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Author's Correspondence

E-mail: aspingpong900@gmail.com



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**English Education Department
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Address:

Jl. Sultan Dayanu Ikhsanuddin No. 124
Baubau, post code 93724
Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

AN ANALYSIS OF SOCIAL CONFLICT BETWEEN BLACK AND WHITE SKIN IN NOVEL 'THE HELP' WRITTEN BY KATHRYN STOCKETT

**Asrida¹⁾, Waode Hanafiah²⁾, Nur
Melansari³⁾**

¹⁾ Student, ^{2&3)} Lecturers of English Education
Department, Universitas Dayanu Ikhsanuddin
Jl. Sultan Dayanu Ikhsanuddin No. 124
Baubau, Southeast Sulawesi, Indonesia

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Abstract

The problem statements of the research were: 1) how is the social context of author reflected in novel *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; 2) how is the social life happened in the society reflected in novel *The Help*; 3) how is the social function of novel *The Help*. The research used descriptive qualitative method by applying sociology of literature approach. The technique of data collecting used note and read techniques. The results showed that there are some conflicts happened in novel *The Help*: 1) the context of author explained about how black maid was discriminated against by white people in Mississippi. Many kinds of discrimination towards black maids like quote in the novel said that white people assume that blacks were a disease. One of the losers was black and he became depressed because white behavior was very brutal; 2) the social life reflected in society explained about condition in Jackson, Mississippi when black maids felt uncomfortable and treated unfairly with their social life; 3) social function explained about the role of the government. In this case, the government has failed because indirectly they support white people. In Mississippi they did not have black government because they did not need blacks to participate in politics.

Keywords: black and white people, racial discrimination, social conflict

Abstrak

Rumusan masalah penelitian ini adalah: 1) bagaimana konteks sosial penulis yang tercermin

dalam novel *The Help* oleh Kathryn Stockett; 2) bagaimana kehidupan sosial yang terjadi dalam masyarakat yang tercermin dalam novel *The Help*; 3) bagaimana fungsi sosial novel *The Help*. Penelitian ini menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif dengan menerapkan pendekatan sosiologi sastra. Teknik pengumpulan data menggunakan catatan dan teknik membaca. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa ada beberapa konflik yang terjadi di novel *The Help*: 1) konteks penulis menjelaskan tentang bagaimana pembantu yang berkulit hitam mendapatkan diskriminasi dari orang berkulit putih di Mississippi. Banyak bentuk diskriminasi terhadap pembantu berkulit hitam seperti kutipan dalam novel ini mengatakan bahwa orang kulit putih menganggap bahwa orang kulit hitam adalah penyakit. Salah satu yang kalah adalah orang kulit hitam dan mereka menjadi depresi karena perilaku orang kulit putih sangat brutal; 2) kehidupan sosial yang tercermin dalam masyarakat menjelaskan tentang kondisi di Jackson, Mississippi ketika pembantu kulit hitam merasa tidak nyaman dan diperlakukan tidak adil dalam kehidupan sosial mereka; 3) fungsi sosial menjelaskan tentang peran pemerintah. Dalam hal ini, pemerintah telah gagal karena secara tidak langsung mereka mendukung orang kulit putih. Di Mississippi tidak ada pemerintah yang berkulit hitam karena mereka tidak ingin orang berkulit hitam ikut dalam politik.

Kata kunci: orang berkulit hitam dan putih, diskriminasi rasial, konflik sosial

1. INTRODUCTION

Studying literature is very important. It can improve knowledge and understand the world. Through literature, it gives us way to communicate with people who are different from us, presents human nature, experiences and give us lesson about solving problem. According to Damono [1] literature is overflow or realization of feeling and the author's experiences. It means that literature is taken from human daily life, whether it is based on the author or other people's experiences. Thus, we will know more literature through literary works.

Literary work can be defined as a branch of literature dealing with writing as a material to create an idea or a story in a meaningful pattern. Literary works are written based on the background of social

experience and social reality. According to Eagleton [2] understanding a literary work means that to understand the total of social process which is part of the literary work. It means that it can show the reflection of social life for instance social structure, social relationship, social class and other social movement. Thus, types of literary works are poetry, drama, short stories and novel.

