

**Double Consciousness in *The Help*: An Analysis of Black's  
Perception of Black**

THESIS

**Submitted in Partial Fulfillment**

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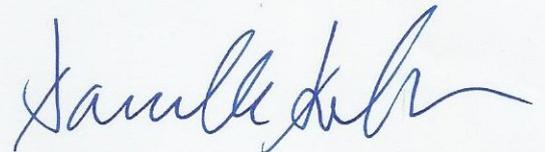
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## **Abstract**

Some people notwithstanding believe that there are people or races that are born to be higher or lower than the others. Black in the past are an example. They were stereotyped as worthless inferior beings and as slaves. Although slavery has been abolished, racism remains. Describing racism, Kathryn Stockett's work titled *The Help* is interesting to be examined because it is based on the characters' real experience and is voiced from the victim of discrimination. Besides, it uses the 1960s America, when racism was more serious but there are increasing struggle for racial equality, as its setting. Such a situation may be confusing. Therefore, this study aimed to find how white saw black and how black perceive themselves. To find the answer, double consciousness theory was used. This theory leads to a sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others. The analysis revealed that most white and black see black as inferior beings, weak and worthless figures who don't dare to fight back because of the oppressions and poor treatments that they received. The findings match double consciousness theory because most Blacks behave in the same way as whites see them and even the Blacks also view themselves as inferior beings.

Key words : Blacks, Whites, stereotype, Critical Race theory, double consciousness.

## **Introduction**

Racism seems like an inseparable part of the history of human beings. Sociologically, Van den Berghe explains that race as a group is different from other groups because of innate and immutable physical characteristics, which are believed to be intrinsically related to nonphysical attributes and abilities (Kramer 8). In other words, people are differentiated from each other just by their physical appearance. As a result, there are always races who feel more superior and oppress other races. In short, it is racism.

One of the races who have suffered from a very long history of slavery and racial discrimination is the African Americans who are also simply referred to as Blacks. They were taken from their homeland and forced to work as slaves for white people in western countries such as England, France, America, and many more. Most of them are now citizens or residents of the United States who have at least partial ancestry from any of the native populations of Sub-Saharan Africa. Most African Americans are of West and Central African descents and are descendants of enslaved Africans within the boundaries of the present

United States. They are Americans, but they used to be defined inferior and treated as property instead of human beings (Kramer 209). They did not have any choice but to follow the national law that were made by the dominant group of the country; i.e. white community. The dominant group by definition exercised control of the political and economic institution and thereby established the limits of the minority (Kramer 6)

Some people who cared for equality of races, such as Malcolm X, Martin Luther King. Jr and Abraham Lincoln, and human rights activists or politicians have fought against race discrimination and struggled for the equality of races in America. However, many of them died in their struggle in the hand of people who didn't admit equality of races. According to Gunnar, American society is good and ethical, but unfortunately anomic because the American's belief equality, has not been fully institutionalized (Sibberman 3). The ethic of race equality is widely accepted in theory but not in the practice of the real life of the society. For a hundred of years White Americans believe in the illusion that time will solve racism problems in this world. In fact, it hasn't and it never will as long as we just sit still and do nothing to fix the problems (Sibberman 3). Whites should consider more about the way society treats other people from different races and do something to change the way society discriminate or oppress people from certain races such as Black people. Because it is a mistake to treats other people differently just because they are physically different. Whites don't always need to do something big to gain people's attention and empathy such as campaign, march on the street, or anything else that political. Changes can be happen from small or simple things. They can begin their changes to fix the race discriminations by simply tries to get rid of the distance between them and the Blacks in their society such as talk together in more casual ways, work together, eat together, etc. You can begin changes from a small environment such as your own house or family.

Even though slavery has ended, it doesn't mean racism has disappeared. Some white Americans still consider Black as inferior beings because they were once slaves or are the descendants of slaves (Hesslink 30). However, racism does not always appear in conspicuous ways and involve a big number of people, such as slavery, genocide, and segregation. It may take place in a lot smaller social environment such as in a family, depicted in *The Help*, a novel by Kathryn Stockett . It portrays race discrimination and confusion of self identities of helpers in White families. The novel is interesting to examine because it is voiced from the helpers' perspectives and is likely based on a real-experience (James paragraph 1-6). It is also interesting to examine because the events take place in an important historical era of the 1960s, when racial discrimination and segregation were far worse than today but, at the same time, movements and struggles for equality of races were intensively raised in America.

A situation which is characterized by contrasting events and conditions may confuse people. Since the novel is based on the characters' real experience, particularly the one related to white-black relationship, this study would like to find out how white view black and how black as the racially-discriminated group view themselves in such a situation. The novel actually describes the experiences and expresses the voices of black helpers. However, due to time limitation, this study will only discuss the main characters' experience and opinion; i.e. Aibileen and Minny's perspectives.

