
THE IMPACT OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION TOWARDS SOCIAL LIFE IN THE NOVEL *THE DIARY OF A YOUNG GIRL* BY ANNE FRANK

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Abstract	Article Information
<p><i>This thesis studies of the impact of racial discrimination towards social life in the novel The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank. There are two research objectives of this research: 1) To find the forms of racial discrimination in the novel The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank and 2) to describe the impact of racial discrimination toward social life in the novel The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank. The theory used in this research is Racial Discrimination by Rosita Fibbi et al. The methodology employed is qualitative research in which the researcher presents the issues descriptively. The researcher collected the data from The Diary of a Young Girl novel, which serves as the primary data of this research and the researcher analyses and interprets the data from the quotation in the novel The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank. After going through the study, the researcher found two forms of racial discrimination by the Germans on Jews, namely direct discrimination and indirect discrimination. Furthermore, the racial discrimination by the Germans to the Jews impacts to their social life. The impacts to Anne's family and relative, and all the Jews social life such as impact on their economy, impact on social chances, and their psychological.</i></p> <p>Keywords: Racial Discrimination, Social Life, NAZI, Jews, The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank</p>	<p><i>Received:</i> Feb 22, 2024</p> <p><i>Revised:</i> Jun 13, 2024</p> <p><i>Accepted:</i> Jul 13, 2024</p>

INTRODUCTION

Literature is not only the result of human thinking but also of expression within the surrounding social community. According to De Bonald (cited by Wellek and Warren, 1949: 90), "literature is the expression of society". This view proves that society plays an important role in the construction of literary works. Novel, as a social product, reflects human society, human relationships, and the world in which human live, interact, and move. Sociology of

literature attempts to study literary facts and their impact on social relationships as in the words of Wellek and Warren (1977: 94) literature represents life, and life in large measure, a social reality, even though the natural world and inners of the individual's subjective world have also been objects of literary imitation.

Racial discrimination is one of the scourges that can be found in everyday life anywhere, including different parts of the world. The phenomenon of social phenomena occurs frequently, and it does not only occur in the community or in human life. Abrams and Harpham (2012), regarded that the phenomenon also exists in the novel and aims to raise facts or a true community history. Although a novel is merely a literary work of fiction, it is not uncommon in that can reflect or based on real life and it could contain many phenomena that reflect human life. The object of the research is the novel *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, which is based on the true story of a young Jewish girl during the Holocaust, which means that this literary work contains the phenomenon depicted at the time. A phenomenon that this novel tells vividly at the time is about discrimination carried out by the Germans against the Jewish ethnic group through the enactment of regulations that curtailed the freedoms of the Jews.

The Diary of a Young Girl is a novel written by Anne Frank is the object of this research. This novel is interesting to study because it is a work based on Anne's real-life experiences during World War II. Additionally, the novel serves as significant historical evidence of the cruelty of the Nazis during that time, as they ruthlessly discriminated against the Jewish community, ultimately leading to mass genocide. The racial discrimination carried out by the Nazis had a profound impact on the social lives of the Jewish community and Anne's family, hindering them in various aspects such as education, economy, and lack of resources, suffering, cut off. Therefore, examining this novel by using racial discrimination by Fibbi et al focusing to find the forms of discrimination and its impact to the social life in this novel will provide a deeper understanding of the tragic experiences endured by Anne and the Jewish community during that era, as well as insight into the devastating consequences of racial discrimination that must be avoided in the future because until now discrimination still occurs against certain groups, such as those based on ethnicity, gender, and more. Considering all the points discussed above, the title of this research is "The Impact Of Racial Discrimination Towards Social Life In The Novel *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank."

LITERATURE REVIEW

Racial Discrimination by R Fibbi Et Al

As defined by Rosita Fibbi et al (2020, p.13), "discrimination is the unequal treatment of similar individuals placed in the same situation but who differ by one or several characteristics, such as race, ethnicity, gender, (dis)ability, sexual orientation, or other categorical statuses". In simpler terms, discrimination means treating people unfairly when they are in the same situation but have differences in things like their race, ethnicity, gender, ability,

sexual orientation, or other categories they belong to. It's about giving some people better treatment or more opportunities than others just because of these differences.

