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## **Master Dissertation**

# **The Sentiment of Antislavery in Harriet Beecher Stowe's Novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin" 1852**

A Dissertation Submitted to the Department of Arts and Foreign Languages in Partial  
Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master Degree in Literature

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## **Dedication**

This work is dedicated to my dear parents for their sacrifice, confidence, patient, understanding, and support during all the years of my studies.

This work is dedicated to my beloved and wonderful mother Noura, who supported my dreams and told me never gave up on anything in your life.

To my dear protective father Nacer, who guided me and preached most of the times.

To my inspiration, my dear sister Meriem, who spoke of my behalf in times where I couldnot.

To my younger brothers Yassine and Abdellah.

To my baby sister Smoud Yassmine, the light of my life.

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### **Declaration**

I do hereby declare that this dissertation entitled « The Sentiment of Antislavery in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel: Uncle Tom's Cabin » is the result of my research as a partial for the Master's Degree in English Literature and Civilization under the supervision of Mrs.Chenini Amri Boutheina, Faculty of Letters and Languages , English Language Division, Mohamed KHIDER University, Biskra, Algeria. I also declare that appropriate references or acknowledgments to the work of other researchers are made where necessary.

## **Abstract**

This dissertation attempts to highlight the Sentiment of Antislavery in the most popular novel of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe : Uncle Tom's Cabin : or Life Among The Lowely. Exposing cruelty of enslavement in America was Mrs. Stowe's main goal. The impact, response and controversies that the novel played in the issue. Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin played a major cause to the inhancement of Antislavery movement. It also, ignited the American Civil War. Initially the novel was written as a response to the Fugitive Slaves Act of 1850 that forced the citizens to aid capturing runaway slaves according to the law. By following a historical approach and by the reliance of on the related documents, reviews, some critical analysis the researcher found that the novel was the outcome of Stowe's life as as well as her background regarding the struggle of the institution of slavery. The researcher found that although, the controversies of the novel, its importance in convincing the readers of it in aiding the Antislavery Movement is undoubtful. Its sucess was more evidence to prove the wrongness of the institution of enslavement. Through Stowe's dipiction of evils of slavery and the will of escaping from it in her books characters and themes. The Feminist theory represents The Role of women in opposing slavery by both white women and black slaves is highlighted by the researcher and throughout the novel. And the antislavery messages appeals to everyone read the novel.

### **Keywords:**

Antislavery, Antislavery messages, Enslavement, fugitive Slave Act of 1850, Runaway slaves, Uncel Tom's Cabin.

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ملخص



## **General Introduction**

The American history is deeply linked to the institution of slavery socially and economically. Harriet Beecher Stowe an American white writer who, had produced one of the nineteenth century most controversial book "Uncle Tom's Cabin" . in promoting anti slavery ideas the novel was response to the Fugitive Slaves Act of 1850. Harriet had written the novel for the intention of convincing her readers of the horrors of enslavement and its actual reality . Excuting the power of one race upon the the other is a major theme in the novel ; by showing superiorit of the white American over the black race.

With a deep conviction that literature reflects the soceties's issues in the way they are intimately connected, and the author often transforms historical events int works of art such as writing. Harriet Beecher Stowe portrayed the events of the time showig the aspects of slavery and the way abolitionist had been inspired by her book. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* is the kind of the book that is based upon real testimonies, biographies, and historical documents of the escaped slaves. In the Novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin Stowe dipicted the destructive and dehumanizing aspects of slavery as an institution in order to make a clear opposition towards the law and the enslavement in general. The researcher's focus is to highlight the Antislavery messages that the novel provide various examples of it

### **The Statement of the Problem**

The present work aims to highlight the messages of Antislavery in the novel of Harriet Beecher Stowe Uncle Tom's Cabin ; in order to convince her readers of the horrors of slavery and the importance of its opposition.

### **Research questions**

Seeking to uncover the the thesis's theme ; the following questions could be raised :

What are the social circumstances that sourrounded the emergence of Stowe's novel ?

Was the novel successful in conveying the writer's aimed messages?

What was the role of women in the Anti Slavery Movement ?

The mentioned questions led the researcher to formulate these suggestions : Uncle Tom's Cabin is written as a response to the 1850's Fugitive Slaves Act. That affected the lives of Americans and through his sales records alone ; it is clear that the novel had a unspeakable effect.

Women in the beginning were not accepted to declare their ideas of slavery, however, later on their role emerged within the developpement of the antislavery movement.

