



أصوات من لا صوت لهم في رواية أليس ووكر: 'اللون الأرجواني'

Voice of the Voiceless in Alice Walker's: The Color Purple

Samara Nofal Omar

Researcher – Department of English Language - Faculty
of Arts- Sana'a University, Sana'a, Yemen

سمارة نُوْفَل عُمَر

باحثة - قسم اللغة الإنجليزية- كلية الآداب
جامعة صنعاء، صنعاء، اليمن

الملخص:

يحمل هذا البحث عنوان "أصوات من لا صوت لهم في رواية" اللون الأرجواني" للكاتبة أليس ووكر"، والذي يعكس أصوات مجموعة من البطلات اللاتي يناضلن من أجل المساواة في مجتمع متدهور تسوده عدم المساواة بين الرجل والمرأة.

وتمثل البطلة الرئيسية، سيلبي، في معظم الرواية جميع الشخصيات النسائية التي تعاني من الإيذاء والاعتصاب والقمع. وبمساعدة شخصيات نسائية أخرى مثل نيتي وصوفيا وشوج، تتحول سيلبي إلى امرأة مستقلة لا تقف إلى جانب نفسها فحسب، بل تساعد أيضًا النساء المقهورات الأخريات وتحفزنهن على الخروج من حالة العجز التي يعانين منها لتصبحن أقوى ماليًا وعقليًا وجسديًا. إن الصوت الجماعي الذي ترفعه جميع الشخصيات النسائية في هذه الرواية هو صوت المساواة والعدالة والتحرر الذاتي، والذي لا يحررهن فحسب، بل يمثل أيضًا بداية التحرر للجميع.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الأدب الإنجليزي، النسوية، الاضطهاد، التمييز، النظام الأبوي.

Abstract:

This paper is entitled "Voices of the Voiceless in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*," reflects the voices of a group of female protagonists fighting for equality in a degraded society where inequality exists between men and women.

Mostly, the female protagonist Celie represents all the abused, raped, oppressed female characters in the novel.

With the help of other female characters like Nettie, Sofia and Shug, she grows into an independent woman who not only stands for herself but also helps and motivates other suppressed women emerge from their state of helplessness to be stronger financially, mentally and physically.

The collective voice raised by all the females in this novel is the voice for equality, justice and self-identification, which is not only liberates them but is also the beginning of liberation for all.

Keywords: English Literature, Feminism, Oppression, Discrimination , Patriarchy.

1. Introduction

In 1982, Alice Walker wrote the novel *The Color Purple*, which was a famous feminist novel about an ugly, uneducated, poor 14-year-old girl who struggled for liberty and empowerment. The novel was praised for the depth of its characters, themes, plot and language. The novel is clearly about African American people who have tackled many obstacles to get to where they are today.

They faced many obstacles like slavery, mistreatment, and physical abuse. After slavery was abolished, the colored people still had to deal with racial discrimination. Black women had it worse. They face double oppression. The

first being colored in a racial society where they were treated like animals.

The second oppression was being women. Therefore, colored women had to face the cruelty of black men and the society they live in. Alice Walker's novel is a great example of the hardship of black women in that time.

2. Statement of the Problem

Alice Walker talks about black people's plight and struggles for freedom. She focuses on black women and what they did to get to their position today. They suffered not only for being black but also for being women. So, the

researcher wants to examine the lack of self-recognition and the lack of human rights towards the black people. The main focus of research was on the novel *The Color Purple*, mainly representing the issues women face in different parts of the world.

3. Objectives

The main purpose of this study is to achieve the following:

1. Showing how female characters are able to ascertain independence.
2. Analyzing how female characters help each other to be independent people.
3. highlighting the howblack African Americans conditions and the challenges they face to attain equal rights as human beings.