Since the events to be analyzed are put in the context of white-black relationship, Critical Race Theory will be used to analyze the work and find the answers to the research questions. As Delgado and Stefancic state, critical race theory in the social construction theme holds that race and races are products of social thoughts and relations. They are not objective, inherent or fix, they correspond to no biological or genetic reality. Rather, races are categories that society invents, manipulates, or retires when convenient (Delgado 3). In other

words, this study is based on the belief that how one perceives one's race and other races are socially constructed.

*The Help* takes the 1960s America as its setting. In 1960s, white were dominating black. As a result, the rules and regulations, even what the society was like were decided by white authority. Similarly, the existing view of races should also be decided by white. Based on this assumption, the novel would be examined particularly from Double consciousness/Double vision perspective. Double consciousness was selected because according to Du Bois, most (White) Americans formed mistaken opinions about black people without any actual knowledge of their lives. Black people, he argues, live behind a metaphorical veil which acts like a two-way mirror; which has two different kinds of sides, a transparency side which allow us to see through it and a reflective side which prevent us from looking through the mirror. Blacks are described to stand at the transparency side of the mirror which allow Blacks to observe Whites who are unaware of their own misbehaviour, while Whites are describe standing at opposite side of the mirror which is block by the reflective side of the mirror which prevents white people from observing back to Black people that suffering by their racial behaviour. Double consciousness entails a sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others, of measuring one's soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity because Blacks perceive themselves as inferior being. The "double consciousness" also represents the unreconciled struggle between Black person's American and "Negro" sides (Sullivan 199).

## I. Critical Race Theory

'Critical Race Theory' first emerged as a counterlegal scholarship to the positivist and liberal legal discourse of civil rights. This scholarly tradition argues against the slow

movements of racial reform in the United States. 'Critical race theory' begins with the notion that racism is normal in American society (Billings 1). Emory Law Professor Dorothy Brown conclude that "Critical race theory seeks to explain judicial decisions by asking the question, What does race have to do with it?" (www.americanthinker.com) CRT simply "looks at race in America", she states that that is a bit like saying that a religious zealot just "looks at" theology. Critical race theorists do not merely look at racial questions. Like zealots, they give answers; they preach a doctrine, seek converts, and condemn non-believers. In one of her own published work on CRT, Brown wrote that CRT "seeks to highlight or criticize the ways in which the law is not neutral and objective, but is designed to support White supremacy and the subordination of people of color. She then cites Emily Houh, who defined CRT as First, critical race theory seeks to expose the entrenchment of White supremacy and the reality of the continued subordination of people of color in the United States (and throughout the world) (Bennet paragraph 2-5).

In his study Du Bois provides a theory that is called "Double consciousness or double vision as the effect or the result of all the discrimination and underestimate behaviour or actions that are received by all black people in their social life or The awareness of belongings to two conflicting cultures: The African cultures, which grew from African roots and was transformed by its own unique history on American soil, and the European culture imposed by white Americans" (Sullivan 199). In other word many Blacks feel unsure of their own identity because they are officially citizen of America yet many people seem don't treat them that way. The racial discrimination attitude and poor treatment from the society have created sense of confusion and uncertainty inside Blacks as the citizen of America and also as human being.

Focusing on race alone neglects the multidimensionality of Black women's experiences. Kimberle Crenshaw, a UCLA law professor and also the co-founder of CRT, provides the much-needed feminist branch of CRT, since patriarchy is another source of domination which is Black women are "multiply-burdened" and "vulnerable." Of course, "the social experience of race creates both a primary group identity as well as a shared sense of being under collective assault". In response to the awful "collective assault" of living in America, Crenshaw has a policy recommendation at the ready: she calls for "economic or social reorganization that directly empowers and supports" her most favored group: "single Black mothers". Not just mothers, not just single mothers, but single Black mothers (Bennet paragraph10).

So in conclusion critical race theory share criticism on racial discrimination, examines the main challenges that the writers faced from both the Left and Right that have leveled new approaches to civil rights. It also ponders a few relatively recent issues on the movement's agenda, including hate speech, criminal justice, merit, affirmative action, poverty, and globalization. Critical race theory also helps to make some predictions on the country's racial future and critical race theory's role in that future. (Delgado 5).

### **How Whites perceive Blacks**

All Black and White people in the novel are segregated or seperated from each other because many White people who constitute the major social group and hold control of the political and economic constitution perceive or see Black people as an inferior being. They treat Blacks not as human beings but something that might not be so different than just tools to fulfill their needs, something that they can use anytime they want and throw away as soon as the tools are no longer able to fulfill and satisfy their needs.

