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Slavery and Racism
in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain

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

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Dedications

I dedicate this research paper to:

First and foremost, all praise is to Allah for giving me determination, patience, and strength to do this research.

Special thanks to my parents for their efforts and role in raising me and teaching me, supporting me do my best and succeed. Thanks to my husband who encouraged me to continue my higher studies, to my naughty boy Adam, and all family members.

May Allah protect them.

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Abstract

This extended essay aims at investigating the issue of slavery and racism in Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The novel is a perfect depiction of the southern society and its racial stereotypes over slavery and racism, and how the latter was used as a tool used by white southerners to persecute black people. In other words, racism was an after effect of slavery. Slavery had a negative impact on the slaves in all aspects of life. However, even though slavery was abolished, racism came as a result of slavery. In his novel, Mark Twain wanted to portray racism as a consequence of slavery which white southerners used as a key role to discriminate, and deprive black slaves from their legal rights.

Keywords: Slavery, Racism, Racial Stereotypes, Discrimination

Table of Contents

Dedications.....	I
Acknowledgements.....	II
Abstract.....	III
Table of Contents... ..	IV
General Introduction.....	01
Chapter One: Historical and Literary Background	
Introduction... ..	05
1.1 The American Society in the 19th Century	05
1.1.2 The American Anti-Slavery Society	06
1.2 Slavery in the 19th Century America	07
1.2.1 America’s Westward Expansion and Slavery	08
1.2.2 American Civil War and Slavery	09
1.2.3 The Fugitive Slave Law	12
1.3 Racism and Racial Stereotypes in the 19th Century America.....	12
1.3.1 Civil Rights Movement and Racism	13
1.3.2 Minstrelsy and Racial Stereotypes.....	14
1.4 American Literary Realism	16
1.4.1 Regionalism	16
1.4.2 Naturalism.....	17
1.4.3 Features of American Literary Realism.....	17
1.4.4 Themes of American Literary Realism.....	19
1.5 Slavery and Racism in American Literature in the 19th Century	19
1.5.1 Slave Narrative	19
1.5.2 White Novelists.....	22

Conclusion.....	24
Chapter Two: The depiction of Slavery and Racism in <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	
Introduction... ..	26
2.1 Society in <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	26
2.1.1 Huckleberry Finn	26
2.1.2 Jim.....	27
2.1.3 Tom Sawyer	28
2.1.4 Widow Douglas and Miss Watson.....	28
2.1.5 Pap.....	28
2.1.6 The Duke and the Dauphin	29
2.1.7 The Grangerfords	30
2.1.8 The Phelps.....	31
2.2 Slavery in <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	32
2.2.1 The Depiction of Slavery through the Novel	32
2.3 Racism and Racial Stereotypes in <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	35
2.3.1 The Depiction of Racism and Racial Stereotypes through the Novel	35
Conclusion.....	38
Chapter Three: The Impact of Slavery and Racism on Jim Character	
Introduction... ..	40
3.1 The Impact of Slavery on Jim Character	40
3.1.1 Situations where Jim Exposed Slavery.....	40
3.1.2 Jim Character.....	42
3.2 The Impact of Racism and Racial Stereotypes on Jim Character	44
3.2.1 White Southerners' Stereotypes toward Black Slaves	44
3.3 Resolution Destiny and the End of the Nightmare for Jim.....	48

3.3.1 Jim is sold to the Phelps.....	48
3.3.2 Tom's Plans to Free Jim.....	49
Conclusion.....	53
General Conclusion	55
Appendices	
List of Appendices	58
Appendix I: Mark Twain Biography	59
Appendix II: Synopsis of <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	61
Works Cited	64

General Introduction

Slavery and Racism had been major issues of the American Southern States, which continue to exist even after the abolition of slavery. Though slavery and racism had been major concepts in American society since its very first times in the United States, it was not a theme in literature until literary realism reached the zenith. Realist writers aimed at treating the material of slavery and racism in a realistic fiction. The literatures tackling these themes consisted of a sympathetic description of the enslaved and the brutality they endured. Slave narratives, however, were much more insightful when it came to slavery and racism as themes.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was a novel written by Mark Twain, first published in the United Kingdom in December 1884 and in the United States in February 1885, it reflected the dark side of American Southern society and the impact of slavery during the 19th century. The novel was written in Vernacular English, characterized by local colour regionalism, which was narrated in first person point of view by the main character, Huckleberry Finn. Although Mark Twain wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* two decades after the Emancipation Proclamation and the end of the Civil War, the United States, and especially the Southern states were still struggling racism and the after effects of slavery.

The story began when *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* ended, with Tom and Huck who found six thousand dollars which caused many problems to Huckleberry. Some wanted to civilize him like Miss Watson and Widow Douglass, and others wanted to harm him like his abusive drunken father who wanted to steal his money. All those problems led him to escape to Jackson Island where he met Miss Watson's slave, Jim. The two started their adventure down the river as runners, one ran from civilization, and the other ran from

slavery. In addition to that, throughout the adventures, Huck realized what a real life was like and he knew for the first time the sense of friendship, kindness, love, and freedom.

This extended essay attempts to provide answers to the following questions:

- * How did Mark Twain depict slavery in his novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*?
- * What was the main impact of slavery and racism on black slaves?

The hypotheses formulated are as follows:

- * Mark Twain in his novel tried to describe slavery as a mistreatment and an unfair discrimination against black slaves.
- * Slavery and racism had a significant impact on Jim both mental and physical health.

This research paper is divided into three chapters; the first chapter, "Historical and Literary Background", is an introductory chapter that tries to explore the American history during the 19th century especially in southern states. The second chapter, "The Depiction of Slavery and Racism in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*", portrays slavery and racism in the novel, and describes black slaves' discrimination and sufferings through the novel based on realistic approach. The last chapter, "The Impact of Slavery and Racism on Jim Character", shows the pains that Jim passed through in order to reach his freedom.

As for the methodological aspects used in order to fulfill this inquiry, qualitative research is used in order to examine the data collected for a better understanding of the sources and information. As for the references used, a mixture of both primary and secondary resources is used in conducting the research among which the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, books, articles and educational websites. The seventh

edition of MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers was used in the works cited section, in-text citations, and some methods of writing.

Chapter One
Historical and Literary
Background

Introduction:

Slavery and Racism were major issues during the nineteenth century in the United States of America, which led to a strong wave of discrimination against the slaves. The developing acute disparities between Southern pro-slavery and Northern anti-slavery states created serious tensions over slavery, which led to the bloody Civil War of America. After the Civil War the Thirteenth Amendment of the Constitution abolished Slavery in the United States. On the other hand, Slavery and Racism found their path in the American literature, mainly in the narrative of former slaves. In addition to that, many white novelists of the nineteenth century cared about black people's suffering and focused on the issue of slavery and racism, such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain. However, this chapter focuses on slave narrative, this genre of writing is regarded as reflective mirror to daily life of the black slaves.

1.1. The American Society in the 19th Century:

The American society during the 19th century was divided into two categories, anti-slavery northern society and pro-slavery southern society. In the south, southern slave owners insisted that slavery was absolutely to that story of progress without slavery, you could not have civilization, they said slavery freed the upper class from the need to do manual labor, to worry about economic day to day realities, and therefore gave them the time and the intellectual ability to devote themselves to the arts and literature and mechanical advantages and inventions of all kinds. So that it was Slavery itself which made the progress of civilization possible (Africans in America).

In fact, the south utilized slavery to sustain its culture and grow cotton, tobacco, and rice on plantations. However, the North prospered during the Industrial Revolution Northern cities, the center of industry in the United States became major metropolises due

to an infuse of immigrants. With this willing and cheap workforce the North did not require a slave system, because it was a non-slave area (Battlefield.org).

1.1.2. The American Anti-Slavery Society:

The American Anti-Slavery Society was one of the most prominent abolitionist organizations in the United States of America during the early nineteenth century, it was founded in 1833 by Theodore Dwight Weld, who was still a student at that time and the leader of slavery debate at Lanz Seminary from 1832 to 1834, as well as Arthur Tappan and Lewis Tappan. These three men provided local and anti-slavery societies including the Ohio Anti-slavery Society with an organization that could take their cause to the national level.

The American Anti-Slavery Society hoped to convince both white Southerners and Northerners of slavery's inhumanity. In addition to that, the organization sent lectures across the North to convince people of slavery's brutality, the speakers hoped to convince people that slavery was immoral and ungodly thus it should be outlawed. Also, the organization bombarded the United States Congress with petitions calling for the end of Slavery. Rather than addressing the slavery issue, Congress imposed the gag rule, which stated that congress would not accept any petitions from the people of the United States that pertained to slavery. Unlike earlier organizations, Americans Anti-Slavery Society members called for an immediate end to slavery. Most of the society's members demanded that African Americans receive the same political, economic, and social rights as white people.

Leadership of the American Anti-Slavery Society soon passed to William Lloyd Garrison, Garrison was a prominent American advocate of the abolition of the institution of slavery, and was perhaps the most vocal and best known opponent of slavery before the Civil War, the organization attracted under his leadership to more than 150.000 members. In 1840, the

American Anti-Slavery Society split. Garrison and his supporters called for the creation of a new government that prohibited slavery from the very beginning, he contended that the United States Constitution was an illegal document because it denied African Americans' freedom. If the South would not agree to form a new nation that outlawed slavery, Garrison said that the North should secede from the United States and create its own country. However, some members of the American Anti-Slavery Society including most members of the Ohio's organization thought that Garrison 's views were too radical, they agreed that slavery was wrong but also believed that the United States Constitution had created a legitimate government under which the people had the right to end the oppression. These abolitionists formed the Liberty Party (Ohio History Central).

Another reason contributed to the split within the American Anti-Slavery Society is that Garrison's followers called for women to receive prominent roles within the abolitionist movement. Not all abolitionists agreed that women were the equals of men and refused to take direction from people that they believed to be inferior. Abolitionist remained divided until the end of the American Civil War in 1865, when the United States formally ended slavery throughout the entire country with the Thirteenth Amendment. The American Anti-Slavery Society disbanded in 1870 (Ohio History Central).

1.2. Slavery in the 19th Century America:

According to Britannica dictionary, Slavery is a condition in which one human being is owned by another. A slave was considered by law as property or chattel, and was deprived of most of the rights ordinary held by free persons. The slave was a species of property, thus, he belonged to someone else. In some societies slaves were considered movable property, in others immovable properties like real estate. They were objects of the law not its subjects.

