RACISM ACTS IN SOLOMON NORTHUP’S “12 YEARS A SLAVE”

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ABSTRACT


Advisor: B. HimawanSetyo Wibowo, M.Hum.

Keywords: Racism, Act, 12 Years a Slave

As racism happened recently, the writer is interested to write about this topic research. 12 Years a Slave is an autobiography written by Solomon Northup after he was free from slavery. The autobiography is about Solomon Northup’s life during his slavery for twelve years along with other African-Americans. Since this is autobiography, the writer reads frequently to find out the act of racism from racist characters. The writer uses intrinsic elements to find out the setting, character, plot, and theme analysis.

The results of the analysis show that the racist characters are mostly from Southern America. African-Americans are sometimes kidnapped from Northern America such as Solomon Northup and sold into slavery. The slaves get threatened verbally and physically to humiliate them by their masters. In this case, Solomon and other African-Americans are whipped, beaten, and stripped by white people. The other act is calling a name by stereotype. The African-Americans are sometimes called nigger because their skin is black. They are also called animal being like baboon as their appearance by the white’s perception. The African-Americans are sometimes stereotyped by showing material which offends them. In this autobiography, Peter Tanner calls African-Americans as watermelon eaters, and Theophilus Freeman calls Solomon’s other name, Platt, but he does not respond for several times. This shows African-Americans as uneducated people. The last is encouraging people to do racism. In this research, Edwin Epps’ racial act is prohibited by his father who acts the same thing such as whipping, kicking, and beating African-Americans. Most of the racial characters are from Southern America which slavery is still practiced. They think that African-Americans are savage people and suitable work as labors especially in plantations. It concludes that racist has a great impact on society. The culture of Southerners can affect the people who live Southern America.