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DECONSTRUCTING RACISM: A STUDY OF JESMYN WARD'S SING, UNBURIED SING WITH REFERENCE TO CRITICAL RACE THEORY

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ABSTRACT

The current research deals with the concept of racism that has been deconstructed with reference to Dr. Pierce's concept and theoretical discussion on racism in his critical race theory. He endorses racism is a marginalizing tool that has been used by the white supremacist against the non-western to marginalize them. Therefore, the current research deals with the elements of deconstructing the concept and idea of racism in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied Sing* which has explicitly shown the marginalization of black people and how the stances of racism are explicit in the novel to oppress and marginalize the black people, even to present them as other as shown in Edward Said's *Orientalism*. Therefore, the current research is revisiting the elements of racism in the selected text and deconstructing the already presented concept of racism as shown in the novel.

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND:

Racism is not rigid term but a dynamic and complex phenomenon to define, particularly in the world of literature. According to Broberg that the idea that one group of people is morally, intellectually, and culturally superior to another group of people, and that these superior characteristics are inherited from one generation to the next, is a fundamental tenet of racism. Racism is comprised of a series of imagined realities that hold this belief (Noted in Liebkind, 1994:39). Further, the question has been raised by Liebkind about the concept of race and racism as both race and racism are strongly connected with each other. The construction of race and racism is purely liable to follow

the social phenomenon as they are social construction. Liebkind (1994) says that People have the misconception that race refers to a biological kind or class, but in reality, there is not a single biological characteristic that can be used to classify people in this way (41).

Racism is not a limited to a particular community; it is world-wide global phenomenon that is based on the notion of inferiority and superiority. The concept of superiority and inferiority is thus incorporated through the image of racism to address the stereotypical images of one group that has been shown inferior. It is of great importance to extract the idea that inferior class is annexed with stereotypical images while the superior group has been shown the supreme race. The said concept is also accepted, therefore, the inferior race is victimized through the marker of racism, initially triggered through the racism of color. However, we cannot deny the fact that superiority and inferiority complexes are triggered by other markers as well; like political and economic prosperities are of great importance while the dominant race controls the inferior race and the element of racism becomes dominant. The markers or racism have generated largely by the white supremacist as they are called modern/colonial, capitalist/patriarchal, Christian-centric and western-centric world order. The aforementioned world-order has been identified in the work of Grosfoguel (2011).

In comparison to black community the white community has been identified a social group and the white community has access to all privileges and rights. White group is considered to be a superior group while other groups are considered inferior. Largely, racism is annexed with the said inferior groups. Further, the inferior races have been deviated and not given the basic rights while the superior race has been given all the basic rights; right to vote, property, public opinion, religious practices, children rights, labor rights, civil rights, rights of women and many other rights which are identified with the name of human rights. These rights have been given to white community in particular criterion while the rest of groups, particularly the black colored people have not been given these rights. The ontological position of the black community is left on the mercy of white community. It is universal truth that every community, belonging to any religion, cast, color and language is liable to obtain all basic rights but what Fannon (1967) has noted that the said rights are only given to the white supremacist while other people, particularly the black community is deprived and considered a non-human community. This concept of non-humanity is thus questioned by Fanon (1967). In the discussion about the black community an important aspect of rights has been ignored which is linked with the rights like epistemology, identities, spiritualities, material resources, elimination of objectivity and the recognition of subjectivity. Therefore, black people are linked and associated with stereotypical images and the negative images about them, give birth different markers of racism.

If attention is given to different approaches and definition about racism it can be said the racism is not a fixed entity but it has multiple definitions and approaches. The prominent one is reductionist school of thought that seems to be a prominent and dominant one while this definition is linked with the

colonial period and history, where colonizers remained successful to plant in different parts of the world. Therefore, the history of racism is linked with the hierarchy of superiority and inferiority of the colonial period which reached to the present. The construction of racism has not only done by the colonial masters but also other markers of great importance which are ethnicity, color, language, culture and religion. Therefore, we cannot fix racism to the marker of color but we can move beyond this definition to fix it with the aforementioned markers of racism.

