

PREJUDICE TOWARDS AFRICAN-AMERICANS IN *SMALL GREAT THINGS* NOVEL

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ABSTRACT

Prejudice is a negative assumption towards others that is not certain to be right or wrong yet. One of the problems of prejudice that still exists in the modern era is prejudice against African Americans. This research aimed to reveal the kinds of prejudice experienced by African Americans and the responses of African-American characters as the victims of prejudice. To conduct this research, the researcher used qualitative methodology. The data in this research were taken in the form of narrations and dialogues in *Small Great Things* (2016) novel written by Jodi Picoult which related to the negative actions of prejudice experienced by African-American characters and their responses to the prejudices that suitable with prejudice theory by Gordon Allport and the response to prejudice theory by Simpson and Yinger. The results showed that African-American characters in *Small Great Things* novel experience four kinds of prejudice, namely: antilocution, avoidance, discrimination and physical attack. Furthermore, the result also showed how African-American characters responded to the prejudices that they experienced, namely: aggression, acceptance and reformism. Therefore, the researcher concluded that prejudice based on individual beliefs can make someone behave negatively toward others and sometimes it can be manifested through hostile actions.

Key words: prejudice, response to prejudice, African-American, *Small Great Things*

ABSTRAK

Prasangka adalah asumsi negatif terhadap orang lain yang belum tentu benar atau salah. Salah satu masalah prasangka yang masih ada di era modern adalah prasangka terhadap orang Afrika-Amerika. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengungkap jenis-jenis prasangka yang dialami oleh tokoh Afrika-Amerika dan tanggapan tokoh Afrika-Amerika sebagai korban prasangka. Dalam melakukan penelitian ini, peneliti menggunakan metodologi kualitatif. Data penelitian ini diambil dari narasi dan dialog dalam novel *Small Great Things* (2016) karya Jodi Picoult yang berkaitan dengan tindakan prasangka negatif yang dialami oleh tokoh Afrika-Amerika dan tanggapan mereka terhadap prasangka yang sesuai dengan jenis teori prasangka Gordon Allport dan teori tanggapan terhadap prasangka oleh Simpson dan Yinger. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa tokoh Afrika-Amerika dalam novel *Small Great Things* mengalami empat jenis prasangka, yaitu: antilokusi, penghindaran, diskriminasi, dan serangan fisik. Selanjutnya, hasil juga menunjukkan bagaimana karakter Afrika-Amerika menanggapi prasangka yang mereka alami, yaitu dengan: agresi, penerimaan dan

reformisme. Oleh karena itu, peneliti menyimpulkan bahwa prasangka berdasarkan keyakinan individu dapat membuat seseorang berperilaku negatif terhadap orang lain dan terkadang dapat diwujudkan melalui tindakan bermusuhan.

Kata kunci: prasangka, respon terhadap prasangka, Afrika-Amerika, *Small Great Things*

A. INTRODUCTION

Differences become one of the issues that have a great influence on social life and somehow become the factors of social problems that tend to evoke conflict. In society, one of the most common issues of social problems is the differences based on race and ethnicity which lead to the problem of prejudice. One of the countries in the world with the high scale of prejudice is the United States and it occurs in race relations between blacks as the minority group and whites as the majority.

Prejudice according to Allport in *The Nature of Prejudice* described as an avertive or hostile attitude toward a person who belongs to a group, simply because he belongs to that group, and is therefore presumed to have the objectionable qualities ascribed to the group (7). When someone has a prejudice towards others, it can make someone behave negatively toward others and sometimes it can be manifested through hostile actions. In this research, the researcher discusses the prejudice towards African American in the *Small Great Things* novel. furthermore, the research also identifies the responses of African-American characters as the victims of prejudice.

