

"GENDER INEQUITY, OUTRAGE AND HINDRANCE IN ALICE WALKER'S 'THE COLOR PURPLE': AN IMPERATIVE OVERVIEW"

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Abstract:

To bring out the uniqueness, Gender crisis, Outrage and hindrances of Afro-American Women from the Novel of Alice Walker's 'The Color Purple'. At certain points during that period of time, Alice Walker as a Black woman, she herself has been exposed to many hard times she has survived periods of adversity and raised her voice over the difficulties of Black women in African- American society. She has special place in African American literature. Her novels mainly focus on the lives of Black female characters and their hardships. Walker, in her novels, explores the problems of these women who fight back to achieve independent identities beyond their obstacles to keep their creativity and strength alive. This study appearance insightful at the causes of women's sufferings and a crisis of personal identity and the solution for their difficulties and the relationships among the women. It talks about whether the female distress is because of confined and wretchedness misery, whether it comes from characters' flaws, they are suffered to be deprived and tend to hesitate, whether men and society are the major cause of their problems. Although female characters are the central point of the segment, the male characters are also investigated to learn about their relationships with women and to learn if they face any crisis or suffering. It explicit the point that an issue can reach the audience, heedless of barriers and that literature could change the psyche of the readers.

Key words: Black Nationalism, gender, feminism & feminist theory, Racism, abolition and slavery.

Introduction

The black women are concealed in many phases; women of the black community are distorted even in their community. Black women who were oppressed and dominated socially, physically and sexually, try to get freedom from the supremacy. Most of the black women are treated as slaves they want to redefine their womanhood. The principal parts of the black women conferred as slaves they need to emancipate their adulthood. This paper is an attempt at subjugation and concealment of black women, inhibition, craving, gender discrimination, and how they make a distinction themselves. It explores the study of black women subjugation, self-realization, awakening, and self-emancipation. Alice Walker, an Afro American writer, stumbles upon the black women freedom. She advocates black women to recognize their connectedness to women who historically have built bridges for them with their indomitable and independent spirit. The main spat of this paper is to triumph over the sufferings of black women.

Whimper and Silenced Women in the novel

The torment of women can be reflected in the literary works. It can be realized in the manner of story, novel, poem, etc. Novel is the one example of it. Novel is a long sequence of events in literary prose that serves fiction story on the word form which has intrinsic and extrinsic elements. Generally, a novel tells about human life with many problems in society.

The silencing fortified in Celie's life is strong and male. The reason she has no voice for so long in the novel is that she has no power over anything; not even herself. "Still, it is like Shug say, You have got to get man of your eyeball, before you can see anything a'tall" (1790). In order to find strength and independence Celie must defy the men in her life, be it Pa, Mr. _____ or God. The way that she can do so is that they lose their male characteristic and gain female or neutral characteristics. In fact "Albert and his son, Harpo, are absolved by becoming integrated into a female-define value community, 'finding themselves' at last in the traditionally female roles of seamstress and housekeeper" (Hite 262-263). When this happens the community can begin to move in a new direction where equality is a possibility.

Women all over the world face many challenges and struggles that make their lives despondent and intolerable. While some women stand up for themselves and become content with them, others feel ashamed of whom they are. In the *color purple* by Alice Walker, the protagonist, Celie, gets described by her husband, Albert, her stepfather, Alphonso, and her husband's ex-girlfriend, Shug, as ugly. The oppression that Celie is subjected to results in a deficient in of purpose and direction in her life. The absence of decisive activity generates a vacancy in women's lives and has been discussed by many critics like Betty Friedan who had commented that without a purpose woman loses the sense of who they are as it is the purpose which gives the human pattern to one's life. Gender oppression is also a main factor operating in the oppressive paternal ideology in which a father's control of the family's

private resources effectively gives him license to violate his women. It reveals the family's weak internal structures in African – American families where a girl child is not safe even in her own family. The word “domestic” usually implies the sense of protection, comfort and the place where one can feel one's own identity.

Flouting the Silence

Celie's sovereignty and power of the language makes her own master. She has the power of her own life and can live it in a way that she sees fit. “Much of Walker's work portrays the spiritual and physical devastation that occurs when the family trust is violated” (Tate 175) but when the trust returns it shows how it can be preserved again. Christian accurately argues how “obvious is Walker's attention to the Black woman as creator, and to how her attempts to be whole relates to the health of her community” (457). This means that whilst Celie is whole the rest of the district can follow; they become whole as well.

According to historian Howard Zinn, the entire elimination of slavery was execute very slowly.

“As late as 1810, thirty thousand blacks, one-fourth of the black population of the North, remained slaves. In 1840 there were still a thousand slaves in the North. In the upper South, there were more free Negroes than before, leading to more control legislation. In the lower South, slavery expanded with the growth of rice and cotton plantations.”(42)

The writer is interested to analyze *The Color Purple* novel because of some reasons. The first reason is because of some reasons. A very first reason is because the story of this novel is wonderful and based on true story. Alice walker writes about the position and condition. Of African - American's woman in America. *The Color Purple* tells about the suffering of black woman in America.

“Feminist is as way to identity individuals who supported not merely an increased public role for women, but also women's right, private, position, participation, even broadened into political, cultural, economic, social, and Ethical dimension to be find themselves as autonomous beings” (Mandell, 1995: 4)

In *Color Purple* novel, Walker wants to show that women's role in the period is very limited. Women and men have diverse role. Women's role is only in the conjugal role. They cannot easy do what they want to do. As the major character, Celie faces these tribulations. She is necessary to take care of her own family after the death of her mother, caring for her siblings and her stepfather. She spends all her time only in the home.

I'm big. I can't move fast enough. By time I get back from the well, the water be warm. By time I git the tray ready the food be cold. By time I git all the children ready for school it be dinner time (TCP, 1982: 3).

Women must follow the culture's role that is valid in the society. Their fashion is so limited. Women cannot clothes that they want. They cannot follow trend fashion at the time. They must wear dress. Because if women use tight clothes or pants that is not reasonable in the society. Men and women not suppose to wear the same thing, he said. Men suppose to
Wear the pants (TCP, 1982: 278).

All the humans have rights. Men and Women enormously have same human rights. In fact they have same right to life, to get education, to get occupation, etc. Women also have rights to get freedom in family and society. Feminist appears to gain the autonomous rights of women, such as education, politic(s), economy and occupation. In today's circumstances, women can do anything which suitable with equality rights in the Universe.

In The Color Purple novel, Celie has been lost her rights since she was child. It begins when her step father rapes her brutally several times. Her father impregnates her twice and also takes away her children after they are born. She also loses her right to study because she gets pregnant. And then, her step father sells her to Alphonso.

Conclusion

In the novel, the participation of women is limited. Women are not permitted to speak up their mind. They cannot share their opinion in the public life. Men think that women's speaking are not important to hear. Therefore, when women are speaking men ignore their face.

There is a way that men speak to women that reminds me too much of Pa. They listen just long enough to issue instructions. They don't even look at Women when women are speaking... And what can I say to this? Again, it is Own behavior around pa (TCP, 1982: 168).

Hence, the situation makes girl child and women suffer physically and mentally. Through this novel, Walker not only gives Afro-American women's right to be heard but also inspires them with a path to resist, struggle and unshackle their life to get freedom.

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