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The Suppression and Objectification of Black Women: A Postcolonial Feminist Perspective on Afro-American Fiction

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Abstract

The current research deals with the suppression and objectification of black women in Afro-American novels from postcolonial perspective. Third world women have been oppressed and their objectification has been contrived by patriarchal society despite independence from first world hegemony. Women have been socially, culturally, ethnically and the grounds of gender, sex and race have been marginalized. The researcher intakes the similar problems in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes were Watching God* from postcolonial feminist perspective and the theory of Alice Walker's womanism is selected to endorse the researcher's stance. Further close textual analysis is selected as a research method. The finding of the research shows that black women in the selected novels have been objectified and suppressed by third world men on several grounds and the writers have very appropriately attracted women to raise their voices against the patriarchal society.

Key words: *Suppression, Objectification, Womanism, Feminism, postcolonial*

Introduction and background:

Man and women are living in once society or we can say that man is social animal who formulates a society. The relationship of society with man is

interdependent. The question rises that man is the only formulator of the society, why not woman? Because women give birth to children and continuum of the society is seen in progress since long. So, simply why society is not related with women or why a woman is not called social animal. This may be a nonsense question for common man or for common people but the discussion comes to serious debate when an intellectual woman starts thinking that why woman is not called so. In such question from a woman we can see the glimpse of resistance and the persuasion for equality.

The above paragraph is might be not a valid justification for the women's resistance and persuasion of equality but every society is likely full of such questions which exist in the mind of women which make them thinking for their rights and equality. They give the name of gender discriminations made by men because of their weak position in the society. Therefore, they are liable to follow to men who are responsible for their earning and their caring while in women are premised to domestication. Further, women are dependent on men because they cannot develop their power for earning and their economic position cannot meet their requirements, so, they have follow men. Furthermore, women cannot move without the consent of men and they become more inferior which lead them to their suppression and exploitation. They simply call it gender discrimination which has imposed by men and biologically woman is not woman but it is the society which makes woman. I will certainly refer my arguments to my simple statement about that man is social animal and that animal forces to make a woman a woman of his own. De Beauvoir (1973) says; "One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman".

In response to gender discriminations women started resisting against the men which led to a strong struggle, is called feminism. Feminism comprises a set of views and ideas advocating for equal rights between men and women. Women are subjected to unequal treatment solely based on their gender. It also pertains to cultural ideas on women. It is commonly known as the behavior and attitude towards women that aims to bring about change (Autumn & Taylor, 2006, Pp.139-40).

The word feminism is not dominant tool in literature which is used by females' writers, critics and theorists to challenge the patriarchal order and structure. However, feminism is a movement which started in 19th century in Europe as French Philosopher Charles Fourier coined the word *feminisme*. Feminism is not simply a resistance to men but it is a wide domain of ideologies, political and social movements which set on common shared goals of women to seek

and establish the equal rights of women such as; personal rights, political and economic rights, social rights, educational rights, employment opportunities and most important is equal rights for woman. Furthermore, the feminism resists to the violence of women likewise sexual harassment, rape and violation.

The movement resulted beneficial output for women which brought some success to them as they got the right to vote, right of property, right to work, wages and equal pay, equal education, rights to marriages, maternity rights and other rights which were not given to them in past. Further, their suppression has been eliminated through this movement.

The movement does not stop with the equal rights and eradication of suppression but it goes on and still in progress because issues are not fully resolved such as black feminist who raised their voices because feminism as started in Europe could not come up with the problem of black people. Therefore, black woman started their own movement that is called black feminism.

The term black feminism has the same approach as feminism holds but uniqueness of this movement is the discrimination of black women by white women because of the black race and class. The suppression of black women has seen in all grounds of life which lead them to the complex of inferiority. Black women do not see any way out and no one was available to console them. Black women did not only face discriminatory attitude from white women but they also face the discriminations of their community males as well which gives the concept of double marginalization, first by white woman and secondly by the men of their community. As a result of these discriminations some intellectual women got motivated to raise their voices for their equal rights and status, and to eliminate the injustices manipulated by patriarchy. The movement was founded with the aim of safeguarding the rights of African American women. Alice Walker and her adherents propose the notion that black women encountered significant oppression at the hands of white women. They began to perceive themselves as the most marginalized and disregarded women, primarily due to their social class and race (Cliff, 1996, p. 29)”.

