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Racial Oppression against African American woman in Selected Novels by Alice Walker(*)

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Abstract

The contemporary feminist writer Alice Walker sheds an illumination on the existence of the Black American woman in the American society through some of her works, "*The Color Purple*", "*Meridian*" and "*The Third Life of Grange Copeland*". On one hand Alice Walker tries to make an original character, provide a sound to the black woman in American community during latest era and give them self-assurance spiritually socially and emotionally on the other hand she showed the horrible things in what way that the African American woman has been endured and represent the pulp of walker's fiction, such as racial bias, patriarchal injustice, domestic brutality, the Civil Right Movement and bondage. Walker devised an expression of black feminism that is aggregation of culture, strength and flexibility in the woman called "Womanism". The author expresses her subjects through by her heroine character to give the person who reads an actual and aware description to send a message to the whole world about the mistreatment, disregarding and multi-faced abuse that the largest number of the Black American females have been undergone to decades. Finally in order to disclose the steady progress and public alterations in lifetime of her heroine's character from silence, self-denial and helpless to self-proof, confrontation and enablement.

Keywords: African American woman, Novels, Alice Walker.

القمع العنصري ضد المرأة الأمريكية من أصل أفريقي في روايات مختارة لأليس وولكر

د/ حسين مناحي منشد

الملخص

تلقي الكاتبة النسوية المعاصرة أليس والكر الضوء على وجود المرأة الأمريكية السوداء في المجتمع الأمريكي من خلال بعض أعمالها "اللون الأرجواني" و"ميريديان" و"الحياة الثالثة لجرانج كوبلاند" ومن ناحية تحاول أليس والكر أن تصنع شخصية أصلية، وتقدم صوتاً للمرأة السوداء في المجتمع الأمريكي خلال الحقبة الأخيرة ومنحهم الثقة بالنفس روحياً اجتماعياً وعاطفياً من ناحية أخرى، ومن ناحية ثالثة أظهرت الأشياء الفظيعة بالطريقة التي أظهرها الأمريكيون من أصل أفريقي، ولقد تحملت المرأة وتمثل لب خيال وولكر مثل التحيز العنصري، والظلم الأبوي، والوحشية المنزلية، وحركة الحقوق المدنية، والعبودية. ولقد ابتكرت الـكر تعبيراً عن النسوية السوداء هو تجميع للثقافة والقوة والمرونة في المرأة يسمى "النسوية". وتعتبر الكاتبة عن موضوعاتها من خلال شخصيتها البطلية لإعطاء الشخص الذي يقرأ وصفاً حقيقياً وواعياً لإرسال رسالة للعالم أجمع حول سوء المعاملة والتجاهل والإساءة متعددة الوجوه التي كانت تعاني منها أكبر عدد من الإناث الأمريكيات ذات اللون الأسود خضع لعقود. وأخيراً من أجل الكشف عن التقدم المطرد والتغيرات العامة في حياة بطله حياتها من الصمت وإنكار الذات والعجز إلى إثبات الذات والمواجهة والتمكين.

الكلمات المفتاحية: المرأة الأمريكية من أصل أفريقي، روايات، أليس وولكر.



Introduction:

Throughout the latter partial of twentieth century, Black Nationalist movement aimed to localize on the black world and revolutionary future. Walker as an African American writers and a feminist thinker was born in Georgia south of America in 1944 integrates feminist philosophy with racial topics and inflames the first sparkle of black African woman liberation the movement civil rights of blacks.

In this paper significant subjects have been written about the discrimination of gender and in related to the existence of the black American woman. The idea of multi-layers injustice of black woman in the American man controlling community was engaged here throughout chosen works of Walker, these works may be said to be powerfully biography. Here is an attempt to proclaim oppression for conversing social visions and insights versus black woman. Honestly, it's obvious that black American woman has been treated cruelly and has lost her civil rights. There is a discrepancy between the white American man and the African American black. They have always needed to smash the parental authority. They demand demolishing brutality which exist between the black American woman and the white man. The African American woman sought to deny the patriarchy strength. They want to bond in contradiction versus man. Black females try to be together and take the role of male.

Double Oppression of African American Woman

the author as an African American "womanism" has fought further than any modern writer in the United States of America to display the level that the black American woman agonized cruelty. While most of the black American writers were considering and put in their mind that bigotry is the basis of the whole pain of the Black American people, Walker was the head of the black American woman writer who carried to consideration everybody worries fronting the black American woman in United states, specially sexism when Perhaps the most contentious facet ideas is personified in utmost novels particularly the novel "*The Color Purple*" that won "The Pulitzer Prize" in 1983, and in the same year won "The National Book Award". Through this Award-winning work, Alice was greatly acclaimed for perceptive and extraordinary portrayals of the life of the black woman. "*The Color Purple*" dealt with numerous things such as gender bias,



sexism, racialism, injustice of woman, bondage, culture, traditions and the relationship between male and female, (Mirshojaei, 2016).

