

**A LEXICO-SEMANTIC ANALYSIS OF RACISM IN RICHARD  
WRIGHT'S *NATIVE SON***

**BY**

**ISRAEL O. ADEKALA**

**16020401012**

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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this project report written under the supervision of Dr. M. E. Anana is a product of my own research work. Information from various sources has been rightly acknowledged with adequate text references. With much ardor and enthusiasm, I can say fervently that this project report has not been previously presented by anyone, anywhere for the award of any Degree or certificate in any institution.

.....

**Adekala, I. O.**

.....

**Date**

## CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this research project titled ‘**A Lexico-Semantic Analysis of Racism in Richard Wright’s *Native Son***’ was carried out by **Israel O. Adekala** with the matriculation number 16020401012 in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the award of Bachelor of Arts (B. A) Degree in English Language at the Department of Languages, Mountain Top University, Nigeria under my supervision.

.....

Dr M.E Anana

(Supervisor)

.....

Date

.....

Professor E.A Adedun

(Head of Department)

.....

Date

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this project to Almighty God, my father, Mr A. Adekala, my mother, Mrs. O. Adekala, my amiable supervisor, Dr M.E Anana, the Head of Department prof. E.A Adedun, my amiable lecturer Dr Olatunbosun, My proficient past tutor Mr Ayomide F. Madojutimi.

# TABLE OF CONTENT

Title Page	i
Certification	ii
Dedication	iii
Acknowledgement	iv
Table of Content	v
Abstract	vi

## CHAPTER ONE

### Introduction

- 1.1 Background to the study
- 1.2 Statement of research problem
- 1.3 Aim and objective of the research
- 1.4 Research question
- 1.5 Significance of the research
- 1.6 Scope and delimitation of the Research
- 1.7 Operational definition of terms

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **Literature Review**

2.1 History of Racism

2.2 Meaning and theories of Racism

2.3 Racism Waves

2.4 Black's disposition on racism

2.5 Theoretical Framework

2.6 An overview of Richard Wrights *Native Son*

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **Research Methodology**

3.1 Research Design

3.2 Population of the study

3.3 Sample and Sampling Technique

3.4 Method of Data collection

3.5 Method of Data Analysis

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

4.1 Data presentation analysis and interpretations

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **Summary of findings, conclusion and Recommendations**

5.1 Summary of Findings

5.2 Conclusion

5.3 Recommendation

References





## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the study

Racism's earliest usage has been traced to the 1902 edition of the Oxford English Dictionary as a description of U.S. policy toward Native Americans (Howard, 2016). For the first half of the 20th century, the term was used interchangeably with "racialism." The term's use is relatively new in the social sciences (Barot & Bird, 2001) and began with Ruth Benedict's *Race and Racism* (Benedict, 1945) and in Edmund Soper's *Racism: A World Issue* (Hankins, 1947).

Lately, race have been analyzed sociologically where 'race' and 'race relation' shifted to racism as an ideology and racialization as a process which assigns physical and cultural differences to individuals and groups. The impression of racialization has received inadequate attention while scholars have examined 'race' and 'race relations.'

Racism, also known as racialism refers to any activity, custom or opinion that represents the ethnic pattern. The philosophy that humans can be divided into diverse and limited biological units called "races;" that there is a connecting link between inherited physical traits and personality traits, cleverness, moralities, and other cultural and behavioral traits; and that some races are naturally superior to that hereditary; The notion of biological race was recognized as a cultural invention since the late 20th century, entirely without scientific basis.

Racism simply refers to the belief that one race is inferior to another, this also means that a person's social and moral traits are determined by his or her innate biological characteristics. Racial segregation in racism is the belief of the need to differentiate one race from another. Racism can also be seen as the hatred for a person believing that he or she is not human because of skin color, language, tradition, place of birth, and other circumstances that project the nature of that person. It has been the cause of wars, slavery, the formation of nations and legal codes.

The most dehumanizing form of racism in the Western world has been Slavery which dates back to thousands of years. Slavery was made possible because of the racist belief that blacks are lesser humans to the whites and their descendants. Hundreds of years ago, racism from the Western authorities towards non-westerners played an important role in history and other forms of racism.

Right from time, Africans were not initially seen as lesser humans. In the 15th – 16th century, Africans seemed to be a great competitor to the Portuguese. Due to the technological advancement of these countries and the inability for African countries to grow technologically, Africans were viewed as lacking species. This inability changed the belief that Africans are competitors to them unlike when they came upon empires that were developed as theirs. European authorities forcibly began to make the blacks to work as slaves in countries that have just been colonized across the Atlantic. Some black men were also involved in the selling of other blacks to European slave traders.

Blacks, unlike the whites, are projected as subhuman, more like beasts than men. They are seen as threats to their existence, an example of people also viewed as inferior are the Jews. The Jews have been seen as anti-Semites superhuman, devilishly cunning, skilled, and powerful. They were seen as threats to the westerner's cultural control, false racial research was proved to show the supremacy of non-Jewish whites. Just as the white scientists have continued to debate the deficiencies of some races, black authorities in America have advocated for the supremacy of the blacks projecting the whites as inferior. These debates are centered on misunderstanding races. Present-day scientists do not accept the fact that race can be used to classify people, regarding them as non-significant to science.

Following Germany's destruction in World War I, that nation's profoundly instilled enemy of Semitism was effectively misused by the Nazi Party, which held onto power in 1933 and actualized approaches of deliberate separation, oppression, and inevitable mass homicide of Jews in Germany and the domains involved by the nation during World War II (see Holocaust).

In North America and politically-sanctioned racial segregation period in South Africa, racism instructed that various races (mainly blacks and whites) should be isolated from each other; that

they should have their means of communication and build up their institutions like churches, schools, and hospitals; and that it was abnormal for people of different races to marry.

Although, the people who openly claimed or rehearsed racism insisted that people from inferior races should be forced to work in an organization of low status and people from the oppressing race should have choosy access to politics, employment in organizations of high status and social liberty. The understanding of racism by people of inferior races includes demonstrations of violence, day by day injuries, and all of which affect self-confidence and social interactions.

The race was established to show the difference between people of European roots and those of African roots whose ancestors had been conquered and sold to the Americans as slaves. By describing Africans and their African American relatives as lesser people, the defenders of slavery tried to legitimize and keep up the arrangement of abuse while depicting the US as a defender and hero of human opportunity, with human rights and balance. The rational variation among slavery and the belief system of human equality, going with a way of thinking of human opportunity and pride, appeared to request for the dehumanization of those dominated.

By the nineteenth century, racism had developed and spread far and wide. In numerous nations, pioneers started to think about the cultural parts of their social orders, typically strict or language gatherings, in racial terms and to assign "higher" and "lower" races. Those seen as the low-status races, particularly in colonized regions, were abused for their work, and oppression to them turned into a typical example in numerous zones of the world. The experience and feelings of racial occurrence that went with colonization resulted in unworthy and aggressive feelings from the people who were colonized.

Since the mid-twentieth century, numerous arguments around the globe have been interpreted in racial terms even though their sources were in the ethnic uncertainties that have since a long time ago depicted many human public orders (e.g., Bedouins and Jews, English and Irish). Racism shows an acknowledgment of the heaviest structures and degrees of disorderliness and goes with the suggestion that differentiates between gatherings to such an extent that they can't rise above.

Racism suggests disapproval and doubt, it blocks any endeavor to understand its fatalities. Hence, most human social orders have reasoned that racism isn't right, in any event on a basic level, and social patterns have moved away from racism. Many social orders have started to fight structured racism by condemning xenophobic beliefs and practices and by advancing human understanding in open activities, as does the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 1948.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Imbalance in race particularly to the blacks is an issue in America. The white sees themselves to be bosses, this makes living to the blacks among the whites dehumanizing. The whites view blacks among them as slaves, animals. The fact that one is born as a black or to a black family makes one be detested. The blacks are not viewed as humans and don't hold prominent positions in the environment. They are murdered most times for misconducts they have no idea of and also for violations that don't attract death penalties. The dehumanizing experiences of the blacks are at its peak, this research attempts to address the issue of racial discernment by the whites, using the text *Native Son* by Richard Wright.

## **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

The Objective of this research is to analyse the theme of racism in Richard Wright's *Native Son*.

The objectives of this study are to:

- i. Identify the challenges experienced by the blacks.
- ii. Lexically divide the lexis and their significance in racism.
- iii. Examine characters that depict racism.

## **1.4 Research Questions**

Over the years Richard Wright has achieved a great position as the mouthpiece of the blacks among contemporary writers as he addresses present issues in touchy manners. This work explores a portion of the African-American dehumanizing encounters. The worries that this work raises includes:

- i. What are the issues looked by the blacks in the text?

- ii. What are the lexis and their interpretation on racism?
- iii. How does the characters in the novel portray racism?

### **1.5 Significance of the study**

Several studies have been done on *Native Son*. This study would contribute to literary scholarship by contributing to the studies. This work would contribute to the growing discourse on racism and also inspire the blacks that are oppressed by the white.