Further, many other feminist scholar have raised their voices for the rights of black women. As Patrica Hill Collins defines black feminism; The perspectives shared by black women of lower socioeconomic status, based on their personal encounters with discriminatory treatment from white women throughout

various aspects of life, are referred to as black feminism. They had provided a distinctive perspective on themselves and their community. (Noted in Smith, 1998)". The movement stimulates black women to identify their problems and awaken the consciousness of black women to speak for their equal rights and social status. Due to this movement the "National Black Organization" was inaugurated in the year 1973 to focus on the issue of racism faced by the black African and Afro-American women. The organization helped out black women to unite them to demand their equal rights in the society as well as equal treatment in all phases of their lives. "It got success . As the women started to realize their rights, they started to feel relaxation (Davis, 1981)". Further, the black women were exploited by their men as above discussed. The black man was following white women but as the black women movement started that resulted equal rights and in position for them in 20th century as the slogan highlighted the issue of gender inequality, particularly among marginalized groups such as poor women, black American women, Indian women, Puerto Rican women, and others. (Alexander & Albert, 2003)".

Furthermore, the black people were once colonized by the white people. Black people writing falls in the paradigm of postcolonial studies while the black woman writer from the post-colonial feminist perspective as they have been double marginalized as the colonization of the colonizers and the internal exploitation by black men categorize them postcolonial feminist writers as well.

Research statement:

Third world woman since long has been represented a marginalized entity in different literary works. Third world men are declared responsible for their marginalization and suppression because third world men never raised voices for women in their society. Although third world men got independence from colonizers but they did not give equal rights to women. As result women have been suppressed and objectified that have reported in different writings. Women started their response against patriarchal society in their writings. The current research deals with the same problem of objectification and suppression of women in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Research Questions:

- How third world women have been contrived generally in Afro-American context?

- How and why third world women have been suppressed and objectified in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*?
- How and why third world women have been suppressed and objectified in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*?

Research Objectives

- To explore and investigate the position of Afro-American context.
- To show the suppression and objectification of black women in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*.
- To show the suppression and objectification of black women in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes were Watching God*.

Significance of the research:

The current research is significant because third world women have been given inferior position in Afro-American society, despite the fact that after emancipation from the first world influence, third world men expanded their influences to women and marginalized them. The current research therefore shows the exploitation, suppression and objectification of women as contrived by men. The research further shows the crux of Afro-American society in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

Delimitation of the research

Afro-American fiction has multiple representations of women, largely the bleak images of women have been shown and they are objectified and suppressed. However, the topic is stimulating but it is not possible to research entire repository of Afro-American fiction. Therefore, the current research is delimited to Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*.

THEORITCAL FRAMEWORK

The current research deals with the suppression and objectification of black women that is hot area in Postcolonial studies. The purpose of suppression and objectification of black women is premised to give them voice and take them to subjective position. The underline phenomenon is endorsed through Alice Walker's theory of Womenism presented in "*In Search of Our Mothers Gardens*" (1983). The theory is presented for the emancipation of black

women. Walker presented triangle of meaning that are “outrageous, audacious, courageous or *wilfull* behavior (1984: xi)”. The sole purpose and objective of his triangle meaning is to prepare women to raise her voice against the rude attitude of man, living in Afro-American society. Further, women’s “wanting to know more and in greater depth than is considered ‘good’ for one (*ibid*)” while the next approach of theory is to give black women a glimpse of prosperity, different from “girlish, which means frivolous, irresponsible, not serious (1984: xi)”. Walker declares black women for their exploitation and suppression and presents to identify their problems. Walker’s stance has been initiated by several creative writers in their writing.

Alice Walker not only presented the idea of suppression and expression of black women, identified through her theory but she also stimulates black women through womanism to reach to self-actualization. The purpose of self-actualization is to address their problems such as sexism, gender discrimination, racism, harassment and many issues that are triggered by patriarchy. However, the unique facet of womanism is that it fascinates black men to work together with women for the betterment of the society. Walker’s approach is universal that attracts both man and woman to work together for harmonized society.

