
DISCRIMINATION IN WILLIAM BLAKE'S SELECTED POEMS

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ABSTRACT:

Discrimination is not a new social problem that found in modern era. Even long of this era, discrimination was often experienced by minorities. This study discusses discrimination in four poems by William Blake, entitled Earth's Answer (1794), The Little Black Boy (1789), The Sick Rose (1794), and The Chimney Sweeper (1793) which describe the reality of the author. The aims of this study are to find the kind of discrimination and to analyze the discrimination in William Blake's selected poems. In this research, the writers use Sociological approach and descriptive qualitative method to analyze the data. The result of this study, the writers find the kind of discrimination and the acts of discrimination portrayed in William Blake's selected poems, namely gender discrimination in the poems Earth's Answer (1794) and The Sick Rose (1794), social discrimination in the poem The Chimney Sweeper (1793) and racial discrimination in the poem The Little Black Boy (1789).

Keywords: Sociological approach, Gender Discrimination, Racial Discrimination, and Social Discrimination.

INTRODUCTION

Every human was born as different individual. It can be character, gender, ethic, religion, or physic such as shape of body, skin color, etc. Because of differences or diversities, discrimination arises. According to Noviyana 2019 (Gunawan 2017; Theodorson 1979) discrimination is the unequal treatment of individual or groups on the basic of some categorical and attribute, such as race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation,

etc. A person or groups feel that they are the majority or dominant, so they cannot accept the differences and they will take the action that make people who are different with them feel uncomfortable. Discrimination is not a new social problem in globalization era. Based on the article from Liputan6 there are 12 big countries discrimination often occur, such as United State, Britain, Japan, India, Germany, etc.

Many types of discrimination, according to Fulthoni (2009:4), such as gender discrimination, race discrimination, disability discrimination, social discrimination, and HIV/AIDS discrimination. Based on the History article (2021) there are three types of discrimination that often occur in Britain during the industrial revolution as the historical background of the research data, such as gender discrimination, race discrimination, and social discrimination. These three acts of discrimination are the negative impacts of industrial revolution that occurred in the second half of 1700s into early 1800s. At that time, the society must re-adapt their life because the mindset and life style was changed. People who previously worked as farmers switched profession to factory workers. Because of that, many people become unemployed. Increase the unemployed make the companies accept the workers especially children and women because they can be paid cheaply.

This research the writers interested in choosing many poems of William Blake as the source of data, such as *The Little Black Boy (1789)*, *The Chimney Sweeper (1793)*, *Earth's Answer (1794)*, and *The Sick Rose (1794)*. These four poems have been chosen by the writers because William Blake expressed all the anxieties that he and people experienced at that time, such as the slavery to the minority, sexual harassment to women, slavery to

the minors, etc. He wrote all these poems in epic way with beautiful words.

There are two objectives of research, first to find the kind of discrimination in William Blake's selected poems and to find and analyze the discrimination in William Blake's selected poems. To get the research objectives and answer the problem of this research the writers use sociological approach. According to Wiyatami 2013 (Swingewood, 1986:7) sociological approach is an approach that aims to see and prove that there is relationship between the elements of the literary works and the society. Because the writers want to know the kinds and the acts of discrimination that reflected four poems by William Blake, the writers choose the title of this research is "Discrimination in William Blake's Selected Poems".

LITERATURE REVIEW

Sociological Approach

In analyze literary works the researcher need an approach. In this research the writers used sociological approach because this research analyzed the discrimination in William Blake's selected poems which is contents the social phenomenon that occur in social life at that time. According to Wellek and Warren (1994) in Wiyatami's book 2013:25 states that sociological approach is an approach that

focuses on the literary works, the author, society, and the readers because literary works cannot be separated from the author, the social environment of the author, and also the readers. This is supported by Suwardi in his book entitled *Sosiologi Sastra* (2011) explain that sociological approach is an approach that assumes that literary work is a reflection of life, both in terms of economy, social, etc. It means, sociological approach is the link between the content of each literary works an situation or the history when the author written the literary works and the writers and social life cannot be separated from literary works.