Throughout the 17th century and the 18th centuries people were kidnapped from Africa, forced into slavery

in American colonies and exploited to work as indentured servants and labor in the production of crops such as tobacco and cotton. However, the starting point for slavery in America was in 1619, when the privateer the White Lion brought twenty enslaved African ashore in the British colony of Jamestown, Virginia. The crew had seized the Africans from the Portuguese slave ship Sao Jao Bautista (History.com).

1.2.1. America's Westward Expansion and Slavery:

In 1828, when Andrew Jackson was elected president he promised to expand the United States westward. The idea of Manifest Destiny, which held that America had the right and even the duty to extend its civilization, fueled the westward move into Indian and Mexican territories.

During the 19th century more than one million square kilometers of land west of the Mississippi River was acquired by the United States Federal Government. This last led to a widespread migration to the west, which is referred to as Westward Expansion. As far as the borders moved westward, the American settlers did so, and they brought with them slaves (History.com).

Fredrick Jackson Turner, the great historian of the late 19th century said in his book "The Frontier in America History" that it was on the frontier that democracy was born, that America ideas of equality were born, individualism. But the frontier also carried with it the expansion of slavery. The Westward Expansion of Slavery was one of the most dynamic economic and social processes going on in America's 19th century. Hence, the West war Expansion carried slavery down into the South, into Mississippi, Alabama crossing the Mississippi River into Louisiana. Finally, by the 1840's it was pouring into Texas. So as the borders moved westward, so did American settlers in which they brought with them slaves (Africans in America).

1.2.2. American Civil War and Slavery:

The Civil War in the United States began in 1861, after decades of simmering tensions between northern and southern states over slavery, and states' rights and westward expansion. However, prior to the war, the North and the South had been divided for decades over the issue of Slavery. Measures such as the Missouri Compromise in 1820, which worked out between the North and the South and passed by the United States Congress that allowed for admission of Missouri as the 24th state in 1821, was the mark of the beginning of the prolonged sectional conflict over the extension of slavery that led to the American Civil War had failed to settle the issue (History.com).

The Southern economy was based largely on plantation agriculture, and African American slaves did most of the work on the plantations. On the other hand, the Northern economy relied more on manufacturing. By the 1850s abolitionism or the abolitionist movement which was an organization effort to end the practice of slavery in United States, was growing in the North causing the Southern States to fear that the federal government would attempt to end slavery. However, the Southern States believed that the United States government did not have the right to decide whether slavery should be allowed in a state.

Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) was the 16th president of the United States of America from 1861 to 1865, who preserved the Union during the American Civil War and brought about the Emancipation of enslaved people in the United States. Also, he was a candidate of the explicitly anti-slavery Republican Party. In the wake of Lincoln's election, 11 Southern states seceded from the Union to protect what they saw as their right to keep slaves. These states organized as the Confederate States of America, also referred as Confederacy. In which in the American Civil War, the government of 11 Southern States that seceded from the Union in 1860-1861, carrying on all the affairs of a separate government and conducting a major war until defeated in the spring of 1865. And

Jefferson Davis was the confederate president. Lincoln was intended on preserving the Union. When he became president, he took care to avoid threats of force, but he promised to protect the property and places in the South belonging to the federal government. One of those places was Fort Sumter in Charleston, South Carolina. Disregarding Lincoln's vow, confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861. This marked the beginning of the American Civil War (Britannica.com).

In September 1862 Lincoln called on the seceded states to return to the Union or have their slaves declared free. When no state returned, he issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863 that freed the slaves of the Confederate States in rebellion against the Union. The Proclamation declared, that " all persons held as slaves within any States, or designated part of the State, the people where of shall be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thence forward, and forever free" (Allen, C. 2004).

Individually, Lincoln hated Slavery and was convinced that it was "an unqualified evil to the negro, the white man, and the State" (Allen, C. 2004). It was to his personal judgment, detestable and on its way to the grave. To express his hate, Lincoln was not exaggerating when he claimed in 1858:

I hate it because of the monstrous injustice of slavery itself. I hate it because it deprives our republican example of its just influence in the world-enable the enemies of free institutions, with plausibility, to taunt us as hypocrites-causes the real friends of freedom to doubt our sincerity, and especially because it forces so many really good men amongst ourselves into an open war with the very fundamental principle of civil liberty-criticizing the Declaration of Independence, and insisting that there is no right principle of action but self- interest (Gnelzo 2005).

The Proclamation had influenced and prepared citizens to advocate and accept abolition for all slaves. It had a great positive impact on the Union efforts and changes the

course of the war, from a battle to restore the Union to a battle for the abolition of slavery, also, it continued to be a symbol of equality and an act of social justice.

The edict provided moral inspiration for the North and Discouraged the European countries from supporting the South. It also had the practical effect of permitting recruitment of African Americans for the Union Army. Despite a string of early confederate victories, the Union forced ultimately prevailed in the war. The triumph of the North, above and beyond its superior forces and industrial and financial resources, was partly due to the statesmanship of Lincoln. By 1864 he had become a masterful political and war leader.

The Civil War ended in confederate surrender in 1865. The conflict was the costliest and deadliest war ever fought on American soil, with some 620,000 of 2.4 million soldiers killed, millions more injured and much of the South left in ruin. This war is remained to be the bloodiest conflict in the American history. Moreover, the South was devastated by the war, but the Union was preserved and the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution ratified in 1865, officially abolished Slavery in the entire country. After the war, the defeated States were gradually allowed back into the United States, and the period after the war in which attempts were made to solve the political, social, and economic problems arising from the readmission to the Union of the former confederate states is known as Reconstruction 1865-1871 (Britannica.com).

1.2.3. The Fugitive Slave Law:

Historically, two Fugitive Slave Acts passed constitutionally by the American Congress in 1793 and in 1850. The Fugitive Slave Acts were among the most controversial laws of the early Nineteenth century. It ordered all northerner and southerner citizens to return runaway slaves, and whoever helped a slave to flee would be jailed and fined. These

measures enraged northerners and make them partners in the slave system and reset to subvert this oppressive law. Because of the severity of the acts measures, abolitionists and anti-slavery groups redoubled their efforts to assist runaway slaves. Resistance burst into riots and revolts in many Northern States including Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Massachusetts and Connecticut where slavery had been abolished. These new Free states have become safe haven for the runaway slaves (Encyclopedia Britannica).

1.3. Racism and Racial Stereotypes in the 19th Century America:

Race is a human invented, short land term used to describe and categorize people into various social groups based on characteristics like skin color, physical features and genetic heredity. Race, while is not a valid biological concept, is a real social construction that gives or denies benefits and privileges (Britannica.com). Racial Stereotype is a widely accepted perception or belief about the attitudes of a particular race, especially minority groups (IGI Global).

The American society developed the notion of race early in its formation to justify its new economic system of capitalism which depends on the institution of forced labor, especially the enslavement of African peoples.

1.3.1. Civil Rights Movement and Racism:

In the late nineteenth century, the promise of Emancipation and Reconstruction went largely unfulfilled and was even reversed in the lives of African Americans. However, Southern blacks suffered from horrific violence, political disfranchisement, economic discrimination, and legal segregation.

Constitutional amendments were ratified during and after the war to protect the natural and civil rights of African Americans. The Thirteenth Amendment forever banned slavery from the United States, the Fourteenth Amendment protected black citizenship, and

the Fifteenth Amendment granted the right to vote for African Americans males. However, the Civil Rights Movement was a struggle for social justice for African Americans to gain equal rights under the name of the law in the United States of America. Though slavery was officially abolished, the discrimination against black people still existed, they continued to endure the devastating effects of Racism especially in the South, and many white Americans mainly those in the South were unhappy to these reforms (History.com).

To marginalize black people and keep them separate from white people and erase the progress, they would made "Jim Crow" laws. The term Jim Crow typically refers to repressive laws and customs once used to restrict Black Americans rights. In the early 1830s, the white actor Thomas Dartmouth Rice also known as "Daddy" was propelled to stardom for performing minstrel routines as the fictional "Jim Crow", a caricature of a clumsy, dimwitted black enslaved man. Rice claimed to have first created the character after witnessing an elderly black man singing a tune called "Jump Jim Crow" in Louisville,

Kentucky. He later appropriated the Jim Crow persona into a minstrel act where he donned blackface and performed jokes and songs in a stereotypical dialect. These laws were established in the South beginning in the late nineteenth century. Black people couldn't use the public facilities as white people, live in many of the same towns or go to the same schools. Also, interracial marriage was illegal, and most Black people couldn't vote because they were unable to pass voter literacy tests. Even though Jim Crow laws were not adopted in the North, Black people living there experienced discrimination in many aspects of life (History.com).

1.3.2. Minstrelsy and Racial Stereotypes:

Minstrelsy or Minstrel show was popular form on entertainment in the 19th century America. It was a performance performed by white people who were disguised as African

Americans. It consisted of scenes, songs, dances that were based partly on black dialect and folklore, partly on Anglo-Saxon American folklore. These performances portrayed African Americans as being childish, superstitious, happy and dull, in which makes minstrelsy a focus of many heated debates in current criticism. It is no wonder because to a large extent, the shows had a great impact on society as they formed a common idea of what African Americans were like. Consequently, the American society embraced the image of a stupid and careless black, who is actually content with being a slave. It should be noted that these performances did not form the public opinion only in the South but in the North as well. Frederick Douglass points out in his book, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass. An American Slave*, "I have often been utterly astonished, since I came to the north, to find persons who could speak of singing, among slaves, as evidence of their contentment and happiness" (26).

The racist antebellum society simply considered slaves to be an inferior race. For the majority of Americans slaves were not even humans. Douglass writes in his autobiography "We were all ranked together at the valuation. Men and women, old and young, married and single, were ranked with horses, sheep, and swine. There were horses and men cattle and women, pigs and children, all holding the same rank in the scale of being, and were all subjected to the same narrow examination" (49).

It is evident that slaves were lowered to the same level as animals. In addition, it was believed that slaves were not able to feel any affection, not even parental love. Nevertheless, most of minstrel shows did not capture this. Richard L. Hughes remarks in his essay "The sounds and images of Racism in Antebellum America" about minstrelsy, "The surviving images and lyrics from the thriving minstrel business reveal demeaning caricatures that reduced African Americans to childish figures contented with slavery and an opportunity to, according to one song, "Sing for the White Folks, Sing!"

lyrics such as "oh happy are we Darkies so Gay, come let us sing and laugh while we play", certainly did not capture the horrors of American slavery (29).

