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Ministry of Higher Education and Scientific Research
University of Tlemcen



Faculty of Letters and Languages
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***Slavery in Mark Twain's the Adventures of
Huckleberry Finn***

*Dissertation submitted to the Department of English as a partial
fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master in
Literature and Civilization*

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Academic Year 2016-2017

Dedication

I dedicate this humble piece of work with love and passion to the memory of my beloved father Omar, my dear mother Salima who guided me toward the right path and to my little sister Imane.

To my friend and soul-mate Mohamed Merada

Acknowledgements

First of all, I would thank Allah the Almighty Who gave me the power to arrange this humble dissertation.

I take this opportunity to express my profound gratitude and deep regards to my supervisor Dr. SouadBaghliBerbar, her solid guidance, cordial support and valuable information will always speak for her.

I also take this opportunity to expand my deep sense of gratitude to all the teachers who helped and encouraged me to finish my studies especially my compassionate teacher Omar Rahmoun.

Abstract

The American literary Realism is a time during which Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was produced. It is declared by the vast majority of critics as a true representative of the White-supremacist American society, because Twain was successfully able to describe the undergoing of the American society during the Pre-Civil War era. Yet, the description was not the main point behind the writing of *the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Twain meant criticizing the racist mindsets of the white Americans and the hypocrite political systems of the country. In *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Twain propagates the idea of slavery as the most dominant theme running through the novel. Therefore, this New Historicist extended essay is intended to the aspects of the institution of slavery in settings, characters after providing a brief view over both slavery in America and the Civil-War as a historical and social background.

Key Terms: *The Adventures of HuckleberryFinn*, Mark Twain, Slavery, Racism.

Contents

| | |
|--|-----|
| Dedication | I |
| Acknowledgements | II |
| Abstract | III |
| Contents | IV |
| General Introduction | 1 |
| Chapter One: Historical and Literary Background | |
| 1.1. Introduction..... | 5 |
| 1.2. Slavery in America..... | 5 |
| 1.3. Slavery in American Literature..... | 10 |
| 1.3.1 Slave Narratives..... | 10 |
| 1.3.2. White Novelists..... | 13 |
| 1.4. Mark Twain’s Biography and Works..... | 14 |
| 1.5. Conclusion..... | 16 |
| Chapter Two: Slavery in <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i> | |
| 2.1. Introduction..... | 20 |
| 2.2. Synopsis..... | 20 |
| 2.3. Characters..... | 23 |
| 2.3.1 Huck Finn | 23 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| 2.5.2. Jim..... | 26 |
| 2.3.3. Tom Sawyer..... | 28 |
| 2.3.4. Widow Douglass and Miss Watson..... | 29 |
| 2.3.5. Pap..... | 29 |
| 2.3.6. The Duke and the Dauphin | 30 |
| 2.3.7. The Grangerfords..... | 31 |
| 2.3.8. The Phelps..... | 32 |
| 2.4. Slavery in the Novel..... | 33 |
| 2.5. Conclusion. | 36 |
| General Conclusion..... | 38 |
| Bibliography..... | 40 |

General Introduction

Mark Twain wrote his novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* two decades after the Emancipation Proclamation which means the end of slavery in the United States of America and after the Civil War in the Southern states. People in the South did not understand that Negroes or slaves, their former property, should have the same rights as they have. Slaves in the United States suffered from the mistreatment of the White People as they were stripped of their names and dehumanized in many ways, they did not have the right to make contracts or to own properties. Slaves' suffering has been the object of slave narratives such as the slave narrative of Frederick Douglass and Olaudah Equiano. On the other hand many white novelists dealt with slavery in their works, for example Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain.

Through the twentieth century Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has become famous not only as the peak precious and grand work of one of America's greatest writers but also as a subject of controversy. It has been banned and reworked with replacement of certain words and many critics have argued about the meaning of its legacy. Others have dismissed *Huckleberry Finn* as vulgar or racist because it uses more than two hundred times "nigger" (Messent parag.2) a term which clearly points to the issue of slavery as the novel's most prominent concern.

The novel begins when *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* ends, with Tom and Huck who found six thousand dollars which caused many problems to Huck. Some wanted to civilize him like Miss Watson and the Widow Douglass and the harm caused by his abusive father who wants to steal his money. All these problems led him to elope to Jackson Island where he meets Miss Watson's slave Jim. The research problem, however, is what aspects of slavery are seen through the novel. To fulfill the aims of this research that orbits around race relations in the novel, these research questions are formulated:

What image does Mark Twain manages to draw to show slaves suffering in the South?

What is therefore his attitude towards the institution of slavery in the South of the United States?

In order to answer the research questions, the New Historicist theory will be applied to explain the historical background of the novel and to examine slavery in it.

This extended essay is divided into two chapters. Chapter one is an examination of the historical and literary backgrounds of the novel, focusing on the issue of slavery in America as a historical phenomenon and as a literary theme as well. Chapter two entitled Slavery in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is the practical chapter in which a literary analysis of the novel occurs to demonstrate the ways Twain reflected slavery.

Chapter One:
Historical and Literary Background

Outline Chapter One

| | |
|--|----|
| 1.1. Introduction..... | 5 |
| 1.2. Slavery in America..... | 5 |
| 1.3. Slavery in American Literature..... | 10 |
| 1.3.1 Slave Narratives..... | 10 |
| 1.3.2. White Novelists..... | 13 |
| 1.4. Mark Twain's Biography and Works..... | 14 |
| 1.5. Conclusion..... | 16 |

1.1. Introduction

It is necessary to shed enough light on the issue of slavery in America. It has characterized its history since its discovery and is based on white superiority and black inferiority. Slavery found its way in American literature, mainly in the narratives of former slaves. However, many white novelists of the nineteenth century cared about black people's suffering and focused on the issue of slavery such as Harriet Beecher Stowe in *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852), and Mark Twain in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1885).

1.2. Slavery in America

The issue of slavery left a scar in the heart of American history. Its effects lasted even after its abolition by the Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation (1863)¹ and the Thirteenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution. African slavery dates back to the first European settlement and was practiced in all colonial territories of America. It started when the first African slaves were brought to the North American territory of Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. The discovery of the Americas in 1492 led to a great demand for free labor to work in plantations to increase crops production in the territory. Britain was one of the leading slave-trading powers in Europe as well as France, Holland, Portugal and Spain. This process was also called "The Triangular Trade" wherein British ships carried European manufactured goods to Africa and exchanged them for slaves, who were then taken across the Atlantic to the Americas, where they were traded for sugar, cotton, rum and other goods.

African slaves were considered to be the property of their masters and were stripped of their names and deprived of their rights and dehumanized in many ways; they did not have the right to own property, make contracts or to attend church. More than 12 million Africans were taken across the Atlantic to work in plantations in the Americas. Each year, the number of exportation was continuously on the rise; "According to the (exaggerated) data of contemporaries, in the 1780s, when the

¹Executive order issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, freeing all slaves held in geographical areas in rebellion against the United States.

movement for the slave abolition start to improve in Europe and America, 100,000 Africans were exported yearly” (Abramova 21).

Some of these slaves found some tricks to avoid working. Some of them ate dirt to make themselves ill and unable to work and the most common way of resistance was running away from slavery. On the uncultivated land, runaways were easily caught whereas in the more mountainous and less populated lands, it was possible for slaves to run away without detection and they could live into small groups. These groups were known as maroons, while women found some ways to kill their unborn babies to prevent them from being born into slavery (“Slavery: Cause and Catalyst of the Civil War” 13).

