

ABSTRACT

Racism among individuals, and ethnic groups, has long occurred. This is inherent in every individual since he or she was born. This study explores the portrayal of racial discrimination experienced by Curtis Elwood and the way he deals with it. Basic tenets of *everyday racism* theory proposed by Philomena Essed is applied to investigate the issue. Everyday racism is used to analyze the issue of racial discrimination in *The Nickel Boys* because of its strong relationship with the everyday life of Curtis Elwood. For example, disharmony in a peer relationship brings adverse effects and conflicts, such as bullying. In other words, bullying is considered as a conflict that often occurs in a friend relationship. This occurs obviously in the friend relationship between colored and white. Elwood expresses his feelings of anger, fear, frustration and powerlessness towards people who are close to him. The methodology that will be used in the process of research is the textual analysis; regarding past and previous studies that refer to be the issues of racial inequality in the novel, to reveal the racial discrimination in this research. This study reveals that racial discrimination is present in the novel, and they influence Elwood to develop several patterns of racism, such as the pattern of individual relations. Finally, the collected data will be clustered in the form of formal elements and proceed to frame the data for analysis. Furthermore, this research applied the theory of African-American criticism proposed, as a framework in analyzing the acquired data. Furthermore, the occurrences of racial discrimination towards Curtis Elwood while building a friend relationship, is found.

Keywords: *African-American. racial inequality, everyday racism, racism, racial discrimination.*