



**THE DISTRESS OF BEING AMERICAN AS A
REJECTION OF DIFFERENTIATION IN TONI
MORRISON'S *PARADISE***

A final project

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in English

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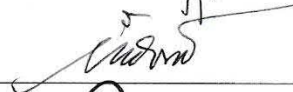
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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I Viky Andani hereby declare that this final project entitled The Distress of being American as a Rejection of Differentiation in Toni Morrison's Paradise my own work and has not been submitted in any form for another degree or diploma at my university or other institutions. Information from the published and unpublished work of others has been acknowledged in the text and a list of references is given in the references.

Semarang, November 21, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Viky Andani', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“If you don’t take risks, you can’t create future!”

-Monkey D. Luffy-

“Le monde est un livre don’t chaque pas nous ouvre une page.”

-Alphonso de LAMARTINE-

For:

Me, Myself for being awesome.

My Family

Everyone

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Foremost, I wish to thank God, Allah the Almighty who has given me the greatest love, mercy, grace, and His blessing that I have finished this final project.

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Then, I am indebted to my parents, who greatly give their affections and supports. Always with me in my upside down. I am so grateful to have them by my side.

My special thanks and appreciation are address to all of my best friends, either whom here or outside of the island who always support me and cheer me up during my research, who have made this final project report possible.

Finally, I also hope that my final project will be useful for the readers. Therefore, I would like to appreciate any criticisms or suggestions for the improvement of this study.

Semarang, November 21, 2018

ABSTRACT

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America is a diverse nation. America has many races from all around the world and been recognized by the world as salad bowl. America also known for country of freedom. The fact that freedom and diversity who build America is interesting. Besides, American diversity has unique historical story which is between black and white. *Paradise* captures the journey and struggle of people fighting the distress of becoming American as a result of the diversity exist which create differentiation within the society of America. This study aims to find the way how to fight the distress as rejection of differentiation in the land of America and its relevant of American nowadays. The method of this study is a qualitative study analysis by deconstruction method of Jacques Derrida. Then, the method of data analysis is based on the distress experienced by people described in the novel and how they deal with the distress. Morrison's novel shows that differentiation within the society of America is various; race, gender, background, age, etc. but actually it can be changed. They can fight the differentiation that exist by put the distress in reverse. The final finding of this study shows that power, constructs and control the distress experienced by American which is also still relevant today.

Keywords: America, American, Differentiation, African-American

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

This first chapter explained several points which consisted of background of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, statements of problems, objectives of the study, and significances of the study.

1.1 Background of the Study

Differentiation which commonly known as segregation is one of the most famous American specters which none can deny. The witnesses not only exist in the United States, but also in the world. Segregation cannot be separated from the black history of America. It well known as racial segregation. According to Meriam-Webster dictionary, segregation is the separation or isolation of race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separate educational facilities, or by other discriminatory means. Besides, racial segregation means the separation, either by law or by action, of people of different races in all manner of daily activities, such as education, housing, and the use of public facilities. Thus, it is a form of institutional racism (www.newworldencyclopedia.org).

America, is a diverse nation which have a lot of immigrant. Mention the fact that most of the United States' citizen is immigrant. They are all come over from many places all around the world such, Europe, Asia, India, etc. But the matter here is not about any of those immigrants, it is about American who was their ancestors

are African. They are African, but they are American. Or simply, the researcher says African born American.

Talking about diverse nation, there must be so many various people, from various cultures and background which become one, that is America. But, physically they are different. The most significance differences are between skin color, black and white. American people are well known for its racial term which people whom have white color think they are superior and black is the opposite one. It cannot be separated from the history which among the world black people known as born slave before. So, this cause makes the white thinks such and creates discrimination which lead to segregation.

Segregation is really such a big deal in the United States. It can be seen in the post posted by www.loc.gov. Segregation is not only about race, but also public facility, salary, school, even law is different. Black are among the lowest in America. The declaration of independence mentions that all American must have freedom and treat equally, but this does not prevail for black. Even there are a law which called Jim Crow Laws which states “Separate but equal” reported on www.britanica.com. It happens everywhere, like toilette for colored people are different from white people. School, mostly African-American only have education as high as elementary school because there is no high education institution for colored people. The worst, doctor for colored people are not doctor, more to veterinarian. As the time pass by, the situation is even getting much worse than worse. Many whites are declaring oath which states no land would they sell for

black people and no man would hire black blood for labor like everybody known in the history of Oklahoma, and it is written on www.okhistory.org .