Poem

According to Luxemburg (1984: 175) in Siswanto 2008:108, Poem is a part of literary works but poem is different from another literary works such as prose and drama because poem does not have a plot like novel but an expression of the feeling experienced by the poet. Monalisa state that poem is a tool to teach the reader moral lesson, everything that the writers had experienced, and expressed human's idea. In general, the poets describe their feel with using beautiful words to make the readers or listeners imagine and to understand the meaning in every line of the poems.

Discrimination

Discrimination becomes a global problem in society. Discrimination is not only aimed the Black people, discrimination can also attack any race, ethnicity, or social life. Discrimination is the unequal treatment of individual or groups on the basic of some, usually categorical, attribute, such as race, ethnicity, gender, religion, sexual orientation, age, or social class membership. Fulthoni, in his book entitled *Memahami Diskriminasi* (2009) explain that stigma or stereotype is a negative image about a group of race, cultural, or religion whose truth is still questionable.

According to Fulthoni in his book entitled *Memahami Diskriminasi* (2009) divides the discrimination into several types, they are:

1. Discrimination based on ethnicity, race, and religion or belief.
2. Discrimination based on sex and gender.
3. Discrimination against disability person.
4. Discrimination toward people with HIV/AIDS
5. Discrimination due to social class

In this research, the writer will describe three types of discrimination that relate to William Blake's selected poems, first, racial discrimination that means an unpleasant behavior or negative attitude that is carried out by someone because of differences in skin color,

national, lineage, etc. Because of this opinion or understanding like in this statement can trigger someone to do racial discrimination because they think that they race is superior or majority and the strongest race. Then, Ririn in her journal (2017) states that gender discrimination is unfair treatment of women and men who are victim of social systems and structures. Cultural factors are one of the factor that make women often experience gender discrimination.

Society in general adheres to the notion “Patriarchy” means place men as sole rulers and dominating (Alfian, 2013). And another factor is stereotype which attached to women that only serve as men’s bed warmers in other words serve men, women only have a role in taking care the household, or women only have a role as a mother who gives birth and take care of children, etc. And the last is social discrimination. Social discrimination occur because there is status social, fierce competition in economic life, and pressure and intimidation from dominant individual or group.

History of Industrial Revolution in United Kingdom

Industrial revolution is a change that occur quickly and extreme in the industrial sector. Industrial revolution first time happened in United Kingdom in the middle 1700s until early 1800s. At first England was an agrarian country that most of the population worked in the agricultural sector because at that time the result of agriculture was not as big as today. Industrial

revolution also changed the mindset and lifestyle society in England, making the country’s income increase because of many jobs or companies in manufacturing. Besides that, there are several negative impact causes of industrial revolution, such as high unemployed because many farmers choose to go to the cities to look for work cause the entrepreneurs are forced to accept workers but with low wages and the employees do not get the social security and many entrepreneurs choose women and children as laborers because their wages are cheaper. Another impact is appeared the social discrimination. At that time, there are two groups that occur at this time, such us entrepreneur group where this group has a high economic level and lives full of luxury. And the second, the laborer group who live in poverty. And the last impact is black people do not get equality both in treatment and in receiving wages.

Black people are often abused and even enslaved by white people regardless of age and gender. The political systems also has a big influence because the emergence of the apartheid political system that separated the population based on skin color where white people have special rights and treatment compared to races with other skin color, (Djoko,2020).

METHOD

In this research, the writers used descriptive qualitative method. According to Noviyana 2019 (John W, 1997) descriptive qualitative method is the method for analyzing by describing the phenomena that occur in data. By using descriptive qualitative method, the writers will describe more about discrimination such as, kinds of discrimination or types of discrimination in William Blake's selected poems. In this research the data source is five poems by William Blake, namely *Earth's Answer* (1794), *The Little Black Boy* (1789), *The Sick Rose* (1794), and *The Chimney Sweeper* (1793) as the primary data and also some books, journals, and biographies which are related to the topic as the secondary data.

