Stereotyping as the Trigger Factor of Discrimination in *Ghost Boys* by Jewell Parker Rhodes

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Abstract:
This research aims to analyze stereotyping as the trigger factor of discrimination in the novel Ghost Boys *by Jewell Parker Rhodes. There are two objectives of this research; to find out the categories of stereotype and to explain stereotype trigger discrimination. The theory used in this research is categories of stereotype by David Schneider. The type of research is descriptive qualitative study. The primary data in this research is the novel* Ghost Boys *by Jewell Parker Rhodes. The result of the research is the researcher found that the categories of stereotypes in the novel* Ghost Boys *by Jewell Parker Rhodes are; gender, race, age, physical features, occupation, and social economic, and language with 38 data. The most dominant data is racial stereotype as much as 50%. Stereotyping trigger discrimination in the form; of verbal expression, avoidance, exclusion, and physical abuse with 25 data, the most dominant is physical abuse as much as 36%.*

Keywords: stereotype, discrimination, Ghost Boys

INTRODUCTION

In a country like America, there are numerous issues of stereotype that have arisen and the existence of stereotypes becomes a problem. People express beliefs about all other people that aren't shared by the rest of the group, and stereotypes arise. The word stereotype

is made up of two words that are a mixture of two Greek words: stereos, which means solid-rigid, and typos, which means model (Schneider, 2004: 314). Stereotypes have an unconscious cognitive component which usually indicates a strong imprint on a theory or one or more ideas in which the stereotype also expresses expectations and beliefs to other people or groups that differ from one's own about the characteristics of the group members encountered. According to Brown:

> Stereotypes are the perception that most members of a category (group) have some of the same attributes. Stereotypes arise directly from the categorization process, particularly the assimilations of different groups. Stereotypes can come from cultures in which people are socialized, from the real cultural and socioeconomic differences between groups, as well as from differences in cognitive biases that seem to emerge in imaginary correlations between minority groups and rarely seen attributes. (Brown 2005: 181)

The quote above shows that stereotypes can arise from how other people judge only from the perception of the group from which people are classified. According to Nelson (2016:38), Stereotypes exist and are owned by only selected members of the culture or people who are known and started from taking the example of that person. Stereotypes make people use natural mental shortcuts to jump to conclusions and make decisions quickly so that the stereotype becomes a "quick thinking," which makes the emergence of a lot of information about other group members or individuals.

There is a stereotype that is owned by white people, and the result of this stereotype is an unfair treatment which then causes discrimination. The origin of this stereotype stems from slavery, which now always blames black people for crimes. Even though slavery has been abolished, there are still many misunderstandings that arise from stereotypes that lead to discrimination. As a result, in social life, black people still face many challenges. When a group or group members are treated unfairly and then experience negative impacts, it can usually be referred to as discrimination (Citro, 2004: 40). Discrimination often occurs in some areas, which is a social phenomenon. This discrimination occurs when certain groups that are discriminated against are seen as weak, despised, and inferior. Discrimination can be marked by oppression, marginalization, or submission. According to Bowling:

> Discrimination consists of unequal, unfavorable, and unjustifiable treatment based on a person's sex, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, religion, language, class, sexual preference, age, physical disability, or any improper ground. It includes the refusal to offer employment, pay fair wages, provide housing or medical treatment, or provide a commercial or social service. It can also take the form of harassment, attack, exclusion, and expulsion." (Bowling, 2002:38)

This discrimination is aimed at a person or individual group who is given an active and open negative bias component that usually also occurs among minorities supported by the majority with immoral behavior.

The researcher examines the stereotypes that lead to discrimination in the novel Ghost Boys. Stereotypes provide an intuitive and fast response which is a trigger factor of discrimination. To analyze the novel Ghost Boys, the researcher uses a category of stereotype by David Schneider that this theory fits the stereotype. The novel that the researcher uses is based on the personal experience of the author. Ghost Boys novel is expected as a tool to study and understand stereotypes in society, especially in America.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Psychology Of Literature

Psychology and literature have a strong relationship because they both deal with human beings and their reactions, perceptions of the world, miseries, wishes, desires, fears, conflicts, and reconciliations, as well as individual and social concerns, using a variety of concepts, methods, and approaches. According to (Taylor, 1981:1), literature is like any other art in that it is an image used by a writer to describe real experiences using words as a medium. From that, it can be seen that to know literature, and people must focus on the activities and also the process of making the literary work.

