

Slavery in the Early African –American Novels and its Representations in Contemporary Works

Dheyaa Khaleel Nayel

College of Education, Kerbala University

Abstract

Slavery is one of the most influential and gloomy sides in different countries in general and in the American society in particular. It has a shocking role in different societies as problems of class discrimination and racism can be attributed to it. In this case, it has a significant role in both life and literature. The researcher is motivated by the interest of knowing more about how slavery permeates societies and the impact of slavery on the making of societies. Another motivation is to study the depiction of slavery in both works written in the early phases of slavery and in contemporary works. This paper examines the role of slavery in the making of some African American novels and it is worth noting that the writers chosen in this study were either slaves or slavery was for them a first-hand experience. They know a lot about slavery as it is part and parcel of their experience. Therefore, what is written in their works is quite authentic. This study also tries to shed light on the continuation of the idea of slavery in the recent time long after the end of that ghastly idea. True, we don't have laws regulating slavery but it is there in literary works or in real life.

Introduction

First of all we must show what is meant by the term "Slavery" which can be defined as "A legal or economic system in which principle of property law are applied to humans allowing them to be classified as property to be owned, bought and sold accordingly, and they cannot withdraw unilaterally from the arrangement", once a person is enslaved, he is supposed to work without being paid any amount of money. The slaves have their rights and those are often arranged by certain rules which are suitable for the time and the place of their enslavement. They can be enslaved from the beginning of their life" 1

America was a very vast country, and they need slaves to work for them. Those slaves were treated like animals, or part of their property. Knowing about the history of slavery is important if we really want to know about slavery as a phenomenon in both society and literature. . In literature slavery works are usually written by slaves, former slaves and non-slaves. (2)

The importance of writing about slavery is noticed in the sense that even after the wide interest in the field since the early 1980s, works dealing with slavery are still scanty and no single journal is devoted to slavery.

It is generally accepted that slavery is the possession of man by another man as slaves used to belong to slave masters. While enslaved, the slaves were treated like animals. They can even be tied to a tether. In fact that treatment was devoid of any human values. As for their work conditions, they used to work for a long period of time. As a sign of the lack of humanity we can see in the previous definition is the fact that the masters are not supposed to pay fees for the slaves. Moreover rules and regulations were suggested to increase the suffering of those poor slaves. As a sign of the dominance of slavery at that time, the owners put adverts about selling slaves so anyone having the required amount of money could buy the slave he wanted. Consider the following advert:

"All persons that have slaves to dispose of, with do well by giving me call as I will give highest price for men , women and children" (3) . Having this evidence in mind, we can have an idea about the situation of slaves at that time and how the society treated them in a lowly way is quite obvious. It is needless to say that slavery was very prominent and was practiced regularly by people.

The reason why slavery flourished in America not in any other place was the fact that America is quite vast country and it was hard for the Europeans to work in the fields properly. They need some sort of a workforce because the continent is very vast, and Africans were the targets. Historically speaking, slaves brought from Africa by traders, and most of the slaves were snatched from their countries or the traders were able to win them as gifts. Servitude was mainly applied in agriculture as the Americans were badly in need of groups of workers in the plantation of cotton for instance.(4)

The first African slave arrived in Virginia in 1619. This date stands for the beginning of slavery, but we have so many things to say about how Africa families suffered because of slavery. Not only this but entire families were crammed in ships and taken

from West Africa to America. Between 1600-1870, 399000 Africans were taken to America as slaves. Once in America, the slaves were sold at port cities. In those cities, there used to be auctions, markets and adverts about selling slaves and slave owners willing to buy slaves would travel to such markets and auction to increase their work force. In fact the voyage from Africa to America can simply be described as the voyage from humanity to property. The slaves were people living in Africa, but once in the ships, they became merely livestock. To emphasize the idea that slaves were no more than property, there was a demand for slaves similar to that for sugar, cotton and coffee. (5) The early phase of slavery encompassed number of thinkers like Fredrick Douglas who used to be a reformer and a politician as well. He went through slavery, stood against it and later became a leader in a movement which tried to put an end to slavery.

Slavery in US and Civil War (1861-1865).

Slave works were the outcome of the slaves' life and the hardships they encountered. For instance, the conflict between the whites in the south with the slaves who were looking for liberty in the north is part of the experience and part of that life, and this was reflected in a number of works written by slaves, or what is generally known as slave narrative. In 12 Years a Slave, we notice that idea explicitly seen in terms of the conflict between the black and the white. In fact the problem of slavery was the major crime against humanity in the American history." (6) Statistically when the traders brought the slaves from African coast that resulted in increasing their number in US. For instance, at that time the number of slaves was approximately four million slaves.