As regard of the controlling of woman from the white man in "Hurston's hero in Janie's story", he denotes the conventional generalization, well-known straightforward rejection of the rights of black women. The woman in the opinion of the white man is only a thing created to satiate a sensual wish. Both Abuse and rape of black woman in such novels are worry and fascination for Nanny. Further than affection, safety becomes the Nanny's tenacity to persuade her Janie to get married to Logan Killicks so as to remove the erotic abuse of white men by her reminiscences. Apparently, walker fights to make a state in which could avoids what she had seen herself before. (Farda & Zarrinjooee, 2014).

Black woman came to be wide-ranging when white man practiced raping. This disturbing disrespect for the pride of the black American women in and out of the plantation had been distressed Nanny who was one of those black woman. As revealed earlier, Nanny gave birth to Leafy when white man raped her and now informs her granddaughter for what happened to the mother. Black woman live in a white commnity always awaits rape and sexual harassments from the white man. The white man considers this woman as an object to be fantasized for sexually. Rape results from the education for the black woman. This is satirical that Nanny Hopes Leafy forget her teacher, but she then becomes the target of the white man's gaze. Finally, she left house of her mother to evade suffering with disgrace when she was raped (Fard & Zarrinjooee, 2014).

Mirshojaei, (2016) argued the work "*Meridian*" provides instance of the author's ability to unite politic and private narrative. Though, "*The Third Life of Grange Copeland*", Walker's principal novel, the activities alter during time. "*Meridian*" is placed through a minor section that shape the work too much alike bits of fabric constituting cover, as Walker depicts it. Moreover, "*Meridian*" appears back-up additional matters reliant on private communication additional than a universal instruction. "*Meridian*" acquired responsibility of what happened. She was not anxious to observe the reality. She merely distinguished she will get just single opportunity to win and it was a period to make use of it. Other propose that this work reveals the means in which woman's injustice were made. The work does not propose a



humble, but fairly chain of queries that force one acquires from his previous and his hard times. (Mirshojaei, 2016).

In this paper, there is an aspiration to participate "Sharma and Dwivedi" their view in their fiction. They stated the woman need to upload the sound and be honored of their philosophy. They also recognized and showed the tragedy, tribulation, and dilemma of in what way the black migrants in America. Walker with her novels considers various dimensions by showing the scope to which her black characters underwent bigotry in US and in what way they grew steadily additional powerful to liberate from parent in what way community (Sharma & Dwivedi, 2017).

Finest description to the racialism it means the faith the members of certain race are essentially higher to the followers of the rest ethnic. In "*The Color Purple*", racialism is laid down as a white opponent versus abandoned the Negro misleading evil-being; those who carry the ferocity are themselves the prey of some shape of cruelty. Alphonso's son hits his spouse Sofia when Mr. indicates that he was demoralized by Sofia's struggle. Walker (1985) states that there is nothing can create that well more than a virtuous voice thrashing. The publics close to him and his family were dealt with by the similar manner they were treated by his despotic parent. Commonly, racialism is represented to a birdcage in the work, in which the white men abuse the black women. Sofia's prison symbolically mentions to in what way the black women are incarcerated through racialism, and in what way they were restricted to oppression and family life in their own households (Abdulimam & Yasir, 2015).

Barrios (2016) examined some themes connected to Walker's novels and found that they largely localized on animosity, mainly her latter novel "*Meridian*", where it engages the degree to which racial isolation, animosity, stigmatization, and bursts of brutality existing amid the Americans people the white and the black chiefly, versus woman. Localizing on ethnic partiality and destructive stereotyping was to engage this isolation in "*Meridian*". In "*Meridian*", Alice depicts the prejudice that black woman hold versus the white who humiliated them first and then enslaved them. This was to display in what way race-related animosity can cause additional animosity.



Because woman are of no importance in black values, the wellbeing of a female girl is of no value as well. A nurse called Kutlu (2003) indicates that a young girl wasn't taken to the hospital once she is ill. They said "She is a girl. God will protect her if he wishes. (Kutlu, 2003, p.222)". She raised up as a deaf and dumb young girl. Girls are often the prey of their forefather's anger and are knockout for ridiculous causes because of being unimportant children.

