

PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF MOHAMED BOUDIAF-M'SILA

FACULTY OF LETTERS AND LANGUAGES

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE

N°.....



DOMAINE: FOREIGN LANGUAGES

STREAM: ENGLISH LANGUAGE

OPTION: LITERATURE&CIVILIZATION

**Analyzing the Whitewashing Syndrome:
Revisiting Kathryn
Stockett White Trichotomy in the Help**

**Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Letters and English Language
in Partial Fulfilment for Master's Degree**

Candidates:

Ms. Bechami Ichrak

Ms. Aidel Ikram

Supervisor:

Mr. Youcef Benna

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Dedication

To all the medical personnel in this country and the whole world, we salute you for fighting in the front lines of what has been one of the worst years in the history of humankind. And especially to Dr. Wafa Boudissa who sacrificed her life as well as that of her child in the line of duty.

I would like to dedicate this humble work to all my 21 family members, from my father Mr. Ahmed Bechami and my mother, to all of my saplings and nephews, till our two little one-month-old munchkins Adam and Youssef, and especially to my brother Mr. Haider Bechami who have supported me in each step throughout my life.

Bechami Ichrak.

Dedication

To all the oppressed people all over the world from occupied Palestine till racist America, we salute you for taking action against injustice and inequality, especially to George Floyd who died under police brutality recently.

I will also like to dedicate this work to my father Pr. Aidel Salih, my mother, and the rest of my siblings for their support and belief in me. I would also like too dedicated it to my friends.

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Abstract

The problem of Whitewashing has been and still is a thorny issue in the whole world especially in the American society. The present research aims at revealing this problem which is considered a main social issue that triggers African Americans, and represents how they suffer from less representation in movies, books, and art. Moreover, how black people were discriminated against in history, and how the white Americans are represented as white saviors throughout Kathryn Stockett 2009 novel. This study adopted critical whiteness studies and Sigmund Freud theories which best examine the psychological and sociological aspects of the characters' behavior in the novel. Finally, our analysis aims at trying to find how the writer projected herself in the novel.

Key words: Whitewashing, Psychoanalysis, Whiteness.

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General Introduction

The white things of the early nineteenth century signified more than racial concerns—including the traditional understandings of moral purity, as well as refinement and democracy, cleanliness, femininity, and order. (Heneghan, 14).

The American society enjoys a rich history of injustice towards minorities, slavery was and will remain a black point in the archives of the land of the free. After a great amount of suffering, The Harlem Renaissance, and the Civil Rights movement slavery was at last abolished on January 31 1865 by the Thirteenth Amendment of the American Constitution. People might look at slavery as long gone, but the bitter fact is that it remains solid till this very day, it took on different shapes and forms to hide the rigid belief in the superiority of the white race. People's morals and values are triggered by their experience in life, therefore, individuals in American society are influenced heavily by their society and their psychology. Many authors tend to go back to such eras and change events to polish the image of both their race and themselves.

Statement of the Problem

Psychology is a mesmerizing academic field that investigates the human mental capacities to find a link between their thoughts and actions. On the other hand, sociologists have tried to combine history, culture and recent events to discover the patterns the society uses to influence human behavior, while literature was created as an escape from the real world, it is the fantasy of the writers mixed with the experience of their lifetime, so it is influenced by both the respected fields. Indeed concepts like psychological projection and whiteness influence a great deal of American postmodern novels and art. Moreover

contemporary literary and artistic depictions are filled with whitewashing, due to severe psychological and sociological issues. Whitewashing is the erasing of minorities presents in academia, news, media, art, and other outlets, it is obvious the trend of the new millennium is the removal of minority bodies and voices.

Research Methodology

Psychoanalysis is a branch of psychology that has spread to reach many other fields, one of which is literature. Its main idea is to link theoretical notions like defense mechanisms, psychological projection, and inferiority complex to human behavior and creations. Scientists the likes of Sigmund Freud, Jacques Lacan, Gustav Fritsch, Bluma Zeigarnik spent a lifetime extracting experimental data from patients to understand the reasons behind certain behavioral patterns, and the relationship it has with both the conscious and unconscious parts of the brain. Freud took it a step further when he explained his notion of dream analysis, and that literature is the same as dreams influenced by the unconscious (Habib, p579). In addition to psychology, whiteness has a major influence on postmodern American art (Fishkin, 429), and the field of sociology dedicated a branch to study such phenomena called critical whiteness studies. Such theories have contributed lately in highlighting the corrupted white individuals, who dedicate their works to support the superiority of the white race, authors who create whitewashed masterpieces tend to have one of the sociological issues the field of critical whiteness studies discusses and tries to remove.

Kathryn Stockett is an American novelist mainly known for her 2009 debut novel *The Help*. Her works often depict feelings and emotions and describe how people cope with each other in different time eras. Her famous novel *The Help* was translated to two languages, and its movie adaptation went to collect an Oscar nomination for Best Picture

(Marjorie, 2010). It presented the struggle of African-American domestic workers through the lens of a white woman. The novel unveils the heroic actions of its white protagonist, who risks her life to voice the voiceless.

The novel takes place in the Jim Crow 1960s segregated America. A time when inequality replaced slavery in the southern parts of the country. Whiteness has been criticized by the black community for ages, and nowadays even white theorists are rejecting all of its aspects. Whiteness, color blindness, the white savior, and white supremacy are all created by white supremacists to establish the idea of equal opportunities, and that the poor situation of the black community is a result of their inferiority, when in fact segregation destroyed the lives of many black generations. Whiteness serves the white race's best interests, and it happens to be a major cause of whitewashing. As such *The Help's* characters suffer from the lack of appropriate moral values, they are defeated by their blind belief in the superiority of the white race.

Psychoanalysis also happened to be the perfect theory to investigate this postmodern work, as the writer's psychology leaked into all of her characters. The protagonist is the writer's surrogate, thus her behavior comes from within the writers and conscious brain. "A happy person never fantasies, only an unsatisfied one (sick), and the motive forces of fantasy is the fulfillment of a wish, a correction of unsatisfying reality". (Freud, 439). In this perspective, it is clear that the novel is used by the writer as a defense mechanism to solve unresolved psychological issues, both Stockett and her protagonist show severe symptoms of psychological projection.

Literature Review

Kathryn Stockett debut book *The Help* was America's best-seller in 2009, and critics have both praised and criticized the work, having a white author and a white

protagonist led to a controversial discussions among the book audience, which was divided into pro and against. Whitewashing is a phenomenon that emerged in America during the last decades, and its reasons remain a mystery. Though many researchers have tried to analyze both the work and the whitewashing phenomenon, no one have linked both into one study.

The topic of racism in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* have been talked about in much research thesis since its publication in 2009. One of which is a thesis submitted to the University of Baghdad entitled: "The Suffering of Afro-American Maids in Kathryn Stockett *The Help*", Hanan Abbass Hussein explained the color segregation and its effects on African American maids in the Mississippi according to Kathryn Stockett *The Help*.

Abbass 2016 thought that the ill treatment and negligence the maids receive from their masters have effected their personality somehow, which led to their suffering. Living in a complicated society where struggling is the highlight of their day, leads them eventually to freeing themselves through writing a book about their chronicles in their white masters houses to feel somehow equal to them. Throughout the dissertation the researcher is concerned with racism and how it effects the different characters in the book, leading them to take important decisions in their lives. Skeeter' the white character' is mentioned as the savior and hero who goes against his own race to say the truth, and stands with what is right, but the issue of the author being white is not tackled by this research.

Bridget T. Heneghan in her book *Whitewashing America* tried to explain the power of the white things, which exceeded their simple visual presentation in both literature and archeology. White things were given a great importance in the life of American consumers, as being superior to those objects of black culture. The writer mentioned that this significant given to white objects made people perceive it as a subject inanimate

personality, but literature invest the white thing with an imaginary 'action context' by contemporary authors who are embedded in the thing's own culture (Heneghan, 20). Giving it a social life within the fictional creation of the writer. The writer thinks that the white thing is a commodity capable of making historical change.

Another study explained anger in Kathryn Stockett the help as the cure of racism, due to the fact that it is a powerful tool even though refused by most people and by the society itself for causing problems and troubles, but the right kind of it could indeed help the person reach the impossible. For the researcher racism is the mother of all sins, but anger could be the answer to decrease it, as most of the characters in the book are angry at someone or something. He clearly explains that anger cannot be always destructive and that it can be instructive, for in the case of the help it is anger which leads to the creation of that book by the narrators, which will help set them free from segregation. Mohamed also thinks that the author of the book herself is angry with the American society that manifests racism.

In an article written in 2017 by one Fatemeh Aziz Mohammadi to the International Journal of Humanities and Social Development Research of the Islamic Azad University of Iran, in which Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* was studied from Patricia Hill Collin's view of black feminism. The writer highlight the oppression of black females, sexism, racism and social differences in the book. For her the author showed the reader what is to see the world from the view of a black female, who is segregated against in two ways, being black and being a woman. She also tried to list the different stereotypes and images that are introduced and shaped by the racist society for the sole purpose of oppressing black females, which are prevalent through the novel. The writer took the study of this novel from racism to something deeper, which is the double suffrage of the black female in opposed to that of the black male and then to that of the white women.

Chimmamanda Ngozi Achebe's take on whitewashing appeared in her conference *The Danger of a Single Story*, in which she herself admitted the fact that if it was not for the writings of Chinua Achebe, she would not have had the chance to know that black characters could exist in literature. For all western literature was black free.

Another researcher conducted a study entitled: "White lies: A Critical Race Study of Power and Privilege". In it the researcher attempted to investigate the racial privilege as experienced by white people, who have problems of becoming more racially and socially aware when it comes to racism. Also the ways in which these white people could active in dismantling racism and white privilege. Findings revealed by this study indicate that white people struggle with their intention to not be racist, when in fact they could not help but act in racist ways. The researcher didn't mention whitewashing in the study even though all of its symptoms are highlighted in it.

Purpose and Aims of the Study

Racism existed since the light of dawn, and though society believes that it was abolished, it keeps on emerging in new forms every day, highlighted nowadays by the Whitewashing phenomena. So the main aim of this study is to reveal the true meaning and aspects of the Whitewashing syndrome by analyzing most of its symptoms, it is intended that the research findings will provide an insight on the true purposes behind the emergence of such behavior. As it will dwell inside the white society and the psychology of its inhabitants.

This study will demonstrate if this phenomena was the result of a sense or a complex of superiority, simply a defense mechanism that the other use to protect itself, or the writer's psychological projection of her own rejection into this weak fragile black characters as well as her need for change. For this reason examining the factors which

endorse such behavior within a society is yet another crucial step to realize the bigger aim of this conduct.

This research offers a psychological and sociological insight to the reader, thus it highlights the issues of white supremacy that is considered one of the crucial problems in the American society, it also shows how the human unconscious brain could lead them to fatal traps like whitewashing a novel and expose them to heavy criticism. Moreover, it indicates the effects of society and psychology on the human mind, as well as the effects of whitewashing on the colored upcoming generations.

Different theories were included to clarify the choice of the methodology followed for the explanation of the novel, the main one is psychoanalysis. The research indicates that several aspects of psychoanalytical themes such as psychological projection, defense mechanisms, unconscious drives, and their existence in the novel *The Help*. It also highlights the character's complex of inferiority, psychological malfunctions, and selfishness.

Another theory which the research relies on is critical whiteness studies that is to explain the nature of the white supremacist characters and their lack of moral values. The research has adopted several concepts of this Theory including white supremacy, white privilege, color blindness, and apologia. These concepts are viewed in the characters of the novel at hand to help highlight the white savior character as well as the Strategic Centering of whiteness, which play major roles in classifying this masterpiece in the whitewashed postmodern depictions.

Hence in this study concepts from both the psychological and sociological fields are explored through a trichotomy of white characters. In other words, this study tries to link theoretical concepts to the behavioral patterns demonstrated by the characters of *The Help*

and its writer. It works on finding the reasons that led to the emergence of whitewashing and its impact on the American society. It deals with how these concepts helped the spread of default sociological norms and corrupt psyche.

Significance of the Study

The significance of this study lies in that fact that nobody has ever tackled the topic of racism from the white point of view, or what is called whitewashing, from both the psychological and sociological points of view, Thus to unveil this darkness and complexity, which surround the American literature and link it to the mental aspects as well as the behavior of people within the society would be a privilege.