Further, it is confirmed that racism is triggered through different markers, intimating the black is inferior and weaker while the white is considered superior. The concept of stronger and weaker has been given by Frantz Fanon (1967), affirming that there are two zones which are respectively formulated for both white and black. Fanon (1967) comes up with the opinion that subject which is represented as stronger and superior is creating a zone of being while the inferior one is creating the zone of non-being and they themselves demarcating their existence. The place where the contact zone is developed is called an intersectional tie (Bhaba, 1994) which is the creation of the colonial world. This is called a system which is based on different power of analytics. The white has been given the authority and they define the two world with reference to religion, language, race, class, sexuality and gender (Crenshwa, 1993). These elements are also based on binaries and prevalent in the both superior and inferior, respectively the first world and the third world. Therefore, the intersectional tie is full of exploitation and suffering of third world, marginalizing them with different tactics. Therefore, the marginalization of the colonized becomes inherent in nature, prior to the stronger element of racism. The suffering of the colonized and third world is thus defined with the markers of racism, employed in different countries, particularly Afro-American, Caribbean, Afghanistan, Iraq etc. The markers of racism are different in nature with different strategies, employed by the western to impose on the third world countries to marginalize and oppress them.

Racism is very difficult to comprehend because racism not only answers to stereotypes and prejudices but it goes more than these phenomenon, employing structural and institutional domination of the black people. The very factual aspect is that colonizer subjugate the colonized with these institutional and structural policies the black and considering themselves superior on the basis of religion, language, class and culture. However, the colonized are given some kinds of privileges that are only bestowed to keep them silent but in reality the privileges have no use because they are still marginalized and oppressed with different tactics. Racism is the only dominant factor that marginalize the colonized, particularly the Afro-American are inflicted with racism.

Racism is not simply the creation of the binaries that is based on superiority and inferiority but it has more aspects that helped the colonizers to oppress and marginalize the black people. Therefore, racism is identifying colonized and oppressed classes where the world Other has been used for the these oppressed and marginalized groups. Different markers of racism help the

colonizers to coin the black as marginalized and oppressed group. Different terms are annexed with the marginalized groups like terrorists, irrationals, brutal, uncivilized, barbarians. Further, culture, religion, color and language are the major factors which help the whites to oppress the blacks as these aspects of the colonizers are the signs of superiority while the blacks' are the sign of inferiority. These aspects are further the markers of racism which help the colonizers to construct and reconstruct the black and present them as oppressed and marginalized group. The blacks in this regard are in the same way marginalizing and putting them in the markers of racism. The marginalization and oppression of the colonized is reported in the writing of Caribbean, South Asia and Africa which also highlight that marginalization and oppression of the colonized is caused by different markers of racism and racism has been used by the white community to oppress and marginalized the Other. In this regard, the current research is about the marginalization and oppression of the Afro-American people with reference to racism and racism is used a marginalizing tool in Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied Sing* (2017).

Critical Race Theory

As I previously said that theoretical framework plays an important role in any research. The current research in the same way is liable to follow the same procedure. For the current research I have taken critical race theory as a theoretical framework which is important from different perspectives because critical race theory is related with different aspects of black people. Critical race theory reports the oppression and marginalization of the black people and works for the consciousness of the black people. Critical race theory tells the readers how black people have been oppressed and marginalized in the context of time and how they are devoid of their rights. Different laws have been made to marginalize the black people while they are not allowed to public places. Their exploitation and suffering is reported the extreme one by CRT but at the same time CRT helps to raise the consciousness of the black people and helped a lot to eliminate racism from the lives of black people.

Now to proceed my discussion in detail I have to address my theoretical framework in detail. Keeping in mind my research questions and objectives I have to inculcate my theoretical framework. The current section is about the conceptual developments about racism which has been used as a marginalizing tool to oppress and exploit the black people. For this purpose I have selected Dr. Chester Pierce (1969) theory of CRT that pays attention to same aspects of the black people as discussed above.