The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank, the concept of racial discrimination is evident due to the persecution of Jewish people during the Holocaust. Anne Frank and her family, being Jewish, were treated unfavorably and unfairly by the Nazis and their collaborators solely based on their Jewish identity. This mistreatment stemmed from comparing them to those who were not Jewish, and it was grounded in their ascribed membership to the Jewish category, which they couldn't choose or change. Discrimination can occur in two forms, namely direct discrimination and indirect discrimination (p.14).

1. Direct Discrimination

Direct discrimination is equivalent to the straightforward definition of discrimination (p.14). The researcher can say that this form of discrimination aligns with the general definition of discrimination, where it refers to the unequal treatment of individuals who are in similar situations but differ in terms of certain characteristics like race, ethnicity, gender, disability, sexual orientation, or other categorical attributes.

2. Indirect Discrimination

Indirect discrimination, as defined by Fibbi et al.(2020, p.14), refers to a scenario where seemingly neutral rules, policies, or practices end up causing a disproportionate disadvantage to a particular category of individuals or groups when compared to others. This type of discrimination occurs even if the rules themselves do not explicitly target a specific group. The discrimination is indirect because it stems from the unintended consequences of these seemingly neutral rules.

Racial Discrimination Impacts To Social Life

The impacts of discrimination perpetrated by the majority against minorities highlighted by Fibbi et al. include impacts on the economy, impacts on social chances, and impacts on the psychology of those who are discriminated against. The explanations are bellow.

1. Economic Impact

Discrimination can have an economic impact. Discrimination can limit job opportunities and lead to lower wages and reduced economic mobility (p.66). Discrimination means treating certain groups of people unfairly because of things like their race, gender, or background. When this happens, it can make it harder for people from those groups to find good jobs. This means they might not get as many chances to work in well-paying jobs. And even if they do get jobs, they might not get paid as much as they deserve.

Because of these problems, discrimination can stop people from moving up the economic ladder. Economic mobility means the ability to go from having a lower income to a higher one over time. Discrimination can block this movement and keep people from improving their financial situation. This can have a big impact on the economy because it means some talented and skilled individuals aren't able to contribute as much as they could.

2. Impact on Social Chances

Discrimination actually decreases the opportunities a person has in many areas of life. This idea is well explained by Goffman in Fibbi et al (2020). In general, discrimination leads to minority group members achieving less and being in less advantageous positions compared to the majority group (page 67). In simpler words, this quote talks about how racial discrimination can harm different aspects of people's lives like their freedom, access to basic services, available resources, and education. The research focuses on the experiences of individuals who face discrimination, and it shows that this unfair treatment limits their opportunities in various ways. This means that people who are discriminated against, especially racial minorities, often end up achieving less and having fewer advantages compared to those who are not discriminated against.

3. Psychological Impact

Treating people unfairly based on their race, can have profound effects on a person's mental and physical well-being. "Discrimination is a chronic and multidimensional stressor producing harmful effects on various aspects of health: psychological and physical, as well as on health-related behavior among minority groups. Greater racial discrimination is associated with greater psychological distress"(p.68). It goes beyond being a one-time event and becomes an ongoing source of stress. This chronic stress caused by racial discrimination can lead to various negative outcomes for individuals and their health.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The type of research used was qualitative descriptive since the researcher of this study collected data in the form of sentences for the research's subject. By employing this method, the researcher aims to provide a comprehensive description and understanding of the issues present in the literary work under research. Through the collection and analysis of relevant textual data, this research seeks to offer valuable insights into the phenomena that occurred and the interactions between characters in society, ultimately contributing to a deeper comprehension of the work as a whole. The researcher used both primary and secondary data sources in this study. The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank served as the primary source of data for this study, and data from books, websites, journals, theses, and articles, is how the researcher got the secondary data in this study.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSIONS

Forms of Racial Discrimination in the Novel

1. Indirect Discrimination

In the novel *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank, researcher found indirect discrimination in some regulations that discriminated against Jews at that time.

After May 1940 the good times were few and far between: first there was the war, the the capitulation and then the arrival of the Germans, which is

when the trouble started for the Jews. Our freedom was severely restricted by a series of anti-Jewish decrees...