Slavery was accepted in America with no doubts and it was believed that it is something blessed given by God. White men were convinced that black people are inferior and slavery was good for them. To illustrate this idea for example the social theorist George Fitzhugh states in his essay “*The Universal History of Slavery*”: “the Negro is but a grown-up child, and must be governed as a child, not as a lunatic or criminal. The master occupies toward him the place of parent or guardian” (1). This means that blacks cannot survive in a free society and the institution of slavery is there to protect them from extermination.

The issue of slavery played a key role in pushing America towards a bloody war fought between brothers wearing opposite uniforms known as the Civil War. During the years leading to the Missouri compromise, tensions began to rise between proslavery and antislavery groups within the U.S. Congress and throughout the country (“The Missouri Compromise”, History.com Staff).

In 1819, the country contained eleven free and eleven slave states that construct a balance in the U.S Senate and adding Missouri as a slave state threatened this balance in favour of slave holders. Henry Clay, a representative from Kentucky and a congress man played an essential role in giving a two-part solution known as The Missouri Compromise. The Compromise was divided into two parts, the first one aims at giving Missouri the right to be slave state and the second was

the admission of Maine as a free state to keep the peace and balance between free and slave states. In addition to this, the Compromise also drew an imaginary line across the former Louisiana territory in order to separate between free and slave states (“The Missouri Compromise”, History.com Staff).

However, the aim of the Missouri compromise was to keep the union together. The compromise gave the right to slaveholders to reclaim their runaway slaves from neighboring Free States. In 1819, the issue of slavery vividly brought the attention of white people. The first signals of the civil war were seen in the conflicts that led to the Missouri Compromise of 1820s. Many scholars thought that without this Compromise the civil war would have occurred sooner than it did (“The Missouri Compromise”, History.com Staff).

The invention of the cotton gin² in 1793 solidified the importance of slavery in the South. It consequently led to a greater production of cotton. This doubled cotton production led to an unprecedented demand of both more free labour and more plantation spaces. From the southern side, there was the plantations’ expansion westwards coupled with the higher rates of slavery to keep pace with the cotton gin. However, from the northern opposing side, the abolitionist movement was in its highest peak because the northerners were threatened by the growing economic powers of the opponent south. This clash of interests, in turn, sharpened the tension and pushed the country toward a bloody Civil War (Wade 7).

In Summer 1830, a black religious man named Nat Turner led one of the bloodiest rebellion in Southampton, Virginia. The revolt caused an immense fear in the south where he killed about fifty-five white men, women and children. They were caught when they ran out of ammunition. Nat Turner and many others were hanged. This rebellion pushed the southerners to reinforce the system of security in the south (Zinn 180).

After thirty years of the Missouri compromise, tensions started to rise again between the north and the south due to the division of slavery in the new gained

²A simple mechanized device that efficiently removes the seeds from cotton.

territories in the Mexican American war (1846-1848). Therefore, there was another compromise which aimed at keeping the union together. It was named the compromise of 1850 and consisted of laws admitting California as a free state while Utah and New Mexico were given the right to choose whether to be free or slave territories under popular sovereignty. The compromise also banned the slave trade in Washington D.C. and passed a fugitive slave act that gave the right to capture fugitive slaves (“Compromise of 1850”. History.com staff).

The most controversial part of the 1850 compromise was the Fugitive Slave Act that made it easier for southerners to recapture their runaway slaves within the American territory. Moreover, the government imposed penalties on those who aid black slaves to escape towards neighboring free lands such as Canada. More than 20.000 blacks run away during the next ten years (“Fugitive Slave Acts”, History.com Staff).

When the American government could not find any solutions for the issue of slavery and each new law and decision seemed to make things worse, these decisions made the south and the north in troubles for the ending of slavery. The south remained agrarian while the north became more industrialized. Different political and social beliefs appeared and developed between the two territories. All these issues led to huge disagreements in terms of taxes and tariffs paid on imported goods to the south. Many southerners felt that those tariffs were unfit because they imported a wider variety of goods than northerners. Many taxes were also imposed on many southern goods that were sent to foreign countries (“Slavery: Cause and Catalyst of the Civil War” 8).

In fact, this was not the major cause that drove the American nation to the bloody Civil War, but the issue of slavery and its future was the main cause that led to the disturbance of the union because southerners aimed to preserve slavery as well as to establish southern independence as a new confederation under its own constitution whereas the northern and western states fought to preserve the union (“Slavery: Cause and Catalyst of the Civil War” 5).

Many battles were fought when Civil War was sparked between the Confederate and the Union army. The “First Bull Run” is the first major engagement of the Civil War. Confederates routed the north. Northern civilians who rode out to see the battle had to flee back to Washington with panicked union troops. The total casualty alerted both North and south that the war would not be won easily (“First Battle of Bull Run”, History.com staff).

These battles and others led to great loss in term of lives from both sides the confederate and the union army and this fact made the American Civil War known as the deadliest war in the American history, with a total death of 620.000 men from combat and diseases (“Civil War Casualties” Hisory.net.).

The president Abraham Lincoln privately detested slavery. In the Emancipation Proclamation he denounced that these three million slaves in the American territory should gain their freedom as a step to strengthen the Union forces in the Civil War, and to weaken the Confederacy by depriving it from a portion of its major labor (The emancipation Proclamation Goes Into Effects).

The emancipation proclamation was issued by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863 when the American nation approached the third year of the bloody civil war declaring that “All persons held as slaves within any state or designated part of a state the people whereof shall then be in rebellion against the United States, shall be then, thenceforward, and forever free.” (Lincoln 1).

The emancipation aimed at freeing all slaves in the rebellious states of the south, but it was limited in many ways because it was applied only to states that had seceded from the union, while slavery was kept in the loyal border states. Then some parts of the confederacy that had come under the Northern control were explicitly excused from the Emancipation Proclamation, and the most important part of this emancipation Proclamation is that it made the war for the Union a War for freedom. It added a moral strength to the Union on both sides, military and political, because the freedom of slaves depended on the Union’s military victory in the war. It also gave black people the right to engage in the Union army and Navy.

As a result, and by the end of the war, about 200,000 black soldiers and sailors had fought for the Union and freedom (“The Emancipation Proclamation”, *National Archives*). The suffering of black slaves and the mistreatments of white people not only from the civil War but from the day they were brought to the American territory were mentioned in many works of American white novelists and slave narratives.

1.3. Slavery in American Literature

Slavery has been a major concept in the American society since its very first times in the United States. But it was not a theme in literature until literary Realism was in its zenith. Realist writers aimed at treating the material of slavery in a realistic fashion. The literatures tackling slavery consist of a sympathetic description of the enslaved and the brutality they endure. Slave narratives, however, were much more insightful when it comes to slavery as a theme.

The topic of slavery in literature, in most of the cases, is found in the writings of literate slaves or former slaves. Non-slave blacks of the Free States and white writers who were filled with abolitionist qualities as well made of slavery a major theme in their works. These works address vehemently or sometimes diplomatically the injustices towards slaves by their owners specifically and the white supremacist society generally (Andrews).