Novel as a literary work has known since eighteenth century in England. According to Tarigan [3] explains the novel is a story with a long enough path to fill one or more books, which explicitly illustrates the life story of men and women. The stories like novel always have character, thus the characters do interaction each other to develop the plot. Characters are as the subject and also the object of the plot. Through the novel, the researcher knows what happened in the past and learn from it.

Novel 'The help' written by Kathryn Stockett describes about the life of African American maids working in white household in Jackson, Mississippi during the 1960s. It is written in several narrators of two African American maids named Aibileen Clark and Minny Jackson and one white American woman named Eugenia Skeeter Phelan. Three main characters are trying to write a book entitled 'Help' which contain the real experiences of the African American working as maid for white families, involving several maids in Jackson, Mississippi. Thus, with conditions in America at the time, writing a book like that is very dangerous action. Since they realize that their actions are against the law, they change all the names of the maids involved in the book and publish it anonymously.

It is interesting to analyze this novel because it is a year perched on top of the list of bestseller Los Angeles Times, circulating in more than 30 countries and certainly adapted into a movie. In addition, it describes about racial discrimination between blacks and whites. Discrimination is one of the biggest social conflicts in the world. When discrimination happens, conflicts will continue.

Conflict always happens in every kind of life that is hard to prevent. It could be cultural, conflict, values conflict, religious

conflict, social conflict and the like. Social conflict is struggle over values or claims to status, power, and scarce resources, in which the aims of the conflict groups are not only to gain the desired values, but also to neutralize, injure, or eliminate rivals [4].

Social conflict was chosen as the topic because social conflict is a problem that occurs in real life. Through this novel, it can teach readers that the rights of all human beings are the same regardless of language, race, and culture differences.

Based on the explanation, novel *The Help* narrates the social conflict that often happen in a real life. It is assumed that social conflict has power to affect human behavior, way of thinking, attitude, and their relationships with other character. Thus, the study aims at: (1) explaining the social context of the author reflected in novel *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett; (2) exploring the social conflict happened in the society reflected in novel *The Help*; and (3) investigating the social function of novel *The Help*.

2. METHOD OF THE RESEARCH

2.1 Design of The Research

Based on the research, the researcher used descriptive qualitative method in this research. The writer used descriptive qualitative method in order to describe and explain what have been interpreted from the object of the research. The qualitative descriptive method is used to analyze the form of description, not a number or coefficient of relationship between variables [5]. Then, the research decided to employ the method in this study because it required her to describe something, determine existing conditions and analyze the research findings without drawing a generalized conclusion from them [6].

2.2 Source of the Data

The data of this research consisted of two, primary and secondary data. The primary data of this research was *The Help* novel by Kathryn Stockett. The novel was published in 2009 by G.P. Putnam's Sons a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc. It consists of 34 chapters and 451 pages. Moreover, the researcher also took the secondary data from

some books, journals, articles and internet sources which has related with the data.

2.3 Data Collection

In this research, it used note and read technique to collect the data.

1. Read technique

In reading technique, the researcher read and understood carefully the content of novel *The Help* written by Kathryn Stockett. In addition the researcher also read some literature which related with research problem.

2. Note Technique

In note technique, the researcher wrote events and quotes in the novel *The Help* written by Kathryn Stockett which related with research problem.

2.4 Data analysis

In the technique of data analysis, the researcher used sociology of literature approach by Ian Watt to analyze the data. Sociology of literature approach used to describe of social conflict in the novel. The data analyze in this research involved the following procedures, they were:

1. Reading and understanding the novel. In this step, the researcher read carefully and tried to understand the content of story.
2. Identifying the social conflict of novel.
3. Choosing and selecting the data dealing with each problem of this research.
4. Classifying data based on the specifications of each problem of this research.
5. Analyzing data based on the data classification
6. Making conclusion.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Result

It was found that racial discrimination as a social conflict happened between black and white skins in novel *The Help* as showed in the table.

