

## Racial Discrimination in Jason Mott's Novel "*Hell of a Book*"

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### Abstract

*This study aims to analyze acts of racial discrimination white race over black experienced by the main character who has three personalities in a novel entitled Hell of A Book (2021) by Jason Mott. As a direction for this study, the writer uses the theory of racial discrimination initiated by Pincus (1999) to analyze how racial discrimination portrayed in Hell of A Book novel and to analyze how the protagonist deal with racial discrimination. This study uses qualitative study method to analyze the elements contained in literary works which are then described with supporting theories. The results of this study indicate that racial discrimination in the novel occurs in three forms, namely, individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination. Based on the analysis, institutional discrimination is the most kind of discrimination happens to the main characters because the perpetrators of racial discrimination are individuals or groups who have authority in government institutions. In an effort to deal with racial suffering, the main character in the novel does various things such as trying to become invisible, listening to parents' advice, rejecting self-stigma, and practicing using weapons. Thus, several things, the thing most often done by the character in the face of racial discrimination is to try not to be seen.*

**Keyword:** *racial discrimination, skin color, forms of discrimination, resisting the stigma*

### A. Introduction

This is really disappointing for educated black job-seekers who had hoped that having Obama as president would make a positive difference. Instead, they feel like their job opportunities are limited because of racial bias. It's tough for black applicants. They have to decide whether to hide any signs of their black identity on their resumes and applications, like not mentioning their race, removing references to specific social or educational organizations, and even changing their names. Or they have to face the sad truth that some employers will discriminate against them just because of their race.

Second, evidence that racial discrimination caused by skin color still occurs is how the demonstration movement was a form of support for George Floyd, a person who died of suffocation after being suffocated while being questioned by the police. The movement, now known as *Black Lives Matter*, explains that racial discrimination in the United States is still as dangerous as in previous years and demonstrations like

this are new material in a climate of racial discrimination as Eduardo Silva wrote in a book entitled *Racism Without Racists: Color-Blind Racism and the Persistence of Racial Inequality in the United States* which discusses how the handling of racism still exists in the United States despite the notion that racism no longer exists (Eduardo Bonilla-Silva, 2010). From these data, it can be concluded that cases of racial discrimination continue to develop in two directions. First, the form of racial discrimination that keeps on changing. Second, efforts to reject acts of racial discrimination that never stop for the sake of realizing these noble ideals.

The acts of racial discrimination have sparked various denials. Both in the real world and in literature, the forms of rejection that are often encountered are protests and demonstrations; passage of anti-discrimination laws; awareness campaigns; and the role of social media. Examples of these three rejections can be found in the form of the writer both in the real world and in literary works.

Literature as a medium of expression that reflects the times also took part in this photo shoot. Many novels are intensively written and talk about racial issues. One of them is *Hell of a Book*, a novel written by Jason Mott and published in 2021. In the novel *Hell of a Book*, this resistance to racial discrimination is felt. One of them is in the hope of the black character—Soot, to be invisible. Because by making himself invisible, he will avoid all kinds of threats of discrimination made by others.

From the explanations above, the writer choose *Hell of A Book* as the object of study because this novel is so thick with the issue of racial discrimination that continues to occur in America. The author's book, Jason Mott is also a black writer, which might have made him more vocal in voicing the issue. In addition, the uniqueness of the plot, characterizations, and storytelling style are also the writer considerations for choosing *Hell of A Book* as the object of study. The novel, which was published in 2021 in America, has won various awards. One of them is the National Book Award in 2021. From the awards won, the writer concludes that the novel is an interesting to analyze. Both in terms of internal, or the issues presented in the novel.

Therefore, analyzing the novel *Hell of A Book* can provide benefits for developments in the academic realm, especially in literary studies. The academic benefits obtained from the results of this research can be in the form of increasing the depth of the writer's knowledge about kind of racial discrimination. The writer can learn and analyze the causes of these problems and study the forms of resistance that the characters make when facing the problem of racial discrimination. At the same time, analyzing literary works with the issue of racial discrimination has provided social insight for writer to see world problems that are reflected through these works. This research can provide benefits in the realm of literary research, especially in research on the issue of racial discrimination. In the end, this research can also be useful as a wealth of literature that can be used as a reference for another researcher who wish to analyze similar issues.

As a topic that is never finished, studies related to racial discrimination continue to emerge. Various studies conducted by previous researchers discussed racial issues in certain literary works. The writer found three article journals that have

the same discussion. These three journals can be used by the writer to find the relations from previous study.

The writer choose three related article journals as study references and comparisons, which aimed to support this study. The first related study is a journal by Maurilla (2015) entitled “*Racial Discrimination In Kathryn Stockett's The Help*”. This journal is published by Lexicon. The issue chosen by the studyer in this journal aims to answer two things: To explore acts of racial discrimination against black maids and to investigate the effects of racial discrimination against black maids. This journal uses a novel entitled *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett (2009) as study material. The author uses a sociological approach by using Fred L Pincus’s theory about types of racial discrimination. The results of study in the journal are that the writer found two types of racial discrimination, namely individual discrimination and institutional discrimination.

To analyze the issue of racial discrimination in this study, the writer collected materials consisting of descriptions of fictional devices, theories used, relevant issues, and elements needed in this study. Learning about fiction devices can provide an understanding for writers how the elements in a work of fiction must be considered. Understanding theory is also equally important to provide clear directions on how the writer will analyze the literary work that has been determined. In this section, the writer has developed a description of the fictional device and an explanation of the theory used to analyze the work that has been determined.

Fictional devices are also commonly referred to as intrinsic elements of works of fiction. According to Stanton in a theory book entitled *Introduction to Fiction*, he says: Character, plot, and setting are the facts of the story. These elements serve as an imaginative account of a story. Taken together, these elements are referred to as the 'factual structure' of the story (Stanton, 1965).

1. Plot
2. Setting
3. Characters and Characterization

Discrimination is a problem that has been going on for quite a long time. An explanation of discrimination can be seen from Sowell, defines discrimination in two ways. First, discrimination I, or broader discrimination, means the ability to distinguish people or things on the basis of appropriate qualities. The second, Discrimination II, is a narrower meaning: treating someone negatively based on arbitrary assumptions or refusals of individuals because of race, gender, or other factors. (Sowell, 2018). From what Sowell argued, the writer concludes that discrimination can be seen in two ways: broader discrimination occurs when individuals treat other individuals differently on the basis of quality. Meanwhile, narrower discrimination can be interpreted as rejection of certain individuals on the basis of differences in background such as race, religion, ethnicity, and others.

According to other experts, D. C. Matthew argues that discrimination is simply discrimination of action. The distinction occurs because of a person's racial identity, or perhaps a perceived racial identity (Matthew, 2017). From what Matthew’s argue, racial differences are often the cause of acts of discrimination.

D. C. Matthew also added that the concept of discrimination is a reasonable conception of racial discrimination involving race-based actions, apart from this discrimination must be independent motives (Matthew, 2017). From the various opinions that the writer has mentioned above, discrimination can be concluded in several ways. First, that discrimination lies in differentiating treatment between one individual and another due to certain motives. The motive can be race, identity, or other things.

