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**Love, Black Women Empowerment and Social Raising in Afro-
American Literature. A case Study: Zora Neal Hurston's Their Eyes Were
Watching God**

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Requirements for the Degree of Master in Literature and Civilization

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Dedication

We dedicate this work to our beloved families and friends.

To all Hammi's family members and friends especially my dear grandfather mercy upon his soul Hammi Laid and my grandmother, my mom Hammi Aicha you're my power and my life, my sister Wissal you're a part of me, I dedicate it too to Sehil's family members for the miracle the most precious gift they give me ever, my soulmate and the love of my life S.A

To all Menasria's family members and friends especially my parents Menasria Authmane and Menasria Halima for their love and support throughout my life, my brothers Saif eddine, Sofiane and Chouaibe, to my grandparents mercy upon their soul, to my dear uncle Menasria Fouad and my antie Menasria Hamida thanks for your support, and to all of my friends.

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« *In the name of Allah, The Most Beneficent, The Most Merciful* » We thank God for his uncountable blessing, and best prayers and peace be upon his final messenger Mohamed, his pure family, his companions and all those who follow them with righteousness until the dooms day.

First of all, we are grateful to Allah for the divine blessing through the years. Thanks to him for the blessing and the safety from Corona virus and gave us the strength and patience although the hard circumstances to complete our dissertation.

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Abstract

The Civil War considered as the most important historical event in the modern American history due to the radical changes that the American society witnessed after this period. African Americans situation changed after this event as they could realize their civil rights and they started work on improving their cultural, educational, economical level so that many branches witnessed a revolution. Literature was the main branch that blacks focused on it as the only branch that enabled them to expose their preoccupations for the world. Zora Neal Hurston was one of the black literature leaders as she participated to create a new literary genre that concerns the African American women which is black feminism. This Master dissertation entitled Love, Black Women Empowerment and Social Raising in Modern Afro-American Literature. A case study Zora Neal Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* the most important literary work for her because it presents a new topic in the black literature; it embodied different gender norms, it illustrates the oppression of patriarchy and the role of love in giving black women power and self confidence. Moreover, the novel cultural and social value attracted many black female leaders such as Alice Walker and Oprah Winfrey who used this novel to motivate black females and encouraging them to challenge the social norms and traditions to reach freedom and power. This study seeks to find how Zora's novel influenced African American women to change black women's life direction. This study aims to analyze the application of both feminism and reader response theories that present and explain the situation of black females in America and how they succeeded to reach their goals and gain power although the obstacles since Harlem Renaissance till nowadays.

المخلص

تعتبر الحرب الأهلية الحدث الأهم في التاريخ الأمريكي الحديث بسبب التغيرات الجذرية التي شهدتها المجتمع الأمريكي عقب هذه الفترة إذ أن الوضعية الاجتماعية للأفروأمريكيين تغيرت بعد هذا الحدث وتمكنوا من تحصيل حقوقهم المدنية وشارعوا في تحسين المستوى الاقتصادي والثقافي والعلمي لمجتمعهم. فحدثت ثورات عدة على مستوى مجالات عدة حيث كرس السود مجهوداتهم في تطوير الأدب خاصة باعتباره المجال الوحيد الذي مكنهم من طرح انشغالاتهم للعالم. تعتبر زورا نيل هرستن من أهم رواد الأدب الأفروأمريكي حيث أنها ساهمت في خلق نوع أدبي جديد يهتم بقضايا المرأة السوداء والذي يعرف بالحركة النسوية السوداء. مذكرة المستر تحت عنوان الحب و تمكن المرأة السوداء و ازدهارها الاجتماعي في الأدب الأفروأمريكي الحديث الحالة المدروسة عيونهم كانت ترى الله العمل الأدبي الأهم لزورا نيل هرستن حيث أنها طرحت من خلاله موضوعا جديدا على الأدب الأفروأمريكي إذ أنها جسدت اختلاف المعايير بين الجنسين و أثر الضغط الذي يخلفه المجتمع الذكوري على المرأة و مدى فعالية الحب لتحقيق القوة و الثقة بالنفس للمرأة السوداء إضافة على ذلك القيمة الثقافية و الاجتماعية للرواية جذبت العديد من القادة السود للحركة النسوية أليس ولكر و أوبرا ونفري حيث أنهم استعانوا بها لتحفيز المرأة لتحدي الضغوطات التي تفرضها العادات و التقاليد لتتمكن من تحقيق القوة و الحرية هذه الدراسة تسعى إلى إيجاد أثر رواية زورا في تغيير مجرى حياة المرأة الأفروأمريكية هذه الدراسة تسعى لتحليل الرواية عن طريق نظرية النسوية و ردة فعل القارئ التي تطرح و تفسر وضعية المرأة السوداء في أمريكا و كيف استطاعت النجاح في الوصول إلى أهدافها و تحقيق القوة رغم كل الضغوطات بداية من نهضة هارلم وصولا إلى يومنا هذا.

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Glossary:

Aesthetic Reading: it is a reading focus on the feelings and the reactions of the reader.

American Dream: a term refers to a happy, rich and wealthy life that Americans wish to realize and live in.

Efferent Reading: it is a reading aim to retain the same concepts and meanings of the target text.

Consciousness: refers to human experiences, the tune in his mind, such as; feelings, knowledge and emotions.

Diaspora: people who settled far from the culture and the homeland to which they belong.

Dream in Color: is a concept referring to African American woman who used to dream of freedom, fair treatment and equality.

Feminism: is a movement concern the female gender in general.

Patriarchal Society: consists of a male-dominated power structure throughout organized society and individual relationships.

Sexual Conservatism: it is the case of restricting the sexual expression by the persecution of traditions.

Sexual Liberalism: it is the case of liberating the sexual expression from the persecution of traditions.

Social Oppression: refers to oppression achieved through social means includes the systematic mistreatment, exploitation, and abuse of group of people by another group.

Womanism: is a movement that concern the female gender but it focuses on race.

Introduction:

The Civil War was the most important historical event in America, hence it had a serious impact on the American society especially the African-American society where they were the reason behind this great historical event that freed them and it was the impulse behind the New Negro Movement « Harlem Renaissance ». This movement liberated most of the African-Americans.

Harlem Renaissance is a cultural and intellectual explosion happened in the Harlem neighborhood in New York city as a result of the Civil War to come up with a great cultural, artistic, and literary movement which considered as the most influential literary heritage in the American literature, this era saw individuals reject the stereotypes of African Americans and confront political, social, racist, and economic ideas that denied them citizenship and access to the American dream.

Harlem literature is the foundation stone of the Black American literature, it encompassed poetry and prose, opera and dance, painting and sculpture, Jazz and swing what united those diverse art forms was their realistic presentation of what it meant to be black in America. Moreover, it affected many African authors as they were sharing the same life conditions. It was a renaissance of New Negro community, with new perspectives and concerns. Black woman precisely profiles the most important figures of this movement, highlighting the accomplishments of black females who sought to create positive change after the end of World War one. Thus, even the white people start to have a new view about the blacks as they were having a negative view about them and they were seen as weak, uncultured, and uneducated people.

Womanism was and still the pivotal issue of the majority of the black female figures. Hope was slowly rising for Black woman though- discrimination, prejudice, and closed doors

on account of race and sex were by no means eliminated, the black women resistance continuous from the Harlem Renaissance until nowadays to ensure their rights. So in the early twentieth century, it seemed more possible and worthwhile to challenge injustice and ease racism by the most notable leaders of the Womanism who struggle to get ride from the marginalization by the whites and the black males on them to realize the wholeness and to survive in peace.

This Master Dissertation entitled Love, Black Woman Empowerment and Social Raising a case of study: Zora Neal Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. This study at first explore the quantum leap of the African-American literature after the Harlem renaissance as it witnessed a radical change in its themes to start discussing a new topics that address the modern issues of the black community. This study originally aims to demonstrate the black women issues and the social conflict that the black women face. Moreover it inclines heavily toward a discussion of black female character especially her psychology and identify that woman abuse is a universal matter that has no religion, language, and country, thus the case of study *Their Eyes Were Watching God* highlights women concerns in one character that represent several women cases around the world; it addresses several messages that are still relevant now, especially in the northern countries of the world.

This research work deals mainly with the role and the value of love and marriage in the black woman challenge and empowerment at the first level in her life from thousand years before till nowadays, it is not limited to the issues and the concerns of the black society only, but it reflect an issue that concern all the communities and all the black women around the world.

Their Eyes Were Watching God main affair is love and marriage in proportion to the black woman, it highlights different views about marriage and love through multiple

experiences that the protagonist of the novel passed through to express several different struggles of the women of the twentieth century and the twenty-first century. In this study the researcher highlights the social, cultural, emotional, and sexual issues that African-American women struggle within her daily life.

This master dissertation present also the twenty-first century black feminist leader Oprah Winfrey to discuss her role as a producer of black feminist fiction to revive and to defend the affair of the black females and to spot the misshapen experiences of the African American woman and its' negative and positive effects on their personality and their lifestyle, especially to illustrate its' impact on the life of the black woman of the 21st century in treating her problems patiently to come up from their crises. Oprah Winfrey is the famous example of the strong independent black female in the 21st given the difficult experiences that she passed from and that make her a successful personality that represent an example of black woman empowerment.

The New Negro Movement versus Black Lives Matter in 2020 is one of this study concerns, as it compares between the two socio-historical events, and it illustrates whether the New Negro Movement realized freedom for blacks or not and the raison behind the revival of the movement in 2020 which proves that racism still spread, just like a chronic disease. The story of George Floyd; the black man who is killed by a white police officer in America demonstrates the continuity of racism.

This Master dissertation aims to answer several questions, the important ones are: How did the African-American modern literature emerge and what are its main characteristics? What is the role of Hurston's Novel in enhancing and refining the whites view about the Black woman? And how did the Black feminist movement appear and what are its major themes? What was the role of the Black women in raising the Black community and how did she participate in the radical change of her society? To what extent the New Negro Movement

changed the African-American women? What is the issue that *Their Eyes Were Watching God* spots the light on more; black woman empowerment, gender, race, or identity? What kind of love needs woman to realize happiness? How the black woman could evolve selfhood and discovery through romantic relationships? To what extent marriage can protect the black woman from social and financial pressure? What is the most important feeling for the African-American woman; love, wealth, or safety? What is the impact of sexual assault on woman's personality? What is the importance of self-esteem to enable black woman to overtake the hard circumstances of her life?

