

## **Abstract**

This study is an analysis of poems written by Maya Angelou “Still I Rise” and “I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings” for the struggle of the African-Americans against the white Americans because of the discrimination in the past. Everybody must have experience, even good or bad. It could be interesting part when this study exposes this phenomenon connected to analysis of the poems. In this poems, Maya Angelou wants to show her high self-confidence and criticism through the white Americans. She emphasizes that the African-Americans should have equal right as well as the white. Related to the issue above, the writer will use the African-Americans criticism, especially Signifying and Black Vernacular English proposed by Henry Lois Gates jr., and also the language of poetry as an approach. This study focuses to give depiction on the illustration of the poems, to analyse the meaning of the poems by looking at the figurative language, imagery, and repetition, and to find out the reflection of discrimination of the white Americans toward the African-Americans.

Keyword: African-Americans, Discrimination, Freedom, Pride, Struggle, White Americans