Meanwhile, according to Amnesty International, Discrimination is the unfair or prejudicial treatment of people and groups based on characteristics such as race, gender, age or sexual orientation (Amnesty International, 2020). Racial discrimination is a type of social conflict that occurs in society. As written by Solomos (Miles, 2003) who said that racial discrimination has a relationship in relations of race, class, and gender. The writer assumed that the impact arising from racial discrimination is the difference in treatment that a person gets because of his race, class, or gender. According to Pincus, there are three types of discrimination, namely individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination (Pincus & Ehrlich, 1999). The writer found these three forms of discrimination in the description of the data and analysis in the next section.

In the development of knowledge about racial discrimination, experts have created various theories to classify acts of racial discrimination. One of them is the classification of racial discrimination in the form of Individual Discrimination, Institutional Discrimination, and Structural Discrimination (Pincus, 1999).

1. Individual Discrimination
2. Institutional Discrimination
3. Structural Discrimination

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

In analyzing the problem of racial discrimination experienced by the characters in a novel entitled *Hell of A Book (2021)* by Jason Mott, the author uses a racial discrimination approach from the theory written by Fred L. Pincus in his book *Race and Ethnic Conflict: Contending Views, on Prejudice, Discrimination, and Ethnoviolence (1999)*. In types of racial discrimination (1999) Pincus in his writings explains that there are three types of racial discrimination, namely individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination.

## **B. Method**

In completing the study, the writer used descriptive qualitative method. The writer took the selected data and then analyze them according to the focus of the study. More specifically, According to Ary et all (2010), a qualitative study method is an approach that formulates and analyzes data in the form of text or images rather than numbers and statistics. This qualitative method was chosen because it is the most appropriate way of analyzing a novel to find the issue being sought. The writer tries to analyze this study descriptively which focuses on racial discrimination in the novel *Hell of A Book* by Jason Mott. The main data source in this analysis is the entire novel entitled *Hell of A Book* by Jason Mott. Writer has flagged at least 30 quotes that reflect racial discrimination. The data taken are in the forms of quotes, dialogues, text snippets,

sentences, or paragraphs that are relevant to the study focus. In order for this study to run properly, the writer did several things to collect the required data. First, the writer selects literary works that have won an award in the period 2000-present. In this step, the writer decided to choose a novel entitled *Hell of A Book* which was published in 2021 and won the National Book Award for Fiction 2021. Second, writer read consistently and repeatedly to understand the intrinsic elements of the story that can help writer understand the issues that occur. After that, the writer would determine the dominant issue that will be used as a formal object in the study. The next step, the writer marks, underlines, or provides a highlighter when finding sentences, dialogues, or paragraphs that are the focus of study. writer would select the collected data that reflects the racial discrimination that occurs in the novel. After that, the writer will analyze it using racial discrimination theory by Fred L. Pincus from the book *Race and Ethnic Conflict: Contending Views, on Prejudice, Discrimination, and Ethnoviolence (1999)*. In order for the selected data to be analyzed clearly, the writer carried out several study steps. First, the writer collected the selected data obtained after reading the novel *Hell of A Book*. Second, writer read secondary data obtained from several journals as reference material for analysis. Third, the writer analyzed the data using journal references and also theory by Fred L. Pincus with critical and analytical thinking to reveal discrimination potrayed in hell of a book and to demonstrate how the protagonist deals with the racial discrimination in *Hell of A Book*.

## **C. Findings and Discussion**

### **1. Racial Discrimination Potrayed in Hell of A Book**

The forms of racial discrimination that the writer finds in Jason Mott's novel *Hell of A Book* can be classified into three types. As with the theory of racial discrimination initiated by Pincus (1999), the forms of racial discrimination that occur in the novel *Hell of A Book* are Individual Discrimination, Institutional Discrimination, and Structural Discrimination. The results of the analysis have been described by the authors in the data below.

#### **1.1. Individual Discrimination**

Individual discrimination is the first type of racial discrimination written by Pincus. Pincus explained, individual discrimination refers to the treatment of individuals from a racial/ethnic/gender group that intentionally causes adverse effects on members of other racial/ethnic/gender groups. (Pincus, 1999, p 186). From the description of individual discrimination, the writer has found related data in the novel *Hell of A Book* by Jason Mott. The author divides it into several derivative parts:

##### **1.1.1. Verbal Discrimination**

Verbal Discrimination is a form of individual discrimination that is carried out verbally, including ridicule, insults, threats, and inappropriate words. The context of this narrative explains that Mr. William, who is told as a black character, was nicknamed 'Skinniest Nigga Breathing' by childhood friends. This is an act of racial discrimination in the type of individual discrimination according to Pincus. Pincus explained that individual racial is an action from an individual to an individual from a different group that has a detrimental effect or poses a threat. In that context, the

title Nigga is pinned on Mr. William is an example of actions that can harm Mr. William because he will be considered different from other friends.

On the other hand, it is not uncommon for victims of individual discrimination to receive intimidation from other individuals who have more power to control their surroundings. A small example of intimidation found in the novel is how Greener, who is physically bigger and has privileges because of his parents, likes to intimidate Soot. This can be seen in the quotation below.

Tyrone Greene was the biggest eighth-grader on the planet .... He was the kind of kid who knew his body gave him power over others. He was the kind of kid who wasn't afraid to use that power. He was the kind of kid who had nicknamed the boy "Soot." (Mott, 2021, p. 29)

Indirectly, Renny's wish expressed to the writer was a form of individual discrimination because the dialogue created a threatening effect on The Author. This data can be seen in this sentences, "You're not supposed to just stand there," Renny barks, shaking a fist. "You're supposed to say something. You're supposed to speak about the Black condition! You're supposed to be a voice!" (Mott, 2021, p. 48). Apart from Renny, Jack, who is an Author's agent, also treats The Author in the same way. Jack reckons that throughout his writing career, he never brought up or made a sound about being black. In fact, black people should be able to voice it. This desire can indirectly be classified as a form of Individual Discrimination because it is in line with the Pincus principle which says that Individual Discrimination will create a sense of insecurity and a threat to individuals of minorities matter. This can be seen in the dialogue excerpt.

". . . You're Black?" "I am." Proof, in memory, that I've been Black this entire time, apparently. "You didn't tell me he was Black," Jack says to Sharon. "I wanted to see if you could tell from his writing." "I couldn't. (Mott, 2021, p. 56)

On the other hand, intimidation by individuals from the majority group is also unavoidable. In this case intimidation can be seen from the narrative that someone from the majority group always asks the same thing, that what causes the victim's skin to turn black? This question will be intimidating for the victim and will certainly create a feeling of insecurity for the victim. This sense of insecurity experienced by victims is an indication of individual discrimination. These events can be classified as individual discrimination because the perpetrators are individuals who attack other individuals who are weaker. Another data that shows how being Black is something out of ordinary can be seen in data below.

When he rode the school bus in the mornings and Tyrone Greene came over and began asking him why he was so black— (Mott, 2021, p. 174).