In this research, there are two research questions. First, kinds of prejudice are portrayed in *Small Great Things* novel in reference to Allport's Prejudice, and second, the way African-American characters respond toward prejudice against them in *Small Great Things* novel. The purposes of the study are to explain the kinds of prejudice depicted in *Small Great Things* novel and to show the responses of African-American characters toward prejudice against them in *Small Great Things* novel. Theoretically, this research is expected to be used as additional knowledge for future researchers in racism studies, especially about the issue of prejudice and the responses toward it. Meanwhile, practically, the result of this research may be used as an additional reference for the next researchers who want to conduct study research especially related to Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things* Novel.

B. LITERATURE REVIEW

1. Sociology of Literature

Mariano Longo in *Fiction and Social Reality: Literature and Narrative as Sociological Resources* gives an explanation of the relation between literature and sociology. Longo states that the main similarity between sociology and literature is the field's interest of social life (144). It means that sociology and literature are related to each other because they have similarities in terms of objects or targets being discussed. In conclusion, the sociology of literature uses to understand the situation between social aspects and social phenomena in a literary work. According to Swingewood and Laurenson in *Sociology of Literature*, there are three approaches in sociology of literature: literary work as a mirror of age, literary work deals with the social situation of the author, and literary work is the specific historical moment. The researcher chooses the first approach that views literary works as a reflection of the social

phenomenon which happens in society. In this research, the researcher analyzes prejudice as social phenomena in literary work.

2. Novel

Novel is one of fiction literature formed in a narrative story. Taylor explained that novel is normally a prose work of quite some length and complexity which attempts to reflect and express something of the equality or value of human experience or conduct (46). According to Klarer in *An Introduction to Literary Studies*, novel as fiction has important elements such as plot, characters, narrative perspective or point of view and setting (15).

3. Prejudice

The word 'prejudice' derived from the Latin *praejudicium* means 'a precedent' or judgement based on previous decision and experiences. Allport states that prejudice is an avertive or hostile attitude toward a person who belongs to a group, simply because he belongs to that group, and is therefore presumed to have the objectionable qualities ascribed to the group (7). Prejudice is more likely shows negative attitudes toward others and the negative attitude tends somehow, somewhere, to express itself in action. Also, the more intense the attitude, the more likely it is to result in vigorously hostile action (14). It can be concluded that if a person's prejudices are deep, the actions that she or he does are also increasingly dangerous for others. According to Allport in his book *The Nature of Prejudice*, there are six certain degrees of negative action from the least energetic to the most :

a. Antilocution

Antilocution occurs when an individual or group of people have negative images toward others, which involves the hostility manifested by insult or joke, inscribed in the modes of verbalization of prejudice. According to Allport, most people who have prejudices talk about them. With like-minded friends, occasionally with strangers, they may express their antagonism freely. But many people never go beyond this mild degree of antipathetic action (14). Antilocution is the action of verbal insulting including name-calling or epithets and joking or derisive kind like making fun of cultural markers and joking about physical attributes and differences, as well as pointing out that the targeted individual is different than the mainstream.

b. Avoidance

Allport states that avoidance leads the individual to avoid members of the disliked group, even perhaps at the cost of considerable inconvenience. In this case, the bearer of prejudice does not directly inflict harm upon the group he or she dislikes. He or she takes the burden of accommodation and withdrawal entirely upon himself (14). Based on the statement, it can be concluded that avoidance is someone's actions of avoiding or keeping away from people, groups or communities that she or he disliked before. If avoidance occurs consistently, it can lead to long-term exclusion and segregation in society.

c. Discrimination

Allport states that a prejudiced person makes detrimental distinctions of an active sort. He or she undertakes to exclude all members of the group in question from certain types of employment, residential housing, political rights, educational or recreational opportunities, public infrastructure and social privileges (14-15). In this action, there is unequal or unfair treatment toward subordinate persons or groups or communities based

on something like race, ethnicity, religion, and many more. Discrimination can lead some problems in society such as denial of equal education, housing, employment, health care based on race and other rights in social life.

d. Physical Attack

Allport states that the action of prejudice under the conditions of heightened emotion may leads to act of violence or semi violence. Physical attack is commonly used to refer to unlawful, violent, destructive, or threatening. This action not only refers to simply acts of violence but also to crimes involving the destruction of property, murder, assault, trespassing, or harassment which is categorized as semi-violence. The people from a dominant race may execute physical attacks on a subordinate race or a race that are in a disadvantage

e. Extermination

Extermination is the most harmful action of prejudice because it may lead people, groups or communities to be eliminated. Allport gives some examples of this stage, such the Hitlerian program of genocide or mass killings that mark the ultimate degree of violence expression of prejudice (15). In this stage, usually, the group with power tends to eliminate the targeted group or community due to their dislike or hateful desire for the group.

