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**Analyzing the Aspects of Racism in the American
Postmodern Feminist Poetry**
(The poem "Still I Rise" as a case of study)

**Dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment for the requirements for a Master degree
in literature and civilization**

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Dedication

We dedicate this dissertation:

To our family and friends.

To every one who helped us and wished the best for us.

Acknowledgment

Writing this thesis was the greatest achievement in our academic life. We are deeply indebted to our supervisor ANAD AHMED for his precious time, advice and observations.

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Abstract

This dissertation aims to investigate the analysis of the aspect of racism expressed in American postmodern feminist poetry “Still I rise” written by Maya Angelou and how did the American woman reshape her future through fighting by using peaceful means such as literature where poetry was one of her weapons. So in order to conduct this study, we reviewed the related literature: books, articles ...etc. that can provide us with information concerning woman development in American society, and how they had used poetry writing for facilitating this development. The main results drawn from this research is that Maya Angelou’s poem reflected many aspects of racism which are: aversive racism; which expressed in the words "did you want to see me broken". colour blindness; which expressed in a sarcastic way by saying "don't you take it awful hard". cultural racism; which expressed in the words "out of the huts of history's shame" and "up from a past that's rooted in pain". Also racial segregation; which are reflected in the words "Does my sexiness upset you?". Supremacism; which are reflected in the words "just like suns" and "just like hopes". Another aspects are: Biological racism; that expressed is in the words "Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave" and "I am the dream and the hope of slave". Sexual racism; that reflected in the words "best with gloom ". And the last aspect is The othering; which is expressed in the words "choot", "cut", "kill". These aspects of racism reflected through the words of Maya Angelou used in her poem in order to symbolize some forms of racism which exists in the American society. Those aspects are different from each other because they have different categorization and views to divide people and humiliating them. Women were able to change all kinds of stereotypical pictures on women , they were struggling to gain their rights and to be treated in equal way with men, and this struggle was reflected in Angelou poem "Still I Rise" by talking about refusing racism, discrimination and slavery. So Angelou "Still I Rise" had helped in creating new way of

looking to peoples humanities and feeling by treating them as people not as animals. She showed that the persecuted shouldn't accept this situation and shouldn't surrender.

Key words: Racism, Aspect of Racism, Postmodern Feminist Poetry, Still I Rise, Black Women.

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General Introduction

General Introduction

Background of the Study

Before the establishment of the thirteen colonies, the American woman was with no identity, entity or existence in the social life, but after a long time of dormancy, she decided to stand up and fight for her rights to show that she was also a human being like men. But until 1960s, the important role of woman in society was ignored.

Because of this ignorance, they tried to make their voices higher than before to be heard, and as a result they were able to put their touch in different spheres. So, they had made use of this privilege to make their movements and requirements more powerful and acceptable in their society.

Some of those women chose to turn their emotions and thoughts into words to be able to show how much they were suffering and from the injustices of society. Many women chose to express their ideas and feeling by writing poetry, they saw it as a way for deliverance from a society that marginalized them and considered them as property not as a human.

By the late of 20thc, postmodern era was developed, the thinking way of people had changed, and they rejected Modernism and Enlighten values that controlled society for centuries. The writers of that era had different ways in looking to literature and to the themes that should be written about. Maya Angelou was one of those writers, who has refused the old system of society, and looked for refreshing and establishing new system.

In her poem "Still I Rise" 1978 she wrote about her suffering as a black person and as a woman, and how her hopeful determination made her stand and rise.

Research Methodology

The poem "Still I Rise" expresses refusing racism and slavery, our purpose from choosing it as a case of study is to go deeper with women suffering and how she chose to overcome this travailed.

The American women striving history was shaped when woman invested her suffering and striving to create literature as a means to send her messages and express her emotions that were against oppression and inequity, and her hope for better life.

In order to test the hypotheses of this research, we used variety of sources, by reviewing different literary materials such as Books, journals and articlesetc. where we based our data collection on external secondary data method, we used material that are already existed to accomplish another purpose like books. We also based on qualitative secondary data method, because this study focuses on matters that effect human behaviour through studying their culture, customs, values system and concerns. The main reason behind choosing Qualitative /External secondary data method was according to the nature of the topic and the nature of the data (from books and articles) needed for carrying out this research successfully. Also this kind of data is easily available, time saving, less expensive and provided as with larger data base. Finally we used the MLA 8th edition to organize our research.

Research Problem

Our research problem is: analyzing the different aspect of racism expressed in the poem "still I rise" by Maya Angelou and her contribution in fighting discrimination and oppression against black women.

Research Questions:

To reach the aim of our research, we formulate these questions:

What are the aspects of racism expressed in the poem "Still I Rise"?

How are they expressed? And why are they different?

How did Angelou help women by writing about racism and slavery?

What were her goals from writing Still I Rise and did she achieve them?

How had the black woman as poet contributed in postmodern literature?

Research Hypothesis:

To answer questions of this research, we suggest some hypotheses as follows:

There are many aspects of racism in the poem " Still I Rise " to be analyzed because of the different social pressures and oppressions against blacks particularly women.

The different aspects of racism in the poem may show how the black women suffered from oppression and racial discrimination.

The women are able to write great poetry not only men.

Women could challenge male and white dominating society.

Women could encourage slaves and persecuted to stand up and fight.

Women could contribute in developing postmodern literature.

Poetry in postmodern used as a way to refusing old values and asking for new values.

Research Structure:

Our research contains four chapters. The first chapter entitled The Postmodern American poetry, it is a theoretical part where we review the history of postmodernism, including definition of postmodern poetry, characteristics of this of postmodernism and the key figures of this era.

The second chapter is concerned with Feminism and feminist theory; it is also a theoretical part where we dealt with feminism and feminist movement, definition of feminism and major figures, then the different waves of the movement.

The third chapter treats Racism and Discrimination in American Society, we devoted it to the discrimination and racism in American society; we started with definition of racism, then to the aspects of racism.

The fourth chapter is a practical part would be devoted to analyzing the different aspects of racism in the poem "Still I Rise" of Maya Angelou.

Significance of the Study

Analyzing the different aspects of racism and how are they reflected in postmodern feminist poetry Still I Rise by Maya Angelou, and her help to women by writing about racism, will help us to understand more the history of women rights development in white male dominating society since women are now politician, economists and able to engage in army...etc.

Angelou had chosen writing poems as a way to express her suffering and problems, this means made literature richly of life.

Chapter 01:
The Postmodern American Poetry

Chapter 01

The Postmodern American Poetry

1.1 Introduction

Many researchers consider Postmodernism as a reaction or response to Modernism in the late twentieth century. Postmodernism rejects some views of what Modernism came up with, but not all of them. Postmodernism supported some views of Modernism, it does not differ from Modernism, they seem very much like each other in many ways; they differ from each other in the concept of attitude towards certain trends. Modernism, for example, tends to present the idea of fragmentation as something tragic, something to be commiserated. Postmodernism used to describe certain characteristics of post-world war II literature and to reject the idea of Enlightenment implied in Modernist literature. In this chapter, we will see the definition of postmodernism, characteristics and features, and the most famous figures of postmodernism.

1.2 The Postmodern American Poetry

1.2.1 Definition

We found many definitions of postmodernism, each one of them describes postmodernism and gives the full image about what postmodernism is in many aspects and sides. Postmodernism era creates a wide range of developments in various scopes, we chose to define postmodernism in a way that it covers all what postmodernism is about.