The current research is about racism and marginalization of the black people, addressed and discussed by Dr. Chester Pierce (1969) in the CRT. CRT is basically a movement initiated in 1920s where different black writers have contributed from their perspectives while Dr. Pierce (1969) had deeply investigated racism from different perspectives because he himself was a psychiatrist. He could easily document the lives of black people because he understood the psychology of the people and knew how badly racism has impacted on the lives of black people. Racism according to him is not only

concerned with the physical aspects of the black people but it has ruined the black people psychologically.

The theory of Dr. Chester Pierce itself takes racism as a marginalizing tool that has been imposed by the white community on the black people where their exploitation and suffering are caused by different markers of racism. The theory further provides different foundations and other approaches, particularly operational and analytical which are helpful for the current research. The theory investigates racism from the very start till the present period. Therefore, from historical perspective the theory provides a model of racial marginalization that is conceptual when it comes to understanding. Dr. Pierce has noted for instance, what is required is an innovative and all-encompassing theoretical framework.... It is possible that the impoverished black needs care based on other paradigms, such the negotiation of offensive mechanisms, for example. (Pierce 1969, 308). It means that blacks are the poorest people and they are treated in a very bad way. Therefore, he uses such words.

According to Peirce racism comes from subtle experiences which have observed and experienced by the black people, living in America. He notes in his book "*Is Bigotry the Basis of the Medical Problems of the Ghetto*" (1969) that racism is more offensive for black people. I have already stated that Peirce was a medical doctor and he observed black people from psychological perspectives. He knew that black people are both physically and mentally oppressed by the white community through different markers of racism. Further, he did not only highlight the problems of black community but at the same times he helped out the black people to uplift their culture. At once, he noted that black people are psychologically oppressed and marginalized people because of racism but at the same times he helps out to uplift them psychologically. According to Peirce if they are psychologically strong they will eliminate racism and its impacts from their lives. Therefore, Peirce uplifted the black community and took them to their real position.

According to Peirce there are multiple theories available for the consciousness of the black people and they are working at the same time to take them to real position but still they are not sufficient to properly address the problems of black people. Therefore, he came up with his own theory to not only highlight racism and its impacts on black people but also his mission was to uplift the black community and eliminate racism from their lives. According to him black people are oppressed and marginalized people because of racism which takes them to marginalization. Pierce has set out his mechanism on different strategies which are called offensive strategies. He arrives at the conclusion that being black in the United States of America in today's society entails accepting a lower social status. Because every day, black people are the unfortunate targets of white people's offensive mechanisms, which are intended to diminish, dilute, atomize, and imprison the helpless individual within his place. The black man must constantly be reminded that he is unimportant and unimportant to society as a whole in order to learn this lesson (303). Offensive mechanism has been developed and triggered on the basis of different strategies if black people set out their policies according to Peirce's

said mechanism, they would be on safe side and enable to eliminate racism from their lives. Although, they are the victim of marginalization on the ground of racism but they would not be in position to achieve their targets without radical stances, which has been set out by offensive mechanism.

Further, it is clear that racism has been used a marginalized tool and blacks have been shifted to the web of racism because it has been done by the white supremacist. In his theory he moves goes beyond the word racism and calls it micro-aggression which is similar in practice like offensive mechanism. This term micro-aggression has been introduced by Dr. Pierce, explaining different approaches and perspectives of racism and its markers which are in practice since long till present and they can be answered back through offensive mechanism to throw back the word racism. Dr. Peirce (1969) has noted that the majority of offensive behaviors are not as severe as they are debilitating. They are beautiful in their understatement. When one takes into account the fact that these gentle punches are dealt on a continuous basis, one can begin to comprehend the magnitude of the issues that they cause. The cumulative effect on both the victim and the victimizer is of an unimaginably great size. This is true even if a particular act of wrongdoing can be judged to be relatively harmless when viewed in and of itself, according to the principles of justice. So, it is necessary for the therapist to bring up the concept that offensive techniques are typically a form of micro-aggression (265–66, emphasis in original).