### **1.6 Scope and Delimitation of the study**

The scope of the study is limited to the novel *Native Son* by Richard Wright. This work addresses Racism.

### **1.7 Definition of Terms**

This work involves indefinable vocabularies, these vocabularies are treated specifically in different sections, and the preparation on this section gives the reader a fore-knowledge on different pieces of the vocabularies involved. They include:

Racism: Racism is one race's predominance over the other. The idea that race partners typical traits, ability, or ideals remarkable to that race, particularly so as to separate it from another race or gathering as dominated or prevalent.

- **Black:** This refers to a specific set of people with mid-dark brown taint. Even though, the skin of all black people is not dark in colour.
- **White:** White applies to European-descended people. We have light skin which includes people with descent from North Africa and the Middle East. Because of racial classification in the 19th century, white people apply to a large group of European people.
- **Violence:** This is a method of infecting another fellow with misery, distress, or any sort of dehumanizing behavior.

- **Slavery:** Slavery can be described as a situation without adequate remuneration or gratitude for having to work hard. Slavery applies to a process where the rules of property law are applied to people as a de jure mode of ownership which allows individuals to own, purchase and sell certain individuals.
- **Domination:** This is basically described as an exhibition of directing through the obvious and glaring movement of power, incomparable quality, and authority.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

Describing 'Racism' is difficult in light of the fact that different researchers have characterized it reliant on different points of views and reflections of the term. Researchers use words like Black, White, oppression etc.

Webster's *Third New International Dictionary*, defines racism as "the assumption that psycho-cultural traits and capacities are determined by biological race and that races differ decisively from one another which is usually coupled with a belief in the inherent superiority of a particular race and its right to domination over others" (Zuckerman, 1990).

Van Dijk, 1993 sadistically defines racism as 'falsely attributing inherited characteristics of personality or behavior to individuals of a particular physical appearance'. To him, racism is perceived to be hereditary and the countenance is totally erroneous. It is not enough to subscribe to Giddens as Butts' view can be considered affirmative.

Brantley (1983) "racism consists of the predication of decisions, policies, and behavior on considerations of race for the purpose of subordinating a racial group and maintaining control over that group". To him, racism can be both 'overt and covert'.

Was Ridley (1995), not in his right sense to have likened attitudinal disposition to racism. He vomits that racism is "any behavior or pattern of behavior that tends to systematically deny access to opportunities or privileges to members of one racial group while perpetuating access to opportunities and privileges (preferential treatment) to members of another racial group."

As Dennis R.M, puts it in the *social science encyclopedia*, "Racism is the belief that groups of humans that possess different behavioral traits corresponding to physical appearance, and can be divided based on the superiority of one race over another." His definition cannot be seen as threatening considering the heinous atrocities that racists have disposed

Oxford dictionary emphasizes that racism means prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism directed against other people because they are of a different race or ethnicity.

Based on the countenance of South Africa, Xenophobia can relate to racism as they excessively discriminate. In terms of their *unruly* political systems (apartheid) that support the expression of prejudice or aversion in discriminatory practices or laws, racist ideology includes associated social aspects such as nativism, xenophobia, segregation, otherness, segregation, hierarchical ranking, and supremacist.

The UN convention further concludes that superiority based on racial differentiation is scientifically false morally condemnable, socially unjust and dangerous. The convention also declared that there is no justification for racial discrimination, anywhere in theory or in practice. This implies that in no ramification should racism be justifiable

Muhammed Ali showed his hatred for racist. To him, hating people because of the colour is wrong, and it doesn't matter which color does the hating. It's just plain wrong.

In Mandela's submission as a protest against discrimination, he ardently preached against the inequality of colour and he concluded that 'nothing is black or white'

When Martin Luther King (Jr) confessed his *I Have a Dream* (1963) as a protest against discrimination, he prefigured that one-day, little black boys and girls, then he urged that we live as brothers or perish together as fools. This can be used to justify that he professed inequality based on colour will soon cease to exist.

As different scholars have indicated their hatred for the unjustifiable racial discrimination, we can hereby conclude that for no reason should racism be justified. In fact, it is a condemnable act that deserves punishment for anyone caught in the *annoying* practice

### **History of racism**

By simple defining the term "racism", we can say that race refers to a group of humans that share the same ancestry. Etymologically, its first appearance was 1580 in English, from the old French *rasse* (1512), from the Italy *razza*. It is believed that the first to classify humans into race was



Francois Bernier (1625- 1688), it appeared in a French journal article in 1684, *Nouvelle division de la terre par les différentes espèces ou races l'habitant*. The four quarters of the earth is used by Francois as a means of providing boundaries for difference in humans. Francois made use of the Europeans, Far Easterners, Negroes (blacks), and Lapps as subgroups for the classification. 18<sup>th</sup> century scientist brought up their perspective of how racism came to existence, their perspective differentiated humans, based on the geographical arrangement of human population. Classifications like geographical location, skin colour, stature, food, habits and other features that mark boundaries between races are based on physical differences. The 18<sup>th</sup> century introduced behavioral and psychological traits to simplify their research and observations on race. Scientists began to believe that humans could be classed into different subgroups as classification grew. Race shows the characteristics that differentiate a group of people from other human populations.

Racism has been in existence in America since the colonial period when the white Americans had the privilege that were denied to the people who belong to other races, they include exclusive privileges in Education, immigration and acquisition of properties. The social science history of America's race relations explains why full amalgamation and adjustment have not occurred. This same history attempts to explain why multiculturalism, or the mutual respect of ethnic groups for one another, has been so infrequent (McKee, 1993).

The Irish, Italians and non-protesting immigrants from Europe suffered xenophobic segregation and some other forms of racial discriminating activities in the American society. The Arabs alongside the Jews also suffered racial discriminating actions continuously. These actions made people of other ethnicities not to be identified as whites. Afro- Americans were denied Political, social and economic privileges mostly in US history. East, south and Southeast Asians also experienced racism in America.

The most dehumanizing type of racism turns out to be slavery which began sometime in the past. The demonstration of slavery was a success then as a result of the intolerant belief that blacks are lesser people to the whites and their relatives. Many years earlier, racism from the Western authorities towards non-westerners assumes a significant part in history and different types of racism. In the pre-common War time, farming were a source of Income and mineral abundance to

be utilized in preferred position of the Colonizing nation. Since the use of Europeans for work appeared to be to be costly and was to their own misfortune. African slaves were imported in huge numbers and were modest to make farming more productive than the standard thing.

Foundations, Schools and numerous public settings were intended to accommodate just the white Americans, establishments like Native American Reservations, Native American Reservations.

In the twentieth century, racism was alleged to be properly and socially dreadful, and was to a great extent banned officially in spite of the fact that, it actually extends itself in the American culture in its financial exercises, business, lodging, instruction, and government.

In the end decade of the twentieth century, the American social orders experienced expansions and intensive reaffirmations of the journey for balance and opportunity. Instances of circumstances in the period was, the changing picture of the American lady and requests by the dark Americans for opportunity and social liberties.

The 2009-2017 period when Barack Obama filled in as the President in the US, denotes the Nation's first Black President. His accomplishment in developing the workplace implies that the country has arrived at a post racial time. However, Obama's administration did little to lighten racial disparities in lodging, training, and business. Antiracist developments, for example, the Movement for Black Lives, risen to feature progressing issues identified with the degrading of individuals of color, including state-authorized police fierceness which has been irregularly focused at African Americans.

The most dehumanizing form of racism happens to be slavery which started long ago. The act of slavery was a success then because of the racist belief that blacks are lesser humans to the whites and their descendants. Hundreds of years ago, racism from the Western authorities towards no westerners plays an important role in history and other forms of racism. In the pre-civil War era, colonies were a source of crops and mineral wealth to be used in advantage of the Colonizing country. Since the use of Europeans for labor seemed to be expensive and was to their own loss.

African slaves were imported in large numbers and were cheap to make plantation agriculture more profitable than the usual.

Institutions, Schools and many public settings were designed to accommodate only the white Americans, institutions like Native American Reservations, Native American boarding schools. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century, racism was understood to be morally and socially intolerable, and was largely banned formally although, it still projects itself in the American society in its socioeconomic activities, employment, housing, education, and government.

In the closing decade of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, the American societies experienced extensions and thorough reassertions of the quest for equality and opportunity. Examples of situations in the period was, the changing image of the American woman and demands by the black Americans for freedom and civil rights.

The 2009- 2017 period when Barack Obama served as the President in the US, marks the Nation's first Black President, his success in emerging the office signifies that the nation has reached a post racial era. Yet, Obama's presidency did little to alleviate racial inequalities in housing, education, and employment. Antiracist movements, such as the Movement for Black Lives, emerged to highlight ongoing issues related to the devaluation of black people, including state-sanctioned police brutality which has been disproportionately targeted at African Americans. Meanwhile, the 2016 US presidential election only served to legitimate resurgent white supremacy: US president Donald Trump and his supporters engaged in widespread racist, anti-immigrant, and anti-Muslim rhetoric, and the number of reported hate crimes targeted at racial, ethnic, sexual, and religious minorities subsequently increased (Levin,2017).

