ABSTRACT

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Literature

Racial Discrimination Suffered by Marguerite in *I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings* by Maya Angelou

Maya Angelou is one of the best Afro American author and poet. After seeing her influence and performance in literary world, *I Know Why the Caged Birds Sings* is interested to be analyzed. It is the famous work by Angelou and the first book of her six autobiographies. It tells about her early years in Long Beach, St. Louis and Stamps, Arkansas, where she lived with her brother and paternal grandmother, and raped by her mother's boyfriend when she was just seven years old. Maya has to face racism and segregation in America at a very young age. This thesis analyzes about the forms of racial discrimination toward Marguerite and finds out the impacts towards Marguerite's personality. Library research is applied because the data are collected from books, such as autobiography book that used as primary data and some books that used as secondary data. Moreover, there are two approaches, such as literary approach and psychological approach. In literary approach, there are two theories that used, such as character and characterization and conflict. However in psychological approach, there are two theories, such as self-concept and psychoanalysis theory by Freud which is used to analyze the impact of racial discrimination towards Marguerite's personality. Finally, it comes to the conclusion that Marguerite's experiences two forms of racism, such as prejudice and rejection. These forms of racism bring severe negative effects and positive effects. The negative effects are resentment, dilemma, and lack of self-esteem. Thus, all of the incidents make her character becomes high-hearted and high self-confidence.

Keywords:
        Racial discrimination & Racism.