The reason behind choosing the African people and bringing them from Africa in particular is they were better than others and they could withstand the hard-ship of working in American colonies and they were even ready to work.

In US, the slavery case was the main reason behind the civil war (1861-1865) as there was a split in the American society: the northern part didn't support slavery, the southern part did. In fact, the northern part was largely industrial, so they didn't want to have slaves who know nothing about industry. In the southern part, the people are agrarian and it was their habit to work in the field. At that time this war negatively influenced the society in general and the slaves in particular. One of the aspects we can mention in this regard is the point of poverty which was largely associated with the slaves and it had its role in politics as well. (7)

As for the political situation, the Republican candidate "Abraham Lincoln " was elected as a president and no one expected him to win because he was a poor white and also from a poor family. More importantly, he stood determinedly with slaves against racism. In 1863 he freed many slaves and put the laws to help them. Unfortunately, he was killed, and his death can be taken as a symbol referring to ideas like standing against freedom, equalities and emancipation. Undoubtedly, because of that death, the slaves lost a great figure and a remarkable supporter. These events made them stronger, able to demand their rights, and look at their life in a different way without paying attention to the difficulties they encountered. (8)

Anti- Slavery and social Aspects

In 1833 the slaves knew that change was coming to America as the American anti-slavery society was established, and it was normal to see adverts for that society similar to those people used to see in the early stages of slavery. The main goal for the anti-slavery movement was to totally abolish slavery in the states, and we have remarkable figures in that movement like Fredrick Douglass and Harriet Tubman. Even writers like Walt Whitman dealt with slavery in their works. Walt Whitman, often said to be a 'war-born poet', was vocal against slavery from his boyhood. His protest against slavery was reflected both in his poetry and in his journalistic writings. Whitman courageously opined in writing that he would rather help a slave to flee to safety were any such occasion to arise. (9) In 1868 slaves were freed as the 14th amendment to the constitution was confirmed and the black getting the American citizenship became possible. Another development in the history of anti-slavery was in 1870 which marked the 15th amendment which gave the right to the black to vote without paying attention to their colour. The poet and scholar Ralph Waldo Emerson declared in public that he would disobey the Act, and the writer Henry David Thoreau really assisted a slave in his attempt to flee to Canada.

Writers and Social Change

John Greenleaf Whittier's extroversive poetry on the issue and Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin had probably the greatest impact on refreshing public opinion towards abolition of slavery in the USA. However, the southerners who opposed abolition of slavery overtly expressed their community interest in their speeches and writings. They argued that if slavery were abolished, the freed slaves would migrate to the North seeking easier jobs in offices.

Although John C. Calhoun and Daniel Webster were writers, they were more famous as politicians. They strongly supported conservation of slavery in the interest of the southern economy. Webster's speeches had a greater impact than his writings. "Slavery is a widely-devised institution of Heaven, devised for benefit, improvement and safety, morally, socially, and physically, of a barbarous and inferior race, who would otherwise perish by filth, by the sword, by disease, by waste and destinies forever gnawing and finally destroying."(10)

African American literature

First of all, African - American literature is a type of American literature which belongs to writers from African origin who lived in the states; in fact, their works described the destitution of the American society and that of the slaves. Their works also covered different literary genres such as poetry, novel, stories and drama. Literature in general is a roomy term which can include so many items like novel, plays and poetry. It can also cover areas like folk material, addresses and biography, and in biography, the slave- writer depicts his own life. Among the goal of the African-American Literature was to pave the way for impartialities, freedom and prosperity. Chief among those goals was making use of the human rights and getting rid of racism and slavery which were abundantly seen in the American society. (11)

Achieving such great goals was not possible without having great writers who were fond of education. In fact, education for the slaves was a very important aspect as it helped in promoting both their literary and social standards, and this was even used by the slaves themselves. For instance, in '12 Years a Slave', so many slaves were aware of the importance of both reading and writing.

Works dealing with slavery were scant due to the fact that the literary canon of American literature paid no attention to any work written by slaves. For this reason, writers in this field were not able to get their works published. In the recent decades, a new interest in such works has emerged, and slavery is a major asset in literary schools; a good example for this we can simply go through the works written by writers like Toni Morrison and other writers. Writers are studied in terms of slavery, and examples of slavery is abundant in works like Wuthering Heights in which the character Heathcliff refers to slavery.(12)

The African authors depended on education and knowledge to be more professional and influential. In fact, their weapon was their writing and the works they had written.