Walker also propagates the struggle of woman and stimulates them for their self-consciousness in Womanism to identify their problems and speak against the patriarchy and struggle for all gender discrimination, sexual harassment, racism, sexism and other gender injustices of the man both of black and white men. Walker presents a universal phenomenon through the concept of Wamonism which exclusively calls for the whole community of woman.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The current section deals with research methodology, the backbone of any research that is considered to be an activity based on epistemology. The purpose of research methodology is to present different research methods and approaches for the current research. The current research is qualitative and it explores the suppression and objectification of black women in Afro-American fiction. Further, the research uses postcolonial paradigm as a theory that is applied on the selected text to be analyzed with reference to close textual analysis as a research method.

REVIEW ON OBJECTIFICATION OF WOMEN:

Black women in the American society have been long history which is negatively stereotyped as they are shown submissive at one time while disobedient at the other. Initially they were slave and as they got free of the slavery they transformed to more mental torture when they were the source of pleasure for white men who fostered them to racism and they were represented with bleak image. Therefore, their image has been objectified throughout the history with bodies, irrationality and submission to both white and black men. The objectification of black women is liable to rape, dehumanization, exploitation, sexism and patriarchy which have been manipulated by both white and black men. Collins (2000) says; “the treatment of Black women's bodies in Europe and the United States may serve as the fundamental basis for the portrayal of women's objectification, dominance, and control in current pornography.” (136). Collins is of the opinion that black women are only objectified with their bodies and they do not have their own self-consciousness through that they can give their representation. Further, it is seen that black women, due to their historical subjugation and physical characteristics, are noticeably absent and marginalized in white visual culture. (Smith-Shomade, 2002, P.33)”. Smith keenly observes that black women have been only objectified with the body and they are sexually harassed by white man. This physical harassment make them more slaved and oppressed as Dow (1980) gives the description of black women who were taken to America as their bodies were inspected by Army and got pleasure from them. On certain slave ships, the ordinary sailors are permitted to engage in sexual relations with Black women. The officers are allowed to freely pursue their passions among themselves, often to the point of indulging in excessive behavior that brings shame upon humanity. (Dow, P. 145)”. This objectification of black women has seen through in American history as they are in contact with them. The present study gives the objectification of Zora Neale Hurston’ s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937) and Alice Walker’s *The Color Purple* (1982).

Objectification and suppression of black women in Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*

Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937) shows the story of a mixed black and white heritage girl Janie Crawford which is not shown to be a good time during for Janie Crawford. Since her teenage she was looking for true love. The novel is annexed with the emotional growth and maturity of some characters which have seen through their marriages. The writer shows three marriages of the

protagonist in the novel which is the results of her exploitation and suppression in the novel.

The novel shows the impact of colonization and male-dominated practices on African people who came to America as slaves which explicitly give birth to oppression and suppression of the African people living in America. Therefore, the black women from Afro-American society pass through the double oppression and double colonization as shown in the novel. The suppression and exploitation have been shown in the novel by both white and black males, and people from both communities have played their role with discriminated treatment to black women. Instead of their hard domestication black women were the source of sexual pleasure for their husbands and the sexual taste was not only limited to black males but it has been shown a source to white man as well because they enjoy at all with black women. Further, this pleasure was mandatory because of their yielding to colonizers. The novel presents the black woman as an object of sex and put to periphery. As a result of women suppression the of black woman is obsessed in the novel and the characters like Janie, Joe and Nanny are the central examples who struggle with the double marginalization in the novel and consume themselves with the sense of self consciousness and their experiences take to the grown and mature position in the novel.

The novel operates its theme with patriarchy which is counted a biggest obstacle in the progress of women's social, economical and political life. Further, the race and class are also present the experiences of women in the novel. Furthermore, the gender role which simply stereotyped the women's role with the traditional views of gender, as a result the construction of self of black women is seen in the novel. The novel challenges the suppression and oppression of African male-dominated tradition through the protagonist Janie and her grandmother due to their self-consciousness and their consciousness present the whole of black women consciousness. They come to know that women are only oppressed by the patriarchy and they have been excluded from social and cultural practices of life and the suppression is the objectification of white male who stereotyped and oversimplified black women through the character of Nanny, Janie and her mother. As it has been discussed above that black woman is only the object of sexual fantasy in the novel. The rape of black women by white males is a constant obsession for Nanny which causes a serious anxiety for her. Nanny believes in marriage for Janie which is more protected for her because her grandmother was aware about the sexual exploitation of white men.