Research Questions

Hence this research will be conducted to answer the following main question: What are the underlying psychological and sociological motives that lead to the emergence of Whitewashing in modern American artistic depictions? And how they are manifested in Kathryn Stockett *The Help*? To answer this question, the study must answer the following sub-questions: What is the Whitewashing syndrome? How does Kathryn Stockett represent the white characters in her novel entitled *The Help*? How does defense mechanisms work for a particular person? And did the writer use parts of her own biography to complete this work? How does *The Help* strategically center and redeem whiteness? Does the protagonist projects her own failure to be accepted on the black characters?

Research Design

For the purpose of answering the research questions mentioned above, *The Help* will be analyzed as a study case, then the findings of the study will be generalized on American literary and artistic works.

Introduction

The first chapter discusses the theoretical framework, socio-historical, and biographical background. To begin the theoretical framework explores the Freudian psychoanalysis with references to experimental data gathered through years of observation. It reviews how the unconscious mind controlled by the unconscious Id influence human behavior. It also explains the Great resemblance between literature and dreams, making this Theory perfect for the analysis of literary works. Hence the theoretical part focuses on the theories of Sigmund Freud and their use in the literary field. It Reviews the Works of several psychologists such as Anna Freud to depict important psychological Concepts.

The first Chapter also presents crucial sociological notions, and their impact on American literature and lifestyle, referring to many sociologists, historians, and journalists who dedicated their life work to explain such phenomena. It explains the whitewashing syndrome, its historical background, and artistic manifestations. This chapter also analysis Kathryn Stockett's life and body of work.

The second chapter is devoted to the analysis of the novel from both Freudian psychoanalysis and whiteness studies insights. It attempts to highlight the character's complex of superiority and unconscious prejudice. On the other hand, discover whether Kathryn Stockett was influenced by white supremacy or unconscious guilt. It also reveals how her life leaked into this work.

Furthermore, this chapter aims at discovering the impacts of whitewashing on the American society and the black children, as the presence of color in artistic outlets is prevented. It explores the characters' faith in white supremacy and portrays the character of Skeeter as the white savior she is, which reveals the author's attempt to improve the image of the white race. Consequently, this dissertation examines the reasons for whitewashing and how the characters depict it in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help*.

CHAPTER ONE

Theoretical Framework, Socio-historical and Biographical Background of Whitewashing

1. Introduction

Whitewashing's original meaning is the process of covering or cleaning but in nowadays cultural perspectives it is a stain in American history that will not be forgotten. It spread overtime to politics, education, and literature. This phenomenon made a great impact on the cultural identity of all American society, blacks, and whites and continues to rob the coming generations the blessing of the truth. In order to fully understand the Whitewashing phenomenon, it is a must to tackle it from a variety of fields that is to understand its impact on American society and arts. So this chapter will approach the mentioned above social practice from psychological, sociological, and historical points of view.

First, the psychoanalytical theory coined by Sigmund Freud has been applied to several literary texts to clarify and interpret the motives that led to the creation of such works, furthermore, it explains the comprehension, feelings, behaviors, and attitudes of particular characters, for this field of study has the capacity to dwell inside the human mind and explore the unconscious, for that we will apply the psychoanalytical principles all over the research to obtain accurate results on the unconscious dreams and desires of the main characters, and those of the writer herself. Second a sociological approach is a must for such a study because this behavior affects society as a whole and the culture, which happens to be the backbone of society. The main function of this approach is the analysis of contemporary cultures, politics, and historical foundations, and to investigate how social practices like whiteness or post-racial ideologies are associated with the emergence of social phenomenon

like Whitewashing. Finally revisiting history, ancient monuments, arts, and cinematic productions of Hollywood to see the marks left by American historians, authors, filmmakers, and artists who all took part in the deformation and misrepresentation of the American society.

In order to understand the psychological, cultural and sociological motives behind Kathryn Stockett *the Help* this chapter will provide an overview of the psychological principles required in the study, by explaining both Freudian concepts, which are rooted in the minds of our selected trichotomy of characters. This chapter will also explain several sociological ideologies applied by the author to protect the supremacy of the white society like apologia and redemption, furthermore, it will provide a historical background of history, cinema, and literature as well as the writer's own biography, and the impact her life had on this literary, masterpiece.

2. Section one: Psychoanalysis from Freudian Perspectives

2.1.Freudian Psychoanalytic Criticism

Such interpretations of literary texts and figures like Shakespeare's plays were not done by critics. Rather, a man came from a different field of study. Trained as a doctor and a therapist. Sigmund Freud not only created a whole new discipline and medical field. Namely, psychoanalysis but also developed concepts and ideas that have an enormous impact on literary criticism.

Freud pointed out that language revealed hidden desires, anxieties, and fears. According to Freud desires do not express itself easily because culture does not allow it. So, he insists on paying attention to language and other forms of symbolic expression, gestures, sounds, facial expression, and writing. In fact, Freud was exploring the link between language and the unconscious that became the core that both the psychoanalytic practices and criticism

studies. (Nayar, 64). But the unconscious finds ways to express itself and this is what literary text and language allow. In fact, Freud's greatest observation, the mechanisms of the unconscious of desires and fears. "Psychoanalytic criticism therefore explores, the language of the unconscious of the repressed and the hidden as embodied in the literary or cultural text. Such as art of fiction, with particular attention to the repression of sexuality and its desires", as well, psychoanalytic criticism reveals (the subject) of the author's work through the images, the language, and the codes in his work. (Ibid, 65).

2.2.Selected Freudian Concepts and Principles Required in the Study

Psychoanalysis is a set of psychological theories and therapeutic methods that have originated in the work and theories of Sigmund Freud. Moreover, the primary assumption of psychoanalysis is the belief that all people possess unconscious thoughts, feelings, desires, and memories. The study will investigate concepts of defense mechanisms, psychological projection, Id Ego, and Superego, the Conscious and the Unconscious, and the notion of Dream analysis.

2.3.The Unconscious Mind

People's actions and behaviors are sometimes unconscious, unfamiliar, and unreasonable, thus hard to predict. According to his theory of the psyche Freud subdivided the human mind into three components that are the conscious, the preconscious, and the unconscious (Freud, 159), which in a way shaped his great contributions in the field of psychology and of course to all humanity. These perspectives revolutionized the way people interpreted attitudes and actions, he notes that there are reasons and drives behind all kinds of behavior, hence he began to experiment with the concept of the unconscious mind to explain conducts that people performed on a daily basis.

Chapter one

The term unconscious, preconscious, and conscious are international, Starting with the conscious mind that consists of all mental processes, feelings and thoughts people are aware of, simply a person being familiar with particular events and things happening around him, in which he has complete control over his actions. For example a person may feel thirsty, hungry, or bored and takes upon a certain action to satisfy his desire. Freud compared the human mind to an iceberg, and consciousness is the tip of that iceberg. Secondly the preconscious which exists just below the level of conscious and consists of what is named available memory. Memories of people's names, particular meals or events, and even a person's phone number are not usually what people think of, but are easily recalled once a person feels the urge or the need for it, even if he is not aware of the process in which this kind of information resurface to the conscious level. Freud described the preconscious as a "mental waiting room" in which thoughts remain until they succeed in attracting the eye of the conscious (Freud and Riviere 306). Finally the preconscious may consist of mild emotions, but traumatic, powerful, and negative feelings that must have been somehow distressing (alarming, painful, shameful) and commonly accrue during childhood are not available on this level. This kind of memory is hard to remember because the brain precisely the unconscious took the decision to expunge it from the conscious mind. This level of the brain also includes unethical, dark desires, guilty secrets, and hidden drives that ignite bad behavior that should not reach the conscious mind (Wade and Travis 16-17). And that is the whole point behind the third level of awareness, which responsible for storing all of these thoughts as a kind of repression to protect the person's mental health. Mcloud noted that many researchers support the idea that these thoughts and feelings do influence judgment, feelings, and behavior even if it is inaccessible to consciousness (Mcloud). Freud also divided the human personality into three levels, the Ego and the Superego which have

materials at all three levels of consciousness, and the entirely unconscious Id. (Geraskov, and Asenov 626) the latter part will be given a further explanation in the next part.

The unconscious is a founding factor of our psyche, so we can no longer have a firm judgment of an author's intentions, nor take for granted the different aspects and motives behind any literary work such as the novel at hands.

2.4. Defense Mechanisms in Psychoanalysis

According to Sigmund Freud, the concept of defense mechanisms is described as a mental operation that keeps painful thoughts and affects out of awareness. (Williams, 637). Another definition, defense mechanisms help resolve conflicts whether triggered by internal or external stressors. Also, Freud shows the clear nature of defense mechanisms, that the compulsive conflict takes place between the Ego and Id. In psychoanalysis these defenses have been portrayed as unconscious and can be categorized as successful, where expressions of the instinctual drives are allowed, and unsuccessful, because the instinct is not expressed, continuous repetition of the defense is required, Additionally, Freud argued that (sublimation consist in abandoning the sexual aim for another, which is no longer sexual) and within this category, there are various defenses. There are two processes involved, the first change from active into passive or reversal of context for example love becomes hate. Moreover, according to Freud states that the essence of repression lies in the function of rejection and keeping something out of consciousness, and there are two types. . (Hentschel, 3, 4).

First, primal repression, this is the first phase and refers to the denial of entry into consciousness of the mental presentation of the instinct. Second, repression proper, this concerns the mental associations of the repressed presentation, which also denied entry into

consciousness. This mental energy is transformed into effects especially anxiety. (Hentschel, 4)

As well projection is the attribution of one's own unacceptable impulses and ideas to others. Also according to Freud, isolation is peculiar; to obsessional neurosis, experiences are isolated from their associations and emotions. Finally, Regression, Freud argues that the process by which the ego regresses to an earlier stage can be used as a defense. . (Ibid, 5) These are the main defenses described in Freudian theory, and they are used to protect the ego from pain.

2.5.Psychoanalytic Projection

Psychological projection is one of the many defense mechanisms the unconscious mind employs to cope with difficult feelings and emotions. It involves projecting undesirable feelings onto someone else, rather than admitting or dealing with it. As in the novel the help, the character of Skeeter projects her fear of being unacceptable and weak onto the black characters, and the author herself is projecting her sense of guilt. According to M.A.R. Habib quotation of Freud in his book a history of literary criticism, a happy person does not feel the urge to create a different world or reality:

A happy person never fantasies, only an unsatisfied one (sick), and the motive forces of fantasy is the fulfillment of a wish, a correction of unsatisfying reality. (Freud, 1989, p. 439) QIN (M.A.R. Habib, 2005, p. 580).

Freud defined the mechanisms of projection by explaining that the Ego of a person expels whatever within itself that is causing displeasure (Freud 136). He notes that the Superego being idealistic convinces the mind that feelings such as hatred or weakness are unacceptable, but the Ego tries to solve the problem by making the unaware mind believe that these feelings are performed by another person, thus projecting someone's own default

emotions onto another to feel better. Anna Freud who continued her father's work thought that projection makes people get rid of all the negative painful thoughts, things they are ashamed to think of. She considered it as the perfect method to break the connection between the personification of dangerous impulses and the ego (A. Freud 122).

In her 2019 article, Nancy McWilliams explained projection as a powerful psychological defense tool to alter the past, and redirect bad behavior, thus relax the human mind from its painful internal struggle. She believes patients tend to agree that the undesirable impulses, drives, actions, and weak emotions they have arisen not from within, but from an outside object, thus denying all their aggressive drives and recognizing it as coming from someone else, which makes projection unconscious and destructive (McWilliams). This action makes their mental and social life exactable, even Freud noticed that his patients felt better when they accused others, mainly doctors of having the same feelings they had. Freud argued that this was the best tool for his thereby scions (Freud 496). A simple example is that when a person hates someone else, but cannot admit that he is capable of hatred due to his Superego, he just says that the only reason I hate him or she is because they feel the same for me.

2.6.Freudian Notion of Dream Analysis

Literature is a very complex creation, made by the neuro-cells of a particular person. This creation takes a long way across various stages to reach its final readable state and is interpreted in several ways according to the impact it leaves on the readers. Any literary work cannot be judged from one perspective but should be analyzed through and through to reach a glimpse of what the author meant by producing it. For many researchers literature is somehow like a dream, something the writer cannot reach, therefore, he writes about to relax his mind from thoughts that can never be fulfilled in reality.

