

**INJUSTICE TOWARDS HUMAN RIGHTS IN AMERICA AFTER CIVIL
RIGHT MOVEMENT IN PLAY *THE PILLOWMAN* BY MARTIN
MCDONAGH (2003)**

THESIS

*Submitted on Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement to Obtain
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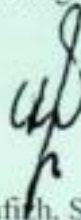
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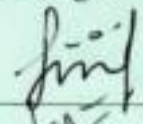
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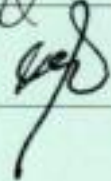
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ABSTRACT

Ratih Melati Sukma. 2021. Injustice Towards Human Rights in America After Civil Right Movement (2003) By Martin Mcdonagh.

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This thesis is an analysis of a play written by Martin Mcdonagh entitled *The Pillowman* (2003). This analysis reveals about injustice not only in our lives, but there are still injustices, discrimination, and legal imbalances found in literary works. The injustice attacks the lower class because their profession considered not equal to the upper class. This analysis uses Marxist theory to explain what is related to the problems in this play. In this analysis, the protagonist's injustice towards human rights can be seen through two ways: how he faces and shows several forms of the injustice towards human rights in America after civil right movement that still occurred. This analysis also depends a lot on the narrator to determine which parts of the play are used as the data. The result of the study shows that Katurian experienced injustice to get his rights and injustice in law.

Key words: injustice, human rights, oppression, social class

ABSTRAK

Ratih Melati Sukma. 2021. Injustice Towards Human Rights in America After Civil Right Movement (2003) Oleh Martin Mcdonagh.

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Skripsi ini merupakan analisis drama yang ditulis oleh Martin Mcdonagh yang berjudul *The Pillowman* (2003). Analisis ini mengungkap ketidakadilan tidak hanya dalam kehidupan kita, tetapi masih terdapat ketidakadilan, diskriminasi, dan ketimpangan hukum yang ditemukan dalam karya sastra. Ketidakadilan menyerang kalangan bawah karena profesinya dianggap tidak setara dengan kelas atas. Katurian mengalami ketidakadilan dalam mengungkapkan pendapat, karya literatur, dan ketidakadilan hukum. Analisis ini menggunakan teori Marxis untuk menjelaskan apa yang terkait dengan masalah dalam drama ini. Di dalam analisis ini, ketidakadilan tokoh protagonis terhadap hak asasi manusia dapat dilihat melalui dua cara: bagaimana ia menghadapi dan menunjukkan beberapa bentuk ketidakadilan terhadap hak asasi manusia di Amerika setelah adanya gerakan hak sipil. Analisis ini juga sangat bergantung pada narator untuk menentukan bagian mana dari drama yang digunakan sebagai datanya. Hasil penelitian ditemukan bahwa ada dua bentuk ketidakadilan: ketidakadilan dalam mendapatkan hak dan ketidakadilan hukum.

Kata kunci: ketidakadilan, hak asasi manusia, penindasan, kelas sosial

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The Researcher

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABSTRACT	i
ABSTRAK	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
TABLE OF CONTENTS	iv
CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background of the Research	1
1.2 Focus of the Problem	8
1.3 Research Questions	10
1.4 Purpose of the Research	10
CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	11
2.1 Review of Related Studies	11
2.2 Previous Research	12
CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHOD	13
3.1 Data and Source of Data	13
3.2 Technique of Data Analysis	14
CHAPTER 4 ANALYSIS	16
4.1 Facing the Injustice Towards Human Rights	18
4.2 Forms of the Injustice Towards Human Rights	24
4.2.1. Injustice to Get Rights.....	25
4.2.2. Injustice in Law	30
CHAPTER 5 CONCLUSION	33
5.1 Conclusion	33
REFERENCES	35

APPENDICES

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Research

The civil rights movement was a struggle for social justice that took place in around 1940s and 1960s for Black Americans to get the rights under the law in America. In 1940s, the civil rights movement came from the black society against the discrimination that had lasted hundreds of years. Black American suffer from poor access to social services inequalities in institutions like public education. Proven from any form of civil rights distinguished by ethnicity. Discrimination of civil rights experienced by Afro-American society. Politics, education, and using the general facilities are distinguished by racial classification, black and white people.

