

THE EFFECT OF DISCRIMINATION ON BLACK PEOPLE IN RALPH ELLISON'S INVISIBLE MAN

PASKAHLINNO Z. HENDRIK, CEISY N. WUNTU, SANERITA T. OLII

***English Language and Literature Study Program
Faculty of Language and Arts
Universitas Negeri Manado***

Corresponding author: ceisywuntu@unima.ac.id

Received: 15 August 2022

Accepted: 21 August 2022

Published: 24 August 2022

Abstract This study has the purpose to finding out the effects of discrimination on black people as reflected in the novel *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison. This study is categorized as qualitative research because the data are in the form of words, statements and quotation from some sources. In analyzing this novel the writer used expressive approach which is only focused on the expression, overflow, utterance of feelings of the writer's itself on *Invisible Man* novel especially the discrimination experienced by main character Ralph Ellison which has to do with teaching moral lessons to society. The result to be drawn from a study of the *Invisible Man* is that the narrator only understands he was seeking his identity in the incorrect spot after a sequence of discrimination events. *Invisible Man* was searching for a definition in the eyes of others especially in whites views, and he continued attempting to find himself by adopting other people's paths. As a result, no matter what he accomplished, he has always been invisible about himself and everyone. The reader can capture the mental and physical suffering by the narrator experiences as a result of this struggle as the author uses clear adjectives. In the context of this adjective it can convince the reader that this passage is about the narrator going crazy. He experiences big reactions to small details like ringing noises and itchy skin.

Keywords: *Invisible Man, Discrimination, Novel, Expressive Approach*

INTRODUCTION

Until now, the issue of discrimination still occurs. Back to the days of slavery, where whites felt special and enslaved blacks (Nanlohy et al., 2021). The consequences of slavery can be seen from how society is then built. White defines themselves as The Self and defines Black as The Other. Whites are influential

because they have the advantage of defining people of different skin tones as a result of their whiteness construction, they use their power to discriminate against blacks (Ibrahim et al., 2021). As history shows, Whites was used to enslave black and was also used to colonize other black-majority countries (Rorintulus, 2018). It is clear that Whites gives unequal rights to blacks. The specific term used in this matter is Discrimination on Black People.

Whiteness is the honor of being white and of having inherent privileges of being white. This privilege of being white has created inequality or injustice among other races in society (Kumaunang et al., 2022). All the more explicitly, the act of separation done by white is called as discrimination on black people. Discrimination on black people refers to practices of discrimination which is done by White, and it is not only a mere American history, but it is organized by white-dominated institutions and White as an individual (Hill, 2008).

Thus, discrimination actions will be hostile and disrespectful for the victims. Discrimination can be expressed through stereotype, prejudice , and discrimination (racist behaviors and practices) (Berman, 2010).

Disregardful actions are just grouped into bias and separation since bias as of now incorporates stereotype. As this clever raises the issue of racism done by Whites toward the Blacks , the hypothesis of Whiteness is best carried out to show how the novel addresses Whiteness (Quinones-Rosado, 2016).

Developing the notion of black people invisibility as a major and central theme in his *Invisible Man*, Ralph Ellison evokes the question of African Americans' existence, status, identity and value in the white American society. And at large, he evokes the question of any black human existence, status, identity, and value in a world controlled and dominated by white people

More specifically, the problems of black people's invisible existence and identity experienced by Ralph Ellison in the racist American society are so real and topical that he cannot prevent himself to state that his major character (The narrator-narrator) is invisible in the society in which he lives. And to better

characterize this realistic aspect, he even assigns him (the major character) the name "Invisible Man".

Indeed, the motif of invisibility being central to the meaning of the novel; it plays a key role in questioning the existence of the narrator (a black man) as a human being as well as the other human beings (white people) of his living environment or the society. Such a perpetual questioning on the existences in turn highlights three important interrelated themes in the same novel which are the themes of perception, visibility, and invisibility.

Set up in the context of the American society, the writer realize that this notion of invisibility linked to "Invisible Man" the major character, not only foreshadows the racial relationships between white people and black people in terms of discrimination, superiority and inferiority, but it describes, denounces and reveals the margin place and the status that black people have in the white American society as it is the case for the narrator in the novel (Stephane, 2020).

RESEARCH METHOD

Research Design

The writer classifies this research as qualitative research. Qualitative research is descriptive. The data collected are in the types of words or pictures as opposed to numbers. The composed consequence of the exploration contains citation from the information to represent and validate the presentation. (Bogdan, Robert, 1997)

In other words, in doing this research, the data are taken from the words of the novel itself or other related documents so that it can be categorized as a library research are also not dealing with numbers.