Mutlu Konuk Blasing (1995) explains the definition of postmodern that it symbolizes a historical and a poetic differences, it represents any poetic practice that is against the modernist view or questions the modernist suppositions(3). Postmodernism is considered

as a reaction to Modernism. Steven Connor (1989) in his book *Postmodernist Culture* clarifies the idea of postmodern concerning the literary studies, giving some highlights about postmodern 's interests noticing that: "It even seems that the urge to identify and celebrate the category of the postmodern has been so strong as to produce by back-formation a collective agreement about what modernism was, in order to have something to react against"(113). Mutlu Konuk Blasing (1995) states that the term postmodern is used for different of movements, these movements are a continuation to modernism, and confined by modernism's options and views (24).

Postmodern literature is considered as a literature or a movement came up with a wide range of innovative techniques and methods like metaphor, simile, fragmentation..... Postmodern literature is a style, various figures of that period adapted to be the style of their writing and to define the postmodern literature in their writing and works. For better understanding of what postmodern literature means, the reference (Postmodern literature) provides us with some features saying that:

Postmodern literature is literature characterized by reliance on narrative techniques such as fragmentation, paradox, and the unreliable narrator; and often is (though not exclusively) defined as a style or a trend which emerged in the post-World War II era. ("Postmodern literature, par 1")

The history of the American poetry is very wide and large and not easy to know the exact day and the period in which it is emerged. The history of the American poetry contains various events and different periods of time came up together, each one has its own events and innovations and subdivisions. Mutlu Konuk Blasing (1995) notices that the unanimity about the history of American poetry is that the history of American poetry since world war II represents a competition between formalist academic corporation of early modernism's experimental views and the existence of open forms asserted by

antiformalist revolt. (1). David W. Huntsperger (2010) discusses the advantages in which we limit the poet's free creativity. Why not try to explore the poetic energies in order to get different natural poetic forms. Burt Kimmelman (2005) denotes the main cause of creating a new period of poetic forms which called the period of the 20th century or the American poetry, he said "American poetry is the result of the will to carve out a territory all of one's own" (17). He also explains the secret behind the development in the 20th century era which is due to the creativity and the invention that appears in the period of American poetry.

American poetry has a great intellectual impact on many people of that period. Many poets influenced by this period, two of most influential ones are T.S Eliot and Ezra Pound during world war I, and many poems read widely in that period. We chose to speak in briefly about this historical period or what called American poetry because of the large elements concerning the historical events. A significant interpretation by the reference (American poetry) highlights the important sides of American poetry in a brief way proposing that:

American poetry, the poetry of the United States, arose first as efforts by colonists to add their voices to English poetry in the 17th century, The history of American poetry is not easy to know. Much of the American poetry published between 1910 and 1945 remains lost in the pages of small circulation political periodicals, particularly the ones on the far left, destroyed by librarians during the 1950s McCarthy era. ("American poetry, par 1")

1.2.2 Characteristics and Features

Postmodernism era has been characterized by many techniques, each one of them have its own rules and functions. The following are important features that have been used by the figures of postmodernism.

1.2.2.1 Pastiche

Pastiche is one of the most popular technique in postmodern literature, many postmodern authors applied this technique in their writing. The study by Stuart Sim (1998) offers the most significant and holistic definition of pastiche as a postmodernism technique proposing that:” The Italian word pasticcio means 'A medley of various ingredients: a hotchpotch, a farrago, jumble, a kind of permutation, a shuffling of generic and grammatical tics’.(125)

1.2.2.2 Intertextuality

Intertextuality is a technique related to the postmodernism period, postmodern poets use intersexuality in their literary work in order to combine texts or to shape the meaning of the text to another one. Intertextuality is a technique emerged by the poststructuralist Julia Kristeva in 1966. Intertextuality tends to build a connection between texts and links the literary works.

Intrtextuality hold the idea that there is no text is isolated; there is a connection between texts. Authors use some techniques of postmodernism in order to show this links; these techniques are considered as examples of intertextuality. Bc. Veronik Goisova’ s (2014) comprehensive review of Postmodern Features in Monty Python’s Flying Circus identified the intertextuality i.e. it gives a relation between texts in which one text shape the meaning of another. He also portrayed intertextuality as a reference or parallel to another literary work or an adoption of style, according to postmodern art (52). He proposes that:

”Intersexuality is not a mechanical connection, but more likely a transformation of the texts that differ in cultural and linguistic contexts.(52)

1.2.2.3 Metafiction

Postmodern poets adopted feature metafiction in their literary works, which is the awareness of the reader of its fictionality, postmodern poets use this feature in order to jump in time, or to make a successful shift in narrative. Bc. Veronik Goisova (2014) in his valuable analysis in Postmodern features in Monty Python’s Flying Circus stresses the role of metafiction in the literary works suggests that:

This postmodern feature used in literature, theatre, films, and television the reader or the viewer does not let them forget that they are reading or watching a fictional work. It is expressed also through other devices, such as irony, intertextuality, pastiche, parody, allusion, quotation, or paraphrasing. (77)

1.2.2.4 Temporal Distortion

Temporal distortion is a technique related to postmodernism, postmodern authors use this feature in different ways, sometimes it is considered as an irony, sometimes it is used in order to jump in time. The Routledge Companion to Postmodernism by Stuart Sim (1998) defines temporal distortion as:” Postmodernist fiction does not just disrupt the past, but corrupts the present too...” (124)

The use of this technique is not fixed; it is related to what it is suitable for the situation or the literary work. There is a variation in the use of the feature temporal distortion; this variation can be shown according to what the author thinks it is best or suitable for the literary work.

1.2.2.5 Paranoia

The term Paranoia means that there is an order in this life, nothing is goes alone, this ordering system is the cause behind the miss order and the noise in this world, but for postmodernist, there is no order in this life, and looking for order is worthless. Stuart Sim(1998) in his book *The Routledge Companion to Postmodernism* gives a meaning to paranoia saying that:” It is tempting to speculate that this is an indirect mimetic representation of the climate of fear and suspicion that prevailed throughout the Cold War”.(129)

Postmodernism do not believe that there is an ordering system in this world, this is a major theme in postmodernism era.

1.2.2.6 Magical Realism

Magical realism as a technique has an important part in postmodern literature. Magical realism means to display imaginary parts or unfamiliar elements into something familiar and true for the reader to engage with him. “Magical realism is the introduction of fantastic or impossible elements into a narrative that it seems real or normal”. (“What is postmodernism, par 17”). Magical realism goes through the notion of providing fictional elements in a story or a literary work by portrayed it as something real.

1.2.2.7 Fragmentation

Fragmentation is a popular technique in postmodern literature, it is very used in this period, authors used for the sake of interruption, characters, plot, themes, and so on. Stuart sim (1998) calls our attention to the true meaning of what fragmentation is arguing that:

Either plot is pounded into small slabs of event and circumstance....settings are little more than transitory backdrops, or themes become so attenuated that it is

often comically inaccurate to say that certain novels are 'about 'such-and-such.(12)

1.2.2.8 Historiographic Metafiction

Historiographic metafiction is not far of that metafiction, the different is that historiographic metafiction makes the true parts and element in a fiction image. "This term was created by Linda Hutcheon to refer to novels that fictionalize actual historical events and characters". ("What is postmodernism, par 14")

1.2.2.9 Fabulation

Fabulation is a technique related to postmodern literature, postmodern authors use this features instead of other techniques of postmodernism like metafiction and link it to other features. In the literary work, fabulation can be related to pastiche and magical realism. It refused the idea of realism which encompasses the idea of creating something magical into something true or familiar in the literary.