Chapter one

Sigmund Freud made huge contributions to the field of psychology, one of which is the dream analysis or the means to explore the unconscious mind. In 1900 the father of psychoanalysis published his famous “book The Interpretation of Dreams” that revolutionized the way people perceived dreams and was a step forward in the field. In it Freud explained that dreams content is derived from real-life events, but somehow not identical to it, so he thought that some connection must exist between the two. He argued that dreams must be the way the unconscious mind tries to express itself and that it comes from hidden desires and drives that cannot reach the conscious while the person is awake, hence through dreams all those inhibitions are released and the tensions relaxed. He made it clear that a dream is the way wishes came true (Freud 122). Freud notes that dreams are good at disguising their true purpose (Ibid, 168).

Freud divided the dream into two contents, the manifested and the latent, the manifest means all that a person remembers upon waking up, things that make perfect sense and are possible in real life. This content is always useful and has the ability to convey a message. On the other hand, the latent content contains hidden messages that are the true reason behind the dream, messages that come from the unconscious suppressed drives. He believes the latent content to be a wish for the dreamer, a wish that can only be fulfilled through a dream (Freud 156)

M.A.R. Habib explained Freud’s findings about dream analysis and creative writing. He notes that Freud viewed works of art as fictional fulfillments of unconscious drives like dreams, and that the only way to interpret it is to find a common ground between the varieties of elements in both the artist’s life and his work, thus figuring out his mental instinctual impulses. (Habib 579). He also quoted Freud’s explanation of the connection between the life a writer and his work.

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Dream analysis began with Freud in the summer of 1895 when he was agonized by his failure to treat one of his patients. The feeling of guilt led Freud to dream about meeting her at a party, where he noticed that she was infected by a dirty syringe from another doctor and that her condition is in no way his fault. Freud believes that dreams are the pathway to the unconscious, the method to fulfill the fantasies and repressed emotions stored up in the mind denied all access to the real world (Freud 41). Irma's injection became the inspiration that led Freud to spend two years writing "The Interpretation of Dreams". From this, it is obvious that Kathryn Stockett's feeling of guilt may have also led her to write a novel about black people, where not all white people are racist, and where in the end the white society is somehow redeemed of its hideous history:

A strong experience in the present awakens in the creative writer a memory of an earlier experience (usually belonging to his childhood) from which there now proceeds a wish, which finds its fulfillment in the creative work. (Freud, 1989, p. 442) QIN (Habib, 2005, p. 581,582).

Freud thinks that literature is the same as dreams, so it can be analyzed through the same process which makes dream analysis a perfect method to decode the psychological reasons behind complicated literary pieces like Shakespeare's "Hamlet", Edgar Allan Poe's "The Tell Tale Heart", and even Kathryn Stockett *The Help*. Freud believes that the writer softens the characters of his self-centered daydreams by modifying it, the same our minds alter the content of our dreams during sleep (Freud, 1989, 443) perhaps that is way complicated writings like the mentioned above are best-sellers.

In his singular emphasis on the structure of the human mind, Freud paid little to no attention to the impact of environment, sociology, or culture. His theories were highly

focused on pathology and largely ignored normal healthy functioning, therefore, the novel had to be analyzed through other aspects.

3. Section two: The supremacy of the white society on the Expense of the Black Inferiority

3.1.The Supremacy of the White Society on the Expense of the Black Inferiority

During slavery, racist ideology manifested as a conscious effort to articulate, to justify, and to propagate a universal white supremacy placed on the notion of an inherited black corporeal, intellectual, and moral inferiority. (Saint, 2002, p. 255).

The white society possessed the pride of the white identity from the beginning of time, way before black slaves were even brought to Europe by the Portuguese. The English people thought that the Irish resembled an inferior race to that of their own, they were calling them by the same names and adjectives they used on people of color, once they had the privilege of controlling them, names like animals and savages gave them a sense of superiority over all races. John Offer mentioned how in the early 19th century white Europeans thought they sat on the top of the racial hierarchy, therefore, all other races should be dominated by them (Offer 156). Their ideas went a little far when they tried to prove it scientifically; Herbert Spencer explained the difference in races by natural selection or what is called survival of the fittest (Offer 156). This explanation makes the supremacy of the white race a natural result of the inherited black inferiority, nevertheless, it was all put down in the 20th by when science confirmed that there is no such thing as biological superiority. The role of the Christian church in giving the white race privilege at the expense of all other races cannot be undermined, for church recognized white as holy, pure, and powerful. The church even whitewashed the picture of Jesus and portrayed him as a white man, when by nature being a Mediterranean meant that he is a brown person.

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White supremacy is a belief or an ideology that ensures the dominance of the white race. It is the faith that the white people relax their conscience with when confronted about their racist origins, it is what justifies colonialism, racism, and segregation. For them the white race has always been superior and the other races, especially the black one are inferior, white supremacy is a historically based institution made to exploit and oppress nations, countries, and people of color by the dominated European white countries to protect and maintain its powerful privileged systems and wealth (Elizabeth Martinez). Different aspects helped the growth of such ideology since slavery to recent days, because even after slavery was abolished black people had to deal with segregation that endangered all parts of their lives. From the lack of proper housing due to the Redlining policies in 1900 to poor education and unemployment, black people had no chance (Gross Terry 2017).

Cultural racism that involves various post-racial ideologies such as whiteness and color blind societies (to be explained) use this kind of cultural differences to assign value to white people. These actions rationalize the state of a community like America, a system built on slavery and massacres, a system where it is impossible to balance power or have an equal lifestyle. White supremacists are responsible for changing history lessons and segregation for them not to be reminded by the past, and to keep the new generations ignorant of their racist ancestry. They are also responsible for creating black negative stereotypes that will in a way justify their violence against them. Stereotypes like ignorance, criminal drives, violence, and hypersexuality are assigned to blacks, who only resort to violence and crimes from the depression of being segregated against. People of white origin think that they must civilize the world and save humanity, it is this sense of pride that unified them through the distraction of the indigenous population, and through the colonization of Africa, Asia, And south America. Even when it comes to education, the American literature is filled with black stories, but the center of such stories is always a white protagonist that exercises his power

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to save the day, with black characters marginalized in their struggle. Stories like “The Blind Side”, “12 Years a Slave”, and *The Help*, where the white author thinks that describing how the white character is all good and helpful is so much better than shedding light on the struggle and oppression of the black race. That is white supremacy in its best image. White authors have always tried to clean the image of the white society and Stockett is no different, probably this is the reason for her focus on the character of Skeeter. Rabaka stated that Du Bois criticized white supremacy and considered it nothing more than an intentional, imperialist, racist system (Rabaka 5). Mechanisms of white supremacy are overt and covert forms of discrimination, institutional racism, color prejudice, and violence against blacks, mechanisms that white people are unconscious of as part of their culture, or do not want to see.

The privilege of the white supremacy created the notion of the white savior. A notion that became a card to secure a best-seller book or an Oscar nomination for slavery movies that rarely focus on the struggle of those slaves. Movies like “Glory”1989 made a new form of racism, which is called whitewashing. The white savior functions to erase racism and to purify the image of the white society, to lift the burden of slavery from the conscience of imperialist monsters, and redeem the history of the white race. This notion is one of the reasons black young generations never achieve success in society, because of this implemented believe that blacks are inferior and weak. In the help, the only reason the black maids get to voice their oppression is that it goes hand in hand with Miss Skeeter's dream of becoming a writer.

3.2.Critical Whiteness Studies

Treason to whiteness is loyalty to humanity” (Ignatiev and Garvey, p 7). Whiteness studies emerged from slavery and white supremacy, it began with black people who needed to understand this norm to survive in a community built upon slavery like the United States.

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Later on, it was adapted by other white socialists to either confirm their privilege or criticize the phenomenon for the sake of humanity. In his article “Where Do White People Come From? A Foucaultian Critique of Whiteness Studies”, Ladelle Mcwhorter identified socialist who occupy this platform as able to accept and glorify whiteness in its cruel oppression of minorities to support unearned advantages or criticize shame and refuse it entirely (Mcwhorter). Whiteness goes beyond color and biological futures like genes, it spreads to all aspects of life like culture, identity, race, and politics. In her book published in 2004, Nell Painter argued that the idea of whiteness goes beyond biology, for it includes concepts of labor, gender, class, and even the image of beauty. She explained it by giving a simple example of early Europeans societies like the Greek and the Romans, who even though had no racial identities, classified people in different categories according to ethnicity, blood, and social status. They even had slaves from the lowest classes of the society, who were originally Europeans (Painter 6).

Phenomenon attached to race have no steady meaning and are changeable according to both time and place. Whiteness is no different no common connotation (Garner 1). Many researchers from both races attempted to identify Whiteness to create a new comprehension of the white identity, which generated a big field of studies called whiteness studies. This field created a sensation and became the topic to handle in the late century. Whiteness is an ideology and a social construction that includes the nature of white privilege, the white identity, and the historical process by which this racial identity was created. According to Bonnett whiteness is a normal unchangeable aspect in western society. An aspect which causes no harm, a position given to one race to differentiate and mark all other races by their dissimilarities (Bonnett 146). This kind of white socialist tried to keep the flame of the white privilege alive, they thought that this norm is the healthy natural order and that other minorities such as red, black, yellow, and brown people are less evolved, or as they called

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them savagery. For them, this concept monitors and keeps in line all other minorities that could compromise the productive white population and its insured future. All these actions are built upon racist power that hundred years of racism put in place for the privileged whites to use, but for the white race, it is their birthright and all they are doing is claiming it.

Other researchers like McDonald explained that whiteness includes institutional discourses and exclusionary practices seeking social, cultural, economic, and psychic advantage for those bodies racially marked as white (McDonald 9) this white socialist is trying to condemn whiteness and expose it as it is. Each researcher had its own definition of the phenomenon, but all of the agreed on white privilege and the invisibility of whiteness. This invisibility is the reason whiteness is powerful, for no society can confront an issue that most people pretend they do not see or that this thing does not exist. For white people talking about whiteness is a taboo. “Whiteness is an extremely elusive concept. In certain circumstances apparent or quite visible to some, but it is not visible to others or its very existence might even be denied. Visibility or invisibility of whiteness changes with individuals and groups perspectives and with societies in which are situated” (Fujikawa 1).

The reason to why people refuse to acknowledge their whiteness is the fact that it will cause them too much, they will lose all their unearned advantages and perks, the relationship between black’s oppression and whites unearned assets is interdependent. McDonald stated that instead of looking for a meaning for this norm it is much better to discuss what it does to the society (McDonald 9). Whiteness protects itself through denial as white people tend to talk about racism as long ago, but refuse to admit that they still benefit from it till today. Roberts argued that the society must take responsibility to ask questions beyond race and that racial awareness should spread to expose the whiteness lie as something up normal rather than natural, thus the people will be more aware to own up for this lie (Roberts 496).

All in all this norm has been the problem of the last century and will continue to be unless the whites own up to it for the sake of humanity.

Literature is no different for white authors are always tempted to use different forms of whiteness to keep the focus on the white race rather than shed light on the issue of black minorities, and their suffrage under the oppression and segregation. Our three characters resemble three forms of whiteness that are to be explained in the second chapter, used by Stockett to marginalize the Afro-American suffer in a book about segregation after the abolishment of slavery.

3.3.Post Racial Ideologies and Color Blind Societies

Post-racial ideologies emerged after the success of the civil rights movement, theorists argued that the USA is entering a new era where race is no longer important. This era is characterized by the absence of racial discourse, discrimination, prejudice, and segregation. This meant that each citizen is giving equal rights no matter what skin color or ethnicity he holds. Alexander Emboaba argued that Post-racial ideology is a type of thinking combined with affirmative action to limit, and racial differences and their consequences (Emboaba 477). On the other hand Time Wise explained that this ideology advocated the limitation of racial differences and inequality from job creation and better education to health-care reforms (Wise 16).

Post-racial liberalism is a form of left-of-center politics, which has had its adherents dating back at least forty years, and which emerged after the civil rights revolution had largely accomplished its immediate goals with the passage of legal protection against discrimination in employment and public accommodations (1964), voting (1965) and housing (1968)” (Wise,2010, p. 16).

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Post-racial ideology is more of a political agenda than a sociocultural solution for minority groups, it is nothing but a myth to improve the image of the white dominant race. None of the aspects mentioned above is being applied in American society conversely, it is a situation of denial towards racism, colonialism, and white racial identity. Melamed argued that this kind of politics naturalizes the privilege of the dominant groups who benefits from the recent socioeconomic satiation, and make the disadvantages of those cut from the society's wealth appear as fair as possible (Melamed 2). It is what helped the whites in making the debate about race and racism a taboo subject. Post-racial ideology came up with a verity of strategies to help equalize American society from integration and equal opportunity until colorblindness.