DATA ANALYSIS

Kind of Discrimination Portrayed in William Blake's Selected Poems

Earth's Answer (1794)

Earth's Answer (1794) is one of the poems by William Blake that contains about gender discrimination experienced by women. William Blake describes the suffering discrimination experienced by women at that time and made worse by the industrial revolution. One of the negative impacts of industrial revolution is forcing women to become multifunctional figures where women have to take

care of their homes and families and also work outside to survive. However, no matter how hard women work, the wages they get will not be the same as the wages receive by men. And then in this poem, women often feel the cruelty and selfishness as reflected in twelfth line,

“cruel, jealous, selfish fear”

This line describe the nature of man and made women felt frustrated. Women are considered weak by men so that men can be and cruel to women and caused the women felt restrained by man's actions.

“Prison'd on watry shore”

This line describe the condition of women when men are dominant and rude to women made women felt like in prison besides the beach and they know whenever disaster is coming but they cannot do anything about it. So in the ninth line,

“Weeping o'er”

Crying is the only thing women can do because of her powerlessness to fight men at that time. None of women dared to fight the injustice and defend themselves.

The Little Black Boy (1789)

In this poem, William Blake describes with using beautiful words how the black child was treated during the industrial revolution in England. Racial discrimination felt by black children is clearly written in

this poem. As reflected in the second line

“And I am black, but oh my soul is white”

This line explain at that time people who have black skin is often labeled “bad people” because there was a stereotype that black people always commit criminal. So that, in this poem the little black boy said that his soul is white like “English child” in third line who symbolized as an angel. Even in the selection of title chosen by William Blake seems clear that racial discrimination is reflected in this poem. In this poem, there is mother figure who has important role. In the fifteenth line,

“And these black bodies and this sunburnt face”

The mother in this line explain to her son that what the son has at that time such as, skin color was a gift from God. And in the fourteenth line,

“That we may learn to bear the beams of love”

The mother in this poem is not trying to provoke her son to hate white people, but she teaches that her son much learn to accept himself despite being a minority in the life of the majority.

The Sick Rose (1794)

The Sick Rose (1794) is a poem that describe how women treated at that time. This poem is clearly written how women are treated unfair and

are considered only as objects of sexuality or women are only warmers for men that reflected in the fifth line,

“Has found out thy bed”

In the title of this poem, rose is a beautiful red flower that when blooming will look beautiful and passionate. This flower symbolized the figure of women.

“The invisible worm”

This line symbolized men at that time. Because worms are ridiculous and disgusting are symbolized as a lecherous man who only thing about lust. Although this poem is short, Blake describes clearly how gender discrimination was felt by women at that time.

The Chimney Sweeper (1793)

This poem contains social discrimination that occurred in children at that time or more precisely when industrial revolution occurred in England. Because there are the gap or imbalance in social status and economic condition as the impact of industrial revolution, people who are slaves or laborers live in poverty. In order to survive, people with low classes must work even though the wages they get are not worth with the effort or work they do. If we think that only adults work, its absolutely wrong. In the second line,

“And my father sold me while yet my tongue”

This line explain about a poor child who had to work because his father hired him. His father decided to hire him because at that time many companies chose to employ children over men because of low wages. The child work as the chimney sweeper as written in the fourth line.

“You know that the soot cannot
spoil your white hair” (Line 8)

“Though the morning was cold, Tom
was happy & warm” (Line 23)

The eight line describe how children work as the chimney sweepers at night and fall asleep on soot or charcoal grains that making their hair white. Regardless of time, the children were employed from morning until night to clean the chimneys no matter when the morning was very cold as reflected in the twenty-third line, This has even become a routine so that the cold weather in the morning feels warmer. He did because he believed in the promise of an Angel in his dream that told to Tom to become a good boy God would bless and happiness that reflected in the nineteenth line.