"...Jews were required to wear a yellow star; Jews were required to turn in their bicycles; Jews were forbidden to use streetcars; Jews were forbidden to ride in cars, even their own; Jews were required to do their shopping between 3 and 5 p.m.; Jews were required to frequent only Jewish-owned barbershops and beauty parlors; Jews were forbidden to be out on the streets between 8 p.m. and 6 a.m.; Jews were forbidden to go to theaters, movies or any other forms of entertainment; Jews were forbidden to use swimming pools, tennis courts, hockey fields or any other athletic fields; Jews were forbidden to go rowing; Jews were forbidden to take part in any athletic activity in public; Jews were forbidden to sit in their gardens or those of their friends after 8 p.m.; Jews were forbidden to visit Christians in their homes; Jews were required to attend Jewish schools, etc. You couldn't do this and you couldn't do that, but life went on. Jacque always said to me, "I don't dare to do anything anymore, 'cause I'm afraid it's not allowed." (Anne Frank, 2021, p.10)

The excerpt highlights that the arrival of the Germans led to difficulties specifically for the Jewish population. The mention of "the trouble started for the Jews" indicates that they faced persecution, discrimination, and harsh treatment under the Nazi regime. The Jewish population experienced a curtailment of their freedoms due to a series of anti-Jewish decrees. These laws, enacted by the Nazi authorities, would have restricted their rights, opportunities, and overall quality of life.

2. Direct Discrimination

Racial discrimination against Jewish individuals is not limited to systemic regulations and restrictions but is also perpetuated through direct acts of cruelty and hate. Jewish children, in particular, are often targeted with bullying, physical assaults, and other vile actions solely based on their ethnicity and religious background. As seen in the excerpts as follow.

I feel terrible. Miep's accounts of these horrors are so heartrending, and Miep is also very distraught. The other day, for instance, the Gestapo deposited an elderly, crippled Jewish woman on Miep's doorstep while they set off to find a car.

(Anne Frank, 2021, p.60)

In the excerpt, Anne expresses her feelings of sadness and distress upon hearing about the horrors faced by Jews, which are narrated by Miep, one of the people helping to hide them. Miep, too, is deeply affected by the events unfolding around them.

The incident mentioned above refers to the cruel actions of the Gestapo, the Nazi secret police, who left an elderly and disabled Jewish woman at Miep's doorstep. This act demonstrates the callousness and dehumanization inflicted upon Jews during the Holocaust. The Gestapo's actions not only subjected the woman to extreme hardship but also placed an emotional burden on Miep, who had to witness the suffering firsthand.

Racial Discrimination Impact to Social Life

1. The Economic Impact of Indirect Discrimination

The implications of racial discrimination through regulations on Anne Frank's family, relatives, and the Jews carried out by the Germans, affected them in various ways, one of them is from the family's economic situation.

From October 1940 onward, Otto Frank, as a Jew, was no longer allowed to own a company (Anne Frank, 2021, Foreword)

Based on the excerpt, it is evident that racial discrimination had a profound impact on the social life and economy of Anne Frank's family during the time of the Holocaust. Specifically, starting from October 1940, Otto Frank, as a Jew, was stripped of his ability to own a company due to the discriminatory policies imposed by the Germans.

This act of exclusion from business ownership had significant consequences for the Frank family's economic situation. Losing ownership of a company likely resulted in financial instability, as it deprived them of a means of livelihood and financial security. It also contributed to the wider economic marginalization of Jewish individuals and families during the Nazi regime

2. Impact of Indirect Discrimination on Social Chances

Not only affecting the economy, researchers also found that socially Anne Frank, her family, and the Jews were also affected by racial discrimination through regulations by the Germans. As seen in the excerpt follows

Most of all I long to have a home of our own, to be able to move around freely and have someone help me with my homework again, at last. In other words, to go back to school. (Anne Frank, 2021, p.122)

In the excerpt reveals the profound impact of racial discrimination on her social chances in the education field. Anne's longing for a home and the ability to move around freely reflects the restrictions and isolation imposed on her due to her Jewish identity during the time of the Holocaust. The discrimination she faced denied her the opportunity to pursue her education freely and interact with others in a normal school environment.

Anne's desire to have someone help her with her homework highlights the difficulties she encountered in accessing educational support, likely due to the restrictions placed on Jews in terms of their rights and opportunities. The discrimination and fear imposed on Anne and her family resulted in a disruption of their educational pursuits, hindering their intellectual development and social interactions.

3. The Psychological Impact of Indirect Discrimination

The researcher found that the Jews during the German occupation in WWII accompanied by discriminatory regulations by the Germans against the Jews had an impact their psychological that they were living in fear. The explanation as follows.