When people fail to handle certain problems they tend to pretend it does not exist anymore, and that exactly what the American society tried to pull off when announcing that the USA is a color-blind society. In 1997 the American Psychological Association published a pamphlet answering the question, can or should America be color-blind? And the research concluded that race does matter even if the country is trying its best to ignore it (APA 7). Colorblindness attempts to eliminate racial categories by labeling them invalid when making decisions about hiring or admitting people in schools, which means treating each person as an individual despite his racial identity. This concept tends to show racial inequality as the consequence of black's failure to exploit their opportunities, rather than the fact that it prolongs from years of slavery and segregation. Even laws are color-blind, but people who enact it are somehow subjective, which makes it hard for people of color in courts. Bonilla Silva explained the notion of colorblindness and showed that it is nothing more than a new way of racism, she articulated that colorblindness is an ideology which explains racial inequality as the outcome of nonracial reasons, and a naturally accruing phenomenon that is related to the capacity of people (Silva 2). All in all, according to the situation of American

society it is obvious that color-blindness is a myth and that white people still benefit from their past. It is impossible to fix two centuries of segregation by forty years of integration, so unless America is ready to own up to its past, the current problems cannot be fixed. One of the characters in the novel at hand shows symptoms of colorblindness, as her treatment for black people do not differ from that of white people. This indicates in a way that the writer is trying to apply different forms of whiteness to keep the focus on her race rather than shedding light on the real problem of 1960s America, and the struggles of the Afro-American maids or the help.

3.4. Apologia and Redemption

Regret can be a really good reason behind any work of art because the artist tries to show or expose some of it to feel better. Whitewashing on the other hand is done by white authors, who have racist ancestries like everyone else in America and Kathryn Stockett is no different, for her family owned a plantation run by black slaves at some point in her life, she was even razed by a black servant. Most of the authors try to depict this parallel universe where white people were not all bad, and that most of them had a big role in the liberation of blacks, Skeeter is one of those rare people. This is what theorists tend to call apologia, a way to defend themselves by denying they were ever responsible for what they did. Here the authors are tempted to redeem white racists. Marty in 1999 explained that apologia is a form of self-defense that enables people to defend their moral character against accusation and attacks coming from the society, as they refuse any acknowledgment of wrongdoing or the need for accountability (Marty 52). It is their regret that leads them to think and explain their wrongdoing as normal first to themselves than to others, it is what makes them try to vindicate their character and clear all controversies surrounding it. Marty also argued that apologia allows whites to reject responsibility for years of racism and reinsure their good morality (Marty 52). Painting the perfect image of a white person who has power, but

refuses to use it in the oppression of his fellow humans, rather than use it to help them accomplish their beliefs and voice their oppression is every author's redemption strategy. Stockett is trying to redeem white racists in a place like the Mississippi, one of the curliest slave owners in history, due to her guilt and shame of being the daughter of a plantation master. She created Skeeter to do things in an imaginary that she could not do herself in the real one. She created this notion of good white people so that she could join them and redeem herself from the stamp of being born in a racist family.

4. Section three: Whitewashing and Kathryn Stockette

4.1. Whitewashing

Whitewashing is an important concept in the study of racism. It “refers to both the process and works within a loose problematic of racialization,” in which the focal point manifests “on the construction of white racialized identities”. Besides, Whitewashing has come to be prominent in many fronts, such as workplace, education, and film, in the multiracial and democratic societies. In film-making practice, whitewashing first refers to the act of selecting white actors to portray non-white roles. This practice started as early as the beginning of the 1900s when motion pictures were produced without sound,” many white actors played the roles of black savages. This practice is known as “blackface,” which is “a style of theatrical makeup that originated in the United States and is used to make an actor look like a black person, but in a much exaggerated way, Black people were not the only victims of this practice. White actors also played the roles of other race/ethnicity groups. (Xiaoqun Zhang 321,322).

Moreover, Scholars also noted that the inequality of cultural representation and racial stereotypes are also the essential dimensions of whitewashing. (Ibid 322).

In other words, the term White Washing can be defined as a racist practice of removing noticeable minorities in mainstream media by making their skin appear lighter, or even replacing them altogether with uncolored actors.

4.2. Whitewashing in Literature

As referenced before writing is an impression of the writer's fantasies and the crowd's desires, it is also Common information that our fantasies create from our social experience and normal culture esteems, in this way. Writing is additionally an impression of the basic culture we share. In addition, the authors use Whitewashing by portraying the image of white saviors that only white people can solve the problem because they are voiced. And colored people are inferior and voiceless. Also to stay dominating on the society and its thoughts.

Authors aim to change the image of white society, so people forget the history that white people are racists and they are good to make themselves feel better and to cover the fact that white people are racist.

To illustrate more, in the novel “ The Blind Side “, the plot of the story is about a rich family who adopts a black male to save him from his dark past. Moreover, the major publishers use Whitewashing in the covers of novels, especially children's books because who knows what sort of images attracts eyeballs and open wallets, and they are the ones who decide the look of the novel based on what is selling at the moment. Their reason is based on the fact that it is difficult to sell black authors. For further illustration: “ Bloom Burry children's book had sent out review copies of liar featuring a picture of a white girl with long straight hair, even though in the story the girl,(Micah) is African American .” (Rupert).

4.3.Revising Historical Events for the Sack of Whitewashing

Through years and centuries, the American society has suffered from racism and segregation. The south has known a lot of slavery where the colored people have lived under the same roof of the white people. Therefore, Segregation and racism were not only in Mississippi but in the whole Southern State of America where that last has its roots of slavery, which was brought to Mississippi via the colonial French and later on by the English and the Spanish (Dawahare 29). From The infamous history of race relations in Mississippi began and continues around (King Cotton), where African American slaves were important for the hard work and plantation but the number of colored folks has become triple then the whites this was an important reason for the uncolored population to put the colored under their wings for their own protection and their economy. Segregation in Mississippi is manifested in many ways but it is most apparent in housing, education, and the church. (Joan Marshall Wesley, Matthew D, and William M.15).

Equally important, Jim Crow law beginning was in the South in the late 1800s upheld racial segregation. The end of slavery had created some fears for white's people souls because of their freedom. White people disgusted the idea that black people would share them the same social facilities if those unlikable folks access the same healthcare, education, and work. White people were already scratchy with the reconstruction gains of some blacks made (Michelle 33).

Consequently, a number of restrictions on the colored folk created by laws. Black's progression was limited by the law and considered them second-class citizens in America. It is known in American that Florida was the first state to pass Crow law since 1865. 1887 was a full year of regulations that obliged racial segregation in both public transportation and other community facilities. Those series of regulations was by Florida State. The south of

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America became completely segregated in 1890. Every social facility became separated between the two races. Colored persons had to use a separate bathroom, restaurant, and buses. Also, colored folk had to drink from separate fountains water from white. Even in theater, it was forbidden to have the same access or to stay under one roof; each one of them had their theatre. In addition, education unfairly separated schools. Moreover, even people who lived in separate neighborhoods (Michelle 33,35).

Furthermore, after the appearance of Martin Luther King, Jr. The civil rights movement had been Born and it is “The right belongs to an individual by virtue of residency” that is how Soukhanov define the Civil Right Movement. Between the 1950s and 1960s, the movement was related to politics, where its goal was to guard the equal opportunity and deal for those minority groups” (Soukhanov). “The Civil Rights Movement dated from 1954 to 1965. It begins from the Supreme Court ruling *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education* “(McDonald 204). That last announced the principle of separate but equal where the separate school and every segregation decision is unconstitutional were to have to be accomplished with careful hast to the Voting Right act in 1965 (Yannela 5).

The common assumption assisted that beginning of the civil rights revolution was in 1960s where the historical proof has shown that the civil rights revolution started in 1955 by Montgomery Bus Boycott in Alabama (Painter, pp. 239-240). After 1948 ethnic matters had been not underlined and that because of Truman administration, where he has unified the American state army in 1948 where he had blinded their consideration only to the cold war.

American society was busy within the cold war treaties, the Afro-American civil rights were frequently associated with communist ideas, because the USSR repeatedly criticized the USA for Its treatment of the blacks folk (Painter 239).

The colored communities didn't stop protesting, especially after an inspiration from the Montgomery Bus Boycott who died in 1956 with the Browder decision, affirming that transportation segregation was unconstitutional. One of many colored people namely Martin Luther king stood against violence in the Protestant church, and any political demonstration (Friedman 26).

4.4. Whitewashing in Art

Whitewashing is a phenomenon that dominates most fields in countries that are built on racism or colonialism, where darkness has very negative connotations, and the color black is always related to stereotypes of evil, dirtiness, and ugliness. People have been living with whitewashing for centuries through media, artistic depictions, and Hollywood movies and so much more, even the image of beauty was deeply influenced by this phenomenon to the point that black-skinned people are never considered beautiful.

One of the earliest examples of whitewashed figures is the image of Jesus, the Christian prophet who is an Israeli Jewish man. People of Mediterranean origins like Prophet Jesus tend to have olive skin and dark features, nevertheless, he has a well-established image in the western hemisphere, he is portrayed as a Caucasian man with flaxen hair and blue eyes. In his article "whitewashing Jesus" Matthew, Philips argued that this whitewashed image of the prophet began spreading in the Middle Ages, at a time when darkness was rejected by both the society and the church, an era of opposites and symbolism, where dark represented evil and white goodness. He explained that the painting head of Jesus by Warner Sallman in 1940 was the image that Americans recognize as Jesus, he also quoted a professor of religion and art at the University of Georgetown, who confirmed that that painting went with every American soldier to World War Two (Philips).

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Examples of whitewashed paintings are many, but both the images of Andromeda in the painting Titians and the queen of Sheba are the most obvious. These women are both Ethiopian princesses, which makes it a fact that they have a dark complexion, but both were depicted as white. Many researchers have already acknowledged their dark tone, but white artists deliberately omitted their black skin, because they were supposed to be beautiful, and at that time and place beauty and blackness were dichotomies. According to professor McGrath Andromeda was a black princess from Ethiopia, she translated a quote from an Epistle taken from the “metamorphoses of Ovid”, which indicates the princes were black by saying “And though I’m not pure white, Cipheus’s dark Andromeda” (McGrath 5). She also explained how the image of the queen of Sheba was whitewashed when she listed how all versions of the bible, from the original Hebrew and the Old Testament to the translated version of King James declared her as black. The later was the first to diminish the image of the black women by changing a verse in the Song of Solomon that declared the beauty of Andromeda, from Black and beautiful to black and comely (McGrath 6).

Whitewashing is not just putting white paint on dark complexions, it is also taking credit for someone else’s work just because he comes from a minority, and the society tends to evaluate him according to his skin tone rather than achievements. The music industry back in the 60s and 70s experienced the notion of whitewashing, as most of the songs made famous at that time by white singers had black songwriters and musicians. The fact that those poor black male and female musicians never got paid for their job or are even recognized for the creation they made is a shameful aspect of the music industry. Chris Jancelewics gave really good examples of how black musicians who are the creators behind all the genres like RNB and Rock were whitewashed by the white power. Singers like Elvis Presley and the Beatles made worldwide fame, but the writer behind some of their most

famous hits like Presley's "all shook up" and the Beatle's "baby it is you", Otis Blackwell never got his part of the fame and wealth (Jancelewics).

All in all whitewashing in art spread through all artistic depictions and in each period throughout media, painting, music, theater, magazine covers, and the movie industry that was one of the pioneers in this notion. They all refused to recognize black as beautiful, because of their long-established socio-psychological education.

4.5.Hollywood the Mother Lode of Whitewashing

Hollywood was one of the pioneer fields to apply the notion of whitewashing, from the casting of Caucasians to play the roles of different minorities known as the black, brown, and yellow face, to the creation of the white savior in movies. These movies underrated the role of black people in obtaining their freedom or constructing their lives. Hollywood played a great role in defining this new form of racism, as well as destroying the self-esteem of many minority upcoming generations. Falvey explained that whitewashing existed since the 1900s, he also gave one of the earliest examples of white Douglas Fairbanks being cast as an Arabian man in "The Thief of Baghdad" 1924.