Whites see Blacks as inferior beings in many aspects, such as intelligence, work ability, health, and many others. Many Whites consider Black as unintelligent people. They see Blacks as savagers or tribal race who do not deserve to live together with them. This perception is reflected when Miss Leefolt's daughter little 'Mae Mobley' came home from her school and told Aibileen, her family's Black helper who raised and take care of her everyday instead of her mother, about what her teacher said in the class:

"Miss Taylor says kids that are colored can't go to school cause they're not smart enough" (Stockett 461)

What Mae says reflects that she indirectly learns about racism from her teacher. Children are easily influenced by adult people such as parents, teachers, nannies, etc in their life. Some adults teach racist behaviours to children because children are not naturally born with racist attitudes. Everything that they learn are from the adults. Misleading and teaching by parents and any other adults will just create new generations and new long chains of race discrimination history in our world. Adults should stop giving negative teaching and examples because "hatred is not something you are born with, but it is something that you learned or acquire over time from your surroundings"(Blackwell paragraph 3).

Aibileen has heard such racist opinion or statement for several times before and she is tired of seeing children growing up with such idea or thought so that she finally managed to encouraged herself to tell little Mae Mobley that what she learned about black people in school is not true. She wanted to straight thing right for Mae Mobley, so she won't become narrow minded person in the future and can learn that Black people are not like described by the racist adults like Miss Taylor.

Now I've gotten this question a few times from my other white kids. I used to just laugh, but I want to get this right with her. "Cause God made me colored," I say. "And there ain't another reason in the world."

"You think I'm dumb?"

"No," she whispers hard, like she means it so much. She look sorry she said it.

"What that tell you about Miss Taylor then?"

She blink, like she listening good. (Stockett 461)

Mae's reaction indicates that, as a little child, she is confused. Both Miss Taylor and Aibileen are two important people in her upbringing. Now she is not really sure about what Miss Taylor said in class because that means the person who raises her is dumb. However, her experience says she is not. This shows children still need adults to lead and teach them. Aibileen explains to Mae what is right :

"Means miss Taylor ain't right all the time," I say.

She hug me around the neck, say "You're righter than Miss Taylor." I tear up then. My cup is spilling over. Those is new words to me.(Stockett 461)

Aibileen is an old black helper who has many experiences in her life as a helper. She has raised many white children in her life but she keeps silent and never told anything to the children about the truth of black for years because of her fear toward Whites. As a result the children she raised grow up with racial behaviour that they learn from racist adults such as Miss.Taylor. In an interview with Skeeter, Aibileen says:

"How we love they kids when they little..."she says and I see Aibileen's lip tremble a little. "And they turn out just like they mamas." (Stokett 150)

The quotation show or expresses Aibeleen's dissatisfaction and misery to see all the previous children that she took care with love have grown up to be racist people like their parents and other adults as the result of all negative things that they are taught. This proves that just like hatred, racist attitude is also acquired over time (Blackwell paragraph 3)

Racism is not only taught to children. Some white racist adults also spread the discrimination behaviour to each other. What 'Hilly Hilbrock' does is an example. As an important figure, Miss Hilly Hilbrock is highly respected. Even Aibeleen's employer Miss Leefolt tries hard to impress her whenever they meet (Stockett 237). Because of her reputations, Hilly was elected to become the president of a league established to help starving Africans. As the president, Hilly has "power" to influence the members of the league. The following quotations reveals what kind of effect she gives to the organization :

Hilly rolls her eyes " You cannot give these tribal people money. There is no Jitney 14 grocery in the Ogaden Desert. And how we know if they're even feeding their kids with it? They're likely to go to the local voodoo tent and get a satanic tattoo with our money."

"Alright" Marry Joline teeters off, flat-faced, brainwashed looking. "I guess you know best." It is this bug-eyed effect Hilly has that makes her such a successful League president. (Stockett 204-205)

The above quotation reflects a paradox. As the president, Hilly should do her best to motivate the members of the league to raise funds to help starving Africans. To do it she should feel emphatic with the suffering black people in Africa. But in contrast, she does not even believe in them and instead addresses them as "tribal people" which has a negative connotation. She also greatly distrust them. Hilly affects other people with her power as a respected figure so

that many people fall into her racist perspectives like Miss Leefolt who built a separated restroom for Aibeleen and Miss Joline who seem to believe in what Hilly said about black.

Hilly's influential racist opinion about black is also reflected in the quotation below :

“ You just tell Raleigh every penny he spends on that bathroom he'll get back when y'all sell this house.” She nod like she agreeing with herself. “ All these house they're building without maid's quarters? It's just plain dangerous. Everybody knows they carry different kinds of diseases than we do.”(Stockett 10)

In the above quotation Hilly considers Black people dangerous because they carry different diseases from white. What she said is actually absurd because it means that only the diseases of Blacks are dangerous while diseases that come from Whites are fine; where as in fact all diseases are dangerous. The above quotation proves that eventhough the idea sound illogical, what is considered right by the dominant group or individual is believed to be right or logical.

