

RACISM IN TONI MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE*

Thesalonika Kumaunang¹, Tini Moge², Olga Rorintulus³

English Education Department, Faculty of Language and Arts, Universitas Negeri Manado
Tondano, Minahasa

Email: kumaunangthesa@gmail.com

Abstract : The purpose of this study is to reveal the form of racism and its impact on the mental health of African American in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. The design of this study is qualitative research because the data that support this research are collected from books, journals, articles, and internet. The researchers use two kinds of data collection, namely the primary source that is the novel itself and the secondary sources are books, articles, the internet, and journals. The approach needed in research is mimetic approach, because this topic is related to the environment and as a reflection of human life. In analysing the data, researchers use three techniques called data reducing, data display, and conclusion. Researchers have read the novel and then decided the topic. From the amount of data collected from various sources researchers use text or jotting to compares, contrasts, and sorts the required data, from the notes written by the researchers, then categorize the relevant data. The results of the analysis are racism experienced by African Americans in the form of rejection, insults and violence. Racism in the novel is not only practiced by white people but also among black people.

Keywords : *Racism, Mental Health, Rejection.*

Abstrak : Tujuan dari penelitian ini adalah untuk mengungkapkan bentuk rasisme dan dampaknya terhadap kesehatan mental orang Afrika-Amerika di *The Bluest Eye* karya Toni Morrison. Desain penelitian ini adalah penelitian kualitatif karena data yang mendukung penelitian ini dikumpulkan dari buku, jurnal, artikel, dan internet. Para peneliti menggunakan dua jenis pengumpulan data, yaitu sumber utama yaitu novel itu sendiri dan sumber sekunder adalah buku, artikel, internet, dan jurnal. Pendekatan yang diperlukan dalam penelitian adalah pendekatan mimetik, karena topik ini terkait dengan lingkungan dan sebagai cerminan kehidupan manusia. Dalam menganalisis data, peneliti menggunakan tiga teknik yang disebut pengurangan data, tampilan data, dan kesimpulan. Para peneliti telah membaca novel dan kemudian memutuskan topik tersebut. Dari jumlah data yang dikumpulkan dari berbagai sumber peneliti menggunakan teks atau jotting untuk membandingkan, kontras, dan mengurutkan data yang diperlukan, dari catatan yang ditulis oleh para peneliti, kemudian mengkategorikan data yang relevan. Hasil analisis adalah rasisme yang dialami oleh orang Afrika-Amerika dalam bentuk penolakan, penghinaan dan kekerasan. Rasisme dalam novel ini tidak hanya dipraktekkan oleh orang kulit putih tetapi juga di antara orang kulit hitam

Kata Kunci : *Rasisme, Kesehatan Mental, Penolakan.*

INTRODUCTION

Many cases of racism still exist throughout human history even in this modern era where people already have a better understanding of equality. *The Bluest Eye* is Toni Morrison's first novel. It was published in 1970 and set in Toni Morrison's hometown Lorain, Ohio. This novel tells a story of how African American experienced racism and how it can effects black girls to lose self-confidence because of white's treatment. Racism is a belief that some races are superior to others.

As Boyle stated, "*Racism is an ideology that places certain races or ethnic groups with complete dominion over others on the basis of physical and cultural and economic wealth resulting in inequality in which the higher race dominates and takes control of the others*" (Boyle, 112).

The story begins with two innocent black girls, Frieda and Claudia. They often compare their lives with white children, because they thought white children have a better life than them. Also another black girl, Pecola Breedlove, who dreams of having blue eyes. She lost her self-confidence and considered herself ugly because of lack of attention from the family and got rejection from others make Pecola goes mad, believing she has blue eyes and she cannot stop admiring her new blue eyes.

Racism is not only about hatred or violence. A person can become racist by make fun of others, bullying, or reject other people from certain activities and groups

just because they are different. Victims who experience racism are often found to experience stress and lose confidence. According to Krieger, there are 5 key pathways through which racism can harm health: "1. *Economic and social deprivation.* 2. *Toxic substances and hazardous conditions.* 3. *Socially inflicted trauma (mental, physical, and sexual, directedly experienced or witnessed, from verbal threats to violent acts).* 4. *Targeted marketing of commodities that can harm health, such as junk food and psychoactive substances (alcohol, tobacco and drugs).* 5. *Inadequate or degrading medical care.*" (Krieger, 2).