It is more evident that word offensive mechanism is about the term offensive which is more concerned with the marginalization and oppression of the Afro-American community. Dr. Pierce very appropriately explained that the term offensive mechanism is more transitional and concerned with the elements of racism which are highlighted by him. The people of the South Region, living in America was exclusively the population based on black community and the entire community was oppressed and marginalized because of racism. Therefore, the racial micro-aggression is a suitable word for Pierce that It was cited in the article *Social Trace Contaminants: Subtle Indications of Racism in TV* (1980), written by Dr. Pierce, who stated that the subtle, stunning, repeating occurrence that many whites initiate and control in their encounters with blacks can be labeled a racial micro-aggression. In and of itself, a single act of microaggression committed by an offender against a defender (or a victimizer against a victim) is insignificant and unimportant. The persistent and pervasive nature of these toxic stimuli, on the other hand, is woven into the very fabric of black and white relations in the United States (1980. 251)".

It is evident that the term was not present till the period 2000s but according to Profit et al (2000) this word was initiated for further incorporation to speak for the community of black people. In the work of Profit et al (2000) Pierce holds a prominent place because he was the pioneer of the term. He comes up with the opinion that the ability to notice, assess, anticipate, and get rid of race-inspired microaggressions is the most significant energy demand placed on black people. These are automatic, subtle, stunning, seemingly innocuous messages that devalue blacks; for example, a black man

and a white man enter an elevator, and then the lone white female passenger clutches her handbag as she moves as close to the white man as she can. This is an example of a non-verbal message that devalues blacks. Individuals of African descent experience a cumulative burden as a result of microaggressions, which are the primary and unavoidable manifestation of racism in the United States. As a consequence of this, they contribute to the development of black group stress. What may be of greater significance is the fact that these cumulative, modest, but persistent putdowns frequently continue to act as psychological toxins in the surrounding environment. Their intransigence has been a big factor in the continuation of the traumatic stress that black people, both as individuals and as a group, have been experiencing for a long time (327–328).

This process and words have been extracted hugely from the vocabulary where racism has been largely included. The word racism helped out to generate a new word micro-aggression that was initiated entirely for the oppression and exploitation of the black race. Black community has been completely thrown back and they were stopped not to speak. If we take the concept of Spivak's subaltern which was included in her essay "Can the Subaltern Speak" (1988) as subalterns are those people who are unable to speak and they are voiceless people. Therefore, in the same way black people have been merged in the same queue as they neither resist nor speak for their rights. Therefore, Spivak's arguments of subalternity are purely appropriate to the discussion of CRT and the word offensive mechanism is therefore voicing the black community.

Deconstructing Racism in Sing Unburied Sing with its markers to marginalize blacks

Further, the depiction of the black community with reference to Jim Crow Laws by Ward is placing her in an influential position because she has the vigilant eye on the white community and better understanding of socio-political condition of the black community. As I have previously discussed Jim Crow Laws in detail about black community which is the major reason for exploitation and oppression of the black community. The law does not give any right to black community, only authorizes the black community to oppress and deprive them from equal rights. However, color is the major cause of black's exploitation which has been provoked by the said law. The depiction of Ferguson vs Plessy keeps a distance and separate different institution of the state; segregating two poles from one another; Euro-American and Afro-American. In this regard the literature of the black community is called Negro literature and it can be segregated from Euro-American literature. Further, the black consciousness has been uplifted by the black writers and the literature can be called Negro literature as; its core, Negro literature is racial, and as a product, it might be considered primitive. Negroid in both its content and spirit, as well as Negro literature and art, offers expression to the essence of the black folk; this includes their exuberance, their earthly sensuousness, their childish mind and innocent mind and sight, as well as their African sense of rhythm. It is the creative expression of a distinct racial group in the United States (Cary D. Wintz, 1996, 1)".