Data Collection

Bogdan and Biklen (p. 30) stated that: "a human being is able to interpret the existing meanings or message that cannot be reached by other instrument." The data was collected by the writer by Reading the novel Great Expectations repeatedly

until the writer get a complete understanding of novel well. Finding out what are the main character struggle in the novel. Selecting and picking the data up which relate to the problems. Finally, conducting and analyzing the collected data and making conclusion. In conducting this research, there are two kinds data collection. Primary sources from the novel and Secondary source from Books, Articles, Internet and other sources.(Gerung A, Oroh, E.Z., & Maukar, 2021)

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Data Analysis

In terms of data analysis, the writer applies expressive approach. Expressive approach shows the literary works are the expression of the writer, as the description of the writer's feeling and thought, or as the imagination products of the writer who works with perceptions, thoughts, and feelings (Wiyatmi, 2006).

Expressive theories defines a literary work as the overflow, utterance, or projection of the thought and feelings of the author or in other words, the work itself modifies and synthesizes the images, thoughts, and feelings of the author (Lolowang, 2010). The expressive approach treats the literary work primarily in relation to the author, the expression of the author's feeling and emotion, or as the product of the author's imagination operating of his or her perception. This approach is usually used to analyze how the vision of the author in his work. "In general terms, the central tendency of the expressive theory may be summarized in this way: A work of art is essentially the internal made external, resulting from a creative process operating under the impulses of feeling, and embodying the combined product of the poet's perceptions, thoughts and feelings. The primary source and subject matter of a poem, therefore, are the attributes and actions of the poet's own mind; or if aspects of the external world, then these only as they are converted from fact to poetry by the feelings and operation of the poet's mind."

Simply, this novel is only focused on the expression, overflow, utterance of feelings of The writer's itself on Invisible Man novel especially the discrimination

experienced by main character Ralph Ellison which has to do with teaching moral lessons to society.

Mental and Physical Suffering

Mental and physical suffering occurs on the first page of chapter fifteen in Ralph Ellison's novel *Invisible Man*, the main character is in total discomfort and feels as though he is going crazy. From a reader's point of view, it seemed like he was completely out of control of his body. The narrator's portrayal is to express how torn he is between his two selves. He didn't know how to tell Mary, the woman who had saved him and had been like a mother to him, that he was leaving him for a new job. His conflicting thoughts caused him to feel and look a little crazy. The author intentionally uses the narrator's distinct feelings to portray himself as someone who is uncomfortable in his own skin. This tone is depicted using intense diction, syntax, and extended metaphor.

The strong diction used in the passage reveals the true internal struggles the narrator faces. The reader can capture the physical and emotional pain the narrator experiences as a result of this struggle as the author uses clear adjectives. Words such as "suspense", "violently", "dig", and "ring" convey the intensity of the narrator's emotional state. In the context of this adjective it can convince the reader that this passage is about the narrator going crazy. He experiences big reactions to small details like ringing noises and itchy skin. He heard the clatter of nerves, scratched himself hard, and stuck his fingernails into his skin, causing himself to bleed (Djemea, 2020).

The Efforts to Escape from the Discrimination

Ambition is regarded as an important attribute of any young man in the eyes of society, but it is a character that can easily have bad consequences if utilized excessively. An overly ambitious person has a few interests and abilities that conflict with ambition. In the novel provided the narrator is one of those young boys with aspirations for a better future. The invisible man's ambitions are repeatedly

destroyed throughout the story. Because the discrimination, dominant civilization constructed by whites in both the north and south prevents the narrator from accomplishing his goals, ambition is important (Djemea, 2020).

Starting with The narrator's ambition to be acknowledged as an academic one once he presents his graduating presentation at the end of the battle royal, the work is built into a sequence of dreams and ambitions. By accident, he included the controversial expression "social equality," which serves as the first proof of black people's social injustices and insecurity at that period. The narrator, used to this social distinct difference, does not think it's a big deal, but he keeps trying to satisfy the strong white males. "I was so moved that I could hardly express my thanks. A rope of bloody saliva forming a shape like an undiscovered continent drooled upon the leather and I wiped it quickly away. I felt important that I had never dreamed, " here the narrator describes his feelings by his own words after getting the bag and scholarship (Djemea, 2020).