Between the years of 1916 to 1970, more than six million African Americans relocated from the rural South to cities in the North, Midwest, and West. This has come to be known as the Great Migration. As Maru stated, "*The poor situation in the South drive the blacks to migrate. They try to get rid of low quality of life, the rise of Jim Crow, the segregation of the black voters, and the spread of lynching and violence against the blacks while at the same time the North was the shortage of laborers became the stimulator for the black to move. The blacks expected to find the betterment of life in the North.*" (Maru, 1413).

The researchers choose to examine the topic about racism because it is found so many cases of racism that occurred. One of them was happened on May 2020, a black man was killed by white police officer in Minneapolis, US. His death sent the Black

Lives Matters movement off to the streets to protest for George Floyd and other black people to get justice. This incident triggered demonstrations and protests in almost all cities in America and around the world against police brutality and racism.

Researchers' desire is that the readers to be more aware about racism so everyone can respect each other because racism that happening these days are not only experienced by black people, but everyone. Because it is not only causing a damage at the victims but also causing to the surroundings, these days there are some movements to defend the victims and there are protests everywhere that even resulted in chaos.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Racism

According to Clair, "*racism in an ideology of racial domination that assumes the biological or cultural superiority of one or more particular groups is used to establish a lower racial position under a higher racial group*" (Clair, 857). It is an ideology or belief that biological differences or human races determine human achievement, that certain races have the right to determine or regulate races that are considered inferior to them.

The problems that occur against a race do not only occur in material conditions, but also the limits they impose on people, in other words racism reveals the reality of exploitation and domination behind all racial discourses. Racism has become a driving factor for social discrimination, stereotypes, segregation and racial violence.

Racism can not be defined without understanding the meaning of race. Race is understood as a form of differences in human based on physical characteristics. Originally 'race' means to describe the societies that we now know as ethnicity or national identity. Later, in seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, scientists and philosophers clarified humans, animals and plants in a species. Thus, race is understood as a biological or natural categorization system of the human species (Clair, 857).

According to History.com, racism in the United States of America began in August 1619, 20 Angolans were kidnapped by the Portuguese and taken to the British Colony of Virginia and sold as slaves to whites. Slavery spread rapidly in America, an estimated 6 to 7 million Africans were enslaved. Only the healthiest and most capable Africans were sold and bought by the royals or wealthy white men. After the American Revolution, in the late 18th century many northern states began to abolish slavery, but not the South. Where their economy depends on the production of crops like tobacco and cotton, all their workers are slaves.

After buying slaves, slave owners had the authority to name their slaves as a sign of ownership. African-Americans cannot use their own names or name their children with African names, they must follow the culture of the white people. As Maru stated, "*During this institutionalized slavery, along with the dominance of white cultural values, the slaveholder assigned names to their slaves not only a means of identifications or unwilling to be bothered to learn the African names of the person he has just bought but also a means of defining*

their authority in the new relationship between master and slave” (2008).

The early abolition movement in North America was happened in 1831, this was triggered by the desire of the slaves to break free and oppose slavery on the basis of religion and morals. From about 1810 to 1850, the Underground Railroad helped to guide 100,000 enslaved people to freedom. Underground Railroad was a safe network routes. Northerners Antislaves helped enslaved people escape from southern plantations to the North. In 1861, the conflict between North and South escalated, starting a civil war.

The Southern States then began enacting the first segregation laws which were named "Jim Crow Laws". Jim Crow became a derogatory term for African American after post-southern reconstruction. This law was to separate black people from white people in schools, train cars, hotels, theaters, restaurants, companies, and even barber shops. This law was later repealed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Acts. But began to be applied in the 1970s. The Civil Rights Movement, started in 1954-1968, was an African American struggle to end racism, discrimination, disenfranchisement and racial segregation in the United States.

And now there is the Black Lives Matters movement, this movement first emerged in July 2013 via the social media platform Facebook by Alicia Garza. In response to the release of George Zimmerman, the man from Florida who shot and killed Trayvon Martin (17) on February 26, 2012. Black Lives Matters was formed with the aim of "*to eradicate*

white supremacy and build local power to intervene in violence inflicted in Black communities by the State and vigilantes". Black Lives Matters spread widely as high-profile cases involving the deaths of Black civilians and police brutality. In May 25, 2020, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic, so many people held demonstrations and protests demanding justice for the death of George Floyd who was killed by white police in Minneapolis, US.