Because of many things like that, the researcher concluded that being colored people in the United States is really difficult since they are treated differently everywhere, do not have equal rights, and most of American look down on them. So, they look for freedom. Freedom that they dream of. Since they are part of America, they wanted to contribute to America and have their rights as American just the same as white American. But since they got nowhere, they tried to look for place where they would feel safe and economically good. But still, white always affects them, making some of them want to exodus from Oklahoma which called “Back to Africa” movements. Which is getting stronger because of the great depression which make them much more desperate.

From all of those explanation, the researcher can see that being African American in the United States is really difficult. Since segregation happens everywhere, the only place they can go on is only nowhere. They dream for land who gives them freedom and equal rights, place who can accept what they are, and place which is safe for their wives and children to live on. Even though there is a law called, Jim Crow Laws (www.britanica.com) which believes “separate but equal” is really still. They are separated and not equal. The law only speaks about equal but the society are not. Even though if Jim Crow Laws can make it true, still segregation exist. The researcher can see from the word “separate”.

There are also some literary works which talk about rejection of differentiation. Actually, this kind of issue can be found in many kinds of literary works, from novel such *Black Boy* by Richard Wright, novella such *The Metamorphosis* by Franz Kafka, to Japanese manga *One Piece: Fishman Island Arc* by Eiichiro Oda.

The researcher can see that Toni Morrison's *Paradise* reflected the struggle of black people living in white society fighting because of the rejection of differentiation. It shows the gap between people living in the same land and the conflict also segregation that occurs between them. The conflict looks real and gives us a broad sense about being black in white community.

Paradise might be just like other novel which depicted black's life or struggle. For example, *Black Boy* written by Richard Wright like what the researcher has mentioned before. Both *Paradise* and *Black Boy* told about black's struggle. The characters having the same journey which is trying to deconstruct their world so they could fit in. In the *Black Boy* the center of the attention is on Richard's life as the main character, he told about the societies where he lives in, what is their distress and struggle through Ricard's point of view. In *Paradise* the point of view is broader. It reflected the distress and struggle in broader sense. *Paradise* shows ore point of view, showing the distress through various struggle and differentiation. And the most, it gives the general issue of distress about being American as a result of differentiation that makes the issue is interesting to be discussed.

There are some results of analysis that discussed about *Paradise* novel. They are Nidhi Khatana (2013) that conducted the study entitled *Redefining History in*

Toni Morrison's Paradise and Peter Widdowson (2001) that conducted the study entitled *The American Dream Refashioned: History, Politics and Gender in Toni Morrison's "Paradise"*. According to Nidhi Kathana, he stated that his study deals with critique of communities based on the principle of isolationism and patriarchy by making Ruby a microcosm of America. According to Peter Widdowson, he believes that In *Paradise*, Morrison seems to give reflection to the US the failure of implementing the Declaration's principles in respect of a large proportion of its people. The novel is also about the failure of Reconstruction and the catastrophe it became for black people. Those two studies are different from what the researcher about to analyze.

In the researcher analysis, the researcher would like to figure out the real struggle about being black, the distress that they experienced, and what they wanted the most in their life as part of the citizen of the United States. Actually, the gap in the declaration of independence which states that all American must treated equally, but in fact, they are not. Or, simply said the distress of being American about how they are rejected because of the differentiation that they have. So, actually being African born American in the United States is difficult task since they must face the segregation. They live in separate way. Living fragmentary lives. Where they should be live in harmony and equally.

Since it happens everywhere before, African born American are trying to deconstruct the world where they can belong to, where they would be accepted, where they can be treated equally, where they can live in peace. Toni Morrison's

Paradise is trying to send this message through her novel that these people want to deconstruct the world in their own way.

Actually, the deconstruction is a useful practice in unfolding the concealed meanings and perceptions in texts, and it is in fact an interpretation style that is sometimes leading to find out unexpected meanings. The deconstruction indeed aims to reveal the concealed and other implicit meanings, not to show up the meaningless of the text by separating it (Balkin, 1995-1996: 1-3). In conducting this research, the researcher would like to use deconstruction theory to find the unexpected meaning, the implicit meaning of Toni Morrison's *Paradise* which is about the distress of being African born American in that era in America which will highlight the deconstruction of black history. Because, it can be seen that Morrison in her novel depicted indirect segregation which shows the difficulties of being black/ African American in the United States. Which most of black suffering this thing and want to escape from this thing by creating a new society which they think could give something that they want, something that they dream of, and the only thing they can do is deconstruct the history so they could belong to. Also, where they can be themselves, that is being African, but American. Or it could be simply said as, deconstruct American world so black could fit in.

