CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Human beings are born in various kinds of race which are different each other. Those differences will be positive aspects of social life when it is followed by appreciative and tolerant act. But, racial differences can be a potential root of social conflict when it is followed by racism, an ism of a group that assume its group is superior and other groups are inferior. Racism can be a reason for a group of people to behave as civilized society and assume other groups as uncivilized society.

The problem in the relationship among various human races will always exist. Racial strains and disputes often occur, even in the United State which is highly considered as a country that respects human right. Problem in racialism cannot be separated from effects of the immigration. Thousands of blacks are brought to United State to become slaves.

The effect of immigration closely related to the problem of racial discrimination and segregation that occurred in the community. The subordinated groups become object of discrimination by white people because of the prejudice and stereotype. They assume that black people are stupid, rude, uneducated people and can be enslaved.

The social problem often occurs in literary works as can be found in the novel. The story in a novel describes the situation and the social problem happening in the society at a particular time. The social problem in the novel usually illustrates about poverty, gender, discrimination and social class, for example Kathryn Stockett in her novel The Help telling about the segregation and discrimination.

According to Thio (1991: 177) segregation means more than spatial and social separation of the dominant and minority groups. It means that minority groups, because they are
believed inferior, are compelled to live separately, and inferior conditions and discrimination refers to the practice of treating different people differentially primarily on the basis of the color of their skin, nationality, and ethnicity. Discrimination and segregation have both had many impacts on society in the past and exist when individuals are treated unfairly because of their particular race, gender, age, and ethnic group.

*The Help* is a novel written by an American author, Kathryn Stockett. Novel *The Help*

published in February 2009. The novel takes place in Jackson, Mississippi during the dawning of the civil rights movement in the United States. Stockett's novel was partly autobiographical, it reflected the author's memory of growing up in Mississippi in the years following the civil rights era. Kathryn Stockett, who was raised in Jackson, Mississippi, was inspired by her close childhood relationship with her family's black maid to write *The Help.* Her novel tells the story of families in Jackson and the black women who work as maids and nannies for the families but live in a separate part of town and are segregated from whites in so many ways.

During the 1960’s, the era covered in *The Help*, legal segregation and economic inequalities limited black women's employment opportunities. The rising black poverty and high levels of racial segregation have interacted to concentrate poverty geographically and to create the social conditions leading to the crime waves experienced in the United States.

According to the explanation above, the reasons for choosing Kathryn Stockett’s *The Help* because this novel is interesting to discuss such as segregation, racism, and courage. It’s a beautiful story about friendship between women who were willing to cross lines and take risks in a time when it was dangerous to make waves or call for change that could result in violence.
1.2 Problem of the Study

From the background of the study which is described above, there are some problems that the writer will show:

1. How are the segregation and discrimination reflected in the novel?
2. What are the impacts of that event on black American?

1.3 Objective of the Study

Based on the problem of the study above, the objectives of the study are:

1. To describe the segregation and discrimination reflected in the novel.
2. To describe the impacts of that event on the black American.

1.4 Scope of the Study

The scope of the study is needed to limit the discussion in order to keep the focus on the purpose of the study. This thesis will discuss Kathryn Stockett’ *The Help* and focused on the kinds and the impacts of the discrimination and segregation in the novel that will be analyzed. This thesis also wants to answer does the racial discrimination and segregation reflected the historical reality at that time. The limitation of this thesis is only going to explore the kind of segregation and discrimination and the impacts of the segregation and discrimination on black American reflected in Kathryn Stockett’ *The Help*. 
1.5 Significance of the Study

The study will help the readers beneficially on:

1. Giving information to the readers about the impact of segregation and discrimination based on novel *The Help*.

2. Giving significant benefit in the form of information, especially for English Department students who manage themselves to increase their knowledge in analyzing a novel.

3. Providing a reference for another analysis relating to the segregation and discrimination.