1.3.1 Slave Narratives

The period between the mid-eighteenth until the late-nineteenth century witnessed a birth and then rise of a new genre. This genre was innovative because it is a production of the African slave community, namely, “slave narratives”. It was the first black literary non-fiction prose. The narratives, as apparent from the term per se, feature the hardships of the African-Americans under slavery, but not after freedom. It might seem quite ironic that African slaves can write. Slave narratives are written by either the slaves themselves, or dictated to literate persons. The clearest examples of slave narratives in America are Olaudah

Equiano's *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano; or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* and most significantly Harriet Jacobs' *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. In these works, one cannot argue that there is any theme as central as that of slavery; the three authors placed an emphatic stress on the issue of slavery.

Olaudah Equiano was the first African-American to write a slave narrative in 1789, titled *Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano; or Gustavus Vassa, the African, Written by Himself*. In this slave narrative, Equiano takes slavery as his motif and theme. He describes with details his life from boyhood in West Africa until his capture there, then the journey through the dreadful transatlantic Middle Passage, to his eventual freedom and economic success in Britain (Greaver).

Equiano, as a black African who endured slavery, argues that slavery is indeed far worse than death as he describes how the blacks who were held captives against their will decide to commit suicide so that they do not get into slavery. He also describes the white men's captivity of blacks as a flagrant denial to human rights with no clear plausible justification (Vanspanckeren 13).

Like all the rest of slaves Equiano has been through beating and whipping in various stations including Africa, in the slave transporting ships and finally in the plantation where he has been working. He described the whipping and the beating as mutilating physically as well as spiritually as he was gradually losing his sense of self (Greaver).

Though the main explicit reason behind the writing of his narrative was a clear and daring protest against the International Slave Trade, yet he has passed by some touching facts about white masters as he was describing the relationship with his master Michael Henry Pascal, that he thought was profound and intimate, until his master sold him with no second thought as he were a mere property to another white man (Baena).

Frederick Douglass was born on a Maryland plantation where he was brought and exposed to the hardest conditions of slavery. In his very first years of youth, he was displaced out to the relatively liberal Baltimore household where, fortunately, he learned reading and writing. At 21 years of age, he escaped to Massachusetts in 1838. Helped by the abolitionist editor William Lloyd Garrison, Douglass made spread of anti-slavery ideals through lectures (Vanspanckeren46).

In 1845, Douglass published his best and most popular amongst many slave narratives: *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave*, what is commonly best known as Douglass's *Narrative*. It was popular like no other slave narrative was just few years after its publication (Vanspanckeren45). In his *Narrative*, Douglass made use of slavery as a central theme. He studied its impacts on both the lives of slaves and the slaveholders as he states that it destroys the individual personalities (Essays.ws Editors), reinforcing his viewpoint with many cases he witnessed or heard of besides his own sorrowful experiences.

On the other hand, Harriet Ann Jacobs was the first woman to write a slave narrative. She was born a slave in Edenton, North Carolina, in 1813. After her mother's death, Jacobs was sent to live with her mother's mistress, Margaret Horniblow, where she was taught to sew, read and write. After years of slavery there, she escaped and then was freed. Jacobs became an abolitionist major reformer after her single most influential slave narrative's publication; *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl* that was inspired from her own life after being enslaved and abused in another white man's property (Harriet Ann Jacobs Biography.com).

In her book-length narrative, Jacobs chronicles her experiences and the horrors of slavery and how slave women are treated just a little more than objects. Unlike Olaudah Equiano and Frederick Douglass who suffered from physical brutality and deprivation, she tackles slavery from a female angle as she talks with details about the sexual harassment by the masters and its psychological effects, in addition to the pressure of her masters' wife and oppression. The significance of her narrative resulted from the fact that she dealt with slavery from a very sensitive and

crucial side. She focused on the African-American women's mental and spiritual anguish as more devastating than slavery's physical abuse.

Harriet Jacobs gained the heavy title among the American historiographical canon due to the inter-disciplinary attribute of her narrative. In the narrative, she describes not only her endurance but also those of the white free women in the free-states to add a feminist touch to her work.

All of Olaudah Equiano, Frederick Douglass and Harriet Jacobs were educated black slaves who dealt with slavery as the major problem. However, slavery was dealt with by whites as inhumanity, but in form of novels not in form of non-fiction narratives.

1.3.2. White Novelists

Slavery was also found in the writings of some white abolitionist novelists. Due to her most popular fictitious novel; *Uncle Tom's Cabin; or, Life among the Lowly*, Harriet Beecher Stowe won the epithet of the first abolitionist writer. She was sharply criticized by pro-slave community. The book per se was written as a direct response to the Fugitive Slave Act to urge sympathy and feelings for slaves who endured all sorts of inhuman treatment.

Harriet Beecher Stowe took slavery from very sensitive levels; political, religious and social. Politically speaking, she described slavery as a contradiction in the United States of America as she described it as the nation that purportedly embodied democracy and equality for all men (Vanspanckeren44). Yet its dominant whites practiced slavery and abused the blacks who served them. Second, Stowe herself was surrounded with religious members including her father, brother and later her husband who were well-educated Protestant clergymen and effective reformers. She herself was a *ne plus ultra* of old New England Puritan stock (Vanspanckeren44). Based on her thorough religious grounds, Harriet Beecher Stowe severely attacks slavery and she states that it is a non-Christian practice and that the society whose fathers are Puritans should make an end to slavery at once.

Last but not least, Harriet Beecher Stowe highlights another aspect that is probably the main reason behind the rise of the abolitionist movement. She gives insights of some real-life slave experiences. Harriet Beecher Stowe had the guts to portray what whites do to the slave families, deeds such as selling members; usually fathers, that leads to the division of families and therefore destroys normal parental love. She described these deeds as crimes against the sanctity of domestic love that is indeed God's gift amongst humans (Vanspanckeren44).

Due to her humane goals, Harriet Beecher Stowe was successful in portraying and making a remarkable spread of anti-slavery mind-sets and the abolitionist cause amongst the pro-slavery American communities. Her novel was given a considerable rank among the anti-slavery canon. Another famous American novelist who dealt with slavery in his writings is Mark Twain. He dealt with slavery in many of his works and he defended the right of slaves to gain their freedom.

1.4. Mark Twain's Biography and Works

Mark Twain is the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens who was born in the Hamlet of Florida, Missouri, on November 30, 1835, the sixth child of John and Jane Clemens. He spent his childhood in Hannibal which served as a model to many towns in his books. It is a must to be aware about Mark Twain's family, hometown, opinions and his life because all these aspects had an immense influence on his literary work.

When he was four years old, Sam and his family moved to Hannibal, Missouri, a town on the bank of the Mississippi river. His father John Marshall Clemens worked in a general store (Sweets 01). Twain spent his young life in a prosperous family that owned a number of household slaves, yet the death of Clemens's father left the family in financial troubles.

Twain left school at the age of 12 after his father's death, and he became a printer apprentice at the *Hannibal Courier*. In 1851 he got a job in his brother Orion's journal *Hannibal Western Union*. This foreshadowed his future job as he

became in touch with all the events that happened in the town, and it provided him with experiences and materials for his writings. Then in 1857 he began learning the art of piloting a steamboat on the Mississippi. Mark Twain worked as a river boat pilot. He loved his job; it was exciting, and well paying. However by the outbreak of the Civil War in 1861 he lost his job because traffic on the Mississippi river was shut off. Life on the river can be seen throughout many works such as the scenes of *Huckleberry Finn* (“Mark Twain” Biography.com).