Some of the main causes of racial cruelty contrary to woman is resulted from prenatal sex that is dedicated in specific nations and would always be in approval of male children. 30% of the confinements who were known with girls embryos were whole terminated, While 90% of the pregnancies were known with boy embryos had a ordinary delivery. At times pregnant were unnoticed or even punished for delivery to a girl baby, whereas pregnant who begets a boy were greatly valued. In her work "*The Unfinished Story of Mademoiselle Dimitra*", Kutlu states "in what way Nadya Hamm gives birth to her fifth daughter, and in what way Nadya and all her daughters were beaten violently by her husband" (Kutlu, 2003, p.51). But," when Nadya finally begets a son, her spouse had a ceremony and gave her various presents" (Kutlu, 2003, p.54). In America and European values, prenatal sex assortment is not identified, and this wasn't stated in Walker's *The CP* (Kutlu, 2003).

Oppression of Whites against Black Woman in African American Literature.

Regarding the gender bias and ethnic oppression of white man versus black unfortunate woman, in "*The Color Purple*" Sofia's confrontation with the white high class mayor forefronts topics of race and status. Sofia's denial to be a nanny for the officer's kids and then her reprisal from the officer lays her in suffering. She was put in jail for two decades. In prison, she is humiliated and punished violently "They crack her skull and ribs. They tear her nose loose on one side. They blind her in one eye" (Walker, 1985). Sofia's eye is indicative of Walker's blind eye. Walker missing her eyesight in a babyhood wound. Her brother was in charge of this episode and she senses that this accident was intentional. This eye is a repeated plain event in several novels (Walker, 2010).



Additional superbly coloured and lengthy analysis of race incorporation is offered in Sofia's relation with Miss Eleanor Jane and other members of the officer's family, Albeit one that has often been overlooked. Sofia was taken from jail to the officer's house and she worked as a servant for his kids with the labors of Squeaks and Celie. The only sympathetic one towards Sofia is the mayor's daughter Miss Eleanor Jane. Miss Eleanor Jane and Sofia seem to own some sympathized feelings for each other. Nevertheless, Sofia's emotions for Eleanor Jane were hesitant. The symbol for the whole black woman who were jailed by gender bias was a prison in which Sofia was imprisoned. (Shahida, 2013)

Patriarchal injustice of black man against black woman in African American Literature.

By pointing out to Walker's heroine "*Meridian*", Nadu (2017) portrays the degree to that woman underwent oppression, and other things such as divorce, abortions, delivery, bondage and a failed marriage life. "*Meridian*" held her campsite among the poor black women. As Truman had used to do in the past ten years, he came searching for her. Even after the lawful obliteration of separation, She objects versus the ongoing racial bias. This chief sight of "*Meridian*" exposes her social obligation to the society of the black, her faith in peaceful confrontation and her relation with kids displays that disintegration is an illness in the exists of black community and they truly have to be stimulated to pass it. Henceforth, her protagonists became invigorated with the assistance of optimism, and those re-energized characters became models for the entire world.

Concerning to aforesaid, it is obvious that the community consciousness towards matters related to gender equity had augmented throughout the period of the 18th century. This makes one ask why this awareness did not sin what way that the female state has developed in our time, chiefly when we have additional developments in education, living circumstances, and technological progress than those in old times (Srisermbhok, 2016).



Conclusion:

To conclude whatever has been said it can be summarized that the works of modern black feminist author Walker "*The Color Purple*", "*Meridian*" and "*The Third Life of Grange Copeland*" have depicted the effect of multi-purpose injustice and prejudice that have been done versus black woman in American man controlling community. Over her protagonists like "*Meridian*", Sofia, Celie and Margret. Walker is successful in revealing the sadness and afflictions of black woman. The African American characters in Walker's works try to bear gender bias, patriarchal practices, racial opinions and sexual mistreatment. Additional, Walker as an essential feminist novelist is the chief who works with the prohibited subjects such as incest because she wishes to expose to the world ambiguous details of black African woman's life.

As a black feminist author, Alice in this paper followed and displayed the dilemma of black woman in her own mode under the rules of black feminist values attempting to proclaim oppression and offered a black philosophy as a modern genre in American patriarchal community specially in the south of America. Walker's choice works offered choices and potentials to some of the stereotypes and some ways that patriarchy had revealed on societies for ages. Walker reveals that patriarchal system and maltreatment to black woman through several of her characters such as the relationship of Albert with his wife and his child "Harpo", Grange with his spouse Margret, "*Truman Hill*" with "*Meridian*" and "Alphanso" through his wife celie.

It's apparent, the author with her autobiographical novels was so effective and skillful to make African female characters and a black culture that are self-determining and that gradually can move from bondage to struggle, confrontation and enabling African American woman know in what way to work versus man authority even if the wage they have to pay is usually completely great. Additional, she effectively exposed in what way together race and gender work as a catalyst for injustice versus Black African American woman.



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