### **The Content of the Thesis**

The present dissertation's framework is divided into three chapters.

Through the first chapter, the researcher provides a historical overview of Antislavery in America; to understand the context in which the novel was written and the circumstances that led to the emergence of the novel.

The second chapter entitled *Antislavery in Uncle Tom's Cabin* is devoted to study and analyse the the different antislavery aspects of the novel. By examining the highlighted incidents that were depicted by Stowe.

The third chapter xamines the different reactions and other significance of the novel in promoting the antislavery cause, plus highlighting the female voice in it.

### **Scope of the Research**

The main concern of this research is the messages of antislavery in the work of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* its aspects characters and the role of women in it.

### **Methodology**

The work will follow a thematic based approach to better understand the issue of slavery and the messages of antislavery in the novel. A historical approach will also be used to

understand the historical context to the creation of Uncle Tom's Cabin. The researcher will relay upon the related documents, reviews and critical analysis.

### **The Significant of the Research**

The significant of the thesis lies in giving information and adds the readers's knowledge about the author of Uncle Tom's Cabin Harriet Beecher Stowe. Also showing that the novel can not be separated from Mrs. Stowe's social life and experience related to the history of the nation. Highlighting the messages of antislavery shows that literature is not only a way of writing produced for entertainment, also as a way of delivering one of America's most controversial issue of its history. It is important for the readers since it makes them understand the discussed message's of Antislavery through the eyes of a literary work.

## **Chapter One**

### **Historical Framework in Uncle Tom's Cabin**

#### **1. Introduction**

This chapter attempts to give an overview of the historical background of the American slavery and its defense ,and its focus is upon the sentiment of antislavery ,in which slavery in America is considered to be the first sin of its history . Americans enslaved the Africans and owned them as properties, brought from their inhabitant, eventhough born as free ,in order to become merchants to be exploited and bought from kingdoms such as Ndongo and Kongo and survived only 20 in which to be known as " 20 and odd " African American. Moreover American slavery was considered as an institution in which Americans constructed its history upon it . This chapter will start by defining some concepts such as slavery ,plus the notion of Antislavery and its origins ,in addition to some famous figures ,who rose at that period of time.

The main focus of this chapter is going to be on defining and explaining some of the concepts of the American antislavery « We've got to tell the unvarnished truth » John Hope

Franklin. On the way of exposing the reality of the enslavement and its cruelty Abolitionist put their blood on the way to end slavery that have been forced on people who were born free only to be as a trade and not seen as humans. Sending petition to congress and giving speeches in order to change their reality hence, the activist organized themselves and formed a society claiming for the end of slavery. Besides this chapter will deal with the way of representing the African Americans, by both black race, and the white one

### **1.1.Exploring The Notion of Slavery in America**

Tracing back the history of slavery in America, which can be described differently since it varied in the United States from other countries. Slavery in America means the full exploitation of the African American people in every aspect of their lives. Thomas Paine described it as the will of stealing and enslaving people by violence for personal gain. Moreover he urged the traders to understand the evilness of slavetrade, under the testimonies of the traders themselves in which the Africans lived a quiet life in fertile countries (Paine,1)

Historian and author Edward E. Baptist explains how the practice of slavery helped the United States shift from a colonial economy to one of the biggest industrial powers in the entire world. And that of the many myths told about slavery in America (Lockhart,par,5). Plus the fact that it is an antique practice, that helped the rise of its economy particularly the cotton industry, therefore slavery became America's first big business (Vox,par,1).

#### **1.1.1.History of Slavery in America**

Thomas Paine is considered as one of the earliest advocates of abolition of slavery, although some may say that he is not. The Philadelphian first antislavery society was formed, after the release of his famous essay in 1775, plus the fact that he was a founding member. (Paine,1) Tracing the history of the sale of the "20 and odd" in August of 1619 that refers to the first Africans that were brought by a British ship to the colony of James Town, from that they became the first slaves to come to the American lands (npr.org,par,1) Paine exposed the fact

that africans were brought into slavery due deceicive ways; tempting kings by stealing theme and selling theme as subjects in which they have no rights to ask for (1), moreover one of the other ways of capturing prisoners ws turning the tribesmen against eachother by hiring one tribe to start a war on eachother. He argues that traders had no right in catching and enslaving people who had never harm them .(2)

Slavery or what it called America's original sin that untoward the main prop of its constitution ; that all men are created equal ,although the very basics of it was freedom and equality the enslaved African Americans did lucked from both of them in which they were captured and abused . however America paid a terrible price embodied through the Civil War in which the issue of slavery manifested its aim ( brooking.edu, par,1).