Hollywood has a very rich past in whitewashing movies, but it did not stop nor did it get any better with time, because recent movies like "Avatar: The Last Airbender" still hires an all-white cast, even if the story characters were of a different race, which led to heavy criticism from fans all over the world. Fans of the movie mentioned above took it a level up when then they created a site called racebending. Come, this action showed the disagreement of fans to the cast of Airbender (Lopes 433). This kind of behavior is not only taking away from minority actors, who are supposed to take priority in such rolls, which enacts yet another form of segregation. Hunt argues that only 16, 7% of head rolls in 174 films were enacted by minority actors (Hunt 9), this notion also have a great impact on the

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self-esteem of non-white people watching for it leads them to question their skin tone. Weaver also criticized this behavior and held responsible for the lack of minority representation, he also blamed it for creating self-identity and self-worth problems for non-white spectators (Weaver 370).

Another example of whitewashing took place in the film "the great wall", where the story portrayed a white hero "matt Damon" that leads a whole Chinese army to fight the dragons and save china. Strauss called it a typical Hollywood practice that adds to the myth of the white savior, which means that only a white person can save the world (Strauss 1), and many more such as to "kill a mocking bird" (1962), "ghosts of Mississippi" (1996) and "Mississippi Burning" in (1988). The same as most American movies about African Americans including the film adapted from the novel at hand, finally actress Sandra Bullock won an Oskar for her performance of the character Leigh Anne Tuohy in the movie called "The Blindside". A movie based on a real story of a white family that adapted a black teenager that later on became one of the country's greatest footballers, but the problem was that the Hollywood approached showed to share the story of how these great white people stepped in to save the boy, instead of making the film about Michael Oher and how he succeeded to raise from being homeless to a superstar. This genre of films has been the ticket to the Oscars for so long, and even though they are criticized heavily, producers keep on making more of it every year.

The reason behind this issue as some researchers may argue is that most film-makers in the industry happened to be white and that for them this is normal, as they think that being white gives you some kind of privilege. When asked about their white castings they defend their choice by saying that big-budget movies require superstars, and the minority population lacks actors that would lift this kind of movie because they will not appeal to the majority of viewers that happens to be white and that will be a gamble. This idea was

refuted when a recent report indicated that movies with a diverse cast perform financially better than all-white movies (Anmer 1325), which means that the problem is not profit, rather the identity and habitual process that often describe their values. Many researchers have blamed the whole issue on Euro-centrism because most directors and producers of Hollywood come from Anglophone settlers, who possess a certain view of minorities and certain stereotypes about them in their minds that are unchangeable. For them Europe is the center of the world, while everywhere else is a mere shadow, these films and movies made a great impact on spectators worldwide that no one seems to bother by this racist behavior anymore. Holtzman stated that “Euro-centrism is thoroughly immersed in popular culture that its messages and values seem normal to us as well” (Holtzman 212), which justifies why these fictions claim great awards like the Oskar, even with its disrespectful stand on serious matters like race.

4.6.The life of Kathryn Stockett

Kathryn Stockett's literary works and contributions added more to the literary genre of southern fiction. Kathryn Stockett was born in 1969 in Jackson, Mississippi, the daughter of a cotton plantation owner, she obtained her undergraduate degree in English and creative writing from the University of Alabama then headed to New-York city with plans of working in publishing. She spent nine years in New-York city working both in magazine publishing and in marketing before moving back to Atlanta Georgia, where she lives with her daughter. In fact, she divorced her husband in 2011. Since moving back to the south, Stockett focused on writing fiction. Her debut novel *The Help* was published by Amy Einhorn books in 2009 and proved to be one of the hit books. The story was inspired by Stockett's own childhood. Stockett's life was similar to her character Skeeter. Kathryn struggled to make her breakthrough as a writer. Her manuscript was rejected by over sixty literary agents before Susan Ramer agreed to be her agent (Detroit).

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The Help garnered instant attention due to its unusual and rarely addressed subject matter: The relationship in the South between white families and the domestic servants in the 1960s, and growing up in this period in Mississippi. Stockett was familiar with the dynamic but nervous addressing it in the novel. In an interview with the website Book reporter: Stockett explained her attitude as a child: "Growing up in Mississippi, almost every family I knew had a black woman working in their house--cooking, cleaning, and taking care of the white children. That was life in Mississippi. I was young and assumed that's how most of America lived only after she moved north did Stockett realize that her memories of her childhood were not a universal experience. She found herself reminiscing with other southerners she met in New York, trading stories about growing up with black domestic help. Gradually, those memories began to spark an idea and she decided to write a story about her relationship with her family's maid when she was a child. Despite being very close to her maid Demetrie, Stockett never stopped to think about her family's maid life might be like outside of the work she performed for the white household. She wrote this novel to bridge the gap (Detroit).

4.7.The Impact of the Society on Modern American Literature

As mentioned before literature is a reflection of the author's dreams and the audience's expectations, it is also common knowledge that our dreams develop from our social experience and common culture values; therefore; literature is also a reflection of the common society we share. Milton in his article quoted Devoto's definition of literature as the record of social experience, the manifestation of social myths and goals, and an institution of social beliefs (Milton 426). There have been numerous literary theories and criticism, which are built on social arguments, one of which is the Marxist approach that identifies the impact of economic and social status on literary characters, which is a mere depiction of what the authors of those characters feel like. Milton believes that the class and

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economic position of the writers has a great role in defining their economic theories as well as the form, and the character of their literary productions (Milton 492). It is evident through the history of American literature that authors are influenced by the circumstances of their existence, since the first literary productions that glorified the motherland when America was a group of colonies, through works filled with depression after World War Two and the great depression, until African- American contributions to American literature after the civil right movement and the Harlem renaissance.

American literature changed alongside history and its depictions changed each time the social wave moved in a new direction. It was not until the 19th century that American writers started producing native depictions to prove their authenticity and cooperation from Europe, authors like Edgar Allan Poe exiled at depicting the American society at that time, their writings included a great deal of America and its new democratic triumphed after the Andrew Jackson's elections. Blair, et al argues that literature in the 1900s focused on native scenes and characters, putting much of America into the era's books. Novels in American literature normally showed a depiction of the corruption and poor outcomes of the failure of the American dream, which manifested the myth that America is the land of opportunities. Novels like Nathaniel Hawthorne's "The scarlet letter", which represented social injustice and corruption, and "The Great Gatsby" which Fitzgerald wrote during the great depression when he witnessed firsthand the failure of the American social and economic systems. Blair, et al noted that the Great Gatsby depicted the myth of the American dream, its promises, and failure.

After the civil right movement, black Americans were given a chance to contribute to the huge corpus of American literature, where they showed life through their perspective, they created an image of a society populated by blacks rather than whites, Blair, et al explained how writers like Toni Morison described important social issues like slavery and segregation

through novels like “Beloved”. This phase of American literature witnessed a change from blacks never being in literature as mentioned by Chimamanda, to being an important aspect of it, thanks to the civil rights movement. Guilt and white privilege also had great significance in shaping some of the recent works in American literature, works that have been whitewashed to clear the image of the white race. White authors like Kathryn Stockett and Michael Lewis who try their best to erase the racist past of their ancestry, because society can no longer bear the shame and darkness of racism, nor the behavior of racist people. So society’s oppression is also one of the reasons this kind of literary works emerged recently.

5. Conclusion

Whitewashing is a recent phenomenon that has spread widely in all aspects of life in America, most importantly it has found a way to infiltrate most American Artistic depictions including literature. In this chapter, we tried to examine the cause of the emergence of such phenomena from different fields and many points of view like psychology, sociology, and so on. It is highly noted that this phenomenon has spread due to many aspects of either the society or the human mind of authors and readers alike and that it has a great impact on the upcoming generations. The second chapter will analyst three characters from Kathryn Stockett's novel *The help* to determine the socio-psychological reasons behind such works and the relationship between the authors, her characters, and her complete work.

CHAPTER TWO

Whitewashing Depicted Through Kathryn Stockett *The Help*

1. Introduction

In the first chapter of this study many psychological and sociological aspects have been explained due to their wide application nowadays, Not only in their respective fields but also the domain of literature. Many literary works are shaped under the pressure of both society and the human mind, and Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* is no different.

Whitewashing has lately become the trend of the American novel, a trend that demises and diminishes the rule of colored people all over the world. There is a wide range of literary works that share the same perspective, and in order to understand the motives and drives behind white authors taking particular actions further study was a must, thus *The Help* was a study case to be analyzed those psychologically and sociologically.

This chapter, however, will provide a deep analysis of the characters in the novel, mainly Miss Skeeter the protagonist, Miss Holbrook, and Miss Celia Foote. Throughout this chapter, their actions, ideologies, conversations, and feelings will be interpreted according to both Freudian psychology and whiteness sociology, to explain the author's use of whitewashing as a mean to hide her society's horrific past, and Dreadful actions toward the blacks. This chapter will also investigate how the author's life leaked into her novel to justify her work and the reasons behind her attempt to voice black characters without considering being White. An understanding of her psychology and surrounding Society will provide an explanation for the implementation of whitewashing in her novel specifically, and the emergence of this phenomenon in American art generally.

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At the end of this chapter, an understanding of how this phenomenon is helping to keep the glorified image of the white race and the white savior, as well as strategically centering whiteness in the society, while on the other hand deliberately destroying the African American history, and poisoning the upcoming generation of colored people into thinking less of themselves is provided. Analysis in this chapter alongside the studies in the previous one will justify the reasons white authors voice black characters, and whether or not they are influenced by white Supremacy.

2. Getting a Glimpse

The Help by Kathryn Stockett follows the Journey of its protagonist Eugenia Phelan, mainly known as Miss Skeeter, a 23 years old lady with a double major in English and journalism “Miss Skeeter is twenty-three same as Miss Leefolt and the rest of em” (Stockett, 14). Her college degree is one of the things that make her rejected by all the society ladies her age, who have chosen a husband and a family over higher education. Another thing that makes her an outsider is her looks, for she is tall and skinny with yellow frizzy hair “miss skeeter real tall and skinny. Her hair is yellow and cut short” (Stockett, 14). Her Story begins when she returns to her family's wealthy Plantation in Longleaf with the desire of becoming a writer, despite her mother's instruction for her to find a husband.

Skeeter is the editor of the Junior League, she finds a job at the local newspaper, but it does not satisfy her need of writing about bigger subjects, nor leaving the town to be independently free from her mother's constant worrying of her loneliness. In her conversation with one of the maids Aibileen, who helps her write her housekeeping column, she tells her about her son's idea of writing a book about being black in Mississippi, so she decides to write a book anonymously about the maids of Jackson and how the white ladies treat them. The idea gets well with a big editor in New York, and the

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book is made. After the publication of the book, the maids get into trouble as the white ladies start to recognize themselves, and Skeeter gets a job in New York and decides to leave the town forever.

For each protagonist, there is an antagonist, and in this novel, Miss Hilly Holbrook presented the villain role. She is a twenty-four years old idealistic southern housewife, and the Jackson town queen bee, as the town upper-class young women follow all her instructions. Hilly is a respectful woman at the surface, but deep down she has some of the cruelest racist beliefs and social Pride. Her treatment of the colored maids and poor people that she calls white trash is awful, she thinks of them as sub humans that complete her perfect life.

Her story revolves around her attempt to separate colored bathrooms in all white households “but the guest bathroom is where the help goes” (Stockett, 18). As the wife of a future politician and the chairwoman of the Jackson Junior League, Hilly has a reputation to save, thus she fights for segregation and makes all the ladies boycott her friend because she showed signs of support for integration. The bill gets through at the time Hilly decides to send her maid to jail on accusations of theft, causing the uprising of the colored maids, who all help in writing Skeeter’s book. In the end, she can’t even admit the book is about Jackson because of the embarrassment she will get for eating minny’s pie.

Another interesting character in *The Help* is the character of Celia Rae Foote, a color-blind twenty-eight years old lady who treats the maid as her friend “can I get you a cold drink?” (Stockett, 45). Unlike the other white ladies in this novel, Celia Foote is not a high-society lady, she was born and raised poor, which makes her rejected as well. Throughout the novel, she tries desperately to win the approval of the upper-class ladies especially Hilly, but all she gets is rejection. After making a fool of herself, she finally figures out

that she will never be a part of their community and settles For the Love of her husband and the friendship of her maid whom she invites to work at her house for life.