“Just like you told me to say it.” Miss Leefolt nodding into the phone. “Someday when we move, it'll raise the value of the house.” (Stockett 21)

What Miss Leefolt expresses that White's people believe in their delusional negative prejudices. Whites consider Black as a threat to their health so that they agree, that houses with seperate toilet are better and safer. That is why Hilly and Leefolt believe that the house's price will raise up because many other white poeple agree and consider Negroes are not hygenic or clean enough to live together and use the same stuffs with them. Such a thought explains why White forbid Black to stay with them and the reasons why they create rules to segregate Blacks.

The perspectives that Negroes are inferior beings who don't deserve to live together with them is also reflected in this quotation :

Now I want you to ask yourself, do you want Mae Mobley sitting next to a colored boy in English class? Miss Hilly glance back at me doing ironing. She lower her voice but Miss Hilly never knew how to whisper good. “Do you want Nigra people living right here in this neighborhood. “touching your bottom when you pass on the street?” (Stockett 342)

The above quotation shows that Hilly doesn't want to have Black people live together with her or any other Whites mostly because she doesn't believe in Blacks and considers them in the same delusional perspectives like many other people such as Whites. She see the Black as stupid, dirty, irresponsible, etc and these perpectives drive negative prejudice toward Blacks. They often put their delusional negative thoughts to judge the Blacks and the negative prejudice or stereotype that consider Blacks as dangerous or untrustworthy beings has cause segregation to happen to Blacks and this idea match with Sibberman's idea that many White people consider negroes are lawless, irresponsible, and dependency and these traits turn to nurture white prejudice. (Sibberman 12)

Many White consider Black as untrustworthy and irresponsible beings who cannot do their job properly. They always see their work as something imperfect and unsatisfactory. No matter how well Black work most White people mostly put their negative feelings and prejudices forward in the way they see black, as stated in when Miss Leefolt's mother came to visit:

They head out the door with Miss Frederick pinching the back a Miss Leefolt's arm.

“You don't know how to hire proper help, Elizabeth. It is her job to make sure Mae Mobley has good manners.”

“All right, Mama, we'll work on it”

“ You can't just hire anybody and hope you get lucky” (Stockett 233-234)

This quotation actually represents white's inconsistency. They blame and accuse their black helpers of being irresponsible. However many of them employ Black people as their workers and helpers to help and take care of their needs. They let them to take care of their house, cook for them, and even take care of their children. How Whites let so many Black workers work for them shows that they are trapped in their own delusional negative perspectives of Blacks because most of their negative prejudice prove to be nothing more than just their own thoughts. If many Whites consider Blacks irresponsible and untrustworthy why they keep hiring so many Blacks as their employee to work in their houses and take care of them? They let Blacks to cook, clean, and even take care of their children. This show that many Black helpers or workers mostly have done great job in working for the Whites like Aibeleen who is an experience helper and a great mother figure to all children that she take care of or Minny who is great cook and a hard worker. But many Whites hardly show any appreciation in Blacks' work like Miss Leefolt and her mother who blame and not satisfy with Aibileen or other Blacks in the quote.

However some White have a different opinion about black. When senator Whitworth are having dinner together with Skeeter's family in their house suddenly the senator talk to Skeeter about an article about human's right :

The senator leans back in his chair. " Did you see that piece they did in Life magazine? One before Medgar Evers, about what's- is name-Carl...Roberts?"

I look up surprised to find the Senator is aiming this question at me. I blink confused, hoping it's because of my job at newspaper. " it was...he was lynched. For saying the governor was..." I stop, not because I've forgotten the words, but because I remember them.

“Pathetic,” the senator says, now turning to my father. “ With the moral of a streetwalker.” ( Stockket 315-316)

The above quotation shows how some white people’s thought or react about other people who disagree with the governor law. They consider it is foolish and improper to act against the governor and many White people actually think in the same narrow minded way like Senator Whitworth. Although some white people actually acknowledge and realize that racism and segregation are not right to do and they notice that Negroes are human being, just like them; but most of them just keep silent and do nothing to change the way they or others treat Blacks. Skeeter’s father is one of the examples of some White people that against race discrimination. His attitude is reflected in the following quote when the Senator asked Skeeter’s father’s opinion about the article :