Therefore, what makes the researcher's research will be different from the other is, the researcher focuses on black's struggle to deconstruct American world, to fill the gap in declaration of independence, so they could find their own paradise. It is all about the distress of being American. While the other studies, most of the previous studies conducted by the other researchers are mostly focus and characters

and its symbol, as well as ideology shows in the novel. Which is, it is different from the researcher's studies.

So, from all of those explanation that the researcher explained above. The researcher concluded that the problem here is the struggle of people who face segregation or differentiation in their land, facing the law and society and how they come up with all of those things. Also, what they do to survive. This research aims to show the picture of the distress of being American as a rejection of differentiation that happen in the land of America as reflected in Toni Morrison's *Paradise*. Last but not least, the researcher hopes that this research could open up people's mind that treated people differently is no good. No matter what color they are, what religion, even whatever they are, we should treat them equally, and law should act to make it happen. So, they do not have to experience segregation or kind of.

In this study, the researcher wants to analyze the distress of being American as a rejection of differentiation by using deconstruction theory which its theory aims to reveal the concealed and other implicit meanings, not to show up the meaninglessness of the text by separating it (Balkin, 1995-1996: 1-3).

The matter which really matter is the struggle between people in Ruby and the Convent which trying to survive with their own way, apply their own law, and live by themselves. Which in the end it makes them what they are and made them behave as they are as a result of the distress of being American as rejection of differentiation. It is subject that is interested to be discussed in *Paradise* novel by Toni Morrison.

1.2 Reasons for Choosing the Topic

This study would be considered based on several reasons as follow.

First, differentiation is existing almost all over the world, they only differ in shape. The conflict still exists within our society. Therefore, this research will be important and interesting because the researcher will discuss how the distress of being American. This reason, somewhat could open up people's mind in the hope that the society will ignore differentiation in any kind.

Second, this research explains about how distress of being American which have not been conducted by other researchers before. Which most of the researchers tend to focus on characters and ideology, this research will focus on the struggle, the way the characters deconstruct their lives.

Third, the novel has been analyzed by some literary critics which believe that this novel is critiques towards America. However, it is interesting to be studied and analyzed from different point of view.

Lastly, there is no research yet which discussing about this topic and discussed it deeply.

1.3 Statements of the Problem

In conducting desirable results in analyzing *Paradise* by Toni Morrison through the topic the distress of being American as it was construction of American citizen in the United States, the researcher would focus on the analysis based on the following statements;

1. How is distress of being American described in the *Paradise* novel?
2. How is the distress of being American rejected through differentiation reflected in *Paradise* novel?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

According to the formulated statements of the problem above, the researcher intended to have several objectives to be achieved in this study. They were elaborated as follows;

1. To describe about the distress of being American as in *Paradise* novel.
2. To explain the distress of being American as a result of rejection through differentiation as depicted in *Paradise* novel.

1.5 Significance of the Study

In this research, there are significance for the readers, theoretically and practically. Practically, this study will provide the struggle which people experience as a result of differentiation which encourage them to make a difference in their life and creates a better life. Theoretically, this research expected to deliver the message about how important sameness is also how important equality is.

1.6 Limitation of the Study

This study attempted to analyze the distress of being American as it was a construction of the American citizen about how difficult to be an American in the United States based on the novel *Paradise* by Toni Morrison. Since the object of

the study is about being American, the analysis would limit on the relation which involved about how the distress of being American. The ending of this analysis would lead the researcher to the result of the distress faced by American citizen in the United States as described in the novel. Then, the analysis would continue on how these distresses faced by the American citizen especially African born American in the United States. Meanwhile, the distress would not only limit on the distress caused by racial issues but also gender, age, and family track. This study would point out the portrayal of how the distress of being American challenged by American citizen through deconstruction thinking.

1.7 Outline of the Study

This research will be organized into five chapters and subchapters. Chapter one is the introduction, which consists of background of study, reasons for choosing the topic, research problems, objectives of the study, reasons for choosing the topic, research problems, objectives of the study, significance of the study, and outline of the study.

Chapter two is review of related literature, which consists of three subchapters. First, it consists of reviews of the previous studies. Second, it consists of theoretical review that related to my topic. Third, it consists of theoretical frameworks that describe how the theories are applied in analyzing and answering the research questions.

Chapter three is research methodology. This chapter consist of five subchapters. The first is object of the study. Second, gives information about the role of the

researcher. The third gives the information about the type of data. The fourth, gives information about procedure of data collection. The next is procedure of data analysis.