On the other hand, although it is difficult to define psychology, it can be called a scientific study that studies mental processes and also human behavior that shapes moods, attitudes, thoughts, and actions. To be able to enter into literary works using psychology, one must study the psychology of the writer, the psychology of the character, and also the psychology of the reader (Warren, 1977: 139). According to Holland (1990: 29-30), psychology exists because it begins with assumptions about human psychology that are created, described, and experienced in the literature. It can be concluded that in literary works such as novels, psychology can be found because the author expresses his work through his feelings and emotions and also because the novel that the researcher chooses is also based on a true story and also in this study, psychology is used in literary works through character studies and also the author.

Stereotype

A positive or negative set of beliefs held by an individual about the characteristics of a group of people. Stereotypes are rigid because stereotypes work when people try to change other people's traits to a trait they think is the same (Schneider, 2004: 21). The researcher describes that if a person or member of a group is not aware of the existence of stereotypes, the stereotype will be something that is difficult to deal with.

Categories Of Stereotype

In this study, the researchers used categories of stereotypes according to (Schneider (2004) and tried to find categories of stereotypes that, according to Schneider, were divided

into eight categories, including gender, race, age, physical features, language, occupation, and socioeconomic status, national group, and other categories that could be other factors.

1. Gender

People of various genders refer to how socially constructed roles, behaviors, identities, and expressions of gender itself are from the girls, women, boys, and men. Gender stereotypes, according to Deaux & Kite in Schneider (Schneider, 2004: 438), are multifaceted and have various nuances. The researcher defines gender stereotypes are broad beliefs or ideas about what boys and girls should have and how they should act.

2. Racial

The researcher explains that race stereotypes are beliefs or, in other words, general views about the characteristics of certain races, especially minority populations. Cultural differences, unique experiences, and ethnic identities are presented from the treatment of others which then become racial stereotypes (Schneider, 2004: 453).

3. Age

The researcher explains that age stereotypes are assumptions about the characteristics of a person's age which usually, in everyday life, humans can find out the age of others only by understanding other people's behavior and speech. The presence of age can help people to know what is appropriate and inappropriate when the person has been given an age stereotype.

4. Physical Features

Stereotypes of physical features are usually based on a physical factor such as body type, height, weight, or anything related to a person's physique. The researcher explained that this stereotype of physical abuse is anything about a person's outward appearance that can be easily seen, which is then easily judged by others just because of the physical features that the person has.

5. Language

This category of stereotyped language can also be seen in how the socio-economic situation of other people, such as people who have a high income, means that the person has a more vocabulary. Meanwhile, people with low income do not have a lot of vocabulary.

6. Occupation and Socioeconomic Status

In this category, people are more likely to categorize the work of others based solely on the characteristics of their own beliefs. An example of this category

stereotype is that people who come from high-income social groups are considered smart, selfish, or hardworking.

7. National Groups

The researcher explained that the national group stereotype refers to the nationality of each individual or other foreign nationality. According to Bond in Schneider (2004:257), this stereotype has generally been mutually agreed upon by individuals from different countries, who then become stereotypes against certain agreed target countries.

8. Other Categories

Another category shows that all stereotype categories are built on characteristics that are not included in other categories, and apart from the previous categories, it shows that there are other stereotypes in social life. This is because the stereotype category does not have any boundaries.

Discrimination

According to Allport (1854:51), discrimination is when there is a rejection of individuals or groups who are treated differently from what they want. Discrimination here is the treatment or consideration of others or the creation of distinctions that oppose supporting others only based on the group, class, or category in which the other person is described.

Forms of Discrimination

Forms of discrimination, according to Newman (in Miharso, 2009: 88), are verbal expression, avoidance, exclusion, physical abuse, and extinction which will be explained below:

1. Verbal Expression

The form of verbal expression discrimination is an act of discrimination based on a harsh verbal attitude towards the group being discriminated against. According to Newman (in Miharso, 2009: 88), discrimination in the form of verbal expression is done by using words to insult.

2. Avoidance

The second form of discrimination from other forms of discrimination is avoidance. The researcher explains avoidance discrimination refers to the tendency of an individual or group to avoid other individuals who are not from the group. This discrimination is a form of refusal to avoid unwanted individuals or community groups (Miharso, 2009: 88). The result of this discrimination is that communication in society is only done if it comes from the same group to interact with each other and not to other groups.

3. Exclusion

The third form of discrimination is exclusion. The researcher explains that exclusion discrimination is the act of excluding people who are not from the same group and leaving the group. According to Newman (in Miharso, 2009: 88), exclusion discrimination occurs as a form of exclusion of certain individuals or groups. Usually, groups that discriminate are done intentionally because there is a certain purpose so that the group chooses to exclude individuals or groups who are not from the same group. In some locations, this form of discrimination is carried out by the largest number of organizations, being leaders. This location usually occurs in schools, workplaces, and housing.

4. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is an action related to body contact that is carried out intentionally so that it can cause pain that is felt and can even cause trauma to the victim. Physical abuse discrimination is an act of discrimination carried out by some physical contact such as injuring, attacking, or harassing others (Miharso, 2009: 88).

5. Extinction

The last form of discrimination is extinction or also known as genocide. This form of discrimination is the worst result of a stereotype and hostility between groups. Extinction is a discriminatory treatment that is carried out by destroying certain groups or carrying out mass killings of certain groups (Miharso, 2009: 88). This form of discrimination is the most difficult form of discrimination and the most difficult problem to control.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Qualitative research is a type of research that the researcher applies to the research methodology in the novel Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes. The type of qualitative research itself is research that produces descriptive text of a phenomenon (Johnston, 2009: 310). From this qualitative descriptive, this research aims to really understand the stereotypes, which in this study, the findings are more descriptive. This research use descriptive qualitative data, because this research uses the data in forms of words and phrases are the data used in this study rather than numerical calculations.

In this research, there are two types of data used, namely primary data and secondary data. The first is primary data, The primary data of this research is a novel Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes, The second is secondary data that the researcher used Secondary data used by researcher are various books on literature and other references regarding the theory. In the process of collecting data, In conducting the research, the researcher chose books that became references related to the topics discussed and marked several quotations. Then, the researcher also looks for some texts, theories, and other references from several sources that can be obtained to support the object of this research.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Categories Of Stereotype

These categories of stereotypes will only discuss the categories of stereotypes found in the novel Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes. The categories of stereotypes in this novel will help to explain how people in America have stereotypes.

1. Gender

The gender stereotype in this novel is directed at Sarah and occurs many times. In this novel, a female character named Sarah gets the stereotype that women are weak when compared to men. One of the stereotypes that women are weak can be illustrated in the quote below.

> "I'm sorry," the girl whispers.
> "Her sorry makes me angry. If she wasn't a girl, I'd think about hitting her." (Rhodes, 2018:40).

In response to what Sarah said when they were talking in. Jerome immediately had a stereotype against Sarah, that Sarah was weak, which is a gender stereotype. This explains that Jerome's stereotype of girls is weak, so he tries not to hit him even when he's emotional.

2. Race

Most people in America have stereotyped black people, one of which is the tendency to always perceive black people as a threat.

> People are edging closer, snapping pictures, taking video with their phones.
> "Stay back!" The policeman's hand covers his holster.
> More people come. Some shout. I hear my name. "Jerome. It's Jerome." Still, everyone stays back. Some curse; some cry. (Rhodes, 2018:11)

In the response, a police officer has a race stereotype that black people are dangerous and threatening. The researcher illustrates that this stereotype of black people exists based on other people's responses to certain groups where people will easily influence other people's judgments and responses to groups or group members that have been categorized because they seem correct and can be obtained cognitively.

3. Age

In this case, people tend to consider a behavior or choice of words in dealing with other people by looking at their age first. In this novel, stereotypes in the age category exist for older and younger people.

> Yeah, I think, feeling proud of Sarah. What's wrong with now?
> "You"ll learn about Emmett when you learn more about civil rights."
> "When's that?"
> "Well," Ms. Penny says, flustered, "it happens bit by bit. During Black History Month. In history class. Social studies." (Rhodes, 2018:66)

The older Miss Penny tends to be wiser than Sarah and Jerome, who have a high curiosity. However, because of Miss Penny's wise nature, she advised Sarah to learn about Emmett Till while she was studying civil rights because, according to her, the Emmett Till case was still not suitable for children of Sarah's age. What Miss Penny did also shows that older people have a stereotype that they are wiser.

4. Physical Features

Physical features are a form of understanding the characteristics of a person's body which in these physical features can be seen by others which then raises stereotypes that come from a person's body shape, which usually every part of the body can provide an understanding.

> "Yes, Papi."
> "The two look alike. Sable eyes. Black hair, black lashes. Neither is tall but I can tell Carlos is going to be strong like his dad."
> "Go outside. Play. Otherwise I'll think you want to go back to San Antonio." (Rhodes, 2018: 94)

Carlos, who is not tall, will still be strong like his father. From this sentence, it means that, according to Jerome, a tall person is a strong person. These stereotypes are included in the stereotype physical features.

5. Language

In social life, people use direct communication to convey messages that can lead to stereotypes based on language categories. In this novel, stereotypes based on language categories are in school and outside of school.