4. Types of Response to Prejudice

People from minority groups have different responses when faced with a problem because minorities have their own culture and patterns. That occurs because the responses they get from society will be quite different and not as simple as the dominant one. According to Simpson and Yinger in their book *Racial and Cultural Minorities: An Analysis of Prejudice and Discrimination*, there are four fundamental varieties of response to prejudice; avoidance, aggression, acceptance, reform and organized protest and social movement among minority groups as the response. Those types of responses are done by the victims of prejudice who are minority groups. For more specific, those ways are explained below:

a. Avoidance

Avoidance is a response that minority groups who experience prejudice can do when they cannot change the status of restrictions under which they live. Rather than movement against it, avoidance is a movement away from the dominant group. This kind of response shows how people can withdraw or attempt to withdraw from their minority group or, oppositely, they can draw closer to their group while withdrawing so far as possible from contact with the dominant group (139).

b. Aggression: Striking Back

A person from a minority group who experiences prejudice is not aggressive on the surface, but it is possible for those people to have feelings of hostility, a desire to strike back, to attack the source of their frustration or a substitute target. Simpson and Yinger state that this aggression's nature varies from person to person or from group to group (143). Aggression as the response has some kinds of actions like editing papers, organizing boycotts, leading protest groups, and making humor and art which can be used as a medium to help minority groups express their resentment against the dominant group.

c. Acceptance of Status as a Form of Adjustment

A person from minority group who often experience prejudice may have a response to accept their social status in society for granted. There are three types of acceptance: wholehearted acceptance, occurs when the members of a minority may fairly wholeheartedly accept an inferior position in society to brings security and a reflected glory and feel rewarded by the friendly atmosphere or by the economic and personal security of the job; Specific acceptance, occurs when minority members accept the whole status of some specific situation or some phase of a relationship that implies inferiority, either out of belief, to gain favor, out of desire to avoid some unwanted aspect of the relationship; Unconscious acceptance, occurs when the feelings of inferiority and even of self-hatred grow in members of minority group unconsciously. It happens because they begin to see themselves from the point of view of the majority (150).

d. Reformism

Simpson and Yinger state that avoidance, aggression and acceptance can be categorized in reformism, yet it shares elements of each. Furthermore, Simpson and Yinger state that the main emphasis is on the actions that express the belief that the system they live in is capable of improvement, that the deprivations suffered by minorities are not intrinsic to its very structure (152).

e. Organized Protests and Social Movements among Minority Groups

Social movements and organized groups are based on individual feelings of frustration and resentment of inequality that give some measure of common objectives. Simpson and Yinger explain that some of the social movements among minority groups are primarily attempts to avoid the difficulties of their status; some are primarily aggressive protests against their lot; some, which on the surface may seem to be escape devices, are indirect attacks upon the dominant group (153).

5. Characterization

Characterization from Griffith perspective is the author's presentation and development of the traits of character (60). In other words, characterization is the way that the author uses to present and reveals character within the story. In general, there are two different approaches to characterization, including direct characterization and indirect characterization. Direct characterization is anything that the author tells directly about the character to the reader on the actual text such as words, phrases, sentences, and paragraphs, meanwhile, indirect characterization is the representation of character traits through characters' dialogue, appearance, characters' thoughts, speech and action.

C. RESEARCH METHOD

1. Research Design

The method that the researcher used in this research was the qualitative method. According to Flick, qualitative research is research interested in analyzing the subjective meaning of the social production of issues, events, or practices by collecting non-standardized data and analyzing texts and images rather than numbers and statistics (472). Therefore, this research was compatible with the qualitative method from the explanation above because this research would use the researcher's perspective in describing the prejudice towards African Americans and the responses to prejudice in

Small Great Things novel by Jodi Picoult. The result of the data will be presented into words.