### **1.1.2.The Southern Argument of Slavery**

Larry Tise defending slavery in his book : A History of The Defense of Slavery in America presents some of the stunning reasoning of viewing slavery proslavery argued that it did existed in various civilizations ,greeks,Romans and the English as well had slaves throughout the history (ushistory.org,par,4). Moreover they defended it by referring to the bible in which Abraham too had slaves and Jesus never spoked against it

According to Smith in reffering to Larry E.Tise "Even though natural rights theory posed the first major challenge to proslavery thoughts in America advocates of slavery were not leftdefenseless " (libertarianism,par,1). And to some other historians that the defence of slavery had not exist untill ehe flourish of the antislavery movements during the 1830's,hence slavery is an evil America was stuck in it as an institution therefore abolishing it would cause various economic,social issues (libertarianism,par,3) between the era of 1772and 1775 some mojor defences of slavery were published. Moreover ,Thomas Thompson pointed out that Africans were already enslaved before they were shiped to America and might have ended in worse circumstances ,in which he based his defense of slavery on the nature of civilsoceity

rather than the inferiority of whites, and considered the doctrine of equal rights and freedom as a fiction (libertarianism, par, 5) no other thing to say is Richard Nisbet who, published *Slavery Not Forbidden by Scripture*, and advanced the argument that in Europe many slaves were better off than free laborers that became popular among the defenders of slavery (libertarianism, par, 6)

Theodore Parsons defending slavery argued that, the nature of society requires various degrees of authority, therefore no one can enjoy perfect liberty that a society can permit (libertarianism, par, 8).

### **1.1.2.1. Proslavery Figures**

Though Antislavery movements existed deeply in America, there were who support, and advocate slavery as one of the core stones in their history, by declaring slaves as properties for the white race, based upon the white men inferiority and racial equality.

#### **1.1.2.1. George Fitzhugh**

A famous proslavery writer born in Prince William County and raised in King George County famous in his book, *Cannibals All! or, Slaves Without Masters*, he studied law before marrying. Fitzhugh distinguished himself as an aggressive defender of slavery, also he asserted the inferiority of Black Africans in his writings and debated various Abolitionists. Moreover, he sold some of his slaves for his travels. And dealt with them as properties. He worked for Confederate Treasury Department then in Freedmen's Bureau, initially he aimed his writing to provoke his opponents (Encyclopedia Virginia, par, 1).

#### **1.1.2.2. Thomas R. Dew**

He was known for his proslavery works in which he backed free trade, he showed his support of the institution of slavery specifically in his demonstration on the Virginia's debate to end slavery, and that defending the institution would deprive the country from maintaining its wealth (Encyclopedia Virginia, par, 1).

## **1.2.Antislavery Meaning**

Antislavery movements in the United States of America are represented in forms or what is called Abolitionism . It was an act of the past and was created by men and women whose the new generation will not know about their sacrifices and struggles in claiming the African American freedom of living and being a separate exist (Johnson,19)

One of the main activit of the movement is William Lloyd Garrison ,along with many other participants in which they were mainly drawn from religious circles .The community's public meetings were most effective in many situations such as ,featuring the significant testimony of former slaves like William Wells Brown and Frederick Douglass in addition to that the i twas formally dissolved in 1870..Another thing to say is the main idea of the movement is that slavery was morally wrong and should be banned entirely in the United States its is due to the advocacy of former slaves such as Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass and other writers and publishers like the case of Harriet Beecher Stowe and William Lloyd Garrison , wether through testimonies or published works (Britannica).

Finally the goal of the Antislavery movement was fullfield within the the president of the Unites States Abraham Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation in 1863and was accomplished with the Thirteenth Amendment's passage in 1865 (DPLA).

### **1.2.1.Early antislavery**

#### **The Origins**

Abolotionist movements officially emerged during 1830 ,and began as more orginised and radical efforts in order to put an end to the enslavements of the African Americans in which they had suffred in almost every aspect of their lives ,although they they were born as free people ,still they grew to be properties and denied of any rights .(history,par,9.)