1.2.2.10 Maximalism

Maximalism is a feature in postmodernism; it tends to reduce the boundary or the limits concerning what the text should be. "The postmodern position is that the style of a novel must be appropriate to what it depicts and represents"("Postmodern literature, par 30"). Maximalism goes through the idea that there are no exact rules to be followed in creating the literary work; works can be at any length. Maximalism gives the chance to the authors to experiment without giving consideration to the rules or the limitation of the literary work, just give all what you have, be creative.

1.2.2.11 Post -World War II

Postmodernism emerged during the World War II. So, we can say that postmodernism has no exact day; it is just known by period of the World War II, in addition to that its

innovative techniques. Post- World War II is an important technique in postmodernism era which gives the historical period in which postmodernism emerged. “The term postmodernism is connected mostly with the 20th century, it was used many times in many fields, and the origin of the word is unknown” (Goisova 12). Authors used this technique in order to portray the period of post-world II and its impacts on different aspects.

1.2.2.12 Irony, Playfulness, Black Humor

Irony, Playfulness, black humour are the most used techniques by postmodern authors, this techniques are the subject for them, it encompasses almost all their literary works in order to show or reflect various historical events.” postmodernism is characterized by irony, black humour and general concept of ‘play’ as the most recognizable concepts”.(Goisova 35)

1.2.3 The Most Famous Women Poets

Postmodernism has emerged a large number of greatest figures, those figures played an important role in this era and created an innovative works in which it had contributed in the success and the coruscation of postmodernism.

1.2.3.1 Wanda Coleman (1946–)

Wanda Coleman is an American women poet; she was born in Los Angelous, California. Her father was working in advertising; his work influences Wanda to produce her poems. She married twice. Wanda Coleman influences with many writers such us Edgar Allen Poe, Ezra Pound, and Nathanael west.

Wanda Coleman emphasis on how race, gender, and class, and other racial aspects integrated in the dominant culture and how these characteristics divided the society. Cucinella (2002) declares that: “Coleman situates her work in the particular spaces of

urban Los Angeles, examining how race, class, gender, and sexuality intersect in that space”.(81)

1.2.3.2 Rae (Mary) Armantrout (1947–)

She is one of the most famous American woman poets; she improved herself by her successful literary works. Her first collection of poetry makes her as one of the creative writers. Armantrout grown up in San Diego, California. She is linked with the language movement because of the characteristics of her writing which improved her relation with the language poets. Cucinella (2002) clarifies about the nature of Armantrout ‘s poetry , considering that: "Armantrout’s work negotiates between identifying the larger mechanisms of social power and maintaining the distinctiveness of each subject”. (21)

1.2.3.3 Gwendolyn Brooks (1917)

Gwendolyn Brooks is the first African American poet to win the Pulitzer prize for poetry. She was born in Topeka, Kansas. Her successful literary work *Annie Allen* was the cause for winning the Pulitzer Prize. She portrayed her poems regarding to her personal experiences. She focuses on writing about blacks, her writing characterised by shift in tone, voice, intent.

In his review of African American Literature from The Seventieth Century Till The Ninetieth Century ,Abd al hakim Sobhi (2016) denotes that:” Her work included ballads, sonnets and free verse, drawing on musical rhythms and the content of inner-city Chicago”.(33)

1.2.3.4 Maya Angelou (1928)

Maya Angelou is an African American poet, playwright, dancer, and an important activist in civil rights movement. She entered the world of literature at the age of 16; she improved herself by her successful literary works. One of her best works is *I know why the*

caged bird sings, is an autobiography of Maya Angelou's life from childhood to adolescence. She was born in 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri. One study by Abd al hakim Sobhi (2016) about African American Literature from The Seventieth Century Till The Ninetieth Century found that: "The hope for freedom represent one of the major themes that appear in Angelou's work, she depicts hopes and compassion in her books".(32)

1.2.3.5 Toi Derricotte (1941–)

Toi Derricotte is one of the most famous woman poet, educator, and activist. She has many successful works of books of poetry. She gets many awards. Cucinella (2002) explores the desire of Derricotte and her strong interest saying that: "Derricotte's body of work attests to her appetite for deep investigation as she vehemently explores cultural taboos, political prohibitions, and her own guarded spaces".(90)

1.2.3.6 Carolyn Forché (1950–)

Carolyn Forché is a poet, was born in Detroit, Michigan. She is a creative woman poet, she wrote number of successful collections of poems. Cucinella (2002) draws our attention to her volume of poetry which highlights her strong interest and her objectives of writing as that: her most recent volume of poetry was *The Angel of History* which was different from her previous publications(118)

1.2.3.7 Amy Gerstler (1956–)

Amy Gerstler is a postmodern woman poet, born in San Diego, California. She has number of collection of poetry, but her best work was *The True Bride* which is first poetry draws the attention of the critics to her. In his interesting analysis, Cucinella (2002) identifies the characteristics of Amy's work in which it employs the means of dramatic voice to allow to the poet to keep out her authorial self away of the poetry. Therefore, avoiding the perceived trap of the lyric "I". (139)

1.2.3.8 Diane Wakoski (1937–)

It is a poet, born on August 3, 1937, in Whittier, California. She contacted with many writers and artists, this helps her in creating her literary appearance. Cucinella (2002) traces the hard work of Diane in creating place for her own in American poetry, and her desire to be a woman in American society. She challenged the culture's repression of the female. Otherwise, using her own experiences as the basis for a personal mythology. (381)

1.3 Conclusion

Postmodernism has considered as a movement of a heroic poem, creative methods and techniques, and a large scopes of intellectual impact. Postmodernism came up with many characteristics, each one has its own function that differentiate it from other features and characteristics. Also, Postmodernism helped in the emergence of a large number of postmodernists but, in this chapter we only discussed the most famous figures that have a great impact in the postmodernism movement.

Chapter 02:

Feminism and Feminist Theory

Chapter 02

Feminism and Feminist Theory

2.1 Introduction

Women today are politicians, economists and scientists ...etc, but this wouldn't be materialized without feminist movement, which raised the sound of woman and made it widely audible. Feminism is a movement and an ideology that seeks to defend women's rights and interests, it calls for equality between genders to end sexism. This chapter deals with the general definition of feminism in addition to the most influential figures in this movement, moving to the waves of feminism which historically developed to three waves, at the end of this chapter we will discuss the marginalization of woman that led her to make these movements.

2.2 Feminism

2.2.1 Definition

Although some people consider feminism as a way to encourage women upheaving against men, there are many points of view about feminism that approve the opposite. Feminism is a movement and ideology that defends women's rights and equality and their freedom based on the belief that all humans are equal creatures also it can be considered as a collection of political movements, social movements and ideologies that defend different rights of women. It aims at achieving and establishing equality between genders (Flouli 1). While in Oxford: feminism is to believe in the principle that women should have equal rights with men (293).