For this reason, the capitalists and powerful men tried to make education limited and with hard conditions especially for black people. The reason behind providing limited education for the black people was the fear and anxiety and the idea that subsequently they would ask for their rights. Education is available in some slave narratives. In some of those works, characters were aware of the role of education and how the slave masters maltreated the slaves as far as education is concerned. Because of those unbearable situations, many African- American writers, poets and narrators appeared to mirror that suffering, disappointment and oppression in their literary works.(13)

There appeared to be a large number of authors whose names are quite prominent in the field of African American literature but we will mention two writers deemed to be famous: Harriet E- Willson and William Wells Brown; the two wrote about slavery and their works include "OUR NIG" novel by Willson in 1856, and "CLOTEL" or "PRESIDENT'S DOUGHTER" a novel by Brown in 1853. These novels are considered the first novels in the writers` literary carrier and reflected their own life. (14)

In spite of their hard times, the writers were able to establish the first step and major bases for the African-American literature as they uncovered the truth of the American society; let alone its injustice. For this reason, we find in this type of literature ideas pertaining to the humanitarian value as dealing with works of this nature will throw some light on the values we have in the slavery society. Such values are well demonstrated in "Our Nig" and "Clotel".

Early African-American Writers

Willson is one of first African- American writers who published her novel in the US, and her famous work is entitled "Our Nig –or sketch from the life of a free Black, and it dealt with racism in the north before the civil war. (15) Her life was full of hardships because her father was African American (Black man), and her mother was of Irish origin. Therefore, she belongs to the slave family as she was born as a slave child. After a long period of time, she grew up and refused to be a servant and went to look for work in Massachusetts. In 1851 she married a black man, Thomas Wilson. In the same year of her marriage, Thomas ran off because he was a fugitive slave; consequently, Wilson stayed alone again, but this time with a little child, George. In the process of time, she was forced to leave her child and went to get good work for living and regaining the custody of her baby. Unfortunately, during that time she lost George because of fever when he was seven years of age.

Her works reflect her suffering which is seen in terms of slavery and racism. For instance, "Our Nig" showed the writer`s fictional autobiography but still the writer`s identity was unknown because they thought this novel belong to another writer; actually, this is a clear evidence about racism and the writer`s lost identity. Many years later, the scholar Henry Louis discovered the original edition which belongs to its real writer "Willson"(16)

"OUR NIG" Novel by Harriet E- Wilson

Wilson in her work tried to deal with the real life of Blacks in America, and she always criticized the system, society and how they treated the black people. Wilson focused on the slavery theme so she chose the protagonist to be a female character, "Frado" and this represents Wilson`s own life, and her attempt to be free.

In fact, Frado was a little slave and her father was a black man but her mother was a white lady. After her father`s death, she stayed alone because the mother wanted to leave her with a white family, and because of this, Frado was suffering a lot. Moreover, her suffering was mainly the result of the tough treatment she received from Mrs. Bellmont. In fact, she was treated as a servant. Although, Mr. Bellmont sympathized with her, Frado went through an experience of pain and suffering because Mrs. Bellmont was the dominating figure in the family. Additionally, Mrs. Bellmont`s daughter was rather selfish and treated Frado badly as well. The same idea is found in 12 Years a Slave written by Northrop Solomon.

Wilson tried to show us a different side in Frado`s character by referring to her having a company with a dog and this represents the bright and positive side in her life because she is able to be close to an animal in a world that is full of hostility and servitude. Moreover, the dog was a gift from James, one of Bellmont`s sons. This idea refers to a split in the Bellmont`s family as they look at Frado differently. For instance, unlike Mrs. Bellmont, James used to sympathize with her trying to protect her. Therefore, a divide is felt within the family. Additionally, in the novel, Mrs Bellmont said "cut her tongue out"(17) which indicates the terrible conditions experienced by Frado within the boundaries of that family.

In line with what has been said earlier, Mrs. Bellmont`s words made the split in the family crystal clear because she said that when she warned Frado and asked her not to tell anything to James as he was always protecting her and sympathizing with her. In this way, the writer tries to describe the image of the slaves and the fact that people used to treat them badly. Such treatment is quite obvious through the events in the

novel. Moreover, the details provided help us notice that slaves were merely seen as less than human.

" Mr. Belmont raised his calm, determined eye fall upon her and in a decisive manner "you shall not stricken, or scald, or skin her as you call it. If she comes back again, Remember!"(18) The divide in the family is also seen in Mr.Bellmont`s character who urged his wife to be kind with Frado, and he even wanted her to show some kindness towards Frado if the girl decided to come back again.