## **2.2 Meaning and theories of semantics**

Semantics was found from the Greek word 'semantikos' meaning 'significant'. Semantics was first used by a French linguist and philologist named Michel Breal in 1897. Modern semantics is known to be founded by Michel Breal. It explains the relationship between words, expression and the meaning they give. Semantics was first studied by Alfred Koerzybski a Polish-America independent academic who by his meticulous effort was able to develop a field called general semantics. Koerzybski also applied scientific approach to study semantics and made significant contributions to the development of semantics He further argued that human knowledge of the

world is limited both by human nervous system and the language humans have developed and thus no one can have direct access to reality given that the most we can know is that which is filtered through the brain's responses to reality.

Structuralists do not rely on meaning because it appears to be intangible to them. Although, many other linguistic theories have interest in the study of meaning. Due to the emphasis of this work, some commonly identified theories of semantics would be discussed. Different scholars have defined Semantics and some of their definitions includes:

- i. "The study of meaning" (Merriam-Webster)
- ii. "The study of the meaning of words and phrases" (Oxford Dictionary of English V1.9)

Semantics a branch of Linguistics that encompasses how meaning is derived. Theories of semantics are of various types, due the concentration of the study only few will be examined. The theories to be treated includes:

2.2.1 The Use Theory: this theory states that the meaning a word give is derived from context of its use. This theory examines meaning based on countenance. Wittgenstein (1953) opines that "for a large scale of words... the meaning of a word is its use in the language."

2.2.2 Ideational Semantic theory: This theory was developed by a British empiricist named John Locke who claims that the meaning a word gives can be fragmented from the word itself. This simply means meaning can be derived based on ideas that comes up in one's mind. This is determined by ones view of what is said.

2.2.3 Contextual Theory: This theory was propounded by Firth (1957) which the term "context of situation" came to existence. Firth attests that the meaning a sentence portrays is determined by the situation the sentence is used. He also attests that meaning can be derived from the various language levels like semantics, phonetics and grammar.

Context of situation is described as a feature that is essential in reasoning a word or a sentence at any level of language. This theory deals with the interpretation of utterances, word or sentences as a whole relating them to the context of use. This simply means that the happenings around when a statement is made determines the interpretation.

2.2.4 Referential semantic theory: The meaning of a linguistic item can be explained using other words. This theory is based on palmer's view of meaning. Palmer (1981) used reference in the sense of non- linguistic world of objects and experiences. In this sense, the word reference is used for the whole link of the contexts of situations in which we live. Scholars like Malinowski (1923) and Firth (1951) believes that a language description isn't complete without a reference that links to the context of situation. This simply means that statements that have meaning are made base on the circumstances around when the speech was made. Although, in terms of reference and referent, what an utterance refers to would takes the characteristic of the referent.

2.2.5 The Non-Referential semantic theory: Bridge's (1927) notion of non-referential semantic theory refers to a set of processes. If the perception is noticeable as of measurement; the processes are actual visible processes, specifically, those by which dimension is measured: or if the notion is psychological, as of scientific continuity, the processes are psychological operations, specifically those by which we decide whether a given aggregate of magnitude is continuous. Bridge (1927: 6) states that "the proper definition of a concept is not in terms of its properties, but in terms of actual operations".

### **2.3 Racism Waves**

Racism's first notable appearance happens to be towards the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century when Europeans began to take Africans against their will. Slavery appeared with full force in Britain for about 150 years due to the massive demand for sugar. The rate at which slavery stood its ground made Britain to be recognized as one of the richest nations into slave trade in the world.

Britain was noted to have large figures of slaves from African and Asian colonies to Europe and America.

The trading system known as 'triangular trade' was used to get sugar and other items needed. Items like gunpowder, textiles, silk and some others were traded in place of Africans. Slaves are then taken to the Caribbean and America to farm where they are changed for spice cotton and sugar, this item are then taken back to Britain and sold.

Africans were shipped in horrible conditions at times battered due to often beatings having a record of at least 1 failing to survive. The survivors tend to live a maximum of about 2 to 4 years due to the dreadful tasks they encounter in the plantations. Many records or suicidal acts, escape, a rebel turns to the order of the day.

People were afraid of the brutality of slavery and tried to stop it. This made people support by developing theories to prove their doings. Some lied that some slave had contacted diseases that are communicable. The symptoms made the slaves flea. Blacks known to be naturally lazy, this was said to be the cause of their hatred for working in the plantation. The defenders of the slave trade claimed that blacks were less intelligent than whites; they were lesser humans and grew tails.

The WWII period is notable for the triumph over fascism and racism. The government then, divided the armed forces based on race. African Americans were declared unfit for Combat services by the US Military recommending unskilled job for them. African Americans formed about 10 percent of American troop strength. They were mounted to various department, training centers and clubs till the segregation of the blacks and White by the American Red Cross in 1950.

The segregation by Jim Crow which is a feature that defines the US society in the 19<sup>th</sup> century was adopted outside the country during World War II. America experienced six riots caused by racial discrimination, 20 military riot and rebellion. Soldiers fight one another when outside their country due to a white soldier harassing a black soldier. This act is called 'nigger hunts'.

Recently, the outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) brought about worldwide nervousness. The first cases were reported in Wuhan, China. This catastrophe brought a halt to public gatherings, closure of borders, and ban of travel. COVID-19 has been declared an international public health emergency by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The panic about the coronavirus syndrome is predictable and has caused a lot of fears especially in North America, and West. This panic has uncovered a deep-rooted racism. Washington Post

Reporter John Pomfret writes, “At a middle school a few blocks from my house, a rumor circulated among the children that all Asian kids have the coronavirus and should be quarantined”. Places like Los Angeles and Toronto practice racism leading to racist remarks altered by TSA agents to public harassment.

Education Institutions of great esteem have tried to minimize the cruelty of this racism wave.

University of California Berkeley Health services made effort to ease students and faculties experiencing racist opinions and feedbacks by saying bigotry and bias are “normal” and “common” during the corona virus outbreak.

#### **4. Black’s Disposition on Racism**

Anti-racism is the fighting and liberation of blacks or any race subjected to be inferior to another.

A Writer like Richard Wright has been known to be antiracist with reference to his texts like *Native Son*, *Black Boy*, *Uncle Tom’s Children*, *The Outsider*. Other writers like Toni Morrison can be regarded as antiracist, some of Toni Morrison’s texts addressing Racism includes *Beloved* and *Tar Baby*.

Racism was openly rebuked first in December, 1511 by Antonio de Montesinos a Dominican friar. Anti-Racism has been criticized by many whites, they view antiracist as rebels and haters of whites. They are known to break protocols which seem to favour one race at the expense of another although, in a way that don’t attract punishments. A good example of an Antiracist who was viewed to be a rebel but had no hatred for the whites was Martin Luther King. Martin Luther King in his speech made in August 28, 1963 stated “I have a dream that one day little black boys and girls would be holding hands with little white boys and girls”. This shows love the blacks have for humanity despite the fact that they have been subjected to a lot of dehumanizing acts and still they don’t retaliate but rather plead for togetherness and equality.

Franz Boaz, a German-born American was one of the notable personalities that were against scientific racism, he came up with the idea that culture plays a major role in describing the

behavioral difference between each race. He introduced cultural relativism ideology stating that cultures cannot be ranked higher or lower, better or more correct.

Kofi Annan, a Ghanaian Diplomat and the 7<sup>th</sup> UN Secretary General states that “we may have different religions, different languages, different coloured skin, but we all belong to one human race.

Ashley Montagu was one of the ten scientist who were invited to a UNESCO committee addressing race known as Committee of Experts on Race Problems. The fourth statement of UNESCO states that “all men are born free and equal both in dignity and in rights”.

Eleanor Roosevelt was a popular Right Activist in the United States, she served as the first lady in the United states from March 4 1993 to April 12 1945. She was called the “First Lady of the World” by President Harry S. Truman in tribute to her human right achievement. She broke the tradition by inviting Hundreds of African-Americans to the White House. She made a lot of efforts in ensuring the balance in racial equality.

Harper Lee said in his *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, “As you grow older you will see white men cheat black men every day of your life, but let me tell you something and don’t you forget it- whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash”. This word serves as a motivation to the oppressed and dehumanized and also sends a message to the white still indulging in racist acts.

According to Elie Wiesel, “No human race is superior; no religious faith is inferior. All collective judgments are wrong. Only racists make them”. This simply means that the difference between one man and another is spotted and distinguished by in a racist.

Nelson Mandela opines that “nothing is black and nothing is white”. Nelson Mandela believes that there is no difference between a white skinned and a black skinned man because they are both humans.



