

# CHAPTER 1

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. TITLE

The Truth behind Ku Klux Klan's Supremacy in John Grisham's Novel: *A Time to Kill*.

### 1.2. BACKGROUND OF STUDY

*A Time to Kill* is one of the famous novels by John Grisham. The novel itself is classified as a modern realistic novel. The story focuses on the society of South United States especially the society of Clanton, Mississippi. The author describes the discrimination of race that happens until now, between Afro-American societies, and the white society in Clanton named *Redneck*<sup>1</sup>.

The story begins with an illustration of cruel behaviour of two white men in Clanton Billy Ray Cobb and Willard. They rape, torture, and try to kill a ten year old Afro-American girl named Tonya Lee Hailey. It becomes the major problem of the further story. Carl Lee Hailey, Tonya's father, knows about it. He kills those two white guys in front of the public. It is Jake Brigance's-a white uptown lawyer- duty to defend that Afro-American man. In the process to save Hailey's life, Brigance must face a lot of problems from the Ku Klux Klan.

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<sup>1</sup> Uneducated white people in South of United State.

KKK is reactivated by a member of Cobb family, Freddie Cobb. In the story, John Grisham describes that the organisation uses the name of God, and signifies the black colour skin, as the symbol of evil and sin. They declare themselves, as the community that God creates to destroy the evil one.

The writer underlines the tag of the story. It happens in the early 1988 which is at that time social class and other racial problems are no longer exists and nearly vanish. This problem becomes the main aspect that the writer wants to analyze. The writer chooses KKK's acts in this story to study why such kind of discrimination still become daily issues in the reality without concerning the set of time, it happens from the past until the present and probably will also happen in the future. The writer interests to analyse deeper the case of KKK's regeneration in the story, questions the truth beneath the superiority of KKK which directly cover up the real meaning; to hide the weakness of white philosophy.

### **1. 3. FIELD OF THE STUDY**

The field of the writer's study is literature, especially novel.

### **1. 4. SCOPE OF THE STUDY**

The scope of the study is concentrated on the novel *A Time to Kill* (1989) by John Grisham. The object of the writer analysis is Ku Klux Klan in the novel. The writer is going to analyse the concept of white skin Klan power using Post-Colonialism.

### **1. 5. PROBLEM FORMULATION:**

1. What is Ku Klux Klan as shown in John Grisham's Novel?
2. How does KKK discriminate Black people and White "nigger lover" people?

### **1. 6. OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY:**

1. To reveal the truth behind KKK's Supremacy.
2. To discover how most the society thought about KKK, what impact Klan has brought to the society and explain the way each characters of the story facing the overcome conflicts from KKK in the story.

### **1. 7. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY:**

The aim of the study is to develop their knowledge and information about social, racism and American culture, especially for students of Faculty of Letters. The students are expected to comprehend more about how to analyse a literary work using post-colonialism approach.

### **1. 8. DEFINITION OF TERM:**

1. Afro-American , Niger, Negro

Niger means Latin or Black/African pronounced "ni-ger".<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Nubiyang, Pianke. www. RaceandHistory.com. 27, January 2002

## 2. Ku Klux Klan (KKK)

Ku Klux Klan, a made-up name, supposedly from the word *kyklos* means "circle" and clan. Originally an organization of former Confederate officers and soldiers, it was put down by the U.S. military, 1870s.<sup>3</sup>

## 3. Supremacy

Supremacy (*Supremacism*) is the belief that a particular; race, religion, gender, belief system or culture is superior to others an entitled those who identify with it to dominate, control or rule those who do not.<sup>4</sup>

## 4. Image

Image (Latin words: *Imaga*) or picture is an artefact, usually two-dimensional, that has a similar appearance to some subject; usually a physical object or a person.<sup>5</sup>

## 5. Identity

The characteristics, feelings or beliefs that distinguish people from others<sup>6</sup>.

## 6. Racism

In 1932 as a noun, 1938 as an adjective, from race; racism is first attested 1936 (from France *racisme*, 1935), originally in the context of Nazi theories. The unfair treatment of people who belong to a different race; violent behaviour towards them.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> From <http://www.etymonline.com>

<sup>4</sup> From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))

<sup>5</sup> Ibid

<sup>6</sup> From <http://www.etymonline.com>

<sup>7</sup> From Wikipedia, the free encyclopaedia ([www.wikipedia.com](http://www.wikipedia.com))