3. The Analysis of Miss Skeeter

Skeeter is the young lady who suffered from low self-esteem and rejection her entire life, ever since she could remember people reminded her that she does not match the beauty standards set by the powerful ladies of the White Society, even her brother called her ugly. She acquired the name Skeeter when her brother announced to the whole hospital that she is one “that is not a baby, that is a skeeter” (Stockett, 74). People treated her differently her entire life just like the help. Her personality did not help her either, as she wanted a career instead of a husband, and in the 1960s Southern community that got her socially rejected “I’ve been dropped off in a place I do not belong anymore ” (Stockett, 73).

Skeeter's mother was also an important aspect of her low self-esteem, she made her a trust fund to secure her a husband because an ugly girl like her daughter was not worth loving, but that does not matter as long as she is rich. Skeeter would call it “the Mrs. Charlotte Phelan's guide to husband-hunting, rule number one: a pretty petite girl should accentuate with makeup and good posture. A tall plain one, with a trust fund” (Stockett, 74). So Skeeter's Behavior indicates what Freud calls psychological projection, her unconscious is trying to get rid of all the negative ideas of low self-esteem, she no longer wants to feel weak and rejected, thus she projects her default emotions and rejection into the colored help. When Skeeter asks Aibileen if she wants to change things “do you ever wish you could change things” (Stockett, 18) it is her that wants things to be different. This broken character is trying to feel better by indulging in other people's problems instead of dealing with her own.

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Skeeter's character is described as innocence and well-meaning, a person who would risk her life to help people in need, but that is not the case. Skeeter will not even stand up to her friends when their treatment of black people is bad, she will not talk or take action, she will just stand there and watch. When Hilly asked Aibileen if she liked the new separate bathroom it offended her, but she just smiled and nodded yes, while Miss Skeeter just wished she was not in the room (Stockett, 137). She notices how her friends behave around the maids, for instance, "Hilly raises her voice about three octaves higher when she talks to colored people. Elizabeth smiles like she's talking to a child" (Stockett, 190), but never confronts them about their behavior, thus lets them continue in their belief in the supremacy of the white race. So she is weak and has an unconscious belief in white supremacy.

Racism was a difficult problem that took great efforts and sacrifice from black activists the likes of Martin Luther King to be solved, but characters like Miss Skeeter whitewashed all of it, by indicating that the solution was a brave white soul willing to socialize with the colored help. Miss Skeeter is portrayed as both Brave and socially aware just for talking to the maids "hey Aibileen, Miss Skeeter says. Cause she the kind that speaks to the help" (Stockett, 11). This small gesture makes her heroine for the colored maids, they trust her with their lives and have a belief that her book will change things for them, they even treat her like their own "it's just Miss Skeeter, she ain't like the rest of em". (Stockett, 275).

Skeeter with all her weaknesses, a woman rejected by her kind is portrayed as the brave soul who would change things, when in fact she cannot even fix her own problems. This character sends the wrong message to both the races in the United States, by minimizing the role of black American activists during the Jim Crow era and highlighting white supremacy. This character among others helped the spread of the white savior notion, a

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misleading idea that only a white person can bring about change for the unfortunate colored people.

Ever since the Crusades white people believed it was their duty to save the other races, whether from ignorance, wrong faith, or segregation. Back then it was called The White Man's Burden, nowadays it is known as the white savior syndrome. According to Skeeter's Behavior, she represents the perfect white savior, in her mind, she thinks it is her job to save the colored help "I don't know why being White, I feel it is my duty to help them" (Stockett, 300). A white savior is a form of whitewashing created to comfort the white race and improve their image in history. Books like *The Help* and "The Blind Side" redeem the white racists while erasing the brave actions of black activists.

Skeeter is the protagonist of the story, which means the issues of race are explored through her lens, instead of the black suffering maids. This centering and obsession with white protagonists marginalize the black characters in fiction and real life. Skeeter talks about reading "To Kill a Mockingbird" as a brave action "I finished reading To Kill a Mockingbird" (Stockett, 136), because it is banned and black, when in fact the book is also whitewashed to feature a white protagonist saving a colored person from wrongful accusations. The character of Skeeter through all her actions is trying to fix the idea of the white savior into the minds of the readers.

Skeeter's book is given many aspirations from the black characters, they believe it can change things, this indicates that colored people cannot solve their problems. The novel also never features the suffering of black domestic workers during segregation, thus books like *The Help* appeal to White audiences because there is no reminder of their racist past, only that white people helped make the world a better place. Skeeter represents all that is

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good about white people, not only that she publishes the book, but also protects those, maids, by hiding their identities.

One of the reasons for whitewashing happens to be the guilt that the white people feel for treating someone horribly for no other reason than being different. White authors like Stockett unconsciously feel the guilt of being a part of racist America, therefore, they create characters like Skeeter. Skeeter is the daughter of a Plantation master, a rich privileged person raised by a black woman, who taught her that beauty comes from within “now you look a here... Ugly live up on the inside. Ugly is hurtful mean people” (Stockett, 78). So Skeeter’s desire to help the maids rose from her feeling of guilt, she also felt like returning the favor to her old maid, the only person who saw her as beautiful. Skeeter described her maid as a safe place “it was having someone look at you... Someone whose eyes simply said... You are fine with me” (Stockett, 81), thus her urge to give a hand to the unfortunate can be explained as feeling guilty for her entire community. These kinds of characters are tools to minimize the white guilt, an ideology created to save the feelings of white audiences.

As the story progresses skeeter talks about her childhood when she would beg her mother to let her go with the maid, but even as a young child she possessed an unconscious sense of superiority towards other races, she felt different and better “it was a thrill to be in such a different world and I feel a picky awareness of how good my shoes were, how clean my white pinafore dress is” (Stockett, 77). She was even amazed that her maid's father was white (Stockett, 82). Skeeter like all other white supremacists treats colored people as inferior icons rather than strong individuals, when she was young she would play with black children, but thinks less of them “sometimes two girls from next door would come over to play with me... They were so black I couldn't tell them apart, and called them both just Marry” (Stockett, 78). This indicates her prejudice towards different races.

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Skeeter's superego and moral integrity may have stopped her from saying racist things like “black as night” (Stockett, 77), “Constantine was so close I could see the Blackness of her gums” (Stockett, 79), “the women are black like asphalt or caramel brown” (Stockett 302), or even that Minny was ten times blacker than Aibileen (Stockett, 164) out loud, but that did not mean her unconscious Id was not thinking it. Skeeter may be portrayed as this respectful nice lady who would not hurt a soul, nevertheless, she was raised upon white supremacy and no matter how good she is to those colored maids, she will always feel the privilege of being white. She possesses a superior attitude, thus at the end of the book she used “not that much separates us” (Stockett, 418) instead of nothing separates us.

Skeeter had no right to write a book about color maid's suffering, for she knew nothing about it, she benefited from white privilege her entire life, she pursued her higher education in a big university, something a black woman could never do in segregated America, she had a maid tending to her every need, so what gives her the right to voice hard-working women, who leave their own families to serve the White House. Skeeter wrote her book anonymously because she was afraid of losing her white privilege, she saved her family's name by not using it in a book about black people, but all of that is neglected in this novel to highlight her willingness to give a hand, which indicates heavy whitewashing from the writer's part in this creation.

Whitewashing can occur in different ways, one of which is taking credit for someone else's idea or work just because they have a different complexion. Skeeter wanted to be a writer her entire life, and when she applied for a job in the Harper and Row Publishing Company, she got rejected by their senior editor Elaine Stain due to lack of original Scripts. Skeeter started getting help for her housekeeping column from one of the maids, along the way the maid told her about her dead son's dream of becoming a writer “he say he gone write down what it was like to be colored, working for a white man in Mississippi

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” (Stockett, 107). The Publishing House was not interested in her repeated topics, so she did what every selfish white supremacist will do, and portrayed the maid son's idea as her own, not only that she also asked his mother for help “I have an idea something I want to write about, but I need your help” (Stockett, 126).

Skeeter rights the book, get credit, and receive a job offer, but when asked about her inspiration to write this book, she answers “I was raised by a black woman” (Stockett, 130), so no credit was given to the black boy who originated the idea. Miss Skeeter is only described as nice, but she is a selfish person who whitewashed a colored boy's idea to get a job, her character is whitewashing colored ideas in the story and the Civil Rights Movement in real life.

Skeeter admits that when in college she was the happiest person because she was free of all that rejection, and her mother's control over her entire life (Stockett, 84). So looking at it from another perspective, it was the maids who helped the white protagonist get her dream job in New York, and to leave Jackson Mississippi forever. The book was created through the black characters' oral history, but the only beneficiary from it was Skeeter.

Skeeter wanted out of the town and her only chance was to get a job in a different city, so once the chance opened up she did not care about the risks that the colored help might face, she focused on one thing, her career. Skeeter asked the maids to tell her their stories, they hesitated at first “do that not sound kind dangerous to you?” (Stockett, 127), but she convinced them “not if we're careful” (Stockett, 127). A closer look into Skeeter's attitude indicates that she never bothered about change or the safety of those maids and that the book was about the white woman becoming a writer, rather than the help being treated differently. She even tries to finish the book before the Civil Rights movement's March to get more sales, thus making money off of black suffering, and benefits on the expense of

the Civil Rights activists demanding equality. “Good, then get going before the Civil Right Thing blows over” (Stockett, 192).

Skeeter takes a job in New York while Aibileen gets fired “miss Skeeter, you got to take that job” (Stockett, 492). The white protagonist ended up benefiting only herself by whitewashing another person's idea, that and causing more trouble to the colored help, deserting them of the middle of a crisis with their white employers. According to Radwan Mahmoud “skeeter emerges as an egoist who does not care about the danger that may befall the maids and pursues her goal regardless of the risks. She makes the best use of the suffering of others to promote her career”, (Mahmoud, 312).

4. The Analysis of Hilly Holbrook

Hilly Holbrook is the antagonist of the novel, a racist lady, and a social bully. Hilly's attitude is the perfect opposite of Miss Skeeter's so that the racial awareness of the nice antagonist is perfectly displayed. Hilly represents the fanatic white character who was raised upon white supremacy and hatred of all different races. Hilly's hatred towards the colored maids pushes her to come up with an initiative for separating bathrooms in every white house, she puts pressure on Skeeter to write a newsletter about it “I want my initiative in the next newsletter, a full page” (Stockett, 78). Hilly maintains a certain power over the ladies of Jackson, as her instructions must be followed “look at me she says, and I do as I'm told because that is what we do around Hilly” (Stockett, 110). She would go to any length to protect her beliefs, even though blackmail and threats, she never considers the black people as humans, only inferior servants to attend to her every need.

Hilly is a rigid character who defends segregation, and radically punishes everyone who disagrees with her. She is a white supremacist that wants things to be exactly the same “separate but equal, Miss Hilly say” (Stockett, 222). Hilly is the wife of a future politician

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that is why she cannot be accused of socializing with integration supporters, thus she gets into a fight with her best friend Skeeter when she suspects her empathy for the black people "I think it's downright pig-headed of you. To think you know better than our government?" (Stockett, 244). Her attitude indicates her fear for her image and reputation in the upper class society, a fear for her husband's position in the political field.

Another reason for Hilly's attitude is the fact that she enjoys the privilege of being white, she enjoys the position of power she possesses, her pride in the white race is enormous, thus she thinks all other races are inferior. Hilly is afraid of change because it will make people equal, which means white people will lose their right in segregation "you want to let them get in our swimming pools? Let them put their hands on everything in our grocery stores?" (Stockett, 245), Hilly schools Skeeter about the dangers of integration. She keeps on spreading fear of integration around her society, telling Elizabeth "I want you to ask yourself, do you want Mae Mobley sitting next to a colored boy in English class" (Stockett, 339) as if a colored boy studying in a white school will mark the end of humanity. According to Heneghan "the whitewashing of America was in part a process of trying to establish definite boundaries between races while washing the living spaces of white folks, it continued to color whatever slaves and servants spaces it could (Heneghan, 34).

Hilly's character being the protagonist minimizes racism and segregation to nothing but mean white ladies treating their maids badly, Hilly impersonates the villain who is not vicious enough. Her actions are what push the novel's events, she was the one who convinced Aibileen to help Miss Skeeter in her book when she offended her with the bathroom topic "I got quite thinking of, Hilly's bathroom plan, accusing the maids of stealing and her talk of disease" (Stockett, 150). Her home help sanitation initiative pushed Minny to join the book project, and when she threw her maid in jail the others started

working on the book as well. According to her attitude, Hilly is an active character that holds a respectful position in the society and is the reason behind each rising action in the story, thus the novel centering either a white protagonist's perspective or a white antagonist's misdeed. This character along with the characters of Celia and Skeeter are perfectly displayed to help the whitewashing and marginalizing of black struggle by author Kathryn Stockett, the last idea will be explained widely in the next titles.

5. The Analysis of Celia Foot

Celia Foote has been born and raised in Sugar Ditch, Mississippi. Wife of Johnny Foote, her character will peak in chapter three. Celia struggled in her society to be accepted for several reasons but mostly because Celia was white trash and her background is from a poor family, to illustrate from the novel: “ I look down and see the fool doesn’t have any shoes on, like some kind of white trash nice ladies don’t go around barefoot” (Stockett 106). That’s why it was hard for Celia to be accepted in her community.

In addition, Celia’s character in the novel has been portrayed as a naïve little girl who felt that her colored maid is her friend and the reason was because of her color-blindness. Even though, Celia Foote was White, she treated her colored maid semi-normal. So, she can gain her as an ally. Moreover, Celia has been trying to join the Junior league but finds herself unwelcomed. That led Celia to be completely isolated from the community of Jackson and Celia’s Loneliness leads to desperate acts that made her appear like a fool.

6. Behavior between spontaneity and psychological unconsciousness

The human mind is a generator of thoughts and feelings. Simultaneously, these thoughts could be transmitted into spontaneous actions. However, this spontaneous action lies in the unconscious mind which is a mystery to solve, and from analyzing the characters in the novel it is clear that some of their actions are not fully thoughtful. Because some of

their behaviors are performed due to a certain part in the unconscious, which sometimes appears as a spontaneous behavior on the part of the characters. In fact, the unconscious mind is the source of spontaneous action.

For instance, Skeeter asking for change is spontaneous because it comes from her unconscious. Additionally writing the book about the maids Anonymously is not because she thought about protecting herself, but the Survival instinct made her take that action. Also,

Celia's reaction of hugging her maid because of lack of intimacy in her life. For further illustration: "She laughs and the crazy woman goes to hug me "(Stockett 118).

As well, Celia's survival instinct to protect herself and the maid from the man who almost attacked them and her behavior was spontaneous to illustrate more: "the man's jaw goes sideways and blood burst out of his mouth. He wobbles around, turns and miss Celia whacks the other side of his face too" (Stockett 909). Therefore, the behavior of the characters sometimes spontaneous due to their unconsciousness.

7. The Relationship between the Three Characters Psychological Issues and Their Behavioral Manifestations

Skeeter's rejection from her Society due to lack of beauty standards ignites inside of her a desire for psychological projection, her behavior represents a severe inferiority complex. Skeeter's desire to bring change for the colored maids come from within her unconscious brain, a defense mechanism that the brain applies to get rid of all the negative ideas that float inside of it. In the first chapter, Freud explains psychological projection as the way to cope with unwanted feelings and emotions, thus Skeeter trying to convince the maids they should be treated differently is projecting her feelings of rejection. She is trying to disguise her problem as theirs so that she no longer has one.

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Another psychological problem that Skeeter possesses is being unconsciously prejudiced. Skeeter was raised like all white supremacists to believe in white privilege, she possesses the same thoughts of color difference and social hierarchy, but her conscious mind or what Freud calls the super-ego prevents her from manifesting it in the public. Her careful behavior around the black help is just a mask of conscious awareness, unlike the thoughts her unconscious Id experience on a daily basis. As small as the belief Skeeter possesses in white supremacy it still influences her behavior. White supremacy is a dangerous social problem that needs to be addressed, but Skeeter's behavior normalizes it and ceases its existence. A loan inquiry into this character's behavior stipulates that her psychological problems and sociological upbringing control most of her actions. Her behavior also designates heavy use of self-defense mechanisms, either to protect herself from hurtful feelings, disguise her belief in crucial white supremacy, or soothe her conscience from feelings of guilt, the same thing whitewashing does for all white supremacists.

Hilly Holbrook is a racially ignorant character, who does not care for any other race but her own. Hilly's behavior is the perfect display of white supremacy, her bad treatment of colored people is proof of her psychological upbringing, and her belief in segregation is the fault of her Euro-centric complex. She was raised in a broken society where everything different from white is considered inferior, thus her horrible actions are not much her fault, rather that of her society.

Hilly also does not differentiate between her conscious and unconscious, unlike Skeeter she does not possess that conscious awareness, her lack of a filter that is usually provided by a super-ego allows her to utter racist statements, and perform racist actions. So psychologically speaking Hilly's behavior indicates a malfunction in her psychological tasks. Also unlike Skeeter, she uses racism as a self-defense mechanism to preserve the assets she gained via white privilege. Hilly's behavior shows the gap that society creates in

the brain, she is proof that sociology can be a crucial aspect in the psychological formation of any human being.

The last character is that of Miss Celia Foote, a nice white lady that is apparently color-blind. Celia's Behavior manifests all aspects of color blindness explained in the first chapter, her nice treatment of colored Minny results from her disability to see the difference. The novel mentions how Miss Celia was raised as a poor person, like the maids she never experienced white privilege, thus she does not perform racist manifestations, because she does not know what racism is. Another aspect in Celia's Behavior is the rejection she gets from the society, her desperate need for approval and complex of inferiority explains her attitude towards the maid, she is trying to be accepted by anyone even if it is the colored help because in her mind she knows that she will never be embraced in that society by the other ladies. Celia's Behavior like that of the other two characters depends either on psychological issues they possess or sociological instructions delivered by the Norms of their society.

8. Whitewashing Between Legality and Moral Values

Moral values are the good values that our society and parents taught us these include being honest and showing respect for others. And a person who sticks to his moral values is said to bear a good character. However, the moral values in *The Help* are questionable because hypocrisy is widespread in the white society like cancer that waits to be cured.

For instance, Hilly believes that her bathroom bill and Jim Crow segregation laws. Actually help black people, because Hilly thinks that colored people and white people should never get together. On the other hand, Hilly even takes the moral high ground by raising funds to help needy children in Africa. But actually, this is a false generosity meant to raise her class status as a charitable woman, if Hilly truly cared about generosity and not

merely the appearance of being a charitable woman. She would have provided wages to the maids.

In addition, Skeeter's moral values are acceptable because she keeps her racist thoughts to herself, but on the other hand she did whitewash another person's idea, which means her moral values are only superficial. Additionally, Whitewashing is immoral and illegal but the society tolerates it because it gives power to the white Supremacy and feeds it.

9. Kathryn Stockett between Hypocrisy and Undeliberate Racism

Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* is a postmodern novel about writing a novel, it showed case the struggles of African-American domestic workers in the Jim Crow segregation era. Critics have split opinions when it comes to Kathryn Stockett's best-seller novel, as some may considered it a well-meaning attempt to promote anti-racist ideas, others perceive it as a whitewashed novel that promotes post-racial ideologies.

Freud explained the notion of dream analysis back in 1900, he made it clear that it is the manifestation of one's unconscious drives. He compared literature to dreams where everything is possible, where a writer can experience a reality that cannot be reached, therefore, writers about to find relief. Kathryn Stockett's feelings of guilt from a racist past that she shares with her community, her hatred of being the daughter of a white family that used slaves in their Plantation prompted her to write a novel about black struggle, where not all white people are bad. She modified Skeeter's character to soften her own and somehow redeem her entire race. She is trying to comfort herself and the rest of the white audience about the controversial subject of race.

Kathryn Stockett portrayed herself in an imaginary racially aware character, Skeeter is Stockett's surrogate in *The Help*, she is the person Stockett hoped to be, they shared the dream of becoming writers, being close to their maids, and the desire to move to New

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York. In *The Help*, Stockett wrote an epilogue entitled “ Too little Too late” , in it, she admits regretting never asking her maid Dimitry about her feelings while working for them, and that she fantasized her answer for years (Stockett, 530). She was also accused of basing one of the characters on a black maid named Aibileen, who works for her brother, a lawsuit was raised by the maid for severe similarities between her and the character, from the name to the death of her son. This accusation means that alongside whitewashing the Civil Rights Movement, Stockett whitewashed Aibileen's identity as well. Stockett denied the accusations and claimed that the story is pure fiction (Churcher, 2011).

Skeeter also based her entire book on the idea Aibileen gave her, while talking about her dead son, skeeter whitewashed Aibileen's idea in the fictional story, while Stockett whitewashed Aibileen's personality in real life. As it is mentioned above skeeter is the surrogate of Stockett, so psychologically speaking Stockett unconsciously admitted her identity theft in the book, even though she consciously denied it in real life. According to McHaney “Stockett admits embarrassment for her youthful behaviors and writes about being scared about Writing in the maid's voices” (McHaney, 90).

Stockett applied a certain method to redeem the white race, she used a dichotomy to reinforce the belief in White goodness. The novelist portrayed two contrast characters to highlight the differences between bad and good without the mention of color. The lines between good white people like Skeeter, and bad racist ones like Hilly are clear. Her guilt made her create an imaginary perfect society in which not all white people are bad, at least not Skeeter, at least not her. All of this guilt and unconscious pressure could have led Stockett to the trap of whitewashing, as most critics think she undeliberately created a whitewash novel, she was undeliberately racist.

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A novel cannot be analyzed from one perspective, therefore, *The Help* raised its share of negative views as well. Kathryn Stockett's attempt to voice black characters and anti-racist ideologies, while being a privileged white person gathered severe criticism from the black community as her misrepresentation of colored people left her with the title of a hypocrite. Stockett represented all black characters as flat replicas of each other, with the sole purpose of supporting the white protagonist, as opposed to the White characters who are active and members of a Junior League. Both the protagonist and the antagonist are white, which means the novel's rising actions are provoked by them. This Centering of White characters leads to the marginalizing of colored people in fictional stories and real life. Stockett created two Black characters and gave them no role in her tale so that she can disguise her belief in white supremacy, they were objects to achieve Skeeter's dream of becoming a writer, while she served the role of the subject. Also, it highlights the power of whiteness, as Skeeter's book depends not on the maids but on two white women to be published, and Stockett's book and movie adaptation depends on her and her director friend Taylor Tate to be popular, fixing the idea that the colored are voiceless and in need of a white person to be voiced.

Stockett's book represented two main groups that were exposed to the same culture, and live in the same environment, yet her African- American characters possess a dialect that marks their inferiority, unlike the properly talking white figures. This aspect shows the writer's true intentions and her undying belief in the superiority of the white race. Opposite to its superficial intention to erase differences, *The Help* actually widens the gap between the two races. The black characters are denied of correct grammar, but the educated white people are not. According to McHaney Stockett insisted that the editors keep the language that she chose for the black characters (McHaney, 82).

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The novel at hand depicts several negative black stereotypes within its well-meaning intention of promoting anti-racism, first the representation of abusive drinking husbands like Minny's, who is the complete opposite of Johnny Foot, the caring loving husband of Miss Celia. Second implementations of hyper-sexuality by Skeeter's mother "you cannot leave a Negro and a Nigra together unchaperoned" mother whisper to me, a long time ago, it's not their fault, they just can't help it" (Stockett, 89). Finally, Abilene's advice for Skeeter to take that job in New York, which represents the image of the good Negro, whose life's achievement is being loyal to the white employer.

Stockett failed to give equality in assigning characteristics, as her White characters ended up with all the positive features leaving the colored with the negative ones. The novel was intended to cultivate equality, but the actions of the characters as well as the writer maintain the hierarchical system. There was no action made to change such situations, as the only role given to the colored people was the inferior position of a servant who works for the white administrator. This representation alongside her focus on color blindness in both Skeeter and Celia empowers the belief that black people reached this situation due to their poor choices, and that segregation, racism and white privilege had nothing to do with it. In the novel, one of the maids left college to get married so her situation is her fault.

Stockett's novel also featured a great amount of minimizing Civil Rights movement's events, according to McHaney *The Help* removes the Dreadful dangers of racial segregation out of the 1960s by disregarding the bombings, shootings, and beatings, and replacing the Ku Klux Klan with privileged rich ladies who treat their maids badly (McHaney,80). Stockett also mentioned the Martin Luther King march, but not without acknowledging the brave white souls who participated" I can't believe so many people is there, two hundred fifty thousand, and the ringer is sixty thousand of them is white"

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(Stockett, 344), thus she whitewashed the black activist efforts to gain equality like it did the Rosa Parks incident, by minimizing it to a tired woman who refused to give up her seat on a bus.