Discrimination Portrayed in William Blake’s Selected Poems

Earth’s Answer (1794)

Earth’s Answer is one of William Blake’s poems that content about condition of women during the industrial revolution occurred in England. This poem was written during the romantic period. In

romanticism period William Blake is one of famous writer because he actively express the deviations that occurred in England at that time through his work. Some of William Blake’s works contain about slavery, prostitution, poverty, and other social conflicts. This also reflected in this poem. William Blake described how women were treated at that time.

Earth rais'd up her head,

From the darkness dread & drear.

Her light fled:

Stony dread!

And her locks cover'd with grey
despair. (Line 1-5)

In the first stanza, William Blake has shown how women were at that time in this poem. “her” in the first line is adjective pronoun for woman which indicates that this poem content the anxiety experienced by woman at that time. “From the darkness dread & drear” in the second line give the description of the suffering experienced by women. “darkness & dread” is the expression that symbolize the fear experienced by women because of being tormented by social conditions at that time. In the last line, “grey despair” explains that women at that time could not make their own decisions.

Prison'd on watry shore

<p>Starry Jealousy does keep my den Cold and hoar Weeping o'er I hear the Father of the ancient men (Line 6-10)</p> <p>The poor condition of women are also reflected in this stanza. "prison'd on watry shore" is a line that symbolize how women feel their lives are in an unstable prison. Women at that time felt trapped by something unstable like someone standing on beach who did not know when abig wave would come and drag her into ocean. That's how women at that time felt afraid of bad things that would happened to her even she knew something bad was happening to her but she could not go anywhere because she locked up in prison. In this stanza it is clearly written that women can only contemplate their fate and weep as reflected in the ninth line, "Weeping o'er". Crying was the only way for women to express their disappointment and sadness. None of women dared to fight the injustices their experienced because men only saw women as weak. Selfish father of men</p> <p>Cruel, jealous, selfish fear Can delight Chain'd in night The virgins of youth and morning bear. (Line 11-15)</p>	<p>In this stanza explain how the nature of men is often felt by women at that time. "Cruel, jealous, selfish fear" describe the nature of men. Because of the cruelty of men that was often felt by women made women suffer at that time. And selfish made men feel that they were dominant so that they felt able to subdue women. All the negative nature that men have causes to feel restrained and even chained as in the fourteenth line, "Chain'd in night". This line describes the condition of women at that night. At that night women were required to stay in their house to serve men. Women at night in their house is only to meet the biological needs of men. And in the morning, women have to work to provide for their lives and their family as reflected in the fifteenth line, "The virgins of youth and morning bear".</p> <p>Does spring hide its joy When buds and blossoms grow? Does the sower? Sow by night? Or the plowman in darkness plow? (Line 16-20)</p> <p>This line contents the expression of a woman's heart. Spring symbolizes the hope of women and happiness is her hope. Happiness is the greatest hope that women want to feel at that time. Like a flower that blooms in spring, so does a woman who wants happiness to come into her</p>
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life. But, the truth is that spring hides that happiness. There was no happiness felt by women because women were constrained because of the discrimination felt by women.

Break this heavy chain,

That does freeze my bones around

Selfish! vain!

Eternal bane!

That free Love with bondage
bound. (Line 21-25)

This is the last stanza in this poem. In the twenty-first line was written a hope of women that they really want at that time. "Break this heavy chain", means that women want to be free from all the suffering that they experience. Women want to be free from all their problems such as the act of discrimination that often occur in women at that time. The problems experienced by women that make them suffer both physically and mentally. Reflected in the twenty-second line "that does freeze my bones around" that all the act of discrimination or injustice that are obtained by women make women suffer and hurt both physically and mentally. "Selfish! Vain!" are the nature of men. In this line, it is like a curse given by God to men. And in the last line, William Blake re-emphasized women's great desire is to be free from slavery and suffer.

