



CONFRONTING RACISM IN NOVEL “AN AMERICAN MARRIAGE” BY TAYARI JONES {2018}

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Abstract

This research is an analysis of the Novel “*An American Marriage*” by Tayari Jones (2018). In this study, the author aims to reveal the racism effect in American marriage life . In analysis, there are 3 form of racism, 2 impact of racism, and 2 type of how to confront the racism. This analysis uses Post-Colonial theory to reveal the forms, impact ,and confront racism and using observations and analytical methods. The forms of racism in this thesis is racial slurs, discrimination, and violence. The impact of racism in this thesis are psychological and physical. The resistance towards racism in this thesis includes education awareness and building relationship. The use of concept based on the context of the novel in this analysis, the element of novel that help reveal the implied meaning are tone, speaker, and symbol. In conclusion, in this thesis , author aims to reveal racism, the impact of racism and how to confront racism in the novel “An American Marriage” by Tayari Jones (2018).

Key words: racism, impact, resistance

A. INTRODUCTION

Race (from the French race, which itself is from the Latin radix, “root”) is a classification system used to categorize humans in large and different populations or groups through inherited phenotypic, geographical origin, physical appearance, and ethnic characteristics. At the beginning of the 20th century, the term was often used in a biological sense to denote a diverse human population of genetic members with members having the same phenotype (outer appearance).

Angela Davis, Ruth Gilmore, and Imani Perry have explored the relationship between “race” teachings from historical and social production in the language of law and crime, and their impact on policies against Black people in America, and many of them are in prison that is no longer proportional.(Benjamin, 2019). The novel also touches on the theme of

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colorism, which refers to discrimination based on skin color within a racial group. Celestial, the main female character, is described as having lighter skin, which affords her certain privileges and opportunities that are not available to those with darker skin. Overall, *An American Marriage* illustrates the ways in which racism and discrimination can shape and influence the lives of individuals and communities, and the resilience and determination of those who fight against it.

B. RESEARCH METHOD

In a research study on the novel "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones, the data collected would likely be drawn from the text of the novel itself. The novel would be the primary source of data for the study. There are several different ways that data could be collected from the novel. Some possible methods include: Close reading: This involves carefully analyzing the text of the novel in order to understand its themes, characters, plot, and other elements. Thematic analysis: This involves identifying and analyzing recurring themes in the novel in order to understand its overall message or messages. Character analysis: This involves examining the traits, motivations, and actions of the characters in the novel in order to understand their personalities and the role they play in the story. Plot analysis: This involves examining the events and conflicts in the novel in order to understand the overall structure and progression of the story. Contextual analysis: This involves examining the historical, cultural, and social context in which the novel was written and published in order to better understand its themes and messages.

C. FINDING AND DISCUSSION

1) Finding

1. Form of racism

The author explores the topic of prejudice and its impact on the characters' lives. The story revolves around a highly educated and successful black couple, Roy and Celestial, who experience strain in their relationship due to their different upbringings. The novel reveals the insidious pervasiveness of racism and how it affects the lives of its characters, regardless of social class or wealth. This is the example of racial slurs .

"I don't have a break coming up, but grab some nigga and black chick . I can talk to you here."

The use of the N word in the context of the dirt on the father's clothes can be seen as a racial slur, as it is often used to demean or belittle people of African descent. It is important to recognize that racism is a harmful and destructive ideology that has caused a great deal of suffering throughout history and continues to be a significant problem in many societies today.(Kleinpenning & Hagendoorn, 1993). Discrimination is a form of prejudice that treats individuals or groups unfairly on the basis of race, gender, or other factors. Throughout the novel, Roy and Celestial face various forms of prejudice, including having their car searched by a police officer and being

suspected because of the color of their skin. This is the example of discrimination.

“Roy, ” she said. “A lot of things have changed. You’re not trying to be walking around at night. I don’t know what’s worse, police or everyday people. Hopper got caught up on a weapons charge. He was only trying to protect himself. Sixteen years old and they charged him as an adult.” The statement “I don’t know what’s worse, police or everyday people. Hopper got caught up on a weapons charge. He was only trying to protect himself. “ can also be seen as a form of racism discrimination , as it implies that the police are not capable of protecting people of color, and that they are more likely to harm them than help them. This reinforces the stereotype that people of color are not treated fairly by the legal system, and can contribute to the marginalization and discrimination of people of color in society.

Violence can found in many contexts, including domestic, social, and institutional settings, and often has significant long-term effects on individuals and communities. This is the example of violence .

“If it’s a country motherfucker with a gun, yes.” Then she slapped my arm and gave me a kick and real smile, one with dimples. “Boogety-boogety. You so crazy. I’ll get you one more. But I won’t make it strong.” That kick of how it was, and the other part was that she fucked me back to the ground.”

The statement “ she slapped my arm and gave me a kick” and ” that she fucked me back to the ground.” Can be confirm is the form of racism violence ,because the character getting beat up because she was black woman.

2. Impact of racism

The novel explores the insidious pervasiveness of racism and highlights how black Americans are often unable to escape the systems that seek to trap them in poverty and crime. It also addresses other conflicts that seem to affect all African Americans, such as racism and classism. It presents the intersectionality of marriage and race and shows that these issues are not separate. The impact of racism in this thesis is psychological and physical. Psychological impact is defined as the effect caused by environmental and/or biological factors on individual’s social and/or psychological aspects.

This Is the example of psychological .

““Little Roy is gone.” “Gone where?” “His mind” I sat down at the kitchen table. “What?” “You hungry?” Big Roy asked. “I could fix you some salmon croquettes.” “He’s crazy? When did it happen?” “A while ago. Let me get you something to eat. Then we can talk about the details.” He handed me a glass of purple Kool-Aid, which tasted like summertime.”

The character’s statement “crazy and lost hid mind” can be viewed in the context of psychological . Because of the discrimination and violence that

leads him to lost his mind. For example of the physical, in the context of environmental studies, physical impact might refer to the changes in landscapes or ecosystems caused by human activities or natural phenomena.

“I guess I didn’t want you feeling sorry for me, because really, it’s one of my happiest memories. After we got married, I slipped down here on Christmas morning to have my apple, its okay baby , its okay ” Celestial whispered to my ear with a fragile voice”

This is the impact physical racism that side characters have to witness, because the racism allow Celestial got sick and have to lay in bed all the Christmas . Ethnic minorities, such as American Indians, Alaska Natives, Asian and African Americans, Hispanics, and Pacific Islanders, have poorer physical health than the general population. They are at greater risks for adverse birth outcome and chronic diseases, such as diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Cohen, Hillel W.; Northridge, Mary E., (2008).

3. Resistance towards racism

In Tayari Jones' novel, *An American Marriage*, the characters resist racism in a variety of ways, despite facing challenges and hardships due to the criminal justice system's bias against black people. However, Roy's own experiences with the criminal justice system, including false imprisonment, made him more aware of the impact his race relations had on his life. Education is one of the many ways to protect ,defends and the fight racism.

“Her mother worked in education, not as a teacher or a principal but as an assistant superintendent to the whole school system. And did I mention that her dad hit pay dirt about ten or twelve years ago .”

Celestial mother cant afford celestial to became a student but ,she teach celestial at home to make her educated to make her know her surrounding ,what is happening and what can we do about this situation. Building a community involves fostering a sense of connection, shared purpose, and mutual support among individuals and groups. It encompasses a range of activities and strategies aimed at enhancing the well-being, cohesion, and resilience of the community.

“She says she is happier here, anyway, on the fringe of the old neighborhood, a community of schoolteachers, family doctors, and other salary-and-benefits jobs that were put into play by the civil rights movement. In one of the swanky subdivisions farther west, her neighbors were likely to have been rappers, plastic surgeons, or marketing executives.”

The description of the community as being made up of "schoolteachers, family doctors, and other salary-and-benefits jobs" reflects the impact of

systemic barriers and opportunities on the types of jobs available to people of color.