Perhaps he has been bullied at school that day about the dark nature of his skin (Mott, 2021, p. 181).

Of course that question has no answer. This is what individuals who commit racist acts want, where someone who is the target cannot answer the questions given, then the perpetrator will have a tool to intimidate by asking the same questions over and over again. The bullying occurred solely based on the difference in skin color of the victim.

### **1.1.2. Non-Verbal Discrimination**

Non-verbal discrimination contained in Jason Mott's novel *Hell of A Book* is characterized by dialogue or narration that leads to bullying and physical action and gives a negative impression to the victim which can cause harm either directly or indirectly. Data showing individual discrimination in non-verbal forms have been collected by the authors in the data, "The kids at school used to pick on me about it. Said I was a freak because of how dark I was ... Poured it right over my head." The Kid made a pouring motion with his hand." (Mott, 2021, p. 136)

Different treatment comes in the form of painful physical attacks. It is as told in the dialogue above. That the difference in skin color has made someone get a physical touch that is so painful. Based on these data, the writer concludes that The Kid, as one of the main characters in this novel, has been bullied at school because of his skin color. There is a phrase 'how dark I was', implying that The Kid has darker skin than other students. Next, phrases, 'Said I was freak because of how dark I was', suggests The Kid becomes shunned and ridiculed because of his skin color. This is what shows the occurrence of individual discrimination against the character of The Kid in a non-verbal form.

The writer's follow-up analysis focuses on the phrase, 'poured it right over my head' which suggests that The Kid has been physically assaulted in such a manner. This certainly has an impact on The Kid who will feel he has been humiliated and feels intimidated. It is these two impacts that make the data an example of individual discrimination that occurs in the novel.

In a more complete quote in the novel, the entire paragraph reflects the sadness and fear of The Kid character who becomes the target of individual discrimination because of his skin color. In addition, the form of accusation is also a matter of physical assault caused by differences in skin color in the novel. This can be seen in the following quotation.

"The other kid said that I started it. He said that he'd brought the oil onto the bus to take to shop class but that I started messing with him and we were fighting over it and I spilled it all over myself." (Mott, 2021, p. 136)

The context of the data above can be analyzed by understanding the context of the phrase, 'The other kid said I started it'. The context of this sentence is an accusation made against The Kid so that the perpetrator is not considered guilty. In fact, in reality, it is the perpetrator who carries out the physical attack. In addition, the phrase 'I started it' implies that there was an attempt by the perpetrator to damage The Kid's image. The image of The Kid's name is tarnished because he looks like a rioter. In fact, The Kid did not do what he was accused of.

The mockery that the victim is a freak because of the color of the skin, which then develops into physical bullying such as being locked in a locker, beating while on the school bus, and even spilling used oil all over the body, as if to become a symbol that the color of the oil and the color of the skin a black person can merge. The racial actions of these individuals are increasingly clearly described in the dialogue above.

### 1.1.3. Different Treatment

The writer takes the data background through a conversation when The Author meets The Kid. The Author and The Kid have the same skin color and are born from the same race. They are black people. The context in that conversation is where The Author tries to advise The Kid about their perception of themselves with the world around them. The Author emphasizes the information that they are different people. With that difference, they must be prepared when they find the way the world does not treat them the same way as other people.

"No," I say. "Nothing like that. Just trying to say you've got to know that you're different. That the world is different from you in it and that you might not always be treated the exact same way that everyone else has been treated. That's just something that you've got to know." (Mott, 2021, p. 122).

The phrase 'You have got to know that you are different' suggests that The Author has more knowledge about how the world treats people like The Kid. In this phrase, The Author tries to emphasize similarly to advice to The Kid not to make mistakes in life that can harm other people. Which of course can have a more dangerous effect on people like The Kid because of his skin color.

Then, it is emphasized again in the phrase, 'you might not always be treated the exact same way that everyone else has been treated', acknowledging the existence of bias and discrimination in society, and how it can affect the way people are treated. The Author really encourages The Kid to realize this reality, without having to suggest that they feel resigned or defeated by it.

After all, the context of the dialogue and narrative above is an explanation that being black has made a person different from other people. This difference, is not just a difference in skin color, but also a difference in how the world works for that person: the treatment of other people, the stigma that arises, and how the instruments in the world do it in an abnormal way. This is an indication of the occurrence of individual racial actions because it has directly given birth to different effects on the individual caused by the differences they have.

There is another data that shows same problem. "No, Kid. They're going to treat you differently because of that skin of yours." (Mott, 2021, p. 122). As the evidence that individual discrimination occurs in the form of different treatment from other people towards individuals of black race is data above. The context of the dialogue is an explanation that this is how cruel the world is to individuals from a certain racial group. The different treatment because of the color of the skin one has is something that is very clearly conveyed in the dialogue. In fact, in the dialogue, a child who is said to be around ten years old, must already understand that difference. This is a real individual racial form as conveyed by Pincus, that individual racialism occurs when a difference from a certain racial group can make them be treated differently, which creates threats and fear.

This different treatment constantly appears as a reminder of how thick acts of racial discrimination are. Quotations like that can be found again in other dialogues, And they're going to always treat you differently than they treat themselves. The same issue can be seen in the data below.

I say, "to tell a child, 'You're the mirror that nobody wants to see. And, because of it, you and everyone like you are born excommunicated. A whole



nation, unwanted and unsought, born into exile in the belly of another nation. Americae excommunicatus! always have been.' (Mott, 2021, p. 123)

This paragraph looks like a quote or dialogue spoken by the character of The Author, in which he describes the experience of being a marginalized individual in a society that does not fully accept him. The dialogue begins with the phrase "to tell a child", indicating that someone is talking to The Kid to convey a hard truth or difficult reality about their identity or situation.

The phrase 'You are the mirror no one wants to see' suggests that children are seen as showing aspects of society that are unwanted or disowned by others. Then, the phrase 'born excommunicated' implies an experience that The Author has of seeing himself or people similar to him being born into a society where one is not fully accepted.

The data also contains the phrase 'Americae excommunicatus!' which originates from a Latin phrase that translates to excommunicated from America. This Latin phrase clearly implies how close the character's life is to feelings of isolation and alienation.

At the same dialog, mirror is the symbol used. A mirror, an object that actually functions to see oneself as a whole, is now an analogy that someone from a different race is like a mirror that no one wants to see. This is an indication of individual racism because the effect it has on victims is ostracism, not being looked for, and being ignored.

## **1.2. Institutional Discrimination**

The second discrimination is institutional discrimination. Pincus explained that this discrimination occurs because the applicable regulations cause harm to some groups who have different skin color, ethnicity, or race. In the novel *Hell of A Book*, the author finds institutional discrimination in several forms. First, legal products, separation, and differences in rights. The writer have found several data, "NO JUSTICE! NO PEACE!" tumbles from the throats of some of those around them ... SEE-ME-AS-HUMAN ..." (Mott, 2021, p. 46)

The context of the narrative is a demonstration carried out by people in an effort to give their voice in the face of injustice that has occurred. In the novel, it is told that the root of the problems that occur in the story, the cause of all of this is a system or policy product from the government that does not provide justice to its people, especially to individuals or groups from a black race.