In his book Tandom Neeru (2008) defines feminism as follows: "Feminism includes women acting, speaking and writing on women's issues and rights, identifying social injustice in the status quo and bringing their own unique perspective to bear on issues". (2)

2.2.2 Feminist Figures

To fight for equality and freedom is not something easy, but there are some writers who keep fighting using their words which was powerful and with great impact. Those writers on feminist theory are considered as keys for understanding what feminism is? In this context, we are going to deal with the most important figures.

2.2.2.1 Simone de Beauvoir (1908-1986)

French novelist, essayist, her book "Second Sex" "the seven hundred plus page magnum opus she wrote in 1949" (F.Scholz 21). Inspire women to believe more on themselves and to play important role on their society.

2.2.2.2 Elizabeth Cady Stanton (1815-1902)

American social activist, she was also close to Susan B-Anthony they together co-authored "history of women suffrage" she was the author of women Bible(1895) and the president of the national women suffrage association, J.Marso "stanton published her memoir in 1889". (210)

2.2.2.3 Bell Hooks (b-1952)

Black American writer, she wrote about race, gender, oppression, classes. Some of her books, all about love, the will to change, Black looks and feminism is for everybody (J.Marso103-108).

2.2.2.4 Betty Friedan (1921-2006)

An American activist and author , her book feminism mystique published 1963" It spent six weeks on new York times bestseller list" (F. Scholz 74). She is the founder and the first president of the notion organization for women.

2.2.2.5 Mary Wellstone craft (1759-1797)

She is an English writer and feminist philosopher her book a vindication of the rights of women 1792 play important role as a founding text of feminism. she wrote about history of French revolution, treatises and travel narrative ...etc (Foroughi 247)

2.2.2.6 Doris Lessing (1919-2013)

British novelist, poet, play writer, she got Nobel prize for literature 2007,her first novel published 1950 "the Grass as singing" she was great supporter for equality between sex and encourage women to think more about themselves" one of her achievement was the Golden notebook" (Bloom 4) .Some of her awards : WH Smith Literary Award1986.Palermo Prize1987.

2.2.2.7 Susan B-Anthony (1820-1906)

She was a women rights, activist and author, leading American suffrage, "she is also the president of National American woman suffrage Association .She played an important role to enable women to vote and later co-work with Elizabeth cady Stanton" (Davis 5).

2.2.2.8 Frances power –cobbe (1822-1904)

An Irish writer and woman's rights activist, leading women suffrage association and she campaigned against domestic violence and vivisection." founded organization for animal protection" (Mitchell1)

2.2.2.9 Fourier Charles (1772-1837)

He is a french utopian socialist, philosopher and economist and the father of feminism, supporter of women's rights and influenced by the belief that the position of women in a particular society is reflected by how much this society is developed.

2.2.3 The Waves of Feminism

From the mid of 19th to early 20th c women had been fighting to open up opportunities for women's suffrage.

2.2.3.1 First Wave

The first wave of feminism appeared in UK and USA as a logical step against what was the women especially the black one suffer from, they were as a slaver.

The feminist activist work together with abolition movement to call for equality between black and white, men and women "Dealt mainly with suffrage movement" (Tandon1), "these early feminist philosophical argument were translated into political movement that focused on property , divorce right and equality in voting rights" (Kevin and Boyd 297).

Many feminist writers participated in the first wave from them:

Abigail Adams, Elfhild Agrell, Jane Adams, Soteria Aliberty...etc. But this wave didn't accomplish all what feminism activist work to achieve as the equivalent between all citizen without any discrimination between men and women.

2.2.3.2 Second Wave

It started in USA early 1960 until early 1980, this wave focused on poor working and housing condition and reproductive rights. According to Neeru Tandon (2008): "The second wave (1960s-1980s) dealt with the inequality of laws, as well as, unofficial inequality" (1)

During the Second World War women were required to support their countries, so they work as nurses and they took the jobs of men who were in war to maintain the increased economy. But after the war ended, women were obliged to abjure those jobs and back to their old life(housekeeping, taking care of children and husband), but they were not satisfied with this, after the ending of second world war the industrial revolution opened

the doors to a lot of jobs that doesn't need to physical power and since a lot of women lose their husbands in war the need to those jobs to be able to take care of their families , they saw that they deserve to be equal with men .

"The wave was inspired by Simone Debevoise, Betty Friedan, Kate Millett, and, most famously Germaine Greer " (Kevin and Boyd 297). The desire to change appeared firstly in book of Simone Debevoise "the second sex" 1949, in which she questioned why women role should be secondary to men then the book of Betty Friedan "the feminism mystique" 1963 Friedan included interview with women to show how much women were suffering with their home life and were unhappy also she show that the perfect life that was drawn by society concerning the perfect life of home is no more than delusion (Heather C. Smith Taylor 11-12). than the book of Kate Millett " sexual politics".

2.2.3.3 Third Wave

It started from 1990s and still until today, the activist of this wave see that this wave was developed as a reaction to the second wave, to accomplish what the previous wave failed to do?

But since their goals were not clear, some point of view saw it as an extension to the previous wave " the third wave arose from the perceived failures (1990s current) of second wave"(Nerru Tandon 1) and according to F. Scholz "Rebecca Walker is the symbol of this wave"(19) .

They take advantages from development of technology, to change the way to reach a larger number of women to talk about sex, work and prostitution...etc, like using: TV, , Magazine ...etc. Some writers saw that this wave dealt with a larger issues and topics more than other waves. "working to affect the political process for women specifically for other societal goals such as peace" (Burel 5).

2.2.4 The Marginalization of Woman

Women have been marginalized by society in a various ways that is depriving a number of individual to practice their life in the society they live in, but putting them in a small and no important space and plucking theme from their rights and opportunities. Since they don't have the same features of men, so they were treated in unequal way in a male dominating society, in which they were excluded, discriminated and marginalized and according to Oxford (2010): it is treating a person or group as unimportant. And despite the fact that women are more numerous than men in the world, the society gave priority to men before women and still seeing women as a special kind of human being that existed to be follower to men.

Women suffer from this marginalization in different spheres: employment (no equal payment), healthcare, education (she can't complete here study), domestic violence and abuse.

2.3 Conclusion

In this chapter we tried to highlight the most important point concerning feminism as an idea and movement. Feminism transacting with not only the equality between man and woman but between all human being regardless their sex, race, age, status....etc.

After long years of marginalization and discrimination against woman, the struggle of this movement was able to change the stereotypical image of woman as: a house cleaner, housewife, nursemaid, mother...etc. And helped woman to be proud and more confident toward herself, because she has now the same rights as men to accomplish whatever she wants in this life, she has now the right to vote, own property ,get divorce, equal opportunity to get a job...etc.

Chapter 03:
Racism and Discrimination in American Society

Chapter 03

Racism and Discrimination in American Society

3.1 Introduction

The black man was no more than a slave, he was considered as property of the white men slave owner. In other hand, the white (the black were slavers) woman was regarded as a server for her husband and children, it was just house keeper. In that time the black man was treated in disrespectful way because of his race and colour, while the woman was seen weaker than men and less important because of her gender and sex. So the racism became dominant in American society. In this chapter we are going to recognize more the meaning of racism and discrimination, also we are going to see the different aspects of racism.

3.2 Racism and Discrimination

3.2.1 Racism

One of the big problems that American society suffers from was racism. Race is a socially constructed artefact that categorizes people basing on appearance that imputed to indicate differences between people. This categorization is unformed over time which reflects their social rather than physical basis. Its significance arises out of the meanings we as societies attribute to it, and the way we structure race in our societies (wolf 1).

