

Racial Injustice and Social Disparity in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

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Abstract--- *Social disparity and racial injustice continues to remain an aspect of concern which has made its impact on societies all around the globe, and has remained an important field of academic brilliance. Literature remains the only potent means that can reshape one's ideas regarding social realities and help overcome inequality and prejudice. Keeping in view this point, it can be said that Lee has depicted the racial discrimination in terms of the cultural background of America's Southern region, where discrimination was embedded in the very social fabric of society. Through the central characters of the Finch family, the novel exhibits an exemplary demonstration of moral rectitude and ethical responsibility. Through their acts against injustice, the reader sees the contradiction that is created in a society where there are issues of inequality between individual morality and public prejudice. In addition, through the novel that is narrated through the eyes of Scout Finch, one acquires an insight into the manner in which prejudice affects peoples' morality and attitudes. This novel is a criticism of racial injustice and shows that apart from having direct effects on those who have to bear it, prejudice affects ethical perception of society as a whole. by the intersection Through the analysis of the relationship between characterizations and narrative strategies utilized in the novel, this paper attempts to emphasize the relevancy of the novel's message in today's context.*

Keywords--- *Discrimination, Equality, Justice, Prejudice, Segregation.*

I. INTRODUCTION

LEE is best known for her lack of performance and moral integrity, not her use of rhetoric (Lee, 1960). The details in Lee's writing are rooted in the personal lives of her characters and not in Critique; her symbols include the mockingbird as a representation of innocence, and the Radley home as a locus of cancerous tumors and terror (Lennon, Peter, 1995; Bruell & Edwin, 1999). This purity in expression is central to Lee's work; by presenting both the everyday acts of goodness and cowardice equally, she enables moral awareness.

"The one thing that doesn't abide by majority rule is person's conscience."

Atticus teaches that true justice depends on inner morality.

Society may be wrong, but conscience guides right action.

(Harper Lee p.108)

The idea of how real justice arises from what the person's own conscience dictates, rather than what the people may feel is correct. This is conveyed through Atticus' character, whereby Harper Lee portrays him as an example of moral and personal bravery (Bloom, Harold, 1999). This shows how society can be wrong, particularly in terms of racial discrimination.

The author Harper Lee is characterized by a unique blend of personal experience, ethics, and literary control (Blackwell & Louise, 1979). The Monroeville setting supplied her with material; the influence of law and her New York education made her a master of technique; and her choice of a child as the narrator, together with her simple, detailed prose, allowed her to portray intricate social issues.

"But there is one way in this country in which all men are created equal..."

That institution, gentlemen, is a court."

(Harper Lee p.205)

Atticus presents the courtroom as a symbol of equality in a society divided by race and class. He argues that the law has the power to treat all individuals fairly. However, the trial's outcome reveals the influence of deep-rooted prejudice. Thus, Lee exposes the failure of legal institutions to deliver true justice.

Harper live was awarded police teaser price for fiction in 1961 that established her debut work *To Kill a Mockingbird* as a major contribution to American literature (Lippincott, Fred, 1996). The honors recognized her as a writer who's work went beyond artistic accomplishment which reflected and influenced social thoughts. Several universities awarded her honor doctrine. In 2007 she was honoured with president medal of freedom by George w bush. Barack Obama awarded her National medal of arts in 2010. Also awards are in her name such as the harbour award for alabama's distinct writer. The work of Lee continue to India's across generations institutions and communities. The development Arc has also enhanced the emotional impact of the novel and also reinforce its ethical argument that confronting injustice requires both personal growth and critical reflection (Delgado & Stefancic, 2000). This novel is not male a story about racism but becomes a broader meditation on how an individual comes to understand and also challenges social in equities (Gillborn, 2015).

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The black people identity, their cultural memory and historical trauma are presented in Toni Morrison's work who is an American novelist. The writing particularly focuses on the emotions and psychological scars left by slavery and racism on the lives of African Americans. Her writing is often combined with the history and imagination to show the truth that are not always captured in traditional historical accounts (Carver, Claudia 1998).