My father clear his throat. “I’ll be honest, “he says slowly. “It makes me sick to hear about that kind of brutality.” Daddy sets his fork down silently. He looks Senator Whitworth in the eye. “I’ve got twenty-five Negroes working my fields and if anyone so much as laid a hand on them, or any of their families...” Daddy’s gaze it steady. Then he drops his eyes. “I’m ashamed sometimes, Senator. Ashamed of what goes on in Mississippi.( Stockett 316)

From the quotation we can see Skeeter’s father true feelings about racism and segregation. He knows it is wrong; He knows that Negroes are human too, who also have family and feelings. He feels ashamed because he is fully aware of it; yet he can’t or doesn’t dare to do anything to change it. All he can do is bury all of those feelings for so long deep in his heart. He hides all of his feelings and opinions about his society because many Whites don’t seem agree to Skeeter’s father idea that Blacks deserve to live equally with them. This idea is proven by senator’s reaction in the following quotation:

Those were not wise words to say about our governor,” the senator says. “ I agree one hundred percent,” Daddy says.(Stockett 316)

In the above quotation the senator warn Skeeter’s father that his opinion and critic about equality and government is not wise thing to say to other and Skeeter’s father just agree with him. The quotation reflects how dominant group will usually react when they hear about equality for Black people. It doesn’t sound wise or good for Whites, Blacks, or any other people to say that in front of other. Many Whites realize the discrimination toward Black is a wrong thing; But many of White people don’t seem dare to show their true feelings or reactions against the discrimination because they feel as the ones who are wrong, because the segregations and discriminations of Black people are a common or natural thing to do in their society. They feel that they don’t have choice but to follow the flow of the society in order to survive and in order to survive they must get along with their society. The idea is proven by what Skeeter’s father said after senator Franince warns him

“Franince, let me speak up my mind. God knows I can’t do it from nine to five, so let me speak up my mind in my own home”

What Skeeter’s father said in the quotation above reflects how the society actually works. From nine to five means the work hour for white people and it means he cannot say his mind in front of others including his workers and he only can say it in his own house and not in other places where other people can hear him. He can only hold all the anger and sadness of his own powerlessness against his country’s order. Skeeter’s father’s idea that he or any other people can’t talk about race equality or his angry reaction are fit with Gunnar’s idea that the ethic of race equality is widely accepted in theory but not in the practice of the real life of the society (Sibberman 3) because many people aware of the mistreatment toward Blacks yet not many dare to oppose it and just let the racism to happen. The awareness of Blacks mistreatments and ideas of race equality are not really accepted in society. The

disuniformity in the ideas of White people about Blacks also reflects that hatred is acquired over time (Blackwell, paragraph 3). Not all Whites actually have racist attitude inside them but because they spend everyday in their life in the society where racism is a right thing to do. They begin to change or force themselves to live in the same way of those who have racist attitude in them.

Most White characters in the novel illustrate how most Whites are trapped in their own delusional stereotyping toward Blacks.

### **How Blacks perceive Blacks**

For generations Black people have lived to serve White people. Most of them work and get living from Whites. Aibeleen's family is one of an example in the novel. Just like Aibileen, Aibileen's mother was also a maid and her grandmother was a slave, and even her son who has passed away from poor treatments of Blacks was also a worker for a White person (Stockett 2-3 ). They spend their days working for white until the end and none of them ever manage to live without the job from white in their life because all the rules, segregations, and negative prejudice created by white prevent Blacks from developing themselves. As a result many Blacks feel powerless in front of Whites. They see white as a giant superior figure who they should never mess with because they cannot live without the money that they get from white. They feel just like what white wanted them to feel: "As inferior beings".

Black sense of inferiority is reflected in the following quotation:

Then Miss Leefolt grab Mae Mobley by the arm, jerk it hard with ever word. "Don't you touch this phone again, Mae Mobley!" she say. " Aibeleen,

how many times do I have to tell you to keep her away from me when I'm on phone!"

"I'm sorry" I say and pick up Mae Mobley, try to hug her to me, But she bawling and her face is red and she fighting me .

"Come on, Baby Girl, it's alright everything----"

Mae Mobley make an ugly face at me and then she rear back and bowp! She wack me right at the ear.

Miss Leefolt point at the door, yell "Aibeleen, you both just get out."

I carry her out the kitchen. I'm so mad at Miss Leefolt, I'm bitting my tongue. If the fool would just pay her child some attention, this wouldn't happen! When we make it to Mae Mobley's room, I set rub her back, glad she can't see the mad on my face. I don't want her to think it's at her. (Stockett 22)

The above dialog depicts how Aibileen holds in her anger toward Miss Leefolt. She knows that it is not her to blame for Mae Mobley's action in the dialog above. But she just apologized and took the responsible and say nothing to defend herself. This may show how Black people do not dare to oppose Whites and just quietly disagree or hold a grudge against them. It may also be because, as workers, they don't feel they have rights or power to oppose white. Whatever the reason is, they realize that they are inferior beings.