I see the eight of us in the Annex as if we were a patch of blue sky surrounded by menacing black clouds. The perfectly round spot on which we're standing is still safe, but the clouds are moving in on us, and the ring between us and the approaching danger is being pulled tighter and tighter. We're surrounded by darkness and danger, and in our desperate search for a way out we keep bumping into each other. (p.157)

The excerpt vividly illustrates the impact of racial discrimination on the social life of Jews during their time in hiding. Anne used the metaphor of a patch of blue sky surrounded by menacing black clouds to symbolize the feeling of vulnerability and isolation experienced by her and her family in the Annex. The eight individuals, including Anne, are confined to this safe but confined space, as the clouds of danger, representing the racial discrimination imposed by the Germans, draw closer.

The description portrays the increasing sense of fear and peril faced by the Jews, as the ring of danger tightens around them. They are constantly aware of the threat posed by the outside world, and the confined space they share intensifies their fears, causing them to feel trapped and claustrophobic.

Furthermore, the phrase "bumping into each other" suggests the emotional and psychological strain on the individuals as they struggle to cope with the harsh realities of their situation. The fear and uncertainty have brought them closer together, seeking solace and support from one another in their desperate search for a way out of their predicament.

4. Psychological Impact of Direct Discrimination

The Jews in the novel *The Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank are told to experience tremendous suffering that impacted them psychologically as a result of direct discrimination carried out by the Germans.

I feel terrible. Miep's accounts of these horrors are so heartrending, and Miep is also very distraught. The other day, for instance, the Gestapo deposited an elderly, crippled Jewish woman on Miep's doorstep while they set off to find a car.

(Anne Frank, 2021, p.60)

Anne expresses her own sense of feeling terrible upon hearing about the atrocities committed against the Jews. This indicates the emotional distress and empathy she feels for her fellow Jews who are directly affected by discrimination.

The phrase "heartrending horrors" emphasizes the extreme and emotionally distressing nature of the discrimination faced by the Jews. The suffering inflicted upon them is not just physical but deeply affects them on an emotional and psychological level.

The emotional state of Miep, a non-Jewish character, further underscores the impact of discrimination. Even those not directly targeted by the discrimination are profoundly affected by witnessing the suffering of others. Miep's distress reflects the shared humanity that transcends ethnic or religious boundaries.

The specific incident involving the Gestapo depositing an elderly, crippled Jewish woman at Miep's doorstep is a stark illustration of the dehumanizing and callous actions carried out by the Germans. The elderly woman is left vulnerable and helpless, highlighting the brutality and lack of compassion in the discriminatory practices.

The fact that the Gestapo deposited the elderly woman and then set off to find a car indicates the systematic and organized nature of discrimination. The dehumanization and suffering of individuals are carried out with a cold and calculated approach, adding to the psychological trauma experienced by the victims.

Overall, this passage sheds light on the deep psychological impact of direct discrimination on the Jewish characters in Anne Frank's diary. The distressing nature of the events described emphasizes the inhumane treatment inflicted upon the Jews during the Holocaust, and it serves as a testament to the lasting scars such discrimination leaves on individuals and communities. The emotional response of characters like Anne and Miep provides insight into the collective trauma experienced by those who were targeted and those who bore witness to these atrocities.

CONCLUSION

From the research, the researcher found three forms of racial discrimination by the Germans on Jews, namely indirect discrimination through regulations and direct discrimination. Furthermore, the racial discrimination by the Germans to the Jews impacts to their social life. The impacts to Anne's family and relative, and all the Jews social life such as impact on economy, impact on their social chances such as education, basic services, cut off, freedom, lack of resources, and even their psychological being impacted that made them live in fear, and suffering. By using sociology of literature as an approach and racial discrimination as the main theory, the researcher can see the the historical events that happened at the time the novel was created and the society in the novel itself. Thus, the researcher can utilize the theory and found the objective of the research. Furthermore, the researcher can conclude that racial discrimination is the differential treatment of the Jews as the minority parties by the Germans as the powerful entities, leading to the deprivation of freedom for the discriminated groups which is the Jews. From the research, the researcher can find out about the events from the past during WWII in Europe especially in Netherlands which is racial discrimination. In fact in present time, the acts of racial discrimination is still exist in the society and have negative impact on society.

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