Similarly, Ward has the prominent place in this literature because she also worked very strongly for uplifting the consciousness of the black community. *Sing, Unburied Sing* brings all the issues of black community into discussion and beautifully replicate the historical description of the blacks who were kept marginalized on the basis of color and they were completely considered a segregated group from the white community because they had no access to any public space and the said law prohibited them from doing so. The novel shows the separate places of the black community as they have been given separate marriage hall, theaters, hospitals, restaurants, swimming pools, public transports and schools.

The novel depicts violence that has caused by racism because different incidents in the novel are the results of racism as the killing of Given, sending Richie and Pop to prisons, thy lynching of blue are the stories those can be directly linked with racism. Despite the brutal actions against the black community we witness that Parcham in the novel signifies a stronger symbol of anti-black violence in America. Further, Richie and Pop are sent to a prison which has close resemblance with the period of slavery when it was employed in Afro-American community. However, we can see that the entire scenario of the prison has been changed when Michael is sent there but the entire scene in the novel replicates the period of slavery, shows that slavery is still implicitly in practice and it helps the white community to exploit and oppress the black community. Some of the lines are taken here from the novel which shows the examples of racism; how do you think I managed to cover the costs of all of my travels to Bishop? With the help of? She gave a snort and shook her head in response. You better take advantage. When we get in the car, I hear those four words repeated over and over again as I watch Misty place the package in the pocket that is located under the floorboards. You better take advantage. She spoke those words as if choices had no repercussions, despite the fact that obviously doing so had made things simpler for her. The tone in which she delivered the phrase 'take advantage' made me want to physically assault her. Her freckles, her thin pink lips, her blond hair, and the stubborn milkiness of her skin; how effortless it had been for her, throughout her entire life, to make the world a friend to her.? (Chapter 04)

The marker of racism transfers to marker of racism based on religion. We have religious racism that has been coined by the racism of color in the novel. However, the color one is the debate of the entire novel but religious plays also an important role. The novel depicts the religious issues almost similar to religious racism, employed in the real life of Afro-American. Ward in this regard laments on the pathetic situation of the Afro-American people. The novel delineates that black people are considered beast on the face of earth and they are living in isolation while the whites also impose their superiority on the black people. Therefore, religion also one of the major factor that plays an important role in the exploitation and suffering of the black people and they are trying to realize what they need to uplift their self-consciousness. Ward attacks on religion in the novel and equally makes it responsible for exploitation and suffering of the black people. Religious according to Ward is the important pillar that can eliminate racism but despite its positive role it plays its role for more marginalization of the black people.

During her childhood and adolescence, she was pessimist and it has not changed. She tells in an interview to *The Guardian* that I thought negatively. There has been no change. Young people have a right to optimism, and for good reason-human beings have advanced and excelled throughout history, accomplishing amazing feats. But the reality that so much of life is suffering, misery, willful ignorance, and violence, and that fighting against that flood requires so much effort and constant vigilance, is what traps me in pessimism. It is taxing.

The struggle of Jasmin Ward continued and *Sing, Unburied Sing* has been presented in well organic order like a family saga. The main story takes place very early while the story abruptly jumps to the different stories of Jojo's family. Jojo's family stories are linked with the near past when he was born. The novel connects the Jojo's stories with his dead family member. His uncle is one of the important who has strong connection with the entire family's member. Apart from his uncle other characters like Given, Jojo's uncle has developed a sense of responsibility amongst the family members where the relationship of Pop and Mam with Kayla and Jojo is also a close one and they had strong sense of responsibility to one another. We come to know that Jojo at the age of thirteen is taking care of her sibling Kayla, plays a role of parents while Kayla has the same love and attachment with Jojo and it shows that both have strong love for one another and they cannot be departed from one another. Further, the relationship of both Kayla and Jojo is deeper than the parental relationship and they cannot be separated. At one position in the novel Leonie speaks to readers that both Jojo and Kayla has strong relationship and attachment with one another, even they sleep folded and having a psychosomatic appendage with one another. Their relationship is more understandable in silence rather than to speak about.