Gender discrimination that felt by women at that time made women

feel depressed and shackled by suffering. Stereotype that women are sort, emotional, and weak, it makes men act however they want. At the time of industrial revolution in England, women not only had the duty of take care their family but women also had to work to make ends meet. The industrial revolution caused the social condition to be alarming so that it had an impact on women and even children. Women are employed as laborers with lower wages and no guarantee of work safety. In a journal written by Hardhan entitled *The First Industrial Revolution: Creation of a New Global Human Era* state, women were employed 14 into 14 hours a day and given only half an hour for lunch and dinner.

The Little Black Boy (1789)

The Little Black Boy is a poem by William Black that famous in romanticism era. This poem became famous because William Blake can describe the anxiety that occurred as the result of industrial revolution in a form of literary work namely poem. This poem contents about the story of a little black boy who feels that the world is unfair to him just because he is a black. William Black brings a mother figure into this poem. The mother in this poem plays an important role to teach her son to be greatfull and accept all God's gift. This poem is a part of poems by William Blake namely *Song of Innocence and of Experience*.

My mother bore me in the southern
wild,

And I am black, but oh my soul is
white!

White as an angel is the English
child,

But I am black, as if bereaved of
light. (Line 1-4)

In the first stanza, a little black boy introduces himself. "My mother bore me in the southern wild", he was born in the south, but does not mention a specific country, because the kid has black skin which refers to a country where most of the population is descended from the Negroid race, namely Africa. Then in the second line "And I am black, but oh my soul is white!" William Blake want to convey how different treatment was received by black people at that time. Black people were labeled as "Bad People" because there was a stereotype that black people always commit criminal acts. But, through this poem William Blake want to break that stereotype by stating, "my soul is white". The word "white" means pure and holy. Therefore, in this line Blake emphasizes that we cannot look at someone just because of their skin color. Even though he is a black boy, he feels that he has white, clean, and pure soul like "English child". In the third line, White is symbolize by an angel like the English child because their have white skin. Stereotype are also reflected in this line, where all white people are

considered to have behavior like an angel and far from evil. Because of this stereotype, the little black boy feels hopeless as it is written in the forth line "But I am black, as if bereaved of light."

My mother taught me underneath a
tree,

And, sitting down before the heat of
day,

She took me on her lap and kissed
me,

And, pointed to the east, began to
say: (Line 5-8)

This line describe how the mother treats her son. The way a mother treats her child makes a huge difference to how her child was treated out there. Seen from the fifth and sixth line, the mother protects him from the sun by sitting under the tree, then the child sits on his lap and kisses the child. With the treatment that given by his mother, she hopes her child does not feel lonely and feels unloved just because his skin color. She want her child realize that if the world hate him just because his skin color, he still has a mother who will love him. Then in the eighth line the mother pointed to the east where the sun rises and she begins to tell the story.

"Look on the rising sun: there God
does live,

And gives His light, and gives His
heat away,

<p>And flowers and trees and beasts and men receive</p> <p>Comfort in morning, joy in the noonday.(Line 9-12)</p> <p>In this stanza, the mother tells the goodness of God. “east” in the eighth line show the direction where the sun rises and the God’s place. The mother describe how good God is by giving all living things, such as, human, plants, and animals light, sunshine, beautiful morning, and happiness. With God’s blessing can help all creatures grow and live. Just imagine how plants can live without sunlight and humans live without light, it’s all because of God.</p> <p>“And we are put on earth a little space,</p> <p>That we may learn to bear the beams of love</p> <p>And these black bodies and this sunburnt face</p> <p>Is but a cloud, and like a shady grove. (Line 13-16)</p> <p>In this stanza, the mother explain that God gives place to human learn to receive blessings and love from God. Even though God gave a different skin color from others or “sunburnt face” it is still a gift from God and skin color cannot show how a person’s personality or soul is.</p> <p>“For when our souls have learn’d the heat to bear,</p> <p>The cloud will vanish, we shall hear His voice,</p>	<p>Saying, ‘Come out from the grove, my love and care</p> <p>And round my golden tent like lambs rejoice’,“ (Line 17-20)</p> <p>This stanza is still about the mother’s advice to her child. If someone has accepted himself and accept the weakness he has, the “cloud” will disappear. The word “cloud” has two meaning there are happiness and sadness, because cloud will change with changes in the weather. Then in the next line, God invites us who are down and feeling sad to get out of adversity which is symbolize by “grove” and come out to see the world and know how God loves and cares for him. God invites everyone without exception, regardless of your skin color to come to his place with a happy heart like “lambs rejoice”.</p> <p>Thus did my mother say, and kissed me;</p> <p>And thus I say to little English boy.</p> <p>When I from black and he from white cloud free,</p> <p>And round the tent of God like lambs we joy (Line 21-24)</p> <p>In this stanza, the child recalls what his mother said about how God always give good things in life. And the little black boy believes that black and white would be equal in front of God because God accepted everyone into His house without exception.</p>
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I'll shade him from the heat till he
can bear