The civil rights movement emerged from decades of resistance by African slaves and their descendants to end ethnic injustice and eradicate slavery. The efforts of political elites and full-time civil rights advocates, which resulted in the major civil rights legislation of the 1960s, were discussed against the backdrop of black protest activity. Blacks' determination to realize a long-standing civil rights reform agenda and thereby become part of the American mainstream was expressed through the protest activity. Slaves in the United States were emancipated as a result of the Civil War, and basic civil rights were extended to them by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution. Struggles to secure federal protection of these rights continued during the next century.

“White” became the reference point for citizenship, starting with the Constitution and then the first naturalization act in 1790; a person's allegiance to ‘whiteness’ defined her or his levels of privileges. It reinforced the use of race as a reason for enslaving Africans, marginalizing and enclosing communities (Native Americans), and dispossessing and deporting others (Mexican Americans). It reinforces the uses of race to depress wages, segment the labor force and undermine worker solidarity.

Anti-violent protests and civil disobedience led to a crisis between activists and the government. According to a strategy Board of Education explains that federal and state governments, local governments, business owners, and communities must respond urgently to events that attract injustice to African-Americans. Forms of protest disobedience include: boycotts such as the Montgomery Bus Boycott (1955-1956) which was successful in Alabama; "sit-ins" such as the influential Greensboro sit-in in North Carolina (1960), marches, such as the Selma-to-Montgomery March (1965) in Alabama.

African Americans and their white supporters used a variety of tactics to abolish slavery and then achieve legal equality for the "freedmen" during the 19th and early 20th centuries. Progress toward racial equality was destined to be slow, not least because slavery and oppression of blacks were among the sectional political compromises that undergirded national unity.

After civil right movement there are still injustices that have occurred, such as racism, brutality, discrimination, and legal injustice. Racism emerged in the US at the beginning of the 20th century. In that period, racial-minded groups strive to differentiate internal civil rights in the community. America government has responded to this phenomenon by enforcing it “Separate but Equal” policy in the early to mid 20th century. The release of this policy, triggered massive protests. The action has revived and spawned the largest America Civil Rights Movement throughout history, pioneered by Martin Luther King.

Discrimination against minorities in American society continues. Systemic discrimination involves a pattern or practice, policy, or class case where the alleged discrimination has a broad impact on an industry, profession, company or geographic area. In this era globalization, President America who is Donald Trump has a history of fueling racial animosity, including calling some protesters 'thugs' and threatening to deploy the military to stop civil unrest that has become a sea of people in America. According to The Washington Post state that the past public conversations the White House has facilitated with the African-American community have mainly included conservative allies, religious leaders and law enforcement. As an example they do not include civil rights leaders, local activists and organize is involved in George Floyd's death demonstration or the families of individuals who died as a result of police brutality. More than 1,000 people were shot dead by police in America in 2019.

The incident shows how the brutality of America that is not humanitarian in this globalization. That case can be categorized into the law Lynching which is a practice of murder which is an illegal act. Following the emancipation of slaves after the US Civil War in the late 1800s, this action occurred in the United States; they refused after 1930 but persisted until the 1960s. The lynching of the death penalty, mostly targeted at African-American descent in the South, occurred in the 1890s and 1920s, and most commonly in 1892. Starting with a massive mob act attended by hundreds or thousands of spectators, the penalties death without trial in the 20th century was initiated in secret by small groups. Lynching is also known in the Old West, where native Americans, Mexican Americans, and residents of Chinese descent are the main victims. However, sometimes the death penalty was imposed on innocent people. As Jennifer Daskal: "Since 1973, in 120 death penalty cases, evidence was found that the convict was innocent. The possibility that the death penalty is imposed on an innocent person is the strongest argument against the death penalty. "

Many innocent people were punished and treated as criminals. Not surprisingly, there are so many cases of wrongful arrests or people who have just been released because they are proven innocent after a long prison term. Therefore, the legal system is required to operate fairly to ensure that people who are found guilty are really responsible. Because of that, when the court judges an innocent person, the court not only commits a crime against the innocent person, but also does not provide justice to the person who is the

victim. Legal procedures have also been structured in such a way as to achieve their goals, namely a guarantee of protection of rights and justice.