The sense of inferiority makes Black segregate themselves and keep their distance from white. Black create their own rules to segregate themselves from white. For example Minny's mother taught her some rules about working for white when she was still young, such as "Keep yourself out of White people bussiness", "Don't use the same toilet with

white”, “Use different stuffs from white”, and “No sass-mouthing” (Stockett 46). The rules reflect how black see themselves in the same perspectives and ways as white do as inferior being that should live seperately from White society.

There are some reasons why Aibileen and many other Black people keep quiet and do nothing to change their life. Aibleen is an old Black woman who has lived long enough to feel a life as a Negro in her society.

Miss Skeeter asked me what’s the worst day I remember being a maid. I told her it was a stillbirth baby. But it wasn’t. It was from 1941 to 1947 waiting by the screen door for the beatings to be over. I wish to God I’d told John Green cause he like boys. (Stockett 337)

In the quotation above it is shown that Aibileen has received violent treatments for a long time from her former employer in the past and it is still fresh in her memory. This shows how traumatic it was for her. What happened to her was caused by white people and it possibly became one of the main reason of her fear toward Whites. Blacks are often afraid and don’t dare to fight back because they feel so small and inferior in the society, which is dominated by White, because there are almost no official laws to support their rights and almost no one dare to protect or care about them, even to further create a distance with Blacks, the society created some rules such as Jim Crow laws that segregate and frobid Blacks to live or use the same stuffs and facilities with the Whites (Stockett 202-2043) and these laws further make Blacks feel oppress and desperate. As the results of the oppressive feelings Blacks often feel scare or panic whenever they get involve with Whites, like what describe in the following quotation:

“Sssssh, please. Do you know what would happen to me if Miss Leefolt find out I talked behind her back?”

“We won’t tell her, or anyone.” She lower her voice some, but not enough.”These will be private interviews.”

I just stare at her. Is she crazy? “Did you hear about the colored boy this morning? One they beat with a tire iron for accidentally using white bathroom?”

She just look at me, blink a little. “I know things are unstable but this is —“

“And my cousin Shinelle in Cauter country? They burn up her car cause she went down to the voting station.”

“No one’s ever written a book like this,” she say, finally whispering, finally starting to understand I guess. “We’d be breaking new ground. It’s a brand-new perspective.” (Stockett 120)

The above quotation shows that many Blacks have received cruel treatments from the society and no one protect them or laws to defend themselves against the violent treatments from the society and the poor treatments mostly become the main reason why Blacks fear Whites. The Above quotation also reflects how Aibileen considers Skeeter’s idea to write a book about Black’s story as a crazy idea just like what most Whites think. Aibileen is seeing Skeeter as a weirdo to have such an idea. Aibileen’s reaction matches Double Consciousness theory which argues that Blacks see themselves through the eyes of others (Sullivan 199). She sees Skeeter and herself in the same perspectives as the people who consider Black as inferior beings. Aibileen also see racism as a common or natural thing to happen and consider that neither she or Skeeter should question or against it and it is a suicide to try against racism because it means they also try to oppose the major society that support racism. Aibileen

words that they are breaking new ground also indicate that no one ever dare to oppose racism in the society.

Unlike Aibileen who just remains quiet and follows the rules set by White, some Black express their annoyance about the discriminations and segregation. Minny is an example of one of them

I saw the way my mama acted when Miss Woodra brought her home, all yes Ma'aming, No Ma'aming. I sure do thank you Ma'aming. Why I got to be like that? I know how to stand up to people. (Stockett 47)

Mিনny's mother shows her some rules that she must follow when she works for White and warns her not to go sass-mouthing on white when she was a child (Stockett 46). But she hardly ever listen. As the results Minny hardly ever got any job and get fired nineteen times in her life. This shows that there is a social pressure which forces Black to conform to the social rules or they will suffer the consequences such as getting fired or hardly find any job.

Mিনny's dissatisfaction is reflected when she gets angry, and maybe frustrated, after she was fired for allegedly having stolen silvers by Miss Hilly so that no one would like to hire her as a maid. She expresses her anger by secretly sending Miss Hilly a pie with her feces inside it to Miss Hilly (Stockett 398-399). By sending the pie, Minny expresses her annoyance in a similar way as white do to black. If white feel unsatisfied or annoyed or angry with black, they humiliate, punish or, even, kill black. Instead of talking to her ex-employer, Minny humiliates and punishes her by sending the pie. She puts Miss Hilly in a position lower than an animal since even animals are not fed feces. What Minny does fits Du Bois's opinion about double consciousness (Sullivan 199). The way Minny get her revenge by humiliates Hilly secretly without telling anyone shows that she doesn't really have the courage to openly oppose Hilly. She knows that Hilly is the one to blame for her problem yet

she doesn't tell or ask anyone to help her because she mostly consider that it is no use because there is no one or anything that will help a Black person like her. This indicate that she also sees herself in the same perspectives as people who discriminate her.