Table 1. Data Cards of Social Conflict between Black and White Skin in Novel *The Help*

No	Kinds of Social Conflict	Data	Page
1	Racial discrimination	Used of a separate toilet with white skin	7,8,9,11,28,38,95,101, 103
		Black skin was a disease	8,24,95,96,99,158
		Black people lived in suburban areas	12
		Used different food equipment with white skin.	39
		Whites should not married blacks	66
		Blacks cannot participated in political voting	103
		Blacks did not have social security.	128
		Whites should not go to black houses unless they deliver their servants to go home.	145
		Separation of white and black hospitals	151,153,173
		Separation of white and black libraries	154
		Old clothes were given to blacks.	157
		Blacks limitations in issuing opinions.	164,239,255
		Segregation law (separate but equal)	183,185,197
		White brutality against blacks	153,193,194,195,239,366
		Sexual abused by white men against black women.	258
		Charges of stealing against blacks	21,338,441
White books should not be used by blacks	173		

	Black women abandon their children because they work in white houses.	358,360
	The mention of the word "negro" for blacks/ speak harshly	7,96,99,186,421,422,427.428

Thus, the researcher focused about analysis of racial discrimination between black and white skin in novel *The Help* using Ian Watt approach. That was consisted of three parts. The first part was analysis of social context of author reflected in novel *The Help*. The second part was analysis of social conflict in the society, and the last part was analysis of social function in novel *The Help*.

3.1.1 Social Context of Author

Social context of author is social position of author and relation to the reader and also social factors which can affect the author as an individual beside the contents of literary work. Social context of author related with social position and the social influenced of literary creation. In this case, research can observed: (a) how the author gets the livelihood, (b) the extent to which the author considers his work as a profession and (c) what community is intended by the author.

In novel 'The Help' written by Kathryn Stockett, she was very smart at making different characters and also created stories in each character. Stockett showed that Aibileen is a black maid was discriminated against by white skin. As in the quote below:

1) I want to yell so loud that Baby Girl can hear me that dirty ain't a color, disease ain't the Negro side a town. (Stockett, 2009: 96)

The above quote explained that blacks are a disease. She was very frustrated when she was considered disease by whites.

When Kathryn Stockett wrote this novel based on the condition of the community in Mississippi. She gave us awareness that racial discrimination is a universal problem that occurs in almost every country. One of the losers was black and they become depressed

because of White's behavior is very brutally shown in this quote:

- 2) Things ain't never gone change in this town, Aibileen. We living in hell, we trapped. Our kids is trapped. (Stockett, 2009: 196)

From the quote above, they were very depressed with their social life because whites were very racist. Their lives were very uncomfortable making them like hell.

Whites in Mississippi, South America made rules. 'Separate but equal' is the term white rules for blacks. But the reality is that blacks were the losers, for example white public facilities better than blacks. White killings received protection from the police. The oppressed life of blacks and will continue to be white "slaves". The problem of racial discrimination is one part of a large social conflict that always occurs in society and it is explained through the novel.

Kathryn was very imaginative in creating her novel. When she wrote his novel, she was inspired by the side of her childhood life that was raised and cared for by black servants. In her novel, she was able to describe the point of view of white and black skin through different characters. Based on Kathryn Stockett's social life background, her position in the community is quite important.

Although in publishing her novel, rejection coming from various publishers made her almost desperate, but in the end her work was accepted by the community because of her struggle. The novel became a milestone in Stockett's writing career earning a tremendous praise for writing on a unique subject matter. Over ten million copies of the book have been sold in over 42 different languages. In 2011, the novel was adapted into film by Walt Disney Studios. As a writer and editor, she dedicates herself to the world of literacy and considers his work to be his livelihood.

As members of the community who write literary works, the author cannot ignore the intended community. Watt in Damono [7] explained how an author gets his livelihood, did she get it from patron or from the community directly. Then, what is the social position in the community and also whether a writer has an important social position and

role. In relation to the community, Wellek and Warren [8] explained that the writer influence and be influenced by society. Art (literature) not only imitates life but also shapes it. The writer who have an important position in society have influence on the content of literary works and acceptance of literary works produced for the community.

