

ABSTRACT

This study aims to analyze James Ellroy's *The Black Dahlia* by using New Historicism theory. *The Black Dahlia* is a fictional novel based on The Black Dahlia murder in 1947. Similarly, both The Black Dahlia murder and the author's mother murder tragically killed and the body was thrown in the public park in Los Angeles. Besides The Black Dahlia murder, Ellroy also interprets another historical story in the beginning of the novel. Zoot Suit Riots, the conflict between Mexican-American and white people in 1947, depicted in the beginning of the story. Moreover, throughout the novel, Mexican-Americans are often portrayed as criminals. Importantly, this novel was published in 1980s, when illegal immigrants from Mexico exploded and those illegal immigrants also become transporter for cocaine in the United States. Therefore, Greenblatt's New Historicism provides appropriate questions to investigate the study for the relation between the story and the historical events of the novel. The study uses qualitative method analysis in discussing the problems to make an accurate analysis. This study is supported by the sources from dialogues, events, and actions presented in the novel. The study finds that *The Black Dahlia* has the connection between the author's mother murder and anti Mexican American sentiment. To sum up, this novel has revealed author's motives in represented his mother murder through The Black Dahlia character and also linked up anti Mexican-American sentiment. In the end, the writer related anti Mexican-American sentiment to dominant discourse of the period and reveal the hidden political propaganda which the author built int this novel.

Keywords: *The Black Dahlia*, The Black Dahlia murder, Zoot Suit Riots, Mexican-American.