To lean in joy upon our Father's
knee;

And then I'll stand and stroke his
silver hair,

And be like him, and he will then
love me. (Line 25-28)

In the last stanza William Blake want to recall to the readers though the little black boy that in front of God everyone are equal. The child is determined to accept himself and try to love himself, because he believes that even he has black skin he has white heart like an angel. And he believes with a sincere heart everyone will love him even the English child

This poet reflected how racial discrimination against black people occurred at that time. With the stereotype that black people always commit crimes and are considered bad. Because this stereotype made the child in this poem felt unloved by anyone. Since the past until now, the different treatment between black and white people was often occur in several countries, especially the continents of Europe and America. People who have black skin was often attacked and treated differently during industrial revolution in England. A political movement created during industrial revolution made racial discrimination aints black people

more visible. The movement is apartheid politic. This policy was made to separate the population based on skin color, such as black and white. This policy is one of the negative impact caused by industrial revolution. Besides explain what happened to black people at that time, Blake also conveys a message through this poem by presenting a mother figure. She conveys how Gods love humans regardless of physical appearance and she also teach the readers to accept and love ourselves because what God gives is a precious gift

The Sick Rose (1794)

The Sick Rose is the second poem by William Blake that be a part of his collection entitled *Song of Innocence and of Experience* which rises his concerns regarding the condition of women during the industrial revolution. This poem consist of only two stanzas and eight lines. Although this poem is shorter than other William Blake's poem, in every line in this poem contents evidence of cruelty of men at that time. Blake brings the readers into this poem so that the readers can feel the sadness and destruction experienced by women.

O Rose thou art sick.

The invisible worm,

That flies in the night

In the howling storm: (Line 1-4)

In the first line there is a word “rose” that symbolize women. Rose symbolized beauty, elegant, and charming like women in general. “O Rose thou art sick” this line explain women at that time felt pain and suffering. The suffering that experienced by women were caused by men who were symbolized as “The invisible worm” in the second line. William Blake chose worm to symbolized the men because worm can damage the growth of roses. Then, in the third line Blake wrote the adverb of time, “That flies in the night”. This line is for men who go out at night to look for the roses or women. And in the forth line, “In the howling storm” is the feeling of women every night comes. Women feel that men there will do bad things to them so that women feel worried and anxious.

Has found out thy bed

Of crimson joy:

And his dark secret love

Does thy life destroy (Line 5-8)

In the second stanza, Blake explained more detail the act of discrimination was experienced by women. In the fifth line, the worm has found the rose on a bed it means a man go out at night to find a woman on bad. The worm felt great joy when he has found a rose that he needed to warm his bad at night. In the fifth and sixth line this poem, have an erotic meaning which there is a passion that men have. However, in these two lines it is also

clear that genders discrimination acts where men look for women at night only to take them to bed to fulfill their desires. The next line, “and his dark secret love” is the point where women are broken because they have to serve men by giving their bodies and have to hide the fact that they are not holy anymore. No women want a men to use her bodies carelessly, but at that time women could not rebel and defend themselves because of the condition. And in the last line, “Does thy life destroy” is the closing line which states that there is no life for women, no more freedom, women life like a dolls who live by orders not by their will