We come to know in the novel that Jojo family has strong affiliation with one another and they cannot be segregated from one another but despite their love and attachment they face a lot of problems and obstacles, leading them to trauma. The trauma does not easily bound the relationship amongst the family members. Mam was of the opinion that Leonie had never "the mothering instinct" and they are the two characters of the novel Pop and Mam who actually are the caretaker of both Kayla and Jojo. We do not underestimate that Leonie loves her children very much but at the same time her affiliation is seen with the Michael and drugs. As a result of her devotion to Michael and drugs she is found cruel, cold and erratic towards Kayla and Jojo. She hates when Jojo showing strong affiliation to her sister Kayla and becomes jealous of their relationship. Therefore, she has immature attitude towards her children. Therefore, the readers feel sympathy for the children rather than their mother. In this regard the actual age of the children does not correspond with their caretaking attitude.

Family is important because of its connection to legacy. There are references to Jojo's family's involvement in the history of African People in Mississippi dating back to the time of slavery scattered throughout the book. This is especially clear at the novel's conclusion when Jojo and Kayla are encircled by a large group of ghosts, some of which are the ghosts of slaves. Jojo and

Kayla's ability to perceive these ghosts is also related to the theme of heritage because as Mam explains to Leonie, some members of their family have the gift of psychic intuition, which enables them to perceive elements of the outside world that are invisible to others. This gift, which has been handed down through the family lineage dating back to their African ancestors, occasionally skips generations or particular people.

The novel also explores themes of home and homecoming, arguing that home need not necessarily be a geographical location but rather a more spiritual state of rest and belonging. The entire purpose of the family's road trip is to bring Michael home from prison, but because of his conflict with his racist father, Michael has a troubled relationship with both his current home. Mam and Pop's house, and his nearby childhood home. Soon after Michael returns, he and Leonie start abusing drugs again on a regular basis and spend most of the week away from home. This emphasizes the notion that home can frequently be an elusive location, with people frequently searching in vain throughout their entire lives (and even afterlives).

Along with the other ghosts in the book, Richie's character also revolves around the concept of homecoming. Richie tells Pop that he is going home after being whipped by Parchman. Pop kills Richie to save him from a more horrifying fate after he tries to flee from Parchman but is pursued by a lynch mob. Richie is thrust into a liminal (in-between) existence as a result of Pop's violent death, where he is compelled to look for Pop in order to learn how he passed away because only then will he be able to go to Pop's true home, his final resting place. In fact, the book spends a lot of time discussing how people struggle to return home (in all senses of the word). Mam battles her cancer but ultimately gives up and permits Given's ghost to take her home through death. Similar to this, Kayla sings to the spirits at the conclusion of the book to encourage them to return home. Although everyone has an innate need to return home, there are many obstacles in life, such as incarceration, addiction, and memories and traumas that continue to haunt people. It's the smell of death, the rot emanating from something just alive, something hot with blood and vitality, as Jojo claims in Chapter 1; everyone else thinks Kayla smells bad because her green eyes are squinting, her nose looks like a mushroom, and her parted lips reveal her twelve tiny baby teeth. I sigh and mimic Kayla's stink face, which she does to express her annoyance or frustration. I want to make that face because I believe the stench would be decreased or completely removed if I scrunched up my nose and pushed it out. Before I can take it any longer and exit the shed to start throwing up in the grass, all I can see is Kayla's stinking face and the goat's soft eye. I know it's the stomach and intestines.

As a result of Jesmyn Ward's highly detailed creation in her book, the effects of religion are quite evident on her personality. The effects of his religion continue to be stable and essential to who he is. She therefore employs language that is rich in imagery, allowing readers to see his thoughts and feelings. Location is crucial to my writing; I believe that if a reader gets a good picture of the place where a character is from, then they may understand what inspires the individual, what limits him or her, she says in an interview

with *The Guardians*. When I was younger, I lived in a variety of houses since my parents rented trailers and small, boxy buildings that were raised on cement block pillars. My mom's childhood home, where my family spent about three years, belonged to my grandma. There were 13 of us living in a four-bedroom house, and being surrounded by so many people I loved made it one of the best times of my life. The house did not have central heating, so there was a wood stove in the living room and gas heaters in the corridor. The gas smelled sulfurous, and the scent of burning oak and pine sticks out in my memory the most. And then, of course, I think back to the food. We consumed a lot of red beans and rice, and my grandma virtually always cooked biscuits in the morning. Because there were so many of us, we had to eat inexpensive meals that could feed a large number of people. In the book, racism and religion coexist side by side. Nonetheless, the book is rife with extralegal violence;