The paragraph conveys a sense of urgency and passion behind a collective movement for social change. It highlights the diversity of perspectives and motivations within the movement, as well as the creative expression and resourcefulness of those involved. The messages on the hands of the protesters suggest a range of concerns, but all seem to be driven by a shared commitment to addressing discrimination and injustice caused by institutional. In another data, the writer found a narrative that implies institutional discrimination, "... carrying their signs, and pumping their fists, and shouting chants about justice, and police violence, and racism, and Black lives mattering..." (Mott, 2021, p. 50)

The data has drawn a stark contrast between two distinct scenes: one of a group of black children protesting in the streets for justice, and the other of The Author focused on his upcoming book sales. The part that is a sign of institutional discrimination is the expression of demonstrations carried out by the demonstrators.

In this case, they protested several things, such as justice, and police violence, and racism, and Black lives mattering. From the example of the demands that they want, it directly implies what happened to them caused by the institutional system. The demonstrations can also demonstrate the ongoing struggle for justice, as every generation of black children has had to bear the brunt of institutional racism in America.

In the other hand, what is clearer can be seen in the narrative above, the context of a demonstration carried out by black groups to protest the racism that occurred. This act of racism can be classified as institutional discrimination because it involves justice from a legal product and a police institution. Another thing that proves the occurrence of institutional discrimination can be found in a part of the novel that tells about newspapers. The data has been embedded by the writer, "Each day, there was a new news report about someone who looked like him being shot and killed...." (Mott, 2021, p. 53)

That data illustrates the heightened fear and anxiety experienced by Soot due to rampant police brutality as a form of institutional discrimination. The police have taken arbitrary actions under the pretext of their operational standards. In fact, they did injustice to black people, which, it is common knowledge, black people will be more easily shot while being questioned by the police.

The repetition of the phrase 'each day' underscores the consistent theme of a news broadcast about horrific events in their neighborhood. This is also a threat that can be categorized as institutional discrimination can be seen in the use of the words 'someone who look liked him' which shows that Soot and his family are part of certain racial or ethnic groups that are disproportionately affected by violence and police detention.

It can be concluded from these data, that institutional racism can cause harm to individuals and communities. In that narrative, it can be seen that what causes racial discrimination is a legal product that has a detrimental effect on one ethnic or racial group. In this case, the police institution, which is the actor in enforcing the law, actually uses the law as a basis to facilitate actions that are detrimental, such as shootings and arrests. This is also explained in the quote below:

And then, in the same breath, he would have to say to his son: "You will be treated differently because of your skin ... This is how you act when you meet the police. This is how you act growing up in the South. this is the reality of your world." (Mott, 2021, p. 54)

In line with the quote above is that when talking about rules or laws, it is appropriate for individuals or groups of certain races to understand the differences that occur. Because, that is how the world has been working for them. There are two things that could be indications of institutional discrimination in the quote above, namely, legal products that are not neutral and behavior that is not written down how someone from black skin is when they meet the police as law enforcement officers.

The legal products created do not bias differences, but instead thicken the differences that occur between one ethnic group and another.

Besides that, the data describes Soot's father telling him about the various rules and realities that exist in society based on skin color. He also acknowledged that Soot would be treated differently because of the color of his skin and should be aware of how to act when encountering the police or growing up in the South.

The language used in the data is straightforward and descriptive. The repetition of the phrase 'the rules are different' makes it clear that there are two sets of rules in society, one for white people and one for people of color. Throughout the paragraphs, the father's advice to Soot is clear and concise, with short sentences emphasizing the importance of treating others with respect and love. There are other data that can show the occurrence of institutional discrimination by a police officer in carrying out his authority. The data has been taken by the writer, "...He had been out for a walk when the police stopped him. Then, somehow, events conspired that ended with the boy lying dead on the sidewalk." (Mott, 2021, p. 54)

The picture of the dialogue and narrative above is how a black boy becomes a victim of the police who take advantage of their role as law enforcers. This of course includes racial discrimination in the type of institutional discrimination because the police had used his authority as a police officer to kill a black boy whose problem is not clearly known in the story.

In a fuller paragraph, the story scene depicts William and Soot in the living room watching news coverage of a boy who is shot and killed by police. William commented that it was difficult to understand why such an event would occur. The paragraph then provides details about the boy's final moments: he was out walking when the police stopped him, and the situation escalated to a lethal outcome.

The important thing that can be analyzed in this data is how arbitrary the police are in using their power to act unfairly against people of the black race. "This boy is only the first of many that you will meet in your life.." (Mott, 2021, p. 54). Related to the data that the author attaches, the dialogue above is an explanation of the many black children who are victims of the arbitrariness of police officers in carrying out their duties. The dialogue is about a black boy who was recently found murdered on the sidewalk. However, the boy is just one of many who have or will suffer a similar fate. This is due to the different treatment given by the police authorities when checking black people. If a black person made a mistake, they would not hesitate to take a shot. Other quotes that show that this problem often occurs can be seen in the data that the writer has embedded below.

"You can't turn on the news nowadays without seeing something like this."

Jack shakes his head. "When I was a kid, nothing like this ever happened. And now it's everywhere. It's just become this thing that doesn't ever go away. It's like a plague." (Mott, 2021, p. 60)

The context of the dialogue is Jack's awareness, one of the characters in a novel about news that has become popular recently. The news always reported about the death of a black boy at the hands of a white police officer. As Jack confessed, such things never bothered him, but now they were more and more around, like the plague. The comparison given by Jack illustrates how rampant the murder of black children

at the hands of white police officers is, "The police car came to a stop behind him. He heard a door open. "Hold on right there," a heavy voice called out." (Mott, 2021, p. 68)

In the moment told in the quote above is a description of how police officers who use their authority to investigate someone act. Different behavior, of course, is different if the person being examined is a white person. However, if the person to be examined is someone from black skin, then the treatment will be more inhumane so that it is vulnerable to harming one party. This different action can be immediately found in the scene of Mr. William who is suddenly examined even though he is just walking around his house.

And then the world exploded. William fell to the ground .... "Calm down," he said to himself. "Calm down. You're going to be okay. You're going to be okay." Those were the words he wanted to say, but all that came out was a pain-filled moan. (Mott, 2021, p. 69)

Mr. William is a black man. And that paragraph shows how black and white people are treated differently when dealing with police officers. In the narrative it is told, William, must be shot dead over something so trivial. He was just walking around his house at night when a policeman came and ambushed him and opened fire on him. Of course, the police had used their authority in the wrong way, it was easier to carry out executions if the person he arrested was from the black race, like Mr. William is the victim this time.

