

Racial Prejudice and Racial Discrimination toward Barbarians in South Africa in J.M Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*

(Prasangka rasial dan diskriminasi rasial terhadap Suku Barbar di Africa Selatan dalam novel J.M Coetzee berjudul Waiting for The Barbarians)

Sisca Fitri Agustin, Imam Basuki, Eko Suwargono
English Department, Faculty of Letters, Jember University
Jln. Kalimantan 37, Jember 68121
Email: imambas88@gmail.com

Abstrak

Waiting for the Barbarians adalah sebuah novel oleh J.M Coetzee. Novel ini bercerita tentang keunggulan dari penjajah dan kelemahan dari penduduk asli di Africa Selatan yang disebut suku barbar. Novel ini menggambarkan prasangka rasial dan diskriminasi rasial terhadap Suku Barbar di Africa Selatan. Penelitian ini menggunakan penelitian kualitatif dan kuantitatif dan penelitian deskriptif untuk menafsirkan and menganalisis hal hal yang berhubungan dengan prasangka rasial dan diskriminasi rasial dimana sumbernya berasal dari jurnal, buku- buku, skripsi dan internet. Penelitian ini menggunakan Critical Race Theori ole Delgado dan Stefancic. Tujuan dari penelitian ini yaitu untuk mendapatkan pengertian mengenai prasangka rasial dan diskriminasi rasial terhadap orang africa yang disebut Suku Barbar dalam novel ini.

Kata Kunci: Suku Barbar, Critical Race Teori, penelitian kualitatif, penelitian kuantitatif

Abstract

Waiting for the Barbarians is a novel by J.M Coetzee. This novel tells about the superiority of the colonizer and inferiority of the native in South Africa called barbarians. This novel describes racial prejudice and racial discrimination toward Barbarians in South Africa. This research uses qualitative and also quantitative research and descriptive way to interpret and analyze that related to racial prejudice and racial discrimination which is source come from journal, books, thesis and the internet. This research uses Critical Race Theory by Delgado and Stefancic. The goal of this research is to get understanding about racial prejudice and racial discrimination toward African Called barbarians in the novel.

Keywords: Barbarians, Critical Race Theory, qualitative research, quantitative method

Introduction

Literature is an aesthetic work that presents the imitation of human life. By literature, people know how to behave and learn many values that do not seem exist in their daily life. Moreover, the most important is the valuable message that can be found in it. In other hand, the most important thing is the message that can be found in the literature. It can be inspired from the problem of people in their daily life. Some people say that literature is a reflection of human life. In *Outline of Literature*, Jones (1968:1) states that literature is simply another way we can experience the world around us through our imagination. It is an ideal thought of the author's opinion of social conditions. Furthermore, we can briefly conclude that there is a strong relationship between literature, life, and society. Many people say that literature is a reflection of social condition. As the reflection of social condition, an author creates

literature, for instance novel, to express and to reveal the certain society with its phenomenon and problem.

Waiting for the Barbarians actually tells about the practice of racial discrimination and racial prejudice happen in South Africa as the effect of apartheid. The story tells about an old magistrate who lives in frontier town. In the story, the magistrate is known as a narrator and also the protagonist. He occupies himself by day with his ledgers and civil duties. The Magistrate is a representative of the empire. He does his duty along more than thirty years. He lives in peace side by side with the prisoners until the national government sent Colonel Joll, head of a secret service, who has been sent to this remote region to wage war against nomadic people who are called Barbarians. In the story, Colonel Joll is an antagonist. He captures and kills the barbarians. He treats them like animals and merciless. Someday, The Magistrate meets a barbarian girl and takes

her in The Magistrate's house. The Magistrate has an intimate yet uncertain relationship with the girl.

The author of the novel from the short explanation above shows that racial discrimination and racial prejudice are as the effect of imperialism in South Africa that is expressed in his novel; *Waiting for the Barbarians*. The social condition around the author makes him drives to write the social condition and the social problem through his imagination, especially in term of racial discrimination and racial prejudice revealed in his novel. Based on the facts above, I take this novel as the object of my study, and then I use sociological approach to find out the relationship between literature and the author's life related to the chosen topic.

Waiting for the Barbarians is an interesting novel to study, because the novel deals with racial conflict between the blacks and the whites occurring in the South Africa. By using critical race theory, this study is focused on explaining what kinds of racial discrimination and racial prejudice as practice of racism occurs in the South Africa as depicted in the novel and to know the responses of the blacks and the whites to racism. This research is conducted to encourage us in order to appreciate and to tolerate a minority group of people in getting their rights. Therefore, this thesis entitled racial prejudice and racial discrimination toward barbarians in South Africa in J.M Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians*.

The Problems to Discuss : To answer the matter on racial discrimination and racial prejudice toward barbarians in South Africa, this research applies Critical Race Theory .Regarding the issue, there are three problems which are discussed in this research related to the selected printed advertisements. Those problems are as follows:

This research shortly examines the problems as follows:

1. How is barbarians expressed in the novel?
2. How is racial prejudice toward the barbarian in South Africa expressed in the novel?
3. How is racial discrimination toward the barbarians in South Africa in the novel?

