ABSTRACT

This study examines prejudice and discrimination of white Americans toward Japanese Americans during World War II based on a historical fiction novel, *Weedflower* by Cynthia Kadohata. The study will be divided into two periods: pre and post Pearl Harbor bombing because Pearl Harbor bombing was a remarkable event which triggered higher level of Prejudice and discrimination toward Japanese Americans. Besides analyzing the unequal treatment, this study also reveals Japanese Americans reaction towards it.

The study will be analyzed using new criticism approach as its tool. The focus of analysis itself is on the texr's formal elements, particularly on its plot structure because conflict between both parties takes the biggest part in the novel. However, theory of prejudice and discrimination are also applied sufficiently as supporting theory.

Through the analysis, the writer finds three major forms of discrimination of white Americans towards Japanese Americans: avoidance, verbal expression or sarcastic joke, and alienation. Avoidance and sarcastic joke are found from the beginning of the novel and raised as Pearl Harbor was bombed by Japan. The third form of discrimination appeared following the bombing. Responding to the unequal treatment, Japanese Americans developed feeling of shyness, madness, and even fear when they were interacting with white Americans.