Comparing to other places in the west hemespher colonial north America had few slaves in which it was deeply involved in slaves trade hence the early protest of ending slaves trade

were about ending slavery itself in the first place .and with various motives that the English initiated and then the Americans joined too. Free blacks saw ending slave trade as the first step of ending slavery in which some societies viewed it as a moral evil.(nps.gov,par,1)

The newly enslaved people who called the Maroons tried to run away towards remote areas, to create a safe community. However they were easy to discover due to their numbers ,hence they moved to Canada and northern states that adopted emancipation laws (nps.gov,par,2)

In the first chapter The power that giveth liberty and freedom of Brychan Carey's book he referred to George Fox, who founded the society of friends in which his ideas were challenged and had been finally asserted by himself according to his personal experience about slaves plantation in Barbados .His writing were considered as one of the basics of Quakers writings of slavery in a letter to his friends beyond sea in the year of 1657 from England.(Carey,chap1). His writing influenced Quakers thinking about the legitimacy of slavery , and what led to the rise of antislavery among Quaker communities. In his letter for friends ,Fox argues that God, who "hath made all Nations of one Blood " hence they are equal in Heaven and Earth.

Paine declared in his essay, that slavery should be prohibited since the ceasing of all the distinction of nations and privileges of one above the others and under Gospel Light in which it contradicted its core ;accounting all men as their neighbours and love them as themselves , and to do good to all men (2) .Furthermore he debated that enslaving our neighbours and treating them as beasts without any mistake or a harm doing by them is not what we wish they would do the same (2). Thomas urged the government to grant the slaves their freedom since it is their natural right and punishing whoever is responsible for keeping them in holding.

### **1.2.2.The American Antislavery Society**



During the early nineteenth century one of the most prominent abolitionist organization was the American Antislavery Society, under the leadership of William Lloyd Garrison and a group of brave men. The main aim of the society was to convince the both sides of white Southerners and Northerners of the unhuman act of slavery also the society bombarded the Congress with petition hoping to find an end to slavery. And called for an immediate end to slavery unlike other organization and demanded for the African Americans the same rights as the white people.

The focus of the American Antislavery Society was to deliver the Antislavery message to the Northern audience. The society represented many tasks such as sponsored meetings signed antislavery petition, so that it could be sent to upper hands like the Congress (Britannica)

### **1.2.3. Figures of Antislavery Movement**

Many activists fought hard in order to gain equality for the African American, many of them were whites as well as blacks in which there were no difference in colour that would make a race enslave the other. Those ideas were the turning wheel of the way that country should be controlled, not on the expense of the African American, that the economy were centralised upon. Moreover here is some of figures, who declared their opinions clearly and opposed slavery in every aspect of it, they participated in the activities, that helped in the rise of Antislavery Movements to end the horrors of slavery.

#### **1.2.3.1. Harriet Tubman**

Harriet is considered to be the a key figure of one of the main Antislavery Movements which is the Underground Railroad, the goal of this movement is to help the enslaved people to escape their abusive captures, most of Tubman's family were enslaved in Maryland, she tried to escape with her brothers more than one time but the attempt failed, however she did succeed with the help of some abolitionists in 1850, after that Tubman started the journey of aiding the free slaves moving to Canada. Words of her action were spread, gaining her a

nickname Moses in which the famous abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison compared her the Hebrew prophet of the bible Moses ( Akhalbey,2021).

### **1.2.3.2.Frederick Douglass**

The American hero and the 19th century slave ,and abolitionist who worked as a public servant and fought for racial and gender equality .Frederick was born near the town of Easton in Maryland in a slave cabin in which he was separated from his family and raised by his grandmother whom took him in a plantation and left him there. His new mistress taught him the alphabet ,but soon after she quitted since it was unlawful to teach slaves how to write and read .Douglass took it himeself to learn and educate himeself since he knew the power of spoken and written word . Him and his new wife Anna Murray began to raise a family when they went to New Bedford ,Massachussetts at first he attended abolitionist meetings then he become a colleague of William Lloyd Garrison and a lecturer for the Massachusetts Antislavery Soceity.Douglass was recognized internationally as an uncompromising abolitionist ,who fought hardly for justice and equal opportunity that led him to become the trusted advisor of Abraham Lincoln .Frederick Douglass died at his home Anacostia ,Washington ,DC in the evening of Tuesday ,20 February 1895. (frederickdouglass.org).