So generally speaking we can say that minstrel shows formed a public opinion concerning the character of African Americans, yet they did not show the terrible conditions in which slaves lived, which led to views based on misconception and prejudice. At the same time, it is quite logical because minstrel shows were not meant only for entertainment, but they also subconsciously advocated slavery. It is hard to imagine that people really believed the supposition that African Americans had no emotions. Therefore, to some extent, minstrelsy actually represented a set of stereotypes in which the society actually wanted to believe, in order to justify the naturalness of slavery. Eric Lott expresses in his book *Love and Theft: Blackface minstrelsy and American Working Class*, this aspect of minstrelsy " From our vantage point, the minstrel show indeed seems a transparently racist curiosity, a form of leisure that, in inventing and ridiculing the show witted but irrepressible "plantation ducky" and the foppish "northern dandy negro", conveniently rationalized racial oppression (15).

1.4. American Literary Realism:

The American Realism has dominated the American literary scene in the post-civil war era. As a literary term it refers to a literary mode in which the human life and experience that are especially exemplified by the writers of this movement are presented in literature (Abrams). Along the same line of thought, realism is "a mode of writing that gives the impression of recording or reflecting faithfully an actual way of life" (Baldick 184). Hence, Literary Realism is seen to be the actual representation of reality, far from any idealism or romanticism. The American realists such as Mark Twain, William Dean Howells and Henry James tend to write their works through which the struggles of ordinary people are accurately portrayed and the social phenomena including slavery and

racism are presented (Beres et al). Another definition provided by Coles' Dictionary of Literary Terms states that "Realism, in literature, is a manner and method of picturing life as it really is, untouched by idealism or romanticism. As a manner of writing, realism relies on the use of specific details to interpret life faithfully and objectivity" (169).

1.4.1. Regionalism:

Regionalism also called local colour is a literary movement related to realism. According to Kathyn Van Spanckeren in her book *Outline of American Literature*, colour writings have flourished after the Civil War although they appeared earlier than that. As in his book *Realism and Regionalism (1860_1910)*, Reger Lathbury claims that regionalists or local colorist managed to keep to their own original setting and environment and their works carry a brilliance of a distinct place even while presenting the experiences that happen to all people regardless to where they live unlike the internationalists whom fiction occurs both in the United States and abroad. Local color stories is most distinctive by the motive of defending certain time and place that may be threatened by the rapid changes happening. This approach is associated with their stories even while writing about contemporary events. Regionalists or local color writers reflects a set of manners, dialects, legends and in born attitudes of mind that are firmly rooted in their regions which makes their writings distinctive from others.

1.4.2. Naturalism:

Naturalism refers to a literary movement that began about 1880 and ended in about 1940. Roger Lathbury in his book *Realism and regionalism (1860_1910)*, states that naturalism aims, like realism, to narrate the images of real life without glamorization or sentiments. In their writing, naturalists focused on the working class and poor people (Lathbury). In addition to that, Naturalism is a literary expression of Determinism that

principally refuses religion as a motivating power in the world and instead perceives the universe as a machine (Van Spanckeren). It also believes that people's experiences and environment play a key role in shaping their mindsets and action (Lathbury).

1.4.3. Features of American Literary Realism:

Winfried Fluck's *Fiction and Functionality in American Realism* 1986, refers to John William De Forest's novel *Miss Ravenel's Conversation* 1867 as one of the first works on the American Realism. The novel indicates that the Union between North and South after the Civil War holds the promise of a new America which seems to be able to enter a stage in the development of human civilization never attained before. In order to achieve this promise in reality, American writers choose to turn to realism. Artists and writers of this movement strive for detailed realistic and factual description about a contemporary setting in which they try to represent events and social conditions which are often inspired by their personal experiences, as they actually are without Idealization. Therefore, the concept of realism is regarded as a realization of democracy (Barrish 205).

Mark Twain, as a realist writer states that "Truth is stranger than fiction, but it is because fiction is obliged to stick to possibilities, Truth isn't" (155). Twain and other realist writers tend to pay a great attention to truth or reality and revolt against Romanticism and romantic writers in their literary works. Their writings always focus on average people and places rather than romantic characters; hence their works try to show the treatment of romantic character in a more realistic setting. Twain and other realist writers also focus on showing their point of views on current events and issues such as war in addition to commenting on actions or morals of specific social class for which they go objectively in depth at exploring the negative realities of life such as poverty, death and discrimination (Barrish 205).

The writings of American realism are also characterized by their focus on societies of large groups rather than individuals where classes and society are the dominant themes in which they explore everyday lives of middle and sometimes low classes. Besides its use of a diction that simply fits the characters where a specific dialects is employed. American realist plot is usually centered on thoughts and behaviours of characters. The latter are presented to have a full control in their destiny and fate in the story progress. The realist writers as well tend to show their works more than telling them through their real depiction of events and the detailed description of characters and nature (Barrish).

1.4.4. Themes of American Literary Realism:

The years following the Civil War symbolize a time of healing and rebuilding in the United States. The country has witnessed a rapid growth during that period of time including the increasing charge of democracy, the wide spread of education and literacy, the technology of mass production, industrialism and urbanization which opened many opportunities for thousands of new immigrants.

In most of America's minds, the ideology has been shifted and the essence of life has changed to rely more on science and truth rather than romance or spiritual mythology and that shift is highly observed in their literature. The American realist literature does not aim to amuse but more to convince the reader. It works as a mirror of society where all the social and cultural matters are reflected in it. The thematic issues of this literature are not the romantic or fantasy, but the focus is on everyday life and its issues such as poverty, middle class, education, identity, diversity, women rights, slavery, the problem of race and ethnicity. These social truths appear as major themes of the American Literary Realism, and with major theme of racism all other themes related to it also get the literary space, themes like discrimination, injustice, suppression, marginalization and the protest have got the significance as the major themes of the literature (Appligate 4).

1.5. Slavery and Racism in American Literature in the 19th Century:

1.5.1. Slave Narrative:

The period between the mid-eighteenth until the late nineteenth century witnessed the birth and the rise of a new literary genre. This genre was innovative because it was a production of the African Slave Community, namely the Slave Narrative; it was the first

black literary non-fiction prose. Slave narrative are written by either the slaves themselves, or dictated to literate persons.

The clearest examples of slave narrative in America are Olaudah Equiano's *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, also the Gustavus Vassa the African Written by Himself*, the work of Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave*, and most significantly Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. In these works, one cannot argue that there is any theme as central as that of slavery. However, the three authors placed an emphatic stress on the issue of slavery.

Olaudah Equiano was the first African-American to write a slave narrative in 1789, titled *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah or Gustavus Vassa the African Written by Himself*. In this slave narrative, Equiano takes slavery as his motif and theme. He describes with detail his life from boyhood in West Africa until his capture there, then the journey through the dreadful transatlantic middle passage, to his eventual freedom and economic success in Britain (Greaver).

Equiano, as a black African who endured slavery, argues that slavery is indeed far worse than death as he describes how the blacks who were held captives against their will decide to commit suicide so that they do not get into slavery. He also describes the White men's captivity of blacks as a flagrant denial to human rights with no clear plausible justification (VanSpanckeren13).

Like all the rest of slaves Equiano has been through beating and whipping in various stations including Africa, in the slave transporting ships and finally in the plantation where he has been working. He described the whipping and the beating as mutilating physically as well as spiritually as he was gradually losing his self (Greaver).

Through the main explicit reason behind the writing of his narrative was a clear and

daring protest against the International Slaver Trade, in fact, he has passed by some touching facts about white masters as he was describing the relationship with his master Michael Pascal, that he thought was profound and intimate, until his master sold him with no second thought as he were a mere property to another white men (Baena).

Frederick Douglass was born on a Maryland plantation where he was brought and exposed to the hardest conditions of slavery. In his very first years of youth, he was displaced out to the relatively liberal Baltimore household where fortunately, he learned reading and writing. At the age of twenty one years old, he escaped to Massachusetts in 1838, he was helped by the abolitionist editor William Lloyd Garrison, Douglass made spread of anti-slavery ideas through lectures (VanSpanckeren 46).

In 1845, Douglass published his best and most popular amongst many slave narrative works, *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass an American Slave*, what is commonly best known as Douglass's narrative. It was popular like no other slave narrative. In his narrative Douglass made use of slavery as a central theme. He studied its impacts on both the lives of slaves and the slaveholders as he states that it destroys the individual personalities, reinforcing his viewpoint with many cases he witnessed or heard of besides his own sorrowful experiences (Essay Ws Editors).

Harriet Ann Jacobs was the first woman to write a slave narrative. She was born a slave in Edenton, North Carolina, in 1813. After her mother's death, Jacobs was sent to live with her mother's mistress, Margaret Horniblow, where she was taught to sew, read and write. Then after years of slavery there, she escaped and then freed. Jacobs became an abolitionist major reformer after her single most influential slave narrative's publication

Incident in the Life of a Slave Girl, that was inspired from her own life after being enslaved and abused in another white man's property (Harriet Ann Jacobs Biography.com).

In her book-length narrative, Jacobs chronicles her experiences and the horrors of slavery and how slave women are treated just a little more than objects. Unlike Olaudah Equiano and Frederick Douglass who suffered from physical brutality and deprivation, she tackled slavery from a female angles as she talked with details about the sexual harassment by the masters and its psychological effects, in addition to the pressure of her masters 's wife and oppression. The significance of her narrative resulted from the fact that she dealt with slavery from a very sensitive and crucial side. She focused on the African-American women' mental and spiritual anguish as more devastating than slavery's physical abuse.

Harriet Jacobs gained the heavy title among the American historiographical canon due to the inter-disciplinary attribute of her narrative. In the narrative she describes not only her endurance but also those of the white free women in the free states to add a feminist touch to her work.

All of Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Ann Jacobs were educated back slaves who dealt with slavery as the major problem of the time. However, slavery was dealt with by whites as inhumanity, but in form of novels not in form of non-fiction narratives.

1.5.2. White Novelists:

Slavery and Racism were also found in the writings of some white abolitionist novelist. Due to her most popular novel, Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Life among the Lowly, Harriet Beecher Stowe won the epithet of first abolitionist writer. She was sharply criticized by pro-slaver community. The book was written as a direct response to the

Fugitive Slave Act to usage sympathy and feelings for slaves who endured all sorts of inhuman treatment. Harriet Beecher Stowe took Slavery and Racism from very sensitive political, religious and social levels. Politically speaking, she described slavery as a

contradiction in the United States of America, as she described it as the nation that purportedly embodies democracy and equality for all men (Van Spanckeren 44).

Yet its dominant whites practice slavery and abuse the blacks who served them. Also, Stowe herself was surrounded with religious members including her father, brother and later her husband who were well-educated Protestant Clergymen and effective reformers (Van Spanckeren 44). Based on her religious grounds, Harriet Beecher Stowe severely attacks slavery and she states that it is a non-Christian practice and that the society whose fathers are Puritans should make an end to slavery at once. Last but not least, Harriet Beecher Stowe highlights another aspect that is probably the main reason behind the rise of the abolitionist movement; she gives insight of some real life slave experiences.

Harriet Beecher had the guts to portray what whites do to the slave families, as selling members, usually fathers that leads to the division of families and therefore destroys normal parental love. She described these lasts as crimes against the sanctity of domestic love that is indeed God's gift amongst humans (VanSpanckeren 44). Due to her human goals, Harriet Beecher Stowe was successful in portraying and making a remarkable spread of anti-slavery mind-set and the abolitionist cause among the pro-slavery American Communities. Her novel was given a considerable rank among the anti-slavery Canon.

Another famous American white novelist who dealt with Slavery and Racism in his writings is Mark Twain. He dealt with slavery and Racism in many of his works and he defends the rights of slaves to gain their freedom. He is best known of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.

Conclusion:

Slavery and Racism were the direct motivation behind the birth of the slave narratives by black educated former slaves. The rising tensions between the anti-slavery north and the pro-slavery south that have been taking place in the years prior the Civil War provided realist novelist with unprecedented materials for the White abolitionist writers to write about these issues such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, and Mark Twain, these last paved the way for the following generation of novelist to give a space for the themes of Slavery and Racism, relevant themes in literature.

Chapter Two
The Depiction of Slavery and
Racism in *The Adventures of*
Huckleberry Finn

Introduction:

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is a novel that speaks about an important period in the American history. Mark Twain in his novel focuses on the ignorance of southern society in their support to slavery and racism. He uses characters to embody real issue that blacks suffered from, some of the characters are slaves' owners who were generally of the high classes, and having a slave is a must, in order to serve them. Others were slaves' traders; they consider slaves as objects in sake of their own benefits. However, this chapter aims to highlight the dominant theme of the novel and shows the mistreatment of white people towards the black slaves.

2.1 Society in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn:

2.1.1. Huckleberry Finn:

Huck is the protagonist and the narrator of the novel. From the beginning Mark Twain makes it clear that Huck is a boy who comes from the lowest levels of white society and therefore he owns no slaves himself. In fact while we follow Huck in The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn it appears that this young boy and thanks to his distance from normal is cynical of the world around him and the idea passed on to him particularly after he travels down the river. His experience with Miss Watson's slave Jim forces him to question the things society has taught him.

Huck owns no slave and this pushes him to help the slave Jim to reach his own freedom because he did not have that harsh attitude towards blacks and he discovers that black people are humans just like white people. This last can be seen in chapter sixteen when Jim told Huck his plan to buy his freedom "The first thing I would do when I will be a free man in a free state is work and save every cent of money until I have enough to buy

my wife out of slavery. Then we would both work until we could buy our two children" (Twain 54). Huck starts to have some doubts about guiding Jim towards his freedom, that act was not accepted at that time. Then he tries to write a letter to Tom Sawyer about Jim, but he gives up the idea for two reasons, the first one is that miss Watson would sell Jim down the river and people will make Jim feel ungrateful for the rest of his life because he ran away from his master, and the second reason is that Huck will be consider as an Abolitionist" people will call me an Abolitionist and will hate me for this"(Twain 26).

In this part of the novel Twain shows us to what extent society can shape people's mind and actions. Huck views his surroundings with a practical and logical lens, he observes the environment and gives realistic description of the Mississippi river and the culture that dominates people of the south. The widow Douglas tries to improve and civilize him but Huck rejects her attempts and maintains his independent ways. The society fails to protect him from his abusive drunken father. Huck's distance from normal society makes him mocking of the world around him and the idea passes on to him. Huck's instinctual disbelief and his experiences as he travels down the river force him to question the things society has taught him as well as he depicts a realistic view of common ignorance, slavery, and the inhumanity (Cliff Notes).

2.1.2. Jim:

Jim is one of Miss Watson's slaves; he is superstitious, sometimes sentimental and intelligent. He becomes Huck's friend after they meet in Jackson's Island and they traveled down the Mississippi River. Jim was separated from his wife and children. He misses them terribly and this was the main reason for his running away. He decides to buy his family freedom. His friendship with Huck proves that humanity has nothing to do with race. Jim considers Huck to be his loyal friend as he keeps his promise and saves him from the slave hunters who are running after some slaves," There goes my good friend, Huck, the only white man who ever kept his promise to old Jim" (Twain 55).

Tom Sawyer is the same age as Huck and his best friend; he gives Huck access to complicated adventures found in romantic novels. Tom has been raised in relative comfort, he believes in sticking strictly to social rules, most of which have more to do with style than morality or anyone's welfare. His behavior is the total opposite to that of Huck, in other words, Tom has a firm loyalty to rule while Huck has a tendency to question authority. Tom represents the society of his time, the tricks he makes seem to be funny but in fact they show how much terrifying and unthinking society can be. Tom knows that Miss Watson is dead and the black slave Jim is free, but he allows Jim to remain captive while he thinks of a fantastic escape plan and this shows us that Tom did not care about Jim and his freedom and he exemplifies to what extent society can shape a young man's behavior to become egotistical. Tom profits and wants to have fun at the expense of Jim.

2.1.3. Widow Douglas and Miss Watson:

They are two wealthy sisters who live in a large house in St. Petersburg and who adopt Huck in an attempt to civilize him" The widow Douglas took me into her house to live" (Twain 2). The window Douglas is a nice religious lady who takes Huck under her

wing. However, Miss Watson is very severe and most prominent representative of the hypothetical religious and social values, Twain criticizes her because she does not care about her black slave Jim and his separation from his family.

2.1.4. Pap:

Pap is Huck's father and the town drunken, Pap looks bad and terrible when appears at the beginning of the novel with disgusting ghostly white skin and torn clothes "Pap was nearly fifty years old. His black hair was long and uncombed and dirty. He had allowed hair to grow on his face, and where his skin showed, the skin was sickly white..., his clothes was dirty and torn" (Twain12).

The illiterate Pap dislikes of Huck's education and beats him for attending school, "you stop going to school. I'm your father, and I don't want you to be better educated than I am. I don't want to find you at that school again. Your mother couldn't read and she couldn't write before she died. No members of your family could read or write before they died. And I don't want you to be better than the other family members. If I see you near the school again, I will beat you" (Twain 13).

Pap represents in the novel the failure of family structure and the degradation of white society because he is not searching for his son to take care of him, but he is looking for Huck to take his money, and the only way that he thinks he would succeed in getting the money is by locking Huck in the wood.

2.1.5. The Duke and the Dauphin:

On their journey down the river Huck and Jim pick up two men who claim to be of royal family. The older tells them that he is a king and should be treated like one, while the younger tells them he is a Duke and should be treated like one, they perform bad plays in

many towns near the river. Huck knows about their trick and their lies, he realizes the men were con artists, but he has nothing to do since the two men are stronger and can turn Jim at any time" I knew from the beginning that these men were not kings or dukes, but just liars. I never said anything, never let them know, but kept this information to myself. I didn't want to have quarrels on the raft, didn't want to have trouble. If they wanted Jim and me to call them king and Duke, wouldn't object. What I wanted was to keep peace in the family" (Twain 71).

In this chapter Twain is focusing on the hypocrisy of the society and how the king and dauphin could sold the slave Jim for a reward. Mark Twain tries to show us how the these two men could betray Huck, the boy who helped them and gave them shelter on his raft by selling Huck's friend the black slave Jim with no mercy" An old man, a stranger he sold his chance to collect the reward to Silas Phelps for only forty dollars" (Twain 119). The Duke and the dauphin cause harm to Jim and cause to themselves moral harm by misunderstanding what is to be human only for the sake of profit because they sold Huck's friend black slave Jim without any thinking as if they are selling an object or something worthless.

2.1.6. The Grangerfords:

The Grangerfords are a family that takes Huck in after a steamboat hits his raft on the river. This family is wealthy and Huck is impressed by their glorious decorated home, the treat him with hospitality but only after they know he has nothing to do with the "Shepherdsons". «Do you know the Shepherdsons? No, sir I never heard of them" (Twain 59). This family is stuck in a long standing feud with another local family, The Shepherdsons. Mark Twain uses these two families in his novel to mock of romanticized ideas about family honor. Ultimately, this feud gets many of the family members killed. The Granger fords treat Huck as if he is their own son when the old lady takes care of him

"Saul, the poor boy is completely wet and he is probably hungry. Send someone to awaken Buck and tell him to dress the boy in some of his dry clothes " (Twain 59).

Through these characters, Twain is giving the reader some clear pictures about the families of that time because he sheds the light on the contradiction that the family owns slaves and at the same time they take care about the boy Huck who is a stranger. The Granger fords are very rich as they own a huge number of slaves in their plantation, each

member of the family owns a slave. Even Huck was given a slave to serve him, but he finds it strange to have a slave because he did not have the habit of having one" Each member of the family had a black slave to work for him. I was given a black slave, too, buthe didn't have much work to do since I wasn't accustomed to have a slave "(Twain 62). Theslave was following Huck in all the places.

In this situation Twain is giving evidence about white people superiority and the way blacks are treated in society. Slavery is portrayed in the Grangerfords family, because each member of the family owns a slave" The colonel owned many farms and more than one hundred black slaves "(Twain 62). He Also shows how Huck's slave helps him to find Jim who is hiding in the bushes" I pushed aside some of the bushes and saw an open area that looked almost like a room in a house, a man was lying there asleep. It was my old friend Jim! " (Twain 64). Here the role of the black slave is very important as he guides his master Huck to find Jim and here Twain confirms that slaves are human and they are just like white people and should be treated in a good way.

2.1.7. The Phelps:

Silas and Sally Phelps are Tom Sawyer's aunt and uncle, whom Huck encounters on loop many occasions while he is searching for Jim after the king and Duke have sold him. Sally is the sister of Tom's aunt Polly. Essentially good people and typically southerners,

the Phelps hold Jim in custody and try to return him to the rightful owner. They keep him in cabin and another slave takes food to the cabin where Jim is prisoner "Jim is in the small cabin down near the fence. When we were eating dinner, I saw a black slave walks down there with some bowls of food"(Twain 133). Silas and Sally are the unknowing victims of Tom and Huck's preparations in their attempts to free Jim.

However, Twain also mentions the good treatment of this family towards strangers even though they are slave holders, for example when Tom appears and pretends to look for Mr. Archibald Nicholas' house "Mr. Archibald Nicholas, I assume? No said Mr. Phelps, I sorry that your driver brought you to the wrong house. Mr. Nicholas lives three miles from here, but come into the house" (Twain 130). The old man tells him he is wrong and that his driver has deceived him, but he did not let him go and brings him inside the house for dinner. Twain is giving an image about the hypocrisy of society where people take care of white men whereas they keep slaves locked inside cabins.

2.2. Slavery in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*:

The white Southerners used slavery as a tool to gain money on the expense of black slaves. Furthermore, the white Southerners left all the hard work to black slaves to do. However, the white people were not satisfied and they treated slaves in bad manners, they seek to mistreat them in various ways.

2.1.1. The Depiction of Slavery through the Novel:

The issue of slavery plays part in the most important events in the book. Jim runs away because he believes he will be sold to a slave trader. Huck lies to people he meets to hide the fact that Jim is a runaway slave. The king turns Jim in as a runaway slave without knowing that Jim is actually a runaway slave just to con some locals for cash. Tom and Huck help Jim escape his captors so he can again try for his freedom. However, Jim forfeits his freedom in order to keep Tom alive, and finally Jim and Huck realize that all the running and scheming was in vain because Jim is a free man after all.

Most of the themes portrayed in the novel are directly related to the issue of slavery such as prejudice, racism, freedom and hypocrisy. The white people of this period in the south of America have many prejudices towards slaves. In his novel Mark Twain demonstrates to what extent his society is racist. This last can be seen through many characters and the way they act towards blacks, in which the people of the towns are slave owners and they treat them with a disrespectful way. However, slavery is the main theme that Mark Twain focuses on his novel throughout the character Jim who suffered from mistreatment and slavery. For instance, at the beginning of the novel Miss Watson plans to sell Jim down the river "one night, I listened at an open door as Miss Watson was talking to the widow Douglas. I heard her say she was planning to sell me for 800 dollars and that

I would be sent down the river to New Orleans. She said that she hates to do this, but that 800 dollars was a lot of money" (Twain 27). This is the main cause why Jim runs away from Miss Watson. However, even though Huck was raised in a society that supports slavery and as the novel progress, one may notice that Huck's feeling towards the black slave Jim starts to change when he discovers that Jim has a family, but due to slavery he is away from his wife and children.

The same case of slavery happens to the Wilks's slaves when the Duke and the king separate the black slaves from their mother and sold them, "the very next day, the king decided to sell the house, the tannery, and the black slaves. The slaves were being sold immediately; the two sons were sold to a family living up in the river in Memphis, Tennessee, and their mother was sold down the river to New Orleans"(Twain 101). Twain criticizes the inhumanity of the Duke and the king, and how they could sell the black slaves as if they are an object, and more than that is how they could separate the mother from her children with no mercy.

Freedom is another important theme in the novel. It is shown into Jim being freed from slavery and his will to free his family member, which is his main goal in the novel. When Jim sees the light of the free states, he starts to thank Huck for helping him and he considers Huck as his best friend " I will never forget you and you are the best friend I've ever had. And you're the only friend I have" (Twain 54)." There goes my good friend, Huck, the only white man who ever kept his promise to old Jim" (Twain 55). Twain is blaming society for supporting slavery and giving slave owners the right to separate children and wives from their families only for the sake of their benefits.

Even at the beginning of the novel a new judge of the town gives custody to Huck's abusive and drunken father "The judge and widow went to court and tried to force the law to take me away from Pap and allow me to live with one of them. A new judge said that

the court must not separate a child from his father" (Twain 14). The fact that the judge is new to the town he did not know about the bad treatment of Pap toward his son Huck who prefers to live in the woods rather than living with his abusive drunken father. In this part of the novel Twain tries to make a link between Huck's suffering from his abusive father and the black slave Jim who suffers from slave hunters and his owner at the same time. Therefore,

Twain attempts to show race relations not just through Jim but even Huck, because his father treats him as if he is his own property and he locks him in the cabin just like they do to slaves for the sake of taking his money, "Pap stayed with all the time, and I never had the opportunity to run away. Whenever Pap left the cabin, he would lock me inside and take the key with him" (Twain 16). Twain is giving hints of Huck's suffering due to his drunken father who is always beating him for the sake of taking his money from Judge Thatcher. In this point Twain is focusing on the cruelty of white people and the way they treat their own children because they do not beat only their black slaves, which can be seen through the character Pap who used to beat his son Huck and locks him inside the cabin in the woods. As in this case Huck was the one who was being treated like a slave, even though he was not a slave he was considered as one by his father like an outcast.

Mark Twain openly states that he is against the concept of slavery, and this can be seen throughout the novel especially characters' reactions towards others who support slavery. For example, through the hypocrisy of Miss Watson because she preaches to Huck how she is going to live so as to the heaven though she owns slave.

However, in the novel, Twain helped us to see the contradiction inherent in the institution of slavery. The slaveholders made money on the backs of the men and women they owned. They were unable to see that they were exploiting them, abusing them, and oppressing them because they honestly believed that the slaves could not survive in the

world without them. The slaveholders thought they were doing the slaves a favor by providing for them.

2.3. Racism and Racial Stereotypes in *The Adventures of Huckleberry*

Finn:

Black slaves were seen as non human beings, although a lot of them were skilled, intelligent, powerful and good people, the white people could not see the positive side of them, they were focusing on their skin colour neglecting their personalities and emotions. In other words the white people used to see the black slaves as non human. For them and according to their thoughts, slaves were made to serve the white people.

2.3.1 The Depiction of Racism and Racial Stereotypes through the

Novel:

A part from being one of landmarks of American literature, Mark Twain classic tale, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, is a mirror of the deepest embedded racist attitude of the Deep South in the 1880's. First, not to mention the most controversial and obvious, is the liberal use of the word "nigger" throughout the book, it is taken as a derogatory term by modern day Americans, Twain's use of the word "nigger" is simply a reflection of the times, which that this word was widely used at that point of time. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was written when cruel and injustice treatment of blacks was common place and the use of such a word didn't get so much as a second thought.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn depicts a period of time when black people were not treated as people, but as things without emotions or personalities, mere property. For instance, Jim is initially known only in relation to whose property he is, which means

he belongs to Miss Watson. He escapes from being continuously treated as property; he might even be sold to a family that will most likely treat him even less humanly.

In this part Twain drives home a distinct point about white Southerners' regard of black people. Twain is showing the reader in these few lines of dialogue how blacks are viewed at that time, that they are "nobody", less than human with lives that are of little or no value to anyone, "Now I struck an idea and fetched it out, it wasn't the grounding that didn't keep us back but a little. We blowed out a cylinder head"... "Good gracious! anybody hurt?"..."No, killed a nigger"..."Well, it is lucky, because sometimes people do get hurt" (Twain 242).

Another example about racial stereotypes is shown when Huck gets to know about Jim's family. He can see how much he loves his children which he admires a lot, as his father does not take care of him at all. He also realizes how much freedom is important for Jim, and here Huck realizes that Jim is not only a slave, but a human being as well. In this part Twain denies one of the most brutal stereotypes in the novel.

Pap is the most prominent example of racism in the novel, as he shows his racist attitude toward the rich "muleteer" in which Fe is black, when he blames the government for giving him the right to vote even though he is professor and can speak many languages and is more educated than Pap. He is not seen as a man or a member of society. Due to Pap's racist attitude he underestimates this man "They said he could vote, let me out. Think I, what country is coming to? It was Election Day, and I was just about to go and vote myself if I wasn't too drunk to get there" (Twain 29). In this case Twain is trying to shed the light on the way the white people always see blacks as inferior no matter their social status and how much intelligence they are. Also, at the end of chapter 5, after having been asserted for drunk, yet again, and disorderly behavior, he is taken into care by the same judge who awarded him custody of his son in an effort to make a man "a man of

him" (Twain 38). This endeavor fails miserably and the judge's final judgment on Huck's father is that the only way he will ever reform is by means of a shotgun" (Twain 39).

Another example about black people in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* which are often accused of immoral actions, Huck's father's comment that blacks are "thieving" race is one example of parallels that are drawn between blacks and immoral action. In chapter 26, when Huck is spying on the Duke and the King in an effort to ascertain the whereabouts of their stolen money, the two con men demonstrate the same kind of racial prejudice as Huck's father. They have decided to change the location of the hidden stolen money because they feel that is not safe anymore and that there is a considerable risk that it might be taken by the slaves who clean their room. In this case Twain is emphasis on the racial prejudice of white people against blacks, which means that black people cannot be trusted, they cannot come across money because of the common stereotypical thought that they are thieves.

Mark Twain mirrors the racism of the south throughout his novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Twain is making it evident that he is saying that society and its views are racist. This theme is very evident throughout the book and is constantly seen throughout almost every chapter. This enforces the idea that Twain is trying to use the way the characters treat African Americans inside *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to make commentary on the racist tendencies of the south. Twain uses *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* to frequently display the racism in South and the southern culture by mirroring the way the characters feel and talk about slaves, and finally how the majority of the characters is slave owners and mistreats their slaves.

Conclusion:

In his novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Mark Twain tries to ridicule southern society over important issues characterizing that period such as slavery and racism that black people suffered from and were considered to be inferior to white, and for this reason, Twain uses real events and real characteristics inspired by living persons. However, the novel does not support slavery or even racism, but it denounces it through the society that Huck and Jim belong to and suffer from the way its people behave.

Chapter Three
**The Impact of Slavery and
Racism on Jim Character**

Introduction:

Though Mark Twain's novel is called *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, there are no adventures without Jim. Along with Huck, Jim is the other major character in the novel. In this chapter we will present the sufferings and the impact of slavery and racism on Jim, and how he was free at the end of the novel. This chapter aims to show the suffering of Jim

3.1. The Impact of Slavery on Jim Character:

Jim as a character, he was exposed to slavery and racism from the first time he was mentioned in the story to its end, he experienced and suffered both physically and mentally from slavery and its after effects..

3.1.1. Situations where Jim Exposed Slavery:

Jim suffered from slavery from the beginning of the novel to the end in different situations and ways. Jim is Miss Watson's slave who runs away because he has learnt that she decided to sell him off to a slave trader from New Orleans, " One night, I listened at an open door as Miss Watson was talking to the widow Douglas I heard her say she was planning to sell me for 800 dollars and that I would be sent down the river to New Orleans. She said that she hated to do this, but that 800 dollars was a lot of money and she needed money" (Twain 27). Jim fears of being separated from his family drives to be a runaway slave, he risks his life and runs away to Jackson's Island where he meets Huck and then continues his journey seeking for his freedom.

Another situation which shows the impact of slavery on Jim is when Huck faked his own death to run away from his abusive drunken father, this event happened at the moment when Jim ran away, people of the town thought that Jim was behind Huck's death and they offered a reward for catching him, "Most people thought his Pap murdered him at least

that's what they thought at first. But then they changed their minds. Now they say that he was murdered by a runaway slave the very night that Huck Finn was killed. A large reward of 300 dollars will be paid to anyone who catches Jim" (Twain 34).

In another case, after some peaceful days on the raft, suddenly two runners joined the raft with Huck and Jim. One is around 70 and the other around 30 years old, after a while each men quickly discover that they both are con artists, and they decide to work together. Shortly after their agreement, the young man pretends to be the Duke of Bridgewater and he must be treated with respect, a few moments later, the old one claims to be a Dauphin, the rightful heir to the French throne. Huck believes the men are simple con men but decides not to challenge them in order to keep peace on the raft.

The Con men decide to go to the town with new plans seeking for money; they land the raft below the one horse town of poke Ville, which is particularly empty because of a nearby camp meeting. When the Duke heads off to find a printing shop, the king decides to attend the meeting; people of the town were singing hymns and go up to the pulpit of forgiveness. The king joined the festivities and acts to be an old pirate who has reformed and seen the errors of his past. The burst into tears and passes around his has and collects 87 dollars and jug of whisky. When they return to the raft, Huck and Jim find that the Duke has printed some posters that describe Jim as a runaway slave from New Orleans.

The Duke argues that these posters will allow them to run the raft during the day without problems. The Duke said : " we can travel in the daytime whenever we see anyone approaching, we can tie Jim's hands and feet with rope and say that we had caught Jim up the river and are returning him to his owner in New Orleans and that we will be paid the reward money" (Twain 74). From this quotation we realize how cruel was the two men, and how did these two men treated slaves as if they are a object which could be exchanged with money without any problems.

3.1.2. Jim Character :

Understanding Jim's character is very to seek the aim of this research work, Jim is highly complex and original creation, although he appears at first sight very simple, Jim at the first is represented as a practical joke played by Tom Sawyer. In chapter two while Jim is sleeping Tom takes three candles from the widow's kitchen, leaving five cent piece on the table to play for them, then he slips Jim's hat off and hangs it on the limb of a tree over his head. Later Jim said that a ghost had played a trick on him and left his hat and the five cent piece on the tree as a sign. This last proves that Jim is a very superstitious man. Another sign that Jim is superstitious man is showed by things that he kept for luck. He uses these things to predict what is going to happen in the future. It is some kinds of fortune telling. "Miss Watson's black slave Jim, had a large hair ball that had been taken from the stomach of an ox. Jim thought that the hair ball had special powers. He said that it had the ability to tell what would happen in the future" (Twain 10). Also he believes in ghost.

In other scene we can confirm that Jim is a ghost believer, the action happens when Jim meets Huck for the first time in Jackson's Island. Jim thought that he had seen Huck's ghost because he had heard of his death, "Hello, Jim. Am I glad to see you! Jim jumped up and stared at me wildly. Then he dropped down on his knees and put his hands together and said," Don't hurt me, don't! I've never done you harm. I've always liked ghosts and did what I could for them. Get back into the river where you belong" (Twain 26).

As it mentioned above that Jim is superstitious, this can is a result of his ignorance. Jim is an ignorant person because he never had been in school. Jim ignorance can be seen when Huck read about kings, " I read about kings and dukes and the fancy clothes that they wore and how they called each other your majesty instead of just plain mister. Jim was

very interested. He said that he did not know about king, he knew only about king Solomon in the Bible" (Twain 47).

Furthermore, his ignorance of the existence different languages around the world hence, in his thoughts Jim think that all human beings in the world speak only the English language, and it is the unique language that exists in the world. When Huck told him about the French language, Jim was surprised "What do you mean, Huck. Don't the French people talk the way Americans talk?" (Twain 47). Because of his ignorance Jim is not even aware what does a language is, he uses the word way to refer to the language.

Despite the lack of education, Jim can come to the right solutions and help other people. Jim is smart and skillful, for example when Huck rejects to settle in the cave they found on Jackson Island, "Jim suggested that we hide the canoe and carry the supplies up to this cave. If anyone were to come to the island to search for him, they would never find him in the cave. Also, when it rained, our supplies would stay dry" (Twain 28).

In addition to that, Jim is a skillful man, when Jim and Huck decided to travel down the river on the raft, they needed a shelter, so Jim built a tent on the raft to sleep or hide in and also to protect their supplies «Jim took some of the boards that were part of the floor of the raft and built a kind og tent with them in the middle of the raft. This tent would protect us when it rained and would be a good place to store our supplies" (Twain 39).

Jim is wise and kind, this wisdom and care can be seen when Huck and Jim found the dead body, hence, Jim did not let Huck see the dead body to not figure out it. Jim was afraid that Huck would be sad. "Jim went to check. You're right. He's been shouting in the back. He's been dead two or three days. Don't look at his face, Huck it's awful. I didn't look at him, but I threw some old clothes to Jim to use to cover the body" (Twain 29). From the last sentence we can release that Jim took the right decision to not allow Huck see the

body, though Huck didn't recognize the body he felt sadness for it and tried to do something by covering the body, so if he had recognized it, surely he will be sad for his father.

Jim proves his fidelity when he risks his life and stays in the swamp waiting for Huck in several times, and even when Jim gets the chance to be free at the end of the novel he stays by Tom Sawyer 's side and the doctor proves that. "The doctor came out to the cabin and told the men not to be rough with Jim. He's good man. When I found the boy, he was too sick to move and I knew that I needed help to care for his leg properly. As soon as I told the boy that I was going to need help, this black man came out from a hiding place and said that he would help me" (Twain 152).

3.2. The Impact of Racism and Racial Stereotypes on Jim Character:

Black slaves in general, suffered from the superiority of white people, who used discriminated them and the were racist with them in all aspects of life.

3.2.1 White Southerners' Stereotypes toward Black Slaves:

From the beginning of the story to the end, Jim has suffered from racism and racial stereotypes, killing a poisonous snake and putting it into his blanket was the first trick that Huck played on Jim. Huck expects, of course that Jim will jump for fear when he will see the snake, he imagined that Jim's eyes will bug out, his teeth will chatter, his knees will knock together, and Huck will have time to laugh. "I went into the cave to get some tobacco and found a large, poisonous snake. I killed it and placed it on Jim's blanket in such a way that the snake appeared to be alive. I thought that this would be a funny trick to play on Jim and was waiting to see him jump with fear when he saw the snake" (Twain

31).

This last represents racial stereotypes, Huck did not take into consideration what will happen to Jim, Huck thought only how much fun will he have, neglecting the consequences of this act, and what will happen to Jim and how he will feel. The result was unexpected, Jim didn't feel fear, but he was bitten by the snake. "Jim lay down on his blanket and suddenly screamed. He was bitten by a live snake" (Twain 31).

Although the result of Huck's act was catastrophic, he felt just like a fool, because he forgot that whenever he kills a snake, a second snake will come and curl around it. Moreover, he concluded that touching a snake skin brings bad luck, he didn't take care for Jim's feelings, he did what he could do just that Jim would not discover this trick," I carried both snakes out of the cave and threw them as far as I could into the bushes. I didn't want Jim to see two snakes and discover the trick that I had played on him" (Twain 31).

Moreover, in another conversation between Huck and Jim about King Solomon and Frenchman, the dialogues is about whether king Solomon was wise or not and why a Frenchman does not talk like a man. Jim is upset from king Solomon since he wants to cut the baby into two pieces, and he states that this was not wise," He says that he'll cut the baby into two pieces and give each women a piece. Now what can a women do with half a baby? Do you think that was wise?" (Twain 47). In this point Jim missed the point that king Solomon wants to discover the real mother of the baby, because the real one won't allow him cut the baby into two pieces. This last is a preparation to another fact about Jim, and how much he cares for his own children, and how he blames himself for having been unintentionally cruel to his daughter. In this dialogue we have other racial stereotypes about Jim when Huck states that" I knew that I could never reason Jim about King Solomon, so I changed the subject to French Kings" (Twain 47).

The dialogue on why a Frenchman does not talk like a man, here Huck argues that since a

cat and a cow talk differently, and since it is natural and right that they should do so, it is equally natural and right for a Frenchman to talk differently from an American. In the light of this statement, Huck's assumption is that ethnic differences are found in the world and it is quite natural, but Jim agrees that there is basic difference between a cat and a cow, which requires that they talk differently, but he asks: "Is a cat a man, Huck?"... "Well, no"..."Then, of course, a cat or a cow won't talk like a man. But is a Frenchman a man?"..."Well, yes"..."Then why can't he talk like a man? Answer that."

After this dialogue we conclude that Jim recognizes, and Huck does not, Jim recognizes that all man share a common humanity. However, Huck's only conclude he can't convince Jim his argument because he is a black ignorant slave, "I knew that I was wasting my words. I could never win in this kind of argument with Jim, so I quite" (Twain 49). Till now Huck has learned only that it is bad luck to handle a snake skin, that Jim has an uncommon level head for a black slave, and despite his common sense he can't teach a black slave to argue. However, with the following situations, Huck is placed in a situation where he is forced to learn something new about Jim.

In this part we will talk about the separation of Huck and Jim in the fog. After they were separated they traveled in the fog, Huck gets back to the raft while Jim is asleep, and convinces him that the whole experience was a dream, and there was no fog and they had never been separated," You must have been dreaming, Jim that didn't happen. There was no fog, and we were never separated, I've been sitting here on the raft talking to you all night, until you went to sleep" (Twain 51). Jim believes Huck and started to explain the dream, then Huck asks Jim about the broken part of the raft, at that moment, Jim realizes that Huck was lying on him, and he was extremely disappointed, " Jim looked at me, then at the broken part of the raft and the dirty wood on the deck, then he looked at me again. He never smiled, but had the saddest look on his face that I had ever seen" (Twain

52).