This novel took place in Lorain, Ohio in 1940, where African-American was facing racism and discrimination in the state. And as cited in Ohio History Central, African-Americans originally migrated to the western part of America known as The Great Migration. Since 1803 Black Men and Women in Ohio, limited to getting jobs and accessing public places. They could not testify in court against whites or send their children to public schools. Most of these people were free, but some of them were slaves. Many whites prevent blacks to come to Ohio, because of fearing a loss of jobs for African-American workers. To help end segregation and discrimination the Ohio General Assembly enacted the Ohio Civil Rights Act of 1959. It also guaranteed all people fair access to public facilities and private business.

Racism has an adverse impact on human mental and physical health. When humans are in danger, the mind sends a response to the body to do something. This results in an increase in heart rate, respiration and blood pressure. Pressure due to racism can lead to stress, depression, anxiety etc.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research Design

In doing this research, the researchers use qualitative research because the data are in the form of words. According to Watusseke, “*Qualitative research is descriptive, the data collected only form in words and not numbers. The result of the research contains quotations from the data to illustrate and substantiate the research.*” (Watusseke, 36).

Data Collection

The researchers use two forms of data collection: Primary Source and Secondary Source. Primary Source is the source of information from the novel itself, *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. Secondary source is the sources that help the researcher complete the research through books, journals, articles, and the internet.

Data Analysis

In conducting the research, researchers use mimetic theory because this topic is related to the environment and as a reflection of human life that we often encounter today. Also the novel that the researchers chosen has a historical background that actually happened in the lifetime of the author.

Mimetic theory focuses on the relationship between text and universe, the literary work is an imitation or reflection of human life. In creating literary works, artists/writers have first observed human life in the real world (Abrams, 8). In analyzing data, the researchers use techniques from Miles and Huberman who said that in analysing qualitative data, there

were three activities: data reduction, data display, and a conclusion (Miles, 12).

1. Data reduction. Before reducing and condensing the data, the researchers have read the novel that will be analyzed and then chooses what topic will be the theme for the analysis. Then proceed with selecting a suitable theory to be used for research. In this study she chose the theme of racism and used mimetic theory, because mimetic theory is a theory based on events that occur in society, she collected data from documents, books, and journals and articles from the internet. This research focuses on words as the form which the data are found. From the amount of data collected from various sources, she compares, contrasts, and sorts the required data.

2. Data display. Researchers only use text or jotting, from the notes written by the researcher, she can categorize the relevant data which is the result of the reduction stage. The researchers elaborate the data taken from the original document, but there are some pieces taken to be used as citations but still included with the author.

3. Conclusion. At this stage, the researchers’ review the data that has been selected to be included in this research, whether the data is valid and can be accounted for, also whether the data can attract readers’ interest. In this study, the researchers conclude how racism occurs and how racism can impact the mental health of victims.

4. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

The Forms of Racism that portrayed in the Bluest Eye

The characters in the novel describe how black people in the U.S. face racial treatment by struggling and fighting racism, and its impact on the mental health of victims who cannot survive. Racism that appears in the novel is not only because of racist white people, but also among fellow blacks. In a way black people feel about themselves and they started to internalize racism because the black society also accepts the standards of white people. This is because not everyone has the same perception of something, as Tania stated: *“Every individual may produce different perception than another individuals toward a single object. Every individual must also have different experiences that influence the process of perception. Therefore, perception is subjective, eventhough people are facing a same object”* (Tania, 30).

Whites being racist because they think they have privileges. White supremacy is an ideology that places white people in the highest caste in the structure of society. This is a belief that white race is superior to other races and should dominated them. This is what resulted the term white privilege, white privilege is when white people get the highest position, they will get the privilege. According to Delgado and Stefanic (as cited in Ugorji, 34) *“white privilege could be defined as the myriad of social advantages benefits, and courtesies that come with being a member of the dominant race. In other words, it is a form of everyday racism because the whole notion of privilege rests on the concept of disadvantage”*.

All people who are considered the white has characteristics including white skin, blue eyes and blonde hair. *“White”* as referring to people is a political economic and legal concept established by colonial slave owners to separate poor Europeans and Africans, giving privilege to Europeans while creating a system of chattel slavery for Africans. The difference in the position of white people is classified between the class of white people (Ruling class, Middle class, Working class and Poor whites). The class that is at the top or the ruling class has the power to control the major economic and state resources.