After many years of suffering in Belmont house, Frado left looking for work; the situation of the white family is a matter of division in the sense that some used to stand with her and others decided to stand against her. As for Frado, she represents love, kindness, hope and faith, she is always ready to help those who supported her especially, Mr.Bellmont.

The novel often uncovers certain facts about the morality of the slaves and their faith. For instance, Willson mentioned that Frado stayed alone so she decided to go back to God and Bible, to pray and to be a church goer. In other words, the slaves were adhering to their faith to be free and to get their rights.

William Wells Brown

The second writer we are going to deal with is William Wells Brown who was a noticeable African-American abolitionist, lecturer, novelist, playwright and historian in the United States. Speaking of his family, his father was a white man but his mother was a slave so because of that and especially after his father`s death, he was often treated as a slave regardless of the fact that his father was a white man. (19) As part of his servitude experience, Brown tried to escape from his master twice and he was able to succeed in his second attempt. Indeed, he ran away to "Ohio" in 1834 when he was twenty years old. Besides, he insisted to learn and complete his education without paying attention to the difficulties he faced. Because of that insistence, he became a famous writer. In his writing, he highlighted many ideas and themes including temperance, women's suffering, pacifism, prison reform and anti-slavery.

Regarding his family life, Brown had a wife and two daughters. In 1851 his wife died in the US and because of Brown's attitude against slavery and racism and also the support he used to offer the fugitive slaves, he was forced to leave the US and travel to London with his daughters. In 1853 he published his famous novel "CLOTEL" in

London but after coming back to US, he republished it again. In fact, he was a pioneer in several different literature genres including travel writing, fiction and drama. Therefore, Brown is deemed to be one of the first African- American writers.(20)

This novel explains the agony experienced by the black in US so the writer chose the hero of his story to be a female character "Clotel" and the events of the novel describe the situations of the African people in US. In fact, Clotel represented the suffering of Brown with his daughters; Clotel lost his black father and remained with her white weak mother and her sister Althesa. Moreover, the writer explains the condition of the family after the death of their father and how the society exploited them as slave women sold out in marketplaces.

In the novel, the two daughters Clotel and Althesa got married. Actually, the second married her white master and has two daughters, Ellen and Jane but their father failed to free his family from slavery, after many years Ellen committed suicide to escape sexual enslavement and Jane died in slavery from heartbreak. Clotel and her white husband have a daughter Mary and Clotel's husband was ambitious and involved in local politics. For this reason, he left his family and married a white lady who forced him to sell Clotel and Mary as slaves in her house, and due to this Clotel suffered so much and she couldn't bear more so she decided to escape. Many years later, Clotel came back to free her daughter, Mary, but noticing that was impossible, Clotel lost her hope and faith, so she decided to commit suicide by her jumping from the bridge in the Potomac river.

Brown tried to display the condition of women life and sometimes women bring the tragic end to other women. In this regard, he used many hints to refer to the hardship of society, property, racism, and disappointment. These appear to be the outcome of slavery.

The writer mentioned in his novel that another face of slavery can be seen because Clotel father was a white man but in spite of that they enslaved his family after his death just because his wife was a slave woman this, according to Brown, is called "white slavery". A number of writers criticized the novel.

Slavery is available in the two works, but the narrators focused on many themes to display the details of that time and place such as issues of women and the role of the capitalist in America. In fact the two writers mirrored their circumstances and autobiographies in their work.

Slave Narrative

slave narrative is a piece of work written by the slaves themselves and such works play a major role in both culture and literature, and statistically speaking, the works written by the slaves outnumbered those written by other writers. Moreover, slave narrative had its impact on some masterpieces. Slave narrative appeared as part of the abolitionist literature, and some texts explored the suffering of the slave. It can also be defined as works written by slaves. Such works can be books, interviews or articles. Early slave narrative were taken from the bible because it was translated by king James. This made available for people in general. Slave narrative can also be taken from other works dealing with slavery like *The Tradition of Captivity and Spiritual Autobiography*. (21)

Slave narrative is also associated with the abolitionists who can be defined as the people and writers who stood against slavery. As an example of slave narrative, we can mention Briton Hammon who wrote “narratives of uncommon sufferings, and surprising deliverance of Briton hammon, a negro man”. Slave narrative also appeared in London, and as usual it dealt with the evils committed by the white people.

