ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the impacts of racial discrimination on Bigger Thomas' personality and behavior in Richard Wright's *Native Son*. The writer conducts a qualitative library research and bases her analysis on Freud's Psychoanalytic theory, focusing on the structure of personality, instincts, anxiety, and ego defense mechanisms. She also uses data on practices of racial discrimination against blacks between World War I and the Great Depression as a frame of reference for the analysis. This thesis is expected to give readers some insights into practices of racial discrimination against blacks in America, especially in the 1930s, and into how these practices may affect the victim as represented by the character Bigger Thomas.

The analysis reveals that the racial discrimination that Bigger Thomas experiences brings destructive impacts on his personality and behavior. They lead to thwarted *life* and *death instincts*, causing him to live in resentment and restlessness; neurotic and realistic anxiety, arising out of the conflict between his *id* and *ego* as well as of fear of white people; ego defense mechanisms as psychological means of survival, leading to self-centered, indifferent, and violent behavior; and the inadvertent killing of a white woman as self-defense and liberating.