2. Data and Source of Data

This research used a novel entitled *Small Great Things* by Jodi Lynn Picoult. *Small Great Things* novel is the work of fiction and was published in 2016 by Ballantine Books, United States with English language and it consists of 503 pages. The data were in the form of narrations and dialogues that indicate the prejudice towards African-American from white characters, and the responses of African-American characters as the victim of prejudice as reflected in the novel.

3. Research Instrument

In this research, the key instrument was the researcher herself. According to Creswell, qualitative researchers collect data themselves by examining documents, observing behavior, or interviewing participants. They may use a protocol -an instrument for collecting data- but the researchers are the ones who actually gather the information (234). As a human instrument, in this research the researcher acted to collect appropriate data. The researcher analyzed the data by observing and collecting the data that had relation to the research questions and the theories.

4. Data Collection

The researcher collected the data in several steps. First, the researcher read and understood the whole of Jodi Picoult's *Small Great Things* novel and took a notes of all important information in the novel. The second step is chose and selected the data which have relation to the research questions and the theories. In this step, the researcher tried to find out some required data on the novel through narration and dialogues in the story. In the last step, the researcher marked and underlined the data from the novel that relates to research questions.

5. Data Analysis

In order to answer the research questions, the researcher used an Interactive Model of analysis by Miles and Huberman. Miles and Huberman stated that there are some components of data analysis including data reduction, data display, and conclusions: drawing/verifying (429). In the data reduction process, the researcher collected and identified the data within the novel through narrations and dialogues in *Small Great Things* novel that had relation to research questions. In displaying the data, the researcher marked the phrases or sentences that portrayed the negative actions of prejudice which related to the research questions by putting the phrases or sentences in the form description word. In data conclusion, the researcher drew the conclusion of the analysis through valid and relevant data in answering the problems that have been formulated.

D. FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

1. Prejudice towards African-American and the Respond towards Prejudice

Before the researcher explained the analysis of prejudice, the researcher enlightened the setting of the novel. In general, the setting of the story in *Small Great Things* novel took place in the United States, as Ruth Jefferson who was the main character in the novel mentioned that she worked as a labor and delivery nurse in Mercy-West Haven hospital and that she stayed at a townhouse in East End, United States (Picoult 55).

After the settings was explained, a background experiences would be explained in this research. There are a background experience of white character which became one of the sources of the hateful acts and prejudice that turned out to be the main conflict in the novel. One of background experience came from Francis Mitchum's past as a white character in the novel which can be seen below.

I do not know much about Adele, because Brit doesn't, either. Just her name, **and the fact that she cheated on Francis with a black dude and he was so furious that he gave her an ultimatum: leave him the baby and disappear from their lives forever, or die in your sleep.** Wisely, she chose the former, and that was all Brit needed to know about her (Picoult 473).

The narration above showed Francis Mitchum's background experience before he joined the white supremacist movement and was prejudiced toward black people. Francis was Britany's father and he was a prominent figure in the white power movement. Through the narration above, it was concluded that before Francis joined the movement he was a white character who did not hate black people. It was proven when he met with Adele was black woman at a diner and they were in love, but Francis's jealousy drove Adele to run to other guys for comfort. After Francis beat Adele, she left him and Britany. Adele ran to her black choir director, while Francis raised Britany by himself. After that incident, Francis started to hate and become prejudiced toward black people.

Based on the explanation of background experiences that happened to white characters in the story, it showed that prejudice could happen to people who had bad experiences with another member of a race. In other words, bad experiences or bad interactions could affect someone's perspective and treatment and leave a bad impression which leads to prejudice towards other groups or races.