What distinguishes non-ruling class from other races is that white people have different privileges from black people. So, even though they are also governed by the ruling class, they still have a sense of superiority to black people. In addition, whites consider themselves a symbol of purity, cleanliness and value. Meanwhile, black is associated with immorality, dirtiness, uncleanliness and worthlessness.

As quoted from Menggalomo, *“White race tends to act really harsh toward other race especially to black race, they have some ideology that the superior one have the right to do anything to the inferior one. In this case, white race does everything as they want to the black race, because they think black race is not educated, not smart enough, does not have a good position in society, does not own a nice house, a second-class human, etc”* (Menggalomo, 16).

In the novel, the character Pecola experienced rejection because of her ugliness and also various insults given to

black because of their appearances. The author Toni Morrison describes that racism does not only occur between white people and black people but also occurs among black people. Black superiority also occurs because of class differences inside the black community, and what triggers this ideology to emerge is because some black people are obsessed with the lives of white people, therefore some people internalize racism. Views of the culture and way of life of white people can influence how people perceive one another. For oppressed black people, the way they can receive the same treatment is to conform to white culture, because if they were more respectful they would not be influenced by racism.

As Johnson said, “*Racism is seen as a social phenomenon that happens to black people, but it happens through black people as well. Black people are taught to dress neatly, show good manners, speak appropriately, and remain free from sexual and other vices*” (Johnson, <https://google.com/amp/s/amp.theatlantic.com/amp/article/38402>). They thought that by acting like the ideal white person, black people would be free from racism and racial discrimination. An example of black superiority can be found from the character Geraldine, she is a light-skinned black woman; she belongs to the middle class black people.

It can be said that she lives an adequate life; therefore she underestimates black people who are classified as low or poor class. She is obsessed with cleanliness because she wants to be equal with white people who are considered valuable and pure. But her obsession only gave her a cold and cruel attitude.

The form of racism that occurs in the novel *The Bluest Eye* is rejection, insults, and violence applied by white people. Toni Morrison shares how society can influence our values and beliefs. Like the reason she made this novel to say something about racism, because what racism does to the most delicate member of society: a child; and the most vulnerable member: a female is terrible, it can create self-loathing and it ruin the victims.

Racial-based Rejection

As we know rejection is rejecting or keeping away something or someone. The rejection that occurs in the novel shows that rejection of black people is not only done by white people, but can occur among African-Americans. Rejection among black people is based on differences in class or social status. Pecola Breedlove is the character who feels and experiences rejection the most because she is black and ugly. The long racist history in America makes black people especially black women feel insecure. Nobody wants to talk to her, the teachers and her friends ignore her. That makes her wonder why does she ugly, because of this ugliness she does not have any friends at school.

“Long hours she sat looking in the mirror, trying to discover the secret of the ugliness, the ugliness that made her ignored or despised at school, by teachers and classmates alike. She was the only member of her class who sat alone at a double desk” (Morrison, 45).

Apart from her friends, Pecola also experienced the same thing when she went

to buy Mary Jane candy. Mr. Yacobowski, the shop owner is a light-skin man, he could not stand Pecola's presence and he does not want to see Pecola.

“He does not see her, because for him there is nothing to see. How can a fifty-two-year-old white immigrant store keeper . . . see a little black girl?” (Morrison, 48).

Pecola saw Mr. Yacobowski with emptiness and curiosity. Pecola did not know what made Mr. Yacobowski held back his glance. However, Pecola has realized the views of interest, disgust, and even anger from grown up eyes. Pecola felt Mr. Yacobowski did not want to see her because of her blackness. People avoid her because of her blackness. Her appearance as a dark-skinned girl made her feel embarrassed, she is always kind to others but they do not return her kindness, they never show love for her.

Pecola is not only rejected by white people, Pecola also experiences rejection by some of black people. The one who reject her was her own mother named Pauline Breedlove. When Pecola was born Pauline realized her ugliness, because she expected better things for her daughter. When Pecola was born at first Pauline liked to see her but gradually she knew that Pecola is ugly. Pauline did not see her own baby as beautiful, because she has internalized the white beauty standard as presented in the movies she often watched.

“I used to like to watch her. You know they makes them greedy sounds. Eyes all soft and wet. A cross between a puppy and a dying man. But I knowed she was

ugly. Head full of pretty hair, but Lord she was ugly” (Morrison, 126).

