

**THE STRUGGLE OF AFRICAN AMERICANS AGAINST RACIAL STEREOTYPES  
PORTRAYED IN ANGIE THOMAS'S *THE HATE U GIVE* (2017)**

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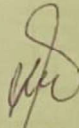
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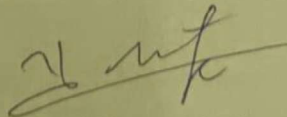


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## ABSTRACT

HAKIM, REYHAN. A, (2024). **The Struggle Of African American Against Racial Stereotypes Portrayed In Novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (2017)**. Padang: Department of Language and English Literature, Faculty of Languages, Literature and Arts, Universitas Negeri Padang.

This thesis focuses on *The Hate U Give* (2017), a novel written by an African American author Angie Thomas. The purpose of this study is to find out the types of racial stereotypes imposed on African American and how they struggle against it. This study uses racism theory by Camara Phyllis Jones in order to analyze the novel through the different levels of racism. The data were taken from the some words, phrases, sentences, and quotations from the novel. The method used in this study is the descriptive analysis with qualitative approach to attain a profound comprehension, and delve into social intricacies. In conducting analysis, Racism approach was applied. The result shows that stereotypes in the novel appear in the three different levels of racism. The study also shows that there are four characters whose struggles represents the African Americans to fight racism in four different fields such as politic, social, education, and institution.

**Key Words:** *African American, Black people, racism, discrimination, racial stereotypes,*

## ABSTRAK

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Tesis ini berfokus pada *The Hate U Give* (2017), sebuah novel yang ditulis oleh penulis berkebangsaan Afrika-Amerika, Angie Thomas. Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengetahui jenis-jenis stereotip rasial yang diberlakukan pada warga Afrika-Amerika dan bagaimana mereka berjuang melawannya. Penelitian ini menggunakan teori rasisme oleh Camara Phyllis Jones untuk menganalisis novel tersebut melalui tingkatan rasisme yang berbeda. Data diambil dari beberapa kata, frasa, kalimat, dan kutipan dari novel tersebut. Metode yang digunakan dalam penelitian ini adalah analisis deskriptif dengan pendekatan kualitatif untuk memperoleh pemahaman yang mendalam, dan menyelami kompleksitas sosial. Dalam melakukan analisis, pendekatan Rasisme diterapkan. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa stereotip dalam novel muncul dalam tiga tingkatan rasisme yang berbeda. Penelitian ini juga menunjukkan bahwa ada empat karakter yang perjuangannya mencerminkan perjuangan warga Afrika-Amerika melawan rasisme dalam empat bidang berbeda, seperti politik, sosial, pendidikan, dan institusi.

**Kata Kunci:** *Afrika Amerika, Orang Kulit Hitam, Rasisme, Discriminasi, Stereotip Rasis,*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Background of the Research.....	1
1.2 Focus of the Problem.....	6
1.3 Research Question.....	7
1.4 Purpose of the Research.....	7
CHAPTER II REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE.....	8
2.1 Review of Related Studies.....	8
2.1.1 Racism Theory.....	8
2.1.2 Racial Stereotypes.....	11
2.2 Struggles Against Racial Stereotypes.....	12
2.3 Previous Research.....	15
2.4 Conceptual Framework.....	17
CHAPTER III RESEARCH METHOD.....	18
3.1 Data and Source of Data.....	18
3.2 Technique of Data Analysis.....	18
CHAPTER IV DISCUSSION.....	21
4.1 Racial Stereotypes Imposed on African American.....	21
4.2 African American Struggle Against the Stereotypes Imposed on Them.....	37
CHAPTER V CONCLUSION & SUGGESTION.....	50
5.1 Conclusion.....	50
5.2 Suggestion.....	52
BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	53



## CHAPTER I

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Research

America is a vast and diverse nation, many ethnicities exist together, and those are such as European, Asian, African, and other backgrounds. This cultural richness boosted America to become a global superpower, built by diverse people and traditions. However, behind this great success lies a big issue that tainted the nation's image racism. Racism is a phenomenon that involves discriminatory behavior, prejudice practices, and institutional practices that systematically disadvantage a certain group or ethnicity (Allport, 1954:24).

Racism can also be defined as a belief based on the biological or physical characteristics of an ethnic or a group of people that determine their cultural achievements and it results in a race considered superior to the other often resulting in them being dominated by the superior. The issue of racism has happened over and over throughout history even in modern American society. Despite their progress and achievement, racism remains, it is solidified not only through systemic mechanisms but also by the ideologies of white supremacy.

Racism towards African Americans is an important issue in America and this happens frequently, the acts of racism towards Black African Americans have also caused many problems to them whether physically or mentally. Racism against African Americans has happened for centuries, they have faced systemic

discrimination, violence, and marginalization. The impact of racism which started from the era of slavery to the civil rights movement and beyond still has lasting effects on African Americans to this day. This ongoing issue contributes to inequalities in areas such, as education, employment, housing, and the criminal justice system. African Americans are categorized as "Black" in America as the result of the racism that has become unseparated from the country's history. This term has been used on them to distinguish their racial identity, which is also often accompanied by negative stereotypes and prejudiced beliefs on them. Even though the term "Black" also serves as a means of cultural and social identification for many African Americans, not only, this term has also been used as a tool of racial division in America.