William Blake wrote this poem because he want the readers know the reflection of the condition of women at that time when the industrial revolution occur in England. Women were exploited by men so that they live like a bird in cage. Beside that, women must be a housewife who take care their family, women also have to work to meet their needs and survive in the economic and social crisis that became the negative impact of the industrial revolution in England. And entering the prostitution business is one way for women to get many easily. No women want to sell their bodies just for a plate of rice, but due the condition they had to do it.

The Chimney Sweeper (1793)

This poem is content a kids who works as a chimney sweeper. To be

able to clean the chimney as quickly as possible someone who has a tiny body to get into the chimney, because of that the kids will do the work as the chimney sweepers at that time. This poem was written by William Blake using point of view of a child who working as a chimney sweeper. And from the second stanza until end the child introduce his friends who also a chimney sweeper named Tom Dacre. William Blake was written this poem with historical background of the industrial revolution that occurred in United Kingdom. This anxiety felt by almost the entire population in England where one of the negative impact of industrial revolution is the exploitation or slavery of children

When my mother died I was very
young,

And my father sold me while yet my
tongue

Could scarcely cry " 'weep! 'weep!
'weep! 'weep!"

So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I
sleep. (Line 1-4)

In the first stanza, a kid introduce himself and tell about his family condition where his mother died when he was little. Then, his father sold him or hired the kid as a chimney sweeper. The word "sold" in second line explain the background of his life. This word tells to readers that he comes from a poor family so his father hires him as a chimney sweeper to survive. Then in third line, word " 'weep!" from

word "sweep" has word repetition aimed at emphasizing that the child must clean the chimney. In the last line, "So your chimneys I sweep & in soot I sleep." explain how tired a child worked to clean the chimney until he fell asleep in soot or charcoal grains which were the remains of the combustion.

There's little Tom Dacre, who cried
when his head

That curled like a lamb's back, was
shaved, so I said,

"Hush, Tom! never mind it, for when
your head's bare,

You know that the soot cannot spoil
your white hair." (Line 5-8)

The second stanza, a chimney sweeper introduces himself named Tom Dacre. This stanza, explain that Tom was cried because his hair was shaved until his head's bare. "That curled like a lamb's back" William Blake using one of kinds figurative language that is simile to describe Tom's hair which curly like lamb's back. Although he was cried, he also encouraged himself to not cry even though his hair was shaved.

And so he was quiet, & that very
night,

As Tom was a-sleeping he had such a
sight!

That thousands of sweepers, Dick,
Joe, Ned, & Jack,

Were all of them locked up in coffins
of black; (Line 9-12)

The third stanza, night was coming and Tom falls asleep and he dreams that Tom and his friends who are also the chimney sweeper locked in a dark coffins. In the twelfth line, "Were all of them locked up in coffins of black;" describe how small the kids were to get into the coffins. Besides that, this line describe the situation when the kids worked as the chimney sweeper. We know that the chimney has a shape that extends upward, dark, and narrow, it can be symbolized how someone is locked in a coffin that is definitely dark and there is no air circulation

In this stanza, William Blake describe again how the social discrimination occurred at that time. Kids who should go to school and play together must feel how hard life is, how hard it is to work to survive, even just to eat that day.

And by came an Angel who had a
bright key,

And he opened the coffins & set
them all free;

Then down a green plain, leaping,
laughing they run,

And wash in a river and shine in the
Sun. (Line 13-16)

In this stanza, William Blake explained about the hopes and dreams the kids or the sweepers. "Angel who had a bright key" this line symbolized a hero who can

release them from their shackles or misery comes. Same with another kids, they want to be free to play, laugh, and run whenever they want regardless without care the chimney is clean or not or do not care the master will be angry if they are playing. In the last line, "And wash in a river and shine in the Sun." explain that the kids or the sweepers wan to take a bath and clean their bodies from the soot (soot in Cambridge Dictionary means a black powder composed mainly of carbon or coal).