Examples of rejection can also be found through the representation of Geraldine's character, which describes class differences among black people. The less fortunate black people who belong to the lower-class group mostly live under poverty, some of their work is as laborers who do hard work and receive little wages. Sometimes their income is not enough to meet their daily needs. In fact, if black people get a proper education they can keep up with white people.

We can see the class differences from the character Geraldine. Geraldine presented the example of black superiority. Geraldine and her family are also black people but they have a light skin. She considers herself and her family to be "colored people", they are not the same as the other black community which she calls "niggers".

“White kids; his mother did not like him to play with niggers. She had explained to him the difference between colored people and niggers. They were easily identifiable. Colored people were neat and quiet; niggers were dirty and loud” (Morrison, 87).

Geraldine is a middle-class black people. She has a nice house, she keeps her house tidy, her clothes are always clean and ironed. She always dresses her son so that he is always neat like a white person. Geraldine hates her race, that makes her does not want to be recognized as the same as other black people. Her obsession made her internalize racism that poor dark-

skinned black people are not equal to whites society and even to her family

Toni Morrison shows how black people internalize racism and become racist to their fellow communities. Ideal beauty means a white skin, blonde hair, blue eyes, a perfect body shape and anything that a white person looks like. Meanwhile, the "blackness" of a person means darkness of skin, dark-eyed color, wavy hair and different face shapes from white people. The appearance of a black person who does not meet this standard of beauty will affect one's own self-confidence, as well as the discrimination and difficulties one's will face.

Black people also are rejected in the city park. They are forbidden to visit a public place. This place is Lake Shore Park which is only for the whites, blacks are not allowed to be there. The park is supposed to be for everyone but black people were not allowed to visit the park even though it was empty.

"We reached Lake Shore Park, a city park laid out with rosebuds, fountains, bowling greens, picnic tables. . . black people were not allowed in the park, so it filled our dreams" (Morrison, 105).

Racial Insults

As Byrne stated "*Racial insults are acts of insulting or offending groups or individuals of certain races which are done on purpose or carelessly.*" (Byrne, 2). African-Americans are insulted because they are black and ugly and that is something they can not control. Pecola was segregated at school and her friend always make fun of her. They used her to mock the

other students. One time when she was walking home from school she was bullied by a group of boys. They were circling at her and she was crying she could not do anything, they screamed at her:

"Black e mo. Black e mo. Yadaddsleepsnekked. Black e mo black e mo ya dadd sleeps nekked. Black e mo . . ." (Morrison, 65).

They teased her by insulting her existence as a black person and her parents. It is something she has no control over, her skin color and the sleeping habits of an adults. Apart from that, the children who harassed Pecola were also black. By insulting Pecola, they let them go of fatigue in their thoughts about the truth of their existence as black people.

Besides Pecola's experience, her mother was also insulted by white people. When she was about to give birth to Pecola, she went to the hospital and was treated unfairly in the hospital. She was humiliated by the doctors. From the quote below, it is said that the senior doctor told his juniors that Pauline had no difficulty in delivering the baby, Pauline was not even said to feel pain like a horse.

"The old one was learning the young ones about babies. Showing them how to do. When he got to me he said now these here women you don't have any trouble with. They deliver right away and with no pain. Just like horses" (Morrison, 125).

The doctor harshly belittles Pauline by comparing her to a horse. Thus making the other doctors laughed at her. The doctors do not treat blacks as equal as whites. Pauline

got insulted was a reflection of how African-Americans, especially black women being treated at the public health care.

“I seed them talking to them white women: ‘how you feel? Gonna have twins?’ just shucking them, of course, but nice talk. Nice friendly talk” (Morrison,12).

When the doctors approached a white woman who was also about to give birth, they spoke very kind and friendly to her. Even though black women also feel the same pain while giving birth to a baby same as other white women

Violence

Racism is perpetuated through hate speech and manifested by violence. It is a form of physical violence, but it can also be through other means (Frans, 2). The Black Lives Matter movement emerged in America since the death of black people who were not resolved with justice. This is nothing new. Racial violence has long roots in the era of slavery and colonialism. The Africans were captured and sold to America as slaves. African-American in the U.S are particularly exposed to police violence as well as racist violence.

In the novel *The Bluest Eye*, violence is not only described as physical violence but also verbal violence perpetrated by fellow black people. Pauline has always been rude and mean to Pecola that is because she can not accept her own daughter. She always hit Pecola to vent her anger. When she accidentally made a mess by touching the blueberry pan and the pan fell and spilled on the floor.