Chapter four is the analysis. The procedure in conducting the data will be represented in descriptive. It consists of the analysis of the novel to answer the research questions of this research.

Chapter five, the researcher presents conclusion and some suggestion dealing with the subject matter of the final project.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

In this part, review of related literature would consist of previous studies, review of the novel, review of related theories, and theoretical framework of analysis. Previous studies can be journals, articles, essays, reports, thesis, etc. theoretical background was the list of theories would be used in this study. Last, theoretical framework would explain the way of this study.

2.1 Review of Previous studies

The researcher found some previous studies related to the topic in this study, which is study conducted by other researchers about *Paradise* by Toni Morrison. There are eleven studies which conducted research under *Paradise* novel. Each of them talks about different matter and problem which is vary. The following are those researchs that the researcher will explains one by one. These are the followings;

R.M. Prabha, conducted her study entitled *Five Facets of the Pentagon in the Convent of Toni Morrison's Paradise* (2016; 1-9). This study deals with the issue that in writing this novel, Toni Morrison use the root of Big Five dimension of personality. So, the characters can give unique taste to the reader. To prove her statement, in the journal she explains about what the Big-Five is, then she goes on explaining about the Convent, then about the Convent women. Like what she explains, all the five Convent women are structured from the Big-Five which is proofed that each of them has kind of personality. Consolata and openness to

experience, Mavis and conscientiousness, Gigi and extraversion, Pallas and agreeableness, and Seneca and neuroticism.

Zeng Na conducted his study entitled *The Healing Power in Toni Morrison's Paradise* (2015; 6-10). The journal aims to presents Morrison's view toward the importance of female character in novel *Paradise*. The author analyzes the healing power in the journal by divided it into two parts, which is first; about Consolata which has gift that the writer believed to be the healing leader, and second; The Convent which maintain as the healing community. It comes to conclusion that that one can overcome with the guidance of others.

Nidhi Khatana conducted his study entitled *Redefining History in Toni Morrison's Paradise* (2013; 103-108). In the journal the writer states that the novel is both a history and a critique history. The novel is attempt to enact a cultural transformation by using the religious and spiritual beliefs of black women and men to rearticulate (African) American history and nation building in the hopes that this rethinking of the past opens up the possibility of re-imaging the future.

Zanyar Kareem Abdul conducted his study entitled *The Silence of Women in Toni Morrison's Paradise* (2014; 1266-1270). He wrote that Morrison is more concerned with celebrating the unique feminine cultural values that black women have developed in spite of and often because of their oppression.

Zia Ahmed and Zoobia Abbas Khan conducted their study entitled *Negotiating Manichean Allegory in Morrison's Paradise* (2014; 57-69). They both explained explaining that the imperial manicheanistic thinking takes the natives as

evil and avoid identifying themselves with natives as being, as they lack rationality and they are of contaminated mind. And a manicheanistic in *Paradise* is, Ruby men consider the convent ladies as evil.

Ana Ma Fraile Marcos conducted her study entitled *The Religious Overtones Ethic Identity Building in Toni Morrison's Paradise* (2002; 95-116). The writer asserts that the two communities that Morrison contraposes in the novel can be seen as representative of two different trends in America's construction of national identity, which is assimilation and homogenization. Based on the assumption, the novel offers critique toward traditional American paradigm of nationhood and identity formation with roots in Puritanism.

M.M Slaughter conducted his study entitled *Moving Beyond the Law of the Fathers in Toni Morrison's Paradise* (2000;1-17). The writer of the journal states that law is central to the novel. It is what paradisaal community rest on, the foundation of symbolic order. The father is the image and principle of the limit and the consequent separation and absence. He is the paternal image of prohibition, of authority, fate, power or law to which one is subject as a human and social being. In the novel, the paternal is the ultimate image of all order and authority. And the society seen as one big family bound in submission to the law of father.

CHEN Yue-ting conducted his study entitled *Magic Realism in Morrison's Paradise* (2017; 973-981). So, his study about explaining that Morrison's *Paradise* somehow fictionalize Bible that can be seen from some of the character's name such Zechariah. Morrison also fictionalized the towns of Haven and Ruby in where

refer to some stories in the Bible. And Connie's going home proves Morrison's root seeking feature magic realism.

