her voice to fight against racial discrimination. She was once reluctant to speak because she was not ready and also because she saw her father harassed by two police officers. She was felt insecure with herself because of the prejudice of being an African American. However, she decides to be confident with herself and to be brave to fight against racial discrimination that her people get from society. She then helps an organization called Just Us for Justice to help bring justice for Khalil. After Grand Jury’s decision, Starr decides to join the protest for Khalil and becomes one of the speakers during the protest. Starr then makes a promise that she will never forget about Khalil, and she will keep using her voice to fight against racial discrimination.
REFERENCES


APPENDIX

Summary of Angie Thomas’ The Hate U Give

The story begins when Starr Carter, a sixteen-year-old African American teenage girl, attends a party in Garden Heights with her childhood friend, Kenya. At the party, Starr Carter meets her childhood friend, Khalil, who used to work at her father’s store. However, the party turns into chaos when someone gets shot. Both Starr and Khalil run from the party together, and Khalil offers to drive Starr home.

On their way home, a police officer named Brian Cruise, with a badge number one-fifteen, pulls them over. The officer demands Khalil to get out of the car and searches him. When Khalil makes a sudden move to ask if Starr is okay, the officer immediately shoots, and it kills him.

The image of her dead friend and the terror that Starr feels when Officer Brian points his gun on her, traumatized her. Before this happened, Starr knows how to separate her two worlds: Williamson Starr and Garden Heights Starr. However, her two worlds are shattered. Khalil’s case becomes national headline news with the title “Suspected Drug Dealer,” and Starr is in the state of not sure whether she should speak out or remain silent.

Soon after that, protests erupt in Garden Heights in Khalil’s name. People demand the authorities to put Officer Brian in jail. Starr also decides to be a witness and gives a statement during the interrogation. However, she soon realizes that the
investigation is not going to give justice to Khalil. Starr notices that she cannot stay silent, and she has to be brave to speak out for Khalil.

Starr then meets April Ofrah, a lawyer who works for an organization called Just Us for Justice. Ofrah offers to be Starr’s lawyer for free and promise that she will make Starr’s voice be heard. Ofrah manages to get an interview for Starr with a major television network. Through this interview, Starr gives her story of the Khalil she knew and calls out the racial discrimination that African Americans tend to get from the police.

Starr also decides to testify in front of the Grand Jury. Ten weeks later, the Grand Jury decides not to indict Officer Brian. The protests then erupt in Garden Heights. This time, Starr decides to join the protest and use her voice to be one of the speakers at the protest.

The peace protest turns into chaos when the police use tear-gas and force to disperse the crowd. During the chaos, some African Americans-owned businesses in Garden Heights burned down, including Starr’s father store. Starr realizes that it is easy to tear down buildings and brick, but it is hard to tear down a movement. Starr remembers all of the African Americans who get killed by racial profiling and then promises to use her voice for fighting against racial discrimination.