“Most of the juice splashed on Pecola’s legs, and the burn must have been painful, for she cried out and began hopping about just as Mrs. Breedlove entered with a packed laundry bag. In one gallop she was on Pecola, and with the back of her hand knocked her to the floor . . . Mrs. Breedlove yanked her up by the arm, slapped her again, and in a voice thin with anger, abused Pecola directly” (Morrison, 109).

Pauline mistreated Pecola for what she has done, she beat Pecola without noticing that Pecola's leg was burned because of the hot blueberry juice. She even said 'crazy fool' to her own daughter in front of the white girl, her employer's daughter.

“crazy fool ... my floor, mess ... look what you ... work ... get on out ... now that ... crazy ... my floor , my floor ... my floor” (Morrison, 109).

Regardless of Pecola, Pauline actually calmed the white girl. She gives care and love to her employer's child as if she is her own child. Pauline's attitude towards her daughter is different from her attitude towards the white girl proving that she values white people more than her own people.

Other character also shows violence to Pecola. When Geraldine's son, Louis Jr. saw Pecola at the playground he invited Pecola to go to his house. He tricked her by saying he would show Pecola kittens, but he threw Geraldine's cat at Pecola. Junior's throwing a cat at Pecola meant that he hated black people, just like his mother's upbringing.

“He threw a big black cat right in her face. She sucked in her breath in fear and surprise and felt fur in her mouth. The cat clawed her face and chest in an effort to right itself, she leaped nimbly to the floor” (Morrison, 89-90).

The Impact of Racism on Mental Health

Racist behavior has a negative impact on the mental and physical health of the victim. The impact of racism that victims receive continuously can cause mental illness. Victims will hate other people who they think are different from themselves and even hate themselves because they lose their confidence and end up depressed. As Solomon stated *“racial discrimination not only exacerbates the relationships of whites and blacks, but non-white children become the product of a system that causes irreparable physical scars.”* (Solomon, 25).

The first is the character Claudia MacTeer, she hates white people and anything related to white supremacy.

“We stare at her, wanting her bread, but more than that wanting to poke the arrogance out of her eyes and smash the pride of ownership that curls her chewing mouth. When she comes out of the car we will beat her up, make red marks on her white skin” (Morrison, 1).

Claudia's character represents the resistance of black people to racism. The quote above implies that she was angry with the arrogance of white people. One of the effects of racism is the hatred against white people. The quote above shows an incident when a white girl Claudia's age was eating bread and butter while showing

it off to Claudia and Frieda. At that time black people were classified as poor while whites were rich, therefore black children had to experience ridicule from white children.

The hatred for white people also arises when Claudia sees Pecola and Frieda admiring Shirley Temple and when she gets a Christmas present.

“I had not arrived at the turning point on the development of my psyche which would allow me to love her. What i felt that time was unsullied hatred” (Morrison, 19).

“I destroyed white baby dolls. But the dismembering of dolls was not the true horror. The trully horrifying thing was the transference of the same impulses to little white girls” (Morrison, 24).

Claudia went against white standards because she hated being compared to white girls as if adults did not realize their own superiority. Claudia refuses to praise the beauty of Shirley Temple and there is only hatred because adults prefer white girls over black girls. In addition, with an image of her Christmas present, she received a white doll. But she destroyed it because she did not like adults to internalize racism by accepting white people's beauty standards and giving the doll to Claudia regardless of what she wanted.

Apart from causing hatred to whites. Racism also causes victims to lose confidence and hate themselves. As a black girl, Pecola has to face all forms of racism that make her end up self-loathing. She considers all the difficulties and misfortunes that happened to her life was

because of her ugliness. That is why she wanted to disappear from all her problems.

“Please, God,” she whispered into the palm of her hand. “Please make me disappear.” She squeezed her eyes shut. Little parts of her body faded away. . . . almost done, almost. Only her tight, tight eyes were left. They were always left (Morrison, 45).

Pecola always asks God to change her eyes, she believes her request will be granted even if she has to wait a long time.