Historically the discrimination towards African Americans happened because they used to be African slaves in America. This all started around the 17th to 19th centuries. During World War I, the United States and Europe saw that Africa could be a potential cheap labor since this country was still a developing region at that time. Fortunately, during the end of the Civil War in 1865 after the release of the Thirteenth Amendment slavery was removed in America, and after the release of the Fourteenth Amendment African slaves were granted citizenship, and then in the Fifteenth Amendment they were given the right to vote. However, this does not mean they are free from their background because they still experience mistreatment, especially from white supremacist where their right is not respected and are often denied. To make it worse in 1883 US Supreme Court also established a racial division they called this "separate but equal". The decision to

legalize segregation would only deepen the prejudice issue in American society, because segregation meant that whites and people of colour have performed 'parallel lives', thereby creating ignorance of the real-life experiences of people of colour (Rattansi, 2007: 139). Because the US Supreme Court decided to establish racial division, African Americans were forced to use segregated facilities and services, which ended up in a cycle of inequality.

The fact that African Americans were labeled as immigrants and wage slaves for centuries in America, had made them often viewed as human from the lower class and did not deserve to be treated as equals. According to the Longman Exam Dictionary (2006), the term Racial relates to the interactions and dynamics among various ethnic groups residing in a common geographic region or nation. On the other hand, in the dictionary of Psychologist Cardwell (1999:227) argues that stereotype is an overgeneralized on a certain group or ethnic with a certain characteristic or behavior. Between the white and Black people, some of the white people believe that Black people or African Americans no matter if they are young or old rich or poor are not part of their community, this is one of the racist treatments that happened towards the Black people. Another example is when a person sees a Black African American man, they would automatically think about criminal things such as gangsters, or drug dealers, or maybe they might be thinking about basketball athletes, this act of judging others based on categories that they believe is stereotype.

Racism and the widespread use of stereotypes, against African Americans is a deep problem in the society of America, According to Robbins (1996: 214) stated

that certain words can and do stereotype, intimidate, and insult individuals, Stereotypes which usually used to simplify the process of identifying of someone, however it instead used as a tool to intimidate and insult individuals or groups of people by calling them as inferior, lacking in intellect, tends to criminal behavior, and deserving to receive unequal treatment. These kinds of beliefs have been perpetuated through many means such, as discriminatory policies, media depictions, and biased narratives.

Institutionally, racism and stereotypes have made the lives of Black Americans more difficult, it can be seen in multiple aspects of life. In education, Black students are often faced with unequal access to better schools, resources, and career opportunities, this treatment leads to a cycle of educational disparities which make it difficult for them to have a better life in the future. In the labor markets are also often denied Black individuals, with hiring discrimination, wage gaps, and limited access to career advancement resulting in economic inequalities. Within the criminal justice system, systemic racism had manifested in higher rates of arrest, disproportionate arresting rates, brutal forces and harsher treatment towards Black individuals, Media portrayals and biased narratives had also reinforced these stereotypes which then led to the discriminatory treatment in everyday interactions in the community. The over-policing of Black communities, racial profiling, and cases of police violence against Black individuals amplify tensions and erode trust in law enforcement.

In this research, the theme that would be discussed is racial stereotypes which often can be seen being presented and discussed in many literary works. *The Hate*

*U Give* was written by African-American author Angie Thomas and released on its debut in 2017. *The Hate U Give* is a groundbreaking young adult fiction novel that has gained widespread praise and attention. In its debut *The Hate U Give* placed at number one on The New York Times young adult best-seller list, the novel stayed in that position for around 50 weeks. The success of this novel can be achieved not only by Thomas's exceptional storytelling but also by its critical themes. Within the chapters of this novel, Angie Thomas goes deep into the heart of the Black Lives Matter movement and the struggles and challenges faced by Black Americans in society. At the core of the novel's narrative lies the issue of racial stereotypes, which is a topic that still powerfully resonates in today's socio-political climate.

Through the lens of racial stereotypes, the novel examines how these presumptions shape the life experiences of the main character and other Black Americans. Angie Thomas's portrayal of racial stereotypes allows readers to dissect their impact on the protagonist's life, highlighting how these biases permeate various aspects of her existence. The novel not only serves as a compelling work of fiction but also as a potent platform for discussing the profound effects of racial stereotypes and racism, shedding light on the urgent need for change and the dismantling of these harmful constructs in society.

## **1.2 Focus of the Problem**

The focus of the problem in this research is the act of racism towards the main character namely Starr Carter and some other characters that represent the African Americans in the novel *The Hate U Give*, Starr had a bitter experience with the act

of racism and had to fight her way out to bring justice to her people. This research also focuses on what kind of racial stereotypes which often imposed on Black people in America and how they struggle against racial stereotypes that lead to racism in their lives.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The focus of the problem in this literary work raises several problem that need to be analyzed and discussed, those are such as:

1. What are the racial stereotypes often imposed on African American in the novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas?
2. How does the African American struggle against the racial stereotypes impose on them in the novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas?

### **1.4 Purpose of the Research.**

Based on the formulation of the questions above, the purpose of this research are such as:

1. To find out the racial stereotypes often imposed on African American in the novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.
2. To find out the way Black African American struggle against the racial stereotypes impose on them in the novel *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas.