

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
Belhadj Bouchaib University Centre - Ain Temouchent



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Reaching Selfhood and Women Identity
Case Study: Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.

*An Extended Essay Submitted in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirement for a
Master's Degree in Literature and Civilisation.*

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Academic Year: 2017/2018

Dedication

To my Beloved Father

To my lovely mother

To my soulmate 'Karim'

To my family and friends.

I dedicate this work

Acknowledgement

First and foremost, I would like to thank God Almighty for giving me the strength, ability and opportunity to finish this extended essay. Without his blessings, this work would not have been possible.

I would like also to pass a lot of thanks and appreciation to the efforts of my Supervisor Ms. Yahia and the valuable advices she put forward me.

I would like to thank all the members of jury Dr. Bouhassoun Azzedine and Mrs. Belhamidi Selma Who devoted time and energy for Reading and evaluating my work.

Abstract

Female's elements in the novel are of refusing to the old racist ideas which ignored the colored women from the domains; furthermore, it is a formation of new, modern and independent identity for the Blacks. Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* describes the lives of black women's search for their identity following Feminine activities including: Letters writing, Friendship and doing their roles as housekeepers. Through the character of Shug Alice stressed the idea that masculinity is not restricted to man. At last, this paper confirms that Feminism and Womanism contributes in building and shaping women's identity and help the female to achieve their freedom. Feminists and Womanists with their differences and similarities; they complete each other for one reason which is women are free, and they are equal to men in all filed.

The purpose of this research is to show that these Feminist and Womanist movements share the same ideas or differ from one other under one goal which forming women's identity and being equal to the men.

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General

Introduction

Throughout history women have been oppressed and suppressed by men, they did not have the same legal and political rights as men, they were under the control of fathers, and husbands, so all Societies has built the belief that women are inferior to Men. Females generally are Seen as Mother, Sisters householders, or social component that receives the orders and doing her traditional work without presenting any reaction or any simple comments, they did not have any right, women was never accepted the concept of being oppressed and marginalized by both men and society they started working hard to show their real importance in society.

In order to raising woman voices a lot of Movements were formed, one of these Movements was the Feminist Movement, which is generally explore the bias towards the rights of white Women and the marginalization of blacks,so this is what prompted the emergence of a new Feminist wave calling for the inauguration of the Black Women rights and it is also f proclaiming to put end of racism, so a lot of colored authors from the same sex who suffered from various kinds of isolation and oppression. Besides, Black women were to stand against: Sex, Race and Class problems that they were faced in that time has substantially addressed the issue of being a Feminine with full rights like the White woman, most of the topic was against patriarchal societies, social classes and male domination of women. Alice Walker who comes to show that the Black Women can be equal to the White and have the same position either Black or White Men.

Women's representation in literature have been presents in almost ages but unfortunately, these representations often portray the Females as the dominated gender with no values, minds of their own, in studying the literary texts especially the form the Angle of sex relation, women have been forced to occupy the second place. These idea has been built depending on a strong cultural and social forces, this lead to final result which is women are ignored. Historically women were pushed down by the domination of men, they were always

under male oppression through male self-interests and they were forbidden from any kind of development as the other human beings.

In early American literature, women offer a unique insight into the experiences and ideas of American women from the perspective of society. But the American society witnessed various changes especially after the civil war and the industrial revolution, the world war it became a country in a period of transformation, including political, economic, social and moral transformations. The authors put a place for themselves in the literary canon. The women's movement called for questioning the role of women in society and responded to the book by creating works for women who are highly qualified and depend on their own experience in life. Later on, the contemporary literature with its powers of transformation and renovation is able to radically change the pessimistic and negative views about women, the writers wanted to highlight the truth that women can be the equal to the men in all fields of life they had responsibility in their soul more than men and even shedding lights on their suffering from distinct levels of oppression.

So the aim of this work is to offer how Alice Walker applied her literary production *The Color Purple*, (1982) to defend for women rights by clarifying the woman freedom, through her female protagonist of this novel 'Celie' who has been really oppressed by men " her husband, stepfather, child and other Whites in the novel" she was marginalized and isolated women, she touched the various suffering kinds of women, by using distinctive concepts which is fully consistent with this suffering. For several years this concept was ignored by the authors.

This extended essay's main query is: What does it mean to be a woman of color in *The Color Purple*? This query opens the door to other questions: Are women treated well? Is their treatment an issue of identity? And what are the social and religious motives for their quest of liberation? as an absolute rule which was agreed by the societies, all men love domination it is

their nature, perhaps man see women as object to control or may be the Social and the religious motives led to the inequality between gender.

To test these hypotheses this research is divided as follow:

The first chapter is about the differences between the feminism and the womanism, it also about racism and form of discrimination against black women whereas the second chapter speaks about society and social norms, especially in terms of the credibility of the family, love marriage the religious aspect, types of violence against women its emotional impact upon the women. The next chapter deals with forms of violence, abuse and persecution against women and how women worked hard to avoid the pressure in her life and prove herself.

Chapter One

The Historical View of the Black Women

I. 1. Introduction

Black women were living in hard situation they were under the civil rights and feminist movement the blacks faced several kinds of racism by the white so this chapter charts the development of womanism as movement which has presented as alternative to feminism and it advocate inclusiveness whether it is related to race or gender. Womanism provided political framework for colored women and gave them tools in their struggle with patriarchy which imposed restrictive norms and negative stereotypes on them. It also tackled the restrictiveness of feminism which was especially evident in the field of literary scholarship.

I. 2. History of Racism

Is the belief that there are differences and elements inherited by the ingenuity of people and or their abilities and their attribution to their belonging to a group or race - regardless of how the concept of race is defined and thus the treatment of individuals belonging to this group is treated differently socially and legally. The term is also used to refer to practices through which The treatment of a particular group of people is different. This distinction is justified by the use of generalizations based on stereotypes and the use of scientific concoctions. It is any feeling of superiority, behavior, practice or policy based on exclusion, marginalization and discrimination between people on the basis of color or national or ethnic affiliation. The history of the United States is full of racist incidents and black anger against white supremacy. After dozens of decades of racial segregation and more than a decade of struggle under Martin Luther King, it was abolished and a major civil rights march was launched in 1963. Indeed, he delivered his famous speech, *I Have a Dream*, in which he said: 'I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character'. Less than a year later, Martin Luther King Jr. was at the forefront, President Lyndon Bain Johnson signed the Civil

Rights Act, arguing that discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, or national origin was illegal. However, the formal abolition of racial discrimination does not put an end to the problems overnight. The 1960s saw a lot of protests and rioting that led to the killing of Martin Luther King. Sometimes: in Watts in 1965, in Detroit in 1967, then in 1968, the assassination of Martin Luther King. Behind dozens of deaths and thousands of arrests. After a relative lull in the 1970s and 1980s. Race is a social concept that has nothing to do with the personality of the individual's or his civilization. and This concept is supported by scientific scholars' interpretations of the art of dealing with human through his instinct and his mind.

I. 3. The Racist Minds

Egyptian international writer Nubian Hajjaj Adul told to the "Sputnik" Russian agency news in interview, that The racism against black people has been around for a long time, but it was more embodied during the 18th century, after the theft of the people of Africa and their deportation to Europe and America, which linked the owners of black skin and slavery, Westerners have come to believe that the word "black" is synonymous with the word "slave", and the word "black" has become a "taboo" in a number of countries such as the state of Sudan. At the same time, Adul confirmed that slavery exists in all colors even among the white-skinned people themselves, as was the case with Italian Spartacus. Adul pointed out that the unconscious mind sees that the black person is less valuable, beautiful and thoughtful, and that the owners of white are the rulers.