As soon as the Civil War began, the traffic along the Mississippi river stopped. First, Twain joined the confederate militia in 1861 due to his southern heritage but after two weeks only, he found out that it is foolish to die for nothing and deserted the army. He went west and worked as a gold miner, a profession at which he failed miserably. Mark Twain said:

I was a soldier two weeks once in the beginning of the war, and was hunted like a rat the whole time. Familiar? My splendid Kipling himself hasn't a more burn't in, hard-baked and unforgettable familiarity with that death-on-the pale-horse-with-hell-following-after which a raw soldier's first fortnight in the field--and which, without any doubt, is the most tremendous fortnight and the vividest he is ever going to see (Lombardi).

In February 1870 and at the age of 24 Mark Twain got married to Olivia (Livy) Langdon, the daughter of an abolitionist family in Elmira, New York. Olivia Clemens was considered to be frail in health; she played an essential role in the popularity of his collective works due to her moral influence and literary experience. The couple settled in Buffalo and later had four children. After many years of his marriage the family went through a couple of slight incidents that disturbed their bliss and brought them to a pessimistic mood. At first, they lost their toddler son Langdon, to diphtheria; in 1896 they lost their favourite daughter, Susy, at the age of 24, of spinal meningitis then his youngest daughter, Jean, died in 1909 at the age of 29 of a heart attack and in 1904 his wife Livy died after a long illness.

This immense loss made him live in hell till his death on April 21, 1910 at the age of 74 in Connecticut. He was buried in Elmira, New York (“Mark twain” Biography.com).

During the late 1860’s and the 1870’s Mark Twain’s writing, characterised by using different and various vernacular and dialect, gave him an immense celebrity. His novel *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) was an instant best seller and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) received even greater national acclaim and covered Twain’s position as a giant in American literary domain as the American nation grew and prospered economically in the post Civil War period. An era that was known as the Gilded Age because the United States witnessed prosperity and development in all aspects economically, politically and even in the field of literature. His works were well known and sold in all parts of America; this made him wealthy enough to build a large house in Hartford, Connecticut (“Mark twain” Sparknotes).

Mark Twain began working on *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* as a sequel to *Tom Sawyer*, in an effort to take advantage of the popularity of his earlier novel. This new novel took on more serious character, however, as Mark Twain focused progressively on the issue of slavery and the south. This pushed him to put it aside, perhaps because of its darker tone that did not fit the optimistic sentiment of the Gilded Age. Ernest Hemingway stated that: “all of American literature comes from one great book, Twain’s *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” (Vanspankeren 48). Thus, many writers considered Mark Twain as the father of American literature.

1.5. Conclusion

The hardships, the inhumanity, oppression, distress, racism and slavery were excellent motivations behind the birth of the slave narratives by black educated former slaves. The rising tensions between the anti-slavery north and the pro-slavery south that have been taking place in the years prior to the Civil War provided realist novelists with unprecedented materials for the white abolitionist

writers such as Harriet Beecher Stowe and Mark Twain to write about. They paved the way for the following generation of novelist to make a space for the theme of slavery a relevant theme in literature. Twain remains the best example of those who deal with the issue of slavery in their writings.

Chapter Two
**Slavery in *the Adventures of*
*Huckleberry Finn***

Outline Chapter Two

| | |
|--|----|
| 2.1. Introduction..... | 20 |
| 2.2. Synopsis..... | 20 |
| 2.3. Characters..... | 23 |
| 2.3.1 Huck Finn..... | 23 |
| 2.5.2. Jim..... | 26 |
| 2.3.3. Tom Sawyer..... | 28 |
| 2.3.4. Widow Douglass and Miss Watson..... | 29 |
| 2.3.5. Pap..... | 29 |
| 2.3.6. The Duke and the Dauphin | 30 |
| 2.3.7. The Grangerfords..... | 31 |
| 2.3.8. The Phelps..... | 32 |
| 2.4. Slavery in the Novel..... | 33 |
| 2.5. Conclusion..... | 36 |

2.1. Introduction

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is a novel that speaks about an important period in the American history. Mark Twain in his novel focuses on the ignorance of southern society and southern people in their support to slavery. He uses characters to embody real issues that blacks suffered from. Mark Twain as one of the great American novelists of the nineteenth century gives us a glimpse on life in the 1840s' in America.

2.2. Synopsis

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is a satirical novel. The novel starts when Tom Sawyer and Huck have each come into a considerable amount of money as a result of their earlier adventures (*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*). Both novels are set in the town of St. Petersburg, Missouri which lies on the Mississippi river. At the end of *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* Huckleberry Finn a very poor boy and Tom Sawyer a middle-class boy with a big imagination that he used for his own good, found a bag of gold that belongs to some robbers. As a result, Huck gained a big amount of money which the bank held for him (Spark notes. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*).

Huck, a young boy about thirteen years old, has been placed under the guardianship of the Widow Douglas, who, together with her sister, Miss Watson, is trying to civilize him with proper dress, manners and religious piety. Huck appreciates their effort but he found civilized life as imprisoning, confining and false and he would rather live free and wild.

The Widow Douglas she took me for her son, and allowed she would sivilize me; but it was rough living in the house all the time, considering how dismal regular and decent the widow was in all her ways (Twain 02).

But Huck could not stay in that house; with the help of Tom Sawyer he could run away one night past Miss Watson's slave Jim, to meet up with his band members. They both played tricks on the slave Jim, the first trick is when Tom suggests to attach Jim to a tree after he sleeps just for fun, as if Twain is trying to show us how black slaves suffered from white mistreatment and how they were not considered to be human but only as objects or tools to have fun "When we was ten foot off Tom whispered to me, and wanted to tie Jim to the tree for fun" (Twain 6). Also they make another trick on Jim when Tom and Huck climb into the house and steal three candles for which Tom laid five cents on the table for pay. Then Tom quietly makes his way to Jim, takes off Jim's hat and places it on a limb above Jim's head. After Jim wakes up he believes he has been bewitched. According to Huck Jim tells all the other slaves that he had been ridden around the state by some witches, and hung his hat on a limb to show who done it: "Jim said the witches bewitched him and put him in a trance, and rode him all over the State, and then set him under the trees again" (Twain 6).

Huck's life changed after the sudden reappearance of his lazy, drunken, abusive father "pap" in the story. His father was looking for the six thousand dollars, when he appears in the town he starts asking for Huck's money. "I've been in town two days, and I hain't heard nothing but about you bein' rich. I heard about it away down the river, too. That's why I come" (Twain 22). The local Judge, Judge Thatcher and the widow try to get legal custody yet another Judge in the town believes in the natural right of Huck's natural father and even tries to reform him, but pap soon returns to his bad habits, he walks around the town harassing his son. Meanwhile, Huck gives all his money to Judge Thatcher to keep it away from his father "I hain't got no money, I tell you. You ask Judge Thatcher; he'll tell you the same" (Twain 22).

Pap kidnaps him and locks him in an old cabin near the river, but Huck refuses to live in such a miserable situation, he finds out a solution. During the absence of his father he fakes his own murder and sets off down the Mississippi River. Huck encounters Miss Watson's slave Jim on an island called Jackson's Island. Jim has run away when he knew that Miss Watson was planning to sell him

down the Mississippi river “I hear old missus tell de widder she gwyne to sell me down to Orleans, but she didn’ want to, but she could git eight hund’d dollars for me, en it ‘uz sich a big stack o’ money she couldn’ resis” (Twain 45) so he ran away to Jackson’s island and his goal is to reach the free states.