This work is divided into two chapters: Chapter One which entitled "Literature Review and Historical Background" deals with the historical, cultural, and social background regarding to Harlem Renaissance, its features and its pioneers. Moreover the radical change in the African-American communities, the situation, nature, relationships, ambitions, and dreams of black woman in African American literature during the New Negro Movement.

Chapter Two entitled "Critical Reading of Zora Neal Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, contains a biography about the African-American author Zora Neal Hurston, that illustrate the value of the author in the black literature. It contains a detailed analysis applying feminism and reader response approach. This interesting analysis detects the hidden role of love, deprivation, and struggle in empowering black women, also it exposes a sensitive subject that concern the black woman and all women of the world; it discloses the impact of the patriarchal of certain societies on women's life direction. Moreover, it reveals the value of marriage for women through three different examples of marital relationships that are experienced by a black woman.

The conclusion consist the final feedback. It summarizes all what this study discussed and it demonstrates all the main points and results of this dissertation.

Chapter One: Literature Review and Historical Background

Harlem Renaissance is considered as a blossoming movement for African-American community because since then black artists and writers began to be proud about their black identity. During this period, Black feminist literature witnessed a great flourisher and female writers decided to get ride from the belief of being inferior to the white race. Harlem Renaissance literature was at the first level a female phenomenon in which the African-American women began to refuse the abuse and oppression of the patriarchal system. Therefore, the African-American feminist movement came as a consequence of the black female insistence to go over the custom of the black community in which they were assumed to choose marriage for sexual and financial objectives rather than emotional objectives.

Thus, the transformation of America from the age of slavery to the age of antislavery results the rebirth of a new Negro community characterized with a new perspective toward life. Woman was the axis of Harlem Renaissance. Hence the New Negro Movement witnessed the appearance of many great black names that laid the cornerstone of the first black feminist renaissance, to be continued until nowadays by the lead of modern black great names.

1. The New Negro Movement

1.1 Historical Background

The New Negro Movement « The Harlem Renaissance » occurs approximately from 1920 to 1940 as a reaction to slavery. The era between 1640 till 1970 presents the era of practicing slavery in America. The majority of slaves were taken from their home lands like the West of Africa, such as Ghana, Mali, and Sierra Leone then the slave traders sold them at the slave auctions and they become involuntary workers in homes, fields and businesses under hard conditions, cheaply and sometimes without price. Curry «The Abolition of the Slave Trade ».

Negro people were not seen as equal to the other races in America, they were not treated as normal human being and they were not having the right to live as the other human being kinds, so that they found that it is the right time to get their freedom.

The Abolitionist movement came as a preapprehension to The New Negro movement, and it took place in the Age of Reform in America (1820-1860) a period where the enslaved blacks decided to forge several attempts to end slavery, to get their rights and to live be equal with the white Americans. The Antislavery movement succeeded when the Negro community inset women on this movement as the most influential and important segment of the society, Sandra Harbert Petruionis in the last page of her book *To Set this World Right: The Antislavery Movement in Thoreau's Concord* she included a quote of David M. Robinson where he insisted on the importance of women's role in the Antislavery movement; he said: « To set this world right is the finest and most detailed account of the essential role played by women in the grassroots effort to promote the cause of antislavery ». Black females played a great role in realizing the freedom of African-Americans.

The first leading voice of the New Negro Movement was Booker Taliaferro Washington was born in West Virginia April 5, 1865. He was an African-American educator and author. From his young age he witnessed several sensitive events in the history of America which pushed him to be a defender of Negro rights in the America lands. The Civil War in 1861's was an agape historical event for him because the fight was about his race.

1863's was the official date of antislavery when Abraham Lincoln signed the law of the Emancipation Proclamation which freed all the slaves. Washington was certain that Negroes could not be free, independent, and strong amid the American community without doing attempts to free their minds from slavery; African-Americans were in need to search and learn about their proper identity in order to feel the real sense of freedom, they were enthusiastic to

know about their history and culture and to create their own arts which represent the Negro community. (Wilkins. «Washington, Booker Taliaferro»).

The Souls of Black Folks first published in 1903's by the sociologist and the historian William Edward Burghardt Dubois is considered as an exceptional work in the history of sociology and the African-American literature cornerstone. This collection of essays portrayed the ethos and the pathos of a nation. W. E. B Dubois in his book argued that « The problem of the twentieth century is the problem of the color line. » (15). He affirmed that the cause of racism in America is the belief that blacks are inferior to whites just because of their skin color.

The Great Migration of southern to the north in the 1920 looking for better life circumstances was the basis of the Harlem Renaissance. Therefore, the number of educated and cultured blacks increased and this contributed to raise the Negroes social consciousness. (The Great Migration) .

1.2 Social Background

Due to the importance of education in the development of the societies, African-American cultured members were struggling to get the right of education after the antislavery movement. Although they succeeded to attend the schools of whites, the black people were not satisfied with the educational system of these schools because they were obliged to learn just about white's history and culture, Derrick P. Alridge in his book *The Educational Thought of W. E. B. Du Bois :An Intellectual History* claimed: « Southern whites compromised efforts to provide the freed people with a good education and fostered a white dominated educational system that blacks were nevertheless encouraged to accept »(Alridge. « The Educational Thought of W. E. B. Du Bois ») . Thus, Negroes saw that the solution is in an educational movement in which they could create their proper educational system and where they have to include all the constituents of their black identity. Moreover, they were supposed to think about developing their life style by learning more about different sciences to be creative and to assure

their presence in the American community. In *The Educational Thought of W. E. B. Du Bois: an Intellectual History* in the first chapter Derrick P. Alridge affirms:

Du Bois believed that African-American could attack ignorance, the core of racism and discrimination by undertaking a careful examination of scientific research and evidence. Thus, through black education blacks and whites would be freed from destructive stereotypes based on misinformation and myth and become liberated from their own racism. (Alridge) .

The Antislavery movement finished slavery but not racism. Negroes never had the same valuable jobs as the whites did; racial segregation was observed in all the sectors. African-Americans were exploited by the whites and they did the most difficult jobs such as agriculture, constructions and other works which demand a lot of physical efforts. The demographic amplification after the Great Migration from the south to the north contributed to end one of the most oppressed racial discrimination which is the exploitation of blacks in such tiring works « Although large numbers of African-Americans were already living in New York city before 1910' s, the great migration certainly amplified this demographic trend. Fleeing the death of jobs in agriculture, the cultural, back Wardness and Jim Crow, another figurative term of racial discrimination » Cottenet. « Publishing During the Harlem Renaissance ») .

1.3 The Harlem Renaissance

The New Negro Movement with its artistically and literary name the Harlem Renaissance, the most significant event of the twentieth century in America. It is the most important African-American literary and cultural era.

Harlem Renaissance was a movement of a rebirth of black literature and arts which embraced a new Negro culture; it was set amid 1920 to 1940 in Harlem neighborhood in New York. This era witnessed a cultural and intellectual explosion; it came in a perfect time as an outlet from very sensitive events in America. Harlem Renaissance was the era of African-American free thought. Locke argued that Harlem Renaissance transformed « Social

disillusionment to race pride » (qtd. In Gordon 45) . African-Americans shifted from darkness to light.

Harlem neighborhood was the embracer of blacks intellectual explosion in literature and art, as prejudice still existed in the most populace regions; it's the most suitable place to celebrate the Black artistic and literary creativity where the Negroes showed great talents by establishing their special music, dance, literature and theatre that represents the African-Americans details.

Le Roy Locke the author of « *The New Negro Movement* » put in evidence the cultural repression that the Afro-Americans faced and exposed the different prejudice stereotypes they had been fighting since ages, Locke's work « *New Negro* » was as a source of the Negro pride for the black youth generations to learn about their African identity (Rowen and Brunner). Locke includes the most noted example of the wide relationship between the Harlem Renaissance and Czechoslovakia in his comparison between Harlem and both Prague and Dablin «nascent centers of folk-expression and self-determination »(Locke 3). He saw the relationship between Harlem Renaissance and Dablin similar in their objectives as both were calling for the freedom of peoples.

Harlem Mecca of the New Negro is a survey graphic published in March 1, 1925 by Alan Leroy Locke in which he covered social and political issues of the time. Moreover, he affirmed in this survey the value of Harlem neighborhood to African-Americans by comparing it with Mecca; Harlem became officially the Mecca of Negroes. Locke in this issue sought to educate white readers about the prosperous culture of the Harlem Renaissance. In this survey Locke also included the names of the famous Black writers and leaders of the Harlem Renaissance like W. E. B Du Bois, James Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, and Zora Neal Hurston.

The 1930 was a turning point in the social and economic concerns in America because of the economic pressure which was in all the sectors of life; African-Americans automatically started to take care for the economic and social issues. This period is called the Great Depression which has contributed to the decline of the Harlem Renaissance since the Negro's attention was on how they could get ride from the economic pressure rather than the cultural affairs.

1.3.1 Harlem Renaissance Arts

Art at this time was a reflection of African-American daily life from several distinctive perspectives. Dance, Music, Drama and Theatre were the major means through which Negroes could express themselves and represent their violated African identity.

Dance

Dance was a main habit in the New Negro culture, it had a crucial role to the imagination and the inspiration of the era, « Dance shines through the poetry of Langston Hughes and Claude Mckay; it figures importantly in the novels of Jessie Fauset and Nella Larsen; it is a major theme in the paintings of Aaron Douglas » (Perron 23). In addition Harlem dance influenced the artists of white dance during the twentieth century. Negroes from all classes went to popular dance clubs: the big ballrooms, the savory, the Renaissance, and the Alhambra. There was several social dances such as the Shag, the Shimmy, the Grizzly Bear, the Big Apple, the Black Bottom, the Chareleston and the Lindy evolved in Harlem. Nights clubs were specified with their proper dances like small paradise, the Cotton club and the Plantation (Perron23). Josephine Baker was the first star of black dance.

Music

African-Americans developed their own musicals and they were performing for black and white audiences. Jazz music was the most famous music during the period of blacks renaissance that is why this era was also known as the Jazz age; many black composers realized a several prize winning works (Thomas 256). Jazz music was representing the African-

Americans voice; they were expressing their situation through this kind of music. Music for Blacks is a tool in which they clarify their feelings for the audience.