Sarah Appleton Aguiar conducted her study entitled *"Passing on" Death: Stealing Life in Toni Morrison's "Paradise"* (2004; 513-519). She believes Morrison demonstrates that death is a necessary condition of and for life, the acceptance of mortality is a critical aspect of life's and death's journey. And in the novel, actually both the Convent and Ruby are described as symbolic tombs, places rife with death. Besides, Ruby is named for the town's first death, and its citizens attempt to stave off the death of their way of life by strictly maintaining racial purity. On the other hand, the Convent women have taught themselves to deny deaths of others. But here, Consolata has kept Mary Magna alive even without her knowledge.

Udono Erika conducted her study entitled *Toni Morrison and Traditional Christianity Comment on Sugiyama Naoko, "Blessed Malelessness" as Womanist Critique?: Toni Morrison's Representation of Goddess in Paradise* (2007; 187-192). The writer of this journal mentions that Sugiyama emphasizes that Christianity is the backbone of Toni Morrison's writings, and the writer tends to be in agreement with her. So, Morrison's representations of feminine divine in *Paradise* is never totally apart from Christianity and its American and African-American religious tradition. Also, she shows that Sugiyama describes Piedade, the Goddess-like image in *Paradise*, as being rooted not only in the African-Brazilian religion of Candomblé, but also in Catholicism and "Christianity is one of its most

original form". Thus, Sugiyama insist that Piedade is the amalgamation of various religious images.

Sumera Subuhi conducted his study entitled *Toni Morrison's Paradise: A Critical Overview* (2017; 120-126). He sates that *Paradise* attempts to enact a similar cultural transformation by using the religious and spiritual beliefs of black women and men to rearticulate (African) American history and nation building in the hopes that this rethinking of the past opens up the possibility of reimagining the future. Moreover, the term racism here in *Paradise* is not particularly black and white, likely refers to the unequal treatment of people on the basis of some biological and physical characteristics, especially skin colour, and shape of the face.

From the research conducted by researcher above, it is clear that this analysis has not been done before. These studies discuss different aspect of science, different objects, and focusses. This research explains the distress of being American reflected in the novel as well as how is differentiation of being American is rejected through differentiation. While the focus in this study is about how the distress of being American, which is, it is different from the other research and has not been conducted before. Since it focus on the struggle the people face in *Paradise*(Morison: 1998), how they come up wth it, and how differentiation itself.

2.2 Review of the Novel

The novel the researcher uses in conducting this research is a novel entitled *Paradise* by Toni Morrison. *Paradise* novel is divided into eight chapters, while each chapter presents each character's point of view which is related to other

chapter. The book might contain eight stories which becomes ones because it told people who have different background with different distress but related in their life. It was shown that they live in the same island which could be interpreted as America.

Paradise talks about women who escaped from their current life. They escaped neither with direction nor decisions. They just keep going on and on. The more important thing from them is run from their current life because each having big deal to face, on their perspective. But, they are all end up at the Convent which they found that is a cool place to go and they wanted to settle there so they do. Besides Connie, one of the women characters is pretty nice towards everybody. So, they have a new place to start over their life or can be simply said new life for them. It also happens just the same with men's character here. They are all trying to manage a new life because since they are black, they were accepted in nowhere, either by white men or black men. It was a mere differentiation actually, they have night-blue skin while the other black is having a little light skin. So, they were rejected by black as well. They walk day and night moving from one town to the other, about eight families. They tried to find a new place to build a new town which serve as paradise for them, a place where kids and women could walk safely even in the middle of the night and a place where they act as ruler. Then, they built a town called Ruby.

Both sides, the convent women and Ruby's citizen escaped from their previous life. But, since they are close to each other, they live nearby, there is conflict. Ruby man which the researcher believed they live in paternal rules, does

not accept or they think that it is wrong if a bunch of women could live by their own without men's presence and obey their own rule. On the other side, the women, rudely speaking does not give a damn who is the ruler. As long as they could manage their life and live their own life that is alright. There is an opposite idea. But, it creates a conflict which makes the Ruby men believe it is disgrace and they take the blame on the convent women for everything bad that happened in their town because they live nearby.

So, the basic bone of the story is the struggle that they experience and the way they discover their new life, with new thought, in a new environment. Each character has their own story and own goal, but they are all the same. They are the victim of the idea of "different". They are all tried to make their life better from looking for a new place to live to create a new rule for their good.

In their journey to find a way to make their life much better and more meaningful, they tried to figure out why they experience such life. In doing so, they know that this is all about differentiation, the difference that they have that can neither be hidden nor banished from their life. So, it can be concluded all of the problem in this novel all caused by differentiation. Differentiation pushed them, create the distress, and caused a lot of conflict. Also, differentiation make them suffer.

