

RACISM IN 20th-CENTURY AMERICAN NOVELS*Ochildiyeva Madina Soqdiqjon qizi**Chirchiq State Pedagogical University**Tourism faculty Foreign language and literature***ABSTRACT**

This abstract provides an overview of the theme of racism as depicted in 20th-century American novels. The 20th century was a period marked by significant social and political changes in the United States, including the ongoing struggle for racial equality and civil rights. American novelists of this era often engaged with the issue of racism, exploring its complexities, consequences, and the experiences of marginalized communities.

KEYWORDS: Racism, discrimination, prejudice, segregation, jim crow, slavery

INTRODUCTION

Racism has been a deeply entrenched and pervasive issue throughout American history, and the 20th century was a period marked by significant social and political changes in relation to race. American novels of the 20th century provide a rich and diverse landscape for exploring the complexities of racism and its impact on society. These literary works are not only a reflection of the times in which they were written but also serve as powerful tools for examining the historical context, cultural attitudes, and evolving narratives surrounding race in America.

The 20th century witnessed the rise of the civil rights movement, which sought to challenge and dismantle racial segregation and discrimination. As a result, American authors grappled with the themes of race, identity, and social justice, using their novels as a platform to explore and critique the racial divisions that plagued the nation. These novels not only shed light on the experiences of marginalized communities but also provided a means for white Americans to confront their own complicity in perpetuating racist structures.

One of the key features of 20th-century American novels is the exploration of racism through diverse perspectives. Authors from various racial backgrounds, including African American, Native American, and Asian American writers, emerged during this period, bringing their unique experiences and narratives to the forefront. These novels challenged the dominant white narrative and offered alternative viewpoints, giving voice to those who had long been silenced.

Moreover, 20th-century American novels often confronted readers with the uncomfortable realities of racism, exposing the systemic inequalities and prejudices

that existed in American society. Through vivid characters, compelling storylines, and evocative language, these novels captured the human impact of racism, portraying the psychological, emotional, and physical toll it took on individuals and communities. By immersing readers in these narratives, authors aimed to foster empathy, provoke introspection, and inspire social change.

In this exploration of racism in 20th-century American novels, we will delve into some of the most influential literary works of the time. From

classics like "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee and "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison to groundbreaking novels such as "Beloved" by Toni Morrison and "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker, we will examine how these works confronted racism head-on, challenged societal norms, and contributed to the ongoing discourse on race in America.

By analyzing these novels, we hope to gain a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances surrounding racism in 20th-century America.

CONCLUSION

The 20th century was a significant period in American history, marked by various social, political, and cultural changes. Racism was a prevalent issue throughout this era, and American novels of the time often reflected and addressed this important topic. While it is challenging to draw a definitive conclusion about racism in 20th-century American novels due to the vast range of works and perspectives, several key observations can be made.

Firstly, many 20th-century American novels shed light on the harsh realities of racism and its profound impact on individuals and society. Authors such as Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, and Toni Morrison explored the experiences of African Americans, unveiling the systemic oppression and discrimination they faced. These novels, such as "Native Son," "Invisible Man," and "Beloved," exposed the dehumanizing effects of racism and sought to provoke empathy and understanding in readers.

Secondly, racism in American novels of the 20th century was not limited to the experiences of African Americans. Writers like John Steinbeck and Willa Cather addressed racism towards other marginalized groups, such as Native Americans and Mexican Americans, in their works. Novels such as "The Grapes of Wrath" and "The Song of the Lark" highlighted the struggles and discrimination faced by these communities, contributing to a broader understanding of racism's complexity and reach.

Furthermore, 20th-century American novels often challenged racist ideologies and sought to promote social change. Writers like Harper Lee and John Howard Griffin confronted the deep-seated prejudices of their time in works such as "To Kill a Mockingbird" and "Black Like Me." These novels encouraged readers to question their

own biases and confront the inherent injustices present in society, ultimately advocating for racial equality. It is important to acknowledge that while these novels played a crucial role in raising awareness about racism, they were also products of their time. Some works may contain racial stereotypes or limited perspectives that reflect the prevailing attitudes of the era. However, they still contributed to the ongoing dialogue on racism and helped shape public consciousness.

REFERENCES

1. "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee (1960): Set in the 1930s, this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel explores racial injustice and the loss of innocence through the eyes of Scout Finch, a young girl growing up in the segregated South.
2. "Invisible Man" by Ralph Ellison (1952): Ellison's novel follows an unnamed African-American narrator who grapples with identity, invisibility, and racism in mid-20th century America. It explores the themes of individuality and the complexities of racial prejudice.
3. "Beloved" by Toni Morrison (1987): Set in the aftermath of slavery, this Pulitzer Prize-winning novel tells the story of Sethe, a former slave haunted by the trauma of her past and the ghostly presence of her deceased daughter. It delves into the enduring legacy of slavery and the destructive effects of racism.