I. 4. Racism and The Black Woman

Discrimination against women is defined as exclusion, or restriction based on sex. And the forms of discrimination are multiple and may be based on gender or other factors such as race, ethnicity, social class or disability, all of which further complicate the risk of economic hardship, exclusion and violence, especially if the person is a woman. In all cultures,

discrimination against women prevails in an unimaginable range, and women's access to justice is often accompanied by discriminatory barriers in law and practice. The concept of discrimination against women on the basis of sex. Discrimination against women in accordance with the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)¹ refers to any distinction, exclusion or restriction made on the basis of sex, whose effects or purposes weaken or frustrate women's recognition of human rights and fundamental freedoms in the political, economic, social, cultural and civil fields or in any field. Or attenuation or frustration of their enjoyment or exercise of these rights, irrespective of their marital status and on the basis of equality between them and men. Although women constitute the majority of the poorest people in the world, the number of women living in rural poverty has increased by 50 per cent since 1975. Old Studies have also shown that women work two-thirds of the world's working hours and produce half of the world's food but only 10 per cent of global income and owns less than 1% of this world's property.

I. 5. Forms and Types of Discrimination Against Women

Discrimination against women takes many forms: at first it's can occur through acts that deprive women of exercising their right or have an effect because of the lack of recognition of gender-based inequality that women may encounter, which is known as unintentional or indirect discrimination. Then it may occur by neglecting to take strong steps, such as taking the necessary legislative measures to ensure women's full enjoyment of their rights, the failure to adopt and implement national policies aimed at achieving gender equality, and the strict application of relevant laws among the strata of society. Discrimination may stem from the law of de jure or de facto discrimination. De facto or customary discrimination is more severe and is more elusive than law. The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of

¹ The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
impowr.org

Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) recognizes both types of discrimination whether they are incorporated into laws, policies, procedures, practices and customs.

I. 6. The Rise from Feminism to Womanism

Feminism is selection of movements and ideologies that struggle for searching an equal right for women in different spheres of the world, in other terms, Feminism can be defined as the belief, the issue of rights for women first became prominent during the French and American revolutions in the late 18th century. In Britain it was not until the emergence of the suffragette movement in the late 19th century that there was significant political change. A 'second wave' of Feminism arose in the 1960s, with an emphasis on unity and sisterhood

A third wave was identified in the late 1980s and 1990s, as a reaction against the perceived lack of focus on class and race issues in earlier movements, in other terms Feminism can be defined as the male and female should have the same equal rights and opportunities ; merely it is the groups of efforts made up by set of women which is rejected the social trends, norms and the beliefs of patriarchal society² whose give the superiority for the men in different field. The trends, Norms or what is believed to be the only truth was the first reason that leads to the emergence of Feminism, in other words Feminism originated from the terminological observation of the norms that characterized the patriarchal society. As a result, to this refusing of these principles, Feminism started to discuss firstly the issue of misogyny³, from one side and the superiority and centrality from other side.

² Patriarchal Society: A system of society or government in which the father or eldest male is head of the family (oxford dictionary)

³ is the hatred of, contempt for, or prejudice against women or girls. Misogyny can be manifested in numerous ways, including social exclusion, sex discrimination, hostility, androcentrism, patriarchy, male privilege, belittling of women, violence against women, and sexual objectification. Encyclopedia of Feminist Theories.

In light of this Virginia Woolf's said: "for most of history Anonymous was a woman" (Virginia 51) she argued that Feminist movement involves sociological and political opinion dealing with variable gender issues and as a reaction to this beliefs and treatments towards Females; different cooperation and strikes have been done under the purpose of achieving equality. The history of Feminism traces the development of women's rights movements from the mid- Nineteenth century to the twentieth century. As a term Feminism raised long after women start calling for equality and asking an amelioration in their social position. Moreover, many of those who fought for women's rights did not use the term Feminism this was in the late of 1960 and early 1970 s and has limit use in relation to specific concerns and groups (Delmar 87). To some extent, Feminism is a word. Derived from French Word Feminism in 1880s and it spread in the other European countries in the 1890s and it reached North and South America by 1910. This concept connected the French word for (Woman, Femme), (and, ism), which is related to the social movement so in the beginning of 1900 a new category of socialist Feminist appeared in Europe, they supported women's liberation and rejected the so called label Feminist. And generally the history of feminism is usually followed three main distinctive and separate periods which was divided by the most feminists and scholars:

I. 6.1. The First Feminist Wave

In the 1880s, the most common identification for the first wave activism was simply The Woman Movement and This one linked their rights and educations to their authority for women to motherhood. After 1910 a group of younger women sought for equal rights to vote like men, they asserted that a Feminist political identity and pointed a dramatic public, this all known as the Suffragette Movement throughout seeking for Male and Female equal rights to vote. After the US women won the rights to vote in 1920s, the Feminist's single – minded pass the equal rights reformations to the US experiences. In the light of this the social change of the 1960s, Feminists remained a slighting term among most suffragists and socialists all

around the world. It has been extended to be universal and it spread till England in 1928 and in other countries such as France, Japan, Mexico and China by the late 1940s. After this many participants in the international Women's Movement discussed whether the term « Humanist » is used for them or the term "Feminists". One other factor that contributed to the emergence of first wave was the critique of liberalism, it was the dominant idea of the late Eighteenth and Nineteenth, at that time liberalism encouraged the individuals to demand their freedom and decide with freely with regardless to any governmental control. It supported them to trace their own path, make their own wealth and push them to believe that having social and political rights has nothing to do with gender, in other words the concerns of the whites that period was improving themselves in society without tackling the gender issue. Despite that, liberalism belief in gender neutrality, it was captured to male. « Women were regarded as irrational creatures, were not permitted to vote, own property once married and had had little legal control over their children or their bodies. » (Beasley 18).

The universal approach of liberalism has been criticized by this early form of Feminism in which it excluded women from its agenda. Nonetheless, first wave Feminism did not argue with this universal pattern for political, social rights and selfhood but peaked out that liberal pattern was only male rather than universal. The first wave Feminists were divided into two main groups; the first group: supported the Marxist/Socialist confutation of liberal thinking while, the second group defend the principles of the liberal universal notion that insisted on including women in different fields to give them a greater rights and improve their position in the liberal capitalist society.

I. 6.2. The Second Feminist Wave

The second Feminism wave started in the 1960s and 1970s; it was as a reaction to the universal standards of liberalism. Many scholars considered this type of Feminism as a

revision of the liberal or Socialist/Marxist Feminisms but it introduced a new type of Feminism. They looked for new type of Feminism but they share the same emancipatory point of view. A most important point that they called for can be summarized in this quotation: “compensatory reversal in which masculine bias was exposed and women’s theorizing and activities were rescued from obscurity.” (Beasley 19) Second wave Feminists based their views upon certain social changes, that witnessed the neglect and regardless of women’s emancipation in the past and emphasize women’s assimilation in the social field. What characterized this second wave of Feminism is being a modernist due to a number of grounds. Beasley argued that the Feminist of the second wave based their analysis and researches on universalized type of analysis, this helped them to discover or explore the dominance and oppression that happened in society at that time. One other factor that forced the idea of second wave is Modernism in which the second wave Feminists highly tackled the idea of power as being one character of men ; every man has power but in this period men used this power in negative way over women , this simply summarized the concept of “patriarchy and ‘compulsory heterosexuality’ in other words, second wave Feminists gave a new theory of power that subordinate the men power theory, also the aim of this wave was to make strike down or neglect the authority of men and create new notion of the self by giving women the importance and the whole authority in the different fields (Beasley 20)

I. 6.3. The Third Wave Feminism

As a contradiction to the second wave Feminists whom accepted the liberal standards which gave the social and political power to women, the third wave Feminists or the so called post-Feminist assert that women’s goals in 1960s and the 1970 s were still stick to what the society obliged them to do, say and to be the third wave Feminists were known as the anti-Feminist because they believed on the individual responsibility for women about their choices, beliefs and status. Also they reject the idea that women tend behind a group identity

as victims, this make them somehow liberalist, with regard to their efforts in defending equality of Male and Female. As third wave Feminists Katie Roiphe and Rene Denfeld were convinced that women were obliged to take responsibility and stop blaming the society. Hence others Naomi Wolf persist in a list of social obstacles and difficulties that push down the effort of women in building their identity. (Beasley 24).

Whereas The Feminist Movement sought for the rights of whites with remarkable ignorance to the women of color, this lead to the emergence of new Feminist Movement that directed Its intentions to the way of liberating Black Woman, who suffered from male dominance in addition to racism indeed womanism is form of feminism focused on the condition and concerns of the black. So feminism used to advocate for the rights of women, womanism take the same direction, it was a movement that search for the female's right but with slight to Feminism, special case was the women of color especially " the black women womanist is any person who Standing with a woman to defend their rights without giving any importance to gender.

Womanism is the name of the socio-cultural of Africans existing which point up both the positive and the negative of African women experience in Africa or in other place, furthermore Womanist didn't support the idea of female sex, unlike the Westerns Feminist scholars present women as a robot, dolls or toy in the hand of men ; Womanism did not consider this as plus point for women but they used to see women always being visible and active .As well as, gender complementarities, motherhood, family, social and cultural change are the basic of Womanism has been identified as a holistic.

The black women were suffering from the sexism of black men from one side and from the racism of white women in the other side, this what lead them to create their respective movement , but they faced a problem while creating this movement in which they were facing two choices : the first was staying at the same movements and trying to educate or teach the

black male and female about their needs , they attempted to build knowledge about their interests in the life and convinced the other that they deserved to be part from society . However, the second choice was to form a movement of their own selves. Even though, the first choice holed a good in its intent was not suitable option because it is true that black men should be educated about the bad effect of sexism on black women, it was not only the role of women to teach them. As Audre Lorde noted: “women of today are still being called upon to strength across the gap of male ignorance and to educate men as to our existence and our needs. This is an old primary tool of all oppressors to keep the oppressed occupied with master’s concerns. Now we hear it is the task of “women of color”⁴ to educate white women – in the face of tremendous resistance as to our existence, our differences, and our relative role in our joint survival. This is a division of energies and tragic repetition of racist patriarchal thought.” (Lorde 97). As a result of all this events and facts, black women took their decisive decisions in creating their own movement, the so called the Black Feminism movement. Despite, the need to have Black Feminism Movement, creating this movement was as a hard task for many reasons, one of these reasons was that in the 1988’s the black women were only few members of females whom had the desire to join such movement or to be Feminist in addition to the following reasons which were presented by Barbara Smith (88). So according to her: the black women are already free, Racism is the only thing that women suffered from and there is no matter if they confront to it. Next she agrees that -Feminism can be simply defined as man –hating. And Women should deal with larger struggle and not only women’s issue which is very known sphere. Adding to Race and Gender, Identity is an important issue for black women. Many scholars confirmed that all black women were suffering from the oppression, suppression and the racism in their community also they were in conflict with

⁴ Women of Color is a word used to describe female persons of color. The political term "women of color" surfaced in the violence against women movement. In the late seventies it unified all women experiencing multiple layers of marginalization with race or ethnicity as a common issue www.wocninc.org.

sexism issue from both in their same society or outside.” It is obvious that most black men are not in positions that allow them to exert the kind of institutionalized patriarchal power and control over Black women’s lives that privileged white men do in this society. But it is undeniable that they do exert a lot of power over Black women and children in everyday life.” (Hooks 124). In addition to this, there is violence against women, especially in Black home, as Hooks said that:” Patriarchy, the institutionalized structure of male dominance, encourages males of all races and classes to define their masculinity by acts of physical aggression and coercion towards others, women and children.” (Hooks 148). That why the African women created their own Black Feminist stir to struggle for their problems and rights. As it had been illustrated before the black women formed their own movement to finish the sexism, racism and oppression; the African black women in the United States also had constructed their own Black Feminist Movement to defend for their rights. The African women in the United States were conscious about their race, class and gender, also they were seeking to end this male oppression towards their lives.

I. 7. Womanhood

Women were under the dominance of all elements of society and were limited under certain physical, psychological and racial features. And the concept of beauty was permitted only to white women. In fact, women's morality was linked to their physical appearance and beauty (Welter 151). This was only for white women because of their beauty, while women who were colored were ignored for their ugliness. As a rapprochement, Black women’s femininity cannot be compared to the white women’s because white women femininity is much more high and distinctive, however, women of color were not. As well as, Patricia Hill Collins identified womanhood as: ‘True’ women possess the qualities of piety, purity, submissiveness and domesticity.” (Collins 71).

Any woman who was not white cannot be considered a real woman cannot be appointed to the community. In addition, white women are in gratitude, while black women represent everything negative that white women were not, because of the presence of women enslaved black woman.

I. 8. Conclusion

Women continue to reinvent themselves and work hard to monitor the processes of creation and definition of roles and maintain the balance of rights. women are still devoted to struggle against oppression, fragmentation and against any kind of behavior aimed at discrediting women in particular and society in general. Such as race, culture or class.

Chapter Two

Reaching Selfhood

II. 1. Introduction

Black women are really oppressed by social norms and the religious thinking and this chapter address the principles of society such love marriage family and how this caused the circle of violence in the black's homes.

II. 2. The Image of the Black Woman in The Color Purple

Afro-American women came to the US in order to work. This contributed to the marginalization of rationalism and intellectual doctrine, since women's time is limited to being confined to work so they had no time to pursuit any intellectual activity; like reading or education, Walker priorities the term 'womanist' rather than 'feminist', A 'traditional' feminist movement doesn't contain this principle's, the inequality between the genders, the sexual abuse Women's struggle for accepting and treating them as human being. Walker, as a 'womanist' goes much further in her goa which was more fixed, in that she is obliged to examine the oppression, the madness, the fidelity and the different prevails of black women. actually a number of women in the novel are seriously slaved by men, at a very early age, playing role of mother and started taking responsibility at the home, labor in the fields When return back to the color purple novel we find that it is not uncommon for a woman to marry when she passes through the parents' fancy The renaissance of Celie from Albert as a sarcastic deal on the part of her mother's husband this showed by Celie's in her letter number eight "Mr._____ ⁵ come finally one day looking all drug out. The woman he had helping him done quit. His mammy done said No more. He says, let me see her again. PA call me. Celie, he says. Like it wasn't nothing. Mr._____ want another look at you.I go stand in the door. The sun shine in my eyes. He's still up on his horse. He looks me up and down." (walker18).

⁵ or Albert as he is occasionally called) may be a jerk for most of the book, but at least he changes. Mr.____ is one of the only male characters in this novel capable of reflection and personal growth. By the end of the book, he and Celie are actually pretty good friends.

This shed the flash on the rights of women defeated and marginalized the marital fidelity is not seen as the basis of understanding by men, but rather as an assault and control of everything, Violence by males on females is common and very popular in relationships, such as between Harpo and his wife Sophia. He hits her because he considers beating a wife a guaranteed tool to show male power. Some women in the novel learn to fight to prove themselves. Where Sophia determined not to be subject to her marriage. However, her decision was the reason for the fall of her marriage, but in any case, we find that women are victorious and succeeded in resisting injustice through cohesion and help each other. as they Economically liberated women as Shug Avery and Mary Agnes are successful independent careers as singers and enjoy greater freedom than others whose lives relate to home, work and childcare, Celie was empowered to establish herself as an independent company because of the support of "females" who became more elusive and more independent after men. Thus 'womanism' reflects a link with history that includes African cultural heritage, enslavement in the United States and a kinship with other women especially women of color as Walker told in Times magazine, Walker recites the aspects of the lives of black women through an opposing view of the experience of white women. Thus, women are different from the feminist movement. This is explained by removing the cover of the history of American racism. Black women are interested in raising the relationship between men and women. Unlike white women, it is through their perspective that they work to build a stronger relationship between black men and women. Thus their demands merge with feminism and become easy to find a way for black women to deal with gender oppression without attacking black men.

II. 3.The Role of Society and Women

II. 3.1. The Role of Family

Family is widely defined as A social unit consisting of parents and their children which form a group, whether they live together or not, and according to sociologists and novelist, the family is a global social institution, in 1949, George Peter Murdoch defined the family as a "social group characterized by shared housing, economic cooperation and reproduction". then He joined that the family "includes adults of both sexes, at least two of whom maintain a socially approved sexual relationship, one or more children." as for The writer Jane Austen has defined the family in her novel '*Sense and Sensibility*' as follows: "There was that constant communication which strong family affection would dictate; and though sisters, and living almost within sight of each other, they could live without disagreement between themselves, or producing coolness between their husbands."(50). from those meanings the family is a group of individuals living under one roof which constitute a family and this latter is the basis of the continuity of societies, While the family theme in Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple* is an intertwined and complex and subject with the absence of respecting the roles of the family as should be done, firstly the protagonist of the novel Celie come from very poor family so at the beginning, we saw Celie as the only one who is obliged to take care of her family because of her mother sickness, at very low age Celie start to take care about her sister, Nettie, especially when their father seems to be attracted to her, in fact She promises to do everything for her younger sister Nettie to look like stronger woman , and do her best to marry her well with a good and lovely person, In contrast, the only thing she got was abuse by her stepfather who raped her for many times The only thing she learned was how to defend her family's women and sacrifice herself just for them, latter she obliged to be a part from another family her husband and other children she realizing that those children wasn't hers they are only new stepchildren they are

impolite , and violent, as they beat and trifle her with insult swearword. She disquiets about this new family, she knowing that they are not her real children, so she is not worries about time that how she will spend with them.

“Everybody say how good I is to Mr. _____ children. I be good to them. But I don’t feel nothing for them. Patting Harpo back not even like patting a dog. It more like patting another piece of wood. Not a living tree, but a table, a chifferobe. Anyhow, they don’t love me neither, no matter how good I is” (Walker 17), so this reflects on the patriarchal family structure that was dominant at that time. Then Celie feels love and nostalgia for her real children, who believe they were killed by her father immediately after their birth indeed She becomes crazy about the thin white woman with the child in the city, asserting that she is her own child, Olivia. she follows them in the shop, hoping to find information about their place Her desire to find her real biological family takes Celie to make many plans that will link her to this woman. “I was in town setting on the wagon while Mr. _____ was in the dry good store. I see my baby girl. ... She was bout two month old. Now she bout six.” (walker 10).

This shows the extent to which Celie is associated with her body and blood, and feels that this child is like a daughter, who has not had the opportunity to touch her and feed her as the instinct of the mother. She loves her children instinctively and even if she does not see or touch them she loves them under the blood link unconditionally. Although she has four children of Albert she realizes that they are not her children. There is no instinctive love among them.

And when we move to Harpo he meets a girl in the church and since then his obsession begins with the idea of expressing his passion he asks Celie for advice. She told him that she and her father did not love each other indeed Walker uses blanks instead last name to give a real picture to male dominance. In particular, for Mr. _____, Walker is shut the light to the

black hand of this character how his heart doesn't contain any mercy then she clarifying how they were married for other purpose. Harpo propose to marry this girl and living just for her he wants to make her part of his family, after that, Harpo and Sophia became fighting with each other. continuously Harpo feels dissatisfied (he live in situation which is opposed to his family) because he does not beat his wife. However, when he begins to beat her with the advice of Celie and his deputy, they start fighting physically Sophia Leave Harpo in the end to visit her sister Odessa because it serves as a refuge after the fight but when we move to Olinka structure family relations it is very different from the one in the United States, where men are permitted to have more than one wife. However, wives are not allowed to stay alone with a foreigner man and the majority of Olinka's wives becomes friends with each other. The role of those woman is seeking to raise children, cleaning, cooking and serving the husband, and this reflect the crises of growing up in a male-dominated family.

II. 3.2. The Role of Love

love is the beauty with different colors intense feeling, romance, huge passion, an attachment, Love is one of life's beauties it is the main cause of marriage, "Love is composed of a single soul inhabiting two bodies." (Aristotle). Love from Aristotle view is a sense of satisfaction of the other part or other the other half, based upon one of the most beautiful profound emotion. Marriages Supposed to base on love, care and understanding, but we find a contradiction between them in the color purple so in here marriage becomes all about sex "He come home with a girl from round Gray. She be my age but they married. He be on her all the time. She walks round like she doesn't know what hit her. I think she thought she loves him. But he got so many of us. All needing something." (walker14). This as an examples to prove that marriage is only a cover for fake life and the partner is recognized

only as a person who takes care of the household chores and the n-number of children they produce together.

In the case of Celie, she isn't in love with Mr. _____ but yet marries him because he wants someone as housekeeper to manage his children, although he prefers Nettie but he chooses Celie because Pa wants to have Nettie for himself. Celie is sold off to Mr. _____ like as servant, who wants her to take care of his house and work hard for him, this novel depends on characters which has trading their wife's and lovers with each other. And The case of Harpo is the strongest example for this, in first he doesn't really understand his love for Sophia which was the reason for the emergence of new a relationship to another girl called Mary Agnes who later gets involved with Shug's husband. The only stable marriage in this book is that of Nettie and Rev. Samuels. Love, in the color purple is not only romantic; it also subsist within each family and between families either fictitious or emotional Celie first senses love for her sister Nettie and later for her two children who were separated from her at birth, She presents her love for her younger sister by sacrificing and suffering with the hardships life only for her well-being Most of her life Celie first got love from her sister and then from Shug and even after her marriage she didn't felt love with Mr. _____ he didn't give her anything just a horrible life "Everybody say how good I is to Mr. _____ children. I be good to them. But I don't feel nothing for them. Patting Harpo back not even like patting a dog. It more like patting another piece of wood. Not a living tree, but a table, a chifferobe. Anyhow, they don't love me neither, no matter how good I is." (walker 17). From this point of view, we conclude that Celie does not feel love toward Mr. _____'s children, love takes mysterious form in this novel Celie is married to Mr. _____, but he is in love with Shug than but later she gets married to a man named _____ then she leaves him and finds another man and the same case happened with Harpo when he doesn't understand the value of love and later Celie shows him the meaning of love in marriage instead of wanting loveless abusive

marriage. Celie is the way for many people's realization of love and its beauty, and finally she gets love and realizes that she has to love herself first to be able to change love with other people.

At the end of the novel Celie is meet with her loved ones "her children's and her sister" and lives happily. "Everything want to be loved. Us sing and dance and holler, just trying to be loved." (Walker 52)

II. 3.3. The Role of Marriage

Marriage is a mirror in which the husband sees his wife and the woman sees herself, it is a special contract that binds the couple to establish a conjugal family relationship based on love, cooperation and fulfillment. Most of marriages in "The Color Purple" "reflect the obliteration of human rights, especially women. and when we return to the novel Shug is 'unmarriageable' because of her sexual admixture. so she told to Celie that she "just love it" (walker 68) in reference to having sex with Mr _____. Even Albert's father Mr _____ refers to Shug as Celie's "husband's whore" (page 50). From the specification of Shug, it does not merge with the control that comes with marriage, Celie defines that when Albert is saying: "My wife can't do this..." and Shug's response is: "Good thing I ain't your damn wife" (walker page 64). so She is free woman or she has 'free spirit' she enjoys in showing off her sexuality and her sexual promiscuity just to be as a 'proper wife' in her mind.

Moreover, When Celie is leaving Mr _____ with Shug and Grady, Shug says "Why any woman gives a shit about what people think is a mystery to me" By this saying she is justified herself and enriched her attitude towards her life and her body and reinforced the idea that women should live her life without any convention and without falling in the traditional role of woman "as housekeeper". When we move to the albert and Celie marriage

is as a tool of controlling and tyrannical especially when Mr _____ hides Nettie's letters to Celie. The word marriage for Celie the protagonist of the novel is as that she just has to obey and she'll get to paradise, but when she knows about Nettie's letters, her views turn to the slay and for her Shug was one's who has to remind Celie of the Golden Rule (walker page 122). later Celie leaves Mr _____ with Shug and Grady with them she finds her new personality is discovered to him when she says calls him a "lowdown dog" and says "your dead body just the welcome mat I need" (walker93).

Ultimately Celie is challenge Mr _____'s bad treatment and establishing her life in her own minds and rules by realizing that she can survive without being his wife and without doing the traditional role of woman however, Celie sees that he isn't all-bad and she describe this in her later letter to Nettie when she says: "I don't hate him" (walker141). Then when we talk about Sofia and Harpo relationship we notice that Harpo had difficulties when he being married to Sofia at first because his image of a marriage has come from Mr. _____ and Celie's. When Harpo goes to his father because of Sofia's rebellious behavior, Mr _____ asks him, "You ever hit her?" From here Harpo adopted the idea of physical acts of violence when Sofia rebelled so they started to "fighting like two men" which reflects Sofia independent, she never allows Harpo to beat her the like the way Mr _____ beats Celie. When Celie is leaving Mr _____, it seems like inspiration and womanhood to Sofia.

Through the end of the novel especially when Celie asks Harpo if he minds about Sofia having a job, Harpo says: "What I gon mind for? ... It seems to make her happy" which means he's learned from his love to Sofia and he will never treat her violently again.so marriage in the color purple reflect kind of oppression and patriarchal society.

II. 4. Society and the Social Beliefs

II. 4.1. The Issue of Religion

The color purple is an epistolary novel which consists of letters addressed to God. Celie starts writing to God when she is sad or happy, risky or really confused. She hopes that her life will be like in her first letter to God. She knows that she is a perfect girl and wishes God to know that, and even she tells her sister Nettie that she is not alone or lost because she has God and he is with her in everyday life and this appears through her writing to God all the time, and God gives her hope and comradeship even when she has a trouble in her life, she starts to ask God why she has a horrible feeling why she can't sleep, then she starts thinking that she has offended someone else, and later she realizes that it is Sofia. She felt terrible for telling Harpo to beat her. "I think about this when Harpo asks me what he ought to do to her to make her mind. I don't mention how happy he is now. How three years pass and he still whistles and sings. I think about how every time I jump when Mr. _____ calls me, she looks surprised. And like she pities me. Beat her. I say" (Walker 16), but when she corrects her mistakes she feels good and she tells God that she apologized for her transgression. Later we see the connection between sisters and the impact of religion when Nettie informs her sister Celie about her ideas to construct a new church together when they return home, and informs her that they can worship a God without an image, so that they can feel God's presence. Actually the first word written by Celie's letter is dear God so first she sees God as an old white man but the novel ends with a letter, the salutation of which reads, "Dear God. Dear stars, dear trees, dear sky, dear peoples. Dear Everything. Dear God." (Walker 145) This encloses the novel's connection to religion and spirituality: a transcendence from a belief in a one God, an old white man in a long beard, to a God that exists almost and is a part of joy. Celie begins writing letters to God in order to survive after her abuse, she later comes to view God as a creator of the beautiful world of course after Shug convinces her that God is more than what church teaches. God is more than what people say, and what church teachings confirm

(Walker 73). despite that Shug is not totally religious, but she confirms substantially that God created this world for people to be happy in their life, whereas Nettie works as missionary to the Olinka people, planning to extent Christianity, but realizes, like her sister, that God is more in world, more restrict up in nature than some Christian teacher told or proposed, while at the novel's end there is a confirmation that the charm of family unit is one appearance of God's strengths on the ground.

In this case, Walker's identification of religion in the novel is a patriarchal Christianity⁶, which is adopted by the church and used within black communities in rural south of America and Africa; the teachings of Christianity in both countries look at god, as male and white and a father-figure with absolute power and domination.

More in Christian patriarchy Men and women have different responsibilities to do, the man as protector and supplier of the family, the woman as housekeeper. Women must obey to male because of its authority, daughters, wives are obliged to following their fathers or their husbands.

II. 4.2. The Circle of the Violence

violence and the misery characterized the life of African-American women from the mid-1900s to the early 1940s in the rural South of the United States, the novel also identifies the harmful effects of: Male and white racial oppression within the black community both in the Africa and United States.

so Through Celie's practices, the novel discusses the psychological harm that results from physical and emotional Suppression of woman, indeed Celie's first letters are written to God

⁶ Christian patriarchy is a set of beliefs in evangelical Christianity concerning gender relations and their manifestations in institutions, including marriage, the family, and the home. It sees the father as the head of the home, responsible for the conduct of his family.

when she is only fourteen because she feels that she is alone so after the death of her mother and Celie has been always raped by the man she thinks to be her father. Her descriptions violent picture to the reader to highlight the ugliness of child abuse explaining not only the central character's isolation, but also the cruelty of the act and its culprit, there is also removal of Celie's childhood by 'Pa' and his decision to marry her off to a neighbor of his own age (Albert) it is kind of dehumanization, Celie's marriage to Albert is end of the abusive series of violence on the part of her stepfather, but the beginning of another one by her new husband, who is a widower who abuses Celie physically, sexually and verbally, "Harpo ast his daddy why he beat me. Mr. _____ say, Cause she my wife. Plus, she stubborn. All women good for—he doesn't finish. He just tuck his chin over the paper like he do. Remind me of Pa" (Walker 11).

So Celie is faced physical and daily abuse starting from childhood and The reflections of this sexual abuse is emotional closure, and being very passive and in some cases completely surrender, there is also Other female characters which demonstrate their power when she faced violence; of course after series of harm and abuse, many of the female character in the novel prove they will not be drawn down. Eventually, Celie knows the range of the emotional violence obliged against her, she finds force and the self-control to begin a new life without her husband, with powerless, broken heart, harm, and horrified Most often by her husband or another male from family member. It is a horrible life of the protagonist so first she has been abused during pregnancy. and later her stepfather stole her children during birth, Celie's Violence has been named as the most passive and minimum known human rights insult in the world. There is also emotional violence by using insulting words about her body or behavior obliging her to impose insulting acts. Reserving her at home, damaging her holding and even menacing to kill her or the children.

furthermore, Celie faced by poverty and financial abusing: by Stealing her money and Forcing her to work. With refusing her the right to work. Spiritual abuse: expressing her religious beliefs and paly with just to control her.

II. 5. Society and the Racial View

“Racism is a current event; only its expression is more disguised and subtle.” (Williams 20) Racism is, discrimination, or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior. “Racism is the belief that people of some races are inferior to others, and the behavior which is the result of this belief.” (Collins English dictionary). So, it is the practice or the belief that particular race is superior than other or is the unequal tratremment of human beings on the basis of their skin color.

II. 5.1. Racial Compression in The Color Purple

Racism is widely explained as the belief that peoples of one race are intrinsically superior to peoples of other races. *The Color Purple* takes place in two distinct settings—rural Georgia and a separate African village, both of theme submerged in race and racism.

Actually, in The novel, racism is photocopied by a white antagonist against unable, poor black person and “The concept of God, angels, or Jesus Christ as a white man meant that the black community still struggled with the notion of hierarchal race. The superior race obviously is the white race for Jesus Christ to be pictured in white. Dominant in thought was a main part of the black man’s identity, feeling inferior towards the white man. Celie finds comfort in God who is her listener and helping hand” (AlTaher 05), There is a sense that the white man is

superior than the black one. Moreover, While Celie sees comfort in God who is his auditor despite of her wrong thinking about god she believes herself to be ugly in part because of her very black color or skin. The second image of racism pictured when Harpo defeats Sofia after Mr. ___ said that he is not man he is less of a man due to Sofia's hardness, by saying: "Nothing can do that better than a good sound beating" (Walker16). Racism is generally seen as a cage in the novel, through which the repression of blacks by whites is illustrated. An example of the Sofia prison, which illustrates the suffering of blacks imprisoned people because of racism, and in the color purple it is confined to slavery and marginalization of characters in their homes Because of racism, there is another belief in the novel that "the more the skin is bright skin" the more beautiful is it, Squeak, who is of mixed race, is aware of this division and asks Harpo, "Do you really love me, or just my color?" (Walker42). Also the protagonist was suffering because she was "too black," and "ugly "(walker 97). whereas the situation wasn't too different in Africa, Nettie reminds that the ancestors of the Olinka, with whom she lives, sold her ancestors into slavery in America, Nettie was panic to bring Olivia and Adam to racist America, because they grew up in Africa, never having felt racism. Walker demonstrates these racial injustices to shows that will be difficult to remove the racial view from people minds.

II. 5.2. Sexual Rape

It is a tradition in the patriarchal society, where men have the power to blackmail women, and the violation reaches the father's rape of his wife's daughter because he is the best and the highest. And even When Celie married, she married with a man she does not love and does not want, she despises and humiliates him and he married her to raise his children and to engaged an affair with her without taking into account her feelings as if she were raped again by her husband instead of her mother's husband. He did not care or realize that this process was a shared pleasure between two. She was a way of getting pleasure and talking to her

friend about her sexual relationship with her husband. She says, "I start knocking over my body, raising my nightgown to my waist, and then rushing inside." Most of the time he pretended I was not there and he never realized my condition and did not ask me about my feelings in the meantime even once, he finishes his task and leaves me and sleeps in deep sleep This type of relationship is a clear example of sexual persecution. Without an emotional relationship between the two parties, the relationship has no feelings and no understanding. She has never had sexual relations and has not known the importance of her genitalia to the extent that she neglected them, perhaps because she did not go to school to get a little knowledge about life because she was busy raising.

II. 6. Conclusion

this chapter clarifies and illustrates the stages of the development of the Black women in the body of the American society. And how women of color formed their own literary movement 'Womanism' to defend their rights against social norms and men itself. *The Color Purple* describes the importance of family and how religion proves itself in the judgement making of many black's home community. depicts a woman who has been oppress all her life.

Chapter Three

Woman Identity

III. 1. Introduction

Women suffer from various types of persecution physical, emotional, economic and sexual so they try to liberate themselves from their husbands and even their societies. This chapter focuses on the great woman how she managed to change her life to the better

III. 2. Women Searching for Liberation

The Black Liberation Movement took under many forms of movements as: the Civil Rights Movements; Black Nationalism, the Black Panthers...etc., all this movements faced a regular increasing of the issue of sexism that threatened the women's lives, so the first goal for this liberation movement was the liberation of race especially for achieving the black female's freedom .One perspective of this movement liberty was equalized with Manhood and the Freedom of Black with the redemption of Black masculinity, that is to say whatever the racism is harmful to men is more harsh for women because when racist referred to the loss of manhood , this also explained both the adaptation of the masculinity with its complete meaning which means masculinity that holds patriarchy within its context; as well as ignorance of the human need for dignity and freedom which was shared by both sexes (Male and Female) . As an important thing to mention is that the members of this movement were not only women but also men. Many black men focused on obtaining an effective methods to control black women's sexuality, those members argued on the point that "freedom" and "manhood" were the factors that helped men to make control over any women's body , this what was classified by Bell Hooks while writing a comments in the Black Liberation Movement of the 1960's when he said :” Black men overemphasize white male sexual exploitation of black woman hood as a way to explain their disapproval of inter-racial relationships .”(Hooks 65) As well as the Black Women did not see themselves in reaching a point where they benefits from their right in humanity and equality. However, they were in a great ignorance. In this Black

Liberation Movement, black men created two main statements about sex or the so called Sexist Statement, those statements were easily adopted and accepted, the First Statement was presented by Amiri Baraka while the second was firstly classified through the perspective of Eldridge Cleaver: “And so this separation [of black men and women] is the cause of our need for self – consciousness, and eventual healing. But we must erase the separateness by providing ourselves with healthy African identities by embracing a value system that knows of no separation but only the divine complement the black women are for her man – for instance we do not believe in the ‘equality’ of men and women. We cannot understand what the devils and devilishly influenced mean when they say equality for women. We can could be never equal...nature has not provided this. (Amiri 299) Back to the sexist statements, Baraka focused on the idea that between men and women there is no equality; furthermore, he said that they are unequal by nature. Moreover, men do not only differ from women, but also there is no mutual reciprocity relation between them i.e.: The black men are not for his woman not like black woman who is for her men, in other words the two do not show respect to one another, however, women are obliged to show respect for men. (Amiri 230).

Unlike Baraka, Cleaver later expressed his regret at his treatments towards women but he still insisted on his misogynist attitude, and this is clear through the use of two terms Sexism and Racism in the following citation when he give less importance to the violence done against the Black Women and he ignored it when he compared this violence with the one against the white parts, in addition he argued that the crime against white women bore more weight in the judicial system ,i ,e , the damaged it causes and the reaction against this damage cannot be the same as if it is practiced against black women , in other words the crimes committed against the blacks was not noticed or taken into consideration just for one reason which is the crime are practiced against non-white women. (Cleaver 37) So the sexual oppression committed against women or black women were not showed with it’s real image.

III. 3. Being Marginalized

Women have suffered from marginalization for several years and this case was reached up to their own lives. This unite manifest various kinds of marginalization. Being Marginalized: This point can be considered as the common reason for the struggle for equal treatment and equality and that pushes them to seek for their liberation. The most significant point of Marginalization in *The Color Purple* can be pointed firstly in Celie's character in the Color Purple when she suffered from two ways of marginalization from her Race and Gender from the beginning of novel Celie starts to writes letters dedicated to God because she considers God as an image of her stepfather when he raped her and told her to do not tell anybody about what he did to her in which he told her : "You better not to tell no body but God ..." (Walker 13) or "It'd kill your mommy..." (31) Celie has no other tool to express her suffering , but what proves that Celie was really marginalized in the novel is the absence of seldom, signature or Sender's name at the end of all her letters , this means that she has no power in life . Also this signifies her 'nobody ness', leading to her powerlessness. In addition to this, Celie has pointed from the very beginning of her life that a "god wife "must be a "good to children" with a nice looking, hardworking and clean perfect, angelic Female image and in contradiction she is not a good wife as "she is ugly" (Walker 08), and "not fresh" (Walker 07) , clean as being raped by her stepfather , she is called the unclean 'Monster' as her stepfather say 'I'm evil an always up to no good"(Walker 03). As it is pointed before , Celie suffers from double ways of marginalization due to her Race and gender , she is also marginalized from being dominated female and from being a Black Lady .Celie's experience from being rejected Black Female reflects the miseries of all Blacks who are marginalized in the community levels , as an example from *The Color Purple* can classify the idea of racism or marginalization in this novel , Celie named the 'Gal ' however the White ladies called in

respectful manner ‘girls’(Walker 14) , this means that at that time they show more respect to the Whites more than to the blacks . Celie was with an informal address this was another type of keeping her in the other side of her society. Another point of marginalization that can appears in *The Color Purple* is that the blacks were inferior than Whites from the financial side in which Celie describes The Revend’s wife as the only woman that have money when she said :”The only woman I even seen with money ”(Walker19) Likewise, the Female has come across material deprivation in terms of the lack of private space, an important space for expression one’s real thoughts and feeling , which urges women to seek for a way to perform their true self by becoming liberated . Besides Celie the poor girl who never owns a space even just for keeping the letters from her sister.

III. 4. Seeking liberation

In this novel, characters are seeking for their liberation due to the failure to be their true self as living with a sense of ‘Playing a role, in which most of the characters have behaving according to the social norms accepted by the majority in the society only for the purpose of satisfying the needs or expectations of others. So, Celie takes the Color as a domestic helper for her family as well as a sex slave for her husband, yet she has never been respected by her husband and her step-son as a wife or a mother. By the time, Celie reaches the point that present the truth of her life, she comes to recognize that her husband married her just for: “a good house keeper, good with children, good cook “(Walker 21) or the so called “Women work” (Walker 22). In *The Color Purple*, when the wedding day her husband orders her to:” *bandage* my(her) head...and cook dinner.” After this her step-son “Laid (her) head open” (Walker12). All these actions reflect Celie’s role in life which is working for only family rather than herself as a woman. How Do Women Seek for Liberation and when we return back to the feminist movement we see Both Feminists and Womanists are convinced with the importance of being liberated women, this motivates them to ask for this right. For

this purpose, women follow different ways to realize the issue of liberation, two main types of asking for liberation are discussed simultaneously in the novel. The first one is Liberation through Body Touch among the Same Sex and the second one is Liberation Depending on Language 'Reading and Writing'

III. 4.1. Liberation Through Body Touch Among the Same Sex

Body touch is a remarkable way of liberating one's self as it is in the novel through the Female character with now assistance from Men. This type is also divided into two kind of body touch in the first kind of body touch is Kissing in which the protagonist has had kissing scenes with the Same Sex characters in *The Color Purple* the kissing appears by the Female character Celie and her relationship with Shug in several acts of love and making sex with Shug. She is the first one who proposes sex with Celie, and they found it so enjoyable as Walker said: "...feel like one of my (Celie's) letters lost babies moth" (Walker115) For Celie this sexual experience is different from that with Men. Here it is worthy to note that the sexual experience between Shug and Celie is filled of emotions and feelings where Celie "Cry and cry "and says" I love you" (Walker114). Analysing the larger picture of liberates body touch including Kisses and sexual acts among same sex can be seen that this acts offers private sexual pleasures to them in which it is dominated by Male. But more importantly it builds a strong basis for women to support each other and help in the psychological development in women's relationship together.

