

## **CHAPTER I**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **A. Background of the Study**

**Life is struggle. Every step of human being is passed by struggles. It is started when he is still an infant until destiny comes. In his life, he struggles to obtain knowledge that will bring him to a better human being; struggles to overcome the problems that raise in his life from himself, the other persons, society, and nature; struggles to realize his ideals, dreams and wishes; and still many others. Those struggles above are experienced by all humans from different nations, races, tribes, and religions.**

**The struggle of life is different for every individual, group, race, or nation. It may not be so hard for one individual but for the other ones may be. One example is Black Americans' struggle to achieve a better life and realize their ideal that is a hard and arduous thing since they always encounter racial problems such as discrimination, segregation policy, race prejudice, lynching, and many others. It is so different with the whites' life. Their way to the achievement in life is easier than the blacks since they have a better fate. Black Americans are the unfortunate race because they become the victims of slavery that has gone on for many years. It is the period when the inhumanity attitude is an allowable thing. Human right for freedom as a decent human being for the blacks is ignored.**

**Although the system of slavery has already abolished but their sufferings and bitter experiences are never truly ended for they still endure injustice treatment and race problems. They have to work very hard to achieve their ideals, wishes, and dreams and are demanded to be strong and never desperate in any hard condition since they have to help themselves. If they**

make a success, it means the success of whole race but if they fail and make a mistake, it will not only injure them and their family, but also the whole race.

Many authors write about Black American's struggle in realizing their ideals, wishes, and dreams and one of them is Booker T. Washington, in his work Up From Slavery that is also his autobiography. Washington was born in bondage on April 5, 1856. He was the progeny of the plantation cook and a local white man. Even though he was an ex-slave, he successfully lifted his life to a position of leadership and power by his own vision and perseverance and destined to become one of the most famous Americans.

In Up From Slavery that he wrote in 1901, he did not only reveal about the formative experience in life but also chronicles his own search for self-identity and struggle to realize his ideals. In the novel, he told that he had ideals concerning with the elevation of his and black's dignity. In his struggle to realize them, he had his own way that made him distinguish character. He thought that the right way to elevate dignity was through education. Furthermore in his opinion, the system of education that was appropriate to apply in order to help the realization was not only learning from books but practical education as well so that in his schools he applied industrial and agricultural training instead from books. While, for development of his students' character, he taught his students about morality and religion comprehension. Besides teaching, he also became a public speaker to help black people to elevate their dignity. In his life, he spent most of his time and struggle hard to educate black and spoke to the world of their condition that needed an aid and support from other. He did it because he wanted to do something useful for other people and never expected a reward from it.

His hard struggle and dedication had brought him to success. And his greatest success especially in education, that gave him genuine satisfaction, was his success in Tuskegee in which he founded and directed Tuskegee Institute. Tuskegee, under his guidance, was destined

to become a pioneer example of an independent industrial school since he applied industrial and agricultural training. The Tuskegee spirit of practical education for community usefulness spread. Similar institutions were established in the South, and Tuskegee became a model for other schools in far-off lands. His agricultural and industrial projects, his part in establishing small business by and for blacks and in the practical rehabilitation of the rural South and his efforts toward black-white co-operation under existing conditions made his name almost a household word by the early twentieth century. From his works above, he had to prove that human should not be adjusted by the color of their skin or from what race he came but he should be adjusted from their good value and their worthiness for the other people's life.

His unbelievable devotion, dedication in helping other people and selflessness make him as a distinctive and remarkable character so that this can be interesting subject to be analyzed. Besides this kind of struggle that can happen in the life of every body can be a worthy lesson and an inspiration to all people all over the world as long as men recognize the value of courage and human dignity.

## **B. Statement of the Problem**

Booker T. Washington's struggle for his race as well as for himself is the subject that will be analyzed in this thesis. In order to give a vivid and objective analysis about his struggles, some problems are proposed:

1. What are Booker T. Washington's ideals and his motives to have them?
2. How does he struggle to realize them?
3. What are the outcomes of his struggle?

### **C. Objective of the Study**

From the statement of the study above, it can be concluded that the purposes of the analysis are:

- To describe Washington's ideals as well as his motive to have them.
- To describe how he struggles to realize his ideal.
- To describe what the outcomes of his struggle are.

### **D. Significance of the Study**

The analysis of the literary work is hopefully able to give a great contribution for English Department especially for its students who study about Black Americans or related studies about it. This is also wished to be one of the sources of Black American's studies whether it is its literature, history, life, and struggle for the achievement. The same hope above is also expected in literature as one of sciences that is useful for human being.

For human life, this analysis is hopefully able to give deep understanding about life and also worthy knowledge that in human life, struggle is always needed whether the struggle to achieve basic, secondary, and tertiary of human needs, human right, and ideals. And in order to get success of it, the preference and patience are needed just like Booker T. Washington did.

### **E. Scope and Limitation**

Booker T. Washington is the main character who struggles to achieve his and his fellowman's dignity. He emphasizes his struggles through education either from books or practical education because according to him those aspects are the right way. His decision to elevate dignity is influenced by social condition of his race and also his own condition as a

Black American. All of these will be analyzed in this thesis but in order to get vivid analysis; the analysis will be focused on the main character only.

#### **F. Theoretical Background**

In the analysis of this autobiography, some theories and approaches are used in order to support as well as to give objective explanation. The theory and approaches that are used are expressive theory, intrinsic, psychological, and sociological approaches. Expressive theory is used because it is an autobiography novel in which author's emotion, feeling, thought, and desire involve in the process of creativity and it is important in the analysis of the main character because the main character of the novel is the author itself. Intrinsic approach is used in this analysis because Up From Slavery is a literary work in the form of novel. As a literary work, novel has elements of fiction such as plot, character, setting, conflict, point of view, theme, style, and message (37). But in this thesis the elements that are going to use to support the analysis of the main character are plot, character, and setting. While psychological approach is used to support the analysis of the main character's struggle in achieving the dignity of him and black's. The last is sociological approach that is used to support the analysis of the main character's social aspect that influences much in his struggle.

#### **G. Method of the Study**

The two methods are used in analyzing this work. They are library research and descriptive analysis. Library research is used because the analysis is done also by collecting information that relates to the topic of the study from encyclopaedia, history books that is meant to support and give an objective analysis. While Descriptive analysis is used to give a vivid description of what are going to be analyzed as stated in Dictionary of Literary Terms, “

**Descriptive method is a method that gives some descriptions about the aspect of literary works that is to be analyzed’.**

#### **H. Definition of the Key Terms**

**Autobiography: According to Dictionary of Literary Terms, autobiography is “an account of oneself written by oneself”. The author of an autobiography presents (or tries to present) a continuous narrative of what he considers the major (or most interesting) event of life. Usually an autobiography repeats about himself only what he is willing to have known and remembered.**

**Dignity : According to Oxford Advanced Learner’s Dictionary, “dignity is a quality that earns or deserves respect; true worth”**

# **CHAPTER II**

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**