The branches are full, too. The feathered leaves at the top are covered in ghosts, two or three of them. There are males, females, boys, and girls. Some of them are quite close to infants. They hunch over and stare at me. Black, brown, and smoke white are the closest colors to baby. All of them keep their deaths a secret, but I can see it in their enormous, dark eyes. They perch like birds yet appear to be humans. They speak with their eyes: He raped me and suffocated me until I died; I put my hands up and he shot me eight times; she locked me in the shed and starved me to death while I listened to my children playing with her in the yard; they came into my cell in the middle of the night and hung me; they discovered I could read and they dragged me out to the barn and gouged my eyes before they beat me; they beat me before they beat. (Chapter 15)

White supremacists never allowed black people to enjoy freedom and spend their common life with full of liberty. They have imposed certain labeling on the black community to restraint them. Black are called dump in this regard to express themselves and enjoy humanity as other Americans do. They were treated like savages and considered to be inferior and marginalized class. Further, different stereotypes have been imposed on black community to further oppress them. The exploitation and suffering of the black community was not limited to one of their aspect but throughout they are kept marginalized and oppressed community. Different references from the book, aforementioned inculcate racism is a dominating tool to oppress the black community. Racism and religion equally oppressed the black community and they are the marginalized people of the state. Jesmyn Ward in the similar way has represented black people in her novel but apart from the marginalization her stance was also premised to the aspect that marginalized black people must be uplifted and they should realize their self-consciousness to raise their voice against the tyranny of the white community and the operates of religion who kept marginalized the black community. Therefore, she has brought the black consciousness to debate to fight back. She notes;

“There had always been bad blood between dogs and Black people: they were bred adversaries—slaves running from the slobbering hounds, and then the convict man dodging them.” (Chapter 06)

It is shown very clearly in the above lines that racism resistance by black community has been shown *Sing, Unburied Sing*. However, the black people have shown their resistance against the white community but still they have fear in their mind and heart to remain silent as shown in the novel. Although, the resistance of the black community as highlighted by Ward, is not explicit but still she implicitly employed through different techniques to lodge her resistance against the white community in a skillful way and complaints against racism through her novel. The resistance in the novel has been shown by Ward through her protagonist. Further, the novel explicates the psychological trauma of various characters in the novel who become the victim of racism.

Racism is the dominant aspect in the lives of black people who are kept oppressed and they are not given their basic rights what they are demanding. Different laws have been made as I have previously mentioned. The law does not allow black people to participate in public sphere because of one dominant factor, their color as considered weak and submissive. Therefore, black people could not get rid off racism. Ward states in an interview to the Guardian that. "Celebrating my blackness. My culture's art is amazing. I'm proud that the African diaspora fights to live and develop worldwide, thus my work represents this passion and investment in relaying our history. That's OK. I work hard at writing and creative development, and I like to think that my novels have strength, weight, and lasting beauty regardless of mine or my characters' colors." (The Guardian) Racism as incorporated in the novel has created different problems for her because she could not keep herself touch with the society. She wants to run away from the oppression of the society that was employed in the lives of Afro-American people. She is not in a position to stand up with her family because of her color and the extrinsic world does not accept the Afro-American people. Therefore, she has to live on periphery and spending her life under the clutches of racism both physically and psychologically.

