INTRODUCTION

1.1 The Background of Analysis

*To Kill A Mockingbird* is Harper Lee’s realistic novel. It was published in July 11, 1960. The plot and characters of this novel are based on the author's observations of her family and neighbors, as well as on an event that occurred near her hometown in 1936, when she was 10 years old. The story seemed to be set in the middle of 19th century in Alabama. *To Kill a Mockingbird* was written and published amidst the most significant and conflict-ridden social change in the South since the Civil War and Reconstruction. (Quoted from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_Kill_a_Mockingbird](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/To_Kill_a_Mockingbird)).

This novel focuses on two major events: the first part, introduced on page one and occupying roughly the first half of the book, deals with the progression of Jem and Scout Finch from the innocence of childhood toward the moral awareness of adulthood. Their family situation and Atticus’ role as a single parent with two young children dominate this plot. The second part, developed in the second half of the novel, addresses the prelude to the trial of Tom Robinson, the trial itself, and the aftermath. The entire story is told from the perspective of Scout, and her perceptions and judgments about the trial are largely formed by her upbringing in the house of Atticus Finch.
Prejudice is an unfair, intolerant, or unfavorable attitude toward a group of people. Prejudice as the possession of negative attitudes targeted against members of a particular religious, racial, ethnic, social, and/or political group. These attitudes give rise to negative or unfavorable evaluations of individuals seen as belonging to that group. Individuals that have a prejudice against specific groups will tend to experience intense negative feelings when they come into contact with these groups, either directly or indirectly (Baron, 2007:177).

The characters of *To Kill a Mockingbird* are full of prejudice. The whole town of Maycomb is based on stereotypes of its inhabitants, that are passed down from generation to generation. Rumors run rapidly and usually has a very little truth. The prejudice in this story is mostly about blacks and whites, but the other forms of prejudice are just as bad and just as common. Prejudice among all citizens of Maycomb whether it is race, gender, social class is clearly visible in it. The town of Maycomb has pre-formed ideas and rigid codes of behaviour. These codes of behaviour are imposed by the town’s people on each other.

According to the explanation above, my reasons for choosing Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* to be analyzed because, this novel was instantly successful, winning the Pulitzer Prize in 1961, and has become a classic of modern American literature. This novel also takes me to the important message from the author that the important thing in life is to appreciate the good qualities and understand the bad qualities of others by treating them with sympathy and trying to see life from their perspective. Lee cries out to her readers to not look at someone and judge, but to understand first.
Literature has been widely known and used by many people all around the world. Broadly speaking, literature is used to describe anything from creative writing to more technical or scientific works, but the term is most commonly used to refer to works of the creative imagination, including works of poetry, drama, prose fiction, and nonfiction. Novel as a work of prose fiction concerned with the ordinary people and their problems in the societies in which they find themselves.

1.2 The Problem of Analysis

In relation to the background of analysis, the problem is centered on prejudice in novel of Harper Lee titled *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The statements of problems are formulated as follows:

1. Is it true that *To Kill a Mockingbird* deals with prejudice?
2. How is prejudice reflected in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*?

1.3 The Objective of Analysis

Related to the statement of problem, the objectives of this analysis are:

1. To prove that *To Kill a Mockingbird* deals with prejudice.
2. To show how is prejudice reflected in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. 
1.4 The Scope of Analysis

Every analysis needs limitation in order to make the analysis does not go far from the topic of discussion and make the analysis focus on what being discussed. Most of the story in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* deals with prejudice and in this thesis, my analysis is going to be focused on prejudice against individuals in many forms and also its consequences.

1.5 The Significance of Analysis

The result of this thesis is expected to enrich students’ knowledge about novel. Hopefully, it becomes one of the source of information for students who are interested in analyzing the novel. It is also expected that through this thesis, the readers get some information about prejudice in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The finding of this analysis might be useful to attract the readers to continue and find pleasure in reading other literary works.

