THE IMPACT OF RACISM ON AFRICAN AMERICANS,
PEOPLE OF MIXED PARENTAGE AND WHITE
AMERICANS IN FAULKNER’S LIGHT IN AUGUST
AND ELLISON’S INVISIBLE MAN

Pengaruh Rasisme pada Orang Amerika Afrika, Orang yang
Orang-Orangnya Campuran dan Orang-orang Amerika Putih
dalam Karya Faulkner Light in August dan Karya Ellison
Invisiblement

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Racism has been part of the American legal system. African Americans and people of mixed parentage or the Negroes faced blatant discrimination that was legally prescribed or permitted. This racial system is extensive and serious because it has covered all sectors of life, interpersonal and social relations, education, employment, politics and law enforcement, and brings about serious impact not only on the Negroes or the blacks but also on the whites themselves.

In interpersonal and social relations, for example, white Americans have issued laws against intermarriage that destroyed the race relationship. The laws stipulate that marrying between whites and blacks is illegal. Savage legal penalties will be imposed upon this violation of the laws (Nearing 159). Then the United States shifted to a two-caste system. The “one drop rule” prevailed, that is anyone with any known Negro ancestry, was classified as black (Tizard and Phoenix 2). In education, the Southern states passed laws requiring school segregation. White and black people were required to attend the separate schools. Furthermore, in employment, blacks were excluded from many trades. Where they worked, they were commonly held down to the status of laborer. In addition, many white employers refused to hire black workers. In politics, African Americans and people of mixed parentage were routinely subject to white intimidation, and race hatred became an accepted part of the southern life. In lynching and race riots.

This research is conducted by using the qualitative method. The study makes use of library research in collecting data concerning the social and historical background of the novel, and the other data taken from other books and essays, papers, articles, the biography of the author and other resources taken from the internet. Finally, the analysis of this research is presented in a descriptive way.

All of the data were obtained from the American Studies Library of Gadjah Mada University, KWI Library University of Indonesia, some lecturers’ personal collections, and from the internet.

This study is written under the discipline of American Studies which emphasizes interdisciplinary studies. It means that this study is done by integrating some academic disciplines which are correlated with the subject being discussed, such as history, sociology, literature and psychol-
ology. Meredith asserts that American Studies make up an interdisciplinary
study that involves culture as the core, and therefore, it must be
supplemented by other disciplines such as history, social sciences, anthropology,
literature, and so forth (1).

Thus, dealing with this study, the writer applies historical approach,
sociological approach, literary approach. The historical approach aimed
at seeking the change and continuity of white racism from the period of
slavery up to the year 1930, while the sociological approach finds out the
interaction between one institution with the other institutions inside the
society in which racism plays a hub. The sociological approach is also
used to see the impact of racism upon the whites, blacks and people of
mixed parentage. The psychological approach is needed to see how a
person interacts with his or her environment and how the environment
influences his or her attitude and behavior. In this case, the behaviorist
theory is used, since this theory stresses the influence of the environment
on someone's attitude or character. Yelen and Weinstein mention that
the behaviorist psychologists believe that human beings are conditioned
all the time and their behaviors are affected by their emotion toward
their conditioned surroundings (514). The psychological approach is also
used to get understanding on the effect of white racism upon the black
and white psyche.

Dealing with the literary approach, the writer adopts the mimetic
approach that reveals the social aspects being reflected in the novel
(Abrams 8) and the expressive approach that reveals the life, the time
and the idea of the writer in the novel (Abrams 225-27).

**DISCUSSION**

1. **The Negative Impact of Racism on African Americans, People of
   Mixed Parentage, and White Americans**

   Probably there is not much white awareness of the fact that white
   racism against African Americans and people of mixed white and black
   parentage has caused serious effects not only on those people but also on
   white themselves. White racial prejudice, discrimination and segrega-
   tion have brought substantial consequences in terms of psychological,
   social, and material impact in education, employment and law enforce-
   ment. The impacts of racism will be subsequently explained.