Kathryn Stockett may give the Vibes of a racially aware writer, who tried to discuss the injustices that black people face, but it is a mask. Stockett's intention was mainly the fame and fortune that the book would bring her. Like her protagonist or surrogate she craves acknowledgment and recognition, she wrote the book to fulfill her ambition of becoming a writer, rather than bringing Justice to voiceless minorities. If she cared about voicing the voiceless, she would have said the truth about the difficult era without softening it to protect the white audience, she wanted her masterpiece to be a bestseller and a bestseller it was. Also not asking her maid about her feelings haunted her for years, thus her motive is to resolve a personal struggle. At the end of the book, the destiny of the maids is a blur, only Skeeter's path was declared, which means the writer does not even care for the maid's future, leaving one conclusion that this novel is not about black struggle.

The Help was an attempt by the superior group to have the idea of racism alongside the events of the 1960s Jim Crow era removed from American history. Stockett injected a white protagonist in the center of her narrative to support the power of whiteness, she made the entire book about a young college girl and marketed it as a book about African-American struggle for mere profit, Stockett deliberately whitewashed the Civil Rights Movement events to ensure the spread of post-racial ideologies, and secure the existence of white privilege. Alongside her financial profit, Stockett manifested her belief in white supremacy and brought Redemption to her entire race, while pretending to call for equality and justice for the African Americans, thus critics tend to see her as a hypocrite rather than a human activist.

10. Saving the Cultural Image of the Glorified White Society

Throughout history, the color white has been considered the color of purity and nobility. Additionally, it is through this privilege of whiteness is assumed to be a right rather than a claim. Because, White privilege is infused into the norms of everyday lives, which means skin color privilege is never having to educate and prepare children to face and recover from the daily physical and mental suffering. Also, having the privilege of coming into this world to find a perfect protective environment to teach them that their skin color is a blessing.

Furthermore, *The Help* is a perfect illustration of the glorified white society in the help, as well Skeeter has been the best example of the white savior. Because Skeeter is from a rich white family that has everything from the day she stepped foot in this world. And, the novel is the perfect example of how Skeeter has used her white privilege to use the weakness of the maids to write her dream getaway book to move to New-York from Mississippi.

11. Using White Characters as 'Saviors' to Defeat the Image of the White Oppressor

The history of the American society is filled with horrific stories about racism, segregation, and white privilege, but lately different White authors have been trying to change that. The white savior troops as they call them write books to polish the image of their race, they attempt to disguise a post-racial script as an anti-racist promotion.

The white Savior book revolves around a white character who at the end of the day saves a person of color from their troubles, troubles they cannot solve for themselves. Viola Davis who played the character of Aibileen in *The Help* movie adaptation admitted regretting her role in that movie, even though it won her an Oscar nomination. She said

that it was not the voices of the maids that were heard (Murphy, 2018). Including a white savior in a story about black struggle not only make it more profitable, but it also defeats the image of the white oppressor. These kinds of books and movies solve the modern problem of tiredness from the topic of racism and minimize the guilt white people have living in a racial world, it redeems their conscience from hundreds of years of slavery and segregation.

Colored people in white savior depictions are portrayed as helpless and primitive, in need of the intellect and resources a white character brings to create a get through for their unfortunate struggle. The white savior serves to redeem racism and portray it as an individual behavior of a sick person, rather than the oppressive system of a dominant group that it is. The insurgent of a racially aware white person among others masquerades the bitter fact of generalizing racism on most American white people.

The white savior paints an imaginary world, where a white character would risk their lives for the sake of speaking for the unfortunate minority, but according to Alcoff " the practice of privileged persons speaking for or on behalf of less privileged persons has actually resulted in increasing or reinforcing the oppression of the group spoken for"(Alcoff,7) so whitewashing real events as well as the idea of racism only benefits the white race, as to make them comfortable and less troubled by their past. This notion does not bring any awareness, and it does not help the colored minorities, it simply and aesthetically improve the image of the white race internationally, and on domestic turf.

12.The Intended Effect of Whitewashing on the New Black Generation

The value of a child's life is limitless, children are a source of hope and growth. Basically, they are our future. There is a social obligation to complete any important tasks to protect the children from the hazard of the world for as long as possible. Whitewashing

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and Black erasure in mainstream media have always been something dangerous. “ Black erasure can be described as the tendency to ignore, remove, and falsify black bodies and black voices In academia, news, media, and other outlasts”.(Kai 3).

In addition, Whitewashing in mainstream media has impacted several people negatively. Black erasure and whitewashing in media negatively impacts children in black communities, and help in the burglary of their adolescence. Moreover, black children in America bloom in a society where” White” is the default race. Also, black children cross existence with standardized and disguised racism. There is no almost no portrayal of black bodies in media. Often there are all white casts in movies, books, and shows. Usually, audiences are only graced with one or two characters of color. These characters are commonly made to fit into stereotypes. For instance, Black women are typically sassy and opinionated. And black men are typically abusive and loud. Their characters are usually revolved around being a “thug” or some other negative lifestyle. (Ibid,4), and these stereotypes are illustrated perfectly in the help where white characters have always been portrayed as heroes, brave, shy. And yet there is a clear circumstance where black actors have been demoted into playing stereotypical roles. Black children in America are typically not exposed to positive reflections of themselves in the media. There are several ways in which racism will affect black children’s lives. Moreover, racial prejudice on-screen are found in virtually every facet of the film making industry. (Kai 5).

There are many examples of black characters that have a lesser standing than their white counterparts. For example, in *The Help* Minny’s relationship was abusive while Celia Foote’s was loving. On the whole, it is evident erasure of black bodies and whitewashing in popular media detrimentally impacts black children.

13. Conclusion

Whitewashing has become the new trend when it comes not only to most American novels nowadays, but also a fair amount of artistic depictions, this study investigates the reasons and motives behind its widespread. After a long analysis of the novel and theories at hand, it is clear that the characters are the reflecting image of the writer's attitude, psychology, and Society, thus Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* manifests the perfect presentation of the entire white race, it also proves that voicing Black characters is definitely not the job of privileged white authors. The behavior displayed by our trichotomy of characters is that of each white individual, a behavior developed through years of privilege and unconscious prejudice. The writer used whitewashing in a black story to gain both black and white audiences, what she wanted was acknowledgment not spreading awareness.

The author tried to display her believe in moral values, and convince the reader to believe in equality, but throughout the book, she strategically centered whiteness, by depicting three forms of it, the racist, the color - blind, and the white savior. She glorified the image of her race because no matter what she tries to show, at the end of the day her unconscious belief in supremacy leaves her helpless. The image portrayed by this author and many others plays a great role in destroying the upcoming black Generations, for their self-esteem is lowered by such creations. The black youth is portrayed through stereotypes of inferiority and bad behavior, thus not much black men reach success in their lives. All in all, whitewashing may Comfort the white race, but it comes from the sick minds of white supremacists who are racist to the Core and marginalize the colored people even in their own stories, making them feel less of themselves.

General Conclusion

The present study explores a long history, where black Americans were and are still considered sub-humans. They suffered from bad treatment under slavery and segregation in the past, and are suffering from racism and oppression nowadays. Whitewashing represents nothing more than a polished new form of racism, hidden in the curves of immoral social norms. White supremacist faced a law which forbade them from treating colored unequally, thus literature and movies were their last refuge to relieve their sick minds.

Racial oppression is a great problem that holds a severe impact on the lives of many black Americans, and the American society should learn to appreciate all lives equally, regardless of their skin complexion. The African American population went through a great suffer to obtain their freedom and demand for equality, but the sick minds of white supremacist work hard to deny them that pleasure. Whitewashing emerged recently and spread through American literature and artistic depictions. New Authors and media sponsors join the whitewashing troops each year, as the whitewashed corpus of American literature grows over time, books like "To Kill a Mockingbird", and many others are mere examples compared to the correct amount of it.

This research tackled whitewashing in American literature, history, movies, and art. It showcased many whitewashed artistic depictions but had the main aim of investigating whitewashing in Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* as a study case. Throughout the novel Kathryn Stockett depicts several forms of White characters to keep the focus on her race, she voices to Black characters but gives them no role except for attending to the white protagonist. The character of Skeeter is portrayed as the perfect white savior to improve the image of the white oppressor and comfort them about their racial past. The study also

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explained how the character's psychological issues influenced their behavior, and how the writer's psychological issues and social norms influenced her actions, and played a great part in forming her most famous novel.

The study answered the research questions and the sub-questions. As it revealed the psychological and sociological issues that led to the emergence of whitewashing, it also proved that the writer's life did interfere in the novel. The study depicted how all the concepts provided are manifested through the characters of the novel, all in all, the research did achieve its main aim.

Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* is considered one of the most successful books in history, with a record of 5 million sold copies, thus its widespread proves two things. First due to the softening of racism to protect the feelings of white folks the book was highly accepted by the dominant group, which explains its success. Second the widespread and normalizing of white supremacy and whitewashing. The research explains how this kind of immoral behavior and creations alongside the centering of whiteness in media impacts the life and self-esteem of upcoming black Generations. The low success rates of black individuals is a result of that difficult Miss presentation. As they grow on reading and watching bad stereotypes of black individuals, it is obvious that they will think less of themselves.

Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* manifested the perfect presentation of the entire white race attitude. The white society indulges as well as support whitewashing, for it serves their best interests and racially heals their feelings. *The Help* was analyzed as a study case, but it bears resemblance to most postmodern American white literature, so it is obvious that generalizing the reasons for the emergence of such phenomena is a must.

Kathryn Stockett marketed this novel as a novel about Black Americans' struggle, but in the end, only the white protagonist got to achieve her dream, while the faith of the black

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characters remained a blur. If this novel was truly about black struggle, the protagonist should have been a black woman who returns to her town after obtaining an education to help a family member, stand in the face of inequality, segregation, and bad treatment.

All in all recent events have proved that racism was never a forgotten aspect in the American society, the killing of George Floyd under police brutality declared to the whole world that the Western societies will never abandon their racial prejudice. It is only Islam who have insured equality to each human life no matter what color their skin is. Slavery was indeed abolished after a long struggle, but either than the right to breathe without permission, no other right was given to blacks. The research explained whitewashing as another racist scheme performed by rigid White racists to cover up for their past, a trick to convince and brainwash both races into thinking that racism is all forgotten and that America is truly the land of equal opportunities. They kept the focus on one race their own, because for them they are vital for the society and for life itself, unlike the colored people who play side roles in their books, movies, artistic depictions of all sights, and in real life.

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ملخص

لا يزال مشكل التبييض قضية شائكة في العالم كله وخاصة في المجتمع الأمريكي. حيث يهدف البحث الحالي إلى الكشف عن هذه المشكلة التي تعتبر قضية اجتماعية رئيسية ضد الأمريكيين الأفارقة، ويمثل التبييض كيف يعاني الأمريكيون-الأفارقة من سوء التمثيل وعدم التمثيل أساساً في الأفلام والكتب والفنون الأمريكية. علاوة على ذلك، كيف تم التمييز ضد العرق الأسود في التاريخ ويدرس البحث الحالي أيضاً كيف يتم تمثيل الأمريكيين البيض كمنقذين بيض في جميع أنحاء رواية كاثرين ستوكيت لعام 2009. اعتمدت هذه الدراسة على الدراسات النقدية البيضاء ونظريات سيغmond فرويد اللواتي يدرسن بشكل أفضل الجوانب النفسية والاجتماعية لسلوك الشخصيات في الرواية. أخيراً، يهدف تحليلنا إلى محاولة اكتشاف كيف اسقطت الكاتبة حياتها الرواية.

الكلمات المفتاحية: التبييض, التحليل النفسي, بياض

Résumé

La problématique du whitewashing a été, et reste à ce jour d'actualité un enjeu théorique partout dans le monde, spécialement dans la Société Américaine.

La présente Recherche a pour objectif de mettre en lumière ce Problème qui est considéré comme un aspect social important, et qui a été un élément déclencheur pour les Afro-Américains, qui ont toujours souffert de la manière dont ils ont été représentés dans les films, les livres et les œuvres d'art. En plus de la manière dont les noirs ont subi la discrimination raciale au cours de l'histoire. Et comment les blancs sont représentés en tant que sauveurs.

A travers "The help" de Kathryn Stockett 2009, Nous avons adopté dans ce projet les études critiques de blanchitde et les théories de Sigmund Freud, ce qui représente la meilleure façon d'examiner l'aspect psychologique du comportement des personnages du roman. Enfin, notre analyse est beaucoup plus fondée sur la manière dont se projette l'auteure en personne dans son roman.

Mots clés : Whitewashing, psychanalyse, blanchitde