Following the end of discriminatory, there had been a focus on being more as the White person rather than African Americans developing their own identities. Invisible Man reflects the difficult ways of understanding and self-discovering that were part inside this discrimination culture and time in which it was created. (Djemea, 2020)

The Invisible Man is a famous work written by Ralph Ellison that represents the common topic of self-discovery, of the journey to find out who one is in life, as we're all on. Across the narrative, the narrator is continuously questioning who he is and comparing the various identities he adopts for himself. Since he is black, the main character of this work is unseen wherever he goes, and it shows his fight to establish and make himself visible. However, in the end, the novel's protagonist discovers that his invisibility might be beneficial at times, and so he refuses to complain or resist. The narrator is calmer and wiser after realizing and accepting the fact that all through his struggles throughout the novel, he has been invisible and

unappreciated. Therefore it is true that invisibility is the key to self-discovery and freedom (Rouainia, 2018).

"I am not only invisible but formless as ... well; and to be unaware of one's form is to live a death. I, after existing some twenty years, did not become alive until I discovered my invisibility".

Within work, The narrator is a great representation of a "miss-educated Black," who was trained to hate his race while learning nothing at all about the millions of black, Americans and having no understanding of black history full of struggles and poverty. In reality, The narrator prefers to keep his way far away from ignorant Blacks in the south because he considers himself better than them. That's also related to his school education, which taught him that race is superior to African Americans. Unfortunately, he was unaware that no matter how much knowledge he had, he was still considered worthless and unnoticeable by white people (Rouainia, 2018).

The narrator said at the beginning of the work that his grandpa considered himself as a, which the narrator couldn't comprehend since he still didn't know his invisibility. Yet, the narrator's road to self-discovery began when he was asked to deliver his high school graduation presentation before a meeting of the city's prominent white inhabitants. Before he could deliver his remarks, He and his companions were used as alcoholic white men's enjoyment. They were blinded and forced to fight each other in a fighting bout (a battle royal). He was provided a chance to present his speech after the war, but no one paid attention to the presenter since he is invisible to them. The narrator became lost and imprisoned in his doubts as a result of his internal fight caused by uncertainty and his failure to realize that he is unnoticed by others. Nonetheless, he maintained and accepted Booker T. Washington's belief that blacks may achieve prosperity via education and business because the narrator had received after fight a scholarship at the state university for Negro's a result, we might assume that perhaps The narrator is unaware of his invisibility and tries to make himself noticed during his presentation,

one which only serves to embarrass him. He accepted their commands, deeds and remained in the fight royal, all that he made to present his speech and to demonstrating that he's never discovered his real origin but had been shaped by others. He may have been freed from the white men's cruelty if he had realized his invisibility (Rouainia, 2018).

The narrator's struggle for recognition and status begins at university, and he was determined to satisfy Mr. Norton, one of the university's presidents, by being his private driver. After Mr. Norton heard about Jim Trueblood's sexual experience with his daughter in his one home, things did not go over well. Mr. Norton became confused and asked The narrator to bring him some alcohol before passing out. As a result, after showing the narrator's actual character as selfish and deceitful, the head of the university, Dr. Bledsoe, banned him. Dr. Bledsoe went so far as to say that the narrator is unnoticed The narrator's struggle for recognition and status begins at university, and he was determined to satisfy Mr. Norton, one of the university's presidents, by being his private driver. After Mr. Norton heard about Jim Trueblood's sexual experience with his daughter in his one home, things did not go over well. Mr. Norton became confused and asked The narrator to bring him some alcohol before passing out. As a result, after showing the narrator's actual character as selfish and deceitful, the head of the university, Dr. Bledsoe, banned him. Dr. Bledsoe went so far as to say that the narrator is unnoticed (Son, you've got nothing. Don't you know you're not alive?). The more the narrator tries to make himself visible, the more he gets into trouble and destroys his independence. Trueblood makes its present commitment by confronting past miscalculations and learning and consolidating its identity by singing the conscious development of art, especially the blues, and thereby communicating with its folk culture. Get the courage to continue his life. As a result, Trueblood was stripped of the racist story, and he embraced his identity, understood it, and began his life. Trueblood is an existential hero who makes the decision of his life and makes his own decisions. Trueblood learns and reinforces his identity and obtains the courage to move on

with his life by standing up to his past faults and current obligations via intentional development of art, notably by singing the blues and so staying in touch with his folk culture. As a result, Trueblood has freed himself from the racist past and he welcomes and understands his identity, and continues with his life (Rouainia, 2018).

CONCLUSION

The result to be drawn from a study of the Invisible Man is that the narrator only understands he was seeking his identity in the incorrect spot after a sequence of discrimination events. The narrator through his novel tries to highlight white people's oppression toward black people. Whites have a habit of ignoring black people because they considered them second-class citizens. Discrimination and injustice harm Black Americans. They think that taking their rights by using aggressive acts will be the only way to maintain their rights and struggle for survival. The narrator assaults him, angered, and head-butting highlights the motif of violence. Once the narrator asks the white man to apologize, the white man refuses.

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