Woman is seen as an object for sex in the novel as they have vigilant eyes on the bodies of women only to get pleasure. They are respected as shown in the novel;

The men noticed her firm buttocks like she had grape fruits in her hip pockets; the great rope of black hair swinging to her waist and unraveling in the wind like a plume; then her pugnacious breasts trying to bore holes in her shirt. They, the men, were saving with the mind what they lost with the eye. The women took the faded shirt and muddy overalls and laid them away for remembrance. It was a weapon against her strength and if it turned out of no significance, still it was a hope that she might fall to their level some day (1937; pp. 2-3).

It shows that black woman has no identity of their own. They are merely presented with their bodies and they do not present any role in society except of sex. Further, the practice of sexual harassment is continue when the raping of black women in the novel is reported as Nanny's discussion shows in the novel; "After you was born she took to drinkin' likker and stayin' out nights. Couldn't git her to stay here and nowhere else. Lawd knows where she is right now (1978, p. 30)". Further, she narrates in detail about the reaping of the black women in the novel; "they (white men) rob the black female of all her will and dreams to be a human being, since the it reduces theses women to work-ox and brood sow (Ibdi, P. 28). Furthermore, the issue of rape is more strengthen and the reader get frightened when Nanny narrates her own story of being raped by the white man which resulted to the birth of Janie's mother and the more frightened for Nanny was her resemblance was close to white brown people. "Nigger, whut's yo' baby doin' wid gray eyes and yaller hair? (Ibid, p. 29)". We see the practice of rape in the novel, affecting the black women by white man as we come to know that Nanny the grandmother of the protagonists herself becomes the victim of the brutality of white men. The novel shows that the black women is only objectified with the sexuality not more than that and their education seem to be ironically rape as shows in the novel; "after you was born she took to drinkin' likker and stayin' out nights. Couldn't git her to stay here and nowhere else. Lawd knows where she is right now" (1937, 30).

Throughout the novel the violence and sexual harassment is visible. Though not easy to assimilated white women with the same aspect of sexual harassment, so, harassment of black women is resulted just because the black race which is time and again highlighted like rape and sexual harassment by Zora Neale Hurston. The novel presents consecutively the issue of racism which takes the black women to double marginalization as discussed above. The issue of racism is seen from the start of the novel is Janie is telling her story to Phoebe that she has been inferior since the age of six because of her black race. This black race has developed another identity for Janie a black identity as Washburn a white family sees her for the first time and come to know that she is black and make fun of her blackness; All individuals, including Mr. Washburn, expressed amusement. Miss Niele, the mother of the children who returned home following her husband's death, gestured at the child with a darker complexion and remarked, "That's you, Alphabet. Don't you recognize yourself?" They used to nickname me Alphabet since numerous people had given me different names. I examined the picture for a considerable amount of time and observed that it depicted my outfit and hairstyle. Consequently, I said, "Oh! Oh!" I am of a non-white racial background. Then they all laughed uproariously. However, before to seeing the photo, I believed that I was similar to everyone else (1937, p. 24).

Throughout the novel the laughter about the black people is continued. Laughter connotes that black people are deprived of their selfhood in the novel and suggest the objectification of them. Further, in the novel we see that Janie and her grandmother have been called with the Alphabets, they presents no name which can be assimilated to that they don't have their own identity of their own. They are the white Washburn family who dictate them and manipulate their identity as Alphabets only. Janie tells Phoby that how they were treated as black in the society and how they were mocked; "Den dey all laughed real hard... us lived dere havin' full till e chillun at school got to teasin' me bout livin in de white folks back-yard (1979, p. 24)". The suffering of black identity is teasing one for them because as they are mocked, their position become more teasing and exploited.