1.6 The Theoretical Approach

Wellek and Warren state that there are two approaches in analyzing literary works. They are intrinsic and extrinsic approach. Intrinsic approach is a kind of approach which analyze literary works based on the text and the structural points of literary works; characters, plot, setting, style, point of view, etc. Extrinsic approach is a kind of approach which analyzes the relationship between
the content and the other discipline of knowledge such as history, religion, psychology, sociology, biography, etc.

I use extrinsic approach by connecting the story with other knowledge, in this case I connect my analysis with social psychology. Social psychology is the study of the connection of what people say and do is influenced by social interaction. Social psychology helps me get the deeper understanding about prejudice.

1.7 The Theoretical Review

M. H. Abrams in his book The Mirror and the Lamp in 1953 (Quoted from www.uwec.edu/ranowlan/intr_crit_rdg_lit_081400.htm) divides critical theory of literature into four kinds. They are mimetic theory, pragmatic theory, expressive theory, and objective theory. Mimetic theory is the most primitive approach of the four categories. Mimesis is the idea that art imitates reality, an idea that traces back to Aristotle who argued that the universal can be found in the concrete. Mimetic theory defines literature in relation to life, seeing it as a way of reproducing or recreating the experiences of man’s life in words. This theory focuses on the relation between the literary text and the extra-textual “universe” which provides the source and stimulus for what the literary text actually represents.

Pragmatic theory focuses on the relationship of literary text and the reader of the literary text. It is called pragmatic because literature may give the practical
result to its readers, and is sometimes called affective since literature may give emotional effect to its readers. Pragmatic theory is used to reveal the functions of literary work in the middle of society, the spread, and the development. Pragmatic deals with the competence of the readers.

Expressive theory focuses on the relationship of literary text and the writer of the literary text. This kind of critical theory of literature, makes sense of the meaning and significance of literature by focusing upon what the literary text expresses about the thoughts and feelings of its writer or, in cases where it is not clear what the writer thinks and feels, about those of the speaker or the narrator in the text.

Objective theory focuses on the literary work itself, its language, forms, and devices. This kind of critical theory of literature, makes sense of the meaning and significance of literature by focusing upon the literary text in deliberate abstraction from its relations to its writer, its readers, and surrounding social-historical and political-ideological contexts; the aim here is to understand the literary work. Each work is to be judged by its own criteria for internal consistency, its intrinsic rather than extrinsic qualities.

In analyzing this thesis, I use mimetic theory. Mimetic theory defines literature in relation to life, seeing it as a way of reproducing or recreating the experiences of man’s life in words. Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a simple reflection of the author’s colorful childhood in her environment that actually reflects the real condition of the society at that time.
The term of literature and sociology are two fields of knowledge that cannot be separated from each other. Literature and sociology are two studies that are different from each other but they have close relation. Sociology derives from Greek ‘socious’ (society) and ‘logos’ (science) which means the study of all the aspects of human and their relation in community (Ratna, 2004:1). Literature derives from Latin ‘littera’ which primarily refers to the written or printed words (Kasim, 2005:1). The relationship between literature and society is usually discussed by starting with the phrase, derived from De Bonald, that ‘literature is an expression of society’ (Wellek, 1967:95). Some relations between literature and society are: literary works absolutely is the part of society and it uses language which is the part of social institution, literary works is for the readers who are the members of society, and literary works is a picture of society.

1.8 Review of Related Literature

In supporting my analysis, I use some related references which are listed below:


This thesis explains social picture of American’s life, social class stratification and racial issues that appear in To Kill a Mockingbird. It helps me to understand more about society of Maycomb and how this social condition leads the prejudice itself.
2. To Kill Innocence in Harper Lee’s *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Emma Gutiérrez (2009)

This essay gives me some information and quotation about prejudice. It tells about the idea of how innocence or goodness is killed. The controversy of human beings among the society, their thoughts and their acts are facts that kill the innocence of the little girl, Scout. She learns that things are not always as they should be. She is also confronted with the ugly reality of prejudice and stereotyping.