Regarding the news, the thing raised by the novelist in this scene is an illustration of how news about the death of black people is one of the interesting things to broadcast. Although, what happened to Mr. William is very clear in the news that institutional discrimination occurs. It lies in the explanation that a policeman has just shot dead a black man in his yard. The writer found another data that support that moment, "The picture of the dead guy, it sent a bolt through me .... Before long, it wasn't some stranger on the TV but it was my old man, one hundred percent." (Mott, 2021, p. 78)

The other side of the data is a sense of attachment between television viewers and shooting victims in the news. In this narrative, it is clear how the practice of shooting like that has become commonplace. Because, the characters who are watching the news seem to feel a connection. The relationship is clearly one of racial equality, so they feel like family. A family that just lost a family member because of the arbitrariness of the police.

The full context of the data describes media coverage of the incident when a dark-skinned man was shot by a police officer in his own front yard. The phrase 'The story of the hour' indicates that this event has attracted public attention and is widely reported. The phrase 'aired on every channel' indicates that the story was widely covered by the media. The phrase 'dark-skinned man' refers to Mr William's race, implying that the shooting was racially motivated. The use of the phrase 'shot to death' is emotional and implies that the shooting was cruel and unfair. The phrase 'in his own front yard' emphasizes the sense of offense that comes with acts of violence against one's own property. Even more painful, in the data, a black person who died

from being shot is termed a target. It certainly means that 'they deserve bullets in their bodies.

Another data that writer found to support the accident is, "My eyes still saw my old man on the TV, dead as a target at the shooting range." (Mott, 2021, p. 79). In connection with the incident, the main cause of the problem is the unequal position of a person before the law. In a quote the author found, laws against black people only spread fear. Of course this includes institutional discrimination according to Pincus, who says that institutional discrimination is an act in the form of a law that is made and harms a certain group. That data can be seen, "... A truth passed down through both myth and mandate, from lip-to-lip to legislation ..The Fear." (Mott, 2021, p. 79)

It can also be interpreted as an effect resulting from a long-standing practice. The practice of shooting black people, which according to the narrative has happened from generation to generation. A shooting practice that targets people with a certain skin color for no apparent reason. However, the practice was carried out on the authority of an institution that seemed to allow it to continue. Another data that writer found to support this discrimination act is, "He was not a boy who watched the news with his father and heard reports of "Black-on-Black" crimes and tried to understand what that meant,....". (Mott, 2021, p. 91)

As an evidence how injustice actually occurs for black racial groups, as the narrative illustrates, people of the black race are often used as targets for criminals. In contrast to people who come from the white race. Even though, the teacher's words told in the narrative also support how the existing law is so unfair, by giving an analogy that the majority of black people will end up in prison.

"What happened to him?" "You haven't heard?" Kelly asks. "It's all over the news. The shooting. (Mott, 2021, p. 98)

... County ain't but so big. They're supposed to be sending out some investigators to look into all this. But you already know how it's going to go," ... (Mott, 2021, p. 102)

This narrative illustration show how trivial the existence of a black person is in the eyes of the law. A boy who was the victim of a shooting, was declared the target of the wrong shot. Of course it was a defensive effort on the part of the police authorities. Because such practices have become commonplace. Furthermore, the narrative also ultimately discusses an unequal law, which has a detrimental effect on black racial groups.

The meaning in the complete paragraphs of the data describes a conversation between two people, Paul and Soot. Paul laughed at Soot's remark, and then dismissed the idea that someone could hide out in the country without being found. The phrase 'County ain't that big' implied that the area they were discussing was relatively small, and it would be difficult for one to avoid detection for long.

Paul then goes on to express his doubts about the possibility that anything will be done to address the situation they discussed. He mentioned that investigators were supposed to look into it, but quickly added, 'But you already know how it goes.' This shows that Paul had a cynical view of the legal system and its ability to provide justice. The phrase 'Nothing will happen to him' underscores his belief that the perpetrators of any crimes they discuss are unlikely to be held accountable. Taken together, the

paragraphs suggest that Paul is a somewhat jaded individual who has little faith in the legal system or investigators' ability to bring wrongdoers of racial discrimination to justice.

In the other hand, it concludes inequality of justice is felt by groups of black people. They are not considered equal in the eyes of the law. Because, when someone gets into legal trouble, usually there will be further investigations to find out what happened. However, for black people, that stage of the investigation was not continued and the problem was left to just evaporate. The injustice depicted in the novel has been included by the author in the data, "You don't know that," she said. .. It was the weight of knowing that no one will seek justice for people who look like you." (Mott, 2021, p. 102)

The fuller paragraph then describes the demeanor of the speaker, with the phrase 'He sounded tired all of a sudden'. This implies that the conversation is weighing on her emotionally, and that the woman is feeling overwhelmed by the situation at hand. The burden he felt was described as the burden of knowing that no one would ever seek justice for someone who looks like you. This suggests that the black people is a member of a marginalized or oppressed group, and their lacks confidence in the ability of the legal system to provide justice for people who share the same identity – in which case, racial discrimination is taking place.

The dialogue further clarifies the picture of how difficult it is for people of the black race to seek justice for themselves. Because, justice for black people is described as a job that will only burden their backs, because no one will help them seek justice for them. The writer's opinion can be supported by the data, "... Ain't nothing going to happen to the man that killed your daddy because that's how the world works for people like us." (Mott, 2021, p. 102). It is a clearer picture of how people from black racial groups are treated. Because it is common knowledge, as if it is described by how the world they live in works for them.

In other hand, the quotation of, "...They reminded one another that the law was always going to fail them. That was the one thing that they knew and understood clearly." (Mott, 2021, p. 112), means a nonsense that the people who have the authority to make a law keep promising. In the narrative it is told that these people do not agree if there should be victims and they will evaluate it from various sides. However, in the end, as has become common knowledge, those promises are simply empty words and black people will still be wrong in the eyes of the law.

The data described a group of people who are determined to take action in response to what has happened to William, and to men and boys like him who have been victimized in similar ways across the country. The phrase made promises suggests that the group is committed to a course of action, while the phrase wouldn't stand for implies that they are willing to challenge the status quo and demand change. The phrase what the law had failed suggests that the group believes that the legal system has not done enough to address issues of violence and injustice against men and boys like William.

Another data that show similar issue can be seen in, "The laws were never made for Black folks," Paul said, and the chorus of men grumbled and chirped in agreement." (Mott, 2021, p. 113). The context of the dialogue is again to illustrate

how legal inequality occurs in dealing with cases of white people and black people. From a series of bad events that have been analyzed by the author before, it can really be a reference that the law has never been on the side of people from the black race.

In other hand, there is an advice which reflects the situation will be faced by black people when faced with the law is always very difficult. They will always be considered wrong. “: if a policeman stops you, you should trust them,... The cop could shoot you right then and there and you'll die without ever knowing what you did wrong.” (Mott, 2021, p. 123). In fact, they should act as if they were the perpetrators of the crime. If they don't do what they're told, it's not uncommon for them to end up dead.

Futhermore, the data that shows how discrimination happen can be seen in, “Every child like you in this country has been swallowed up by monsters since before they were even born ...” (Mott, 2021, p. 129). That data highlights the systemic racism and oppression that black children in America face before they are even born. The metaphor used in the sentence shows that the power of oppression is strong and frightening. The second sentence conveys the meaning that black parents attempt to protect their children from these forces, but implies that they cannot do so, demonstrating the magnitude of the challenges they face. Finally, the statement that they live with this fear demonstrates that the burden of this failure weighs heavily on parents, and that the effects of systemic racism are ongoing and persistent.