Racism is defined as a policy, belief, attitude, action or inaction, which makes distinction between people based on their race (wolf 2). Also, Racism is disrespectful treatment, and the lack of respectful life to people who are suspicious of them because of their ethnicity or colour (Williams 17).

3.2.2 Discrimination

Woman suffered from discrimination which can be defined as: a treatment of a person or group differently than others, especially because of their color (Oxford 229). Sex discrimination American means also treating someone badly and in unequal way, because of their gender identity or call them bad name (sex discrimination 1).

3.2.3 Discrimination Faced by Women through Time

Women life is full of complication, they have no right in male dominating society, there were no respect for women feelings or needs, either physical or emotional, the woman was obliged to married in early age, and if her husband dies, she can't marriage again, also she was also suffering from domestic violence with refusing her education, also she suffer from discrimination in her daily life (shastri 28-29).

3.3 Aspects of Racism

In the following, we will see the most important aspects of racism which spread all over the world.

3.3.1 Aversive Racism

Aversive racism is one of the aspects of racism; there are many definitions of aversive racism, but we chose to portray it in a very short and brief image covering the definition of it. The reference (Racism) on the website gives an accurate definition to this aspect saying that:

A form of implicit racism in which a person's unconscious negative evaluations of racial or ethnic minorities are realized by a persistent avoidance of interaction with other racial and ethnic groups. ("Racism, par 24")

3.3.2 Colour Blindness

Colour blindness is considered as one of the forms of racism, it is the rejection or the ignorance of ethnic characteristics when interacting with others in social life. People with colour reject any form of racism which can lead to inequality between people which are physically different. Bell Hooks (2000) clarifies some orientations of white women, suggesting that: the women who were unwilling to face the reality of racism accused us of being traitors by introducing race (57). Some people refuse to accept the racial disproportions while interacting with others in social life. Therefore, tension among people will occur to create inequality between them.

3.3.3 Cultural

Cultural racism is a concept used to describe a new idea of racial forms that has appeared since World War II. It can be considered as the beliefs that create the supposition that the products of certain culture concerning language and customs are superior compared with those of author culture. We have found this definition) on the internet: "Cultural racism is a term used to describe and explain new racial ideologies and practices that have emerged since World War II". ("Racism, par 27")

3.3.4 The Othering

Othering is a concept used to distinguish between people of different colour, race, ethnicity, religion, social class. To say other means to make certain person or group of people separate from the norm. Othering reveals a side of discrimination and plays an important role in the existence of racism till now. According to Bell Hooks (1982) even if individual men gave up of patriarchal privilege, male domination would still remain unharmed, and women would still be oppressed (67). As an example of Othering, let's take the east and the west. The west sees the east uncivilized people, primitive... this is what

we called stereotype. For the west the east is considered as the other. We are not engaged in the circle of normal society.

3.3.5 Racial Segregation

Racial segregation is a term considered as one of the aspects of racism, it is the separation of certain people from other groups. Racial segregation appeared in social activities in daily life such as in restaurant, school, supermarket, cinema...etc. "Racial segregation is the separation of humans into socially-constructed racial groups in daily life". ("Racism, par 36")

3.3.6 Supremacism

Supremacism is a form of racism, this term means superiority in statue, position, power, or other aspects of social life. To be higher than others in certain elements and portrayed it in a form of attitudes toward certain groups or general population. Bell Hooks (2000) in his book "Feminism is For Everybody" gives an example of supremacism about women and their position in society, arguing that: many males acknowledge that they should do household works, whether they actually do them or not, that young women see no need to make sharing works an issue; they just accept this as a norm (81). There are many examples in the world represent supremacism like "White Man's Burden" which justify one of the forms of supremacism, is an imperialist policy applied on Native Americans to separate them as something inferior.

3.3.7 Symbolic/Modern

Modern racism is a new form of racism, based on the different evaluation of the same attitude comes from two different people, for example one person is black and the other is white, this evaluation will based on their race, colour, ethnicity, religion. Like the inequality in treating black people because of their history of slavery; black people have

less opportunity than the white people in the social life. Bell Hooks (1982) provides us with another side of racism in which he clarifies how did the notion exist in the community arguing that the first knowledge of discrimination as institutionalized nightmare is made either by direct personal experience or through information taken from conversations, books, television, or movies (119). Modern racism is a clear rejection of certain groups because of their race. Symbolic racism is an ideology exists in the society and applied by many racial people. It is an aggressive form of racism to differentiate people, concerning attitudes, behaviours, according to their race.

3.3.8 Biological Racism

Biological racism means that there is superiority among people based on their characteristics, physically or mentally; some people born superior than others in the physical appearance or concerning the intellectual characteristics. Bell Hooks (1982) in his book “Ain’t I a woman” Black Women and Feminism says that:” In many work situations separate work rooms, washrooms, and showers were installed so that white women would not have to work or wash alongside black women” (133). Therefore, this distinction would be considered that there are races are higher than others in the physical and mental abilities.

3.3.9 Sexual Racism

Sexual racism is a type of racism; is very popular in the world because it is exists widely among people especially the women. It is the ignorance of certain person or group of people because they are different physically or mentally regarding other people. Bell Hooks (1982) states that: ” Racism took precedence over sexual alliances in both the white world’s interaction with Native Americans and African Americans, just as racism overshadowed any bonding between black women and white women on the basis of sex”(122). Sexual racism occurs widely in women especially who have been

underestimated by society, their husbands, or family. And also people who have injured physically or mentally would face sexual racism because of their disability.

3.4 Conclusion

In this chapter we understand that racism has many definitions. However, the most popular one is that racism is the bad treatment and the prejudice against certain people based on their race and ethnicity. Today, the term "racism" is based on the idea that people can be subdivided into groups according to their race, ethnicity, capacities, and social class ,until now racism is still exist in many countries, people are suffer from this phenomena .

Racism is one of the most issues in society which can affect our future, unfortunately nowadays, many cases of violence we can see as a result of racism, prejudice , towards different groups whether black, or stranger ,or any person which is different from that of oneself. Therefore, to make this phenomena disappear , we need awareness , and to stop plant the idea of racism into our consciousness and the consciousness of our next generation .In this chapter we have seen that racism has many aspects such as: aversive, colour blindness.....etc.

Chapter 04:

The Analysis of the Aspects of Racism Reflected in the Poem “Still I Rise”

Chapter 04

The Analysis of the Aspects of Racism in the Poem “Still I Rise”

4.1 Introduction

Nowadays, African American women are obliged to overcome two obstacles at once. The first one they have to plant confidence in themselves as a woman, then as a black woman. Let's take the first issue. Related to our topic which is poetry, let's ask this question what is the difference between a poetry written by male or others written by female, the truth is that poetry written by woman is neglected. The ability of the woman is underestimated. However, many women were writing but unfortunately were socially isolated. Another aspect for neglecting the women was the lack of education. Women are placed to be a household no other thing; it was more important than education. This phenomenon appears among the African American women who were denied from their rights of education, work, freedom and other social lives.

Therefore; from many women's poets we chose to analyse the aspects of racism reflected the poem "Still I Rise" of the African American woman which is Maya Angelou, she wrote the poem of "I still Rise" to show that no matter what situation you are in, you have to stand up and to keep walking and remember that there is always hope. Maya Angelo has faced rough conditions because of her colour as black woman but she was strong and brave woman. In this chapter we are going to cover the following points: Biography of Maya Angelou, the circumstances in which the poem "Still I Rise" existed, and the last point the analysis of the aspects of racism expressed the poem "Still I Rise".