> "Let's go to town." Maurice pivots back toward Emmett. Resting his hands on his shoulders, he says, serious, "Say "yes, ma'am, "no, sir" to white people. Don't look anybody white in the eyes." (Rhodes, 2018:86)

It can be interpreted that black people who use the right choice of words when dealing with white people will be seen as obedient and not reckless. This also comes from the era of slavery where slaves had to obey their white. Black people are seen as not having many vocabularies because they are poor

6. Occupation And Social Economic

In this novel, the researcher finds that one's job can determine how others treat other people.

> "My dad protects and serves. That's what policemen do."
> "He didn"t protect me. Everybody in my neighborhood knows cops do whatever they want."
> "That's not true. He upholds the law." (Rhodes, 2018:41)

In this novel, the police are stereotyped as egotistical people because they do things as they please, and they tend to act quickly according to what they think of black people without protecting and serving black people as they do to white people.

Stereotyping Triggering Discrimination

In this session, the researcher will explain the findings from the second research question, which discusses stereotyping that triggers discrimination in the novel Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

1. Verbal Expression

A verbal expression is a form of discrimination that involves discriminating or racist actions against someone by being verbally abusive to them. Verbal expressions in this novel occur by insulting other races

> Ma starts moaning, crying, soft yet sharp.
> "I was surprised. He was big, hulking. Scary."
> "You felt threatened?" (Rhodes, 2018:34)

Officer Moore's statement, "I was surprised. He was big, hulking. Scary." happened because of his defense and sense of security when he was in court. The existence of a criminal justice system that is unfair and always defends white people makes Officer Moore insult Jerome, which is also a verbal expression of black people.

2. Avoidance

Avoidance itself here is a proclivity to avoid people or people from outside one's own community until finally, it concludes the discrimination that black people experience in this novel with white people who discriminate.

> "I'm still dead. Alone on the field. The policeman closest to me is rubbing his head. In his hand, his gun dangles. The other policeman is watching Ma like she"s going to hurt someone. Then, he shouts, "Stay back!" (Rhodes, 2018:11)

It can be interpreted that the police who were there discriminated against Ma in the form of avoidance because they thought Ma was dangerous and would hurt someone, so the policeman avoided Ma by shouting, "Stay back!".

3. Exclusion

Many white people have negative stereotypes about black people. These negative stereotypes take many forms. The stereotypes that they have

School bullies are the worst. Bullies never leave you alone. Most days I try to stay near adults. Lunchtime I hide in the locker room, the supply closet, or the bathroom. (Rhodes, 2018:17)

Excludes discrimination is manifested by the exclusion of specific individuals or groups from the group. So, here Jerome became a victim of discrimination in the form of exclusion because he is black and bullied by children who were more powerful in his school and did not allow Jerome to participate in activities at school and bullied him more often.

4. Physical Abuse

This discrimination is experienced by black people as victims of physical abuse discrimination, which as a result of this discrimination leaves scars and trauma.

"Teach you. I"m going to teach you." Bam. "You talked sass." Bam.
"Nobody disrespects my wife." Bam, bam.
Emmett's face swells. (Rhodes, 2018 : 89)

What the two men did to Emmett was a form of physical abuse and discrimination which they did by beating Emmett. This is referred to as a form of physical abuse discrimination because the form of discrimination is carried out through body contact. The man was violent because he felt the need for revenge for what Emmett had done before. The man felt that no one would be able to protect black people if they died and disappeared because of what he did to white people.

CONCLUSION

The researcher found that the dominant category of stereotype was racial stereotypes as much as 50% and it trigger discrimination in the form of verbal Expression (8%), avoidance (24%), exclusion (20%), and physical abuse (32%). It is caused by white people that had stereotypes that they got since the slavery era, which in that era white people tended to equalize black people in the slavery era with today, most white people have negative stereotypes about black people because they think that what black people do is always a bad act and threatens white people which of these stereotypes can lead to discrimination. The other categories of stereotypes that trigger verbal expression (4%) and avoidance (4%) is language stereotypes. Language stereotype trigger discrimination as much as 11%. It is caused by the environment that supports this stereotype. In other categories of stereotypes, gender stereotypes as much as 10% trigger discrimination in the form of verbal expression (4%) and physical abuse (4%). It is because women, especially white women, are considered weak and very dependent on others, in contrast to black women who are stronger and can

live independently. The stereotype that women are weak results in discrimination in the form of physical abuse. The conclusion is that racial stereotypes is one of the biggest factors that trigger discrimination because the researcher found that white people have negative stereotypes about black people, which are rooted in the era of slavery in which white people consider black people as naughty and threaten them because of dark times. The example is they act naughty to get freedom and a lot of black people are not in school so they tend to do whatever they want and can't even speak good English. The existence of these racial stereotypes causes discrimination in the form of physical abuse because white people have negative stereotypes about black people and feel that they can be protected by justice and black people are suspects.

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