

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

This chapter, the researcher provides some theories that are relevant to analyze slavery in this film. This chapter includes some theories of conflict and slavery.

2.1 Conflict

Character in the story also has problem like in a real life. With the problem, the character will lead to conflict. According to Wellek and Warren's opinion, the conflict is something dramatic, referring to fight between the two force are balanced and implies the existence of an action and the action reply (1995:285). Another statement from Perrine, quoted by Siti Faizah (2012:8) "The conflict may be physical, mental, emotional, or moral. In physical conflict, usually there will be a physical fight, such as fistfight of gunfight. Just like in action stories. More than of physical combat, there is also moral conflict, such as good versus bad man".

From the explanation above, conflict means something unpleasant that cannot be mutually adjust the desire, effort and what they mean. Conflict can happen through mental, emotional and physical that make characters do action to reveal that problem. Conflict can be divided into two kinds such as internal and external conflicts.

Conflicts that make a story become more interesting. A story without conflict will be tiresome. So that conflict in an important aspect of s story.

Conflict can be divided into two kinds such as internal conflict and external conflict.

2.1.1 Internal Conflict.

Internal conflict happens inside the self or thought of each character. This conflict cannot be seen by other character. According to Jones, Jr states that the readers find a man struggling against himself, his conscience, his guilt or simply trying to decide what he's going to do. From the quotation above, it can be noted that internal conflict occurs inside his/her soul. He/she might struggle to reach decision and make a choice.

2.1.2 External Conflict

External conflict is a kind of conflict happen between a character and other ones. The main character is against something outside him/her. According to Stanton (Nurgiyantoro, 1998:124) states," external conflict is a conflict between a characters with anything outside itself. Moreover, according to Pickering says "external conflict may take the form of the basic opposition between an individual and nature, between an individual and society and between man and man.

From the quotation above, it can be concluded that conflict usually appears from their circles, it maybe with nature or society. External conflicts by Jones (1965:30) are divided into two parts, namely physical conflict and social conflict;

- Physical conflict is a conflict caused by the presence of fighting between two people with the natural environment.

- Social conflict is a conflict caused by the existence of social problem arising out human relationships included issue of labor, oppression war, strife and other in literary works.

The data in this research will be analyzed by using the theories of conflict as discussed above.

2.2 Slavery

2.2.1 General Background

Slave trade aimed at enslaved Africans originally began from the Sahara to the Mediterranean by sea routes or land to Asia. Slave trade among Africa and Europe extended with increased Portuguese commercial contact at the 15th century. At that time, the Europeans interested with gold, ivory and many others that effected the African merchants, who were the producers of such export commodities as well as the consumers of new European imports, into the wider European trading systems well in advance of the development of the transatlantic slave trade (Beckles, 2002:25).

The big effect of the expansion of slave trade in Europe is slave trading took on the new alteration or dimension. Because of the slave trade became a significant commerce for Europeans. In that period, it was no easy to find the slaves. But some African traders took advantages of chance to exploit for profit (Beckles, 2002: 26). At the result, millions of African people were kidnapped, enslaved, and shipped across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas under horrific conditions that frequently resulted in starvation and death (Equal Justice Initiative, 2013:3).

While the slave trade developed, Europeans commonly argued Africans and their descendants were naturally inferior to Europeans, so it was morally acceptable to enslave them. As a result, the slave trade became the racial nature of triangular trade between Africa, Europe and the Americas. The trade was supported by a racist ideology that saw white people as being the most perfectly developed and blacks as being that at the bottom of the ladder. According to Hilary McDonald Beckles said that:

The Europeans, dwelling on the African peoples' different physical appearance and unfamiliar cultural characteristics, concluded that they were an inferior race of outsiders and deserved ill treatment. By virtue of their being non-European, it was thought that the black African peoples could be legitimately enslaved, an idea that went with the Europeans' belief that in trading in Africa they were actually also "discovering", and where possible "claiming," new lands and their inhabitants (2002:26).

From the quotation above, the researcher gets point that racism played a major part in European decisions to enslave Africans. Racism was a driving force behind states slave trade. Europeans as white people believed that black people was stupid and immoral. To many Europeans, dark skin color became a sign of inferiority. Slavery, which developed to provide a labor force, led to racism.

But, in 1500s, slavery was not based on skin color. The Greeks and Romans did not think of "race" in the same way as later Europeans did. Most slaves were prisoners of war or sold into slavery as a punishment for a crime. It made no difference to the buyers or sellers if the slaves had light or dark skin.