Theatre and Drama

Theatre was a widespread art across America and it took an essential rank in African-Americans culture. Schools, men's lodges, churches, ladies clubs were used as platforms for stages and act on plays. « I do not mean merely plays with Negro characters... There is another kind of play, the play that shows the soul of a people, and the soul of this people is truly worth showing » (Hatch 9). Their plays did honestly express the souls of African-Americans and represented their goodness.

1.4 Overview of African-American Literature

African-American literature is a branch treats the female black writers' works and explores the relationship between African-Americans and the American society by developing the themes of marriage, sex, gender and culture. It portrays the African-American memories and the cruel treatment of whites against them. However, woman struggled for freedom among a racist and sexist population.

African-American literature was a post disenfranchisement that gain dints granite as an undertaking in the social circumstances, so that the black writers reacted to. The research work analyses selected the fictional work of Zora Neal Hurston on the theme of marriage and gender of the African-American women. The black women writers are barren from attributing their artistic creativity that yet leads to barren their literary existence. Moreover; it presented different creative works of writers who linked it with reality, life circumstances and the social conditions after centuries of Negro's efforts in literature, they realized a historical success, because it played a vital role fixing many hard situations of African Americans.

In this regard Johnson writes:

The record of the Negro's efforts in literature goes back a long way, covering a period

of more than a century and half, but it is only within the past ten years America as a whole has been made consciously aware of the negro as a literary artist, it is only within that Negro writers have ceased to be regarded as isolated cases of exceptional, Perhaps brief time accidental ability and have gained group cognition. It is only within this few years that the arbiters of American letters have begun to essay the work of these writers by the general literary standards accord it such appraisal as it might merit .(Johnson 16). African American literature explores the relationship between African Americans focused on their role of African American literature represented a way for free blacks to negotiate their identity within the large American society and what it means to be an American.

1.5 First Black Female Literature Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance gave a new spirit to the African-American Literature. In addition to the traditional themes of black literature which are race and identity, this literary period witnessed the shine of new literary theme which is about black gender, stereotype and the fair equality between male and female. Moreover; to pave the way from the patriarchy mentality of the black communities, African-Americans literature has witnessed a new literary movement of black feminism or the African American feminism which serves all the black females benefits.

1.5.1 The Renaissance of Black Women Literature

Black feminism is a literary school which argues that the black female is struggling against sexism, social oppression and gender stereotypes; it is a movement that neglects the inequalities between women. Marita Bonner was an African-American writer, essayist and playwright during the Harlem Renaissance, she is considered as the first active woman of the Harlem Renaissance black literature. Although the effective role of Bonner in establishing the black feminist literature; she was the less known leader of this literary movement until 1987

when her writing was first collected in a form of book under the title *Fry Street & Environ*. (qtd inWall7).

Wall claimed that « Bonner's essay images the consequences of racial prejudice, gender bias, and class stratification in metaphors of confinement and self- division » (9). Thus, Marita Bonner come up with new literary idea which is gender bias which means the discrimination against women; she honestly called for the independence of African-American females and she insisted in her essays on ending up the era of patriarchy and to believe on females power and capabilities to contribute on the flourisher of the black community.

In her book *On Being Young A Woman and Colored*, by Marita Bonner clarified how the raise of race consciousness contributed to create sexual problems « But the heightened race consciousness of the period made issues of sexism »(Wall 6). That was what imposed the authors of this literary movement to focus on the theme of gender and sex, especially the female writers who concentrated their attention on this issue in order to defend women's right of respect.

Women used to search for the literary chance to make a change in their situations and for recording their pursuit but it was hard to believe the fact of Black women have a powerful claim to be considered as the founders of the African American literary traditions they always suffered and bored from the view of men to them what leads them to revolutionize through literature trying to change the subnormal ideas about the entity of African American women.

The Black Feminist movement was aiming to impose the deserved respect for black females as a principle segment of the Negro community; the feminist leaders were seeking to make males believe that the black woman deserves a pure and innocent love.

Jessie Fauset one of the effectual Black Feminist literature leaders, she was a writer who inspired and enriched her literary ideas from traveling and discovering other countries and culture specially the European countries, Fauset had the chance to visit another zone other than

Europe mainly in Northern Africa « Algeria ». Fauset's title *Dark Algiers the White* which contains a painful and ironic content, in this title she raised again the issue of gender equality in the Algerian community to be compared with the situation of the African-American society, this literary title got a great repercussion at that time in which they discussed and compared it with several black literary works of this period. (Wall38).

Fauset got an unforgettable image about Algiers. Although the difficulties that she faced to decipher the Algerians meanings, gender transaction attracted her attention « A couple comes into view and Fauset thinks the silent woman is « like an automaton besides her lord » (Wall 34). Thus, she explained to what extent the Algerian community is patriarchal that was the same state of the African-American community.

Nella Larsen, another important leader of the black feminist literature, she explores in her works the complex issue of racial identity, gender, and sex. In her novel *Passing* which is first published in 1929 in the Harlem neighborhood; in *Passing* she introduced a story of marital relationship between a black woman Clare kedy and a white man John Bellew putting up the controversy of identity, gender and sex between two different races inveighing the ethnic arbitrary view of white men toward the black female. Clare Kendy was hiding her true identity because of her husband racial mentality; that is what put her into hazardous territory she was trying to put herself into a racial passing just to get her husband love and interest. Moreover, to avoid his ironic expression about the black race, Larsen was aimed to convey a message through this literary work to the African-American women; that they should be proud of their identity and that they deserve love and respect like each woman on the earth regardless to their race and skin color. (Fortner 3:55).

Harlem Renaissance literature was a Female case more than Male's case. Marita Bonner, Jessie Fauset, Nella Larsen and Zora Neal Hurston were behind the appearance of the new

literary genre *Black Feminism* which signifying a renaissance of new African-American woman entity.

2. Black Women in African-American Literature

2.1 Women of the Harlem Renaissance

African-American literature has been progressed by the work of black women; it played a vital role in the literature of the time. However; from Wheatly Phyllis in the slavery and freedom era to Lorraine Hansberry during the civil rights movement, the black female literary renaissance has created a generation of black women challenging race and gender by writing.

1920 was the start of African-Americans in New York City exactly in Harlem. This renaissance included a development of creating new art forms like: poetry, fiction and music. Women artists of the Harlem Renaissance faced different issues like racial prejudice which disarm their success to train and to be taken seriously as working artists and the famous example is Zora Neal Hurston who called the genius of the Harlem Renaissance, her 1937 *Their Eyes Were Watching God* was written during her anthropological pace to Haiti to study Voodoo. She faced a backlash from some of the Harlem Renaissance leaders because of the main stream journaling eulogizing her anthropological eye and her writing « with her head as with her heart » (Puchko).

2.1.1 African-American Women Writers in Harlem Renaissance

Black female writers used the English language to record the truth, their personal experiences and imposed their concessions to its literary tradition in so doing. They were wondering about the fact of their existence and consciously they created a new way against which the affidavits of others might be judged so that the English language and its literature served their needs and situations as African-American female writers.

The African-American woman writers' achievements are abstruse and increasingly recognized as an important literary works. The scholars of African American women's fiction

for example, most of them started their studies with 1890. Otherwise as Barbara Christian claimed; « African-American women were successful in expressing their own ideas and feelings and were also pivotal in the development of the black novel ». But it was hard to believe the fact that black women have a powerful claim to be considered as the founders of the American women's literary traditions. In addition to that they search for the literary chance to make a change in their situations and for recording their pursuits. Although the multiple legacies of oppression, repression and suppression which could not prevent African American women from writing but it over supplied their brave, power and self-esteem thus, women who read and write conflict the dominance of American literary traditions not just for black females' writers but also for women of all colors.

2.1.2 African-American Women Poets in Harlem Renaissance

The Harlem Renaissance (The New Negro Movement) was a broad literary and artistic period that African-American literature flourished in, African-American women poets were pioneers and creatures more than the males on that period which influenced by modernism and African-American modernist female writers and poets who illustrated an expressive resumption of child's assertions in a powerful unique African-American female voice. In the introduction to Peter Child's modernism and modernity are defined as a reaction to realism "characterized by its attempt to offer up a mirror to the world, thus disavowing its own culturally conditioned processes and ideological stylistic assumptions." (3). Broadly, modernist seems an accurate classification for the "mirrors of the world" of Harlem Renaissance literature like Nella Larsen's *Quicksand* (1928) or Claude McKay's *Home To Harlem* (1928) or the poem "At The Carnival" (1922) by Anne Spencer. However; modernists sought "to represent consciousness, perception, emotion, meaning and the individual's relation to society." (Childs3).

Women poets personalities of the Harlem Renaissance as Nella Larsen, Dorothy West Georgia Douglas Johnson and dozens of female poets of that period inspired generations and

the whites among them not only black females generations especially the talented ambitious artists who are seeking to explore their poetic omnipotence that is worth of respect and study treating love, family, betrayal, politics and weariness.

2.2 American Dream and Dreaming in Color in The New Negro Movement

2.2.1 The American Dream

In the 21st century the American dream become popular that it is about dreaming of being wealthy, rich, and achieve success. However; New York known by the statue of liberty a symbol of freedom where dreams can be true, realized and colored.

The Harlem Renaissance started around the 1920, in this period the American Dream became differed because it had lost its values and principles of the good life, equality, and liberty. Because the black people suffered from the oppression in many demeaning ways so the African-American writers expressed the abuse, the discriminatory and the inferior treatment against them. Furthermore, the American Dream turned to be a factor created dreams in color which used to stand for at most which are justice and freedom but the abuse and oppression from the white people side is the transaction point from the American Dream to Dreaming in Color in the Harlem Renaissance period where the African-American women challenged the society and imposed themselves progressing arts in order to express their points of view and improve their existence as a part of America and of the American society. As Langston Hughes wrote in his poem *Let America Be America Again*:

Let America be America again
 Let it be the dream it used to be
 Let it be the pioneer on the plain
 Seeking a home when he himself is free
 (America never was America to me)
 Let America be the dream the dreamers dreamed

Let it be that great strong land of love
 Where never kings connive nor tyrants scheme
 That any man be crushed by one above
 (It never was America to me.)