Jim was trying to get to Cairo, Illinois and then to Ohio, a free state where slavery is outlawed in an attempt to buy his family’s freedom. The two decide to hide together. To avoid the danger of discovery they agree on floating down the river on a raft they found earlier at night and sleep during the day. At first Huck has doubts about whether to tell someone about Jim’s running away or not, afterwards when they talked together in depth Huck starts to know many things about Jim’s hard life. From this moment Huck’s opinion about black people and slavery start to change.

During their journey down the river, Huck and Jim miss the Cairo bend in the fog one night and find themselves floating deeper into slave territory. Huck’s and Jim’s raft is crashed by a steam boat and they are separated in the mighty river. Huck swims to the shore where he meets the Grangerfords, a local prosperous slaveholding family. Huck claims to be George Jackson, a passenger who fell from a steam boat.

“I warn’t prowling around, sir, I fell overboard off of the steamboat.”

“Oh, you did, did you? Strike a light there, somebody. What did you say your name was?”

“George Jackson, sir. I’m only a boy.” (Twain 99).

Huck becomes friend with Buck Grangerford a boy of his age and he knows from him that the Grangerfords family is engaged in a thirty year blood feud against another family, the Shepherdsons. Huck witnessed a violent eruption of the feud in which many people are killed, he finds Jim and returns to the raft.

Huckleberry Finn also tries to trick Jim when he reunites with him and he pretends that Jim dreamed up their entire separation “Oh, well, that’s all right, because a dream does tire a body like everything sometimes. But this one was a

staving dream; tell me all about it, Jim” (Twain 88). At the beginning Jim is convinced that his separation with Huck is not true and it is only a dream but later on Jim discovers that Huck tricks him when he observes all the remains, dirt and tree branches collected on the raft. “En all you wuz thinkin’ ‘bout wuz how you could make a fool uv ole Jim wid a lie” (Twain 89). He gets mad of Huck for making a fool of him after he had worried about him. But after all Huck feels bad and finally he apologizes, and he feels bad about hurting Jim.

Huck and Jim continue down the river until they meet two men calling themselves a King and a Duke who are being followed by armed bandits. They claim to be a displaced English duke (the Duke) and the long lost-heir to the French throne (the Dauphin). Powerless to tell the two adult men to leave, Huck and Jim continue down the river with the pair aristocrats. The duke and the dauphin start performing plays in many towns and went through a good deal of troubles. Afterwards the Duke and the Dauphin pretend to be Peter Wilks’ long lost brothers from England in an attempt from them to steal all the money left behind in his will, but they run away before they are caught. Huck gets free of them and continues searching for Jim who is sold by the king. He ends up at Tom Sawyer's Aunt Sally's house, where Tom and Huck rescue Jim “we had Jim out of the chains” (Twain 294). Then Tom reveals that Miss Watson has freed Jim before she died. Huck decides to travel west before anyone will try to “sivilize” him again.

2.3. Characters

All the characters in the novel are involved in the institution of slavery, either by being themselves slaves like Jim, or by owning slaves or making money from slavery.

2.3.1 Huck Finn

Huck is the protagonist and the narrator of the novel. From the beginnings Mark Twain makes it clear that Huck is a boy who comes from the lowest levels of white society and he therefore owns no slaves himself. In fact while we follow

Huck in *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* it appears that this young boy and thanks to his distance from normal society is cynical of the world around him and the ideas passed on to him particularly after he travels down the river. His experiences with Miss Watson's slave Jim force him to question the things society has taught him. Huck owns no slaves and this pushes him to help the slave Jim to reach his own freedom because he did not have that harsh attitude towards blacks and he discovers that blacks are humans just like white people. This is can be seen in chapter sixteen when Jim told Huck his plan to buy his family freedom "he would buy his wife, which was owned on a farm close to where Miss Watson lived; and then they would both work to buy the two children, and if their master wouldn't sell them, they'd get an Ab'litionist to go and steal them" (Twain 91-92).

Huck is a thirteen-year old boy, the son of the drunken man from St Petersburg, Missouri, a town on the bank of the Mississippi river. Huck shares his society's view of slavery which can be seen in chapter sixteen when Jim speaks about his freedom as they came near free states. Huck starts to have some doubts about guiding Jim towards his freedom "But you knowed he was running for his freedom, and you could a paddled ashore and told somebody" (Twain 91). The idea of Jim's freedom starts to trouble him, and he could not accept it because of what people and society will say about him and the fact he saves a slave. That act was not accepted at that time "I begun to get it through my head that he *was* most free—and who was to blame for it? Why, *me*. I couldn't get that out of my conscience, no how nor no way. It got to troubling me so I couldn't rest; I couldn't stay still in one place (Twain 91). Then he tries to write a letter to Tom and tell him to tell Miss Watson where he was (Jim) but he gives up the idea for two reasons. The first one is that Miss Watson would sell Jim down the river and people will make Jim feel ungrateful for the rest of his life because he ran away from his master and the second reason is that people would say that Huck helps a nigger to get his freedom: "Huck Finn helped a nigger to get his freedom; and if I was ever to see anybody from that town again I'd be ready to get down and lick his boots for shame (Twain 215). In this part of the novel Twain shows us to what extent society can shape people's mind and actions.

Huck Finn is one of the most important characters in the novel due to his inner struggle with his conscience. It is Huck's vision through which readers will see other characters and events of the novel. Huck views his surroundings with a practical and logical lens, he observes the environment and gives realistic description of the Mississippi river and the culture that dominates people of the south. The Widow Douglass tries to improve and civilize him but Huck rejects her attempts and maintains his independent ways. The society fails to protect him from his abusive drunken father. Huck's distance from normal society makes him mocking of the world around him and the ideas it passes on to him. Huck's instinctual disbelief and his experiences as he travels down the river force him to question the things society has taught him as well as he depicts a realistic view of common ignorance, slavery, and the inhumanity that follows. (Cliff Notes, Character Analysis Huckleberry Finn).

While moving down the Mississippi river and through their long journey on the raft and the hard situations that they encounter, Huck proves his natural cleverness while taking some final decisions that would upset the society. For example, when Huck and Jim meet a group of slave hunters and he tells a lie to save Jim, for him he knows that telling a lie is bad, but he does so for the sake of saving his friend Jim, in this case telling a lie is something right for him. For example the Smallpox story that he makes up for slave-hunters to protect the runaway slave Jim "Your pap's got the small-pox, and you know it precious well. Why didn't you come out and say so? Do you want to spread it all over?" (Twain 94). As Huck realizes it seems to be a good idea to tell a lie depending on its purpose (Spark Notes, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn NP).

Huck is still a child and every situation he encounters seems to be new for him and it represents a chance to learn more about this world. According to the law, Jim is Miss Watson's slave or property, but according to Huck's sense and justice it is more appropriate for him to help Jim rather than to take him back to his old life as a slave. When Huck ran back to the raft in order to run away with Jim from the King and the Duke, Jim is gone and Huck starts to cry because he could not save

him and he discovers from the young boy that his friend Jim is sold in the Phelps plantation “Down to Silas Phelps’ place, two mile below here. He’s a runaway nigger, and they’ve got him” (Twain 214).