Research Method

This study tries to focus on the searching racial discrimination and racial prejudice toward barbarians in *Waiting for the Barbarians* novel. This research uses a qualitative research method, quantitative and library research, and also from the internet which the data come from the books or article. Library research uses documentary technique to collect the data (Blaxter, 2006:141). The primary data in this study is taken from J.M Coetzee's. Qualitative research is an empirical research which the data are not in the form of numbers (Blaxter, 2006:65). It means that qualitative research concerned with collecting and analyzing information in many form, chiefly non-numeric but with word. The primary data are collected from the statements and narrations particularly refer to the chosen topic in the novel entitled *Waiting for the Barbarians* by J.M Coetzee. The secondary data are used to support the analysis. This research uses quantitative method and also

qualitative method in analyzing the secondary data. The data needed are supported by information that is collected from books, dictionaries, documents, journals, biography, and internet resources in relation with the chosen topic of this research about racism. I use Delgado and Stefancic's *Critical Race Theory: an Introduction* (2001) in this thesis. It is needed in order to get better understanding about the literary work itself and to make the discussion of this research clearly.

This research is composed in scientific ways. First, the data are collected from J.M Coetzee's *Waiting for the Barbarians* as the main source. Second, library research will be applied by gathering the information from several books relate to racism. I applied theory by Richard Delgado and Jean Stefancic, Critical Race Theory. I focus in everyday racism and interest converge.

Racial discrimination and racial prejudice are such kind of racial practice toward the African in South Africa in the era of apartheid system in that place. White's ideology forces them to do that. With the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948, racial discrimination and racial prejudice are institutionalized. The white also classified a group of people. Classifications into these categories are based on appearance, social acceptance, and descent. They assume the black inferior as barbarians. They state barbarian as a group of people in negative activity, as undeveloped, wild, and also like an animal. This prejudgment becomes the primary reason, why the white discriminates the black or barbarians, because the white judges himself as superior and he assumes barbarians as inferior.

Results

Racial discrimination and racial prejudice are a kind of racial practice toward the African in South Africa in the era of apartheid system in that place. White's ideology forces them to do that. With the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948, racial discrimination and racial prejudice are institutionalized. The white also classified a group of people. Classifications into these categories are based on appearance, social acceptance, and descent. They assume the black inferior as barbarians. They state barbarian as a group of people in negative activity, as undeveloped, wild, and also like animal. This prejudgment becomes the primary reason, why the white discriminates the black or barbarians, because the white feels superior and he assumes barbarians as inferior.

Discussion

Discrimination and prejudice are two things that cause racism. Someone would do racial discrimination and racial prejudice when she or he is being integrated by the other race. *Waiting for the Barbarians* is allegory or symbol and concept of apartheid regime and the reflection of racism South Africa (Coetzee. 1997:72). This novel describes story like portraying the white government which came to power in 1948 in South Africa. In this apartheid era, the white has taken over the land of the black; he has also ruled South Africa with his own racist laws. As a result of racism in South Africa, the black feels devastated in their native land.

1. Racial Prejudice toward Barbarians in South Africa.

Prejudice is a form of everyday racism. Everyday racism is verbal, physical, or mental attacks to the other races, such as assuming lack confidence (Tyson, 2006:369). The whites think that they are superior and the blacks are inferior. Mark.B Satler states the relation between barbarians and civilization. From that quotation above it is concluded that the assumption of identity a group claiming the status of civilized. European as the colonizer requires a group that can be represented as the barbarians who is defined as minority group.

The prejudgment by Colonel Joll and also The Magistrate as the colonizer to the blacks comes from his illogical prejudice. He just views the black's attitude in the prison, and assumes that criminal behavior as an inherent characteristic of the blacks. He always assumes the blacks as criminals, because he just views that more the blacks go to prison than the whites. Therefore, the white assumes the barbarians as dirty people, smelly people and also criminal people. The whites assumes the barbarians as criminal because they stole animal. As the whites, Colonel Joll and also another the white feel superior and the can do anything to the barbarians.

Delgado and Stefancic (2001:75) state whiteness is often associated with innocence and goodness, while darkness and blackness often carry connotation of evil and menace. The barbarians are considered to be smelly, dirty and unclean. Therefore, the white assumes barbarian as a criminal and a menace, because they are black. The empire keeps the blacks under control, because he feels superior to the black.

The white also sees the barbarians from their appearance. They recognize barbarians from their ugliness. The conversation is as follows:

"Her friends claim a barbarian did it.
They saw him running away into the
reeds. They recognized him as a
barbarian from their ugliness."
(Coetzee, 1999:164)

The white's prejudgment for the barbarians can be seen from their appearance. Zanden states that prejudice is a feeling that a minority is inherently different and alien (1984:417). The statement above shows that the barbarians are minorities that are recognized as alien or inherent difference because of their ugliness.