Antebellum Narratives

Such works were appreciated because they deal with the humanity of the slaves, and they focused on the basic needs the slave didn't have like food, clothes and shelter. Such works highlighted what the masters did with the slave and how slaves were exploited by the masters. In these works, we had reference to Christianity as a tool to increase the slave's suffering.(22)

12 years a slave

It is one of the slave narratives in which we follow Northrop Solomon's life from liberty to slavery. In this work, we notice numerous ideas concerning the slaves and their masters. For instance, the slaves' attempt to have their own resistance is quite evident in this work, they sing certain songs taken from their past. Education is another idea and it is early noticed in this work as one of the slaves is trying to use a piece of wood to write something.

Before being a slave, Northrop was leading a life of a gentleman, and he used to be a man of talents, and that talent is shown in the sense that he knows a lot about music.

Suddenly he was betrayed and taken as a slave, and as a part of the system of slavery, the white man is asking Northrop to produce his documents. Once those are not available, the white man tells him that he is a slave, and uses words like 'nig' to describe him. This word has a political tone, and it is not accepted these days. This indicates that the idea of the colour line was quite evident at that time, and the same idea is apparent in works written in the twentieth century. (23)

The journey from liberty to slavery is not an easy turning point in Northrop's life; the white man wants him to accept his new life as something real. In order to make him or to force him to accept this, the white used two methods to make Northrop realize the new reality. The two methods are physical and verbal punishments. The physical punishment is shown in terms of beating Northrop, and the verbal is by telling him "you are a slave". On his part, Northrop doesn't say he is a slave, but in the process of time, slavery will be part of his reality if not his only reality. In this atmosphere of punishment and suffering, the reader feels Northrop attempt to prove himself and to define his identity. For instance, In spite of knowing the significance of survival, Northrop shows some moments of defiance because the white man has given him a name that doesn't belong to him.

The slaves have their own community, where we have men, women and children. In that community, slaves can fall into three types: born a slave, old slave, new slave. The writer of this slave narrative shows us the slave's community as it is. It is like other groups of people where interaction is required and maintained by adopting a variety of techniques. The newly enslaved are often looking for liberty because they haven't known slavery system yet, and they long for that cherished liberty, which is no longer in the hand. Those slaves are different from the born slaves whose sole reality is slavery. They accept slavery, or at least they do not stand against it.

The system of slavery is not that easy for Northrop as he is required to be silent and secretive. This is a problem for Northrop who spent years to be a distinctive person, a gentleman and a model father. The past represents a solace for Northrop. It is an outlet where he finds that 'self' which is no longer in the hand. Now, that past of gentleness is no more, and he is forced to abide by the rules of slavery. In this respect, the slave is aware of himself and how to manage things even in a hostile environment.(24)

Amid this labyrinth of slavery, he has to choose either survival or living; such a choice was quite possible when he was free overwhelmed with the bliss of liberty. Enslaved, the choice is no longer possible as there is nothing available for him save

survival. Due to this, his sense of manhood and his quest for identity is no more of importance as they basically stand for futility and meaninglessness.

Part of the atrocities done by the white man is taking the black man's wife, and when the black man tried to stop the white man, the white man simply killed the black one cold-bloodedly. This is a good indication that the white were trying to strip the black people of everything, and the black men noticed that any sort of resistance meant death, so they turned to be weak. This also means that the white look at the black merely as property. A good example for this is when the slaves are displayed in a shop to be sold, and this confirms the fact that there used to be shops and auction where slaves are sold, and each of them has his own price. (25)

Atrocities are also widely available in the slave narrative. We have the scene in which the mother is forced to leave her kids as they were bought by another man. Such a scene shows both the humanity of the slave and the brutality of the white man. The lady of the house told Liza that she'll get food, rest and other things, and soon she'll forget her kids. This point means that the lady thinks of the physical issues deeming them more important than spiritual issues. This shows the moral gap between the black and the white women. The black women try to emphasize the role of the spiritual side which the white women have nothing to do with.

In this slave narrative, we can vividly notice that the slaves in their own community can develop a humane atmosphere unlike the greediness, atrocity and hatred which are quite prevalent in the slave masters' community. For instance, Liza was forced to leave her children who were taken by a different master, and to show her strong sadness, she continued weeping for a long period of time. Northrop Solomon, the slave and the pivotal character in the work, asked Liza to stop weeping, but she replied "have you stopped crying for your children?" He replied "they are part of my flesh". This shows that the relation between the mother and her children is very strong. (26)

The two characters Northrop and Liza have their own ideas concerning slavery and slave holders, and these ideas were the outcome of years of work and pain. After witnessing suffering with a number of slave-masters, Northrop found lots of positive points in Mr. Ford. Liza on her part looks at him as nothing but a slave master.