According to Muhammed Alli, “Hating people because of their color is wrong. And it doesn’t matter which color does the hating. It’s just plain wrong” this just shows the gravity of mistake humans make due to their impression of something.

## **2.5 Theoretical Framework**

Racism hypothesis is a theoretical expansion of partiality that centers on scrutinizing separation in race regarding enslavement and parting. Racism hypothesis endeavors to examine how blacks are dehumanized, the causes and the repercussion. Racism hypothesis likewise causes by creating procedures to liberate the blacks.

Racism has been confirmed to exist at different levels specifically Institutionalized, Person intervened, Internalized. Each human assumes a function in prejudice purposefully or accidentally. It is a typical event in the human culture. The idea that race is identified with science is erroneous in light of the fact that race isn't identified with science. Races are accepted to be superior to themselves isn't right since people end up being hereditarily comparable, this carries us to the inquiry what is the purpose behind contrast in race? Which the different speculations address.

Institutionalized Racism, this is the type of racism that makes the physical obstructions in our reality, it is basically having separate admittance to medical care, food, development and so on. It is visible in laws implemented and also having separate access to employment opportunities. It is the most important form of racism with which other forms of racism can be eliminated if its structures are treated. This form of racism came into existence through historical occurrences and is sustained by its practice within the government and institutions in America.

Mediated Racism turns out to be the generally known type of racism, the sort gets through individuals' brain when they think of prejudice. It involves differentiating a people’s ability and intentions due to difference in race, it is having access to different treatments based on one’s race. It can be conscious or unconscious e.g. Crossing of street, not having access to sit next to someone of a different race. We are most likely guilty of this form of racism but we have a tendency of not knowing. We have to be conscious of our thoughts of different races and make sure our actions don’t segregate.

Disguised Racism is the third type of bigotry whereby the race seen as mediocre acknowledges the social orders presumption of what their identity is and act dependent on their inadequacy. Limitations put on a race by another are most occasions acknowledged in light of the fact that they don't trust in themselves. Having the inclination that you can go after a position since you are a minority you don't trust you are sufficiently gifted to be qualified for the work. This type of prejudice makes Mediated Racism and Institutionalized racism flourish. Racism at this level stifles one's individual feeling of significant worth and discouraged joint activities. Racial segregation has little to do with science, yet more to do with the social disrespect and differentiations that include these different races. Understanding the different sorts of racism can genuinely help us a whole to do away with racism.

## **2.6 Overview of Richard Wrights *Native Son***

*Native son* is a novel written by an American author named Richard Wright. It was published in 1940. It is the collection of three fictional short stories. The title of the short stories are Fear, Flight and Fate.

Fear recounts the account of Twenty-Year old Bigger Thomas who lives with his sibling named Buddy, his sister Vera and their mom. The presence of a rodent made the room scattered, bigger had the option to murder the rodent in the wake of pursuing it forcefully. He uses the dead rodent to frighten his sister which made her weak, this made Mrs. Thomas scold him.

Bigger is to see Mr. Dalton who is a white man, because of the way that Bigger's family relies upon him, he has no alternative than to work for the white man. Bigger meets his companion Gus when he strolls into a poolroom, he communicates the sentiment of being unreliable at whatever point he contemplates white. He meets Jacks and G.H while they plan a theft. Bigger and his companions are intrigued by the wealth of the whites. Bigger sets up a battle with Gus, driving him to lick his cutting edge in a provoking manner to his own frightfulness.

The battle consequently stops the up and coming robbery from happening and his friends gets aware of him doing that purposefully. Bigger lands the position as Mr. Dalton's driver, despite the

fact that the Dalton's are caring to him yet he feels awkward around them and doesn't have the foggiest idea what their desires from him.

Mary, Mr. Dalton's little girl goes into the room and questions Bigger for him not having a place with an association while she considers her dad an "entrepreneur". Bigger doesn't have a thought of what the association was about and doesn't have a clue what the word "Communist" mean. He gets frightened of losing his employment because of the way that he is confounded about Mary's conversation with him. Peggy, Mr. Dalton's Irish cook shows Bigger his room and cautions him to maintain a strategic distance from Mary's Communist companions.

Bigger resumes work the night he landed the Position. He drives Mary to meet Jan her Communist boyfriend, they converse with him during that time and oblige they go to dinner where his companions are, call them to sit at their table and present them. Bigger couldn't react to their solicitation, he becomes disappointed being their driver for that night. On their way home while Bigger drives, Jan and Mary make out in the car. When Bigger shows up at the house, Mary is drunk and Bigger compelled to carry her to her room; he doesn't need anybody to see her in his arms while he can't defeat the attraction of her body, he kisses her. Not long after the kiss, Mrs. Dalton goes into the room, bigger realizing she was visually impaired despite the fact that, she could detect his presence and he shouldn't be found in Mary's room. To avoid awkwardness, he is left with no alternative than to silence Mary by squeezing a pillow all over.

Mary attempts to notify Bigger that she was unable to breathe however, Mrs. Dalton was coming nearer and he was unable to surrender the pillow while Mrs. Dalton reproves Mary since she perceived alcohol noticeable all around. After Mrs. Dalton left the room Bigger becomes more aware with that Mary had choked to death. Bigger however it was ideal Mary would be thought to have gone in light of the fact that she should leave for Detroit the next day. In tenseness, he finished his considerations by forcing Mary's body in the furnace in spite of the fact that the body couldn't fit in yet he needed to mice the body into various portions so the furnace would accommodate it while he goes out.

Flight tells how Bigger's girlfriend Bessie starts to speculate he had planned something for Mary. While Bigger resumes work, he finds the new investigator employed by Mr. Dalton named Mr.

Britten. Bigger is cross examined critically while Mr. Dalton attempts to vouch for him. Bigger clarifies the movements of the earlier day to make Jan a suspect, he knows Mr.

Dalton doesn't care for Jan since he is a Communist. Jan is interested by the story advised by Bigger however attempts to help.

Bigger leaves the Daltons house and produces a kidnap letter and slides it under the Daltons front entryway while he re-visits his room. On time, Mr. Dalton got the letter, he called the attention of the police, while the case is taken over from Mr. Britten. Bigger gets anxious and doesn't have goals of leaving, he is advised to take the ashes in the heater out and make another. Bigger turns out to be so frightened and poked the remains till the room is loaded up with smoke. One of the columnists gets doubtful of Biggers activities and seizes the shovel from greater and pushes him aside, he finds the remaining parts of Mary's bones and her earrings. Bigger escapes right away.

Bigger narrates the occurrence to Bessie, she realizes the white would have another impression of what must have happened by concluding he might have raped the girl before killing her. Bigger flees with Bessie although Bessie is overwhelmed by fear so he is forced to keep her by his side always. They lie to sleep in an uninhibited building while Bigger rapes Bessie and falls asleep. Bigger kills Bessie when he wakes in the morning and flees. After a rough chase, Bigger is apprehended by the police.

Fate talks about Biggers experience in the prison, bigger isolates himself from everyone and starves. Jan visits him with an offer intending to help him by introducing him to a communist lawyer named Boris Max. Max and Bigger conversed for long, during the process, Bigger realizes the role he plays in his family and to the world.

Bigger appears guilty in court and is sentenced to death for committing murder while he accepts his fate at the end of the novel.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This research uses qualitative research design. Descriptive analysis method is adopted in analyzing related works for the researcher to analyse related text reasonably. Materials that have been published and are yet to be circulated would help the accomplishment of this research.

#### **3.2 Population of the study**

This is the combination of the individuals or things from which the research is based. The population right now of the blacks that are maltreated and the whites persecuting the blacks would be incorporated.

#### **3.3 Sample and Sampling**

The sample refers to the population chosen to be researched. The population selected to be investigated in this text consists of 8 blacks and 7 whites. This survey makes use of simple sampling technique.

#### **3.4 Method of Data Collection**

The strategy for data collection utilized in this research is Documentary instrument where information is gotten from existing records. This investigation relies principally upon both primary and secondary data collection sources. In light of the selection of data collection, the exploration relies upon data assembled from the text *Native Son*, surveys, text books, articles, journals, dictionaries and the World Wide Web (WWW).

#### **3.5 Method of Data Analysis**

Racism is analyzed using descriptive method, it investigates racism in the chosen text, for example, *Fear, Flight and Fate* in *Native Son*. The utilization of Semantic Theories and Racist theoretical framework would help the analysis of the text.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data extracted from the text “*Native Son*” are indicated with Arabic numerals with which they are later on analysed below:

#### Extracts from *Fear*

1. “ Turn your heads so I can dress, ‘she said. The two boys averted their eyes and gazed into a far corner of the room. The woman rushed out of her nightgown and put on a pair of step-ins”. (Pg. 33)

#### Analysis

Poverty among the blacks has been one of the challenges which have subjected blacks to the lordship of the white making them work as slaves, maids and other petty jobs. The quote above simply expresses the level of inconvenience poverty has brought upon the Thomas family. Due to the houses an average black man can be entitled to base on the size of his/her pocket and also the kind of job opportunities exposed to the blacks has made the bigger family live in a house with just one room. The male in the house have to take off their eyes for the female have a change of their cloth. The absence of money to be in possession of a more convenient apartment has kept the Thomas family with no option thank to have no privacy even to an extent of not being able to change one’s cloth. This shows the level at which the blacks aren’t able to determine what goes in their own lives but rather stick to the conditions which the whites have made them live by.