Huck thought that this childish trick will be funny, and that they were going to laugh, but Jim's reaction was not versa. "When I awoke and awoke and saw you safe in the raft, I was so happy that I wanted to get down on my knees and kiss your feet. But what were you thinking? Only how could trick old Jim and make him seen to be fool" (Twain 52). This last quotation shows the emotional pain that Jim had lived at that moment. However, though it was painful for Jim, but was a good lesson for Huck. Huck realized that this kind of acting was not funny at all, it was shameful, "Jim stood up and slowly walked into the tent. He said nothing more, but what he had said was enough to make me feel deep shame" (Twain 52).

Last but not least, at the moment when Huck heard Jim crying softly, Huck knew that Jim is crying for his eagerness to his family, it was the first time that he had ever been away from his home and he longed to be back with his family. At that point, Huck realized that Jim is not only a black slave but a man who loves and cares about his family. "I do believe that he cared as much for his family as white men cared for theirs" (Twain 86). Then Huck asked Jim about his family, Jim replied that the sound on the shore reminds him of a door closing with bang, the sound reminds him to his daughter Elizabeth. When she was only four years old, she has been very sick, one time, after she was cured, he asked her to close the door but she didn't, and he asked her again and she didn't obey, which made very angry and he did hit her. Later, after a loud bang of the door Jim noticed that the girl had not reacted, and there Jim recognized and discovered that scarlet fever had left little Elizabeth deaf.

Jim became deeply grieved over his unintentional mistreatment over his daughter, "I began to cry and picked her up in my arms and said, forgive me, but she couldn't hear me. I asked God to forgive me, but I never have been able to forgive myself. And my little

girl has never spoken a word since. She can't hear and she can't speak" (Twain 85). Though Jim is a black slave, he stays a human being and he has emotions and his heart could be broken as any other person.

3.3. Resolution Destiny and the End of the Nightmare for Jim:

In this part we will speak on how, where and when Jim is finally going to be free, and how much he suffered to gain his freedom.

3.3.1. Jim is sold to the Phelps:

The fact that Jim is a black slave makes him at the mercy of all the characters of this novel, and always forced to ridiculous and degrading situations. After the long trip down the river for months, and after all the service he did to the Duke and the king, these two men took their chance and sold him to the Phelps family for only forty dollars with no mercy. However, Huck kept searching for him, he found a boy who told him where Jim was sold, " An old a stranger he sold his chance to collect the reward to Silas Phelps for only forty dollars" (Twain 119).

Even though Huck and Jim had helped these two men to run away from many troubles in many situations, they provided them shelter and food, they did not appreciate that at all, they took their chance and sacrifice Jim to seek money. Huck said "After all this long journey, and after all Jim and I had done for the Duke and the king, I couldn't believe that they played a mean trick on Jim how could they have caused Jim to become a slave again, after his months of freedom, for forty dirty dollars!" (Twain 119). The king and the Duke caused harm to Jim and Huck, this moral harm is by misunderstanding what it is to be human, only for the sake of money they sold Huck's friend without any thinking as if they are selling an object or something worthless.

3.3.2. Tom's Plans to Free Jim:

Huck decided to help Jim and to free him from the Phelps' plantation; he decided to free him whatever were the consequences "I don't care if I go to hell" (Twain 120). When Huck arrives to the farm, the Phelps family thinks that he is Tom Sawyer. Huck pretends to be Tom because he knows that the real Tom will come to the house, so he went searching for him and when he finds him he asks his help to steal Jim out of slavery, Tom agrees then they both start making plans to save Jim after they examine the cabin where Jim is being held. The boys discovered Jim where he was through another black slave who used to take food to Jim, they assumed that Jim was locked at that cabin, to be sure they asked the back slave if he is going to feed a dog, the black slave respond as following "Yes, I am feeding a dog, an unusual dog" (Twain 134). Jim was locked in the cabin, and was chained to a leg of the bed.

Huck's logical plan is to steel the keys from uncle Silas and unlock Jim, and gets him to the raft, traveling south, hiding in the daytime and moving only at night. But, Tom finds the plan to simple and says that a good plan requires more than that. In this case Jim finds himself in a series of problems, Jim finds himself under the mercy of Tom's childish humor. However, the boys decided to dig Jim out of the cabin and this plan is complicated and time consuming. Tom is trying to make the escape like the prison novel ha has read. After they finished digging the hole, Jim asked the boys to help him free immediately, but Tom said that this would be simple. In this case Jim agreed to follow Tom's plan though he didn't understand them very well.

Moreover, after the finishing from digging, Tom has another plan. Tom stole a spoon and a candleholder from the house; he wanted to make pens for Jim out of these in of people that he had read about in books. He wanted from Jim to write message using the

pens and his own blood. Jim said that he didn't know how to write and didn't see much sense in doing it, but if that was what folks did, he was willing to try (Twain 137). In this situation we can notice that Jim didn't want to this last, but he could not refuse since he know his only hope for freedom is handled by Tom. Jim finds himself in a situation that he must obey the boy to seek his freedom. "Jim said that he would be willing to do this if it would make Tom happy" (Twain 136).

However, Tom's childish humor didn't stop here, but continued to another situation where he went to the slave cabins where Jim's food was being prepared and hid the piece of the candleholder insides of Jim's bread. Eventually, when Jim bit into his bread, he nearly knocked out his teeth, but he acted as though nothing had happened. At that moment he knew that Tom was behind this act, hence he could not react. Tom did whatever he could do just to have fun, he neglected the physical pain that Jim got, he could tell him what he is going to do, but he preferred not to do just to have fun," Tom was very pleased and thought that this was exactly how people acted in the books that he read" (Twain 138).

In addition to that, Tom wanted to bring into the cabin bugs, snakes, rats, and small plants in which they must water with Jim's tears. Jim refused all what Tom suggested, but since he was a prisoner he could not impose his words on the boy, hence he was under the mercy of Tom. Jim states "I never knew that it would be so difficult to be a prisoner" (Twain 140). In the light of this statement, we realize that Jim complained about all the work that he was being asked to do, he didn't want to raise the plant, he didn't want to play with rats, he didn't want to sleep with a snake, he didn't want bugs walking over him, and he didn't want to write on the grindstone using his own blood with the pen made out of the candlestick. Jim said: "being a prisoner required more responsibility and more work than anything I had done before" (Twain 141).

Throughout these words we can figure out that Jim has suffered from both physical

and mental pain to seek his freedom. Though Jim was complaining from Tom childish acts, Tom did not take his opinion into consideration, he told Jim that he had the opportunity to be a famous prisoner, if he you all things correctly, and he should thanks him for the goods ideas that Tom came up with. Tom thinks that Jim must obey him and thanks him for his favors though he is exploring Jim patience for his own sake. After this Jim had to apologize and be grateful to Tom for helping him do all the things a prisoner is supposed to do. Jim was certain that he was being abused by the boy but his situation could not allowed him to do anything, Jim said:" If I ever got out of this cabin, I wouldn't return to be a prisoner again even if they paid me" (Twain 143).

Last but not least, after three weeks of preparation, Tom decided to write a letter to the Phelps warning them that Jim might escape. After reading the letter the Phelps ask for help of about fifteen local armed farmers, Huck sees them and immediately goes to the cabin to warn Tom and Jim, this news makes Tom more excited. All of Tom, Huck, and Jim escape through the hole they made. In their way out, Tom makes a noise which attracts the man attention and they start shouting. Eventually, they succeed to reach to the canoe, at that moment everyone started expressing their happiness since Jim was finally free, Tom was happy but not well, he was shot in his leg. Tom asked his friends to forget about his leg, he wanted to carry on the raft but Jim and Huck refused. Jim said:" we will not leave this place until you see a doctor, Tom. If you were the slave and I was the free man who had been shot in the leg, I know that you would do the same for me" (Twain 147).

Jim sacrifices his freedom in order to save Tom. Jim proves his kindness and loyalty, after all what Tom has done with Jim, Jim preferred to save Tom rather than his freedom. At that moment Jim proved to Huck and others that black slaves are human as well as white people. Huck states "I knew that Jim was white on the inside, and I knew that he would say what he did" (Twain 147). Huck immediately went to the town to find a doctor,

when he found one, he told that he and his brother were hunting and by accident Tom shot himself. Later, they reached to Tom; Jim was hiding in the trees. Later on, Huck was tired so he felt asleep. However, in the morning when he awakened he couldn't find anyone, he went to the Phelps farm and told them a lie to cover Tom's disappearance.

The farm was full of people they were talking about how Jim could run away and about the writing; they assumed that someone helped him to run. After a while, the doctor showed, he was walking down the road, followed by a crowd of people, someone was carrying Tom, and Jim was being led with his hands tied behind his back. Some men wanted to hang Jim as an example to other slaves who might try to run away, but other said that it would not be right. If Jim's owner were to come to claim him, there might be problems if he were dead. Finally, they returned Jim to his cabin and put a chain around his leg that he could never run again. However, when the doctor came out to the cabin, he told the men not to be rough with Jim, the doctor said " He's a good man. When I found the boy, he was to sick to move and I knew that I needed help to care for his leg properly. As soon as I told the boy that I was going to need help, this black man came out from a hiding place and said that he would help me. And he did help and did a very good job of helping. I never knew a person who was a better nurse than he. He lost his freedom by helping" (Twain 152). After the doctor's statement the men promised to treat Jim kindly, and all agreed that he was a good person.

Later on, when Tom awakened and was able to speak, in the bedroom with Huck and Aunt Sally, the first question he asked is, is everything is okay?, Huck responded, yes. Here Tom thought that Jim is no more a slave, so he started narrating how they did help Jim to run, and how they spent weeks and weeks planning and working. He spoke about the grindstone and pens and snacks, bugs, rats, and finished by saying "you can't imagine what fun we had" (Twain 153). However, when aunt Sally told him that Jim is

locked in the cabin, Tom react in a aggressive manner, telling her that she has no right to keep him locked because he is a free man, at that moment Tom declared the truth, "He belonged to old Miss Watson, and she died two months ago. She felt such great shame when she remembered how she had threatened to sell him down to New Orleans that she left a letter setting him free" (Twain 154).