The novel is full of racisms which show the exploitation and suffering of the black people. Their rape and sexual harassment in the novel are the result of the racism because we do not see any sexual harassment of white women in the novel. We do not see any laughter against the white women. However, we cannot undermine own black men who are also responsible for their

exploitation and suffering in the novel. Patriarchal discourse a dominant in the novel which take black women to double marginalization and their silenced voices were kept silenced by their black men. The patriarchal discourse has put black female in oppressive binary opposition because of the favorite position for male. This patriarchal discourse further sees an object in the society limited to their houses while man is term as a subjective, always present in case of absence. The subjective and present position of the male presents him a powerful and females are liable to follow man. The black women were forced to go to plantation where they worked as laborer. Hurston goes takes the issue of oppression and exploitation of black women when she gives widespread objectification of black women as they are oversimplified through the characters of Janie and her grandmother. As discussed above the sexual harassment of black women is one of the examples of patriarchy. Janie is liable in the novel when her husband dies and she helpless and she were watching God; “what she doin’ coming back here in dem overalls? Can’t she find no dress to put on? Where all dat money her husband took and died and left her? What dat ole forty year ole ‘omen don’ wid her hair swingin’ down her back lak some young gal? where she left dat young lad of aboy she went off here wid? Though she was going to marry? Where he left her (1937, p. 18)”. The statement indicates that patriarchal order is dominant in the novel and women are liable to follow their males. The re-marriage of Janie shows that patriarchal order is not only dominant in the novel but women’s existence without men is also inevitable as Janie marries three times in the novel. Further, women are limited to men’s order and they are sick of their wives as Sam’s view about women is narrated by Phoby;

Mah huband git so sick of ‘eh, sometime he makes ‘em all git for home... yea, sam say most of ‘em goes to church so they’ll be sure to rise in judgment. Dat’s de day dat every secret is s’posed to be made known. They wants to be there and hear it all (1937. P. 21).

Further, in oppose to men, women are limited to houses as in Porch’s sitting Sam is talking about social, political and economical issues and talks about women that they are limited only to women and they cannot go to church as well other public places. He generalizes simply women and they don’t have any potential of their own. His definition of women is; “women in a way which ascribes a set of negative traits to them, since they are “them””.

The novel is full of exploitation and suffering of black women which shows the suffering of black women in Afro-American culture as we discussed above their exploitation, suffering, rape, sexual harassment, depriving them from their rights and many other gender discrimination. These exploitation and suffering of women force them to raise their voice the patriarchal orders to subsume their position.

Suppression and objectification of black women in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*

Alice Walker highlights the issues of black women in her novels, as she is called a socialist. Like other black writers she also resists to the injustices of the women. She is called socialist because she worked for black women and raised their self-consciousness. Her struggles for women and to resist to both black and white women she presents the concept of Womanism is different from feminism. Although, Womanism is not different from feminism which is used for the rights, freedom and equalities of women and to respond to the injustices of patriarchy but it gives the concept of womanhood to identify the women's culture. The black women were exploited and suffered throughout by white people and black people as well as discussed above. In the course of these exploitation they became the victims of sexism, racism and other gender discrimination. Black women have raised their hand against the oppression as they have prompted the concept of womanism to awaken their self-consciousness of their own; "it is essential that black women recognize the special vantage point their marginality given them and make use of this perspective to criticize the dominant racist, classist, sexist hegemony as well as to envision and create a counter-hegemony (Hooks, 1994). Womanism is based on the writing of black women to highlight their problems as the white women got almost all rights such as; right to vote, right to education, properties rights, equal jobs, equal salaries, and even right to abortion but black women have still kept away from their rights as we have discussed above the status of black women in America. Black women were considering that they have been deprived of their rights as the "feminist movement narrow and elitist because it is markedly white, middle-class, Western, and heterosexual, and consequently has been participating in the marginalization of women of color, working-class women, Third World women and lesbians (Ward & Herndl, 1997: 259)". Black women reject the strands of feminism which has not output for black women. Therefore, they thought of their own movement to stand with the rights of black women and eliminated the injustices which is done by both white and

black women and re-write their position which have left out empty by the white women during feminist revolution. Smith says; they “seeks to explore representations of black women’s lives through techniques of analysis which suspend the variables of race, class, and gender in mutually interrogative relation (Smith, 1997: 318)”. Alice Walker is highly strong activist who awakened the self-consciousness of black women and preferred womanism rather than feminism. Womanism is based on the opinion of sisterhood which stands for the rights of all women even sometime she recalls males that they can help to organize a homorganic society free of racism and other discrimination. Christian accumulates;

The awareness that we too seek to homogenize the world of our Sisters, to fix ourselves in boxes and categories through jargon, theory, abstraction, is upon us” (Christian, 1997: 54).