Huck could be seen as a symbol for America, because when he talks with Jim on the raft he knows the suffering of Jim is due to civilization. As a result, in the novel, Huck is running away from civilization that caused him and his friend Jim many problems, they had problems with slave-hunters then with the con men who sold Huck’s friend Jim. Slavery is spread in this period and as if it is something obligatory because throughout the novel one may notice that all families in the south own slaves; “But I reckon I got to light out for the Territory ahead of the rest, because Aunt Sally she’s going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can’t stand it. I been there before” (Twain 295). Twain is demonstrating through the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* the fact that slavery in the south was accepted among people and it has nothing to do with morals and slave’s feelings.

When Huck says “he got to light out for the territory ahead of the rest”, he is taking the role of the pioneer: heading out to discover new natural country far away from this one, as soon as Aunt Sally plans to “sivilize” him, he starts thinking of running away and as if he running away from civilization that caused black people’s suffering and injustice. In his novel, Twain shows to what degree slaves were over exploited, oppressed and physically and mentally abused, he uses the character Jim to explain how inhumanely Jim was separated from his wife and children.

2.3.2. Jim

Jim is one of Miss Watson’s slaves; he is superstitious, sometimes sentimental and intelligent. He becomes Huck’s friend after they meet in Jackson’s island and they travelled down the Mississippi river.

Jim was separated from his wife and children. He misses them terribly and this was the main cause for his running away. He decides to buy his family freedom “would buy his wife, which was owned on a farm close to where Miss Watson

lived; and then they would both work to buy the two children” (Twain 92). His friendship with Huck and Tom proves that humanity has nothing to do with race. Jim considers Huck to be his loyal friend as he keeps his promise and saves him from the slave hunters who are running after five slaves “Well, there’s five niggers run off tonight up yonder, above the head of the bend. Is your man white or black?” (Twain 93). In this situation Huck tells a lie for the sake of saving his friend Jim, he tells the band that the man on the raft is a white man and he is his father (Pap) who is having the small-pox.

The fact that Jim is a black slave makes him at the mercy of all the characters of this novel and always forced to ridiculous and degrading situations. For example, he is sold to the Phelps’s for forty dollars with no mercy and Huck keeps searching for him “they could have the heart to serve Jim such a trick as that, and make him a slave again all his life, and amongst strangers, too, for forty dirty dollars” (Twain 215). In this case Twain is focusing on the issue of slavery and how can some people such as the King and the Duke make money by selling the black slave Jim even though Jim and Huck have helped the two to run away from many troubles.

Jim takes care over the young boy Huck as he provides for him shelter, food and protects him from many horrors that they encounter in their journey down the river, and he always chooses the right path for him. Jim is superstitious “Some young birds come along, flying a yard or two at a time and lighting. Jim said it was a sign it was going to rain” (Twain 47). At the beginning, Jim appears to be foolish to believe so trustily in these kind of signs and omens, it turns out curiously that many of his beliefs do indeed have some basis in reality “Pretty soon it darkened up, and begun to thunder and lighten; so, the birds was right about it. Directly it begun to rain, and it rained like all fury, too, and I never see the wind blow so” (Twain 51). So, they find a cavern in the island where they hide their things and it protects them from the rain. Huck at first considers Jim’s superstition as silly but he comes to appreciate Jim’s knowledge of the world.

Jim proves his fidelity when he risks his life and stays in the swamp waiting for Huck and even when Jim gets the chance to be free at the end of the novel he stays by Tom Sawyer’s side.

2.3.3. Tom Sawyer

Tom Sawyer is the same age as Huck and his best friend. Thanks to his imagination, he gives Huck access to complicated adventures found in Romantic novels. Tom has been raised in relative comfort, he believes in sticking strictly to social rules, most of which have more to do with style than morality or anyone's welfare. His behavior is the total opposite to that of Huck; Tom has a firm loyalty to rule while Huck has a tendency to question authority.

Tom represents the society of his time, the tricks he makes seem to be funny but in fact they show how much terrifying and unthinking society can be. Tom knows that Miss Watson is dead and the black slave Jim is free but he allows Jim to remain captive while he thinks of a fantastic escape plan and this shows us that Tom did not care about Jim and his freedom and he exemplifies to what extent society can shape a young man's behavior to become egotistical. Huck decides to help Jim and to free him from the Phelps's plantation. When he gets to the farm they think he is Tom, "Dear, dear, it does seem like I could eat you up! Children, it's your cousin Tom!—tell him howdy" (Twain 223). Huck knows that real Tom will come to the house so he went searching for him and when he finds him he asks him to steal the slave Jim out of the plantation. Huck is astonished because Tom agrees to help him: "Well, I let go all holts then, like I was shot. It was the most astonishing speech I ever heard" (Twain 228). Then they both start making plans to save Jim after they examine the cabin where Jim is being held. Huck's logical plan is to steal the keys from uncle Silas and unlock Jim but Tom finds this plan too simple "it's mild as goose-milk" (Twain 235). Then they decide to dig Jim out of the cabin and this plan is complicated and it will take a couple of weeks. Tom is trying to make the escape like the prison novel he has read.

Twain focuses in his novel on the issue of slavery and makes it one of the essential subjects dealt with to show black suffering. Many Characters in the novel are slaveholders like Miss Watson, the Grangerfords and the Phelps family while other characters profit from slavery in an indirect way such as the Duke and the

King who sell Miss Watson's slave Jim into the Phelps plantation in exchange for a cash reward and even Tom who wants to have fun at the expense of Jim.

2.3.4. Widow Douglass and Miss Watson

They are two wealthy sisters who live in a large house in St Petersburg and who adopt Huck in an attempt to civilize him. The Widow Douglass is a nice religious lady who takes Huck under her wing. Miss Watson is very severe and the most prominent representative of the hypocritical religious and social values Twain criticizes in the novel because she does not care about her black slave Jim and his separation from his family; "whoever saved him would send him back home so as to get the reward, and then Miss Watson would send him south" (Twain 79). When Huck acts in an inappropriate manner he fears disappointing the Widow Douglass more than Miss Watson because she is gentler in her beliefs and more patient with him. However, Miss Watson has freed Jim in her testament so that no one will own him after her death but during her lifetime, he must remain her slave.

2.3.5. Pap

Huck's father and the town drunken, Pap looks bad and terrible when he appears at the beginning of the novel with disgusting ghostly white skin and torn clothes. The illiterate Pap dislikes of Huck's education and beats him "he used to always whale me when he was sober and could get his hands on me" (Twain 12). Pap represents in the novel the failure of family structure and the degradation of white society because he is not searching for his son but when he knows that Huck owns enough money he locks him in the woods. Pap can also be seen as racist in the novel as he shows his racist attitude toward the rich "mulatter" when he blames the government for giving him the right to vote even though he is professor and can speak many languages and is more educated than Pap. He is not seen as a man or a member of the society. Due to Pap's racist attitude he underestimate this man "They said he could vote when he was at home. Well, that let me out. Thinks I, what is the country a-coming to? It was 'lection day, and I was just about to go and vote myself

if I warn't too drunk to get there" (Twain 29). In this case Twain is trying to shed light on the way white people always see blacks as inferior no matter about their social status and how much intelligence they had.

2.3.6. The Duke and the Dauphin

On their journey down the river Huck and Jim pick up two con men who claim to be descendent of royalty. The older tells them that he is a king and should be treated like one; while the younger tells them, he is a Duke and should be treated like one, they perform bad plays in many towns near the river. Huck knows about their trick and their lies but he has little choice since the two men are stronger and can turn Jim at any time "It didn't take me long to make up my mind that these liars warn't no kings nor dukes at all, but just low-down humbugs and frauds (Twain 127).