2. **Psychological Impact**

   The first and probably the greatest impact of racism upon African
   Americans and people of mixed parentage is said to be psychological.

From the time African Americans were introduced into this country their
condition has fostered human indignity and the denial of respect.

The whites' negative belief about African Americans as evil or sub-
human, wicked, immoral, harmful and savage creatures had enabled
them to rationalize their exploitation of individual African slaves and
allow a brutal slave system. This bitter and degrading experience: the
whippings, torture, mutilations, and murder during the era of slavery
which was continued to evolve during a century of legal segregation had
made African Americans and biracial people doubt about themselves,
their worth as human beings. Self-respect for African Americans had
almost become impossible.

In the year 1930, this bitter and degrading experience which affected
the psyche of African Americans and people of mixed parentage still
continued up to the 1930s as reflected in *Light in August* (1932).

For five years, Joe Christmas, a five year old mulatto child has been
cheated and tortured by his own white grandfather, a Southern white
old man, Doc Hines, due to his dual race. When he begins to grow up, he
is also beaten, whipped and starved by his adoptive father Calvyn
McEachern, a southern white religious gentleman. He is also struck by
his white mistress, Johanna Burden, a Northern white woman, when
Christmas refuses to kneel with her to pray to God.

"She struck him, at once, with her flat hand, the rest of her body not moving
at all. Her blow made a flat sound... Then she turn her head.

"Kneel," she said. "You won't even need to speak to him yourself. Just
kneel. Just make the first move.,"

"No," he said, "I'm going" (Faulkner 277-80).

Humiliated and struck by the whites, he is also rejected by the blacks.
When Christmas passed the Negroes on the road, they ignored him.

"It's a white man," He said without turning his head quietly.

"What you want, white folks? You looking for somebody?"

"Come on away from there, Jupe," the one who had followed the women
said.

Christmas, turning slowly watching them dissolve and fade again into the
pale road, found that he had a razor in his hand (Faulkner 117).

This painful experience or the whites and blacks' hostility had un-
fortunately lowered his self-esteem. The whites and blacks' humiliations
and rejection make Christmas begin to doubt about himself, his worth as
a human being. He begins to question about himself. When he finds no
answer at last he come to a self hatred.

"What in the hell is the matter with me?" He thought. He put the razor back
into his pocket and stopped and lit cigarette. In the light of the match he could watch his hands shake. "All this trouble, he thought. "All this damn trouble" (Faulkner 138).

Such bitter experience is also undergone by the protagonist, a young Negro and most of the blacks in *Invisible Man* (1952) though it is not so painful as Christmas has.

The protagonist a young Negro faces harsh racial oppression and humiliation from the whites when he delivers his speech in front of the white gathering.

"You sure that about "equality" was a mistake?"

"Oh, yes, Sir," I said. "I was swallowing blood."

"Will you better speak morosely so we can understand. We mean to do right by you, but you've got to know your place at all times. All right, now, go on with your speech."

I was afraid. I wanted to leave but I was afraid they'd snatched me down (Ellison 31).

All the white harassment has lowered his self pride and at last he begins to hate himself and says:

"I was looking for myself and asking everyone except myself questions which I, and only I, could answer. It took me along time and much painful boomeranging of my expectation to achieve a realization everyone else appears to have been born with that I am nobody but myself. But first I had to discover that I am an invisible man." (Ellison 15).

Christmas and the protagonist completely feel desperate and hopeless. Their self-respect, have died away. Although the blacks have shown good attitude and capability still they are regarded as inferior or invisible. The white are blinded by their own racial prejudice.

Significantly, the psychological impact to the whites are also substantial. Their racial prejudice and discrimination have caught them in the bondage of hatred, fear and guilt.

