

The Effects of Colorism on the Images of Women Portrayed in Some Selected Short Stories in Kathleen Collins' *Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?*

by Nandy Intan Kurnia, S.S., M.Hum., Dr. Ari Nurhayati, S.S., M.Hum., Niken Anggraeni, S.S., M.A.

ABSTRACT

This research aims at revealing the issues of colorism among Afro-Americans and their effects on the images of women portrayed in some selected works entitled *Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?* written by Kathleen Collins. Accordingly, this research uses black feminism approach which emphasizes on the importance of analyzing the factors influencing the lives of Afro-American women.

This research is a descriptive qualitative research using black feminism theory to analyze the data in the form of denotative as well as connotative expressions showing the issues of colorism and how they influence the ways women are seen in seven short stories taken from Collins' *Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?*: "The Uncle", "Whatever Happened to Interracial Love?", "Conference: part I and II", "Stepping back", "Documentary Style", "Dead memories... Dead dreams", and "The Happy Family". The findings of the research show that colorism is portrayed in different constructions: skin color vs character, conflicts between different generations, confidence crisis, the appealing beauty of black people, black female stereotypes, hatred toward dark skin, and hatred toward light skin. Meanwhile, in these seven short stories, the images of women are portrayed in positive ways regarding the lighter color of their skin and their education. At the same time the images of women are also portrayed in negative ways regarding the characters they have, for example in the form of self embarrassment upon their skin color. These findings only confirm that colorism still becomes a serious issue among African-American society related to the way they see white people as more superior than black people. In this case, women face more complexity as they have to face not only racial but also gender issues.

Kata Kunci: *colorism, race, gender, women's images*