Although Minny managed to get a job after she was jobless for quite sometimes, her hatred and distrust of white remain as reflected in the following quotation:

I love Aibeleen, I do. But I think she's making a king-sized mistake trusting a white lady. And I told her too. She's risking her job, her safety. Not to mention why anyone would want to help a friend of Miss Hilly's.

(Stockett 159)

Just like Hilly who generalizes that all Blacks are stupid, sources of diseases, or even a tribal being, Minny stereotypes all Whites as evil and untrustworthy beings. She is worried so much about the White people Aibeleen is dealing with. Even though, in fact, Skeeter doesn't have any bad intention toward Aibileen or any other Blacks. Instead, Skeeter just truly wants to write a book about Black helpers' perspectives to help them show their suffering to the world (Stockett 123). Blacks hold great fear toward Whites not only from the way they treated and segregate them but also because by the fact that Blacks cannot earn their living without jobs from the Whites like what is describe in the following quotaion:

“When they was two days left at Miss Walters's and I still didn't have no new job, I start getting real scared. With Benny's asthma and Sugar still in school and Kindra and...we was tight on money already. And that's when Miss Hilly, she come over to Miss Walter's to talk to me.

“She say, ‘Come work for me, Minny. I pay you twenty-five more cent a day than Mama did. A ‘dangling carrot’ she call it like I was some kind of

plow mule.” I feel my fists forming. “Like I’d even consider beating my friend Yule May Crookle out a her job. Miss Hilly everybody was just as two-faced as she is.” (Stockett 398)

Even though Minny hates White people so much but in the end she has to face reality: That she needs the money for her family living and cannot live if she keeps on fighting and arguing with whites who control the political and economic institutions. Her fear that she might not get a job soon shows that she is aware of her position as a Black. In other words, reality forces black to be unconfident so that their attitude matches what White say about Black; that they worthless being that should live under their rules.

For many generations Black people have made rules for themselves of how they should behave to white people. Minny’s mother taught her the rules (Stockett 398) and next Minny also taught her daughter the same rules. The rules urge Black not to do what White people don’t like or in the other words they must act like the rules that are made for them. They should not use the same stuffs, don’t go too near with White people, and dont’t ever sass mouthing or against them. This shows that Black people have grown a sense of inferiority like how Whites prejudice them by creating such rules for themselves and this shows that Blacks have seen themselves in the same perspectives as the racist people like what describe in the theory of Double Consiouceness (Sullivan, 199-200). Blacks created the rules as the results of all the discrimination and underestimate behaviour or actions that are received by many Black people in their social life.

Similarly the Black maids in the novel hardly show their courage to oppose White people.

It is shown in the following quotation :

I hear my own voice taper off. I truly don't know if Missus Stein will want to print it. But what I do know is, the responsibility of the project lays on my shoulders and I see it in their hardworking, lined faces, how much the maids want this book to be published. They are scared, looking at back door every ten minutes, afraid that they'll be caught talking to me. Afraid they'll be beaten like Louvenia's grandson, or, hell, shot to death in their front yard like Medgar Evers. (Stockett 328)

It is clear that Black are discouraged to voice their disagreement or dissatisfaction because of the violent punishment that some of them got when they violated "the rules". Besides there are no rules which defend them. In the novel *Aibileen*, and other Black peoples' low self worth come from great fear and trauma that caused by the Whites. *Aibileen* and the other helpers in the novel have seen how so many other Negroes that done something wrong to Whites end up, even Minny in the end show her fear toward Whites

Minnie look back down at her paper but after a little while, I can tell she ain't reading. She just staring at the words, thinking about something else. Somebody's car door slam next door and she jump. And I see it then, the worry she's trying to hide. But why? I wonder. Why she hiding that from me? (Stockett, 505)

In the above quotation Minny loses her confidence mostly because she imagining what will happen to her once White people find out about the story that she, Skeeter, *Aibileen*, and other Black maids have written. A book which explains what they think of their life in the society and about what they think about White. Being involved in making of the story and even including her story about the pie that she gave to Hilly worries Minny a lot. Will white come to catch her? and send her to prison? Or, even worse, kill her like what they have done to

many other Blacks? Minny sees herself as an unworthy inferior being that can be treated whatever the Whites want and not more than just tools just like what Whites think about Blacks. Minny's fear toward White prove that she see herself as a worthless being matches with the Double counciesness theory that argues on Blacks that see themselves through the opinion of other people (Sullivan 199).