2.Racial discrimination toward Barbarians in South Africa

The whites discriminates the blacks in justice system. It starts when Colonel Joll travels to the Magistrate's town from the imperial capital to investigate from attacks by indigenous people who the empire calls barbarians. The Magistrate investigates the old man of the barbarians to tell the truth. He describes to the old man that there is a punished for it. The empire thinks that the old man has broken the law as a thief. The old man and his son

try to telling the truth, he tries to look after himself from cruelty of the white. He says that they are stole nothing, they just want to go to the doctor but the soldier stops them and brings them into Colonel Joll.

The Magistrate and also the barbarians are shown that the white's denial power brings the barbarians into prison. Delgado and Stefancic state the prison population is largely the blacks than the whites (2001:10). In this case, the whites discriminates the blacks and brings them to the prison because the blacks are criminals. Their discrimination toward the blacks are motivated by their prejudice toward the blacks. The whites in this novel discriminate the blacks through the justice system. They control the justice system in order to put the blacks in the lower class. The justice system works unfairly for the blacks.

Joll interrogates and tortures two prisoners captured on the road, a boy and his grandfather. After killing the grandfather, he also tortures the boy.

The barbarians in the novel are unmistakably tortured and treated with no respect by the Empire, and especially by Colonel Joll. Delgado and Stefancic (2001:145) state that discrimination is a practice of treating similarly situated individuals differently because of race, gender, sexual orientation, appearance, or national origin. However, racial discrimination that accorded the minority the white population with immense power and privilege under the law. The white treats barbarians because they are have African race (black people). According to Delgado and Stefancic Everyday racism is a kind of racial practice. Everyday racism is everyday experience of most people of color or minorities. Everyday racism is commonplace forms of discrimination, such as being ignored and treated differently. The white discriminates the black or minorities (2001:7). It means that the colonizers in novel *Waiting for the Barbarians* discriminate barbarians because the barbarians are minority and inferior group. They treat barbarians. They torture them. They take them into prison and also kill barbarians.

Barbarian girl is a prisoner of Colonel Joll's but after their release she is left behind by her folk in the outpost, begging, semi-blinded and disfigured from the torture. The discrimination toward barbarian girl is seen in *Waiting for the Barbarians*. The white treats this barbarian girl in economy and social system. According to Tyson, interest converge is the strategy to demolish the factors that affect superior class (white) repressing inferior class (black) in economic and social system (2006:371). Here, the colonizer is superior and this girl as one of the barbarians is inferior. The white discriminates this girl in economics as house servant.

The white discriminates the barbarian is in economics and also politic. The practice of discrimination is to endow the white's power. It is shown when the white especially Colonel Joll gets good facility and the barbarians get bad facilities. The white discriminates the barbarians in political that is expressed in the novel when the white works as government while the barbarians as the labor and crime, the white also discriminates the barbarians or the blacks in economics, the barbarians have to pay the penalty or

compulsory labour. The discrimination that is practiced by the empire is a form of interest convergence or material determinism. Delgado and Stefancic refer interest convergence as material determinism. Interest convergence as the desire to advance oneself in material matter as the first example shows the advance to feel better to other physiologically, as the second example shows to determine the ways of dominant race or society practice racism (2006:371). Interest convergence is the strategy to repress the blacks in economy and social system that affects to the whites as superior class and to the blacks as inferior class (Tyson, 2006:371). It means that interest convergence is a racial practice to advance the whites financially or materially that affects to the whites feeling as superior to the blacks. It makes the whites feels better than the blacks. It makes the whites characterizes the blacks as poor people that put them in the second-class after the whites.

Conclusion

Waiting for the Barbarians is based on a true story; it represents the racist activities especially racial prejudice and racial discrimination in South Africa. The black or barbarians get unfair treatment and also negative prejudgment done by the empire or the colonizer. Colonel Joll as the head of the empire and also the other the empire feels as the superior group, while the barbarians are seen as the inferior group. This novel tells about racial prejudice and racial discrimination toward the barbarians in South Africa. This novel tells about bad prejudgment and also torture and also imprison toward barbarians as colonized.

Racial discrimination and racial prejudice are such kind of racial practice toward the African in South Africa in the era of apartheid system in that place. White's ideology forces them to do that. With the enactment of apartheid laws in 1948, racial discrimination and racial prejudice are institutionalized. The white also classified a group of people. Classification into these categories is based on appearance, social acceptance, and descent. They assume the black inferior as barbarians. They state barbarian as a group of people in negative activity, as undeveloped, wild, and also like an animal. This prejudgment becomes the primary reason, why the white discriminates the black or barbarians, because the white feel superior and they assume barbarians as inferior.

Waiting for the Barbarians gives the reader description about the practice of racial prejudice and racial discrimination toward barbarians in South Africa. The colonizer causes negative impact to the black or barbarians instead. Barbarians receive many unfair treatments. Even they often lose in lives. They get violence. The whites torture and kill barbarians, they also punish the barbarians in compulsory labour. Therefore, the whites always judge themselves as majorities and take the barbarians as minorities or inferior.

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