After the researcher explained the background experience of two white characters which led to the prejudice issue in the novel, the researcher also collected the data which related to prejudice including antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, and physical attack. Furthermore, the responses to prejudice were examined after the victim experienced prejudice. The analysis will be presented below.

a. Antilocution

Antilocution occurred during Ruth's shift at McDonald's and there was a time when a white girl and friends came up to the line.

"Do you have onion rings?"

"No, that's Burger King. Our menu is up there." I point overhead.

"If you're not ready, maybe you can step aside?" She looks at her two friends, and her eyebrows shoot up to her hairline as if I've said something offensive.

"**Don't worry, mama, I was jus' aksin'...**" I freeze. This girl isn't Black. She's about as far from Black as possible. So why is she talking to me like that? (Picoult 294).

In this case, the statement "Don't worry, mama, I was jus' aksin'..." implied that the white student tried to make a joke or derisive kind about cultural markers of black American accents or AAVE (African American Vernacular English) when she talked to Ruth. According to Kurinec and Charles, individuals' perceptions and prejudices are influenced not only by their visual appearance but also by the way they speak. Speakers of AAVE in most contexts were seen as less competent, less sociable, less professional,

less educated, and of poorer character than speakers of more standard American English, suggesting that stereotypes about criminality and violence. Furthermore, antilocution was depicted through white student's speech. The statement "this girl isn't Black. She's about as far from Black as possible" that came from Ruth point of view also confirmed that this data contained antilocution against race minority. Thus, the white students speech towards Ruth indicated derisive act, specifically making joke about cultural marker due to their assumed of low-status groups and inferiority stereotypes against those who speak differently.

In response to this act, Ruth tried to fight back as she committed an act of aggression against the white student. It can be seen in the following evidence

"Excuse me," I interrupt. "I did not appreciate the way you spoke to me at the counter."

A hot blush burns in her cheeks. "Wow, okay. I'm sorry," she says, but her lips twitch.

... From the fact that I am not this girl's *mama* to the fact that she will not remember this conversation an hour from now. **But if I choose this particular moment to stand up for myself, I will pay a price.** (Picoult 295).

An act of aggression was shown when Ruth tried to talk back to the white student and said that she did not appreciate what the student had said before. The statement "But if I choose this particular moment to stand up for myself, I will pay a price" identified that Ruth tried to stand up for herself after she became a joke for the white student. She thought that sometimes she needed to fight back even if she was inferior to give a lesson to the dominant that they should watch their mouth because even if they did not feel mean about it, it could still hurt the victim's feelings. Through the data above, Ruth's response implied the desire to strike back against their oppressors, which was portrayed through Ruth's speech and thoughts.

b. Avoidance

"Well, before you go thinking I'm your fairy godmother, Larry shot me down. He feels as badly as I do, honestly, **but with his candidacy, it's just not a good time to be connected to something scandalous.**"

Scandalous. I taste the word, bite into it like a berry, feel it burst.

"Race relations are a mess right now, with the police commissioner under fire and everything, and Larry needs to stay as far away from that as possible or it could cost him the election." She shakes her head. (Picoult 231).

The data above indicated the act of avoidance through Christina's speech. As Ruth was charged with murder and she was a black person, Christina said that Ruth was scandalous in an indirect way. Christina's speech implied that she and her husband decided to stay away from people of color because they thought people of color would have a bad influence on something they wanted to achieve, so she chose to be ignorant towards Ruth.

In response to Christina's speech, Ruth gave her answer about what Christina's statement. Ruth's response can be seen in the data below.

My jaw feels too tight. **"Is this why you had me over here?"** I ask. **"To tell me you can't be associated with me anymore?"** I say bitterly.

"I'm doing just fine."

"Ruth—"

I hold up my hand. **“Don’t, Christina, okay? Just...don’t.”** (Picoult 232).

The data above portrayed that Ruth gave the response by answering that she was fine even if Christina could not help her and decided to avoid her. Furthermore, Ruth’s speech indicated a response of specific acceptance because she accepted the situation to get avoidance treatment based on race in order to avoid some unwanted aspects of her relationship with Christina as cited in Simpson and Yinger (150).

c. **Discrimination**

Discrimination portrayed when Turk as a white supremacist father told Marie that he did not want Ruth who was African-American to take care of Davis even if Ruth was qualified to do so.