Alice Walker is known for her writing about race gender and identity. She especially highlights the struggle and resides lunch of every black woman in an oppressive society. The characters in her writing faces discrimination, violence and social inequality by blending emotional storytelling with spiritual and cultural themes. she is widely known figure in feminist and Social Justice literature (Crenshaw, 1998).

II. POVERTY AND ITS IMPACT ON SOCIAL STATUS

In May-comb town people are treated by their poverty status which affects them. Not only money shapes the position of the community but also others judge the behaviour and their background. We could see that the Finch family is respected as they are educated and their life is in a stable way and the Cunninghams, are treated with a certain level of respect even though they don't have much money because of their honesty and hard working.

“The Cunninghams never took anything they can't pay back

no church baskets and no scrip stamps.

They're good folks, but they're poor.”

(Harper-lee p-27)

It shows that the Cunninghams are respected despite being poor. Their honesty and self-respect give them dignity in society. Lee suggests that character matters more than wealth. It supports your point that social value is based on behaviour, not just money.

III. INTERSECTION OF RACE AND CLASS

A Society that Lee presents where race and class are mostly connected which forms a layered system of inequality in the town of May-comb. We could see the racial privilege in the white community families even though they are positioned at the lower end due to their poverty and social behaviour. Yet, they continue to hold authority over black individuals.

“She was white, and she tempted a Negro. She did something that in our society is unspeakable... she kissed a black man.” (Harper lee chapter-20, p. 207)

Racial identity is presented here as more influential than class position. Even though Mayella is poor, her whiteness gives her power. Tom Robinson is judged guilty because of racial prejudice.

It supports your idea that race outweighs economic disadvantage.

In the novel we could see that how deeply has the racial prejudice rooted allowing the existing power structures to

remain unchallenged, even though economic inequality is evident. The black individuals are treated as inferior compared to the white, this effects the economic status in shaping their experience. The social environment of May-comb illustrates developing factors that influence their everyday interactions and to shape their individual life that results in unequal social order.

IV. SILENCE AND MARGINALIZATION OF BLACK VOICES

African American characters are excluded from positions of authority and they are denied the opportunity to Express their experiences full stop to avoid conflicts the black characters limit their voice will stop they keep silent fearing of upsetting the social norms full stop silent shapes the community if justice is understood full stop the white voices dominates over the black testing money to protect their fairness full stop prejudice filters the truth even when its clear avoiding black individuals to be heard on equal terms full stop the marginalization is deeply rooted institutional practices to favor one group over the other that is white over the black community full stop at last black are left with little confidence as their words alone can bring changes but they voices are unheard.

“Calpurnia said, ‘It's not necessary to tell all you know.

It's not lady like in the second place, folks don't like to have someone around know in' more than they do.

It aggravates 'em.”

(HarperleeChapter 9, p. 100)

Social control is maintained by discouraging individuals from speaking openly. Black characters are expected to limit their voice to avoid conflict. Fear of upsetting social norms keeps them silent. This supports your idea of marginalization in everyday life.

V. CONCLUSION

The novel to kill a mockingbird shows poverty racism and the class in may-comb-that was structured by Deep thoughts of inequalities of economic position which influenced they status but racial identity governed power full stop within white community we could see class distinctions in a hierarchy determining authority and access to justice May-comb society structure is rigid so that they doesn't question on destruct the established hierarchy to ensure the prejudice they should educated and to bring up their family to come over the racism and class full stop ab broader shift in collective thinking can change the act of inequality and rays discrimination rather than being isolation scout and gent can transform their moral development by reflecting awareness fairness and empathy it is clear that inequality is not only sustained by formal structure but it also being sustained by normalized attitudes which discourage resistance and legitimize discrimination We could conclude leaving a message to the readers that individual acts of courage and understanding can challenge prejudice and the foremost step towards justice is to see others as humans without any discrimination.

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