4.2 Biography of the Author

Maya Angelou is an African American black woman with 80 years old, a poet, a playwright, an author. Maya Angelou lived in a harsh period of her life full of racism, segregation, discrimination, stereotype, because of her shameful history of slavery, her ancestors were slaves, they were treated badly by their owners; physically and mentally. She read much poetry during her life. Harold Bloom (2001) assumes that Maya Angelou's poetry represents short lyric, expresses strongly, involved jazz music. Themes explore the life experience of many African American blacks, those who experiences racism, segregation, exploitation, discrimination and stereotypes. (21)

Maya Angelou was a brave and strong black woman; she faced the white oppressors and defended her rights. She wrote many poems. Racism, courage, self-worth and discrimination were considered as her major themes in her literary works. At the age of 16, Maya Angelou entered to the field of literature. She wrote many successful works; she proved herself in the world of literature. Black woman with positive attitudes, her successful poem “Still I rise” shows her powerful strength, and strong determination to overcome the difficulties. The message of her poem delivers the human's incredible strength and potential to survive and to improve his valuable being. Cucinella (2002) states that:

Marguerite Ann Johnson, later known as Maya Angelou, was born April 4, 1928, in St. Louis, Missouri. Her mother, Vivian Baxter, a carefree gambler, ran a boarding house, and her father, Bailey Johnson, served as a navy cook. Angelou has written poetry, plays, and screenplays, a cookbook, juvenile literature, and five autobiographical novels. (12-14)

Vicki Cox (2006) affirms that “I know why the caged bird sings” is an autobiography about Maya Angelou's life, a story portrays the whole life of Maya Angelou. “I know why

the caged bird sings” was one of the best works of Maya Angelou. It placed on the best seller list for three years and several million copies was sold. Literary experts assume that Maya Angelou’s writing represents racial problems in America’s unquiet society. (10)

4.3 The Circumstances

Maya Angelou wrote this poem “Still I rise“ for certain reasons. She was an active participant in the civil rights movement; she gives her voice for all the black women to defend their rights, because they were neglected by society for their colour. That’s why Maya Angelou wrote the poem still I rise, because it saw that is the time for things to change; in the better way. Black women were neglected socially and politically and they were not integrated in many aspects.

Black women are the labour’s lowest hanging wages or any benefits; they cannot be a priority for any union. Bell Hooks (1982) states the inequality in taking wages between white woman and black woman, he said that: “In racially segregated work situations black women workers were usually paid a lower wage then white women workers”.(134)

Some statistics improved that the percentage of the valuable work of the black women is more than in the white women. Black women like the white women have the complete right to take position of leader, regardless of the social class; or the stage they are at in their career; or gender; colour; race.....etc. Black women have the right to participate in the elections, wanting to deliver their voices, ideas, and concerns of those labour black women.

Black women have the desire to take the position of leader not just for themselves but also for creating more balance for the issues of the black women; However, the labour movement do not listen when the issue concerns the black woman, because it thinks that there is no position of leader for the black woman.

The labour movement underestimate the black women; their hard work is exploited and unrecognized. Bell Hooks (1982) affirms that the black female workers are forced to work in laborious jobs in the field of industrial labour, such as food industries, commercial laundries. They employed in less skilled branches in their domain (133). Maya Angelou portrayed the valuable being and the great ability of the black woman, and what she able to do.

Maya Angelou in her poem “ Still I rise “ stressed on themes of racism, discrimination shedding light on the black.

4.4 The Analysis of the Aspects of Racism in the Poem "Still I Rise"

The poem of Maya Angelou is broken into nine stanzas; each stanza gives her own meaning. But the all stanzas are related to each other because; the all nine stanzas speak about the message of the poem and what Maya Angelou wants to send to the readers. Maya Angelou in her poem Still I Rise tries to send to the society that no matter the circumstances, no matter what you will do, I will rise, I will be strong.

Maya Angelou’s poem addresses the white oppressors, the racist people, people who underestimate the black woman because of her shameful history of slavery. But Maya Angelou claims that our past will not affect our future and we will not live in fear and terror because of our history, she will rise until the end. Maya Angelou repeated “I rise “many times in her poem, this is a proof that no matter the situation, she will make her dreams come true, and she will be what she wants to be. Maya Angelou’s poem (Still I Rise) reflected many forms of racism in which we will discuss in the following point.

4.4.1 Symbolic/Modern Racism

As we have dealt with in the chapter 03, the modern racism is a new form of racism, based on the different evaluation of the same attitude comes from two different people, for example one person is black and the other is white, this evaluation will be based on their race, colour, ethnicity, religion. Like the inequality in treating black people because their history of slavery; black people have less opportunity than the white people in the social life. In the first stanza of her poem (Still I Rise), Maya Angelou says:

"You may write me down in history With
your bitter, twisted lies,
You may tread me in the very dirt But
still, like dust, I'll rise".(Permatasari 162)

In the first stanza, Maya Angelou announced with strong determination and brave heart that no matter the circumstances and whatever the oppressors do, even they stomped me in the dirt or speaks badly about my history which is full of lies, I will rise like the dust, no one could defeat me or keep me down. We can see that the aspect of racism “Symbolic racism” is reflected in the words “or speaks badly about my history”. Maya Angelou is treated badly due to her shameful history of slavery. People evaluate her according to her history as a black woman. According to Indiani Eka Permatasari(2016) “From the word “history” we knew that black people had gotten bad treatment from white people”.(162)

4.4.2 Sexual Racism

Sexual racism as we have dealt with in chapter 03 is a type of racism; it is very popular in the world because it exists widely among people especially the women. It is the ignorance of certain person or group of people because they are different physically or mentally regarding other people. Sexual racism occurs widely in women especially who have been underestimated by society, their husbands, or family and also people who have

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injured physically or mentally would face sexual racism because of their disability. In the second stanza of her poem Maya Angelou says:

“Does my sassiness upset you?

Why are you beset with gloom?

‘Cause I wals like I’ve got oil wells

Pumping in my living room ”. (Permatasari 164)

In the second stanza, Maya Angelou asked a question to the hearer. The question was about her impolite tone and if her impoliteness is discomforting. She succeeded in her life, in her writing, and also as a woman. This makes people jealous and upset from her success, she described them like “beset with gloom”. We find this aspect of racism in the following words” beset with gloom” and “oil wells Pumping in my living room”; these words symbolize Maya Angelou’ s success. “She notices that the people around her in her society are “beset with gloom” when she successes” (Permatasari 164). Racial people did not like her success; first because she is a woman and second because she is a black; these words present a form of sexual racism based on gender and colour.