As Danyelle Milton said: The Harlem Renaissance redefined the American Dream because instead of trying to be white in order to pass and live up to the predestined standards of the American Dream created by White Americans ,African-Americans encouraged to become the New Negro ;The African-American who embraces his or her heritage ,creating a new sense of black pride and using the power of language to express the harshness of their past and encourage fellow African-Americans to be persistent in achieving their dreams despite the injustice of society.

“The American Dream is your own but you grow and learn things about your self throughout your journey.” (Hurston).

2.2.2 Dreaming in Color

African American females started to have a white hope and feel the possibility to challenge racism and the unfair treatment against the black people in general, black women had professional careers as physicians, Lawyers, Teachers and Librarians after the civil war what leads to make black and white women become more equal.

The Harlem Renaissance had excelled by the cultural explosion that centered in Harlem neighborhood in New York who flourished by new art forms, music, fiction ,poetry, and dance and reached other cities that established large communities with enough educated members to dream in color too. However, the new works addressed the experiences of African-Americans and their human conditions exploring dreams, love, racial injustice, and hope precisely by black women after the opportunities that opened up for them and for women of colors, African-

American women began to dream in color and impose their points of view about the demand of the human condition to be part of the collective dream.

Dream in color in Harlem Renaissance is the right of black female to dream and realize their dreams, living a regular life, having a proper work, being free and all what is trivial in human's being lives that was impossible to have according to them.

Janie the protagonist herself represents the dreams of many of the book's other characters for example; the novel of Alice Walker *Color Purple*. Because the protagonist treated unfairly and abused by men so it is axiomatic that women search for respect, dignity, self-esteem, spiritual fulfillment and power in order to lead a life on her own, to be progressed physically and emotionally through social paradigms and love. However; Janie reached the American dream that rout everyone else's expectations and realized the dream of living a true love story and being free.

Georgia Douglas Johnson 1922 in her poem of Calling Dreams said:

The right to make my dreams come true
 I ask nay, i demand of life
 Nor shall fate's deadly contraband
 Impede my steps, nor contramand
 Too long my heart against the ground
 Has beat the dusty years around
 And now, at length, i rise, i wake !
 And stride into the morning break!

3. 2020 Black Lives Matter as a Flashback of the New Negro Movement

Their Eyes Were Watching God Zora Neal Hurston's masterpiece contains a quote that concerns the whole world; everyone might ask in each event that occurs in life, as there is events consider as preface for a future events that came to answer about what happened in the past.

“There are years that ask questions and years that answer.” (Hurston). Therefore, the year of 2020 can be an answer for the past years events that concern African-Americans, Black Lives Matter came to give answer about whether the New Negro Movement succeeded to realize blacks rights or not?.

The end of the Civil War and Subsequent ratification of the thirteen amendments in 1865 legally abolished slavery but black quickly became subject to a displaced form of violence at the hands of whites supremacists. The phenomenon known as the Harlem Renaissance represented the flourishing in literature of the New Negro movement of 1920, it is the most widely discussed period of African American socially and literary history, not only because of ongoing scholarly debates over its origins, start and end but because of fundamental importance to twentieth century role in the end of racism and the racial dispersal that unfortunately till nowadays black people still suffer from racism and racial injustice. However, the event of George Floyd death is a clear evidence of the existence of racism in America till nowadays, a 46-old black man was suffocated to death by a white police officer kneeling on his neck while he was feel pain and said the famous phrase “*I can't breath*” uttered by the dying man became the war cry resonating through the worst ever race riots to scar the country since Charlotte in 2016. The sensibility of anger between blacks and whites alike spread across over 40 cities in America.

The sad story of George Floyd death can be considered the thousand one because it is not the first and only racist event happened in the American History. Furthermore, Floyd's death sparked international protests and drew new attention to the treatment of African American in the US by police and the criminal justice system. His death reshaped the presidential race and revived the black and humanist revolution that consists of a valuable development to come out with the black lives matter movement which is the de-emphasizing of black patriarchy and the equal acknowledgment of the suffering of black women and the black community in general.

However, when people think of Black lives matter, they often think of anger which is a reasonable reaction to racist injustice of the obscure end of such humanist historical.

3.1 Women and the Black Lives Matter Movement

As The New Negro Movement come up with a great achievement for black lives matter during the twentieth century mainly due to the interaction of its leaders, nowadays Oprah Winfrey is the most interacting black personality with all the blacks issues. From her strong position as a business woman, producer, and interviewer she is always capable to intervene in all the blacks issues; in politic, art, education...etc.

May 25, 2020 is a special date for the history of blacks in America, following the killing of George Floyd, black Americans became sure that their long history of fight against racism did not realize the desired goal since they still suffering from racism that is what made Oprah Winfrey one of the most important celebrities that media highlighted her statements whether that she published in her social media official accounts or in her interviews. As she expressed her displeasure on what is happened with George Floyd and she considered this event as a trauma; because she was thinking that nowadays blacks situation is getting better due to the past attempts in order to end racism in America.

Hence, she launched an urgent discussion in Tuesday 9th June and Wednesday 10th June on OWN TV with the most important leading figures in the black community titled with a serious question *Where Do We Go From Here* that express the critical situation of black lives matter in America, to discuss their current situation that returned them into the past events before the New Negro Movement ,where they were living under a harsh conditions and they were discriminated from the other races and living with ought rights until they revolt and the Civil War was the result of their revolution to end up with a new era in which they start getting ride from racism, but 2020 come with events which proved that racism on blacks is still present

and stimulate blacks to continue the march of their predecessor and to work on realizing peace in America and putting a limit for racism.

The New Negro Movement was the official launch for blacks history of fight against racism and the fight is continuous until nowadays, and America predestination one more time is related to the blacks' future in America.

According to several views the current events will result a new era for the black history like the civil war resulted the New Negro Movement ,but the notable difference between the two era is the role that women play ,unlike the situation of women during the period of the New Negro Movement now the black women voice is present ,and they participated strongly in the fight of Black Lives Matter, Oprah Winfrey in the forefront as she made lot for the black society issues through her TV programs.

Chapter two: Critical Reading of Zora Neal Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

1. *Zora Neal Hurston the Black Feminist.*

An African American author, novelist and folklorist, she was born on January 7, 1903 in Eatonville, Florida to vend John and Lucy Hurston, her father sent her to school in Jacksonville, Florida after the death of her mother when she was 9 years old ,than she used to work as a nanny and house keeper. Zora was award robe girl in Gilbert and Sullivan repertory company (a theatre company) in her early teens touring the south. However, she enrolled in Morgan Academy in Baltimore, Maryland in 1917 with the help of a former employer. A year later she graduated and moved to Howard University from 1919 till 1924. Zora implicated a scholarship which allowed her to transfer to Barnard College, where she wins her degree in 1928. She studied human culture (Anthropology) and Folklore at Columbia University under Franz Boas from 1928 to 1932, than she was afforded a Guggenheim fellowship for collecting folklore in Haiti and traveling to the British West Indies.

Zora always ignored inferiority and had a hope in the Sunday schools and churches believing in the black achievements especially black women including Lucy Hurston Potts, she could look to the town hall and see black men including John Hurston her father, she could look to the veranda of the village store and see black men and women passing words through their mouths in the form of colorful, engaging stories.

She was described by the photographs as the beautiful big boned woman with playful yet penetrating eyes, a graceful and full mouth containing plenty of expression and high cheek bones.

A mate writer, Sterling Brown said," When Zora was there, she was the party." Because she was a mixture of humor sense, fun and artist, she used this talents to pave her way into the Harlem Renaissance of the 1920, another fellow talked about Hurston's apartment-furnished

by contributions she solitude from friends-as a spirited (open house) for artists, though she rarely drank in parties, she would sometimes write in her bedroom while the party went on the house.

By 1935 she published several short stories and articles, as well as a novel (*Jonahs Gourd Vine*) and a well received collection of black southern folklore (*Mules and men*). And by 1937 Zora published her Master work *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and in 1938 *Tell My Horse* ,her study of Caribbean Voodoo practices, than in 1939 an other novel, *Moses, Man of The Mountain* .

Hurston finally received the well-earned that had long eluded her, she profiled in *who is in America*, *Current Biography* and *twentieth Century Authors* in 1942, after six years she published another novel, *Seraph on the Suwane*.

After all Zora's Achievements, she never took the financial rewards she deserved, she died on January 28,1960 at age 69 but she buried in a grave that remained unmarked for 13 years although after her death her neighbors in Florida had to take up a collection for her February 7 funeral but it didn't yield enough to pay for a headstone. Alice Walker in the summer of 1973 was a young writer traveled to Fort Pierce to place a marker on the grave of Zora who had inspired her own work.

Their Eyes Were Watching God

Zora Neal Hurston's book title signifies the hope in god to bless their souls, the novel title is the most important part of the book which signify the content of the novel, she choose this expressive title *Their Eyes Were Watching God* which express the strong believe on god on changing the destiny. Once the reader start reading this black feminism literary work without doubt he will observe and feel the strong cling to god to change the sufferance by the opulence.

The protagonist Janie although the cruelty of her life her hold on god ability to give her the good at the end made her go through many difficult experiences searching for the happiness, her challenge for her complex circumstances signify the optimism « Power in Hurston is always *potential* ,the demand for life, for more life » (Bloom 3). Janie Crawford was trusting in god, she was looking on her god and believing that he will bless her.

2. Feminist Reading of Zora Neal Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

The New Negro Movement represent a transitional period for the black females in particular, it was the black female rebirth from an era of oppression to an era of liberation from all the restrictions which underestimates her as a female, during the Harlem Renaissance America witnessed the renaissance of the black women in which they start to discover their rights as women and they begin to be aware on their eligibility to be equal with other women from other races, at that period of time they begin to challenge their social oppression and improve their personalities. Thus it appeared the black feminist movement which highlights the struggles of the colored women to get ride from the norms and values of their surrounding community that restricts them from enjoying their life. It was a revolution for a new black community with new believes and thoughts that believe on the importance of the strong women on the strength of the society. As love is the most important feeling for the majority of women, black females were seeking to find love rather than other things in life because it made black women feel the feminine, independence, safety, and strength.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neal Hurston which represent a revolutionary black female who taken love as a way to get her freedom and to be the Janie Crawford that she want to be. The novel which published eighty years ago to present a strange literary work came with an uncommon story that contain an unparalleled idea that combines between the conscious desire which clearly appears in the novel and the unconscious desire which needs to have an

attentive read for the novel to discover the between lines social controversies of the black community precisely and the other oppressed communities generally that Zora Neal Hurston presented in her novel. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* the hard reading novel due to its language complexity that combine between the American English and the African slang came with an erotic theme the idea which considered as an idea of boldness in the literature specially if it is by a black woman. It is a novel about people not about race, it study the human being flaws, gender norms, male dominance, patriarchy oppression, substantially liberation.