The king and the duke convinced the family that they are Wilks' brothers. In order to strengthen the confidence of the town, the duke and the king offer their portion of gold to the daughters "take it *all*. It's the gift of him that lays yonder, cold but joyful" (Twain 170). Huck betrays them when they scheme to steal the Wilks sisters out of their inheritance. Huck discovers where the king and the duke hide the gold therefore he takes the six thousand dollars and waits to give it back to its rightful owners "I'll hivy that money for them or bust" (Twain 178). Huck thinks to hide the money in the house but he had doubts that the king will find it, so he decides to hide the money in the coffin "I run in the parlor and took a swift look around, and the only place I see to hide the bag was in the coffin" (Twain 182). In this chapter Twain is focusing on the hypocrisy of the society and how the king and the Duke try to trick the daughters of the dead man just for the sake of stealing their money, they have no moral values or feelings toward these family members.

Then the King and the Duke sell the slave Jim for a meager reward. Mark Twain tries to show us how the Duke and the King could betray Huck, the boy who helps them and gives them shelter on his raft by selling Huck's friend the black slave with no mercy. "Because they could have the heart to serve Jim such a trick as

that, and make him a slave again all his life, and amongst strangers, too, for forty dirty dollars.” (Twain 215).

The King and the Duke cause harm to Jim and cause themselves moral harm by misunderstanding what it is to be human only for the sake of profit, because they sell Huck’s friend the black slave Jim without any thinking as if they are selling an object or something worthless.

2.3.7. The Grangerfords

A family that takes Huck in after a steam boat hits his raft on the river. This family is wealthy and Huck is impressed by their gaudily decorated home, they treat him with the utmost hospitality but only after they know he has nothing to do with the “Shepherdsons”. This family is stuck in a long standing feud with another local family, the Shepherdsons. Mark Twain uses these two families in his novel to mock of romanticized ideas about family honor. Ultimately, this feud gets many of the family members killed. The Grangerfords treat Huck as if he is their own son when the old lady takes care of him “Why, bless you, Saul, the poor thing’s as wet as he can be; and don’t you reckon it may be he’s hungry” (Twain 101). Through these characters, Twain is giving the reader some clear pictures about the families of that time because he sheds light on the contradiction that the family owns slaves and at the same time they take care about the boy Huck who is a stranger. The Grangerfords are very rich as they own a huge number of slaves in their plantation, each member of the family owns a slave. Even Huck was given a slave to serve him but he finds it strange to have a slave because he did not have the habit of having one “Each person had their own nigger to wait on them—Buck too. My nigger had a monstrous easy time, because I warn’t used to having anybody do anything for me” (Twain 109).

The “nigger” was following Huck in all the places. In this situation Twain is giving evidence about white people superiority and the way blacks are treated in society. Slavery is portrayed in the Grangerfords family, because each member of the family owns a slave. He also shows how Huck’s slave helps him to find Jim

who is hiding in the bushes “I poked into the place a-ways and come to a little open patch as big as a bedroom all hung around with vines, and found a man laying there asleep—and, by jings, it was my old Jim” (Twain 114). Here the role of the black slave is very important as he guides his master Huck to find Jim and from here Twain confirms that slaves are human and they are just like white people and should be treated in a good way.

2.3.8. The Phelps

Silas and Sally Phelps are Tom Sawyer’s aunt and uncle, whom Huck encounters on many occasions while he is searching for Jim after the con men have sold him. Sally is the sister of Tom’s Aunt, Polly. Essentially good people and typical Southerners, the Phelps hold Jim in custody and try to return him to his rightful owner. They keep him in a cabin and another slave takes food to the cabin where Jim is a prisoner “Well, the nigger unlocked the padlock when he went in, and he locked it again when he came out” (Twain 234).

Silas and Sally are the unknowing victims of many of Tom and Huck’s preparations in their attempts to free Jim. The Phelps are the only intact and functional family in the novel yet they are slaveholders, they own many slaves; “behind her comes her little white children, acting the same way the little niggers was going” (Twain 222). Twain also mentions the good treatments of this family toward strangers even if they own slaves, for example when Tom appears and pretends to look for Mr. Archibald Nichols house “Mr. Archibald Nichols, I presume?” (Twain 229) the old man tells him he is wrong and that his driver has deceived him, but he did not let him go and brings him inside the house for dinner. Twain is giving an image about the hypocrisy of society where people take care of white men whereas they keep their slaves locked inside cabins and they put an end to their freedom.

Sally Phelps’s sister “Aunt Polly- Tom’s aunt Polly” (Twain 1) appears at the end of the novel and properly identifies Huck, who has pretended to be Tom Sawyer and Tom, who has pretended to be his own younger brother, Sid.

Mark Twain introduces us to many types of characters; some of them own slaves while others make money from the institution of slavery. We meet Miss Watson, the Grangerford family and the Phelps who own slaves, on the other hand we also meet people like the Duke and the King who profit from the institution of slavery, because there are many markets of slavery where money can be made if you capture a slave (Negelsen NP).

2.7.Slavery in the Novel

The novel was published in 1852, it aims at reflecting the darker side of the American society and the evil of slavery during the 19th century. The book was set during the 1840's where slavery was not abolished, throughout the novel Twain speaks about families that owned slave in America (History.com).

Most of the themes portrayed in the novel are directly related to the issue of slavery such as: prejudice, racism, freedom and hypocrisy. The white people of this period in the south of America have many prejudices towards slaves. In his novel Mark Twain demonstrates to what extent this society is racist. This can be seen through many characters and the way they act towards blacks. The people of the towns are slave owners and they treat them with disrespect and they make them look like fools, for example when Tom and Huck trick the slave Jim and he thinks that he is bewitched. The fact that other slaves come from other part of the country to listen to his story is a kind of making fool of them "Niggers would come miles to hear Jim tell about it, and he was more looked up to than any nigger in that country" (Twain 6). Some characters even believe that the slaves belong to them as if they are a personal property and if they run towards their freedom, slave-owners would hire some people to bring back those slaves. As an example, in the novel, Miss Watson plans to sell Jim down the river "I hear old missus tell de widder she gwyne to sell me down to Orleans, but she didn' want to, but she could git eight hund'd dollars for me" (Twain 45). This is the main cause why he runs away from her.

Pap is also a racist man, when he gets drunk one night he explains how the government is too wonderful as he speaks of a black man who could speak many languages, the worst thing for Pap is that this person could vote in his town “but when they told me there was a State in this country where they’d let that nigger vote, I drawed out. I says I’ll never vote agin. Them’s the very words I said; they all heard me; and the country may rot for all me—” (Twain 29). In this situation Twain shows us to what extent Pap is racist and he refuses voting if the government gives the right of voting to a black man while in reality it is more appropriate for an educated black man to vote than for drunken Pap. Another situation of racism when Aunt Sally asks Huck if anyone get hurts he says “No’m. Killed a nigger” (Twain 223). She replies: “Well, it’s lucky; because sometimes people do get hurt”(Twain 223), as if when someone black dies it means nobody is getting hurt in this case slaves are not considered to be human.