“That nurse,” Turk says. **“I don’t want her touching my son again.”**

“...I can assure you that Ruth is one of the best nurses we have, Mr. Bauer. If there’s a formal complaint—”

“I don’t want her or anyone who looks like her touching my son,” the father interrupts, and he folds his arms across his chest. **He’s pushed up his sleeves while I was out of the room. Running from wrist to elbow on one arm is the tattoo of a Confederate flag.** (Picoult 24)

Based on the dialogue from Ruth's point of view above, it proved that discrimination was represented through Turk’s speech. The statement “I don’t want her or anyone who looks like her touching my son,” implied that Turk tried to avoid an interaction with Ruth because she was black people and Turk's family were white supremacists. Furthermore, Turk’s action to show his tattoo implied as a sign to Ruth that the reason he wanted to keep his family away from her was not because Turk wanted the best nurse but because he was a white supremacist, and he has prejudice that black people were dangerous or criminal. The whole explanation above showed the discrimination in a workplace where there was unequal treatment from Turk towards Ruth based on his dislike of race or group.

The response that was given to this act of discrimination was unconscious acceptance which was represented through Ruth’s thought. The response was given by Ruth as the victim of discrimination can be seen in the narration below.

For a moment, I honestly don’t understand. And then it hits me with the force of a blow: they don’t have a problem with what I’ve done. Just with who I am. (Picoult 24)

There was another response from Ruth when she stood in the hall for a moment. Cornnie, a white nurse on the same shift came over and asked Ruth about what happened. The dialogue can be seen below.

“Well.” Corinne shrugs. “Marie’s good at talking people off the ledge. I’m sure she can fix whatever the problem is.”

Not unless she can make me white, I think. (Picoult 47).

Based on the narration and the dialogue above, Ruth showed that she felt inferior when she heard that the reason why Turk wanted another nurse to replace her was because she was African-American. The statement “Not unless she can make me white” implied that Ruth started to think from the point of view of the majority that she was inferior and that her condition would not be better unless her skin color changed to white.

d. Physical Attack

The last type of prejudice that appeared in the novel was physical attack. Physical attack portrayed when the police were about to make an arrest at Ruth's house.

The jackhammer of knocking detonates as the police break the door off its hinges and swarm into my living room, **their guns drawn... Immediately he pulls my arm behind my back and pushes me facedown onto the floor, his knee in the small of my back as he zips a plastic tie around my wrists. The others are overturning furniture, dumping drawers onto the floor, sweeping books off the shelves.** "...Mama?" Edison asks. "What's going on?" All eyes turn to the doorway of the bedroom. "Don't move!" **shouts another cop, aiming his gun at my baby.** "Hands in the air!" I start to scream. **They are all over Edison, three of them wrestling him onto the ground. He is handcuffed like me.** "Leave him be," I sob. "He has nothing to do with this!" But they don't know that. All they see is a six-foot-tall black boy. (Picoult 137).

Based on the narration from Ruth's point of view above, it was shown that a physical attack from the police was categorized into two forms, violence and semi-violent acts. Violence act was shown when the police did violent act to Ruth and Edison's physical body by pulling and pushing their body on the floor. Semi-violence act also appeared in the data above. It was proved by the actions of destruction of property and threatening act with gun in a rude way.

In response to this act of physical attack, Ruth accepted what the police did towards her and did as the police commanded. The response that was given by Ruth can be seen in the narration below.

"Do what they say, Edison," I cry. "And call your aunt."

I pray to God that someone will remember to cut my son's hands loose. I pray to God that my neighbors, who have been awakened by the hullabaloo in our sleepy neighborhood at 3:00 A.M., and who stand in their doorways with their white faces reflecting the moon, **will ask themselves one day why they remained dead silent, not a single one asking if there was anything they could do to help.** (Picoult 138).