At the mean time Aunt Polly arrived and confirmed that all what Tom has said about Jim situation. And here comes the question up mind to aunt Sally, the question that might asked anyone had read the novel, which is, if Tom had known that Jim is no more a slave, why did he go through that trouble to set him free if he was already free? Tom replied "I wanted the adventure, that's why" (154). Despite the fact that Tom knows that Jim has beenset free by miss Watson, he tries to make Jim's escape difficult as possible for his own profit, which is only about fun. Finally, the Phelps family immediately unchains Jim and frees him after they knew that Jim is no more a slave and they become so kind with him.

Conclusion:

From the beginning of the novel to its end, Jim suffered from slavery and racism in various ways, especially at the end of the novel, where Jim surrendered and accept Tom's abusive behavior in order to seek his freedom. However, Jim could convince the white society that he is human enough to suffer from physical and mental pain, also he proves that he is intelligent, skilled and hard worker as well as anyone else, and the most important thing is that he was able to spread his kindness by his acts when he lost his freedom in order to save Tom.

General Conclusion

The story began when *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* ended, with Tom and Huck who found six thousand Dollars which caused many problems to Huck. Some wanted to civilize him like Miss Watson and her sister Widow Douglass, while his abusive father wanted to steal his money. All these problems led him to escape to the Jackson's Island, where he met Miss Watson runaway slave, Jim, who was running to obtain his freedom. However, both of Huck and Jim decided to travel down the Mississippi River on a raft toward the Free states.

As far as our hypotheses are concerned, both were confirmed. The study has come to the following results: First, Mark Twain described slavery as a mistreatment, and an unfair discrimination against black slaves, it was clear that he was against slavery, and this last could be seen in many scenes in the novel. One of the most significant scenes was when the Duke and the king sold Jim to the Phelps plantation, after all the services Jim had done to them and when he was almost ready to be free. Second, slavery and racism had a significant impact on Jim physical and mental health. Jim exposed the physical and mental pain in many situations, where he was obligated to be chained and acted like a slave even though he was almost free. He was obligated to obey Tom's order even though at first thought he refused, but in order to seek his freedom, he was obligated to follow rules.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn was a courageous piece of writing that pointed the arrogant belief system of white southerners' superiority towards the black slaves. By reading the novel, it appeared immediately that Mark Twain was definitely against slavery and racism, especially through the story of the protagonist Huckleberry Finn. In the beginning Huck was like any white southerner person who saw blacks as inferior and not human as they were only slaves and property who had no right to do anything, but when started his journey with the black slave Jim, he realized that Jim cared for him and he protected him from any dangerous situation they encountered. All these aspects proved that

Jim was a devoted sensitive person; since then Huck recognized that what he had learnt in school about blacks were pure racial stereotypes that had no real sense.

Unfortunately, this negative racist attitude towards blacks in the United States is still a big issue nowadays, two centuries after the publication of Twain's novel which proves how farsighted and visionary he was. Mark Twain denounced the social acts and values of the Southerners, focusing on the issues of slavery and racism; he believed that they had no right to believe that they were superior to blacks.

Appendices

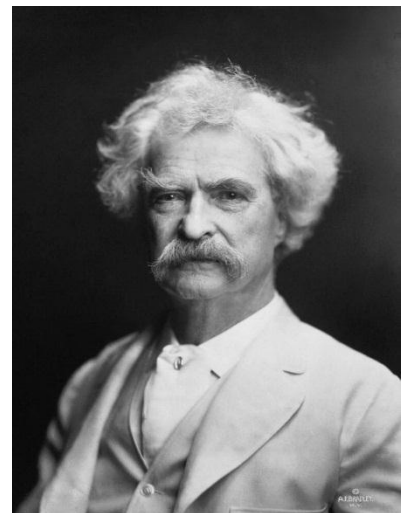
List of Appendices

Appendix I: Mark Twain Biography	59
Appendix II: Synopsis of <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	61

Appendix I: Mark Twain Biography

Mark Twain, the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens; was born in the town of Florida, Missouri, in 1835. When he was four years old, his family moved to Hannibal, a town on the Mississippi River; towns depicted in his two most famous novels, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884). Twain spent his young life in a prosperous family that owned a number of household slaves. The death of Clemens's father in 1847, however, left the family in adversity. Twain left school, and worked for a printer, and, in 1851, having finished his apprenticeship, began to set type for his brother Orion's newspaper, the Hannibal Journal. Twain eventually became a riverboat pilot. Life on the river gave Twain matter for

several of his books, including the raft scenes of *Huckleberry Finn* and the material for his autobiography *Life on the Mississippi* (1883). Clemens continued to work on the river until 1861, when the Civil War blew up across America and shut down the Mississippi for travel and shipping. During the late 1860s and 1870s, Twain's writings characterized by using different and various vernacular and



dialect. His novel *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) was bestseller, and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) received even greater national acclaim and covered Twain's position as a giant in American literary domain. As the nation prospered economically in the post-Civil War period; and came to be known as the Gilded Age because the United States witnessed prosperity and development either economically, politically and even in literature. Twain began work on *Huckleberry Finn*, a sequel to *Tom Sawyer*, in an effort to take advantage of the popularity of his earlier novel. This new novel took on a more serious character, however, as Twain focused progressively more on slavery and the South. Twain soon set

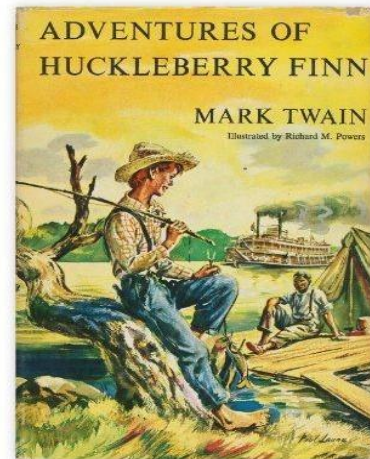
Huckleberry Finn aside, perhaps because its darker tone did not fit the optimistic sentiments of the Gilded Age. In the early 1880s, however, reconstruction, the political program intended to reintegrate the defeated South into the Union as a slavery-free region, began to fail. The insensitive procedures the winning North imposed only embittered the South. Worried about maintaining power, many Southern politicians began an effort to control and oppress the black men and women whom the war had freed. Meanwhile, Twain's personal life began to collapse. The illness of his wife, and the death of their son beside Twain made a number of poor investments and financial affairs; eventually he, found himself in weakening debt. As his personal fortune decreased, he continued to offer himself to writing, he finished a planning of Huckleberry Finn in 1883, and by 1884 had it ready for publication. The novel met with great public and critical acclaim. Twain continued to write over the next ten years. He published two more popular novels, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889) and *Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1894), but went into a considerable decline afterward, never again publishing work that matched the high standard he had set with Huckleberry Finn. Personal tragedy also continued to pursue Twain his finances remained worrying, and, his wife and two of his daughters passed away. Twain's writing from this period until the end of his life reflects a depression and a sort of reproach at the injustices of the world. Despite his personal troubles, however, Twain continued his literary life until his death in 1910.

Source: en.m.wikipedia.org. Web accessed: 08/09/2022

Appendix II: Synopsis of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

The novel begins with Huck Finn introducing himself as someone readers might have heard of in the past. Readers learn that the practical Huck has become rich from his last adventure with Tom Sawyer (*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*) and that the Widow Douglas and her sister, Miss Watson, have taken Huck into their home in order to try and teach him religion and proper manners. Instead of obeying his guardians, however, Huck sneaks out of the house at night to join Tom Sawyer's gang and pretend that they are robbers and pirates. One day Huck discovers that his father, Pap Finn, has returned to town. Because Pap has a history of violence and

drunkenness, Huck is worried about Pap's intentions, especially toward his invested money. When Pap confronts Huck and warns him to quit school and stop trying to better himself, Huck continues to attend school just to spite Pap. Huck's fears are soon realized when Pap kidnaps him and takes him across the Mississippi River to a small cabin on the Illinois shore.



Although Huck becomes somewhat comfortable with his life free from religion and school, Pap's beatings become too severe, and Huck fakes his own murder and escapes down the Mississippi. Huck lands a few miles down at Jackson's Island, and there he stumbles across Miss Watson's slave, Jim, who has run away for fear he will be sold down the river. Huck and Jim soon learn that men are coming to search Jackson's Island, and the two fugitives escape down the river on a raft. Jim's plan is to reach the Illinois town of Cairo, and from there, he can take the Ohio River up to the free states. The plan troubles Huck and his conscience. However, Huck continues to stay with Jim as they travel, despite his belief that he is breaking all of society and religion's tenets. Huck's struggle with the concept

of slavery and Jim's freedom continues throughout the novel. Huck and Jim encounter several characters during their flight, including a band of robbers aboard a wrecked steamboat and two Southern "genteel" families who are involved in a bloody feud. The only time that Huck and Jim feel that they are truly free is when they are aboard the raft. This freedom and tranquility are shattered by the arrival of the duke and the king, who commandeer the raft and force Huck and Jim to stop at various river towns in order to perform confidence scams on the inhabitants. The scams are harmless until the duke and the king pose as English brothers and plot to steal a family's entire inheritance. Before the duke and the king can complete their plan, the real brothers arrive. In the subsequent confusion, Huck and Jim escape and are soon joined by the duke and the king. Disappointed at their lack of income, the duke and the king betray Huck and Jim, and sell Jim back into slavery. When Huck goes to find Jim, he discovers that Jim is being held captive on Silas and Sally Phelps' farm. The Phelps think Huck is their visiting nephew, Tom Sawyer, and Huck easily falls into the role of Tom. Tom Sawyer soon arrives and, after Huck explains Jim's captivity, Tom takes on the guise of his own brother, Sid. After dismissing Huck's practical method of escape, Tom suggests they concoct an elaborate plan to free Jim. Tom's plan is haphazardly based on several of the prison and adventure novels he has read, and the simple act of freeing Jim becomes a complicated farce with rope ladders, snakes, and mysterious messages. When the escape finally takes place, a pursuing farmer shoots Tom in the calf. Because Jim will not leave the injured Tom, Jim is again recaptured and taken back to the Phelps farm. At the farm, Tom reveals the entire scheme to Aunt Sally and Uncle Silas. Readers learn that Miss Watson has passed away and freed Jim in her will, and Tom has been aware of Jim's freedom the entire time. At the end of the novel, Jim is finally set free and Huck ponders his next adventure away from civilization.

Source: en.m.wikipedia.org. Web accessed 08/09/2022

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