3.1.2 Social Conflict Reflected in Society

Literature is not intended to describe the community and may still be used as material to get information about certain communities. Thus, the social view of author can be considered if the literary researcher is a reflection of society. Literary work is born in the community as a result of the imagination of the author and reflection on the social phenomena. The presence of literary works is part of people's lives. The author as an individual object tries to produce his worldview to his collective object. Combining individual objects with social reality shows that a literary work originates from a particular community culture.

The author creates a novel based on expressive or impressive forms of aesthetic experience. Through aesthetic intercommunication, the author explains the problem of human life in her novel. There are several structures in novel forming, namely themes, characters and advices. Theme is the main idea that is expressed directly or indirectly in the novel. Character is a person or other being in the novel. The character may be entirely fictional or based on a real-life person, in which case the distinction of a "fictional" versus "real" character may be made. Advice is messages want to be handled by the reader in the novel.

Based on novel *The Help*, Kathryn adopted in this novel from the social life of black female servants. This novel explains the condition of the community when the novel was written. The characters show an unyielding attitude, as in the quote below:

- 3) Loud voices shout in the street and both our eyes dart toward the window. We are quite, stock still. What would happen if someone white found out I was here on a Saturday night talking to Aibileen in regular clothes? Would they call the police, to report a suspicious

meeting? I'm suddenly sure they would. We did be arrested because that is what they do. They charge us with integration violation-I read about it n the paper all the time-they despise the whites that meet the coloreds to help with the civil right movement.(Stockett, 2009: 145)

The quote above showed that the Skeeter went to the black territory trying to fight her fear to do a secret project. She broke the law that whites should not meet blacks secretly. Black and white interaction is limited by racial law made by the government.

In novel written by Stockett, the help is a unique title. The help has meaning about the lives of black servants who work in white houses. The author adopted the theme of black maids who were discriminated against from their employers. The author explained about life of three different characters. Aibiilen and Minny are black women who work as servants while Skeeter is a white woman. Kathryn described about reality of the life of the black people in Mississippi who were treated unfairly by whites. The author explains about social conflicts experienced by characters that they want equal rights regardless of skin color.

Set in Jackson, Mississippi she took the background of the conditions of the people there to support his story about black servants who wanted to change the situation to achieve the same rights. The topic that describes novel the help is the comfortable social life at Mississippi should be guaranteed by the government regardless of religion, ethnicity and skin color. The author explained about the conflict of life of the characters in detail.

4) I'm used to working for young couples, but I spec this is the smallest house I ever worked in. It's Just the one story. Her and Mister Leefolt's room in the back be a fair size, but Baby girl's room be tiny. The dining room and the regular living room kind a join up. Only two bathrooms, which is a relief cause I worked in houses where they was five or six. Take a whole day just to clean toilets, Miss Leefolt don't pay but ninety-five cents an hour, less than I been paid in years. (Stockett, 2009: 3)

5) That evening, it's raining hard outside. I pull out a jar a Ida Peek's cabbage and tomato, eat my last slice a leftover cornbread. Then I set down to look over my finances cause two things done happen: the bus gone up to fifteen cents a ride and my rent gone up to twenty-nine dollars a month. I work for Miss Leefolt eight to four, six days a week except Saturday. I get paid forty-three dollars ever Friday, which come \$172 month. That means after I pay the light bill, the water bill, the gas bill and the telephone bill, I got thirteen dollars and fifty cents a week left for my groceries, my clothes, getting my hair done, and tithing to the church. Not to mention the cost to mail these bill done gone up to a nickel. And my work shoes is so thin, they look like they starving to death. New pair cost seven dollars though, which means I'm on be eating cabbage and tomato till I turn into Br'er Rabbit. Thank the Lord for Ida Peek, else I be eating nothing. (Stockett, 2009: 16)

6) A cat get to screeching outside and bring me back my cold kitchen. I turn the radio off and the light back on, fish my prayer book out my purse. My prayer book is just a blue notepad I pick up at the Ben Franklin store. I use a pencil so I can erase till I get it right. I been writing my prayers since I was in junior high. When I tell my seventh-grade teacher I ain't coming back to school cause I got to help out my mama., Miss Ross just about cried. (Stockett, 2009: 22)

7) I already had the rope tied when Minny found it. The coil was Treelore's, from back when he doing a science project with pulleys and rings. I don't know if I's gone use it, knowing it's a sin against God, but I wasn't in my right mind. Minny, throught she don't ask no question about it, just pull it out from under the bed, put it in the can, take it to the street. When she come back in, she brush her hand together like she cleaning things up as usual. She all business, that Minny. But now, she

sound bad. I got a mind to check under her bed tonight. (Stockett, 2009: 28)

The above quotes explained that Aibileen is someone who has economic and educational problems. She tried to commit suicide before because of losing his son.