Janie Crawford paths were going toward perfection, the protagonist aim was love, and she was considering it as a way to live a perfect life. A disturbed character that is not aware about her acts, her enthusiasm to reach perfection may be interpreted as cases of dreaming in color as all the blacks at this era. Janie Crawford throughout the story events was acting and reacting without any previous plan, she cling on every outlet or occasion that she felt it would make her happy, secure, and content to pass through several experiences of sexuality and love to end up the strong independent black lady due to what she experienced, she shifted from the obsequiousness to pride.

2.1 Their Eyes Were Watching God Feminism, Love and Sexuality

African American women lived a miserable life as black women in the bottom of racist and oppression society. Zora Neale Hurston's masterpiece is one of the most outstanding works in modern literature of black feminism which treat women's quest for dignity rights and describes the awakening of black female, Janie in Zora Neale Hurston's novel struggles and learns to get a life on her own perspectives although the social conditions that oppressed her. Furthermore, the great sense of female empowerment is clear here especially that Janie ruined away from her first husband with no wealth or power, looking for pure happiness till she does not have a husband at all. That is empowered feminism.

This feminist story ended where Janie feels freedom in her life without a husband who she is in need for him to survive or to have a perfect life, in Hurston's words; here was peace her depiction of the African American society through Folklore, Hurston gave a meaning to women's plight in patriarchal society and inspired many female generations and black feminist women who are interested in the African American women cases.

No one is so well calculated to think for woman kind as woman herself. In province of administering to the wants of her sex, no one can be as well adapted as she. Her advancement is in no better way proven than by her progress in medicine and literature, to say nothing of the reform movements which she is steadily carrying on for the benefit of her sex .(Bressler167)

Love

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* all the protagonist struggles are about love, looking for the real happiness of love, challenging the social traditional circumstances passing by three marriages to find it, to know what the real love through her experiences is. In Hurston's novel the theme of love is the base of the historical and social female actions; she discusses love versus independence speech versus silence. Moreover Janie's view of love was of the pear tree, she went through a few men but she didn't affiliate with the love she desires than she learns the value of true love that she expects in marriage is like a fairytale that turned out not to be the perfect life she expected because of not being loved in a faithful way it is true she was seeking the fulfilling, unconditional and true love nevertheless she didn't gain it at the end she gained herself, her independence, power and enough dignity to live alone with awareness and a strong personality. Just like Hurston describes love;

love is like the sea.

It is a moving thing but still and all,

it takes its shape from

the shore it meets,

and it's different with every shore.

Sexuality

In Hurston's novel sexuality is depicted as a natural aspect of life. After the death of her second husband Joe Starks, Janie enjoyed her youth learning about her desires refusing being a widow for the rest of her life. At the age of sixteen Janie witnesses a sexual awakening. Her awakening is linked to nature. As she is in a garden looks to the bee in a pear tree, "she saw a dust-bearing bee sink into the sanctum of a bloom; the thousands sister-calyxes arch to meet the love embrace and shiver of the tree from root to tiniest branch creaming in every blossom and frothing with delight" (Hurston 11). It is under that tree Janie answers the burning feelings of her sexual desire when she kisses Jonny Taylor. Although she didn't get the love that she wanted with Joe but she found fulfillment with Tea Cake the poor, younger man, she remained grateful for what they shared together, he was the most influencer on Janie's life more than the other husbands. Janie discovered aspects of herself that she might not have known had she remained in Eatonville as the mayor's widow.

The historical base is expressed by Zora Neale Hurston through sexual relationships, and this interracial sexuality is structural and integral in her writing throughout the novel that it portrays Janie's sexuality which is masked in metaphor when she finds a bee for her blossom, it is the man that she has been most sexually attracted to in her whole life. Janie sexuality is related to nature from the very beginning, she learns about it from a human mentor. Nanny punishes Janie for the kiss because she knows well what sexuality means for women and black women in particular.

2.2 A Black Female Diaspora

It may seem at first that *Their Eyes Were Watching God* is a traditional story which narrate the very known sufferance of the Negroes Women and how they were oppressed from the white race but when the reader read deeply the novel he will discover that Zara's literary work is mainly deal with the struggle of a black female with the oppression of her black community, she was fighting to get rid of the strict believes and traditions of her community that constitute an obstacle toward her dreams. Therefore, Janie Crawford experienced two stages of Diaspora, the first one was a Diaspora between the black race and the white race while the second was a controversy between her believes and her society believes'.

Janie Crawford childhood had a crucial impact on the shape of her life as the present studies affirm, in NPR newspaper an article published in December 19, 2014 titled *Some Early Childhood Experiences Shape Adult life, But Which Ones?* Claimed that the type of emotional support that a child receives during the first three and a half years has an effect on education, social life and romantic relationships even 20 or 30 years later. Hence, Janie narrated her childhood experiences, although she did not take much time in talking about her childhood life but she said few things that narrate many things about this period of her life. « Ah ain't never seen mah papa. And Ah didn't know im if Ah did. Mah mama neither » (6). Apparently , Janie never seen or even knew her parents that give her up since her birth, this selfish act from her parents it seems that it created an Oedipus for her, it is not that simple to be unwanted from the people who are supposed to be the most hang on to her. « Mah grandma and de white folks she worked wid. She had a house out in de back-yard and dat's where Ah wuz born. They was quality white folks up dere in west Florida » (6). Thus the protagonist of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* born and grow up in a dispersed situation in which she was living in white folks house where here Nanny was working, she never treated her Nanny as her grandmother as she was calling her Nanny as any other person; Janie Crawford was in between two contradictory

cultures, her black culture which she belonging to and the white culture which she born and raised in. She grow up without knowing that she is a black female who belong to the black race but the group photo which she took with white folks made her distinguish at the first time that she is a negro girl, it was not that easy experience for her to know that she is a black girl and she is not belonging to the white community that she grow up believing that she is one of them, « This early incident combine to create Janie's sense of difference, or otherness, as a black woman within a world of whites and men » (Byrd-Pharr 31) .

Nanny Crawford started to think seriously on how she would be able to protect her granddaughter from her depression and dispersion, Thus she decided to take Janie and go live in a black's town so that Janie would discover her belonging community and would adapt to their traditions and life style.

It was a case of Diaspora for Janie Crawford, she was disappeared between two cultures. The question that rose, how would Janie Crawford complete her life? On which basics she would depend on to take her future decisions?

2.3 A Black Female from Sexual Conservatism to Sexual Liberalism

In Their Eyes Were Watching God Hurston clearly indicated the shift of the protagonist Janie Crawford from a sexual conservatism when she was under the control of her community believes to a sexual liberalism when she started living according to her own lifestyle. She was taking into consideration her grandmother satisfaction as any other daughter who respect her parents decisions, thus she was at the beginning acting based on Nanny's wills, but her rebellious personality appeared when she found herself incapable to complete her life on her grandmother way, the desire of being a unique woman who differ from the other negroes women.

2.3.1 Sexual Conservatism

Johnny Taylor

After Harlem Renaissance the black community knew a sexual awareness, thus they started to be ambitious to experience sexual relationships and in early age “Blacks are more likely to report sexual experience than whites” (L.Hofferth. *Factors Affecting Initiation Of Sexual Intercourse*). When Nanny was having a headache which forced her to get a break .Johnny Taylor appeared, he was a character who took the smaller space in the story events but his role in reviving the story events is so clear in which he was the reason behind changing Janie’s life direction. He represents her first sexual experience; while she was setting in the yard under her favorite pear tree, at this moment the guy who is known for his neighbors by the name of lazy passed to start talking with her and then suddenly an unplanned kiss happened between them, Nanny see them to be this adolescence temptation of love and sexuality the turning point in Janie’s life, it was a black teenager sexual experience; one of the sexual outcomes of Harlem Renaissance. Nanny impression toward this incident which is incompatible with their community principles was unmerciless although her granddaughter attempt to explain for her that it was a sudden innocent kiss. The sexual conservatism which was Janie’s community culture put her in a critical situation, therefore she would be oppressed and obliged to follow the unacceptable rules of her surrounding community.

Logan Killicks

Nanny with her conservative mentality did not consider the meeting between Janie Crawford and Johnny Taylor as a transient position ,her fears that her granddaughter will face the same destiny of her and her daughter Leafy made her think seriously to oblige her to marry Logan Killicks, « As a former slave ,the grandmother, Nanny, is haunted by the compensatory dream of making first her daughter, and then her granddaughter something other than « the

mule of the world , »customary fate of the black woman ». (Bloom2). Marriage symbolizes security and safety for Nanny, so she decided to make Janie marry Logan to protect her from being raped. « You know, honey, us colored folks is branches without roots and that makes things come round in queer ways. You're in particular. Ah was born back due in slavery so it wasn't for me to fulfill my dreams of whut a woman oughta be and to do. Dat's one of de hold-backs of slavery » (12). Nanny had an obsession about her ethnicity, the old woman who born as slave was not allowed to have dreams to realize as other races, thus she have a strong believe that it is difficult for black folks to have dreams as others. Although her pessimistic spirit she did not prevent herself to give her granddaughter a hope to be dreamer girl.

Janie Crawford the black female who lived a life full of bumps, continue to receive and accept the blows just grandmother and the rules of her society, her marriage with the old Logan Killicks who is totally differ from the man that Janie dream to be with, unfortunately she got married with Mr. Killicks an old man who people of the town respect, but how a man who do not know even to take care of himself to take care for a youth girl who have a strong will to get happy life. Logan Killicks killed the hope of Janie to find love and happiness with him, she became disappointed after living in hope that love may be in her life with Logan, « Nanny's and Logan's barren signifies stand in stark contrast to Janie's glorious flowering peer tree, where she dreams of love and eternity »(Bloom 78. Zora Neal Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*). The revolutionary black female who have unique hopeful and optimistic spirit among the other negroes women continue to live with her dreams and waiting for an outlet from her miserable marital relationship.