4.4.3 Supremacism

As we defined before in chapter 03; supermacism is a form of racism, this term means superiority in statue, position, power, or other aspects of social life. To be higher than others in certain elements and portrayed it in a form of attitudes toward certain groups or general population. There are many examples in the world represent supremacism like “White Man’s Burden” which justifies one of the forms of supremacism, it is an imperialist policy applied on Native Americans to separate them as something inferior. Maya Angelou in her third stanza says:

“Just like suns,

With the certainty of tides,

Just like hopes springing high,
Still I'll rise". (Permatasari 164)

In this stanza, she compares between her and the moon and the suns in the operation of the tides. Maya Angelou tries to send to her readers that it is the human nature to overcome obstacles that comes in the way. We can notice that the aspect of racism “supermacism” in the words “just like suns” and “just like hopes”, here Maya Angelou is presenting her strong determination to overcome inferiority in different aspects, position, status, and so on. Indiani Eka Permatasari (2016) states that: “This gave the reader the understanding that she has no other choice but to rise up out of her affliction”.(164)

4.4.4 Aversive Racism

As we treated this point in the third chapter of our study, aversive racism is a “negative evaluation of racial/ethnic minorities that are realized by a persistent avoidance of interaction with other racial and ethnic groups” (“Racism, par 24”). In the poem "Still I Rise" She talks about this aspect saying that:

" Did you want to see me broken?
Bowed head and lowered eyes?
Shoulders falling down like teardrops,
Weakened by my soulful cries?" (Permatasari 164)

In the fourth stanza, she gives a question to her readers, direct and indicting. The racist people did not like her success; they received it with gallbladder, so she addressed them by her questions if they want to see her broken, downcast, unsuccessful, and this is indeed what they want. They did not want to see a successful black woman in a racist and oppressed society. Maya Angelou knows this truth, so, she directs them by her revealing questions. We can see that in the first line in the words " Did you want to see me broken?"

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a form of aversive racism expressed in the words to show the ignorance and the negative evaluation of society towards certain groups based on different aspects. Indiani Eka Permatasari (2016) clarifies the position of blacks saying that: “The Whites consider Blacks as minority. They underestimated Angelou as a black woman”. (164)

4.4.5 Colour Blindness

As we have dealt with in chapter 03; colour blindness is considered as one of the forms of racism, it is the rejection of ethnic characteristics when interacting with others in social life. People with colour reject any form of racism which can lead to inequality between people which are physically different. Some people refuse to accept the racial disproportions while interacting with others in social life. Therefore, tension among people will occur to create inequality between them. Maya Angelou in her fifth stanza says:

“ Does my haughtiness offend you?

Don't you take it awful hard

'Cause I laugh like I've got gold mines

Diggin' in my own backyard”.(Angelou 163)

In this stanza, Maya Angelou continues her direct questions against the racist people who dissatisfy her success. She asked the question if her arrogance is abusive for them. She knows that they hate her success and they are upset from her feeling of honour as a black woman. This question reveals a tone of sarcasm which points out the insincerity of the society. Her sarcastic way of pretending that she cares for those who dissatisfy her success is shown in her saying “don't you take it awful hard”. She is glorying her success by claiming that she has “gold mines” and she is proud of what she did. We find the aspect of racism “colour blindness” in the words “they are upset from her feeling of honour as a black woman”. Maya Angelou shows that racial people are not happy of what she did and for what she makes in her life as black woman. They think that if she has a black colour;

she cannot succeed in her life, but she proved the opposite. Ria Resky Hardianti Ilham (2015) assesses that: “since you are black, don’t stick around, means for African-American their presence in public area tend to invite the suspicious even their not doing something bad”. (17)

4.4.6 The Othering

As we previously treated this point in chapter 03, the Othering is a concept used to distinguish between people of different colour, race, ethnicity, religion, social class. To say other means to make certain person or group of people separate from the norm. The Othering reveals a side of discrimination and plays an important role in the existence of racism till now. Maya Angelou said in stanza six:

“You may shoot me with your words,
You may cut me with your eyes,
You may kill me with your hatefulness,
But still, like air, I'll rise.”(Angelou 163)

In this stanza, Maya Angelou shows the hatefulness of the society. She announced that no matter what you did, if you hurt me with words or looks; I do not care. I will still rise like air; I will stand up against the oppressors and their hatefulness. We notice that the aspect “Othering” is expressed in the words “shoot”, “cut” and “kill”; these are words reveal a kind of discrimination against the black people by considering them as something different from the norm and calling them “Other”; because they are physically or mentally different. Ria Resky Hardianti Ilham (2015) traces the position of the blacks or “Negros” as they call them the whites; as slaves or servants of their owners. She said that they are not treated like humans but property, slave holders can send them to anywhere. (14)

4.4.7 Racial Segregation

Like what we have seen in chapter three; racial segregation is a term considered as one of the aspects of racism, it is the separation of certain people from other groups. Racial segregation appeared in social activities in daily life such as in restaurant, school, supermarket, cinema...etc. Maya Angelou talks about this aspect saying that:

“Does my sexiness upset you?

Does it come as a surprise

That I dance like I've got diamonds

At the meeting of my thighs?”. (Angelou 164)

In this stanza, the speaker continues asking questions directed to the society. We can notice that Maya Angelou is examining her readers by her questions. She knows the answers of these questions, but to make the offender guilty you have to ask him. She provides incredible self-confidence while asking her incriminating questions against the oppression society. Here we can recognize that the aspect of racism “ Racial segregation” is reflected in the words” Does my sexiness upset you?”. In this word Maya Angelou shows a form of racial segregation applied on the blacks based on their race; ethnicity; colour; class; and religion. Ria Resky Hardianti Ilham (2015) denotes the effect of segregation on the blacks announcing that: “The segregation laws for example makes black lose their right as human and also as a citizen”. (15)

4.4.8 Cultural

As previously treated; cultural racism is a concept used to describe a new idea of racial forms that has appeared since World War II. It can be considered as the beliefs that create the supposition that the products of certain culture concerning language and customs are superior compared with those of author culture. In stanza eight; Maya Angelou says:

“Out of the huts of history's shame

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I rise

Up from a past that's rooted in pain

I rise

I'm a black ocean, leaping and wide,

Welling and swelling I bear in the tides”. (Angelou 164)

In stanza eight, Maya Angelou speaks about her past; the history of slavery. She described it as “shameful history “which is the main reason for abusing her and treating her badly. She declared that this past will not affect her or make her broken. Whatever you do, I will be proud, and I will shine, making my dreams come true. We observe that the aspect of racism “Cultural” is expressed in the words “Out of the huts of history's shame” and “Up from a past that's rooted in pain”. These words show that the blacks treated badly, because of their past culture, their history of slavery. They considered as inferior compared with those of other cultures. In her comprehensive study in describing the idea of racism, Ria Resky Hardianti Ilham (2015) arguing that the white supremacy is one of the idea of racism; concerning discrimination and making the white superior to the blacks. This terrible part is applied in many aspects: politic, economic, and social dominates. (18)

4.4.9 Biological Racism

As we have previously dealt with this point; biological racism means that there is superiority among people based on their characteristics, physically or mentally. Some people are born superior than others in the physical and the intellectual characteristics. Therefore, this distinction would be considered that there are races are higher than others in the physical and mental abilities. Maya Angelou talks about this aspect saying that:

“Leaving behind nights of terror and fear

I rise

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Into a daybreak that's wondrously clear

I rise

Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,

I am the dream and the hope of the slave.