Justice is a condition of morally ideal truth about something, whether concerns an object or a person. Law and justice are very closely related, because justice is created because of the law. Justice is an important aspect in the society, which to the running of a particular society where there will be equality, freedom on the same basis and or have without putting some individuals into high aim. Aristotle's analysis of justice is the key to its meaning at the level of the particular act or decision. Justice, he said, consists in treating equals equally and unequals unequally but in proportion to their relevant differences (Benn, 1967: 298-299).

To form a justice in country is not an easy thing. In America it is common for African-American there were 82 black people killed by the Police. Despite most Americans' regard for the law and the justice system's commitment to uphold human rights, America, like many other nations, has violence. Variants of distributive theory have dominated the literature on justice for the past three decades. Some of this work distinguishes between the object of distribution and basis for distribution (Schofield, 2006; Blaikie and Muldavin, 2014).

Racial disparities permeate every part of America criminal justice system. Black people are 13 percent of the population but close to 40 percent of those in prisons. They are incarcerated at more than five times the rate of white people. Black people use illegal drugs at similar rates to white people, but suffer drug arrests at significantly higher rates. According to the Washington Post, police reportedly shot and killed 876 people in the US as of the

beginning of October, 2017. Of those killed, whose race is known, 22 percent were black. Of the unnamed people killed by police, 39 percent were black. Some state governments have taken on this oversight role. Racial disparities in police use of force, arrests, citations, and traffic stops continue to exist.

Injustice does not only occur in real life. In many literary works that show examples of injustice which are the media as a conduit of social criticism today. For instance, in novel *Internment* (2019) by Samira Ahmed, it's set in a horrifying near future United States, seventeen-year-old Layla Amin and her parents are forced into an interment camp for Muslim American citizens. The government has begun rounding up Muslims, based on their answers to a census question, and relocating them to a newly built internment camp. Layla begins a journey to fight for freedom, leading a revolution against the internment camp's Director and his guards. Heart-racing and emotional, *Internment* challenges readers to fight complicit silence that exists in our society today.

The second is in Angie Thomas' novel, *On the Come Up* (2019) The main character Brianna faces an unjust suspension when a rogue white officer body slams her to the floor in retaliation to a search and seizure shakedown upon entering the metal detectors at her school. This mimics incidents that made national news about white officers body slamming girls in class. It sheds light on the skewed suspension of more students of color. More importantly, it shows the youthful response to the archaic mindset of prejudice that keeps black Americans stuck in a post-slavery. Using social media to spur on the

injustice of treatment-the same way television was used during the 1960s civil rights movement when white and black freedom riders were beaten.

In play *The Pillowman* (2003) by Martin McDonagh that the researcher analyzed shows the protagonist wanted justice in making literature, even though he was an unsuccessful writer. He wants justice in the right not to be punished because his literary work has nothing to do with this recent incident in that country. In this plays, lower class people who write literature are considered to have committed a crime because it circulates the exact issue as what he made in his work. They tend to blame lower class people and denounce them with the death penalty.

In this analysis the researcher use the word of social class in Marxist theory. Social Class refers to divisions in society based on economic and social status. People in the same social class typically share a similar level of wealth, educational achievement, type of job and income. The variances between social classes in society might be a source of social conflict between them but viewed the conflict in a different way to Marx, the social struggle between the classes over making goods as a normal conflict in all societies. Social class is a key to comprehending the different social opportunities available to different social groups and individuals in societies (Marsh et al, 2000).

I chose this play *The Pillowman* (2003) by Martin McDonagh because it shows that the injustice in America after civil right movement still exist, such an oppression, racism, and police brutality that oppress Black people. The injustice after civil right movement is not only in real life, but in

literature there is a problem the injustice that attacks the lower class because their profession considered lowly than the upper class. Most of Martin McDonagh's literary works are about violence and satire. Martin work's is about many things, but it's fundamentally a ruminative and self-reflective piece that's a meditation on the moral culpability of writers and their imaginations. In 2003, in era when the theater was more receptive to libertarian, many audiences saw the work as a defense of creative license and the right of writers to explore the darker side of their creative consciousness without having to account for what readers might then do with their ideas. Because of that case, i am very interesting to analyze Martin's play that shows a message and criticism behind the work he has created.