2. “You’ll regret how you living someday,’ she went on. ‘If you don’t stop running with that gang of yours and do right, you’ll end up where you never thought you would. You think I don’t know what those boys is doing, but I do. And the gallows is the end of the road you traveling.....” (Pg. 39)

#### Analysis

The excerpt above shows that Biggers mother foresee him having an unwanted end due to the kind of friend he was moving with but he seemed not to have an idea of what his mother was talking about, he never saw any evil coming his way. He never knew his mother was aware of his friend’s

involvement in robbery and drugs. Biggers involvement in vices was just to earn some money to take care of his family. His mother's discussion with Vera which he overheard made him dislike the fact that he couldn't do anything to get his family out of poverty. Due to the place the blacks have been pushed to in the American society they hardly live on legal jobs because most legal jobs with good pays are made to suite the white.

**3. "You know, Bigger, his mother said, 'if you don't take that job, the relief 'll cut us off.**

**We won't have any food'.**

**'I told you I'd take it!' he shouted and slammed the door". (Pg. 42)**

#### **Analysis**

Bigger doesn't want to talk about taking the job Mr. Dalton has to offer although, he has intentions of taking the job because of the comfort he would provide to his family when he gets a good pay , he also sees it as a easily surrendering to the whites but he is left with no option because he knows he and his family would starve. Bigger already knows the outcome of not taking the job but His mother still tries to explain what they are likely to go through if he doesn't take the job, but the emphasis his mother lays on what they are likely to go through makes talking about the job disheartening and he gets pissed. This made him shout at his mother and slam the door leaving her presence to get the thought of the job off his mind.

**4. "That's Buckley!' He spoke softly to himself. 'He's running for State's Attorney again.'**

**The men were slapping poster with their brushes. He looked at the round florid face and wagged his head. 'I bet that son of a bitch rakes off a million bucks in graft a year.**

**Boy if I was in his shoes for just one day I'd never have to worry again". (Pg. 42)**

#### **Analysis**

Here, the writer tries to explain the thought that comes to the mind of blacks whenever they come across a rich personality or whenever they think of a rich personality. Blacks in the United States could also live like the rich but being subjected the lordship of the white won't make many of them become rich and prominent. The level at which Bigger craves for riches and influence made him wish to be an important personality for just a day.

5. **“Let’s play white Bigger said referring to a game of play- acting in which he and his friends imitated the ways and manners of the white folks”.** (pg. 47)

#### **Analysis**

The fact that blacks couldn’t confront a white man whenever they are humiliated or dehumanized, they devised a means whereby they could make fun of a white man’s attitude or actions. In the quote above, Bigger, Gus with the rest of his friends played white which means imitating the white and also mock them. Mimicking the white seemed to derive for them a little joy.

6. **“Gus stood without speaking and bigger felt a curious sensation – half sensual, half- thoughtful. He was divided and pulled against himself. He had handled things just right so far; all but Gus had consented”.** (pg. 55)

#### **Analysis**

Bigger is scared of robbing Old Blum because he is white. He and his gang were never scared of robbing a black man because they knew the cops won’t intervene. The cop’s not paying attention to the insecurities of the blacks shows how the Whites have disregarded the importance of the Lives of the blacks Bigger is scared to show his weakness meanwhile, Gus was the only person left to agree to join the robbery which would determine if the gang would go to rob Old Blum. Bigger tends to be aggressive towards Gus indecisiveness about joining the operation. Biggers body begins to react due to the fear of what the outcome of the operation considering the fact that things could go wrong. Gus knowing that Bigger is scared and trying to cover his fears by being aggressive agrees to join the robbery. Gus addresses Biggers fears by telling him to stop cussing at him because he was scared of going for the robbery. This decision of Gus leaves Bigger with no option than to fight his fears till the operation would be over. Bigger needs to get his worries over his mind so he and Jack decides to go to the Movies.

7. **“He had an overwhelming desire to be alone, he walked to the middle of the next block and turned in to an alley. He began to laugh, softly, tensely; he stopped still in his tracks and felt something warm roll down his cheeks and he brushed it away.** (pg.71)



### Analysis

Bigger has successfully aborted the robbery plan with his friends by raising a fight with Gus which makes Gus flee for his life while Doc chases Bigger out with a gun after he had cut the green cloth on the table. Bigger intentionally provoked Doc because he was scared and was afraid to show his weakness.

8. **“Oh, Bigger this is Jan. And Jan, this is Bigger Thomas. Jan smiled broadly then extended an open palm toward him. Biggers entire body tightened with suspense and dread.**

**‘How are you bigger?’**

**Biggers right hand gripped the steering wheel and he wondered if he ought to shake hands with this white man.” (pg. 97)**

### Analysis

The writer tries to show the level of psychological damage done to the black thinking meanwhile not all White have the same impression of who a black man is. While Mary introduces Jan to Bigger and Bigger to Jan, Jan stretches his hands to shake Bigger but Bigger never felt it was right for a coloured man like him to shake hands with a white man or even have anything doing around him. Due to the manipulation of the black thinking of the white to make them feel they are subjected to what the white man feel is right or wrong. Based on Biggers understanding of who a white man is, he feels he is in no place to shake hands with one. Jan who is a Communist tries his possible best to make Bigger feel comfortable around him and even cautioned him to stop calling him by the title Sir. Bigger is amused by the way he is welcomed but Mary Dalton although he still feels cautious of everything, he does around her or her parent. Jan tries to make bigger understand the aim of the communist movement.

9. **“You know, Bigger, I have long wanted to go into those houses,’ she said, pointing to the tall, dark apartment building looming to either side of them, and just see how you people live. You know what I mean? I’ve been to England, France, and Mexico, but I don’t know how people live ten blocks from me. We know little about each other. I just want**

**to see. I want to know these people. Never in my life have I been inside a Negro home. Yet they must live like we live.” (pg.101)**

#### **Analysis**

The writer in this part of the story tries to tell that some whites love to mingle, get to know blacks, live in homes like them. In the above quote Mary tells bigger of her plans to explore the world of the black, she wants to know the way of life the black live, what their home are like, what they eat. It was Mary’s first time out going to a restaurant in the black Neighborhood, she doesn’t have the view of the black to be inferior people all she knew was they were people of different native and of different colour. Mary’s innocence in terms of not being racial explains the fact that few of the white view the coloured to be (Not all Whites are racist).

**10. “‘it’s at the end of the next block, suh’**

**‘can I park along here somewhere?’**

**‘Oh; yeessuh,’**

**‘Bigger, please! Don’t say sir to me, I don’t like it. You’re a man just like i am; I’m no better than you.’ (pg. 101)**

#### **Analysis**

Bigger had the feeling that every white he comes across should be regarded with respect seeing them as superior beings, Jan begs bigger never to regard him as someone superior to him but as a fellow man like him. Jan responded due to the fact that he never identified someone from another race as an inferior being although some white like being regarded as superior but Jan never has that thinking and won’t tolerate being regarded as superior.

**11. “Listen, Bigger, that’s what we want to stop. That’s what we communist are fighting.**

**We want to stop people from treating others that way.” (pg. 106)7**

#### **Analysis**

While eating at Ernie’s Kitchen Shack, Jan tries to know more of Bigger, his experiences, his Educational status, how long he had lived among the whites and his parent. Bigger told Jan his

father was killed in a riot while he was a kid. This caught the attention of Jan and he had to make Bigger aware of the reasons why the Communist Party had been established, telling him the aim was to stop the Whites from maltreating people of other race and told him I would be great for him to join the party and together they could stop the whites from maltreating people of other races.

**12. “No, I want to work among Negroes. That’s where people are needed. It seems as though they’ve pushed out of everything.” (pg. 108)**

#### **Analysis**

Jan and Mary were into discussions that brought about Jan posing an issue to Mary telling her of the difficulty the communist movement which he belonged battled with, the movement to needed funds to bail some comrades who happened Negroes. She promised to mail him a check to support the movement and alongside offered him a job which he rejected. He insisted on working among the blacks because he had noticed there were a lot of work to do in the black neighborhood and asides that he had to work alongside with black people so he could achieve his communist goal.