As described in the paragraph, these dialogue is depiction of monsters which have the meaning of applicable law. Because, in the dialogue, there is a very clear comparison that the applicable law is such a scary monster. Many people have tried to stop the monster, however, they always fail so the monster continues to act until whenever. The monster in question is the inequality between black and white people in the eyes of the law.

In the other hand, there is a data that show the issue, “We got lynching, riots, bombings, shrimp and grits, and even muscadine wine.” (Mott, 2021, p. 131). The impact of fear and threats received by the black race continues to appear in the novel. In the story, black people continue to receive pathetic treatment as stated in the narrative above. These forms of treatment were created because it seemed that there were no legal remedies to protect a particular racial group.

There is an another narative found, “One of the small children wears a shirt that says I CAN'T BREATHE .....” (Mott, 2021, p. 132). The meaning of the narrative is how the portrait of the law does not take sides with black people. This was marked by the rampant demonstrations that occurred from black racial groups to protest the law and its application in life.

One thing that's common on the protest signs and t-shirts, one thing that comes through loud and clear in the chants, whoever it was that got shot by whoever else it was, well, he was a young Black youth. And there's only one Black youth that I know who's been shot. (Mott, 2021, p. 132)

The paragraph indicates that in the protests, the general theme was that black youths were killed or shot. There are repeated messages in the form of signs, t-shirts, and chants. The fuller context of the paragraph highlights that black youths are the ones who are killed or shot, emphasizing the systemic problem of police brutality

against black people. The author seems to imply that this is not a one time occurrence but an ongoing problem that needs to be addressed.

The context of the narrative is a description of how suspicious a black person is before the law. In the story it is explained that if a black person meets a police officer while on patrol, they will ask for identity and other things as if the black person should be suspected. Things are different, of course, if the person being examined is a white person. The writer found a quotation, "Shut up," the cop replied. "Stay there before I shoot you for resisting arrest." The cop's attention was focused on the inside of the truck." (Mott, 2021, p. 140). There is a narrative as an illustration of how easy for a police officer who is part of the law to threaten people of black race in the name of law. In the narrative it is clear that the police easily threaten to shoot black people. Things are of course different if the victim is a white person.

In a description, The officer placed the tip of the barrel between Paul's shoulder blades, the muzzle kissing hard against his spine. "... You don't know what it's like, people like you." (Mott, 2021, p. 141), how people with black race experience persecution in the name of law. This paragraph describes a confrontation between a police officer and Paul. The officer points a gun to Paul's back and talks to him about his beliefs. The officer suggests that Paul and people like him want to change things up, but they do not understand what it is like to be in an officer's position. The clerk implies that Paul and others like him are incapable of understanding the world and how things work. The use of 'you' indicates that the officer is targeting Paul and others like him, because of their race. Overall, the paragraph conveys a sense of tension and animosity, with the officer using his position of power to assert his belief in Paul.

The paragraph discusses questions one might ask someone who has lost a loved one to police brutality. "How does it feel to know that your husband died at the hands of a police officer?" they asked. Or maybe they asked, "How does it feel to know what happened to your son watching it?" .... (Mott, 2021, p. 150). The questions are presented in the form of a possibility, highlighting painful questions. The questions all revolved around the same theme: feelings of loss and pain following the death of a loved one at the hands of a police officer. The paragraph highlights how the question focuses on the victim's identity as black and how that contributed to their deaths, emphasizing the issue of police brutality against black people in America.

The essence of the narrative and dialogue is a description of how individuals from black racial groups receive unpleasant treatment from law enforcement officials. Of course, the thing that underlies this act of racial discrimination is the unequal law in positioning black people and white people. Thus, the treatment that black people get is far more tragic than the treatment that white people receive when they make a mistake.

The data, "...I think of a thousand other dead bodies that looked like The Kid and a thousand other sobbing mothers and I want him to be able to see them the way I do..." (Mott, 2021, p. 155) is an illustration of how generally acts of persecution occur against black people. In this narrative, it is clearly audible that there may have been thousands of victims of persecution. They are victims who died because they were shot by police officers who may never know for sure what mistakes have been made.



The context in the dialogue piece, "...—over everything that's been done in this country to people like you." (Mott, 2021, p. 156), illustrates how unequal the condition of black people is in the eyes of the law. What the cut describes as a general reaction to something that has become a habit is nothing short of surprising. The problem is, what is described in such a general way is an act of racial discrimination against black people.

The dialogue interprets a sad news from a mother who just lost her child a few weeks ago. "My boy is dead," The Kid's mother says. "He was shot and killed a few weeks back. Maybe you heard about it." Her voice trembles as she speaks. Her hands struggle with each other in her lap." (Mott, 2021, p. 170). The problem in the dialogue is that the cause of his son's death was because he was the victim of a police shooting. Meanwhile, the expression that maybe people have heard the news about it is an expression that is a sign that such acts of racial discrimination are common in their world.

The context of the dialogue, "But you're not everybody. You're a cop-killed Black kid who's become a figment of my imagination." (Mott, 2021, p. 179), is an illustration that the persecution carried out by the police officers, the persecution which occurred in the name of law, really did not take into account the target. Parents and even children can become victims of these acts of racial discrimination. An example is the character The Kid in this novel.

He has created a world in which his father has died of cancer. The boy has created all of those worlds because they are easier than the world in which his father was shot and killed in front of him by the long arms of a system that he is powerless to overcome. (Mott, 2021, p. 181)

This data describes a boy who has created alternate realities in his mind as a way to cope with the traumatic experience of his father being shot and killed in front of him by a system that he feels powerless to overcome. In these alternate realities, his father dies of cancer instead, which is a more natural and understandable cause of death. This suggests that the boy is struggling to come to terms with the reality of his father's death and the injustice that led to it. He is trying to find some way to make sense of the senseless and to find a way to live with the pain and grief that he feels. In other hand, the context of this narrative is a description of how powerless black people are in facing unequal legal issues. Some of them must be forced to make peace with the situation in their own way. In this case, the method taken by the character is to create an imagination that covers reality.

The moment's story shows the treatment of law enforcers which has become a common stigma in society. It can be seen in the data, "Let me see some ID." "I don't have any," Soot says ... It tells him to fall down on his knees and beg not to be killed like his father was killed." (Mott, 2021, p. 182). Every black person who is questioned by the police will easily be held at gunpoint if he makes the slightest mistake, such as not being able to show an identity card. What's worse, they do not hesitate to be killed for unlawful reasons even though their mistakes are very trivial.

By this data, "He would not have to worry about legislation aimed at his skin." (Mott, 2021, p. 182), the character tries to fight the fear that occurs as a result of how the legal system treats the black race. In this case, it is clear that regulations or

legislation against the black race often generate fear and threats, as well as explanations regarding institutional discrimination.