4. Research Work

Alice Walker is perhaps the best known for her novel *The Color Purple*, a well-known story about oppressed colored women. Alice Walker has painted sexism, racism, oppression and poverty. This is a story about women's struggle to resist the exploitative and oppressive chains of a male-dominated and manipulated society and to be recognized as individuals. Lindsey Tucker argues, "For the black woman writer, the search for voice- the rescue of her subjectivity from the sometimes subtle, yet always pervasive, dictates the dominant white male culture is even more problematic. Walker portrayed the experiences of Celie, a female character oppressed by a male-dominated society. She is sexually abused by her father and her husband. She succeeds in self-actualization from her submission and oppression, thereby gaining complete freedom. Walker's primary concern is black women. Black women are savagely exploited and viewed as mere objects solely for the fulfillment of men. Celie's world is a world of fear, despair, anxiety and loneliness, colorless, dark and hopeless. Throughout her novel, *The Color Purple*, Walker depicts a world of oppression and abuse of black girls and women. Celie's attitude towards herself is also obvious in the letters she wrote to God about

surviving mental, emotional and physical abuse from her stepfather. Her experiences as a black protagonist are portrayed in her *Letters to God*. The society considers her ugly and stupid. She wants to protect her sister Nettie from her father, and she wants her to study and escape her world of abuse and oppression. She is vulnerable, intimidated, and unable to share her own feelings with anyone but God. Outwardly seen as ugly and boring, Celie possesses an inner strength capable of protecting her sister from the evil she has experienced. She has no choice but to record her own experience in letters to God. She is beaten and humiliated just for being a woman. Celie lives in a male-dominated environment. In her letters to God, her husband is referred to as "Mr." Celie's relationship with Harpo's wife Sofia changes her forever. Sofia constantly reminds Celie of the strength she lacks. Sofia is able to escape gender discrimination by breaking up with her husband, as manifested in how powerful objection to sexual and racial exploitation which is articulated throughout the novel. Her relationship with Shug Avery, a confident, attractive, brave and beautiful woman who seems to be her husband's lover, empowers her to feel more confident in herself and to stand up and be on her own. Shug and Sofia are considered the strongest women willing to fight for their rights. Nettie has a strong desire to rise to a higher level. She goes to Africa with a team of black missionaries. She struggles against racism and sexism. Nevertheless, she still works for the good of the people. With the help of other women, Celie begins sewing fabrics and learns to take control of her life. She affirms her own individuality. Upon reclaiming her own identity, she sent a letter to her sister Nettie, and she felt as if she was writing to God. Slowly discovering the power of her own spirit and her joy, Celie frees herself from the past by speaking up against the patriarchal in a bid to gain her freedom. Despite all circumstances, a woman can speak out against injustice and regain her inner strength and self-esteem. So, it can be summarized that "*The Color Purple*" represents a turning point in the black female identity. It explores the survival and evolution of black women in the Southern

experience. With Shug and Sofia's moral and kind support, Celie is gradually freed from misery, abuse, and fear.

5. Methodology

The methodology used in this current study is the analytical method. It seeks to come up with detailed analysis of the development and growth of the female characters in the novel. It also brings to light and discuss the ways that the major character Celie, liberated herself and claimed freedom from the harsh conditions of the society she lived in. It is important to come to term with the concept of "Womenism" to understand the novel. By the end of the novel, Celie manages to rebuild her own personality and identity. She accomplishes character growth and starts a new life in Tennessee. She finally understandd that she is an adult and that she has the right to do. In conclusion, the idea of rebirth is important for she left her old life and started a new one.

6. Conclusion

The Color Purple is a famous novel that tackles many issues. Among them is womenism, racism, and traditional gender roles. Walker believes that the world can be a better place away from oppression and humiliation. She uses the novel as a metaphor for the human response to abuse. She also uses her novel to show how black women lived in that time. She demands that black people should no longer be prejudged, humiliated, or viewed as second-class citizens by their past. She encourages black people to believe in themselves and to be proud of their skin color. In *The Color Purple*, Walker urges women to emerge from their coma and to begin building their own identities as independent women. She is a strong believer in the inner strength of women. She uses Celie and other female characters as symbols of power.

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