The foster parent, McEachern filled up with prejudice against Christmas as evil, harmful, brute, inferior and wicked has made him captured in the bondage of hatred which spurred him strike and beat the child as illustrated below:

He struck ten times then he stopped," Take the book" he said [ ... ] The boy took it. He stood so erect, his face and the pamphlet lifted, his attitude one of exhalation [ ... ] McEachern lowered himself stiffly to the top of a feed box, spreakned, on hand on his knee and the silver watch in the other palm, his clean, bearded face as firm as carved stone, his eyes ruthless, cold, but not unkind. (Faulkner 150).

Elizabeth Zuika Oreh, et al., *The Impact of Racism ...* 455

From the scene above it can be inferred that McEachern psyche becomes so soiled by hatred and this hatred dictates his thought, feeling and behavior. It has disturbed his emotion and taken a lot of his energy. In other words, it has made him feel restless and bewildered. McEachern becomes savage and wild.

Most whites, as Faulkner reveals displayed hostility toward the blacks and this is often done repeatedly. It seems that when they display hostility toward the black they will feel stronger or superior.

The white bondage of hatred is joined by the bondage of fear. McEachern and Doc Hines prejudice of Christmas and other black people as harmful, brute, wicked, inferior and violent have created their feeling of fear of these people:

"If the child had been older he would perhaps have thought he hates me and fees me. So much so that he can not let me out of his sight. With more vocabulary but no move age he might have thought That is why I am different from the others: because he is watching me all the time (Faulkner 138).

Doc Hines feeling of fear of Christmas has made him watch the child as if he is a criminal. His fear of Christmas contaminates the other white children.

White racism does not only capture them in the bondage of hatred and fear but also in the bondage of guilt. Similar to hate and fear, unrepentant guilt is a bondage that enslaved white American (Waller 167).

Despite the grandfather's feeling of prejudice against the child, his hostility against the child has made him feel guilty as he says to the dietician:

"You'll wait, the same as I waited," he said. "You have felt the weight as the Lord's remorseful hand for may be three days. I have lived under it for may be five years, watching and waiting for My own good time, because my sin is greater than your sin." (Faulkner 129).

The above statement indicates that though the whites display hostility against the blacks, as Christians they also feel the sin of their bad deed. The father realizes that all his treatments toward Christmas contradict with his religious belief. He displays hostility against Christmas but his democratic and Christian teaching, prevent him from doing that. The American creed taught that brotherly love, tolerance and sympathy with other fellow human beings are good quality but prejudice often lead to the denial and rejection of this (Myrdal 160). Through the scene above Faulkner would like to show that the white bondage of hatred, fear and guilt has indeed eaten away their psyche and corrupted their soul.
3. Social Impact

White racism brings about social effect upon the black and biracial people. The white exclusion of blacks from the white school, the unequal distribution of job had caused social inequality. Social inequality according to Haralambos, are unequal distribution of power, prestige and wealth between individuals and social groups. As shown in the caste system, black Americans and biracial people, as members of different racial groups, suffer from the unequal distribution of wealth, power and prestige (24).

The black's suffering from social inequality can be seen among others in the high number of blacks who live in poverty. Haralambos states that any society in which there is inequality is bound to have poverty. In addition, the black's lacking in skill and education, and his powerlessness are also aspects of poverty. It is stated that in 1940, 89 percent of black families live in poverty (Thernstrom and Abigail 236). Faulkner describes the blacks poverty in a life of a black woman Lena Grove and her family. They lived in a log house of three rooms and a hall without screens, in a room lighted by kerosene lamp (Faulkner 4). In *Invisible Man*, Ellison describes that the black mother, father and their children have to sleep in the same room because they do not have enough room. They even do not have enough fire to get warm (53).

All the above statements indicate that most of the blacks live in poverty. Although in the year 1956 the black's poverty rate declined, still some of them lived under the poverty line.