III. 4.2. Liberation Through Language (Reading and Writing)

In talking about liberation through Language it is not hard to find examples from the novel in supporting this idea, most of the characters depending on Reading or writing to express their thoughts or to learn how to improve their selves as contributing factors in the society, for instance Celie in *The Color Purple*, she chooses her way of liberation through

writing she starts writing letters to God after being raped by her father. Celie finds that God is the only solution that she would send her writing. Writing letters to God enable her to express freely her affections and thoughts without any concerns of Taboos. For example, she honestly writes “I don’t even look at men –that’s the truth. I look at women; the...” (Walker 05).

While those letters contain signs that she could possibly be a lesbian at the beginning of the story Celie has shown a great ability and control over her description of other people for example she addresses her husband by writing “Mr___” to show that has no meaning in her life and she never think about him as a closer person but a stranger. Celie repeatedly uses the pronoun ‘I’ to demonstrates the affection of writing in contributing her self-identity.

III. 5. Male Domination Vs Race, Gender and Classism

The novel highlighted the issues of race as well as It presents a hard misery that most of women handle according to their gender and race. The patriarchal society was totally changed in this novel was replaced by a matriarchal society in which women start take care of other women's children by love and understanding they make their lives better.

Celie learns how to love herself before she loves man. In fact, the novel begins with a warning for Celie. Her dad says: " You better not never tell Nobody but God. It'd kill your mammy" (walker11). the black women were affected by Racism , Sexism and Classism , this structures were in the Afro – American society that were facing them .Black women are with a separate caste of their sex , as a system of inequality between men and women were humans are divided into groups or ‘races’ , these groups based on their classification as Collins said : “In the United States , racial segregation constitutes a fundamental principle of how racism is organized .”(Collins 300).The Color Purple considered as a novel that celebrate the heroism of black women who fight to escape from their life that derive them to a long path they have not chosen . As well as, Celie the protagonist was in a situation of race in which she was an

ugly girl, all her family hated her in which her stepfather raped her. Also when she got married with Mr___, he used to beat her and he was in love with another beautiful woman with Blue eyes named Shug. Alice Walker's choice of characters helps her in reflecting racism within the society. She creates a set of characters of both races Blacks and Whites. First, the Mayor's family were considered as an example of White racists. As Miss Millie, the Mayor's wife when she asks Sofia to be her maid when she says: "to Sofia, all your children so clean, she say would you like to work for me, be my maid." (Walker 53) Moreover, the Polices represents the symbol of injustice and unfair in *The Color Purple* in which they treat blacks in an illegal way like Sofia when she was in the prison, she was not safe from segregation and violence: "They crack her skull, they crack her ribs. They tear her nose loose on one side. They blind her in one eye, she swole from head to foot. Her tongue the size of my arm, it sick's out tween her teef like a piece of rubber. She can't talk and she just about the color of a eggplant" (Walker 53-54). Furthermore, Alice Walker describes Womanist as a word that reflect more than what Black women have been seen during their lives. In *The Color Purple* Walker tackles the issue of sexism as an example in the *Color Purple* Mr___ Celie's husband was an abusive man, Love was missing elements in his life with Celie. He sees her everything but not a woman. In describing their sexual intercourse Celie says: 'Just do his business, get off go to sleep' (Walker 49) Celie's husband sees her as a legal tool to feed his sexual desire no more in which he does not care about her feeling as a woman. The main issues that Walker used in her novel to address the life of Black women at that time colored women were in a situation that makes them in lower class, they were marginalized from their societies like Celie's marginalization was first from her family than her husband Mr___ when he was in love with another woman. Celie says that: "He beats me today because he says I winked at a boy in church. I may have got something in my eye but I did not wink..." (Walker51).

III. 6.The Ethnic Persecution

Blacks in the white man's society were persecuted while black women suffered a double persecution, first because they were women and second because they were black. "I'm poor, black, and maybe ugly and I can't cook well ... but I do exist."(walker18)

She confirms that she is from a poor class and black race. She is not pretty but ugly and does not know traditional women's skills like cooking. A black woman will be persecuted by the society of the white man ahead of the Negro movement as well as the persecution she receives from her husband and the patriarchal ideology that prevails in society.

III. 7. Emotional and Physical Indigestion

The cruel suffering that Celie lives with her mother's husband, which in turn deprived her of her right to motherhood, by taking her children from her immediately after birth and indirect injustice that life take her by depriving her o right to enjoy with her childhood. Instead of enjoying them, Celie has been raising her responsibility she takes care to her younger brothers and sisters since Early age because of her mother's illness She did not feel her childhood, didn't play and didn't go to school to learn, she did not have childhood friends and times of pleasure in other words she did not have a childhood .After that Nettie comes to Celie's younger sister to live with her for a temporary period where she will love very much but later she will travel fare from from her because Celie's husband when she refused to have sex with him.

The picture of unhappiness and sadness of persecution is that when she wears her dead mother's repentance. She is considered physically alive and spiritually dead, because no one

cares about her or is rewarded, deprived of most of the needs of life. She does all the hard work in the house and the farm but she hadn't nothing.' Celie's husband persecuted her, despised her and called her (you are poor black and ugly), ignoring her humanity and spontaneity as a human being. She even recognizes herself as an ugly woman and repeats this sentence repeatedly during the events of the novel, it is itself.

The persecution and enslavement to which Celie was subjected by her husband did not make her hate her husband and did not turn her into a reckless woman, but she remained slender, sensitive and open-minded. But this persecution made her hate men in general and look at them like frogs. The novelist tried to address the persecution of women from a feminist point of view that the oppression of women was caused by men. If we accept this equation, I mean that the persecution of black sex is caused by the white man. when we move to the emotional relationship and the other Celie does not just need to someone who tell her how to act and what to say but she also need to know who will show how this life should return. She needs a sympathetic teacher and a friend, this relationship described by Sharon Himmer as "narcissistic friendship." At earlier stage of such a friendship. At the first stage of this friendship, narcissistic friend This kind of relationship begins for Celie, when she is helped by a Shug when she shows to her The mirror stage to discover her body, her ability to speak, and the inspiration to love other people and even the life. Lacanian psychoanalysis, says Ragland Sullivan, pre-mirror "A period in which the infant suffers from his body as fragmented parts and images. "These images include" castration, mutilation, tearing of the ribs, dislocation, dislocation, . . . They have a formative function in composing the subject of man from identity and cognition « (Ragland-Sullivan 18-19) Because of male brutality, and this appear in the daily life of Celie, and the most common evident for this is in the way of her fearing of the scissors when her stepfather brings to her room with him. And even when she forced to take her mother place.

III. 8. Women Identity and Self Discovery

All The women characters in the *color perpul* are portrayed as being responsible for their lives, well aware that their role in life is difficult, but this book reflects the ideology as feminist. Its development follows the proposed feminist style

_First, they learned from the adults, the powerful women experts in life like Shug and Sofia who give hope and courage to change their life to the better.

_Second, the ideology defines true love and acceptance from other women. This is integrated into the framework of understanding and learning.