According to Matthew Kachur says,

Europeans had many negative stereotypes of Africans before the era of the slave trade. Skin color was one feature that made Europeans prejudiced against Africans. In the 1400s and 1500s, many Portuguese and Spanish also believed that

Africans must be inferior because they were not Christians (2006:23).

Based on the quotation above, the researcher get points that African slavery bringing on a huge increase in European racism. Because of Europeans prejudiced about Africans. And then the Europeans supported by Europeans theologians were shared by Catholic Church and the Vatican that the enslavement of black people was allowed because peoples were pagans and should therefore be converted to Christianity, if necessary by force. In this way, Papal policy at the time supported the commercial activities of the European slave traders (Beckles: 26-27).

In bible, in fact slavery would seem to be opposed. But Jesus Christ never spoke directly oppose slavery. One of famous passages from bible said that slavery to “be obedient to those who are your earthly masters, with fear and trembling”. Therefore the Christians did not oppose slavery (Kachur, 2006:24).

2.2.2 A Legal Position of Slaves

In the society, the position of slaves was ambiguous especially in America. A slave owner in the America were reckon on slaves to assure high profitability. According to William Goodbell states that “Fundamental Idea of modern Slaveholding namely, the assumed principle of Human Chattel hood, or Property in Man; constituting the relation of Owner and Property of Master and Slave” (1853:23). From the quotation above, it can be noted that the position of slaves based on the master as property or human chattel. As human chattel, the master treated like animal. It is proved with Act of Congress 1789 as cited in Goodbell say that, “ in case the personal property of ward shall consist of specific articles,

such as a slave, working beasts, animals (1853:21). The slave owner regard their slaves to recover good wrongfully detained, lost or damaged as they would any other property. Therefore the slaves became the power of master in the society.

As human chattel or property, automatically the slaves became the power of master. Therefore the slaves did not treat as human being. They became a master's pleasure. They may be sold and seized to pay the debts of their master. The slaves also prohibited to acquire the education like read and write. It was illegal to teach slaves to read or write. It was illegal to give them books. Because in the white's opinion, it could caused the big problem. And the slaves cannot do anything to prevent that. Because of they are a human chattel for the master. It is proved with William Goodbell statement:

The slave "is a chattel." But chattels have no literary or religious rights. He is a chattel " to all intents, constructions, and purposes whatsoever." He is " in the power of a master, to whom he belongs"— " entirely subject to the will of his master"—"not ranked among sentient beings, but among things."

Being chattels, the slaves also becomes the security masters debts. Then, The slaves also becomes barter's aids for producing profit. Sometimes, The master uses their slaves to pay a debt and also sell on the market. As a consequence, many slaves become exchange value. It is strengthened with Stroud Sketch's statement as cited in Goodbell said that:

The slave, being a personal chattel, is att all times liale to be sold absolutely, or mortgaged, or leased, at the will of his master. He may also be sold by a process of lain for the satisfaction of the debts of a living, or the debts and bequests of a deceased master, at the suit of creditors or legatees (1853:63-64)

After considered being property, not people, their master also re-named their slaves's name as they wants. The master compelled slaves to accept new names. And then they renamed underlied their status as chattels belonging to their owner (Hampshire Record Office, 2007:11)

Being property, the slaves also cannot constitute family. Because the master prohibits the slaves to gather with family. According to William Goodbell, he said that:

Being Property, "Goods" and "Chattels Personal," to all intents, constructions and purposes whatsoever, they have no claim on each other — no security from Separation - no marital rights – no parental rights – no family government – no family education – no family protection ”(1853:113).

From quotation above, it can be noted that a slaves has no more legal authority over his family and his child. The fact that the slave as chattels that is bought and transported from one plantation to another plantation in the slave state become a evident that slave cannot constitute families.

Being property, the slaves may be used by their master at wish for their own profit or pleasure. According to William Goodbell states, “the slave is entirely subject to the will of his master. Nothing, therefore, can prevent the master from putting him to any use he pleases (1853:78). From the quotation above, the use of property by the master is unlimited. The right of slaves is recognized and the master can do anything to their property for their pleasure. But the prominent use of property for the master is slave's labor. According to William Goodbell said that:

A prominent use of slave property is unrequited slave labor. The hired laborer is employed. The slave laborer is used as a horse or an ox is used. His labor is held to be the property of his owner. At this point he is degraded to the level of a brute,

whether moderately or excessively worked. The use of a slave as a brute laborer is an injury and an insult. It is a denial of his nature as a man and of his rights as a free moral agent (1853:78-79).