1.2 Focus of the Problem

The plays entitled *The Pillowman* (2003) written by Martin McDonagh reflects the issue injustice towards human rights. In this analysis, injustice towards human rights shows through the effort of the protagonist who try to get his human rights and to get justice in law. He wants to say his right not to be executed because he did nothing wrong. There are two detectives who interrogated the protagonist. Through their conversation, the two detectives did not listen to what the protagonist wanted to say and intimidated the protagonist. Two detectives are representative from the upper class. They don't care about the truth and just stick with their opinions. There is no substantiation that proves the protagonist is the murder in this play. Injustice in this play shows how the upper class does not listen to what the protagonist

is trying to tell the truth, lack of rights to live, and form of the lower class intimidation. There is no gap to obtain human rights in this totalitarian state. In this analysis, injustice towards human rights can be seen through how the protagonist faces the injustice and what are the forms of injustice towards human right after civil right movement.

In this analysis, there are two keywords of the problem about injustice towards human rights. The first keyword is injustice. According to Cambridge Dictionary (2020), injustice is the condition of being unfair and lacking justice, or an action that is unfair. The second keyword is human rights. According to United Nation Staff Collect Project (2001), Human rights are rights inherent to all human beings, whatever our nationality, place of residence, sex, national or ethnic origin, color, religion, language. People are equally entitled to human rights without discrimination. These rights are all interrelated, interdependent and indivisible. Human rights include the right to life and liberty, freedom from slavery and torture, freedom of opinion and expression, the right to work, literature and education. Everyone is entitled to these rights, without discrimination.

1.3 Research Question

Injustice towards human rights is an important issue in plays *The Pillowman* (2003) by Martin McDonagh. Thus, there are two research questions use to analyze the issue of this analysis:

1. How does the character faces the injustice towards human rights in America after civil right movement in play *The Pillowman* by Martin Mcdonagh (2003) ?
2. What are the forms of injustice towards human rights in America after civil right movement in the play *The Pillowman* (2003) ?

1.4 Purpose of the Research

This study is going to find out two main points:

1. How does the character faces the injustice towards human rights in America after civil right movement in this play *The Pillowman* by Martin Mcdonagh (2003)
2. How do the play *The Pillowman* by Martin Mcdonagh (2003) reveals the forms of injustice towards human rights in America after civil right movement.

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSION

A play entitled *The Pillowman* (2003) by Martin McDonagh reflects the issue about injustice towards human rights in America after Civil Right Movement. This analysis is done through text and context-based interpretation. This analysis deals with the concept of social class by Marxist. The injustice towards human rights contained in this play *The Pillowman* (2003) by Martin McDonagh, such as injustice in opinion, expression through literary works, upper class who only stick to their opinion, and the protagonist who do not get the right to live. The researcher analyzed the play to show the injustice towards human rights in America after Civil Right Movement still occurred. It exposes how the character Katurian as the protagonist faces the injustice and shows the forms of the injustice in America after civil right movement.

The first point shows how the protagonist faces the injustice towards human rights. The protagonist does not know what really happen. He thinks he has nothing to do with that case. The protagonist thinks that if you can solve the problem without violence then that is even better. He against anything if there is something wrong with all of his work.

The second point shows the forms of injustice towards human rights the protagonist gets. The protagonist is not given the opportunity to express his

opinion. He gets intimidate because he actually does not know about what happen in his country that is something to do with his stories. He has no right to live a fair life. He just want to make some stories and be a successful writer someday. In fact, he is sentenced to death on the unilateral charge of the interrogator as the researcher represents as the upper class.

There is no substantiation that proves the protagonist is the murderer in this play. Injustice in this play shows how the upper class does not listen to what the protagonist which is the lower class is trying to tell the truth, lack of rights to live, and form of the lower class gets the inequality in law. In this analysis the researcher use the word of social class in Marxist theory. Social Class refers to divisions in society based on economic and social status. The result of this thesis, the researcher find that there is still injustice after the civil rights movement. The treat of the dominant class is still there to oppress and overthrow the lower class.

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