Even though Minny is brave, tempramental, and loyal to her friend, she must face the fact that she is just an ordinary helpless Black woman like the rest of her other friends.

The more I look, the more I start to understand what's going on here, what Minny's done. I don't know why I'm just now getting this. Minny made us put the pie story in to protect us. Not to protect herself., but to protect me and the other maids. She knew it would only make it worse for herself with Hilly. But she did it anyway, for everybody else. She don't want anybody to see how scared she is. (Stockett 505)

Even Aibileen is able to understand quickly why Minny looks so uneasy and what kind of fear Minny has. No one and nothing will be able to help or protect her if something bad happens to her. They must face facts that Minny and the rest of the other maids who are involved in the making of that book cannot run away from the label of Black people as the inferior being and the fact that they live under the oppression of White people laws or oppressions. This means Blacks' self-esteem suffers not only because of discrimination, but also come from their sense of powerlessness and impotence, they consider that whites are the ones who hold control of everything and have power to keep them in their current place or status (Sibberman 115). As a result, many Black begin to see themselves in the same perspectives as all the people that discriminated them. Black also consider themselves as

inferior beings that should live as what other people see and say about them. They just remain quiet and do what is say, even though they know that it is not true.

How Aibileen and other Black maids react and feel reflect the double consciousness theory. They often sense themselves through the eyes of others, especially Whites. Blacks feel afraid, oppressed and powerless against Whites, even though they are aware of all the negative prejudice that they receive from the Whites are not true (Sullivan 199). Like Minny who feel ashamed with her mother who always act obediently in front of her employer when she still a child and she doesn't want to be like her mother and this possibly is one of the main reason why Minny often acts against her employers (Stockett 47) or Aibleen who just holds her grudge against her employer who often blames her. She aware that she has done nothing wrong yet she just receive all the blames (Stockett 22) but in the end all of them don't really dare to fight back and reflect themselves in the same negative way of most White people who underestimate them. They feel and judge themselves just like what Whites say about them i.e: inferior, useless, stupid, etc. Even if they dare to fight against the discrimination, as Minny does, many of them still feel the oppression and great fear toward Whites. Most Blacks often will consider themselves as inferior beings in front of other people.

## Conclusion

Most white characters in the novel are trapped in their own delusional perspectives and discriminating attitudes that generalize black as inferior beings in terms of intelligence, civilization, health and responsibility. Even some adult white think Blacks are so dumb and say that Blacks cannot go to school; although many Whites employ many Blacks as their workers to take care of their houses and their children just like Aibileen does to her white employers. Most white also see black deserve to be punished when they are not obedient as Ms. Hilly fired Minny because she used her toilet.

Just like white see black as inferior beings, black also perceive themselves as inferior beings. They do not struggle for their rights because they think they deserve to be treated that way. Besides, when some Black people feel angry, they imitate white and punish the person, just like what Whites do to them. Just like Hilly who consider that all Blacks are the same, Minny also doesn't believe in Skeeter at first because she is a White person and judges Skeeter to be the same like many other White people, or Aibileen that once consider that the idea to oppose racism as a crazy idea. What Blacks do match with double consciousness theory, which says that one looks at oneself through the eyes of other people. In this case, black see themselves through the eyes of white.

The findings of this study are expected to show and encourage readers to consider and to be aware of the impact of racism on people who become the victims. Beside, reading this study, readers are expected to be aware that all races are equal by giving them examples of racist attitudes, actions from the novels, and explanations of possible reasons and reactions that might happen to the victims and also the perpetrators of racism. The readers are also expected to have a better understanding of how they should treat other people and to be more aware of the value of humanity through the study of this work.

Because of the limitation of time, this study can only focus on the analysis of the characters and events in the novel through Double Consciousness theory that is based on Critical Race Theory. For the further study of this novel in the future, the writer of this work suggest to use or add Feminism theory in the work in future since most of the characters in the novel are women and there are many things that happen to characters through out the story. Some discriminations in the novel not only happen because of the race issues but also include gender issues in some parts of the story where helpers are treated poorly not only because they are Blacks but also women. Minny for example she often receive violence from her husband whenever he in the bad mood. Furthermore the gender discriminations are also happen to some White girl characters in the novel like Skeeter who is underestimate by her boyfriend because she is a girl. That is why the writer recommend to use feminism theory in the future work which also discuss the novel of *The Help*. As Kimberle Crenshaw stated in her work of CRT that focusing on race alone neglects the "multidimensionality of Black which told about women's struggle over men and soceity attitudes. Since patriarchy is "another source of domination which is Black women are "multiply-burdened" and "vulnerable"(Bennet paragraph 10).

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