Apart from poverty, white racism causes social isolation. Christmas, the protagonist and many other black people face difficulties in their social relations with white people. In *Light in August*, the white's effort to maintain segregation in school and neighborhood, had created social isolation between the two races. As Faulkner describes, the white never live in the black's neighborhood, and vice versa, the blacks never stay in the white's neighborhood except for the domestic servants. The white and black neighborhoods are separated and there must be little inter racial contact, because the white only see them-selves. In such a way, the whites and blacks, suffer from social isolation.

Furthermore, in order to avoid physical and social contact with the black, the white maintain their racial etiquette. The white's effort to maintain their racial etiquette can be seen in the relationship between Christmas and Johanna, the Northern white woman.

Johanna never eats together with Christmas. She always sets the food in the kitchen, and they never talk to each other at the same table. Besides, they always stand while talking. Christmas always enters the house through the back door (Faulkner 37).

This practice on the one hand carries the automatic implications that the blacks are servants. On the other hand it shows the white's superiority and black's inferiority. In fact, during the slavery period the blacks as slaves were not allowed to go through the front door, they have to eat in the kitchen. Besides, the blacks were not allowed to make any inquiries of his master. Johanna has treated Christmas like a slave. She always sets him food in the kitchen for the nigger to eat. Indeed, this social distance had made the white and black cut off from cross racial relationship. Such measures tend to keep black people as much as possible out of direct contact with whites.

However, in the North, the taboo against interracial eating and drinking is weak. Negroes and white will often be found eating together in restaurants, conferences and factory lunch room. In some Northern milieu, it seems to be considered objectionable for whites to invite Negroes for social gatherings. The protagonist, in the Brotherhood Organization, often sits at the same table talking with the whites; they sometimes shake hands and walking together.

The social relationship between white and black in the North is much better than that in the South. While and Black may work together in the same organization as Ellison portrays that the protagonist work in the Brotherhood with some of the whites. In the North, some public conveyances for whites and blacks are not separated. White and black for example use the same rest rooms, toilets and drinking fountain (Myrdal 610).

Yet, the whites sometimes show their prejudice against the blacks, particularly, their fear of black competition. In order to constrain the blacks for advancement, in this case, the white use the protagonist as a tool to destroy other black people. The protagonist always relates the white's betrayal of him with his grandfather's will "Overcome them with jesses, agree'en to death and destruction". Jack the leader of the brotherhood, who has one eye is symbolic of the distorted perspective of the Brotherhood's objective view that the human being is indeed a tool or a puppet that manipulate him. The man character, with his ability as an orator, unconsciously treats the black Americans to support the Brotherhood's power which most of its chiefs are the whites. He feels he goes along with his grandfather's advice, always saying "Yes" to the whites until death, but he also recognizes his existence as a doll who...
keeps white's supremacy's running:

"Now I looked around the corner of my mind and saw Jack and Norton and Emerson emerge into one single white figure. They were much the same, each attempting to force his picture of reality upon me and neither giving a hoot in hell for how things looked to me. I was simply a material, a natural resource to be used (Ellison 439)."

The protagonist realizes that his talent, skill, and power are used by the whites for their own purpose to destroy other black people. White Americans sometimes used the other blacks to destroy the other black people. Black people sometimes are blinded by the white blindfolded. They sometimes do not realize that they are used by whites to maintain the white supremacy, and strengthen their inferiority. In his effort to be visible man, the hero chooses to assimilate to the whites, but he also faces racial handicaps. His determination always meets challenge.

Being ignored, at first the protagonist feels disappointed and depressed, yet with his grandfather's message of keeping the Negro boy running, the protagonist is optimistic that he has to struggle hard to get equality. He tries to achieve equality with optimism. He believes in his hard work, he can attain equality. In order to attain equality, he decides to listen and act according to his own way of thinking without opposing the law and the racial custom set by the white. In the underground, he determines himself to face the reality, the real world with the culture, which differentiates the blacks from the whites. Through the protagonist's place in the underground, Ellison also wants to protest that the blacks seemed to have no stable or recognized place in society. His status is only as subordinate or lower class. The white belief of the black as impure, lazy, dirty, inferior and their belief in the black lack of morals has helped the white to deny this social intercourse with the blacks and as a result both the whites and blacks suffer from social isolation.