I rise

I rise

I rise”. (Angelou 164)

In the final stanza, Maya Angelou claims that the history of slavery and the abuse of the oppressors will not affect our future, and what we want to be. She said that she will not leave in terror and fear because of her past, she will stand up against pain and the hatefulness of society. Like what she said in her poem “into a daybreak that’s wondrously clear”. In this stanza, she repeats “I rise” three times. This reveals her strong strength and determination to overcome difficulties that comes in the way. We notice that “biological racism” is reflected in the words “Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave,” and “I am the dream and the hope of the slave”. These words indicate a form of racism based on the biological characteristics of the person. Maya Angelou speaks about her ancestors those whose were slaves in the past; also about the future generation of her race whose they were neglected because of their skin colour which is black. They considered inferior than others; mentally and physically. “For Angelou the different race and religion are not supposed to give to the person a power to discriminate the equal chance to live the life. She wanted or dreamed an understanding about respecting the beauty of differences”. (Ilham 19)

4.5 Conclusion

In this chapter we can see that Maya Angelou has a large number of works; in which she created a beautiful place, she proved herself by her great personality. Concerning her black skin, she faced the world to improve that the black woman is not less than the white one in everything; her goal was to show that the black woman has qualities and values and she deserves a respectful life like anyone.

The reason behind writing Maya Angelou the poem “still I Rise” is the bad treatment from the white oppressors and the struggle that the black woman had faced in the labour movement in order stop the exploit appeared by the white and to gain the position, the position that the black woman deserves as a brave and ambitious woman and for what she has of values.

In the practical chapter we can recognize that: The poem “Still I rise “ reflected many aspects of racism which are Aversive racism; Colour blindness; Cultural racism; Biological racism; Sexual racism; Symbolic/modern racism; Racial segregation; Supremacism and the Othering. These aspects of racism expressed through Maya Angelou’s words that she used in her poem “Still I Rise” in order to symbolize some forms of racism which exists in the American society. These aspects of racism are different from each other because they represent various characteristics that make people different from each other. Maya Angelou helped many women to write about racism and slavery by inspiring them. Maya Angelou encouraged them to speak for their rights, fighting racism and discrimination. Being strong and fighting for their valuable existence. Maya Angelou’s goal from writing “Still I rise “was to give the light on the blacks, especially the black women because she was racist and there is no justice for her. Maya Angelou’s poem addresses the white oppressors, the racist people, people who underestimate the black woman because of her shameful history of slavery. Maya Angelou achieved her goal by

Chapter 04 The Analysis of the aspects of racism reflected in the Poem “Still I Rise”

writing Still I rise which represent the incredible strength of the blacks to survive in a racial society. The black woman as a poet succeeds in creating her place in postmodern literature because of her innovative ideas; views and her persistence to overcome all forms of racism.

In certain period the black woman was neglected because of her skin colour and her ethnics. The black people were slaves with no rights, the white oppressors treated them like animals, and there are no humanities. However ,Maya Angelou ‘s theme of perseverance proof the opposite that whatever the circumstances and whatever they do, we will still stand up without stopping , we will still strong and we will continue our struggle until the last breath, because there is always hope and bright light in our hearts and paths.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

If we turn back to American history, we are going to see how much the woman was agonized; to be in the point that she is standing on today. She was a slave for her owner or a server for her husband, but this situation wasn't satisfactory for her.

The woman volition and striving while denial oppresses and marginalization made her more confident and stronger than before to be equal with men and to free her self from racial society. Maya Angelou was one of the women, who call for their rights by rejecting what had been conceded as a real fact in society. Her poem "Still I Rise" 1978 was a glance from Angelou life in which she had described how much the woman would anguish in her society, especially the black woman. "Still I Rise" was written in postmodern era which was known by rejecting the old values by following rebellion approach and we can see that Angelou in "Still I Rise" raised her voice against racism and discrimination against women, and those two terms were forbidden to talk about them, because the natural place for a black person is to be slave, while the place of woman was to serve her family. She called for equality between men and woman, white and black in racial and discriminating society.

By the end of each chapter in this research we conclude different results. At the end of the first chapter which is entitled The Postmodern American Poetry; we discover that postmodernism has been considered as a movement of a heroic poem and it came up with many characteristics where each one is different from the other. While at the end of the second chapter that entitled Feminist and Feminism movement; we conclude that feminism is a movement that calls for equality between all humans. This movement was able to change women's suffering into striving to call for her rights. At the end of the third chapter that is entitled Racism And Discrimination In American Society; we figure out that racism

is the bad treatment against person or group of people based on their race and ethnicity, this phenomenon has different aspects which are: Aversive racism, Colour Blindness, Cultural, The othering, Racial Segregation, Supremacism, Symbolic/Modern, Biological, and Sexual racism .These aspects of racism reflected through the words of Maya Angelou that she used in her poem in order to symbolize some forms of racism which exists in the American society.The last chapter is entitled The Analysing Of The Aspects Of Racism In The Poem "Still I Rise"; we conclude that the major themes of Angelou "still I rise" are racism and discrimination because the society that she were in she was living in suffered from both of them , so she choose to discuss them especially the different aspects of racism and how they differ from each other (because each one has different views and categorization to divide people and humiliating them).

The black woman as a poet played an important role in postmodern literature, because of her different issues and topics her repulsion of racism and discrimination helped in the multiplicity of themes and ideas of postmodern literature.

Maya Angelou achieved her goals from writing "Still I Rise" which was showing the importance of persistence and perseverance for the black people, slavers and discriminated women to free themselves.

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ملخص:

يهدف هذا البحث للتحقيق في تحليل مظاهر العنصرية التي انعكست في الشعر ما بعد الحداثة للكاتبة مايا أنجلو "Maya Angelou"، و ذلك عبر كتابة القصيدة "Still I Rise" التي توضح كيف قامت المرأة الامريكية برسم معالم مستقبلها من خلال الادب و الشعر ومن اجل اقامة هذه الدراسة قمنا بمراجعة المواضيع الادبية المرتبطة بهذا الموضوع كالمقالات و الكتب التي ساهمت في اثراء بحثنا بمعلومات مهمة حول تطور المرأة الامريكية و كذلك دور الشعر في هذا التطور.

مع نهاية هذا البحث استنتجنا ان المرأة استطاعت ان تغير الصورة النمطية التي كانت تقاس بها في السنين السابقة من خلال كفاحها لكسب حقوقها و تركيزها على مطلب المساواة بين الجنسين وهذا الكفاح عكس في شعر الكاتبة من خلال مناقشتها رفض العنصرية حيث عكست من خلال شعرها مظاهر العنصرية التي يعاني منها المجتمع الامريكي كالتمييز العرقي والجنسي كذلك رفض الاخر بسبب لونه او انتمائه ، الطبقة والتعالى بسبب المكانة الاجتماعية و التمييز على اساس الافضلية الثقافية و البيولوجية .

هذه المظاهر عكست من طرف الشاعرة عبر الكلمات المعبرة التي استعملتها في القصيدة التي ترمز الى بعض مظاهر العنصرية التي يعاني منها المجتمع الامريكي. وتعتبر هذه المظاهر مختلفة عن بعضها البعض حيث كل منها يندرج تحت تصنيف مختلف للتفريق بين الناس كالون او الجنس او المكانة الاجتماعية...الخ.

ادن يمكننا ان نلاحظ ان الكاتبة استطاعت ان تساهم في تغيير شعور المجتمع تجاه مصطلح الانسانية من خلال معاملة الجميع بتساوي وفي نفس الوقت شجعت المضطهدين كي يقاوموا ولا يستسلموا .

الكلمات المفتاحية: " Still I Rise " ،شعر ما بعد الحداثة، تطور المرأة، المرأة السوداء، مظاهر العنصرية،التمييز العنصري.