Sing, Unburied Sing is full of exploitation and suffering that has been caused by racism and the employed racism cannot be stopped neither by the black community nor by white because racism seems to shared value in the novel. Racism is very explicitly employed in the novel and corrupted the American society. The employed corruption is now the part of the American society and the people of both communities now forced to accept the said corruption. We clearly see in the context of the novel that the said society is free of all human qualities and the society is alternatively based on oppression and suffering. The novel depicts the marginalization and oppression of the black people, living in the Mississippi. Black people were spending their life in the American society under the severe condition and they were largely spending their lives being illiterate insurance salesman. The novelist very beautifully writes about racism and the life of black people who are living in Southern region of America. In the entire story only the blacks are shown oppressed and marginalized. The novel is the flashback of the past, haunting the black community in the present as they feel the glimpses of racism are alive in the present. The general themes of the novel are racism and discrimination. Further, the novel shows how the forefathers of the black community were

murdered, killed, lynched, raped and faced violence. Furthermore, different stereotypes have been made by white community to show them more oppressed and marginalized. One of the fact is quite clear that some of the black people also supported the hegemonic stance of the white community to show them oppressed and marginalized. It is the fact they are the people of the same community, same color and same religion but still they are using different tactics to show their own community oppressed and marginalized. Therefore, they can be put in the same slot of oppression and considered to be a separated group. "I like to think I know what death is. I like to think that it's something I could look at straight."(Jojo)

The novel shows the death which is lingeringly present in the context of the novel, incorporated through different approaches like; figuratively, literally and thematically. Different characters in the novel die and the character of Jojo gets affected with the trauma. It is assumed that the death is not so as reflected in conventional view. Jojo feels the smell of death that appears in front of him as ghosts, haunting him since long. This dilemma of the novel remains from start to end; "There had always been bad blood between dogs and Black people: they were bred adversaries—slaves running from the slobbering hounds, and then the convict man dodging them."(Richie)

Description from the past and the presentation of the ghost in the novel is simply the representation of racism that has affected the past, present and future of the black community. The literal meaning of ghost can be taken as racism is employed in the novel. It shows the actual representation of racism is a bondage between the two community that has been extracted from the element of slavery and imposed on the blacks. Therefore, "There is a light streaming through slits in one of the windows, which have been blacked up with aluminum foil, it is the system of white prejudice. The slit shows a shirtless man with a beard listening to country music. Like Michael, he is tattooed but shaved. Tables with glass beakers and tubes, five-gallon buckets on the ground, and empty cold-drink liter bottles remind me of Michael's lean to in the woods behind Mam and Pop's house."(Jojo)

CONCLUSION

The aforementioned description is about the meekness of the blacks while the cruelty of the whites that has left permanent stains. Jojo recognizes his father, Michael, making meth. Despite Michael being a loving parent, he calls him by his name, indicating their distance. His drug business keeps him too busy to be a good father. Violence, drugs, racism, and death surround Jojo. "I tracked him by sound. His constant self-talk. Not him. His mom. announcing his return. To sing for him. Sang for your boy. Sing"(Richie). Such description is uplifting more complexities in the novel while Jojo is the narrator of the entire scene where complexities are arisen. Pop is also telling different stories who narrate the story of Richie who died. Riche is still coming in a guise of ghost, torturing them and he is named Blue. It the entire story past is mixed with the present and exploitation and suffering are the alternative outcomes in the novel.

It is clear that the act in the novel is based on brutality and they are well prepared to further make understand their children about upcoming problems in their lives. They will have to face different kinds of dangers and violence because racism is employing violence on the future of the blacks as well. She knows that what is going in the lives of black people is the alternative reality that has been imposed by the white community to show their dominance on the black. The color white is the sign of domination and power that has dominated the black people either directly or indirectly. The familial treatment in the novel has been brought into the context of novel deliberately because she knows how black people passed through suffering and oppression, poverty, starvation, anarchy and injustices. She personally passed through all these stages. According to Ward all these exploitation and suffering have been caused by racism and racism has been deliberately imposed on the black people to marginalize them.

To sum up the above discussion we come to know that Jesmyn Ward's *Sing, Unburied Sing* is an appropriate description of racism that has been used to marginalize the black people. The novel depicts the entire history with reference to different laws made for the oppression of the black community. Therefore, the novel is a great piece that explicitly expose racism and its markers.

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