The next quotes about social problem of Minny became the main character in the novel *The Help*.

8) I was about to quit school and start my first real job. Mama wanted me to say on and go to ninth grade-she'd always wanted to be a school teacher instead of working in Miss Woodra's house. But with my sister's heart problem and my no-good drunk daddy, it was up to me and Mama. I already knew about housework. After school, I did most of the cooking and the cleaning. But if I was going off to work in somebody else's house, who'd be looking after ours? (Stockett, 2009: 38)

9) I'm standing in Miss Celia's kitchen thinking about last night, what with Kindra and her mouth, Benny and his asthma, my husband Leroy coming home drunk two times last week. He knows that's the one thing I can't stand after nursing my drunk daddy for ten years, me and Mama working ourselves to death so he had a full bottle. (Stockett, 2009: 51)

The above quotes explained that Minny also have social problems in her live. Her husband was a drunk, her son have asthma so she worked hard to meet household needs. She dropped out of school just like her friend, Aibileen because her parents did not have money.

Then, about Skeeter figure. She is one of white woman who is not racist. She is very different from his friends who discriminate against blacks. She also has social conflict as show in the quotes:

10) I'm shaking, I'm mad. I pound my way up the stairs. I sit at my type writer, stunned that my mother could cast off someone who'd done her the biggest favor of her life, raise her children, teach me kindness and self respect. I stare across my room at the rose

wallpaper, the eyelet curtains, the yellowing photographs so familiar they are nearly contemptible. Constantine worked for our family for twenty-nine years. (Stockett, 2009: 81)

11) It was almost four months ago that the door was sealed shut between Hilly and me, a door made of ice so thick it would take a hundred Mississippi summer to melt it. It's not as if I hadn't expected consequences. I just hadn't thought they'd last so long. Hilly's voice over the phone was gravely sounding, low like she'd been yelling all morning. "You are sick," she hissed at me. "Do not speak to me, do not look at me. Do not say hello to my children." (Stockett, 2009: 345)

According above quotes, Skeeter was very disappointed with his mother for expelling the servant who raised her. She was also hated by her best friend for siding with blacks.

The next is an explanation of racial discrimination. Racial discrimination is the belief in the superiority of one race over another, which often results in discrimination, prejudice, unfair treatment or bias against someone or a group of people on the basis of their race. As in the quote below:

12) Hilly Holbrook introduces the Home Help Sanitation Initiative. A disease preventative measure. Low-cost bathroom installation in your garage or shed, for homes without such an important fixture. Ladies, did you know that:

- 99% of all colored diseases are carried in the urine
- Whites can become permanently disabled by nearly all of these diseases because we lack immunities coloreds carry in their darker pigmentation
- Some germs carried by whites can also be harmful to coloreds too protect yourself. Protect your children. Protect your help. From the Holbrooks, we say, you are welcome! (Stockett, 2009: 158)

The above quote was an illustration of racial discrimination by whites against blacks. Whites made the rule that blacks are a disease. Then, subsequent citations are descriptions of other racial discrimination. White brutality and cruelty towards blacks is only because blacks use white toilets, which are explained in the following two quotations.

- 13) Use the white bathroom at Pinchman Lawn and Garden. Say they was not sign up saying so. Two white men's chased him and beat with a tire iron (Stockett, 2009: 101)
- 14) I just stare at her. Is she crazy? "Did you hear about the colored boy this morning? One they beat with a tire iron for accidentally using the white bathroom?" (Stockett, 2009: 103)
- 15) Minny's hands is fists. She gritting her teeth. "Shot him right in front a his children, Aibileen." (Stockett, 2009: 195)

The next quotations about violence carried out by white people because blacks issue opinions.

