

CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1. 1 Background of the Research

Racial issues have tight relation with racism and discrimination. Race itself the term “race” has a long and tortured history. We cannot enter upon that here. The present-day usage of the term in biological circles is pretty much the sense in which it was used in similar circles in the 19th century, namely, as a subdivision of a species the members of which resemble each other and differ from other members of the species in certain traits (Montagu 2). The idea of racism was “grounded” in the belief in a “biological hierarchy” of races. Others have agreed that beliefs are at the core of the concept of racism. Aptheker explains that racism is the “belief in the inherent, immutable, and significant inferiority of an entire physically characterized people, particularly in mental capacity, but also in emotional and ethical features (Yancy 61). Racism is inherent in the doctrine that “one racial group is superior to another” (Schaefer 721). Usually in racism the people that involved in white race think that black people has lower class than them. Race itself is group of human with the same biological feature or same origin region (Arthur 2) explains that race is socially constructed. Differences marked by language, nationality, and culture are contingent on history, just as constructivists claim. Other times, it refers simply to a group that is culturally or linguistically different from the majority, sometimes but not always identifiable by skin or hair color and other bodily features. Others speak of the

“white” race as contrasted with “persons of color” as if there were basically two races.

White people in past could do anything the black people like humiliate them or even making them as the slave. Here the discrimination come that the black people couldn't get their rights, they can even voice their mind in the states that dominated by the white people. Since racism and discrimination gives a lot of negative effects to the side of people that they think has lower 'class' of race like they suffer to get their rights in most of country. Many people struggle to make “race equality” held up by people so the peace will be created in social life. They voice race equality in some ways like voice it on the some conventions or even voice it in creating literature by adding race equality in hidden message in it. One of the most kind of literature can be added race equality message in it is poetry. The reason why poetry can be the one most is because poetry has short form of literature so people think that it easier to read than novel or play.

Poem is a kind of literary work that different with novel and play. The difference is on its density of composition with a tight convention so the poet cannot create it freely. As the most ‘condensed and concentrated form of literature’ poetry expresses more meaning with less word in it (Perrine 2). That title of the poetry, implicitly mean that poetry is the form of literature that use language as the medium in revealing its meaning. It is just that poetry has ability to uncover meaning more intensive than daily language that has nature as practical informative function.

In outline there are two types of poetry: 1) narrative poetry, 2) lyrical poetry. Narrative poetry gives a verbal representation, in verse, of a sequence of connected events, it propels characters through a plot. It is always told by a narrator (see narrator in narrative prose). Lyric poem is a comparatively short, non-narrative poem in which a single speaker presents a state of mind or an emotional state. Lyric poetry retains some of the elements of song which is said to be its origin: For Greek writers the lyric was a song accompanied by the lyre. Songs cannot be separated from the human life (Mildrof 145). Sometimes when people are either in the sadness or happiness and they cannot express it, song becomes the chosen choice to express the emotion feeling of human. Song is the expression of the feeling of the author. It is as same as poetry. The difference is only in song the expression is emphasizes with the melody of the instruments. Song itself if it is without the melody named poem (Waluyo 2). He suggests lyric song is an example of general poetry which is a work that expresses the poet's thoughts and feelings imaginatively and arranged by concentrating all the power of language.

Lyric poem is type of poem which is widely used by people to express the current state of society because this type of lyrics is usually accompanied by a melody instrument that makes it much-loved to be read because automatically when someone listening to the song the person must know the lyrics that require reading the lyrics of the song so that the meaning of the song will be more legible by the audience (Mildrof 144).

As one of literary branch, poetry expresses the deep feeling of the poet with beautiful language, composed with desire to communicate experience. It means that it becomes a media for author to express the idea of what they feel based on the experience so it needs understanding of the readers to know what exactly mean the poem talk about. The understanding of the reader can stimulate by knowing the structure of the poem because by reading the whole part of poem. It can awake the feeling so the readers will know the hidden message of it.

Structure is complex whole shape which each object or event in it consisting of various elements that each element has relation. Poetry is a structure, whose meaning can be obtained by analyzing the meaning of each element in relation to the meaning of other elements in the poem as a structure. Thus the structure of poetry is not just a collection of words that stand alone without cohesion, because structure is the wholeness (Siswantoro 13). The notion of structure as a whole combination of entities or elements can be clearly referenced to Jean Peaget's opinion (Hawkes 16) there are three signs of structure mentioned:

- a. Structure has the idea of wholeness.
- b. Structure has the idea of transformation.
- c. Structure has the idea of self-regulation.

To make the meaning clearer a poet is guided to have the ability to express feelings he feels to reveal in poetry. A natural feeling by a poet sound very natural if it is a personal experience of them. The experiences can be either about happiness or

sadness, love, life or racial issues like what Michael Jackson did. He wrote songs not just merely about love. Michael Jackson is one of those black people who want to stop racism and discrimination. Michael Jackson or Jacko as the entertain name is a singer and song writer from United State of America born on August, 25th 1958. He wrote the songs that different with the other singers. He not just wrote about love but some of his songs tell about race equality, for example: in *black and white* song. He persuaded the listener to erase the racism in social life. Not surprising, he got the title as the King of Pop. He becomes role model of the singer in his age and becomes a teacher for the younger age singers like Usher.

The statement above shows that Michael Jackson believe that black people and white people can make a good relationship without racism in it and make a better world together. Based on explanation above the researcher is interested in exploring Michael Jackson song lyrics that voiced about race equality. This research is focused on describing how Michael Jackson expresses to uphold race equality through his songs. Thus researcher formulated the title of this research as follows: **Race Equality in Michael Jackson's Selected Song Lyrics.**

1.2 Statements of Problem

The researcher does work only in the field of study literature. As written in the background Michael Jackson is one of black singer who proudly include about race equality in some of his songs. Race equality become a reality that should be holding up in this era because human in the world comes from different background one and

another. But these difference make some people are treated differently, especially black people in the country where Michael Jackson come from got so much discrimination. They treated as sleeve of white people. Therefore, to study about Michael Jackson songs especially about race equality the researcher has formulated the question as a main framework. The questions are:

1. What is race equality find in Michael Jackson's selected song lyrics?
2. How does race equality expressed in Michael Jackson's selected song lyrics?

1.3 Research Objective

From the statement of problem above, the research objective are:

1. To describe what of race equality found in Michael Jackson's selected song lyrics.
2. To describe the voice of race equality expressed in Michael Jackson's selected song lyrics.

1.4 Research Significance

Based on the problem statements above the significance of research are:

1. Theoretically, the research is to add the knowledge of English literature studies at the faculty of Adab and Humanities especially in the study of song lyrics with the approach of structuralism and can be used as input in research scientific works further, especially in interpreting of the meaning of songs.

2. Practically, the research is to provide significances to the listeners of the song and can help in understanding the race equality contained in songs lyric and to provide significance for researcher and readers as a reminder that race equality is needed to make a peace.