So Shug is recognized as an instructor woman she has experienced to educated Celie's, she shows to her how that she will enjoy her life, her love and her integration with others and even learned her how to accept beauty and diversity of this natural world.

But Sofia is the type of assertive woman that Celie is not. Especially when she faced some trouble in her life she stands up and fight and if anybody picks on her, she beats them twice. Sofia is stronger, wise gril extremely honest and willing to act on her emotions. Whereas Nettie, was totally a different a different from the others characters, but she shares with them the same end result. She spent her life learning more than Celie She spends her life learning more than her sister Celie. She sees her experience in life as she is in mission in Africa. She realizes that she can balance her life, freedom and her independence eventually she gets her love and gets married to a loving man as she wants. She has reached her desire to create a

loving married life that also includes two children from Their children, the children of Celie, Olivia and Adam. Indeed, the arrival of this extended family to the land of Celie at the end of the novel refers to the final stage in the journey of self-discovery by Celie and her sister. Nettie found themselves. So in this novel Celie learns how to love herself and others and to address even her written language to a body, her sister Nettie, rather than to the disembodied God. Indeed, the love and independence that she felt is a paradigm of a liberated woman.

III. 9. The Color Of Identity

These novel targets black woman characters like Celie, Shug, Sofia or Nettie engaged in journeys of self-discovery. It follows feminist ideology centered on liberation from male oppression. The color Purple indicates a rebirth that reflects a completely different personality. The social oppression of black women and their request for freedom and self-sufficiency is the main theme.

III. 10. The Social Oppression of The Black

After the abolition of slavery, the American society was kept as it is it does not remain any change the African-Americans people in the rural southern areas were largely marginalized and most of them work as farmers with their previous white slave master. After the African-American migration to the Northern States in 1915, black farmers in the South became more isolated from white society, and Schools, churches homes have been separated, but their chances of living have diminished and blacks are finding difficulties to raise their costs of living condition outside the agriculture. however, the black was able to establish themselves as businessmen, indeed in the color purple, we pointing the flourishing of blacks with in the sense of pride and personality - of black identity.

Walker focused on two African-Americans running prosperous farms and owning a dry goods store. Both of them challenge the basics of living condition and social norm's in rural areas:

The first one was Celie's stepfather, Alphonso (Pa) who is the manager of a dry goods store, which eventually helped him build a spacious and beautiful house.

And the second one was His friend Albert (Celie's husband) who is land owner

which provides jobs for his son Harpo and also it provides a good living condition for an extended family. Despite the fact that both men succeeded in their community, Walker shut the light in the issue of brutality of racial prejudice with the revelation that the original owner of the shop is natural Celie's father in fact her natural father was executed by a white racist gang. because Linking was widespread and Authorized by the responsible authorities in the South from 1880 to the 1930s and the father of Sealy was killed because his trade was threatening the economy of the institutions run by White the protagonist of the novel Celie does not easily break out of gender stereotypes when Albert leaves and sets up "Folkspants" and makes unisex clothes, but also succeeds in achieving the unusual economic independence of women in African-American society at the time.

III. 11. Conclusion

This chapter contains patterns of male dominance or patriarchal society and ways of freeing women from their limitations and the adequacy of their self-sufficiency. It concluded by achieving the aim of this research which is reaching women identity

General Conclusion

Generally speaking, this present work tries to demonstrate and illustrate the difference between feminism and womanist ideologies, and how it was presented in the contemporary literature and how this last one adopted the term identity or strong woman.

Womanists find that they should adopt the Feminist ideas to refuse social patriarchal boundaries, this led to the widespread of Feminism. Hence those feminist ideas defend only the rights of whites, this also contributes in the emergence of new movement that asks for the right of freedom of the blacks as female and as human beings as well. The colored women were in need for equality with man because they worked in fields and did all the works that demand physical strength. As a result, the majority of women who were active in the contemporary movement were more concentrated with the cause of slavery than being aware from patriarchy.

The principles of Feminism and womanism were discussed in detailed in the first part of this research, mainly the historical background to the key words of this work are Feminism and Womanism. And because the research is made for one major reason which is examining how can the colored woman be strong and liberated. The selected novel Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* tries to show the position of black women fighting in many levels: race, gender, and classism.

The thematic study of this novel is how Womanists seeks liberation, which give an overview of the role of social norms in the status of family marriage, love, complicated religion and violence and woman should play her role as house keeper, wife, mother and sister and she has not the right to occupy any other occupation as men dose, the second reason is: being marginalized.

Moreover, the second part of research holds the term of woman identity by seeking for liberation, through body touch and through language (reading and writing). then the

attention is drawn about the fight and reaching selfhood in order to be equal with the men, hence the Womanists fight against gender, race, and classism. The findings listed in this work is the womanist movement contribute in the existence of woman in the different field, and they enable the woman to share the same rights with man

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Appendix

Alice Walker's Biography:

Alice Malsenior Walker was born on February 9, 1944 in Eatonton, Georgia. She was the last of eight children, her father Willie Lee Walker; he was known as a Sharecropper i.e. a person who owns or manages a farm. Her father was a farmer in others land with some financial proceeds go to the land lord as a payment. As well as Sharecropper was a prominent way that poor used it at that time to live their rural and impossible situations. Alice Walker's mother Minnie Tallulah Walker was born in Grant. She was a stay –at home mother, an eager gardener and quilter Her mother activities can be found over her daughter's work, whether it is an appreciation of the mystical qualities of nature or a solid appreciation of quilting. As Freeman mentioned *about* Walker's personality: "I just feel really good and protected and blessed ...It's the same tradition as painting or caring ...The power is partly about grounding yourself in something that is humble ...something you can see take from through your own effort." (Freeman 57) At that time, Walker's early life was in a great poverty however, the love and support of her parents made sure that none of their children would live this life with this lack of financial resources. Alice herself was one of the cleverest students at that time; her teachers loved her from being one of their memorable students. Alice Walker described her childhood in her essay 'Beauty, when The Other Dancer is The Self ' ; she draws an image of being a perfect little girl wired a best dress proud and confident girl. As Alice made her speech she marked that her adulthood, behavior, unforgotten spirit: "When I rise to give my speech I do so on a great wave of love and pride and expectation People in the church stop rustling their new crinolines. They seem to hold their breath. I can tell they admire my dress, but it is my spirit bordering on sassiness (womanish ness), they secretly applaud. That *girl's* a little mess, they whisper to each other, *pleased*. "(Walker 385) The concept '*Mess*' in this context meant

to be as an indication for Walker intelligence and what Walker had a reward for it. Meanwhile, this reward was a strange for tragic fall

The Color Purple Summary

Alice Walker is the best known for her novel *The Color Purple* in 1982. The novel brought a good reputation and money to Alice. The story of *The Color Purple* is about an African American girl named Celie, a poor and uneducated. Celie's destiny curves during her life. The novel was written in a form of ninety- one letters in which Celie wrote them to God and later on to her sister Nettie. At the age of fourteen, Celie was being raped by her stepfather 'Alphonso' as a result she had two children with him, where she has to give away to 'be with God'. Sooner she was forced to marry a widower with his several children who beats and abused her. Nettie is Celie's sister; Celie took her away of from her stepfather to do not live the situations that Celie live.

However, Nettie ends up in Africa with a missionary family, she wrote letters to her sister Celie but she did not receive those letters because Celie's husband hides them from her. Nettie returns back at the very end of the novel with Celie's children. Celie's husband 'Albert' but she called him Mr___ was in love with a singer called 'Shug', they have children together but he did not have the courage to marry her. Albert brought Shug to his own house when Celie gets ill, while at the beginning Shug was not in a good relation with Celie, but later on they were in a strong relationship together. Sofia a secondary character in *The Color Purple*, she was an independent soul likewise she pays a huge price for this soul, where She was removed her from an office job by a Mayor's wife. Her life ends by being in prison when a police beats her More than any one, Shug's powerful closeness and acceptance of Celie gives her the strength to redefine herself, take change of her life and at the end she leaves Albert. Shug and Celie moved to Memphis where she begins a career of designing and selling pants. Later on her stepfather died she returns to her family home.

