

**CHAPTER II**  
**REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**  
**AND RESEARCH METHOD**

In the second chapter, the writer will explain about the theory associated with the analysis. The writer uses comparative literature as a methodology in her research while historical approach is used as a research approach. Postcolonialism theory and Cinematography elements are also used as a theory to guide the writer study the issue more.

**2.1 Comparative Literature**

In his book, Remak (1961, page 3) defines Complit as follows:

"Comparative literature is the study of literature beyond the confines of one particular country, and the study of the relationships between literature on the one hand and other areas of knowledge and belief, such as the arts (eg, painting, sculpture, architecture, music), philosophy, history, the social sciences (eg, politics, economics, sociology), the sciences, religion, etc., on the other. In brief, it is the comparison of one literature with another or others, and the comparison of literature with other spheres of human expression. "

Comparative literature is very wide theory which explores many areas of knowledge and belief with other spheres of human expression. People can compare literary works in form of painting, sculpture, architecture and also music.

Social science can also be compared, for example, politics, economy and sociology. The point is, comparative literature is the comparison of literature with all spheres of human expression.

In this thesis, the writer is going to compare two kinds of literary works and study about the relationships between the history and social science especially in sociology aspect to see the differentiation and similarity in *The Help* and *The Blind Side*. Comparative literature here served as a method used by the writer to analyze the problem of studies. Comparative literature known as Complit is also a critical scholarship which arose in German and French around 19th century and developed in USA with many universities having complit program as mention by Hermingrum (2011, p.7):

"Comparative literature or Comp.Lit (Complit) is critical scholarship dealing with several different languages and Literatures. Comparative literature is the study of literature and other cultural expressions across linguistic and cultural boundaries....Comparative literature is an intellectual field arose in German and French 19th century and more now in the USA with many universities having departments of comparative literature or comparative literature program. Had many literary field and deals with relationships, similarities and distinction among different countries. Comparative literature will strongly facilitate the student to apply and interdisciplinatory cross-cultural study of literature".

Understanding both definitions above, it is clear that by comparing two literary works its means using comparative literature studies. The writer uses comparative literature as a method to solve the problem that will be analyzed in this research. The writer will compare movies entitled *The Help* and *The Blind Side*.

## 2.2 Historical Approach

In examining the two literary works in the form of movies, the writer uses historical approach. The collection of data through historical settings contained in the movie will be studied. Based on *A Short Guide to Writing about Film* (2007, page 83-84) historical approach is one of the most widely used methods in movie criticism which might explore some relationship, such as: the historical relationships of the movie, the relationship of movie conditions of production and also the relationship of movies to the reception.

Here the writer used historical approach to explore more about the historical setting in the movie because the writer used two movies with different time setting. That is why it is important to use historical approach in order to know the background of the history in that time. Especially around 1960 and 2000 in America.

## 2.3 Postcolonialism Theory

The definition about Postcolonialism theory was explained by Ashcroft, Griffiths, and Tiffin (2000, page 2) :

“Post-colonial theory involves discussion about experience of various kinds: migration, slavery, suppression, resistance, representation, difference, race, gender, place, and responses to the influential master discourses of imperial Europe such as history, philosophy and linguistics, and the fundamental experiences of speaking and writing by which all these come into being.”

Postcolonialism theory is very wide theory which not only discuss about many experience but also the influence of imperial Europe to many aspect such as history, philosophy, linguistics and fundamental experiences. The writer here tries

to discuss the issues related to this theory. The movies to be analyzed are about the experiences of the main character, such as migration, slavery, suppression, resistance, representation, difference, race, gender, place, and responses to the influential and there above will be the part of the writer's studies.

Postcolonialism theory not only discusses literary studies after or before colonization but also discuss on everything associated with colonialism. This was confirmed by a statement from Bill Ashcroft, et al, in his book *The Empire Writes Back* (1989. p. 2) "We use the term 'post-colonial', however, to cover all the culture affected by the imperial process from the moment of colonization to the present day."

It can be concluded that post-colonial theory is a theory which studies the condition of the state after colonization. Postcolonial theory represents the condition around the 18<sup>th</sup> century until the 19<sup>th</sup> century. This theory gives attention to the indigenous culture oppressed by the colonial; it is also related to the representation theory of race, ethnicity and nation-state formation.

This theory is used as a reference for the writer in reviewing the problem of studies. There are forms of social deviance such racial prejudice accepted by black people as Aibileen and Big Mike in the movies *The Help* and *The Blind Side*.

Various forms of social deviance portrayed in the movie include racial prejudice, which will be explained later.

## 2.4 Racial Prejudice

Although, prejudice is natural in human being. However human are not born with that stuff. Prejudice is creates by our environment. Prejudice denies individual human dignity and breaks the fundamental unity among people. Allport (1954, p.9) defines prejudice as a hostile attitude or feeling toward person because he or she belongs to a group. This hostile attitude means a judgment that resists facts and ignores the truth and honesty. Prejudice creates from a false sense of identity and makes a person discriminate each other to make theirself more powerful and stereotyping for individual or group. Prejudice seems like poison in relationship for our society.

According to a psychologist Allport (para. 4), "The human mind must think with the aid of categories". Human mind can make human senses their world and the categories are the basis for normal prejudgment. This categorization process can sort people into many kind of groups based on some factors. For example: sex, race and age.