The context of the narrative and dialogue is a form of legal inequality experienced by black racial groups. In this case, one of the images of segregation against the black race is so clear in the story in the novel. It can be seen in a data, "He would not have to worry when he saw old ... "Segregation now! Segregation forever!" ... (Mott, 2021, p. 182). Segregation is a form of individual or group inequality in the eyes of the law. This is because the segregation described in the novel is governed by laws caused by certain skin colors.

The meaning of the data, "They could hide from the gun. From the cops. From the judges. From the mirror." (Mott, 2021, p. 186), is how a character's fear who comes from the black race in dealing with matters that are instruments of law. This fear stems from the legal imbalance that occurs so that their racial group continues to be the victim.

### **1.3 Structural Discrimination**

Structural discrimination is the third form of discrimination. This discrimination is a derivative of institutional discrimination. The difference lies in the effect. Pincus explained that structural discrimination is the effect of rules that seem to be made for neutrality, but the effect is still detrimental to one group with a certain race, ethnicity, skin color background. In the novel *Hell of A Book*, this effect can be found in several forms. The writer have collected data, "Actually I went to the University of—" "Wait! A state college?" "Yep." "I'm sorry," Renny says. "I'll use smaller words," he says with a small grin." (Mott, 2021, p. 43). The meaning of this data is the surprise of a character who knows that the main character is a graduate of a state university. In the novel, it becomes one of the wonders because the established system seems to limit individuals from the black racial group from getting a higher education. Thus, if a black person is able to complete studies at a higher level, there will be astonishment in the eyes of other people. This is a reflection of the structural discrimination that occurs. According to Pincus, structural discrimination is a system built to create a neutral impression, but on the other hand it has a detrimental effect on a certain racial group. For example, to continue school to tertiary institution, one of the policies set is to make a selection based on the value of the lesson. This is neutral, but on the other hand it will cause harm to black racial groups because at school they tend to get bad grades.

Another data that writer found to analyze the structural discrimination is, "I mean, CNN and Fox News aren't out there killing people in the streets. But they do add to the overall air of dread that we all feel. It's the soundtrack of America right now." (Mott, 2021, p. 62) The meaning of this narrative which refers to the structural discrimination that occurs is that the news media on television appear to be neutral by reporting factual events. One of the factual incidents they reported on was the shooting of a black person on the street. However, on the other hand, the news continued to roll and had another effect on the audience, especially viewers from black racial groups. Instead of listening to the news being conveyed, they will feel afraid because what the media reports is happening to their racial group. It certainly poses a threat to them.

".. don't write about being Black ... You need to hang on to that. The last thing people really want to hear about is being Black ... and nobody wants to feel cursed when they read something they just finished paying \$24.95 for.." (Mott, 2021, p. 65)

That is an unspoken prohibition for black novelists to try to voice their racial issues through writing. Although the reason for this is based on small sales figures, which will certainly be detrimental to publishers and writers, this regulation actually has another effect for black writers. They seem to have no rights or are prohibited from voicing problems that occur in their group. Of course this is an illustration of the structural discrimination that occurs according to Pincus.

## **2. Characters Deal with Racial Discrimination**

### **2.1 To Be Unseen**

The way that is most often found in the character's efforts to deal with racial discrimination is by being invisible. In the Novel *Hell of A Book*, characters are given the ability to become invisible. This is a symbol of surrender and also implies that in order to stop racial discrimination, black people must disappear from view. The main character's attempts to become invisible can be found in the excerpts and analysis, "After all, he had done it! For three years now, his mother and father had been trying to teach him to become invisible, to become "The Unseen." (Mott, 2021, p. 5). One of the ways that the characters deal with the problem of racial discrimination is by trying not to be invisible. Being invisible is the hope of the character's parents so that their child can escape the world's cruelty to black individuals. They think that being invisible will be better than being seen but having black skin. Over the years the belief that the character could become invisible was instilled by his parents. So, in his subconscious, he felt that he could disappear and be invisible.

Another data that support he was invisible can be seen in the dialog, "And when the hug was over, his mother kissed him and asked, "Where were you?" "I did it," ... "I was invisible!". (Mott, 2021, p. 8). This narration and dialogue show a picture of how happy the character will be if he manages to become invisible. Even though it is impossible to happen, however, because the wish to become invisible seems to be a doctrine to the character, he will be very happy if he succeeds in becoming invisible.

The attempts to become invisible are often carried out by The Kid. This can be seen in the data, So every morning, he tried to be Unseen... (Mott, 2021, p. 28). The thing that motivated him to do that was that he did not want anyone to see him because he realized that he was from the black race. He finally realized that being invisible was a good thing. Previously, he was constantly being bullied by his friends, so he felt very good when he was not seen and he could no longer be bullied by other friends.

The Kid clucks a laugh. "Man, don't you want to know why that other guy couldn't see me?" There's a clear note of pride in The Kid's voice, like he's fooled the whole world but can't stand not letting somebody in on his secret. Luckily for him, I already know his secret (Mott, 2021, p. 41).

Along with that success, the narrative shows of a black boy who managed to become invisible in the eyes of others. He did this as a form of self-protection from the crimes that might arise. So, he can be invisible whenever he wants.

Conversations that said he could disappear kept being repeated over and over again. The context in the dialogue, "Because I can become invisible when I want to." (Mott, 2021, p. 42), is a boy who manages to show off his ability as someone who can be invisible to others. He showed off this ability because he felt proud to have got something that could protect him. Thus, he can only be seen by others when he wants to.

They continue to try very hard so that all the racist actions they experience do not pass on to their children and grandchildren. However, they always fail. In the end, they just gave up and imagined the impossible, that being invisible was a solution that could be given to their children and grandchildren in facing this world. The data about parent advice on that issue can be found in, "But this world isn't safe for us. That's why your daddy and I taught you to be unseen." (Mott, 2021, p. 128). Based on the data that writer collected, it is clear to show that to be unseen is one of the ways that character use to face racial discrimination.

## **2.2. Parent Advice**

Another thing that is done by the character in dealing with racial discrimination that occurs to him is to listen to the advice of parents. Parents are believed to be symbols that have knowledge and experience. Therefore, it is logical that parents' advice is given to their children solely for the good of the child. In the context of this study, parental advice is one of the ways the characters deal with racial discrimination. The data and analysis of the quotations in the novel *Hell of A Book* have been collected by the writer below.

The boy was ten now. Five years older than he was when his parents made him believe that he could turn invisible. ... And nowhere else was the truth of his parents' lie more evident than on the morning school bus ride. (Mott, 2021, p. 27)

There is a picture that black parents will give advice to their children from an early age. This was done as a preventive measure to teach lessons on how to live in a place that is so thick with acts of racial discrimination.

"But did she ever tell you why she taught you this gift?" "To stay safe." "Yeah, but from what? From who?" A cloud settled over his face and he was sad all of a sudden. "Want to talk about it?" I ask. "No," The Kid says. (Mott, 2021, p. 73)

Every parents of black race will try to give advice to their children about how the world treats them. They hope that, with the advice they have been given, their child will be better prepared to face the possibilities of the world they live in.