Nanny's death signify the end of a stage in which Janie was guiding by her grandmother decisions, she was controlled by her grandmother thoughts and believes, it was an end of a period of restriction. The death of Nanny Crawford is the start of Janie Crawford freedom at this time she started taking her decisions alone she begin to be the leader of her life. Therefore,

Janie ended her marriage with Mr. Killicks once she found the outlet who was Joe Starks the man who became her second love and marriage experience.

Between Sexual Liberalism and Sexual Conservatism

Joe Starks

Joe Starks is Janie's second husband, she started with him a long complex relationship that was at the beginning an admiration for his external characteristics « It was a citified, stylish dressed man with his hat set at an angle that didn't belong in these parts. His coat was over his arm, but he didn't need it to represent his cloths. The shirt with the silk sleeve holders was dazzling enough for the world.... »(19). Joe Starks an enticing, from his first appearance he looked like a man with perfect external characteristics (Wealth, handsomeness, urbanity...). He is the man whom she runs away with as an aversion from her first husband.

Joe Starks is from Georgia the man whom Janie was enthusiastic to start her rebellious adventure with was such a good example of kindness and amiability at the first of his relationship with Janie.

The black man who has an ambition to be a leader in his town appeared his obnoxious characteristics « A pretty doll-baby lak you is mad to sit on de front porch and rock and fan yo'self and eat p'taters dat other folks plant just special for you » (20). Joe knew how to tempt his wife with the most attractive things for women, he selected what Janie was deprived of and is in need for, she was in need for financial and moral interest. The protagonist did not stay admired on the charismatic entrepreneur for a long time, Joe Starks became very controlling to what she would do and he became a very selfish and jealous husband to the point that he made her wrap her hair up so no one could see it.

Janie Crawford and Joe Starks marital relationship continued about twenty years, later on he died and their relationship that was full of tensions, sexism, and jealousy ended so that she became a free woman after that she was living in conservatism for years.

After his death Janie moved the headdress that he obliged her to wear to free the icon of her femininity, the death of the mayor Joe Starks ended a twenty years of a relationship that was controlled by patriarchal thoughts and believes. For the second time death realize freedom for Janie. The interrelated relationship between death and freedom set apart *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

2.3.2 Sexual liberalism

Tea Cake

After the death of Joe Starks Janie acted respectfully toward his funeral and she did not show her non carefulness toward the death of her second husband, she acted as she expected to act as a widow. Then she burial all the memories of being oppressed; she turned the page of sexual conservatism and she start think on her own way to break all the barriers which may confront her direction toward the total freedom. She became strong lady who does not need a man for security; at this time she was in need just for real pure love.

« At five-thirty a tall man came into the place. Janie was leaning on the counter making aimless pencil marks on a piece of wrapping paper .She knew she didn't know his name, but he looked familiar » (68). A gentle young attractive man with charming physical characteristics which readily draw Janie's attention appeared, his name is Tea Cake he is the man who appeared to finish Janie's loneliness. Although he is younger than her by twelve year, this fact did not affect their contact and they soon become close together. Doing some entertaining acts such as the game of checkers, in passing a long time chatting together; these things were unfamiliar experiences in Janie's life, in her two marriages she never felt like this intimacy. Friendship

before love helps to create a strong true love. Moreover, Tea Cake open mind mentality motivates the protagonist to start a third relationship, but this time she was determined to put her freedom before anything else. She was hesitated at the beginning to be with Tea Cake because of the age difference between them and her previous bad experience , but his great interest on the spiritual details of life made her accept to be with him because he is a man who know how to live and how to enjoy life.

Throughout *Their Eyes Were Watching God* the elements of nature are clearly present to symbolize love, purity, and spontaneity. Tea Cake the last man in Janie's life was a special man in which he was totally differ from her first two husbands, he was neither jealous nor skeptical man, and he gave her all the conditions that allowed her to enjoy freedom.

Janie Crawford found love with Tea Cake and gained money from her second marriage, therefore she realized the American dream; wealth, happiness, and love. Nothing is guarantee in life, after she realized all her desires the struggles started to appear one by one, the appearance of a girl called Nankie made Janie feel jealous when she saw her chat and laugh with Tea Cake that is what made him be obliged to prove his strong love for her.

Mrs. Turner the woman who appeared in the last chapters of the novel to bring up the issue of racism in *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, she is a woman with deep-rooted belief, thus she seek to create problems in the happy relationship of the black couple but it was a failed attempt because their love is stronger than all the machinations.

Life is full of surprises; a harsh hurricane came one day to end up the story of Janie Crawford and Tea Cake; Janie's true and only love died in this hurricane, « They seemed to be staring at the dark ,but their eyes were watching god » (114). Only god was present at this dark moment; they were waiting for god miracle to survive, their human instinct guided them at this hard moment to look for god ability. This sad event represented the title of the novel *Their Eyes*

Were Watching God; they believed on god ability, hence god was with them in their hard moment.

It was an end of love story in which its heroine and hero were living and expressing their love free without being under any oppression, it was an era of sexual liberalism that Janie lived in.

2.4 Love Virtue on Janie's Life Direction

The protagonist Janie played the four periods of the novel and each one reflects her life with different affects, the first is about her life with Nanny her grandmother who raise her up ,the second period shows her life with Logan Killicks her first husband but the third one was with Joe Starks which was the longest marriage but not the last one cause her fourth one shows Janie's love story with her third husband Tea Cake.

In Janie's believes marriage must involve love and happiness, looking for the unconditional and fulfilling love, after she passed through the waste land of being a possession before getting the hope of her dreams, love and happiness which she finally finds with her third marriage with Tea Cake.

Zora embodied the struggles of a black woman in Janie Crawford, the role played by Halle who tried to escape from the traditions of her society that is against love, she was brave enough to neglect all the judgments on her and carry on to realize her dream, it wasn't easy for her passing through three marriages moving from town to another, from man to another Although the social restrictions and the conservative society but she believed in herself and learned from the three experiences to pursuit the ships that carry the dreams of equality, happiness and love that she found and felt only with Tea Cake.

Janie's stages described the difference between females dreams and males desires. Men;

The patriarchs of society who can control their lives they do not dream a lot because they have the ability and chances to achieve what they want. Janie's dream was to find love in order to fulfill her needs and fight against norms of society and realizes that suffering and sacrifice are necessary steps for a woman to achieve her aim. As Bernard Malamud writes in *The Natural*, "we have two lives, the life we learn with and the life we live with after that. Suffering is what brings us toward happiness."

Janie stood against oppression and got her dream, independence and freedom that she persisted for till she deeply discovered her-self by the real love she felt with Tea Cake, she says:

So Ah'm back home again and Ah'm satisfied

Tuh br heah. Ah done be to de horizon and back

And now Ah Kin set heah in mah house and live

by comparisions. *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (158)

At the end Hurston seemed to think that women were treated as inferior to men she encourages women to believe in themselves and struggle the social norms to reach equality.

4. Oprah Winfrey as a Leader of Black Feminism in the 21st Century

Oprah Gail Winfrey born in January 29, 1954 in Mississippi, she is an African-American talk-show host, actress, producer, bibliophile and businesswomen considered as one of the most interested black figure on the black female preoccupations.

« *The Historical Burden that only Oprah Can Bear* »: *African-American Satirists and The State of the Literature* by Darryle Dickson-Carr affirms the crucial role of Oprah in reviving the Black Feminist fictions after its provisory notable decline « The first regards Oprah

Winfrey's real acquisition of film rights to or involvement in the adaptations of many revered or well known African-American literary texts » (King and Moody-Turner 41).

4.1 Oprah Winfrey the Producer

The first experience of Oprah in the domain of film production was a unique one; her first choice of black film production was relied to her personality, experiences and matters.

The Wedding a black feminist film starring the famous and the special black actress Halle Berry who was also the star of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* film.

The Wedding is a story which treats the occupied issues of race, class and gender of the Negro community. Oprah's most attractive and preferred themes in her career as a film producer are sex, gender, love and marriage in the black culture, her concern is to modify the sense of these sensitive social concepts for all the social sections specially the African-Americans :

But what was left out of the movie version, the repeated acting out of Corrine Cole's sexual obsession for dark black men, points to this tricky problem in the text. West as her characters takes as natural law that sexuality is of necessity « dark ». Some tenets perpetuated in *The Wedding* include « the blacker the berry the sweeter the juice » the belief that sexuality resides in blackness. (Rayson32).

Oprah's goal is to change this offensive sexual concept about the black females and to convey an important message; the colored woman is not just for sex but she is like each women in need for the innocent love instead of the sexual love « she describes the historical looking relationships that black women developed with regard to the racist and sexist images presented to them in Hollywood films ». (Harris and Watson 36)

Oprah Winfrey the film producer usually is tending to produce the films which represent the beauty of the African-American society mainly the stories which show the existence of love in the Negro life.

Their Eyes Were Watching God is her preferred love story as she claimed in the daytime TV talk-show when she was asked about « This has been my favorite love story for as long as I've been reading, » « I love this book ;love, love, love this book ». (Catlin). Furthermore, Oprah Winfrey choice for the star of this film was not a random choice, Halle Berry according to Oprah was the only suitable actress to be Janie Crawford « I don't know what she was doing for 12 years ago, but I gave the book to Halle Berry then, » Winfrey says. « I'm like , 'take this ,read it, because you're Janie' »(Catlin).In addition to that, Halle Berry as a black female who passed through many struggles because of her skin color and her African identity did not hesitate to be Janie; a character who approximately represents a part of Halle Berry tribulations, mainly in her love and marriage experience also Berry was uxoriously on Zora Neal Hurston « not when Opera calls you up and asks you to do it, and not when it's a book that you love, »Berry says, and « you know it is going to be handled with great love, great care, dignity, respect. And to be part of bringing Zora Neal's work to life is something that will be a part of my legacy ». (Catlin).

Although the circumstances and the struggles that Opera Winfrey passed through in her life as a woman of color. Nowadays she is seen as the defender and the leader of the African-American feminist movement:

Interestingly, Collins herself argues that Winfrey has functioned to reinforce the stereotypical images of the mammy and black lady .In *Black sexual politics*, Collins acknowledges Winfrey's influence in the following statements : » Oprah Winfrey has had a far greater impact within American culture than any other living African-

American woman, » « her corporate power is impressive , » she instructs and raises general consciousness on a list of important social issues ranging from child abuse to wife battering to rape, » and « Winfrey's immense success provides a stamp of endorsement to any philosophy that she might endorse that goes far beyond any expertise she might possess on any given topic » (Harris and Watson 71).