4. Impact in Education

Racism in education brings about serious impact upon African Americans and people of mixed white and black parentage. The white effort to separate the white and black schools has brought about negative impact upon these people. The impact of the white exclusion of blacks from the white school as Faulkner portrays has caused many black lacking in education. Faulkner pictures that Christmas, being excluded from the white school, refused to go to the black school; as a result he has no formal education as can be seen in the following dialogue:

"To school?" his mouth said, "A nigger school, Me?"

"Yes, then you can go to Memphis, you can read law in Peeble's office."

"But a nigger college, a nigger lawyer," his voice said.
"Tell them," she said.
"Tell niggers that I am a nigger too?"
"Yes, you'll have to do that!" So they won't charge you anything. On my account.

Then it was as if he said suddenly to his mouth: "Shut up! Shut up that drivet (277)."

The dialogue implies that William Faulkner wants to protest that there is unequal treatment in education and not all the mulattos have completely agreed with this treatment. Christmas is one who wants to break down this racial system. As member of people of mixed parentage Christmas feel disadvantaged by this system. He has white skin and blood. Furthermore he is raised in the white family during his childhood, yet he is considered as black because he has also possessed a drop of black blood. Christmas being unaccepted in the white school, refused to go to the black school because in his opinion, going to the black school will only assert the white that he is black as a consequence he has no formal education. It is stated that 400,000 Negro children five to seventeen years of age were not in school in 1940 to the U.S. Bureau of the census (Davie 125).

Faulkner pictures that African Americans and people of mixed parentage in Light in August lack education. Their lacking in skill and education causes many of them are unemployed for years.

Unlike Faulkner, Ellison reveals that the condition in the year 1950 has changed. Many of the blacks have enrolled in high schools and colleges. Furthermore many southern schools provided scholarship for graduate and professional studies. The protagonist is one of the students who receive the scholarship. However, despite the increase of the number of blacks in the high school, racial discrimination and segregation against black still exist. As Ellison pictures they are sometimes dismissed from the college if the do not show their submissive attitude toward the whites. Their academic freedom is limited. The protagonist attempt to deliver an oration to show the white his talent and skill, only brings him humiliation and a gust of blood. In this case, Ellison would like to show that white always treat the black to demand equality. If the whites give the blacks chance to demand equality the whites fear that the blacks will compete with the whites. One of the ways to keep the blacks in lower position is to maintain segregation.
Elizabeth Zasaka Orah, et al., The Impact of Racism ...

they live in poverty. White people always place the blacks in unskilled occupations with lower paying wages so that the blacks can not develop themselves they are always in lower paying occupations that will keep them in their lower status.

Faulkner portrays the African Americans and Christmas's lower paying occupations as follows:

The brother worked in the mill. All the men in the village worked in the mill or for it. It was cutting pine. It had been there seven years and in seven years more it would destroy all the timber within its reach. (4)

The description above indicates that quite a large number of Negroes work in the lower paying positions with low paying wages.

Having lower paying wages, many of the black men depend on the black women because the black women can easily find jobs as domestic servants. Many black women are accepted in menial and domestic works. Indeed, many white believe that the Negroes are laborers and thus many of them are excluded from skilled works. Only few of them are given the opportunity to be trained as skill workers. As a result there is higher rate of black unskilled workers. Dave in Negroes in American Society states that only a small percentage; i.e. 2.9 percent of the Negroes are listed as skilled workers and foremen (125).