## **2.3. Self-rejection**

The self-denial referred to in this point is when the character refuses to think that he is a black man who has to do something for his racial group. The character feels that this is not necessary so that the issue of racial discrimination will no longer surface. The character feels that when no one thinks that other people are different, discrimination will disappear by itself. Therefore, he refuses to feel that he is a black person. The data and analysis on points of self-rejection have been collected by the authors below.

"I mean, White writers don't have to write about being White. They can just write whatever books they want. But because I'm Black . . ." ... I mean, I can't

quote it word for word, but isn't that what the whole 'I Have a Dream' speech was about?" (Mott, 2021, p. 49)

The meaning of the dialogue is a view of the main character in rejecting the common stigma. The general stigma circulating in society is that a black person who has the ability to write, must write about his race. He had to write about black people and how the world treated them. Meanwhile, the character rejects this stigma by arguing that race or background cannot influence a writer to determine what message to write in each of his works.

The data is a reflection of the experience of The Author, a black writer concerned with questions about identity and representation in their writing. The writer expresses frustration with the fact that white writers are not constrained by the need to write about their race, whereas black writers are often expected to write only about their racial experiences. Writers question whether it is okay for them to write about other topics or be seen as something other than the color of their skin. A reference to Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech suggests that the author describes the civil rights movement's struggle for equality and the hope that one day people will be judged by the content of their character rather than the color of their skin.

I am, after all, not an activist, not the kind of writer who ever actually says anything that might ruffle feathers... I'm a professional (Mott, 2021, p. 51)

The next form of rejection made by the main character is that he feels he does not need to represent the voices of black people to show their existence to the world. Because, he is just a writer, not an activist. The work he does does not require him to voice something related to the background of the main character. This is what he says is a form of professionalism.

He would talk about how the rules were different .... son: "You will be treated differently because of your skin. The rules are different for you. This is how you act when you meet the police. This is how you act growing up in the South. This is the reality of your world." (Mott, 2021, p. 54)

The third form of resistance comes from the main character in the form of his point of view when he is going to educate his children in the future. He has the point of view that all forms of racial hatred that occur are because individuals have realized that there are significant differences with other individuals. That difference, for example, is the difference in skin color. Therefore, he refused that blacks and whites should be seen as something different. He imagined, in his world, that this could be overcome by assuming that every human being would be color blind, so that black and white would be seen as the same color.

At the same time, He advises his son to treat people as individuals and to love openly regardless of race, but he also recognizes that his son will be treated differently because of the color of his skin. The father wants his son to be prepared for this reality, and so he gives him specific instructions on how to act when encountering the police and how to navigate growing up in the South. The paragraph highlights the complex and difficult conversations that Black parents must have with their children about race and racism, and how they must balance the desire to teach their children to love and respect all people with the need to prepare them for a world that is not always fair or just.

## **2.4. Guns**

It's commonplace when in a condition that you want to face something, a character must have a weapon. In this case, the character chooses a gun to be a symbol of his resistance against racial discrimination against him. The data has been collected by the writer, "This world ain't gonna take care of you, so you need to know how to use this. It's the only thing they respect, the only thing that will ever get you heard." (Mott, 2021, p. 113) This is the first quotation that shows how the character try to use a gun. From the dialogue above, the writer assumed this is a form of resistance carried out by the main character in facing racial discrimination that occurs in his world. A world that already has such a bad mechanism for caring for differences, must be fought with something hard. Thus, in the dialogue, the opinion arises that there must be something that can make them audible, the connotation of which refers to the sound of an explosion coming from a gun.

Futhermore, the context of the narrative, For three weeks, Paul came around and took Soot off into the depths of the forest and taught him how to shoot. (Mott, 2021, p. 138), is how the main character begins to agree on the rebellion he will carry out. He took the time to learn to shoot in a forest. He needs to learn how to shoot with a gun as a form of self-defense provision that he can use at the right time.

For the rest of the afternoon, all the boy would remember was the gun firing over and over and over again ... By the end of the afternoon, his hands were blistered and he could barely close them but Paul seemed not only proud but thankful that it had all happened (Mott, 2021, p. 139).

This paragraph describes a traumatic experience that a boy has with a gun. The repeated sound of the gun firing is emphasized through the repetition of the phrase "over and over and over again," creating a sense of overwhelming and unrelenting violence. The physical sensation of the gun recoiling in the boy's hands and making his body quake adds to the sense of terror and disorientation. Despite the trauma that the boy experiences, the final sentence suggests that the person named Paul seems to be proud and thankful for what has occurred. This contrast between the boy's distress and Paul's apparent approval creates tension and raises questions about the relationship between these two characters and the context in which the gun was being fired. The context in the narration is a description of how the gun and the shooting practice that had been carried out earlier began to work as he had hoped. The main character begins to master how to use a gun and can make the right decisions about when to use it to protect himself.

## **D. Conclusion**

Racial discrimination has always been a hot topic for discussion in the world of literature. This happens because one of the functions of a literary work is as a reflection of life. In the United States, it seems as if the issue of racial discrimination has never been resolved. Every year, there are always acts of racial discrimination in various forms. The most recent and most famous, is the incident of George Floyd, a African-American man who was killed by being strangled by police during an examination. This of course cannot be left alone. Many parties took part in condemning the action, one of which was the writer who published works on racial

discrimination. One of these literary works is a novel entitled *Hell of A Book* (2021) by Jason Mott which the author uses as the object of analysis in this study. The writer has tried to analyze the forms of racial discrimination that occur in the novel and how the main character struggles to deal with this racial discrimination.

The results of a study conducted on the literary work written by Jason Mott entitled *Hell of A Book* (2021) reveal that acts of racial discrimination occur in the main characters in the novel. A novel that has three main characters: the author; the boy; and Soot, experiencing acts of racial discrimination in their life's journey. Racial discrimination is divided into several types, including individual discrimination, institutional discrimination, and structural discrimination. In these three types of racial discrimination, all of them have different effects and give harmful and threatening effects to victims. These three forms are only distinguished based on the perpetrators who commit acts of racial discrimination. Based on what the characters experience, it can be concluded that the characters face racial discrimination by learning to become invisible, getting advice from their parents, rejecting common stigma, and fighting with a gun. In order for the main characters to survive in a world that is so discriminatory, the main characters imagine an ideal world where there is no racial discrimination anymore. However, on the other hand, this actually made him worse off and experienced a mental downturn.

This study has succeeded in finding a form of racial discrimination in the novel *Hell of A Book*. After conducting analysis in the study, the authors found several things that could be developments in this study. It can be classified in two purposes. First, for readers who can use this study as a reference for knowledge about racial discrimination. Second, for future researchers who have an interest in analyzing the novel *Hell of A Book*. Apart from racial discrimination forms, the writer finds other aspects such as psychology which can be analyzed. This is because the author finds many things that refer to this issue. The writer hopes that analyzing this novel can be more varied in analyzing the impact of racial discrimination on the main character of this novel. The method needed is to read the narrative object and supporting theory carefully, so that it leads to even more interesting study findings. This study can also be used as a reference for further study and knowledge on racial discrimination

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