**13. “Mary! Are you asleep? I heard you moving about ...**

**Mrs. Dalton straightened suddenly and took a quick step back.” (118)**

#### **Analysis**

Bigger drives Mary home and she was drunk, he is forced to help her through walk to her room so she could sleep. Bigger is scared of meeting the Daltons while walking Mary to her room because he could lose his job but he was left with no option. While Bigger was trying to place Mary on her bed to lay he took advantage of her by fondling her breast although he had the; thought of leaving the room as fast as possible. Mrs. Dalton could hear noise in the room and wasn’t sure of what was going on so she decided to check, while she reaches the room entrance Bigger is caught by her shadow and he thought it was Mr. Dalton or Mrs. Peggy but to his surprise it was Mrs. Dalton. He had to make sure she doesn’t know he is there so he tries covering Mary’s mouth with his hands so she wouldn’t make noise. Mrs. Dalton is curious to know what was going on in the room while Mary keeps causing awareness. Bigger is forced to cover her face with the pillow so she wouldn’t shout while Mrs. Dalton was there, she begins to suffocate and tries forcing the Pillow out of her

face but she couldn't. Bigger couldn't let go of the pillows while Mary passed out. Bigger wasn't cautious of what has happened but he moves away from the bed while Mrs. Dalton walks closer to know what was happening. She perceives the odor of the alcohol consumed by Mary and she concludes that Mary is drunk while she leaves.

**14. “Her mouth was open and her eyes bulged glassily. Her bosom, her bosom was not moving!” (pg. 118 – 119)**

**Analysis**

Bigger is relieved of his tension as Mrs. Dalton leaves the room. He is tired and sweaty, and has a feeling of being encapsulated by a spell which he just broke out from. His consciousness reminds him of leaving the room as soon as possible while he tries to confirm if Mary isn't hurt. He discovers she didn't make any move and a change in the Colour of Mary's face; he moves her head with his hands while he discovers she is limp and weak. Fear grips him while his intuitions whispers to him “she's dead” (pg.119). A lot of thought passed through his mind in a blink of an eye. He begins to be cautious of his colour and the white community.

**Extracts from *Flight***

**1. “He had spoken in the wrong tone of voice; he had to be careful”**

**Analysis**

Bigger is angered by the fact that he isn't in control of the issues bothering him, he couldn't control his emotions instead he flares whenever his sister or his mother asks him a question. He needs to be cautious but the anger in him makes him overreact.

**2. “That boy ain't got no sense, that's all, the mother said. He won't even speak a decent word to you.” (pg. 132)**

**Analysis**

Bigger is up so early after coming in late, He tries to get comfortable with the fact that he has killed a white lady. A lot of thought passes through his mind on what to do to be free from the crime he has committed. He has a thought of not going to Mr. Dalton's house because he feels Mary may not be burnt by that time, he also feels her body may have been seen. Bigger packs his belongings

hoping to flea and start a life somewhere else only for his mother to wake up while he tries taking his clothes from a dress drawer in the room where he and his family sleeps. His mother is awake and is suspicious after bigger jumps off from the dress drawer. She asks him of the outcome of the job at Mr. Dalton's house. Bigger tries to be as calm as possible but his temperament wouldn't allow him respond in a normal way. Biggers sister also tries to know of the job if he got it, like wise his little brother whom he loves so much. From Biggers response, Bigger's mother knew he isn't disclosing something that bothers him.

**3. "Bigger sat at the table and waited for food. Maybe this would be the last time he would eat here" (pg. 135)**

**Analysis**

Bigger mother offers him food before he leaves for Mr. Dalton's house, he has a feeling he would be apprehended by the cops if he had made any mistake in disposing Mary's body, and he wouldn't be opportune to eat on a table with his family again but rather in jail. He has a feeling he just earned himself a new way of life which his family wouldn't believe he had done what he did or rather he having a feeling that he would do what he has done. Gradually his confidence grew and he begins to have a feeling that he would be proud of saying he had killed a white lady

someday meanwhile Mary isn't the first person he will kill. He is overwhelmed by a feeling that its right to do what no other person thinks of doing.

**4. "it was the first time he had ever been in their presence without feeling fearful. He was following a strange path into a strange land and his nerves were hungry to see where it Led". (pg.142)**

**Analysis**

Sometimes before Bigger got the job at Mr. Dalton's house he had the fear of staying around his friends he is always scared of holding his ground on decisions because he doesn't want his friends to know his weakness and call him a coward. A scenario was when his friends came up with the Idea of robbing old Blum at his shop. He is forced to put up a fight with Gus for coming just to show that he isn't scared of robbing Old Blum whereas, he knows fighting Gus would ruin the whole plan. Fighting with Gus makes Gus flea for his life, and without Gus the robbery couldn't

take place. Doc gets angry and chases him off with Gun. Biggers unintentional killing of Mary Dalton has made him gain confidence over the fear of what the whites could do to him if he was caught in any unlawful act. He reconciles with his friends although they seem to be surprised about his sudden change in behavior but they also accepted him. He feels he is equal with his friends.

**5. “I’ll fix it, Bigger said standing and not daring to open the door of the furnace while she stood there beside him in the red darkness”. (pg.146)**

**Analysis**

Bigger resumes work at Mr. Dalton’s house very early, his thought of knowing if Mary’s body had been found would be known to him as soon as he gets inside the house. He meets Peggy who is about refilling the furnace with coal, she notices the furnace burned heavily at night. Bigger stops her from refilling the furnace coal and tells her he would do it himself. He becomes curious and begins to have a feeling that Peggy knows what he had done to Mary. Peggy tries to switch on the light so Bigger could see but Bigger thinks of killing her. Although, he isn’t sure if she knows what has happened so he watches her switch on the light. He discovers she is shy to be seen in her kimono. Bigger sees the coal in the furnace to be forming a shape of the way he had positioned Mary’s body so he is scared that it may not burn finish. He refills the furnace with coal so it could burn wild and there would be no traces of someone burnt in it. Bigger looks round the environment to see if he had left and traces that could implicate him, after checking he confirmed that there is none. He heads straight to Mary’s room to see if he didn’t leave any trace there too but there was none.

After pretending to wait in the car for Mary for some minutes, he goes straight to Peggy to ask if she had seen Mary that morning but Peggy tells him she hadn’t seen her. Mrs. Dalton is informed of Mary’s absence in the house and they think Mary is playing pranks on them. Jan calls to ask of Mary and he was told she had left the house. Bigger is told to take the day off because Mr. Dalton is ill. He heads for his room and lays on the bed, he begins to eavesdrop Mrs. Dalton and Peggy’s discussion. He discovers he had made a mistake by not including Mary’s new dresses in the trunk. He has a feeling that he has been caught while Mrs. Dalton sends for him, Peggy Knocks the door of his room while he tries to summon courage and the lies, he was about telling.

**6. “He jumped awake, Hearing a knock at the door. His heart raced. He sat up and stared sleepily around the room”. (pg. 157)**

### **Analysis**

Bigger opens the door to Mrs. Dalton, she asks him why he didn't open the door when Peggy knocked. She asked him if he took the trunk to the station. She also asks if he left the car at the driveway. Mrs. Dalton asks again if Bigger has followed Mary to her room and he said no, telling her that Jan had followed her to the room. Mrs. Dalton couldn't ask him as many questions as she wished to because Bigger is a slave to her family and also a black, this gave Bigger the confidence to answering the questions she asks him. After Mr. Dalton steps out and noticed Mary

Hasn't been found he begins to be worried about her wellbeing. He questions bigger about her being drunk, about her telling him to park at the drive way, her telling him to take the trunk down so he could take the trunk to the station the next morning. More question is thrown at

Bigger but Mrs. Dalton couldn't bear it letting Bigger know something was wrong, so she raises her hands signaling that Mr. Dalton stops questioning Bigger.

**7. “What’s the matter, boy? The man asked. Bigger said nothing; he swallowed, caught hold of himself and came forward**

**slowly.” (pg.184)**

### **Analysis**

Mr. Dalton invites Mr. Britten to address the issue at the house. Mr. Britten's first look at Bigger bestowed a lot of fear on him which makes him tremble in fear. Mr. Dalton introduces Mr. Britten to Bigger and makes him feel comfortable. Bigger thinks Britten is from the Police Department and thinks things may get tough for him. Britten starts his investigation by requesting the

Daltons to open the trunk. Bigger is scared and lies to him that he doesn't have access to the keys. Britten forces the door of the trunk open with Mr. Daltons consent. He sees the clothes are scattered and rumpled. Mrs. Dalton discovers that Mary's new clothes are not in the trunk. The trunk isn't filled with enough clothes that worth's carrying a trunk. This could bring a lot of suspicion to Bigger because he had something to do with the trunk. It's obvious that Mary didn't take a lot of

her things if she had really left the house. Britten moves straight to questioning Bigger about how he conveyed Mary to Night school. From Biggers narration of the story, the

Daltons get to know that Mary hadn't gone to school that night. She is known to be in a relationship with a red known as Jan. Bigger confesses to have taken them to the loop along Lake Street. Britten tries to know if Mary had been threatened at the loop by Jan or anyone around. All Bigger could lay emphasis on is that they were drunk. He tells Britten that Jan had come to the house with Mary.