Having lower paying wages, Christmas quits the job and being unskilled and lacking education, he is unemployed. The experience that Christmas undergoes shows that racial differences, the blacks' lack of skill and education, are some of the causes of the black high rate of unemployment. The 1937 unemployment census reveals that 36 percent of the colored males in the labor force were unemployed (Myrdal 434). This higher rate of unemployment obviously causes the blacks' lower average income. Besides, it will create many undesirable conditions, as can be seen in Christmas and Brown. Christmas and his friend Brown, being unemployed try to become bootleggers. They sell whisky illegally, and sometimes they get drunk and fight each other. It is clear that racism in education affects the condition of employment which in turn will affect the social welfare of the society. Being unemployed, they live in poverty. Living in poverty many people tend to commit crime or violence.

Racism in employment does not only cause serious effects on the blacks but also brings about negative impact on the whites. The white's effort to refuse to hire black workers will take a lot of energy. As Ellison portrays, in deciding whether the white will receive the blacks will take the manager's energy to think. The white manager, Mr. Bates, thinks several times whether he will receive the protagonist or not. Then at last

5. Impact in Employment

African Americans have long suffered from job discrimination. The exclusion of blacks from certain occupations and the unequal job distribution caused many black people unemployed or have lower paying occupations.

The protagonist always looks for better jobs; nevertheless he is often rejected. The whites sometimes refuse to hire black workers because of their racial background. They always regard the blacks as lazy and lack initiative.

"Mr. Bates might not wish to see a Negro in the morning. I turned and walked down the hall and looked out of the window. I would wait a while." Entering the office I found myself face to face with a young woman who looked up from her desk as I glanced.

"Good morning" I said, advancing.

"Yes?" I asked.

"Is this Mr. Bates?" she asked. She looked at me oddly and smiled. "I'm very sorry" but Mr. Bates is too busy to see you this morning and asks you leave your name and address. You will hear from him by male" (Ellison 164).

White employers often refuse to hire black workers. They even do not want to see the Negro. Besides, the "employment screening practice" uncles them to be employed. The white workers will often be accepted than black workers even if they have the same qualifications. When the whites hire the blacks, they will be placed in a lower paying occupation with lower paying wages.

Finally, the protagonist is employed as a janitor or a machine keeper. As a former college student the protagonist is very disappointed. Nevertheless he has to accept the reality of being a paint mixture and a machine keeper. He has to follow upper class command and bears his existence as a lowest worker or a humble worker (Ellison 172 - 18). At first, the protagonist feels depressed but later, he is optimistic that one day he will find better job to support his study and attain better education.

Faulkner also brings forward this inequality in employment in Light in August. Christmas and other black people depict the black's difficulties in finding a job. Being uneducated and lacking job skill for years Christmas is unable to find a job making him unemployed. It is stated that there were quite a lot of blacks who were unemployed in the year 1930. When Christmas and the other black people find a job, they are placed in a lower paying position and lower paying wages, as a result
he refuses to accept the protagonist. Thus the impact of racism in employment will take the white's energy. Furthermore, Eric Jones tone, President of the U.S. Chamber, states that the withholding of jobs and business opportunity from some people does not make more jobs and business opportunity for others, such a policy tends to drag the whole economic level (Simpson and Yingler 276).

He further points out that the failure to pay attention to workers' need and wage lead to the lowest productivity, higher labor turn over and in the last analysis, higher cost; in other words, racism in employment means insufficient use of labor force, less purchasing power, less consumer demand, less production and a lower living standard for all (277).

6. Impact on Legal Protection

White discrimination on legal protection causes a tremendous effect upon African Americans and people of mixed and white parentage. In its form, discrimination on legal protection appears as uneven scales of justice or unequal legal protection. The uneven scales of justice as Faulkner and Ellison describe previously, are most likely observed in the blacks than in the whites to receive harsher sentencing and shot to death. Any white man can strike or beat a Negro without fear of legal reprisal, and police officer were extremely harsh and punitive in their treatment of black convicted of crimes against whites.

When Christmas, a member of people of mixed parentage kills a white woman he is soon captured and lynched or sentenced to death, but when the white southern man kills a black circus man he is not captured. Instead, he goes home freely without being suspected by the white's community. He just leaves the black man's body on the street. This condition shows more black men are sentenced to death than white men.