- 16) "My husband cousin... they took her tongue out. A while back it was. For talking to some Washington people about klan" (Stockett, 2009: 255)
- 17) The board shall maintain a separate building on separate grounds for the instruction of all blind persons of the colored race. (Stockett, 2009:173)
- 18) "Medgar Evers, the NAACP officer who live five minutes away, they blew up his carport last night. For *talking*. (Stockett, 2009: 164)

The bellow quote is another form of discrimination. Separation of white and black public facilities.

- 19) No person shall require any white female to nurse in wards or rooms in which negro men are placed. It shall be unlawful for a white person to marry anyone expect a white person. Any marriage in violation of this section shall be void. No colored barber shall serve as a barber to white women or girls. The officer in charge shall not bury any colored persons upon ground used for the burial of white persons.

Books shall not be interchangeable between the white and color schools, but shall continue to be used by the race first using them. (Stockett, 2009: 173)

- 20) I read through four of the twenty-five pages mesmerized by how many laws exist to separate us. Negroes and white are not allowed to share water fountains, movie houses, public rest rooms, ballparks, phone booths, circus show. Negroes cannot use the same pharmacy or buy postages stamps at the same window as me. I think about Constantine, the time my family took her to Memphis with us and the highway had mostly washed out, but we had to drive straight on through because we knew the hotels would not let her in. (Stockett, 2009: 173)

The next example of discrimination is the harsh words of white employers against blacks in the quotes:

- 21) "But *Aibileen*-Miss Hilly smile real cold- "colored people and white people are just so.... Different." She wrinkle up her nose. (Stockett, 2009: 186)
- 22) She staring at my face. I have to look down. I can feel the hot secret between us. "Get me a new plate. One you have not soiled with your dirty cloth." (Stockett, 2009: 428)
- 23) Nobody would believe something you wrote, *Nigra*" (Stockett, 2009: 442)

The discrimination that whites do to black female servants is the separation of toilets shown in the following quote:

- 24) "But, the guest bathroom's where the help goes" Miss Hilly say. Nobody says anything for a second. Then, Miss Walter nod, like she explaining it all. "She's upset cause the *Nigra* uses the inside bathroom and so do we." (Stockett, 2009: 7)
- 25) This talk ain't news to me. Everywhere in town they got a colored bathroom, and most the houses do too. (Stockett, 2009: 8)
- 26) "A bill that requires every white home to have a separate bathroom for the

colour help. I have even notified the surgeon general of Mississippi to see if he will endorse the idea.” (Stockett, 2009:9)

- 27) After while, Miss Leefolt huff and go out to the carport. I figure she looking at where she gone build me my new colored bathroom. (Stockett, 2009: 11)
- 28) She smiling big now. She don’t have no teeth showing, just a lip smile, kind you got to watch. “Mister Leefolt and I have decided to build you your very own bathroom.” She clap her hands together, drop her chin at me. It’s right out there in the garage.” “So, you will use that one in the garage now, you understand?” (Stockett, 2009:28)
- 29) “Rule Number Two: Do not you *ever* let that White Lady find you sitting on her toilet. I do not care if you have got to go so bad it’s coming out of your hair braids. If there is not one out back for the help, you find yourself a time when she is not there in bathroom she doesn’t use. (Stockett, 2009: 38)
- 30) “Nobody wants to sit down on a toilet seat they have to share with them.” (Stockett, 2009: 185)

The next quote is discrimination by whites because blacks participate in voting.

- 31) “And my cousin Shinelle in Cauter Country? They burn up her car cause she went down to the voting station.” (Stockett, 2009: 103)

The next example of discrimination is the separation of white and black libraries where books in the white library are better than blacks like quote below:

- 32) “Go down to the state Library. They have a whole room full Southern writers. Faulkner, Eudora Welty_” Aibileen gives me a dry cough. “You know colored folks ain’t allowed in that library. I can believe I forgot that. The colored library must be pretty bad. There was a sit-in at the white library a few years ago and it made the papers. When the colored crowd showed up for the sit-in trial, the police department simply stepped back and

turned the German shepherds loose. (Stockett, 2009: 154)

Kathryn explained that racism is a problem that occurs in every country. Racial discrimination is a big social problem that harms others. Discrimination makes them frustrated and depressed, as shown in the previous quote when black servants feel like they are in hell. Kathryn Stockett wrote her novel set in Mississippi. The city was famous because white racism towards blacks in the 1960s.