**8. “Yes, Britten had searched his room; his clothes were mussed and tumbled. He would know how to handle Britten next time.” (pg. 193)**

#### **Analysis**

Bigger gets to his room after he discovers the place, he kept the pamphlet Jan had given to him is scattered. He is now aware of how dangerous Britten's investigation could be to him. He becomes extremely careful with whatever move he has to take although he isn't sure if they had discovered what had happened to Mary. Britten wants to get a full detail of what had happened the night before Mary went missing. Bigger is worried and now thinks of writing a kidnap note to get some money from the Daltons and also divert the attention to Jan since he is a red. Bigger develops the confidence to face Britten for any investigation since his first trial was successful.

Jan is invited for interrogation at the Daltons house.

**9. “You said you didn't come here last night, and then you say u did. You said you weren't drunk last night and then you say you were. You said you didn't see Miss Dalton last night you say you did.” (pg. 199)**

#### **Analysis**

Jan is interrogated by Britten and he denies meeting with Mary, being drunk and being at the house. He lies to Britten because he doesn't want to make Mr. Dalton angry because Mr. Dalton don't like reds. Jan doesn't know that Mary is missing but as Britten asks him of her whereabouts, he tells Britten she is in Detroit based in Peggy's discussion with him that morning. Jan is accused to know of Mary's whereabouts although he doesn't but, he couldn't prove himself right because he



had lied about him not meeting Mary the previous Night. Things begin to get tough for Jan while he leaves the house. He meets Bigger sometimes after he had left the house trying to ask Bigger what was wrong but Bigger points a gun at him and threatens to shoot him if he comes closer. Jan backs off and leaves as fast as he could. Bigger goes in search of the houses on the Southside to see which would fit to watch Mr. Dalton bring out the money he demands and hide. Bigger gets a stop for the watch and he heads to Bessie's house. Bessie doesn't want to partake in the process but Bigger scares and tries to kill her. She is forced to accept carrying out the task. Bigger takes her to the Building and shows her what she is to do when she sees Mr.

Dalton's car. Bessie is scared and doesn't want to leave Bigger while he was going back to the Dalton's house.

**10. "He was alone in the kitchen now, again the thought that he had the chance to walk out here and be clear of it all came to him, and again he brushed it aside" (pg. 219)**

### **Analysis**

Peggy picks up the kidnap note which Bigger dropped at the entrance to give Mr. Dalton to read. Peggy is in search for Bigger and later finds him while he sneaks into the Kitchen at about 8pm, she asks him where he has been. Bigger is scared that someone would suspect he is doing something wrong if he is seen in the kitchen. Peggy heads to Mr. Dalton's room to give him the Kidnap note. He begins to hear Mr. Dalton speak to someone on the phone and not long after, Britten comes knocking at the door with some other men. Britten asks if anyone had seen who dropped the letter. He asks if anyone had left the house. Bigger is now scared because they are at the basement where the furnace is and he knows anything could go wrong. The reds came looking for Mr. Dalton, while Britten goes to inform him of their presence. They tried to ask Bigger what had happened and one of the reds tries tipping Bigger to speak, but Britten tells him not to say anything to them. The reds think Bigger has been paid to lie against Jan which is stated all over the papers. Britten still thinks Bigger is a communist although, they have no charges against him because, and all the evidence they have points to Jan as a major suspect.

**11. “Gentleman, you may take pictures, but wait a moment. I just phoned the police and asked that Mr. Erlone be released immediately.” (pg.232)**

#### **Analysis**

Mr. Dalton becomes so scared that he was ready to pay the \$10,000 just to see his daughter not known to him that it's just a means which Bigger wanted to use to divert the attention away from him and also generate some money which he would use to run to a far distance. Mr. Dalton orders the police to release Erlone hoping that I would resolve the dispute between him and the Reds. The press who were at the basement wanted to get more details of the assumed kidnap while Britten tries to stop them. Gradually Britten begins to tell them of how Jan had given Bigger the communist pamphlet and how Bigger wasn't exposed to what communism was all about. Bigger is interrogated so they could see if he really didn't know what communism is all about. From the explanation of Britten, it is shows Bigger to be innocent although, Bigger isn't. At a point the issue is getting out of hand while Jan insists on leaving jail because he doesn't want to be held responsible for the kidnap note. Jan says his friends are ready to testify that he wasn't at the house that night but Britten assumes it's a planned work. Bigger is asked again if he is sure that Jan was at the house and he was persistent saying Jan was at the house. Bigger is scared because he knows that the moment it is proved that Jan didn't come to the house, all fingers would point to him as the murderer.

**12.“There's not enough heat upstairs. You'd better clean those ashes out and make a better fire”. (pg. 245)**

#### **Analysis**

Peggy notices that there is less heat upstairs and the ashes in the furnace is plenty so, she tells Bigger to clean the ashes up and make a new fire. Bigger isn't sure if Mary's body is totally burnt and he doesn't want to clean the furnace when the Press and Britten was in the basement because doesn't want to get caught. He tries to be smart by putting some coal in the furnace so he could make some fire till the white bodies leaves the environment, but it didn't go the way he thinks it would. He tries to remove some of the ashes but he seemed no to have removed enough. One of the white men begins to cough and a cup falls off the table. Britten asks Bigger if he was planning to choke them to death or something but he said no telling him he was trying to get the ashes out. Bigger is now chocked and it begins to attract the attention of the white men. One of them offers

to help out. While Bigger tries to stop him from helping, he insists by collecting the shovel from Bigger. Bigger is left with no option than to watch the man to know if he sees Mary's bone. While packing the ashes, he sees one of the bones and at first it is assumed that it was probably from some garbage. One of the white men named Towman sees the bone and said it was an oblong bone from a human body.

**13. "There was silence. Bigger stared without an image in his mind". (pg. 249)**

**Analysis**

It's now clear that Mary has been killed and Bigger sneaks gently till he is able to leave the house and heads straight for Bessie's apartment. He knows he wouldn't be getting any money now and, he knows his name would be in the papers as soon as possible. He makes sure no one follows him as he leaves for Bessie's apartment. Bessie is scared of the police and she doesn't want to get involved in any illegal activity. Bigger is left with no option than to take Bessie anywhere he goes because, she is so easy to manipulate especially when she is scared. Bigger and Bessie leaves for one of the houses on the Southside to hide from the police. Bigger and Bessie are in a building in the Southside, Bessie keeps crying till night while Bigger is craving to have her. He kisses her severally and then he tries to have her although she tells him to stop. Bigger is tired of having Bessie around and knows she would be a hindrance to his escape plan. He thinks of killing her although using a Gun would create awareness, he remembers he saw two bricks when entered the house. He uses bricks to hit Bessie's head several times till she was no longer breathing. He throws her body off the building and then, he feels he is set for whatever comes his way. Bigger is apprehended after a while of running from building to building just to stay away from the cops.

**Excerpts from *Fate***

- 1. "Thought they carried him from one police station to another, though they threatened him, persuaded him, bullied him and stormed at him". (pg. 303)**

**Analysis**

Bigger is in the police custody, is maltreated, bullied, and although he isn't starved of food or cigarette but he has no interest in food or cigarette. The police mishandle him in various dehumanizing ways. Lot of thoughts pass through Bigger's mind and he thinks of taking his own life since he has taken others and it didn't give a solution to the problem he tries avoiding.

Bigger is picked up by some men after some days at the police custody and taken to another place where his height and picture is taken although he isn't sure if it's the court, they are taking him to or for investigation. Mr. Dalton, Mrs. Dalton, Jan and some policemen are there to see Bigger, he feels disappointed for his actions. The disappointment in their faces makes him feel weak and he tries to fight the memories in his encounter at the Daltons house the day Mary had died. Reverend Hammond is there to see Bigger and he doesn't feel convenient about that although the man is there to pray for him but Bigger is angered by his speech. Bigger is moved by the words that come out of the reverend's mouth which reminds him of memories shared with his mother while he was young.

**2. "Bigger wondered what Jan could want of him now. Was he not caught and ready for trial?" (pg.316)**

**Analysis**

Jan wants to see Bigger but he thinks he isn't worthy of talking to Jan after all he had done. Jan tell Bigger h isn't angry although he wasn't aware of what may have happened but he offers to help Bigger which the reverend attested to be a very good thing Jan tries to do. Jan introduces white man name Max to Bigger. Max makes Bigger feel free with him and tells him not to be scared of anyone or anything anyone says. He tells bigger not to tell anyone anything asides him so he could be safe to an extent. He offers Bugger free services at the court. Bigger is still confused why they will want to help him be with time he gets to feel comfortable with him. Buckley tries to scare Bigger and Max tell him his client will sign no confession and Buckley tries to make Bigger feel all hope is lost but Max still assures him of success in the case. Biggers Mother is there to see him and he isn't comfortable with that. She cries so bad that she couldn't talk well. All she could tell him was to pray which he tells his mother he would. He tells his friend to take his mother along whenever they leave. His friends tell him of how they have been accused of things they didn't do and how Max had helped them out. Buckley shows Bigger the mob who plan to lynch him just because of what they have heard. He tells Bigger to open up to him so he could be assisted.