Therefore, the researcher wants to make an analysis about this story using deconstruction theory. Since all of these are showing about people losing its way and wanted to escape from the cruel worlds which let them create a new world on

their own that is Ruby for night blue skin, and convent for the escaped women. It is related to deconstruction theory. In the researcher's point of view, suffering such things, for common people it could be worse, they would of course beg their own life or accept it as what it is. But it seems they did not do it that way. For Ruby, they did not show any kinds of despair. It makes them stronger. It raised an idea about making their own town. So, do the convent women, in their despairment, they met Connie and they are willing to change their life, makes them independent women who can live by their own. To show that women are strong as well even without men. This will show how is distress of being American described in the novel as well as how is the distress of being American is rejected through differentiation reflected in the novel.

For the final, the researcher will show the reader the strength and the weakness of the novel. The strength of this novel is, it shows and depicted differentiation very well and what are the effects caused by differentiation. But, the novel has a lot of characters so maybe it is a little hard to be defined, although we can see the conflict from various perspectives. But everything is all good, the conflict is unique besides its depicted real-life struggle which is still happen all over the world where people treated differently. Either by skin colour or past life for example ex criminals, etc. It still happens.

2.3 Review of Related Theories

2.3.1 Novel

According to *Meriam Webster Dictionary*, novel is an invented prose narrative that is usually long and complex and deals with especially with human experience through a usually connected sequence of events. According to *NTC's Dictionary of Literary Terms* is a lengthy fictional narrative in prose dealing with characters, incident, and settings that imitate those found internal life. Usually the novel is concerned with the depiction of middle-class and working-class character (rather than legendary heroes) engaged in such ordinary pursuits as falling in love; getting married; travelling; making money; contending with their environment, with other characters, or with their own limitations; and struggling for advancement in their society or profession. The author, while obviously inventing people and situations, attempts to give the impression that he or she is reporting the facts as they occurred. But these are merely general characteristics, not hard-and-fast requirements. Because of tremendous variety in type, form, and subject matter, the novel resist neat and tidy classification.

2.3.2 Characterization

In a novel there must be characterization inside it. Characterization are varied depends on the genre of the novel, but what is characterization? Characterization is the method by which an author creates the appearance and personality of imaginary persons and reveals their character. Characterization --- the ability to bring the

people of his/her imagination to life for reader --- is judged one of the most important attributes of a writer of fiction (Morner & Rausch, 1991).

Basically, in characterization there are three methods of the way the author creates the characterization according to *NTC's Dictionary of Literary Terms* (Morner, K & R. Rausch ; 1991) that is as follows:

1. Direct description of physical appearance and explanation of character traits and attributes.
2. Presentation of the character in actions, without interpretive comment by the author. Essentially, the author shows the reader what sort of person the character is through what the character says and does and what is said by other characters as a "witness" to the character's actions, the reader is free to draw his or her own conclusions.
3. Representation of the character's inner self. Essentially, the author describes the thoughts and emotions triggered by the character by external events.

But actually, besides all of those the characterization may occur differently in a novel depend on the point of view it takes but the use of those three are possible indeed.

2.3.3 Differentiation, Segregation, Racism

According to Meriam Webster Dictionary, differentiation is the act or process of differentiating. The development from the one to the many, the simple to the complex, or the homogeneous to the heterogeneous. Segregation is the separation or isolation of race, class, or ethnic group by enforced or voluntary residence in a restricted area, by barriers to social intercourse, by separate educational facilities, or by other discriminatory means. Besides, racial segregation means the separation, either by law or by action, of people of different races in all manner of daily activities, such as education, housing, and the use of public facilities. Thus, it is a form of institutional racism (www.newworldencyclopedia.org). For racism itself is, the word racism comes from race which is one of the groups that people are divided into, based on skin color and other physical features. Which later becoming racism that is unfair treatments of people, or violence against them, because they belong to a different race and the believe that some races of people are better than others (*Longman Dictionary of American English*: 742).

2.3.4 Distress

Distress is kind of feeling experienced by person, or a group of society over something that suppress their feelings. The feeling makes them feel uneasy towards something, feeling extreme anxiety, sorrow, or pain. According Oxford Dictionary, as a noun, distress is great worry, or suffering unhappiness, also state of danger. As a verb, it means, make somebody feel very worried or unhappy.