Prejudice happens naturally in society. According to Allport (1954, p.9) : prejudice can be defined using a unipolar (negative) component, as in "thinking ill of others without sufficient warrant," From that definition the writer can conclude that prejudice is a feeling or thinking ill of others without sufficient warrant. The writer highlight the "ill of other" it is mostly lead to negative sense to person.

Allport (1954, p.14) presented a five-phase model of "acting out prejudice" or known as model of prejudice expressions. The five phases or levels

are named *antilocution*, *avoidance*, *discrimination*, *physical attack*, and *extermination*.

1. Antilocution/Spoken Abuse: is the mildest form of prejudice and is characterized by prejudicial talk among like-minded individuals and the occasional stranger.
2. Avoidance: occurs when the individual moves beyond just talking about certain groups to conscious efforts to avoid individuals from these groups.
3. Discrimination or Legalized (Institutionalized) racism: the individual takes active steps to exclude or deny members of another group access to or participation in a desired activity. This leads to segregation also.
4. Physical attack or violence against people and property: Under tense and emotionally laden conditions, or even under peer pressure.
5. Extermination or genocide: involves the systematic and planned destruction of a group of people based on their group membership.

The writer will use racial prejudice theory and also some prejudice expressions divide by Allport to analyze the problem of study in this research.

Here the writer does not use all theories which are proposed by Allport, but only those which are presented in movies.

## 2.5 Cinematography Elements

According to Bordwell and Thompson (2008, page. 112) *mise-en-scene* is the term used to signify the director's control over what appears in the movie frame. It includes some aspect like: setting, lighting, costume, and the behavior of the figures.

Among thus elements of *mise-en-scene*, the researcher only uses element of setting to help her analysis, because Bordwell and Thompson (2008, page. 115) setting plays a more active role in cinema than it usually does in theater. Setting can reveal the characterization of characters.

## 2.6 Previous Studies

There are many previous studies that discuss the movie about blacks, especially African-American. Among them there are some that use the same research objects. They are *The Help* and *The Blind Side*. Although with the same object, the writer tries to continue a previous study with different theories and approaches. The writer found several studies that can be used as a reference in the writing of this study. Among the study is by Basuki (2012), entitled "*Black Woman in White Society Segregation in The Help*". The research discusses about the *Jim Crow Laws* of segregation that separates legal rights between blacks and whites depicted in the movie *The Help*. Basuki used historical approach and racism, stereotyping, prejudice, discrimination and the Civil Rights Movement to support his theory.

A second study used as a reference for the writer is entitled "*Racial Prejudice and Discrimination Against African-American in The Blind Side Movie*" conducted by Diana Puspitasari (2012). In her research she discusses how racial prejudice and discrimination against African-American is depicted in the movie *The Blind Side*. Diana uses racial prejudice theory and some supporting theories such as stereotyping, discrimination and cinematography element in her

research. From those two previous studies found by the writer, the writer tries to compare the two studies by using different theories and approaches through the Comparative Literature.

There is a study that also uses Comparative Literature, i.e., the research done by Candra Dewi Puspita (2011) with the title "*Holmes and Poirot's characterization In Doyle's Valley of Fear & Christie's The Murder of Roger Ackyod (A Comparative Study with Biographical Approach)*". In her research Candra discusses about differentiation between the two characters in two different novels using the theory of comparative literary and biographical approach.

From the three research references above, the writer tries to compare the two movies using Comparative Literature with different approach and theories from the previous studies. Using the theory of post colonialism but focus on Racial Prejudice which devide by Allport. Although Diana uses racial prejudice also, but the writer use different source of theory.

## 2.7 Research Method

### 1. Deciding the object of the study

By watching the movies about black people in certain times then the writer finds two kind of movies which capture about black African-American life in different times, they are *The Help* and *The Blind Side*. From both of the movies the writer tries to compare the main character of the movies. Then the writer decides to use Aibileen in *The Help* and Big Mike in *The Blind Side*.

## 2. Formulating the problem of study

After watching both movies the writer tries to formulate the problem based on the issues which is portrayed in both of the movies. The problem in this research is raising questions: How are the differences and similarities of racial prejudiced experienced by two main characters of the movies *The Help* and *The Blind Side* in 1960 and 2002?

## 3. Find the theory and approach related to the study

The movie is about the history of black African-American. The writer tries to find the theory and approach related to the study to solve the problem of studies. Here the writer uses post colonialism theory and additional theories to answer the problem of studies. The writer also uses historical approach to analyze deeper about condition in that time in order to support the theory itself.

## 4. Collecting the data

The writer used qualitative method by reading some books and browsing some data on the internet to collect data in the form of words, not number. In addition, the writer also uses cinematographic element to capture some picture in the movies in order to answer the problem of studies.

## 5. Answer the problem of study and analyze the data

The writer uses historical approach to analyze the condition in that time because both movies have different historical background. Then the writer analyzes both movies according to postcolonial theory focusing to answer the problem of study, which is about racial prejudice experienced by two main

characters of the movies *The Help* and *The Blind Side* in 1960 and 2002. After that, the writer compares differentiation and similarity from both of the movies with comparative studies and also answers the problem of the study.

#### 6. Drawing Conclusion

The writer concludes about all problems which will have been discussed in this research.