2) Discussion

Racism is the belief that certain races are superior to others and that this superiority gives people of those races the right to discriminate against, exploit, or oppress those of other races. Racism can be expressed through individual beliefs and actions, as well as through social and political systems that discriminate against certain groups of people based on their race. The empirical basis for this conceptualization was examined. It is hypothesized that the forms of racism are steps in a single cumulative dimension of ethnic attitudes. This hypothesis is based on Myrdal's rank order of discrimination and Blumer's idea of the color line. The validity of the forms of racism is tested by relating the steps of the ethnic attitude to intentions regarding discriminatory behavior, stereotyping, and attitudes toward affirmative action. Kleinpenning, Gerard, and Louk Hagendoorn. (1993). Racism can take many forms, including racial slurs, and violence against people because of their race. It is important to recognize that racism is a harmful and destructive ideology that has caused a great deal of suffering throughout history and continues to be a significant problem in many societies today.(Kleinpenning & Hagendoorn, 1993).

Racism can cause psychological distress, such as anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. Experiencing racism can lead to feelings of worthlessness, hopelessness, and powerlessness, which can negatively impact a person's mental health. White men were largely unaware of any impact of race or gender. Impacts identified that were attributable to systemic factors included impacts related to being a demographic minority (i.e., intimidation, feeling out of place, feeling pressure to work harder) and/or discrimination (i.e., job discrimination, bias against women or people of color and cultural assumptions implying the superiority of White people and men. A common theme across categorizations was that women and students of color work harder than men and White people either because they are perceived to be harder workers or as a response to the sexism and racism they encounter (Dancy et al., 2020).

Racism can have physical health impacts, such as higher rates of chronic diseases and lower life expectancy. Racism can also lead to physical violence and harm, particularly for marginalized groups. Several theories provide the foundation for understanding how stress differentially influences health between different ethnoracial categories.

Educating oneself and others about racism, its history, and its impacts is an essential step in resisting it. Raising awareness and promoting understanding can help to challenge biases and stereotypes and promote inclusivity. If the tenor of our current times has taught us anything, it is that established practices and ways of being in the world are untenable. A consequence of this is that interculturalists fail to appreciate the limitations of their critique and of their claim to novelty. The alleged new ideas of interculturalism may relate to

the normative significance of the majority but less to intercultural dialogue or to an anti-essentialism. While interculturalism has a contribution to offer, eg, by a focus on micro-level interactions, on superdiversity and by challenging multiculturalists to think about the majority, it is best understood as a version of multiculturalism rather than as an alternative paradigm. This allows for an appreciation of micro-sociological studies without accepting the usual prefatory critique of multiculturalism found in such studies. My own version of multiculturalism can benefit from the contribution of interculturalism but this may involve moderating interculturalist ideas, for example, of not abandoning an anti-essentialism that is consistent with the sociological reality of groups, or by taking on board the normative significance of the majority without accepting the idea of a majority precedence. In this way what is of value in interculturalism can be taken on board within existing multiculturalist theoretical frameworks (Modood, 2017).

Building relationships across racial and ethnic lines can help to break down barriers and promote understanding and inclusivity. This can include participating in community events and building networks with people from different backgrounds. Addressing racism and its impacts requires a collective effort to challenge harmful norms, educate future generations, and build a world where everyone feels valued and respected. By prioritizing awareness and fostering inclusive communities, we can move closer to equity and justice for all.

D. CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTIONS

After analyzing, the author needs to make conclusions and suggestions based on the research problem of this thesis. In this research, the author has 3 problems that he wants to discuss. 1. What is the form of racism in the novel "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones? Racial slur, Discrimination and Violence. 2. What is the impact of racism in the novel "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones? psychological and physical. 3. How do the characters resist racism in the novel "An American Marriage" by Tayari Jones? Education awareness and Building community.

This gave white people more power than black people. In the global picture, black people are always considered disobedient, always inferior, can be accused without evidence and are powerless. In contrast, the white race is depicted as a dominant race, more aggressive, competitive, confident, and strong. This image created racial and social disparities between blacks and whites at that time, especially in social relationships. Whites are considered stronger and have greater authority, racial and social power than blacks. This condition is often referred to as racial and social inequality. The benefit of this issue is that we can appreciate even the presence of other people and can resist the white supremacy .

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