3.1.3 Social Function

The social function of literature is how far literary values relate to social values. In this connection there are three things that must be considered. (1) the extreme point of view of the Romans who considers literature to be the work of a priest or prophet. Therefore, literature must function as a reformer, (2) literature as an entertainer, and (3) literature must teach something through entertaining.

Criticism can be expressed directly to the authorities by sending a letter, demonstrations, speeches, interviews, social media, e-mail and other media. In the present era, everyone is free to express their aspirations and criticisms to the government. It different time when the novel was created, when viewed from the condition of Mississippi when the novel was written in 2009, period of Civil Rights Movement in 1955-1970. The Civil Rights Movement in the American South during the 1950s and 1960s involved a diverse group of people.

The movement sought legal enforcement of equality for African Americans that was guaranteed by the U. S. Constitution. At various points between 1954 and 1970, participants in the movement represented all strata of American life. In the years 1963civil rights activists and hard-line segregationists battled like never before, much of the violence directed at African Americans (and their white allies) in Mississippi was organized by the Ku Klux Klan. The racial terrorism ranged from cross-burnings and church-bombings to beatings and murder. In the summer of 1964 alone, Mississippi journalist Jerry Mitchell reports that Klansmen had killed six [people], shot 35

others and beaten another 80. The homes, businesses and churches of 68 Mississippians associated with the civil rights movement were firebombed. Despite these horrific figures, the civil rights movement scored important victories in the mid- and late-1960s. Congress passed the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Acts, which, over time, increased the political power of African Americans in Mississippi. However virulent white opposition was, whites could not defy anti-segregation laws forever. Some accommodation was required. But the road to that accommodation in Mississippi was filled with blood.

Social conflict that occurred in Mississippi, made Kathryn wrote her novel as a form of criticism against whites that supported the law of segregation. Literary works written by Kathryn Stockett entitled *The Help* is a fiction novel that is different and interesting than other literary works. From the title, this novel has attracted the readers. This novel has a very interesting plot, so the reader enjoys the contents of the story. Kathryn used her creativity in creating a novel related to social problems that became reality in the city of Mississippi.

The novel created in 2009 has a theme social about racial. Kathryn created three different characters namely Aibileen, Minny and Skeeter which represented illustrations of people's lives. Aibileen and Minny are black servants who are discriminated against by white employers. Skeeter is a white woman who was different from her friends. She is not racist but she is naive and unwittingly patronizing. When her best friend made a political issue about black skin is a disease, she decided to write a book in which community's maid. This novel satirizes white behavior towards blacks. This novel also gives social criticism when it happens and still relevant to current conditions. Social criticism is a response or criticism of the conditions that happened in society as in the following quote:

33) Down the road from Belhaven is white Woodrow Wilson Hills, then Sherwood Forest, which is miles a big live oaks with the moss hanging down. Nobody living in yet, but it's there for when the white folks in ready to move

somewhere else new. Then it's the country, out where Miss Skeeter live on the Longleaf cotton plantation. She don't know it, but I picked cotton out there in 1931, during the Depression, when we didn't have nothing to eat but state cheese. (Stockett, 2009: 12)

From the quote above, the author criticizes the government's attitude that blacks do not get a good life like white people. The duty of the government should provide equal rights regardless of skin color. The government's obligation is to make all people get the same rights so that no party is harmed.

34) "The marches in Birmingham, Martin Luther King. Dogs attacking colored children. Darling, it's the hottest topic in the nation. But, I'm sorry, this is will never work. Not as an article, because no Southern newspaper would publish it. And certainly not as a book. A book of interviews never a sell". (Stockett, 2009: 107)

The quote above is demonstrations carried out by a group of blacks to demand unequal justice. A demonstration led by a black man named Martin Luther King. He is a famous figure until now because of his courage. His name has been recorded in Mississippi history.