The difference between these characters mark a difference in the black community, and this difference, in fact, makes it clear that the black community is active and dynamic. A shift is noticed in Northrop's character as now we can see that he is not thinking in terms of survival and living; he merely wants to survive. He knows the

slave's reality, and as part of his "progress" as a slave, he knows how to handle things in the new environment. As a man he doesn't want to be defeated. (27)

Part of the dynamics of the black community, we can see that they try to resist and to maintain their own identity. For example, Liza suggests that Northrop should tell Mr. Ford about his past when he was a free man. Liza wanted him to tell the master to see that master's reaction. Northrop doesn't like what is said by Liza arguing that signs of liberty are quite clear.

Religion is also mentioned in this slave narrative. For instance, in one of the parts a man is reading from the bible; he is reading about the consequences of treating children badly. Another example is also noticed when the plague badly impacted the fields of cotton; at that time this was seen as a punishment for the master who has no religion. In this case, religion and children are very important in this work. In fact, religion gives the heavenly thoughts, and children tell the slaves that life is going on on.

Part of the sense of manhood, and as a man living in the slave community, Northrop tries to show his talent, and this makes other white man working with the slave master angry with Northrop. In spite of servitude and pain, he is able to develop a sense of manhood as he is able to stand fiercely against the attempts of the white man to punish him. This takes us back to the idea of living and surviving mentioned earlier. For Northrop, what started as merely survival turned in the process of time to contain elements of living. In this respect, Northrop is able to present himself as a man having integrity, history and identity. (28)

In another scene, Mr Ford helped to save Northrop's life when two white men came to hang him. This shows the split in the white community, and it indicates that some slave masters are humane. Such slave holders fulfil an essential part in the anti-slavery line of thought because they planted the seeds for such a thing.

Liza represents women in the black community. This woman has a history of two-folds suffering as she suffers because of both sexism and racism. She knows about the two when she previously worked as a slave who had been abused or molested by her master, and she got a daughter from that master; the daughter's blackness doesn't seem to resemble that of her mother. The daughter is not purely black. She is the outcome of the meeting between the white and the black.

Bates is another girl in the slave group, who seems to have some merits which attract the master's attention. This was quite unpleasant for the lady who asked her husband to sell the black girl. Through this black girl and the moments of power Northrop was

able to show, we can definitely say that the black community has its power. Bates is powerful because she has the energy to influence, to deform and to bring misery to the slave master's family. Due to that impact, the wife asked her husband, the slave master, to punish the girl; she looks at the poor girl as a possible rival.

Another black woman can provide ideas about women empowerment and how they can prove themselves regardless of pain and misery. That lady used to be a slave, but now she lives as a lady.

In spite of the power we notice the girl can show in various examples, her life is so sad that she even asks Northrop to end her life. The same thing is done in a novel entitled "Beloved" in which the mother kills her eldest daughter to make sure that the slave master will not take her back to servitude. In this case, she wants to emphasize that killing is merciful and not punishable. Amid the filth where she is, the only outlet that can come across her mind is death.

Education is quite significant for the people, and in this slave narrative, we have several instances about reading and writing. Northrop Solomon, the writer and the character knows very well the liberty can't be really obtained without having people who are educated as through this education, they can defend, negotiate and win their coming battle, which is mainly concerned with freedom.

At the very end, a man whom Northrop knew when he was free came to free Northrop, and truly he did. Northrop went with him, became free again and visited his family as a gentleman.

Modern Slavery

Long after the abolishing of slavery, slavery is still evident in different forms and in different countries like India, Singapore, Nigeria, Russia and North Korea. True we do not have the same sort of slavery in which Africans were taken from their homeland to work like animals for a slaveholder in America, but definitely, in those countries, we have several forms of slavery in which workers are enslaved, work for long hours and even maltreated. The bad conditions the workers face are rather terrible and do not fit normal people. In some countries, war plays a major role in the process of enslavement. Due to war in several areas, people suffer from illness and displacement. Other problems like poverty and health are also evident forms of slavery which can be attributed to war as well. Such problems are not found in one specific country; they are available in Asian and African countries alike. In India, we

have forms of slavery which can be interpreted socially. Some kinds of slavery like begging and forced marriage might have a social dimension. Most of the countries have experienced certain forms slavery, and living under bad conditions is often seen as the vital problem women face, and because of that women are targeted to be enslaved in their communities. (30)