From the quotation above, the slaves will be used as a free labor on the plantation. The slaves were trained to endure their work and conditions. They have no choice, obey or received the punishment. Therefore the use of slave are insult and injury object. Automatically, the slaves experienced a mental and physical torture. At the result, many slaves resisted ar rebelled by running away or eating something to cause them sick. And to prevent rebellion, the government passed the laws to regulate the treatment of slaves. Some of these laws tried to spften the harsh condition of slavery, but most were designed to punish slaves and keep them in bondage.

2.2.3 The Control and Treatment of Slaves

According to Act of congress 1740 as cited in Goodbell said that:

In case any person shall willfully cut out the tongue, put out the eye, castrate, or cruelly scald, burn, or deprive any slave of any limb or member, or shall inflict any other cruel punishment, other than by whipping, or beating with a horsewhip, cow skin, switch, or small stick, or by putting irons on, or confining or imprisoning such slave, every such person shall, for every such offense, forfeit the sum of one hundred pounds, current money (1789:163)

The slave owner treated their slaves with any treatments. Therefore they licensed to commit their slaves brutality. The slave owner or masters authorized cruel punishment in a number or forms specified. The way that slave owners overbearing their slaves varied from owner to owner. The most significant and common form of punishment was flogging and personal coercion using the whip must be seen as the characteristic of slavery. And as slaves, many rebelled, more

run away, and most often slowed down on the job, avoided work, deliberately broke tools, or pretended not to understand commands. James Ramsay as cited from John Simkin and Peter McMillan said that:

The ordinary punishments of slaves, for the common crimes of neglect, absence from work, eating the sugar cane, theft, are cart whipping, beating with a stick, sometimes to the breaking of bones, the chain, an iron crook about the neck..... A ring about the ankle, and confinement in the dungeon. There have been instances of slitting of ears, breaking of limbs, so as to make amputation necessary, beating out of eyes, and castration..... In short, in the place of decency, sympathy, morality, and religion; slavery produces cruelty and oppression. It is true, that the unfeeling application of the ordinary punishments ruins the constitution, and shortens the life of many a poor wretch.

Based on explanation above, the slave owner punished their slaves because of breaking a law, leaving plantation without permission and working too slowly. And then, slaves were punished by hanging, beating, burning, and whipping and so on. And at 1819, the government of Louisiana recognized the law that permits the master to put iron chains and collars upon slaves, to prevent them from running away (Goodbell: 163). At the result, Enslaved people suffered extreme physical violence as punishment for running away, failing to complete assigned tasks, visiting a spouse living on another plantation, learning to read, arguing with whites, working too slowly, possessing anti-slavery materials, or trying to prevent the sale of their relatives.

Whipping executing, hanging and rapes were commonplace. However, since the slave woman was chattel, a white man who raped her was guilty only of a trespass on the master's property. Rape was common on the plantation, and very few cases were ever reported. For many black women, one of the cruelest sufferings that they experienced was sexual abuse by the slave owners, overseers

and other white men. At the result, plenty of the colored women have children by the white men. (National Humanities Center, 2007:1).

2.3 Review of Previous Study

There is researchers who is interested the study about the film “12 Years a Slave”. It is done by Ade Cahya Permadani (2014). In her article, entitled **Representasi Perbudakan Dalam Film *12 Years A Slave* (Analisis Semiotika John Fiske Mengenai Perbudakan Dalam Film *12 Years A Slave* Karya Sutradara Steve McQueen)**. Ade’s study used a qualitative approach with the method of semiotic by John Fiske. And the results of study showed that the level of reality of slavery, the level of ideology of slavery and the level of representation of slavery. The slavery at the level of reality, seen the presence of hopelessness, distress, and social control political that is experienced by black people. At the level of representation that has been seen the violence, kidnapping, the sale of man, forced labor and control exercised by the white people against the black people with the purpose to obtain a profit. At the level of ideology that has been resulting from the merger between the level of reality and the level of representation. It is the presence of ideology racism and capitalism contained in representing slavery in the movie.

In Ade’s article has a differences with this study. It can be seen from the theory that the researcher used. Ade used Semiotic theory by John Fiske. However the researcher used slavery by William Goodbell to analyze the object. Furthermore, the similarity with this researcher related with the object. They used the same object, the script of “12 Years a Slave.