Slavery is the main theme that Mark Twain focuses on in his novel through the character Jim who suffered from mistreatment and slavery. Even though Huck was raised in a society that supports slavery and as the novel progresses, one may notice that Huck’s feelings towards the slave Jim start to change when he discovers that Jim has a family but due to slavery he is away from his wife and children. At the beginning of the novel Huck has some doubts to save Jim because of what people will say about him and due to what he learns from society about blacks and the prejudices he has about them as inferior. For example, when Huck wrote a letter to Miss Watson Jim’s owner “I felt good and all washed clean of sin for the first time I had ever felt so in my life, and I knowed I could pray now” (Twain 216). In this situation Huck is confused between whether to tell Miss Watson about her slave and follow what society tells him to do or to follow his instinct and help Jim. Huck struggles with some prejudices about Blacks that society has ingrained in him and he challenges some traditional notions of the time.

Freedom is another important theme in the novel. It is shown into Jim being freed from slavery and his will to free his family member which is his goal in the novel “Jim won’t ever forgit you, Huck; you’s de bes’ fren’ Jim’s ever had; en

you's de *only* fren' ole Jim's got now" (Twain 92) when Jim sees the light of the free states he starts to thank Jim for helping him and he considers Huck as his best friend. Twain is blaming society for supporting slavery and giving slave owners the right to separate children wives from their families only for the sake of their benefits.

Even at the beginning of the novel a Judge of the town gives custody to Huck's abusive and drunken father even "it was a new judge that had just come, and he didn't know the old man; so, he said courts mustn't interfere and separate families if they could help it; said he'd druther not take a child away from its father" (Twain 22). The fact that the Judge is new in the town he did not know about the bad treatment of Pap towards his son Huck who prefers to live in the woods instead of living with his abusive, drunken father for this reason he gives custody to Pap while the Widow and the Judge Thatcher try to win Huck's custody. In this part of the novel Twain tries to make a link between Huck's suffering from his abusive father and the slave Jim who suffers from slave hunters and his owner at the same time, therefore Twain attempts to show race relations not just through Jim but even Huck, because his father treats him as if he is his own property and he locks him in the cabin just like they do to slaves for the sake of taking his money "Every little while he locked me in and went down to the store, three miles, to the ferry, and traded fish and game for whisky"(Twain 26). Twain makes the issue of custody looks like an analogy to slaveholding because The Widow and Judge Thatcher try to take Huck away from his father just like Jim who is running away from his master looking for his freedom.

Pap prevents Huck from educating himself and he beats him all the time, he even mocks on his son because he learns how to write and speak "ou're educated, too, they say—can read and write. You think you're better'n your father, now, don't you, because he can't? *i'll* take it out of you" (Twain 21). Twain is giving hints of Huck's suffering due to his drunken father who is always beating him for the sake of taking his money from Judge Thatcher in this point Twain is focusing on the cruelty of white people and the way they treat their own sons because they did not

beat only their Black slaves, and this can be seen through the character Pap who used to beat his son Huck and locks him inside the cabin in the woods.

By the end of the novel Twain does not make Jim run away from slavery and reach the North in defiance of the slave holding society but rather makes him free lawfully by his owner's will after her death here Twain is denouncing the fact that he is totally against slavery in the south and his aim is to free the slave Jim in the South as well all the other slaves and to give them their own freedom just like Blacks who lives in the North freely, Twain focuses on the fact that slavery should be outlawed in the South.

Twain attacks the hypocrisy of slavery. For example, the Widow Douglass and Miss Watson try to civilize Huck by teaching him Christian values but he knows that these values take more stock in the dead rather than in the living and they make Huck feel lonely, bored and uncomfortable (LitChart, Hypocrisy and Society). The contradiction between religion and slavery is hinted at right in the first pages of the novel when "they fetched the niggers in and had prayers" (Twain 3). Their Christianity does not make them treat slaves as human beings.

Indeed, Twain's attitude toward slavery is that he is against it. This is can be seen throughout the novel and especially characters' reaction towards others who support slavery. For example, the hypocrisy of Miss Watson because she preaches to Huck how she is going to live so as to go to the good place yet she owns slaves. Twain also shows his distaste for slavery by portraying Pap's ignorance. Pap, boasting his belief that he is superior to blacks, for example he did not want to vote when he hears about the free "nigger" (mulatto) who has the right to vote, as if he is trying to show his superiority towards blacks.

2.9. Conclusion

In his novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Mark Twain tries to ridicule southern society over important issues characterizing that period such as slavery and racism that black people suffered from and were considered to be inferior to whites.

For this reason, he uses real events and real characteristics inspired by living persons. The novel does not support slavery but it denounces it through the society that Huck and Jim belong to and suffer from this society and the way its people behave.

General Conclusion

To conclude what has been studied in this research, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a novel which had the courage to assail the arrogant belief of white Southerners in their superiority to Negroes. After a deep examination and analysis of the novel, it appears that Mark Twain is totally against slavery and racism through his satirical tone of writing and the different elements of the story such as characters for example when Pap mocks of the black man who had the will to vote, he considered him as inhuman and have no rights to vote like any other white man. Through this character we can see the foolishness and ignorance of Pap and the focus on his racist act.

That Twain is not racist can be seen through the character Huck Finn, who in the beginning is like any Southern person who sees Blacks as inferior and not human as they are only slaves and property who have no right to do anything. But when Huck starts his journey down the Mississippi river with the black slave Jim, he realizes that Jim protects him from dangerous situations they encounter. All these aspects indicate that the slave Jim is really human and sensitive person, from here Huck recognizes that Jim has the total right to live freely with his family and he merits respect and admiration. From this point, Huck's behaviour towards the slave Jim starts to change as it becomes more positive, he starts to believe in his conscience to help Jim to be free despite the fact that he will confront his society rules, showing that Twain is totally against slavery.

It appears through the novel that Twain is completely against slavery and racism when he portrays the character Jim as sensitive, honest and reasonable like loyal friend and real father who cares for his family. On the other hand, Twain makes the white character Pap who mistreats his own son Huck and his bad habits in contrast to Jim. Twain also uses some white characters' behaviour's to criticize the hypocrisy of society and civilization as well as to show to what extent they support slavery. For example, the King and the Duke who are frauds and they trick

many innocent people, the Shepherdsons and the Grangerfords two feuding families whose main reason is to kill each other with no mercy.

Twain wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* with a negative view of society to show his real opinion that he is against the thoughts and beliefs of southern people over different issues such as slavery and racism through characters actions and behaviour. Furthermore, he portrays southern society that is filled with ill racist behaviour.

The events of the story happened before the Civil War when slavery was still legal and he focuses on slaves suffering through Jim. Twain also criticise the hypocrisy of society through Miss Watson who owned the slave Jim and Aunt Sally who believe that slavery is obligatory for life even though they are ethically correct and religious. They agree to sell Jim down the river and separate him from his family. This creates moral confusion and shows Mark Twain's view that society is full of evil and corruption. Also, when Jim is captured by the King and the Duke they sell him without hesitation and all what they were looking for is the reward.

When Huck sees the acts of the Duke and the King and the way they treat Jim who becomes his loyal friend, he starts to have doubts about what he learns from society. He cannot understand why people treat Blacks in such bad way, then he begins to understand the injustice of society and he decides to run away.

Mark Twain denounces the social acts and values of the southern society focussing on the issue of slavery and racism during the pre-civil war era, he believes that there is no reason for the whites, whether devoted Christians or aristocracy to believe they are superior to Blacks. Twain Criticizes Southerners for not being caring and loving persons towards slaves but they are rather spoilt by their chase for money, heaven and lost honour.

Unfortunately, this negative racist attitude towards blacks in the United States can still be found even nowadays, two centuries after the publication of Twain's novel which proves how far sighted and visionary he was.

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