Modern slavery can be of several kinds. The first kind is forced labour. In this kind, workers are forced to work under threat. The second is the bounded labour in which the worker is required to pay money to the master, and since he can't pay what is required from him, he should continue working as suggested or ordered by the master. The third is domestic workers who are forced to work for long hours and no one really knows about their conditions. The fourth is sex slavery in which men, women and children are involved, and not very far from this, we had children slavery. Another type of slavery is forced marriage. The last form of slavery is human trafficking. (31)

Slavery can simply be defined as selling people, but we have another kind of slavery that doesn't really deal with selling people in the gross sense of the word. It deals with workers and their work conditions, and these are often deemed as forms of slavery. One of those forms is domestic workers whose work is often described as a form of slavery; this is because those workers work in private houses, and they look after elderly people and children. Although most domestic workers have pleasant conditions with their masters, some of them have certain challenges as their work condition and how they are treated by the masters are hidden, and no one can really notice how they work or are treated at work. In fact, such workers have no access to the outside world; nor the outside has a chance to penetrate the privacy of their work. Sometimes, the difficulty stems from the workers themselves as they are migrants and have no sufficient documents, and this makes them vulnerable to accept the misery they see at work better than facing a more terrible reality they have no idea about. Therefore, one can see that they are ready to accept any kind of treatment. Actually some of them are women, and they are badly treated and

We can see slavery everywhere: in the houses, at home at work. For example, women are forced to work for long hours, and children are obliged to work for money. Sometimes, workers are required to work in the fields. Slavery, in this respect, is part of our reality, and considerable measures are supposed to taken in order to deal with consequences of slavery.(32)

Sometimes slavery is used because of the lack of institutions' regulating the people's life and the workers' conditions. It happens everywhere as it is merely ownership; everything can be bought and sold. People are often tempted by the prospect of a better life, and this temptation is the reason poor people are the victims of the human trafficking. Another reason for the continuation of the problem of slavery is the economical dimension, as it provides a lot of money for the people working in that field.

Beloved BY Toni Morrison

Slavery has its impact on literature. The gothic elements we notice in the 19th century literature are attributed to the fact that Africans are aware of the misery of their reality, but this awareness is blocked, they can't express it. This awareness is reflected in literature in the form of some psychological aspects we see in some characters and in some cultural points.

The story deals with the life of Sethe after she was able to escape from slavery. It seems that their new home in Cincinnati is haunted by a ghost of Sethe's eldest daughter. That ghost of the daughter who is no more influenced the family's psychology in general and that of the youngest daughter in particular. Due to that we see that Denver is shy friendless and isolated. For instance, Denver is not willing to mix with people.

The unpleasant situation at home encouraged people like Paul D who spent part of his life as a slave in Sweet Home where they all worked as slaves to prove his sympathetic character. To guarantee that, Paul tries to make Sethe and her family forget the past and live the reality they have after slavery. To succeed in this he tries to force the spirit out of the house, and he also managed in making Denver leave the house after she spent years and years there without interacting with people. After doing this, they encounter a young woman sitting in front of the house. She calls herself Beloved. Paul doesn't like her, but Sethe doesn't accept his views.(33)

The young has her influence over Paul as having sex with her one time brings him memories of his past. He even tries to tell sethe about what happened. Instead of telling her, he said that he wants the young girl pregnant. The past exemplified by Beloved is horrifically cornering paul. People don't like paul's idea of starting a new family.

Sethe told Paul about her real story with her eldest daughter. It was long time back and after escaping slavery, she went to her mother in law's house to meet her children who were waiting for her. Her master found her and tried to get her back along with

her children. To make sure that her children will not be taken by the master, she tried to kill them. In fact, killing them for her is the best outlet she can provide. She managed in killing the eldest one. She killed her to protect her. We can imagine through this part how terrifying their life as slave was. This sort of information was too much for Paul; therefore, he left. Without Paul, the house is once again stagnant and devoid of any sign of life, hope and forwardness. (34)

Sethe seems to realize that Beloved is her girl who was killed in a previous episode. She used to spend a lot on her beloved. Beloved used to ask for so many things and this makes things difficult for Sethe. Due to this, Sethe became very tired because Beloved got everything leaving nothing for Sethe. How slavery influenced the characters is manifested in terms of the past experience

The climax of the novel shows that Denver is asking the black community to help her, and women arrive to help her by banishing Beloved. Simultaneously, the same white man who helped Halle's mother, Baby Suggs, appeared to help Denver this time. Denver has earlier asked the man for a job, but she hasn't told her mother about that. As Sethe doesn't know about the man, she attacked him but other women stopped her. Sethe has the past experience of her master. Beloved has gone. Denver is part of the working group, and Paul is coming back to show his love for Sethe.