The data above portrayed that Ruth's response toward the situation is categorized as specific acceptance. Ruth accepted the inferior position in a specific situation to avoid some unwanted action from the police. It was shown through the character's speech when Ruth told Edison to follow what the police said so they did not get another violent action from them. Specific acceptance of this data was also portrayed through the narration of Ruth's thoughts. It was proven when Ruth described the condition of her neighbors when she got arrested, that nobody cared about the rude attitude of the police. As she accepted the situation, she only prayed to God about what happened that night as a response.

2. Discussion

In this research, based on Allport's theory, the researcher found out that there were four kinds of prejudice depicted in *Small Great Things* novel, namely: antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, and physical attack. Furthermore, the researcher learned that among the five kinds of prejudice theory, the last kind which is extermination did not appear because *Small Great Things* novel did not tell the experience of extermination of African-Americans. Among the four kinds of prejudice

which the researcher found, discrimination was the most dominant action appeared in the novel. Due to the story of *Small Great Things* novel, discrimination occurred to African-Americans in workplace and public facilities or services. The next kind of prejudice was antilocution. In the novel, antilocution occurred to African-Americans in many places like the workplace and school areas. Furthermore, avoidance that was done by white people occurred in a workplace. It was proved in the novel when white characters tried to avoid any interaction with African-American characters because they assumed that African-Americans were criminals and would give bad influence. The last prejudice that the researcher found was a physical attack. In the novel, the physical attack appeared in the form of violence and semi-violence. Violence against African-American characters was rough treatment, while semi-violence appeared in the novel was destruction of property and rude or threatening behavior.

In this research, the responses to prejudice from African-Americans were examined after the victim experienced prejudice. Based on Simpson and Yinger's theory, there were three kinds of responses found in this research that were carried out by African-Americans who appeared in the novel. They were aggression, acceptance, and reformism. From three types of responses that had been found in the novel, acceptance became the dominant response depicted in the novel. In this novel, acceptance responses by African-Americans as victims of prejudice were portrayed from the beginning of the story. Furthermore, the researcher also found that aggression and reformism responses were depicted in this novel. In the story, aggression response showed when African-American characters tried to strike back against their oppressors and attack the source of their frustration. While reformist response showed when African-American characters believed that there was a time for black people like them to get better situations where society could treat them better without seeing their skin color.

E. CONCLUSION

Having analyzed prejudice towards African-Americans in *Small Great Things* novel, the researcher concluded the statement. Among five kinds of prejudice, there were four kinds of prejudice experienced by African-American characters: antilocution, avoidance, discrimination, and physical attack. The researcher also showed how the victims react to prejudice. In this research, among five types of response to prejudice, there were only three kinds of responses carried out by African-Americans that appeared in the novel, namely: aggression, acceptance, and reformism. Furthermore, characterization theory in this research is used to show how prejudice and the responses to prejudice were represented in the novel. In *Small Great Things* novel, the prejudice toward African-Americans and the African Americans' responses to prejudice are represented in four ways, namely: through narration, character's speech, character thought and character's action the dominant characterization appears in the novel was through the character's action.

Based on the result, the researcher concluded that prejudice based on individual beliefs can make someone behave negatively toward others and sometimes it can be manifested through hostile actions. In this research, prejudice happened because white characters had the individual belief that African Americans as a minority were inferior. Furthermore, bad experiences and negative assumptions from white characters towards

African American characters in the novel led to negative attitudes or actions in the form of antilocution, avoidance, discrimination and physical attacks.

The researcher wanted to give a suggestion for the next researchers who expect to analyze other aspects in this novel. Since the novel reflected the racial issue, other researcher could analyze the aspect of social problems like racial discrimination using the theory of Fred L. Pincus or the stereotype theory by Gordon Allport because the researcher has found some types of discrimination toward black characters and there were some stereotypical images of black characters depicted in the novel. Besides racial issue, other researchers could analyze another aspect of this novel like social class using the theory of Karl Marx because the novel also showed the social class condition. Furthermore, the issues contained in the novel and the result of this research were expected to be an inspiration or used as early information to conduct further research.

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