Oprah Winfrey is the unspiritual and the idol of the 21st century black and white American females.

4.2 Oprah Winfrey Production of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Winfrey based on the name of the Zora's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* in the production of the movie, embodying the beautiful Janie with pretty hair in Halle Berry and Michal Ealy as Tea Cake and Mel Winkler as Logan Killicks, Ruby Dee as Nanny and Ruben Santiago-Hudson as Joe Starks, it was directed by Darnell Martin.

Winfrey was a best example of black females presenters of African American literature, covering the first thirty years of the 20th Century that the film set in Eatonville depicting Janie and her experiences looking for her aim to love and to be loved and to impose herself and realize her freedom that trapped not only by the bonds of matrimony but also by the rigid patriarchal society of the period. Oprah's production of literary adaptations

(*Beloved, The Color Purple...*) boasts an impressive line-up of African American talent. (Philip."Oprah Winfrey: A voice for the people."

Oprah found herself a teenage single mother at the age of 14, she grew up in a poor family and lived with her grandmother until she sent to school at the of six than she moved to live with her father, Vernon Winfrey. Opera's childhood was marred by more than poverty.

She was raped at nine years old by a member of her family and again by a cousin then another family member, she talked about the subject first in 1986 on her show. As a result of

the social and sexual abuse she became pregnant at the age of 14 but her son died two weeks after birth, she ran away from home and later she felt betrayed by her cousin who had sold the story of her son to the national enquirer in 1990. At the age of 17 Oprah secured a full college scholarship and finished out her senior of high school and remained working at the station. She had a bright future, Oprah the ambitious powerful black woman attended Tennessee state university, was crowned Miss Black Tennessee at 18, and went on to build a successful career in media. (Philip. "Oprah Winfrey: A voice for the people.")

Zora Neale Hurston the black feminist leader attracted Oprah after her show meeting with Alice Walker who revived the novel and inspired by Zora. The researcher can notice the common suffering and points between Oprah's real life and Zora's life too both had been oppressed as black females and faced different kinds of social abuse from an early age but both demolished all the suffering and split ending with fame and success.

4.3 Self-esteem Role on Black Woman Empowerment

Zora Neal Hurston exposed in her masterpiece *Their Eyes Were Watching God* the issue of rape and how sexual assault affected negatively Nanny Crawford's personality; hence she became a pessimistic woman, lived under fear, without having goals to achieve in her life.

Oprah Winfrey the strong survivor, although, she experienced rape in early age like Nanny Crawford but because she looked at what happened with her positively she could pass the bad experiences of her childhood, and now she is the idol of success and power for black women. "Self-esteem comes from being able to define the world in your own words and refusing to abide by the judgment of others" (Winfrey). Thus Oprah did not make herself under the judgments of others like Nanny Crawford did, she spent her life living under the fear of what others would say about her, and she affected Janie's life by her pessimism.

Susan Green in an article published in July 13, 2017 in the Institute for Women's Policy Research titled *Violence against Black Women-Many Types, Far reaching Effects* affirms "Formerly incarcerated Black Women experience long-term economic, political, occupational, educational, and physical consequences". Therefore, she confirmed the hard life conditions that face black woman who experienced sexual assault so that these conditions create a struggle in front of black woman dreams and that is what happened with Nanny Crawford she was under economical and social oppression. Oprah Winfrey strong personality enables her to pass through the negative psychological impacts of sexual assault on her life direction and enables her to realize her dreams. Self-esteem encouraged her to continue her life optimistically.

4.4 Halle Berry Experiences as a Reason of her Creativity to be Janie Crawford

Janie Crawford the black woman who became an icon for the black females who are suffering from the social oppression to go through their dreams and to fulfill their desires and believe on their ability to be what they want to be. Nowadays the black actress Halle Berry who is the same actress who played the role of Janie Crawford in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* became the icon of black females in the twenty-first century .The first and the only woman of color who won an Academy Award for best actress in 2002 consider as one of the most important African-American icons of this century.

Halle Berry life is somewhat similar to Janie Crawford life, that is what clarify that the black female are still living under the oppression of the American society, thus the success of a black woman is still consider as a great and rare achievement. When she won the Oscar Halle expressed her inexplicable delight for an accomplishment it was unpredicted to see a black female win this Academy Award. We can compare with Halle Berry and Janie Crawford in their unique achievement; each one of them realized what made her a unique black female, Janie was unique when she challenged the oppression of her social to be a free and strong

woman that is what was rare in the black communities on the other side Halle Berry was unique by getting an award that was difficult to predict that a colored woman would get it and be a superstar. It is a similarity of uniqueness in their achievement. Halle Berry perfect performance in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* can be justified by the comprehension of the superstar to what meant to be a black female who resist for the better.

Until this century blacks are still in need to resist to achieve their dreams, in America still there is many of Janie Crawford that resisting to achieve their dreams although all the oppression that they faced.

Halle Berry love experiences played a great role to made her feel Janie's feelings and her passion to find a true love, before being the star of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, she passed through disappointments due to love when her second husband cheated on her and had been treated for sex addiction, actually she passed through two failed love experiences, therefore she performed the role of Janie Crawford perfectly because she herself was in need for love. Oprah Winfrey the producer of *Their Eyes Were Watching God* did not think for a long time to who is the most suitable black actress who can do the role of her favorite love story protagonist from the beginning she selected Halle Berry because she was knowing what she passed through, so that she was sure that Berry would be Janie Crawford because she is the only one who can understand her.

3. Reader Response Reading of Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

3.1 Janie's External appearance

The Efferent Reading

Janie's body and gestures showed group of characteristics of Negro Expression employing them as a mode of communication that can communicate as clearly as spoken language within

her community. Janie the protagonist defies gender stereotypes by wearing overall insisting on her freedom and independence, she was black and characterized by her Caucasian roots like straight which derives her ancestors of white and black heritage.

As a young woman, Janie has some romantic bones in her body when she was watching a bee pollinate a flower while lying underneath a blossoming pear tree where she inspired to seek love but Janie's life before the pear tree is not same as after the pear tree; before she was the joyful, young and active girl who becomes associated with plant and flower imagery perhaps emphasizing her natural beauty, Eden-like gentle nature, innocence and ripeness for romance. (Hurstons."A Study Guide Janie Crawford in Their Eyes Were Watching God").

After the pear tree she saw a dust-bearing bee sinking into the sanctum of a boom; the thousand sister-ealysces arch meet the love embrace and the ecstatic shives of the tree from root to tiniest branch creaming in every blossom and frothing with delight. So this was a marriage! She had been sum owed to behold a revelation which leads to her first kiss searching for the meaning of love but she don't know that her road to romance is far from easy. (Hurstons. "A Study Guide Janie Crawford in Their Eyes Were Watching God").

Janie's Sub-consciousness Pulp

The Aesthetic Reading

Janie believed that marriage did not make love, she had a guiding inner voice learning her that marriage doesn't necessary lead to love especially after her first brief marriage to Logan Killicks that teaches her a valuable lesson that being a legitimate wife of a land holder isn't enough for her because as a real women she doesn't like being told what to do and can't live a purely surface life without any romance.

All the beginnings are prettier; Janie was showing a little spunk during her second marriage with Joe Starks, her nature and way of thinking and feelings things, she suffers under Joe's iron rule and was forced to keep silent, hide her beautiful hair and refrain from associating with the locals and butter around emotionally and socially isolated and this isolation leads to being compliant. Whereas her relationship with Tea Cakes was something else differ from the previous two marriages, she totally falls head over heels in love with him, she persists in his courtship and eventually Janie's heart is wow by his egalitarian nature and his fun-loving, he takes her on midnight fishing trips and creating new hope in the bottom of her Sub-consciousness. (De Gale."A Study Guide for Their Eyes Were Watching God."

3.2 Marriage as an escape From Social Oppression

Efferent Reading

Throughout her life Nanny Crawford efforts of thinking were just on how she would continue her life with fewer problems. She had always fears that her granddaughter will face the same experiences that both her daughter Leafy and she faced; as a grandmother who is the first responsible on Janie she thought seriously to plan the direction of the sixteen years girl life in order to avoid her all the bad incidents that she will face due to her color. Her grandmother imposed her to marry the old man Mr. Logan Killicks, so that she will be secure and safe and she would continue her life under her society traditions and rules so she would avoid the heart full critics of Eatonville habitants. She was obliged to accept this marriage to find an outlet from Nanny's and Eatonville people oppression, to start a life with an old man who she did not agreed with him in any point and the age difference was the major factor behind this neglecting. Zora mirrored the effect of the oppression of the patriarchal community on the black female decisions in addition to her grandmother oppression she was also suffering from the critics of her neighbors as it appeared in the beginning of the novel when they were mumbling about her

because she did not bother to their beliefs and that is not allowed for women so that she found that marriage could be an outlet from the critics of her community.

Aesthetic Reading

Nanny Crawford Repudiate Harlem Renaissance Principles

Nanny Crawford the old woman who grow up with strong conviction that people of black skin are inferior to other races, 'blacks have no right to dream and hope on good life. She born slave then she raped from her master, Harold Bloom in his book that criticize *Their Eyes Were Watching God* claimed: «In her desire to provide Janie 'security' before her death, Nanny marries her to Logan Killicks, a work deadened but decent older man who appears to be almost as imprisoned by share cropping as his ancestors were by slavery » (78).

Apparently, Nanny Crawford was totally contra versed by the New Negro Movement believes, the movement that came to motivate and convince blacks on the importance of women's rights to ameliorate the Negro community; the strength of woman is the most important rule that make a strong community.

Nanny Crawford is the first and the only responsible on what her daughter and her granddaughter faced, as she is the responsible on upbringing Leafy and Janie she is the cause behind all the problems that the two girls faces. She never make attempts to improve her situation, she accepts things as they are. The submissive Nanny believed that the hardship she faced is shared between all women regardless to their race or color.

Janie's first teenage fault with Johny Taylor clarifies to what extent Nanny is affected by her past experiences, so that she could not found an excuse for what happened with Janie and Taylor and she did not accept that it was a teen gag. Her decision toward protecting Janie was an arbitrary decision especially that she decided to marry her with a very old man.