Conclusion

Seeing that racism and slavery between white-skinned and black-skinned, we observed the role African Culture had in American culture. That effect can be felt socially because the slaves had important role in the family such as taking care of the children. Moreover, the economic system of America relied heavily on the slaves to improve its two main sides: agriculture and industry.

The African American people are missing their identity and freedom because of slavery and bad treatment. The loss of the African identity can also be attributed to certain laws issued at that time. For instance the fugitive law in 1850, which gave the American the permission to catch the slaves who escaped from their owners. This law had its role in the modern novel, *Beloved*, which dealt with slavery.

In slave narrative, the reader is mainly concerned with the human suffering. It also contains ideas dealing with the white community, slave's life and atrocities faced by both black men and women. In slave narrative as well we have points like resistance, education, manhood and identity. Black Women are also mentioned in slave narrative as being better than the white women. They are maltreated, but they are still powerful.

In Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, we have the psychological dimension of slavery, and we also notice that the past is active in the characters' life. It plays an active role in the development of the characters.

Works Cited

- 1-Olumide, Yetunde Mercy. *The Vanishing Black Women*. Cameroon: langaa,2012.
- 2- Afro-American Literature from Slave Narratives to Recent Fiction<docplayer.net> retrieved 12-4-2018
- 3- Retracing Slavery's Trail of Tears < www.smithsonianmag.com> retrieved 17-2-2019
- 4-American History: Slavery in the American South< www.learningenglish.voanews.com > retrieved 16-2-2018.
- 5-History of Slavery in Virginia< www.wikipedia.org > 16-7-2018.
- 6-Kevin, Anderson." Marx's Intertwining of Race and Class During the Civil War in U. S.", *Classical Sociology*, 2017.
- 7-Ball, Jeremy. *The Atlantic Slave Trade*. Los Angeles, Bunche Hall, 2000.
- 8- Retracing Slavery's Trail of Tears
- 9-Societal Impacts of the American Revolution < www.ushistory.org> retrieved 11-4-2018.
- 10- Benet, Stephen. *The Devil and Daniel Webster* < www.blackmask.com> 14-1-2019.
- 11-Afro-American Literature: A Systematic Functional Analysis of Discourse in Selected Afro-American Slave Narratives < www.researchgate.net> retrieved 13-1-2019
- 12- Kevin, Anderson." Marx's Intertwining of Race and Class During the Civil War in U. S.", *Classical Sociology*, 2017.
- 13- American History: Slavery in the American South.
- 14-www.en.wikipedia.org/ William-wells Brown.
- 15- Harrit E.Willson-biography< www.google.iq> retrieved 18-4-2018

- 16-Our Nig, by Harriet E. Wilson: Frado and the Characterization of Oppression. < www.google.iq> retrieved 13-12-2018.
- 17- Our Nig, by Harriet E. Wilson: Frado and the Characterization of Oppression.
- 18- Our Nig, by Harriet E. Wilson: Frado and the Characterization of Oppression.
- 19- Our Nig _Willson www.google.iq retrieved 17-2-2018.
- 20- Our Nig _Willson www.google.iq retrieved 17-2-2018.
- 21- African American Literature: Slave Narrative < repository. Ffr.uniri.hr> retrieved 12-11-2018.
- 22- Criner, Allyson. Slave Narratives < www.ncpedia.org> retrieved 12-10-2018.
- 23-Northrop Solomon, 12 Years a Slave < www.gutenberg.org> retrieved 19-3-2018.
- 24- Modern Slavery and the Hostile Environment < www.jointpublicissues.org> retrieved 17-3-2018
- 25- History of Slavery in Virginia< www.wikipedia.org > 16-7-2018.
- 26- Northrop Solomon, 12 Years a Slave < www.gutenberg.org> retrieved 19-3-2018.
- 27- Northrop Solomon, 12 Years a Slave < www.gutenberg.org> retrieved 19-3-2018.
- 28-Keith, Ravon. Constructing the Concept of Masculinity in Black American Men < www.digitalcommons.auctr.edu> retrieved 11-4-2012.
- 29- Northrop Solomon, 12 Years a Slave < www.gutenberg.org> retrieved 19-3-2018.
- 30-The Human Face of Modern Slavery < www.ohchr.org> retrieved 4-2-2018.
- 31- The Human Face of Modern Slavery < www.ohchr.org> retrieved 4-2-2018.
- 32- The Human Face of Modern Slavery < www.ohchr.org> retrieved 4-2-2018.
- 33-www.sparknotes.com
- 34-Toni Morrison, Beloved www.is.muni.cz retrieved 16-3-2018.