2.3.5 Deconstruction

Derrida's deconstruction aims not only to understand language, text or meaning but also the postmodern universe which replaces the modern one and in which we live. Besides, the term "deconstruction" has influenced many disciplines, from philosophy to literature and history, from film studies to law, architecture, political theory, and anthropology. The term was introduced by Jacques Derrida, the French philosopher, after publication of his *Of Grammatology* in 1967. In *Of Grammatology*, Derrida claims that Western philosophy and thought have always had a "desire" to search for a center, a meaning, or a "transcendental signified" (49). Derrida calls this desire for a center "logocentrism" or "phonocentrism" (*Of* 11). According to Derrida, all Western thought from Plato to the present has tried to ground its basis on a meaning, "presence," or "existence".

In Derrida's Deconstruction, there are two ways to operate from inside of the text. One is to point to the neglected parts in the texts and to question them and find their inconsistencies; the other is to deal with the binary oppositions that are included in texts (ÖZDEMİR, 2012). Derrida also claims that in Western thought there has always been an opposition between two concepts and one of these concepts always "governs the other such axiologically or has the upper hand". These binary oppositions have a certain tension between them. To deconstruct these oppositions, one needs to overturn or reverse them so that they can be neutral, which gives both sides of the opposition the right to represent themselves. Jonathan Culler regards this reversion of the oppositions as one of the basic steps of deconstruction.

Deconstruction is most simply defined as a critique of the hierarchical oppositions that have structured Western thought that is inside-outside, mind-body, literal-metaphorical, speech-writing, presence-absence, nature-culture, form-meaning. So, actually to deconstruct an opposition is to show that it is not natural and inevitable but a construction, produced by discourses that rely on it, and to show that it is a construction in a work of deconstruction that seeks to dismantle it and reinscribe it. That is, not destroy it but give it a different structure and functioning.

Therefore, the deconstruction is a useful practice in unfolding the concealed meanings and perceptions in texts, and it is in fact an interpretation style that is sometimes leading to find out unexpected meanings. The deconstruction indeed aims to reveal the concealed and other implicit meanings, not to show up the meaningless of the text by separating it (Balkin, 1995-1996: 1-3).

2.3.6 Structuralism

Structuralism is closed with deconstruction. It is like they are linked. Language is non-referential in connection to Structuralism. It does not refer to things in world, but only concepts of things in the world. Also, language is neither the product of our experience, nor is the medium for conveying our thoughts, but it is the very framework that produces our experiences. Structuralism has defined a way of conceptualising our experience in terms of polar opposites, which is called binary oppositions (Sahoo, 2014). The opposition build hierarchies. The opposition overlap and share some common elements.

2.3.7 Mimetic

Mimetic introduced by René Girard, a French thinkers, a member of French Academy and emeritus professor of Stanford University. René Girard develops theory of desire, based on the ancient category of *mimesis*. The term *mimesis* in Girard's view means the basic imitative predisposition. It designates primary, unconscious, intrinsic and vital dynamism which forces human behavior and his way of thinking (Straczek, 2014). Through this, it develops to human thinking that actually they imitate what is surround them to learn, gain, and develop knowledge.