“Each night, without fail, she prayed for blue eyes. Fervently, for a year she had prayed. Although somewhat discouraged, she was not without hope. To have something as wonderful as that happen would take a long, long time.” (Morrison, 47)

Pecola gets what she wants. Blue eyes, not just blue but the bluest eyes. She does not accept reality and believes differently, her desires become obsessions and hallucinations that make her lose consciousness. The taunts and rejection from everyone coupled with his father's deeds completely destroyed Pecola. She goes mad, she just spends her time walking at the edge of the town talking to herself with her imaginary friend. All the kids her age were afraid of her and everyone avoided her.

“The damage done was total. She spent her days, her tendril, sap-green days, walking up and down, up and down, her head jerking to the beat of a drummer so distant only she could hear.” (Morrison, 204).

CONCLUSION

Based on the analysis, there are two main points that researchers can conclude, the first is racism revealed in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* because of the privilege of white people to feel themselves better than black people. This ideology then gives rise to various forms of racism that occurred in novels such as rejection, insults and violence. Racism that occurs in the novel is carried out by racist white people and fellow black communities who internalize racism against their community.

Second, the impacts of racism on the mental health are divided into two, namely hating others with the emergence of feelings of anger and hatred towards others, and hating themselves because of losing self-confidence.

Suggestions

The researchers want to provide suggestions for future researchers who want to use the novel *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison. This novel is very interesting to read and study because it discusses racism that faced by African-Americans in the U.S. Through this novel we will get important lessons about the problems that exist in society, which is about the treatment of different races. And most importantly we can find out what will happen to the victims if they experience racist treatment every day

REFERENCES

- Abrams, Meyer H., (1953). *The Mirror and the Lamp*. United States of America: Oxford University.
- Boyle, Kevin (2005). *Dimensions of Racism*. United Nations New York and Geneva.
- Byrne, J. Peter (1991). *Racial Insults and Free Speech Within the University Georgetown University Law Center*. <<https://scholarship.law.georgetown.edu/facpub/1577>>.
- Clair, Matthew and Denis Jeffrey (2001). *Racism, Sociology of Elsevier Ltd*. Vol. 19, 857-861
- Frans, Joe (2018). *22nd session of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent Geneva*. March 19-23 Palais des Nation.
- Krieger, Nancy (2003). *Does Racism Harm Health? Did Child Abuse Exist Before 1962? On Explicit Questions, Critical Science, and Current Controversies: An Ecosocial Perspective*. *American Journal of Public Health*. Vol. 93, No. 2, Feb. 194-199
- Maru, Mister Gidion (2012). *Harlem Renaissance: A Glance On Its Rise, Movement, and Figures*. E-CLUE Journal of English Culture, Language, Literature, and Education Vol. 6, No.1, pp 1329-1422, March.
- Maru, Mister Gidion (2008). *Black Name Practice as the Reflection of the Blacks' Cultural Experiences as Seen in Morrison's Song of Solomon (1977)*. *Lingua Conscientia Journal*. Vol.4, No.1, February -STBA LIA Yogyakarta.
- Menggalomo, Nilia R., Oroh, Elizabeth Z., Mamentu, Augustine C., (2020). *Racial Discrimination As Seen In Stockett's The Help*. *Journal of English Language and Literature Teaching*. Vol. 5 No.01.
- Miles, Matthew B., et al. (2014). *Qualitative Data Analysis: A Methods Sourcebook edition 3*. Sage Publication, Inc.
- Morrison, Toni (2007). *The Bluest Eye*. United States, New York: Vintage Books, A Division of Random House, Inc.,
- Solomon, Patrick. R., (1992). *Black Resistance in High School*, State University of New York Press, Albany.
- Tania, Ervita C., Nihta V.F. Liando, Mister Gidion Maru (2016). *English Teachers' Perception Toward Character Assesment in 2013 Curriculum: A Study on Junior High Schools in Manado and Tomohon, North Sulawesi*. *Journal of English Language and Literature Teaching*. Vol.1, No.1.
- Ugorji, Basil. 2016. *Black Lives Matter: Decrypting Encrypted Racism*. Nova Southeaster University. Vol. 37-38:27.
- Watusoke, Charsen, Elisabeth Z. Oroh, Clara C. Mamentu (2020). *Wisdom in John Grisham's The Rainmaker*. *Journal of English Language and Literature Teaching*. Vol.5, No.1.
- "Black History Milestones: Timeline" (2009). History. A&E Television Networks, Oct 14. <<https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/black-history-milestones>>
- "Segregation" (2010). Ohio History Central <<https://ohiohistorycentral.org/w/segregation>>.