**3. “In what condition was Miss Dalton when you left her last Sunday morning?” (pg.348)**

**Analysis**

Bigger is charged to court, everyone involved in the case are made to swear before the court to say nothing but the truth. As the Coroner questions Jan, he asks some questions trying to criticize Jan treating Bigger like a normal human should be treated. Jan tells Mr. Coroner that he is trying to show the difference between races and not investigate the case. After testifying at the court, Bigger is taken to the Daltons house to describe how it had happened the night he murdered

Mary. Bigger refuses to explain further at a point and he isn't forced. While he was ushered out of the Daltons home back to the county Jail, her see a cross that looks like the one the priest had given him which was set ablaze and with the impression of people around he could feel the aggression and hatred. He feels the cross is the same as the one the priest had given him while he removes it from his neck when he gets to the County jail. Food is brought to Bigger and a paper from Max his lawyer. Bigger reads the paper and he sense some sort of hope concerning the case.

**4. “I’ll report you to the president, you hear? Bring me my papers or let me out of here, you white bastards!” (pg. 372)**

**Analysis**

A Negro is brought in alongside some white men and the Negro is kept in the same Cell with Bigger. He is arrested for publishing some of his findings. He threatens to republish the papers seized from him. The man is said to be mentally disabled, not long after he is taken away in a stretcher to somewhere unknown. Max wants to see Bigger, although Bigger isn't ready to open up to Max but as time goes on, he develops interest in Max and he gradually tells him of the hindrances to his success to becoming someone who possesses power and authority in the military, being a businessman, all caused by racial segregation. Bigger tells him a lot of what he feels about the whites and also betrays Jan and Jan's reaction. Bigger now feels Max is kind after telling him how he feels.

**5. “The hunt for Bigger Thomas serves as an excuse to terrorize the entire Negro population, to arrest hundreds of communists, to raid labor union headquarters and workers’ organizations”. (pg. 414)**

### **Analysis**

Bigger is now in court to face the Jury. Max plea’s for fair punishment knowing that Bigger won’t be released although, he clearly analyzes the occurrences in the environment bringing the case of them not taking Bessie Meer’s murder and rape case serious as an example of a case they ignored while they were supposed to act, putting the whites before them as more important people. Max also bring situations whereby the blacks aren’t allowed a lot of benefits and also denied of various human rights which can make them develop hatred for another race and have a thought of killing them. Max brings to their notice that Bigger didn’t intentionally Kill Mary although he is still guilty of the charges. Buckley on the other hand doesn’t want Bigger to be in jail but wants a strict enforcement of the law which would cost Biggers life. Bigger is later on sentenced to death the Friday after the judgment. Max tries to speak to the governor to plead for mercy on Biggers behalf but all proves to be abortive.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Discussion of Findings

In the course of this research, I have discovered some ways in which the blacks are oppressed by the white and I have grouped them into 3 major ways which are the use of pejoratives in describing blacks, distribution of injustice and denial of services and opportunities. I have also discovered some reason why the black races are oppressed which includes poverty and little or no values of the black lives. These findings are further discussed below.

##### 5.1.1 Use of pejoratives in describing Blacks

Pejoratives are words used to rubbish somebody or a group of people. Pejoratives are used to by the whites to indicate the blacks since they see blacks to be average creatures, this basically implies the blacks are their subordinates or slaves. Blacks are disrespected when referred to with pejoratives like: Negro, Nigga and so on. A greater part of African Americans has experienced racial slurs and individuals making negative suspicions or unfeeling or hostile remarks about their race.

Taking in to think the passionate impact of these words, their awareness is attracted to the shade of their skin and the purpose behind the position they possess in the earth. They become mentally imbalanced and every one of that strikes a chord is a way to react to any inappropriate thing done to them. A perfect example is when Max tells Bigger to clarify why he murdered Mary. He was unable to state anything relating the demise yet everything he could allude to Is the point at which he probes as to whether he is a communist, and the opportunities he is denied of being a black. His past idea if how awful he had been treated by white people couldn't cause him to feel terrible about the wrongdoing he had given in to.

##### 5.1.2 Distribution of injustice

The emphasis laid on prevalence over the blacks is disturbing and have achieved circulation encounters to numerous blacks. Savagery has been applied to numerous charges that could be

Disregarded. Brutality is any methods by which torment is brought upon an individual. The white feel good dispensing torment on the blacks. With regards to institutional types of segregation, half or a greater number of African Americans have been oppressed on the grounds that they are black while associating with the police, when applying for occupations, and with regards to being paid similarly or considered for advancement. Also, African Americans have been unjustifiably stopped or treated by the police since they are Black, and the court program has treated them gracelessly in light of the fact that they are black.

Blacks living in suburban regions are more probable than those in urban territories to report being unjustifiably stopped or treated by police and being compromised or pestered on the grounds that they are Black. African Americans have acted scared of them on account of their race, and have encountered racial savagery. Higher pay Black Americans are bound to report these encounters. African Americans additionally report endeavors to limit their possible associations with police.

Taking the text as an example, Bigger is declared wanted, blacks who aren't engaged with the wrongdoing Bigger committed were beaten, some were murdered, some were captured and some lost their homes. Blacks couldn't walk free in the city. Guiltless spirits shouldn't languish over one man's offense but instead equity ought to be filled in as due. Bigger isn't charged to court for murder rather he is charged to court for assault which he didn't. There is no proof that Bigger assaulted Mary except for the fact that the state lawyer is unyielding that he assaulted Mary with no evidence which Bigger paid the consequences for. Numerous blacks are killed for violations they didn't carry out yet, the white people perpetrate these equivalent wrongdoings and they just go to prison for a brief timeframe. Justice ought to be served equally and not disposition.

### 5.1.3 Denial of services and Opportunities

Isolation in the US has been a significant issue why the blacks don't end up being exceptional characters in the earth. Blacks have been kept a great deal from getting services and opportunities that could change their lives and carry on with a standard life. Blacks have been constrained even by the law not to be fruitful, however denying them to joint training with the whites, more costly typical cost for basic items even at the rural territory and restriction not to be found in some place of the nation, cafés, wellbeing administrations and even workplaces.



Business openings offered to the blacks are those like that of slaves which can't bear the cost of them a light salary but instead unimportant pay which would cause them to remain slaves or workers. Indeed, even in the military, there are sure positions which can't be badged by a Black. Despite the fact that, they were most times denied access to join the military. Many have abstained from calling the police, many have dodged clinical consideration, in any event, when out of luck, both because of a paranoid fear of segregation. Also, Black have abstained from doing things they may typically, for example, utilizing a vehicle or partaking in get-togethers, to dodge possibly communicating with police.

#### 5.1.4 Poverty

Because of an exceptionally elevated level of joblessness among the blacks, penury is by all accounts a typical attribute of a Black man. Blacks directly from time are just qualified for employments that get them small money which could scarcely provide food and for their necessities. In the text, it is indicated that the Thomas family live in a one room where they need to alternate to do the vast majority of the things they should do uninhibitedly. They could barely take care of themselves if Bigger doesn't get the opportunity to work for the Daltons. In spite of the way that the blacks don't get the opportunity to acquire great pay when they work, their housing costs are excessively expensive for the pay to cover, leaving them with little or nothing to put something aside for the future use. In mankind's history Blacks have been recorded to have the most noteworthy number of poverty-stricken individuals.

#### 5.1.5 Little or no value for the Black lives

The significance set on the life of Blacks in the Us is lesser to that set on the White. Because of the way the people of color don't make a difference to the whites, they couldn't care less about the challenges looked by the Blacks. They are seen to be awful individuals whereby their living is by all accounts a danger to the white and they feel keeping the Blacks appear to be dangerous and would do them hurt. Taking for instance the prevalently known Black right dissident late Martin Luther King Jr who was killed due to his capacity to call the blacks and control them as a development to make change. King turned into a danger to the Us and his life was terminated. Despite the fact that Dr. King (1968) didn't support brutality, he comprehended the dissatisfactions of African Americans living in the ghetto.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

In conclusion, Racism would remain and major problem in the United States of America and other countries that partake in discrimination if there is no agreement among all humans that both the coloured and the white are equal. Taking into consideration that everybody cannot become masters because one way or the other we render services to one another which makes the world balanced, no race is supposed to be regarded as one to serve another but rather we could render services to one another. Coming together to eradicate the thought and impression the one race should serve the other would open doors to ideas, creativity and development, discoveries, talents. Goals that seems unachievable would become achievable and together we would successfully make the world more advanced and comfortable for living.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

The following are my recommendations:

1. Whites should show some love to Blacks in every encounter they have with each other.
2. Blacks should be considered as equal to the White.
3. Blacks should be given access to advanced level of education
4. Job provision which would generate income that can sustain the blacks should be provided for them.
5. Blacks should be regarded as equal to the blacks.

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