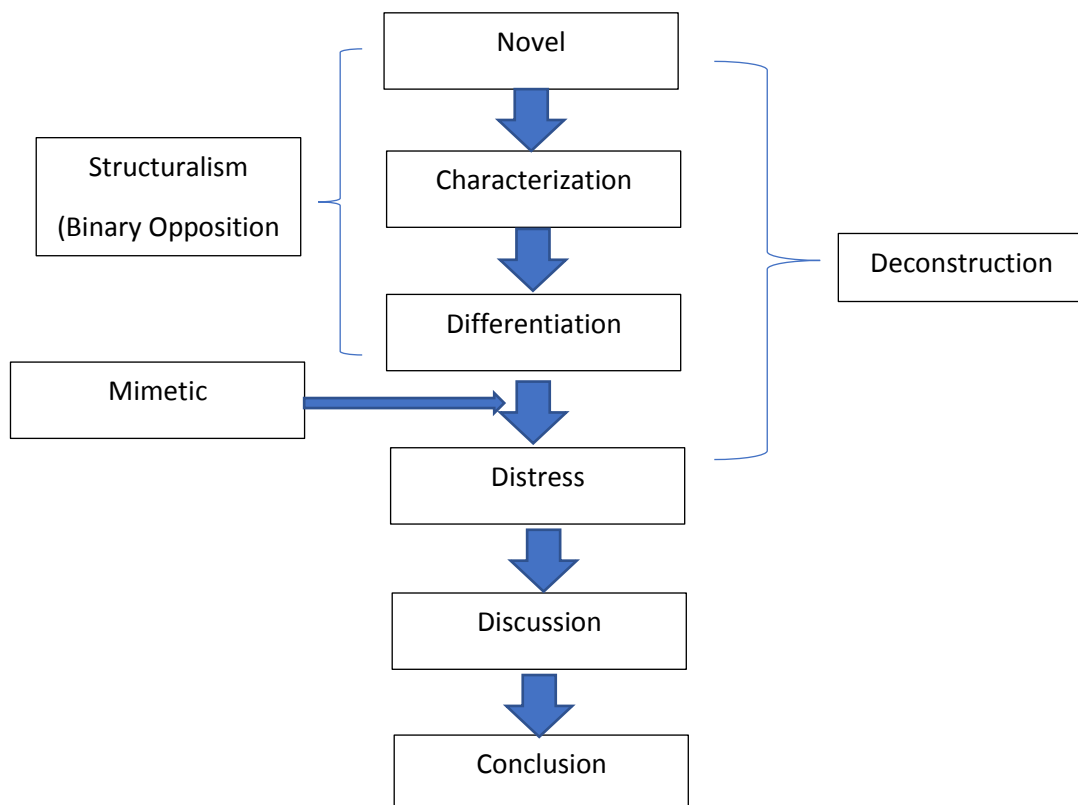
According to Girard, human beings are strongly influenced by mimetic or borrowed desire. The desired of human beings does not aim at a definite and original object but follows the desire of others. Actually, mimesis can be easily observed among the behavior of human either adult or children (Palaver, 2000). In this case, author's unconscious mind in literary work often affected by his/her mimetic desire surrounds them to be put in their work.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

The theoretical framework will be used in this study is based on the library research and reading literary books and some other sources that related to the topic. The theory that will be used in this study is Structuralism and Deconstruction while this study will be scooped by mimetic criticism and deconstruction approach.

Since the data will be the case about being American, especially among the American which think they are better than the other and its differentiation through rejection issues, the researcher will use some theories related to the topic and

research problem. That is structuralism to analyze the research question number one and deconstruction reading to answer the research question number two that is about how the distress of being American described in the novel and how is the distress of being American is rejected through differentiation reflected in the novel. And mimetic criticism is to relate the research question and the topic that it is connected to the real world and proof the significance of the study and makes the researcher's reason for choosing this topic is stronger and relevant to what happen in the world. Because not only *Paradise* depicted American on its time but also nowadays conflict. Here, the researcher will provide a diagram to illustrate how this framework goes:



Theoretical Framework

CHAPTER V

CONCLUSSION AND SUGGESTIONS

This chapter presented the conclusion of the discussion of the topic answering the research of problem of this study. In addition, it provides a number of recommendations related to the topic of the study.

5.1 Conclusion

Based on the analysis and discussion on the research findings in previous chapter, it can be concluded that firstly, structurally, the novel *Paradise* by Toni Morrison illustrated the description of the distress of being American from various phenomenon. It shows that the distress of being American is not only because of race, but others as well. The distress as being American can be from different race, gender, age, also one's background. The novel describes how distress experienced scooped from various perspectives and how it can create the distress on them. The distress also exists not only outside of their society but also inside, and within. Secondly, drawn from the second discussion based on deconstruction reading, it can be drawn conclusion that power is the key among any differentiation. The distress can be fight against and reconstructed if they are willing to against it. The distress exist can be deconstructed. But, to do this, they need power, either inside themselves or outside, that is power to fight for it. Besides, power can also gives people control which means, people with power can do anything towards everything just how they manage their power. This novel, *Paradise* showed that

power held crucial strength within society which can come as good and bad. This novel also criticized American society which it still relevant to today's America such found in the new American Immigration Policy under President Donald Trump.

5.2 Suggestions

Upon drawing the above conclusion, there are several suggestion corresponding to the topic and further research related to the topic. First, *Paradise* is recommended for further study to the condition in the present days about differentiation happen in the United States, especially related to the diversity in America also immigrant in the United States. This novel is also a must read novel for its complexity of differentiation description in the United States which still relevant nowadays. The next suggestion is for encouraging the further research on this novel, *Paradise* to discuss how to deal with the differentiation which exist within society also about the politic runs in the United States. It is because this novel also depicted political engagement within society though its character which create distress among its citizen.

Eventually, this research is expected to be a useful reference for further research in the related topic from English Department of Universitas Negeri Semarang because it still difficult to find reference on American politics in the department's library.

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