“The Color Purple” (1982), presents the same reflection of sisterhood, awakening the self-consciousness of black women which also brings Pulitzer Prize and fame to Alice Walker. The novel suggests that how success is brought to the life of black women when they identify their self and realize their position. Instead of success Alice Walker does not undermine the objectification of black women. Though, success is the part of black women in the novel but their objectification in the novel is the appropriate representation of black women in Afro-American society as she goes for the weak position of black women and both white women and black man are their rulers. Walker highlights all the discrimination of the Afro-American society which is based on exploitation and suffering, the main cause for their exploitation is shown their illiteracy and poverty as we see the main character of the novel Celie who is life form childhood is full of exploitation and suffering as she has been raped by her stepfather and further she is exploited by her husband. The patriarchal order of the black society give the objectification of women in a bleak image as the protagonist Celie has been manipulated.

The novel is called painterly novel which deals with the spectrum and of colors being exploited and suffered. She is that much oppressed in the novel where she seeks no survivor in the society to save her from the oppression of patriarchy and finally she seeks the assistance of God in the novel. As her father tells himself to call God for your help; “you better not never to tell nobody but God. It’d kill your mammy (1982, P 11)”. The objectification of

women is annexed with the body and sexual harassment. She writes a letter to God to complaints against her suffering “nobody but God” (1). The black woman is objected to sexual pleasures whether they are harassed by the white man or the black man. Alice Walker portrayals of such objectification to extreme position and Celie’s portrayal is reflection of the black women who is constantly reaped by her step-father. The letter to God symbolizes here that the black women have no expectation from either white women or black men to survive them and they are helpless. Therefore, Black women are waiting for intervention for divine mercy to be assisted. Celie is encouraging herself that “I am fourteen years old” (1). It shows that she is going to fight against the suppression of her father but next she changes her mind as she says; “I am I have always been a good girl” (1). It shows that is addicted to the suppression and can bear this burden.

Further, the exploration of Celie by her husband is another example of the black women who are not comfortable with their husbands as well because the same impact on black women has seen in the novel as Celie’s husband Albert beats her time and again, and nobody can stop him from doing so as Harpo asks him why you beat Celie “cause she my wife” (1982, p. 30), Albert simply answers. It shows that black women have no place in Afro-American society and they are considered only the inferior creatures. The patriarchal order is dominant throughout novel because women cannot resist to men. As Celie is beaten by her husband and she narrates to her sister; “he beat me like he beat the children. Cept he don’t never hardly beat them. He say, Celie, git the belt. The children be outside the room peeking through the cracks. It all I can do not to cry. I make myself, Celie, you a tree. That’s how come I know trees fear man (1982, p 30)”. Celie’s sister forces her to fight with her husband but she cannot do anything because she has not power for fighting; “I don’t know how to fight. All I know how to do is stay alive (1982, pp. 25-26)”.

The novel does not only give the objectification of black women through the character of Celie but Shug is also objectified in the same way which shows the exclusive exploitation and suffering of black women. The novel is full of oppression of black women which has been appropriately highlighted by Alice Walker in her novel and she gives the objectification of the women as they were deemed to be seen in Afro-American society.

CONCLUSION

Both novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937) and *The Color Purple* (1982) give the objectification of black women. The story of Janie in the novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937) and the story of Celie in the novel *The Color Purple* (1982) give the same description of their exploitation and suffering. Both novel give the description of the rape and sexual harassment of black women while they are considered the black race which make them more targeted. They are only presented with bodies while they do not possess any spiritual, moral and emotional qualities. They have been totally deprived of their rights and freedom while they are limited to houses. They face the rude order of patriarchy as well as the white man, even the black men do not support them as they are raped and exploited which take them double marginalization; first by white and secondly by their black men.

Therefore, we come to know that both Zora Neale Hurston and Alice Walker give the description of the objectification of black women in their novels which have been challenged by both writers. However, both have adopted different approaches to resist and give voice to the silenced voices of the black women.

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