Then naked & white, all their bags
left behind,

They rise upon clouds, and sport in
the wind.

And the Angel told Tom, if he'd be a
good boy,

He'd have God for his father & never
want joy. (Line 17-20)

This stanza is still continue Tom's dream that Tom and his friend take a bath and clean themselves in the river In the first line "Then naked & white, all their bags left behind," white symbolizes purity and holiness, and naked like a child that born again. Then "their bags left behind" means their hopes that they can leave their bag containing the tools to work and run freely as in the second "They rise upon clouds, and sport in the wind." William Blake decided to use figurative language that is hyperbole to describe that the kids or chimney sweepers really

want to feel free like they want to run around the sky. In the nineteenth line, the Angel promises Tom a blessing from God, if Tom can be a good son who still loves his fathers and also does his duty as the chimney sweeper.

And so Tom awoke; and we rose in
the dark

And got with our bags & our brushes
to work.

Though the morning was cold, Tom
was happy & warm;

So if all do their duty, they need not
fear harm. (Line 21-24)

And the last stanza, in twenty-first line “And so Tom Awoke” explain when Tom awoke, he must work. Tom has to get up and do his job as the chimney sweeper. “we rose in the dark” and “Though the morning was cold” are descriptions of time when Tom and his friends must start to work even the sky still dark, the sun has not yet rise and the morning air being very cold, they have to work. People are still sleeping but the kids or the sweepers must clean the chimney to keep the warmth people in the house. Because he remember the angel’s words in his dream that told him to be a good boy, in the twenty-third line “Though the morning was cold, Tom was happy & warm;” Tom did his job happily even in the morning was freezing cold. Tom believes God has prepared the gift for him. Happiness.

This poem reflects how social discrimination occur because of industrial revolution in England. Due to social inequality and the imbalance of economic condition that occurred at that time led to slavery or exploitation the children . Minors are employed inhumane manners, regardless of time, they are forced to work all day long with minimal wages. Chimney sweeper is just one example of the work that done by the children or minors. According to IdnTimes (2019) article in 1789, 700 out of 1.150 textile factory employees were the children or minors under the age of 15. In a journal by Hardan, children work 12 until 14 hours a day regardless of condition the children and the supervisors will beat the children to wake them up if the child is sleepy.

CONCLUSION

After analyzing the poems by William Blake, the researcher concludes that all selected poems by William Blake entitled Earth’s Answer (1794), The Little Black Boy (1789), The Sick Rose (1794), and The Chimney Sweeper (1793). There are three kinds of discrimination that contents in the four poems, The first gender discrimination in The Sick Rose (1794) and Earth’s Answer (1794), Then, social discrimination in The Chimney Sweeper (1793) and the last race discrimination in The Little Black Boy (1789).

William Blake was written these poems with historical background of

the industrial revolution that occurred in England. At that time in England, industrial revolution was occurred and causes several negative impacts that can felt by British society, one of the negative impacts is the act of discrimination, such as race discrimination, gender discrimination, and social discrimination. All of the selected poems by William Blake, entitled *Earth's Answer* (1794), *The Little Black Boy* (1789), *The Sick Rose* (1794), and *The Chimney Sweeper* (1793) reflect the discrimination that occurred at that time. *Earth's Answer* (1794) contents about gender discrimination felt by women at that time because in this poem men enslave women so that women at that time felt like they were in prison. *The Little Black Boy* (1789) contents racial discrimination felt by a boy because he feels alone and unloved because he has black skin. *The Sick Rose* (1794) contents gender discrimination that felt by women. This poem explain how women are only used as men's bed warmers to complete their lust or biological needs. The last, *The Chimney Sweeper* (1793) contains social discrimination that felt by children because at that time they had to work until 14 hours with low wages and without job safety guarantee.

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