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* there is a major clear theme which is the sufferance of blacks from blacks; Janie was oppressed by her grandmother and her black society. During the New Negro Movement blacks get ride from the oppression of whites to be oppressed by a slice of blacks that were still living with their retrograde thought.

The protagonist Janie Crawford accepted to be with Logan Killicks because she found herself between two difficult choices; either being under the oppression of her grandmother and being surrounded by the nightmare of Nanny's fears and pessimism or accepting to marry Logan in the hope of finding love and happiness in her life with him. Thus it was a marriage as an outlet from a social oppression.

3.3 The Paradoxicalness of Wealth with Love

Efferent Reading

Joe Starks the wealthy man who attracted Janie from his first appearance as she was struggling in hard relationship with her first husband. Joe Stark presents the outlet of Janie from her meaningless complex relationship with Logan Killicks who she convinced that she will not find love with him. The black female who is looking for love as principle feeling for the perfect life attracted to Joe Starks the rich handsome man to run away with him from the bored marital relationship with Logan. Then she started a new life in a new city with her second husband who she passed with him twenty years of her life in which she discovered his real unpredicted personality that she spent two decades with, then he died and Janie seems like she became free from the patriarchal control.

Aesthetic Reading

Wealth Guide to Independence

Janie Crawford the kind and innocent girl, after she experienced a marital relationship full of sufferance in her first marriage, when she knew Joe Starcks she started think with a sly way, she was seeing her second husband as a good choice to live in good financial conditions thus she can realize her dreams; she was thinking that wealth can bring for her freedom and happiness; she started to be selfish woman and she did not married him because she loves him.

After her marriage she did not find what she was expecting, everything went downhill, she find herself under the control of a man who is love her just for sex not for herself, Joe Starks was loving her for satisfying his instincts and he never show her a pure love. Actually she started a relationship full of violence through the bad treatment of her husband; his love for Janie was a violence love because he was treating her as if she is just for him and no one has the right to see her; it was a love for sex at the first level.

The wealth of Joe Starks did not help Janie to find happiness with him; it was as a curse in her life.

After Joe's death Janie his widow turned the page of the sufferance and she started a new life with new way of thinking and she became more independent and strong, she felt and appreciated her freedom for the first time in her life; she learned from her experiences and she started controlling her life alone. But to what extent money participated to gave Janie strength? What is the major factor behind her independence, love or money?

Apparently Janie became strong woman due to money, because she felt that she is not in need for man for security and safety, Janie knew the real meaning of love and started searching on

just after she achieved the financial sufficiency. Joe's wealth realized for her the American dream with his wealth she get the real love.

3.4 Black Female ambitions and Success

The New Negro woman was ambitious clever woman dreaming of being beloved, and respected as wives, by time they asserted their needs specially for; education, equality, leadership, recognition, opportunity, self-determination and freedom cause women always have been suffered from patriarchy, racism and oppression. Most of the scholarship on black women of Harlem Renaissance period has concentrated on artistic or literary achievements.

Women of the Harlem Renaissance affirmed that Zora Neale Hurston has been neglected. However; Author Alice Walker helped revive interest in writer's life and work after publishing an article in Ms. Magazine essay," In search of Zora Neale Hurston " Walker introduced a younger generation of readers ,including Opera Winfrey who turned the novel into a 2005 film that aired on ABC, starring Halle Berry. In 1973 Alice Walker traveled to Fort Pierce to place a marker on the grave of Zora who had inspired her own work. *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, fits well into the tradition that includes such work as Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* and William Faulkner's; *The Sound and the Fury*. Hurston's novel resists reduction to a single movement but it carries no singles overwhelming message or moral. Far away from a weakness, Furthermore, this resistance is the secret of the strength and richness of the novel which made it can be read in different ways. (Bickerman."Game Changers *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Launched a renaissance."

The character of Janie in the novel is more conventional than the author, she operates in a real world with the growing assertiveness of her own self-definitions, it was clear in her actions, motivations and responses that inspired Alice Walker who says about the Harlem Renaissance writer and anthropologist:" I realized that unless I came out with everything I had

supporting her, there was every chance that she would slip back into obscurity.” Alice Walker shines light on Zora Neale Hurston.

Janie couldn't find her freedom and dream that she thought in her first marriage cause Logan think he is supposed to work outside and Janie as a women should work inside the house cooking food and help him, what pushes her to hold on her aim and think about her future and happiness that she thought she finally found it with Joe because he believes that Janie is not fit for important work, it can be seen in the scene where Joe and Janie first meet, he says to her;”A pretty doll-baby like you is made to sit on the front of porch and rock and fan yo'self and eat p'taters dat folks plant just special for you.” (Hurston 41). She married him and learned from this second after all what happened between them that equality is important within marriage so the lessons paved the way for her to look for more and more and build enough power to continue struggling society fill the gaps of her aim.

With Tea Cake Janie realized that the true love can be found and practiced whatever and whenever she liked without caring about the society and habitants opinions, she get her freedom, imposed herself and her needs among a patriarchy society, achieved equality and felt the true love even after the death of Tea Cake because their story was like the pear tree, “Then Tea Cake came prancing around her where she was and the song of the sigh flew out of the window and lit in the top of the pine trees. Tea Cake with the sun for a shawl. Of course he won't dead. He could be never be dead until she herself finished feeling and thinking. The kiss of his memory made pictures of love and light against the wall.”(p. 193), the love of Tea Cake creates a door for Janie to run away from the social traditions, restrictions and oppression.

3.5 Black Female Independence

Efferent Reading

Tea Cake was the only and real love for Janie Crawford. The Hurricane ended the happiest era in Janie's life in which she was living a complete life in where she was jubilant and comfort the most. Tea Cake death affected her harshly because she lost her most beloved person and with whom she enjoyed freedom and peace.

Janie went back to her town Eatonville but she was not the same Janie Crawford who left the town with Joe Starks looking for better life conditions. She come back to her town as a brave independent lady who passed through several experiences, « But Janie does eventually gain true independence when she is forced to kill Tea Cake, who has gone mad from being bitten by a rabid dog and has come after her with a gun. This final act, although it devastates Janie, also allows her to return home to Eatonville a fully self-sufficient woman who is finally at peace with herself » (De Gale. « *A Study Guide for Their Eyes Were Watching God* »).

Aesthetic Reading

Janie Crawford story proved that the problem is that black peoples are the first responsible on their bad situation not whites, the problem was on their way of thinking and on their convictions. She was a unique example among her black community who kept living on their traditional life style without doing any bold step toward a new black era, they were not excited to move from their bored life and search for the spiritual aspects of life. They were convinced on their inferiority than the other races.

She is an icon of determination and self confidence, she challenged the believes of her society to be the Janie Crawford that she want to prove that after god the person is the only

responsible on his life direction. Janie Crawford comes home grieving but strong; she derived strength from sadness.

Those people should be like Janie, they should search for their freedom and believe on their inner powers that can enable them to realize all their dreams.

Conclusion

This study focuses on one of the most famous and important black feminism novels which are *Their Eyes Were Watching God* of the creative African-American writer Zora Neal Hurston. It analyzed on the basis of the feminist and the reader response theory.

Due to the Civil War in America the African-American people witnessed a radical change in several fields in their life culture, art, and literature. Therefore, it emerged a new form of black culture, so that a new literature genres appeared one of the most important genres is Black Feminist Movement with new features and themes focuses on the black females matter.

Zora Neal Hurston was one of the most important pioneers of the Harlem Renaissance she participated in establishing the African-American literature. Particularly, the African-American feminist literature; called nowadays Womanism. In addition to that she was the first black female author who brought the real issues of the women of her community during that period. Her novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* considered as the most important literary work in the black feminist literature and history because it touches all the delicate matters that concern the Black Woman of the 20th century, through it she attempts to highlight the psychological pressure on black females by the social norms, insists on the necessity of given women their rights as any women on earth, and explain the terror love between certain couples and its impact on her life and on her society environment as well.

Hurston's support for the women rights and her rejection for the patriarchal rules that make women live under the oppression and the unfair conditions which made her reflect ably the pressure that females suffer from through the protagonist of her famous novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by making Janie Crawford embodied several forms of love and marriage experiences to clarify the various struggles that women suffer from inferiority in their relationships with their couples. Hence, Zora Neal Hurston enable the readers to know about

the past fights that the black women passed through to get her deserved position of the present history of America; it explains how the African-American women challenged the strict traditions and rules to become the successful strong black female of nowadays as presidents, lawyers, doctors, teachers, business-woman, writers, singers and directors.

Oprah Winfrey, the sample of the women of color in the 21st century represents the success of the New Negro Movement in realizing a new version of the black female who totally differ from the black female of the 21st century who gather power from poverty and life pain to become what she is now, defending the ignored old black female artists and writers reviving their works, studying and producing them to show and parade them proudly.

This Master dissertation handle an important study that concerns all the women of the world, it paves the way for everyone who is interested to the women matter and it carries an important message for the world to believe on women right for living free and their ability to realize what they dream indefatigably without restricting to any social conditions weather it is moral or concrete. In this dissertation the researchers come out with a maw that approved the aim of the study which is the black woman challenged the social oppression, patriarchy and racism just when there are love and marriage as a way to impose her existence and gain freedom but the researcher found that safety and money are important to realize what she dreamed of more than love and marriage.

This dissertation depended on different approaches to illustrate the interconnectedness of the historical events and the social aspects of the African-American people. In the Methodology this study is based on two literary approaches which are the feminist and the reader response approaches.

Despite the several difficulties that faced the researcher since March 2020 till June 2020, it was hard to travel to other universities and libraries to bring and search for rich and enough

sources in order to provide and prepare a good work as it was planned, but that doesn't mean that the researcher surrendered. The pandemic of Corona Virus that spread in the world this year affected negatively on the plan and meetings of the researches weather with each other or with the supervisor, it formed different obstacles such as the confinement, the absence of means of transportation and all the services were closed in all life fields, in order to abound what a searcher and his dissertation need to be done in a good job.

Despite the distance and the availability of the internet to search for reliable source or to download books and access to various sources, Academia, Google Scholar greatly helped in reaching specific research and articles. The main challenge in this research is in choosing the subject its self because the researchers wanted to link several topics, out with a result and a maw of the problematic and argue about it concerning the interest and the massage of both of them that it aspires to convey and which aims at appreciating, feeling and care about black woman cases around the world to help in changing positively the view of people to black female and black people in general although the difficulty of working in such circumstances.

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