In fact, white people never care for the death of black men. They always regard the blacks as animals that anytime can be shot or killed. To show the unequal legal protection, Ellison also brings forward race riots in which white and blacks are fighting each other. Many black men are injured. The police are on the side of the whites. This unequal legal protection, as Faulkner and Ellison describe, brings about a situation in which a disproportionately large numbers of African Americans and mulattoes are accused of crimes and punished for crimes. Christmas is lynched or shot to death because he is accused of raping a white woman, Johanna Burden. The effect of the uneven scales of justice is also clearly seen in the high number of blacks who were lynched or sentenced to death.

CONCLUSION

Light in August and Invisible Man reveal that the whites' prejudice and discrimination against African Americans and people of mixed parentage bring about serious impact not only upon African Americans and people of mixed parentage but also upon the whites themselves.

The whites' prejudice of the blacks as evil, inferior in intellect, moral and ethics, have not only lowered the self esteem of the blacks and people of mixed parentage but also led them to self hatred. Similarly, the whites' prejudice against the blacks as evil beings has captured the white in the burden of hatred and fear toward these people. In other words, it has disturbed their emotion. They have become restless and unsafe. As Faulkner also reveals, their discrimination and hostility against these people have also captured them in the bondage of guilt.

The white's effort to maintain segregation in housings and schools, has brought about social isolation between the two races. This social isolation with high feeling of prejudice creates racial friction which leads to racial disintegration. In addition, it has destroyed the feeling of solidarity that people normally have toward each other and broken down the feeling of empathy. Furthermore, their restriction or deprivation in education and employment has caused many black lack education and became unemployed; as a consequence many of them lived in poverty. Besides, it destroyed the blacks' skill, talent and resources. As a matter of fact, segregation also brings about negative impact to the white. It is wasting time, money and energy. To the black, segregation hinders many black people to get proper education and to attain job skills and the consequent lower productivity. With all these, Faulkner and Ellison want to emphasize that white racism against African Americans and people of mixed parentage generates serious negative impact not only on the blacks and people of mixed parentage but also on the whites themselves. Through Light in August and Invisible Man, the white and black writers, Faulkner and Ellison admit that racism destroy all aspects of American life such as education, employment, social relations, politics and law enforcement. Therefore, Faulkner and Ellison call on the whites to eliminate their prejudice against blacks as inferior, and discontinue their discrimination and hostility against these people. The whites should realize that all human being are equal, and therefore they should give them equal opportunity for the blacks to develop themselves.
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THE ANTI-COMMunist MOVEMENT IN THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA IN THE 1940s AND 1950s

Gerakan Anti-Komunis di Amerika Serikat pada tahun 1940-an dan 1950-an

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ABSTRACT

Anti-Communist hysteria that spread throughout the United States of America in the 1940s was an important part of the American historical heritage. The United States took the most vigorous action to eliminate communism from America. Despite the success of this effort to curb the Communist activities, there have been pros and cons about the excessive anti-Communist crusade during the 1940s. Accordingly, the primary objective of this research is to find out the causes of this anti-Communist hysteria and to describe how Truman's contain communism in the United States.

In this study the researcher uses the library research. He uses historical, political, economic, and sociological data. The collected data are carefully selected and analyzed by using the concept of interdisciplinary approach.

The result of this study shows the complexity of the anti-Communist movement in the 1940s in the United States. It was caused by many factors, such as ideological antagonism between communism and capitalism, the conflict of interest between the conservatives in the Republican Party and the liberals in the Democratic Party, and the conflict between the American businessmen and laborers. The Cold War between the United States and Soviet Union in the post World War II had also heated the anti-Communist movement in America.

This study also revealed the fact that criminalizing and blacklisting were common strategies used by President Truman and other anti-Communist activities to control the Communists in the U.S.

Keywords: anti-Communist movement - the U.S.A. - causes and impact