35) For days and days, Jackson, Mississippi's like a pot a boiling water. On Miss Leefolt's tee-vee, flocks a colored people march up High Street the day after Mister Evers' funeral. There hundred arrested. Colored paper say thousands a people came to the service, but you could count the whites on one hand. The police know who did it, but they ain't telling nobody his name (Stockett, 2009: 196)

The above quote is also the author's criticism of the government that failed because it cannot prosper the people. There is no justice for blacks so whites oppress blacks. The white killer was protected by the police so the black skin was furious with the action.

36) So, Jackson's just one white neighborhood after the next and more

springing up down the road. But the colored part a town, we one big anthill, surrounded by state land that ain't for sale. As our numbers get bigger, we an spread our. Our part a town just gets thicker. (Stockett, 2009: 12)

From the above quote, the author criticizes the government for not giving blacks a decent living environment.

37) I choke then. The tears roll down. It's all them white people that breaks me, standing around the colored neighborhood. White peoples with guns, pointed at colored peoples. Cause who gone protect our peoples? Ain't no colored policemen. (Stockett, 2009: 196)

The above quote responds to the powerlessness of blacks who feel frustrated by white behavior. Through this quote, the author wants to show the reader about the atrocities committed by whites.

3.2 Discussion

The social conflicts identified between black and white skins in novel "The Help" have been discussed in the previous section. The social context of author, social life reflected in the novel and social function were analyzed by using Ian Watt approach. Ian Watt was a literary critic, literary historian and professor of English at Stanford University. His *The Rise of the Novel: Studies in Defoe, Richardson and Fielding* [9] is an important work in the history of the genre. Published in 1957, *The Rise of the Novel* is considered by many contemporary literary scholars as the seminal work on the origins of the novel, and an important study of literary realism. The book traces the rise of the modern novel to philosophical, economic and social trends and conditions that become prominent in the early 18th century.

Ian watt [9] explained relation between the author, literary and society as follows (1) social context of author related with social position of author in the society and the reader. Social factors also affect the author as an individual others than literary work. (2) Literature as an example of society can to know as far as literature can reflected

condition of society when it wrote, personal description of author affects of social condition or fact want to delivered and literary using by the author can be represented in society. (3) Social function literature have function as transformer, literary as an entertainer and literary value related with social value [10].

Kathryn created three different characters namely Aibileen, Minny and Skeeter which represented illustrations of people's lives. Aibileen and Minny are black servants who are discriminated against by white employers. Skeeter is a white woman who was different from her friends. She is not racist but she is naive and unwittingly patronizing. When her best friend made a political issue about black skin is a disease, she decided to write a book in which community's maid. This novel satirizes white behavior towards blacks.

Kathryn was very imaginative in creating her novel. When she wrote his novel, she was inspired by the side of her childhood life that was raised and cared for by black servants. In her novel, she was able to describe the point of view of white and black skin through different characters. Based on Kathryn Stockett's social life background, her position in the community is quite important. Thus, criticism can be expressed directly to the authorities by sending a letter, demonstrations, speeches, interviews, social media, e-mail and other media. In the present era, everyone is free to express their aspirations and criticisms to the government. It is different when the novel was created, when it is viewed from the condition of Mississippi when the novel was written in 2009, period of Civil Rights Movement in 1955-1970. The Civil Rights Movement in the American South during the 1950s and 1960s involved a diverse group of people.

Overall, in terms of explicit or implied social criticisms, it can be said that this novel is an extraordinary literary work. The author is very careful in writing the social realities that happened and respond with her writing. In 1960, blacks are treated unfairly in Mississippi. The author teach that moral education from parent and teacher is very important to shape children's attitude toward people from different races and culture. The

topic is very unique because sometimes racial discrimination still exists in each country.

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4. CONCLUSION

It can be concluded that when Kathryn Stockett wrote this novel based on the condition of the community in Mississippi. She gave us awareness that racial discrimination is a universal problem that occurs in almost every country. Whites in Mississippi, South America made rules. 'Separate but equal' is the term white rules for blacks. But the reality is that blacks were the losers, for example white public facilities better than blacks. White killings received protection from the police. The oppressed life of blacks and will continue to be white "slaves". The problem of racial discrimination is one part of a large social conflict that always occurs in society and it is explained through the novel.

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