### **1.2.3.3.Harriet Beecher Stowe**

Harriet was born in the Beecher family her father was a priest a profession ,which her brother followed him in ,she assisted her older sister Catharina completing her school in her early years.Harriet had married with Calvin Ellis Stowe in 1836,who worked as a teacher in the Cincinnati theological Seminary .In the year of 1850 ,the most intense fugitive law was passed ,therefore her family moved to Maine.The issue of slavery was a center talk in the Beecher family , they had head read the aboltionist Literature and had aided fugitive slaves ,for Stowe the law of 1850 gave her writings a main theme that drove her passion into creating her musterpiece the antislavery novel Uncle Tom's Cabin that described the cruelty

and the suffer of enslaved people that had endured for a long time .The novel was an epic of the 19th century life , in which it ignited the flame of the Civil War (Schneider,457).

#### **1.2.3.4.Truth Sojourner**

Truth was born initially born under the name of Isabella, She had lived most of her life as a slave, in which she endured cruelty and harsh treatment of her masters .Truth first learned about the abolitionist movement when she went to Northampton Massachusetts. In 1850 Sojourner used the Antislavery office in Salem,Ohio,for her travels in Indiana ,she also solicited food and clothing to the black soldiers throughtout Michign during the Civil War .A major work Truth had di dis works of Truth is ,the demand of the collection of signatures on a petition in order to claim a Negro State ,therefore she urged the affrican americans to be settled on the West lands ( Schneiderer,460)

#### **1.2.3.5.William Lloyd Garrison**

One of the famous black people who fought against slavery isWilliam Garrison ; considred as a leader of the abolitionist movements, he had posed his ideas in a news paper of his foundation called the Liberator,he declared in it the fellowing :

I am aware that many object to the severity of my language; but is there not cause for severity? I will be as harsh as truth, and as uncompromising as justice. On this subject, I do not wish to think, or speak, or write, with moderation. No! No! Tell a man whose house is on fire to give a moderate alarm; tell him to moderately rescue his wife from the hands of the ravisher; tell the mother to gradually extricate her babe from the fire into which it has fallen;—but urge me not to use moderation in a cause like the present. I am in earnest—I will not equivocate—I will not excuse—I will not retreat a single inch—AND I WILL BE HEARD (Garrison)  
(openstax.org).

Thomas R. Gray depicting the resistance of Nat Turner In his battle against slavery .After he was excuted in ,Gray published his confession ;The Confession of Nat Turner ,that he heard from him ,when he visited him in jail and it.The following is a passage of his words.

For as the blood of Christ had been shed on this earth ,and had ascended to heaven for the salvation of sinners ,and was now returning to earth again in the form of dew ... it was plain to me that the Saviour was about to lay down the yoke he had borne for the sins of men ,and the great day of judgment was at hand....And on the 12th of , May, 1828,I heard a loud noise inthe heavens ,and the spirit instantly appeared tome and said the Serpent was loosened ,and Christ had laid down the yoke he had borne for the sins of men ,and that I should take it on and fight against the Serpent,...Ques (Turner) (openstax.org).

### **1.3. Westward Expansion and Slavery**

Eric Foner explains the relationship between Westward Expansion in which slavery and territorial expansion helped in the growth of the country (par,1.) ,plus the fact that the frontier helped in the extand of slaveryt therefore westward expansion was considred to be one of the forceful processes going on at that time and it carried the enslavement to the southwest, and by 1840's it reached Texas.and turning from an issue to become a life pattern ,the Americans had experienced it during that time.(par,2).

Moreover, Foner depicted the views of the south slaveowners and the necessity of of slavery in developping the civilization in which it freed the upper class from manual labour and gave birth to a new form of arts and invetions ,the americans devoted themselves to it ,all of that by enslaving africans as a form of progress (par,3).

#### **1.4.Racial Equality**

Garrison and his supporters formed societies that their main aim not only ending slavery ,but providing racial justice as well ,through non violent methods and producing antislavery literature ,public speeches.Also, His publication of *The Liberator* influenced many activists and made a huge impact.later on these ideas led to the creation of political parties, that claimed for racial equality for the African American race (nationalgeographic.org,par,3).

Though white activists who joined the societies did not believe of full focus of it reaching racial equality ,the black activists had faith on the aim of their fightings in order to promote racial justice and equality.(nationalgeographic.org, par,4).

#### **1.5.The Difference Between American Slavery and Other Countries Slavery**

In the American history Slavery was considered As an institution in which, enslaved people were not seen as humans but as a part of the created system , that was racialized,inherited and commercialized, and offered as goods to be exploited and bought .

Thomas Paine argued that it is new think of taking prisoners of war and enslaving in a country, but its different in going to a country whom there is not any conflicts and war and planting the seed of it, is very barbaric and brutal thing for purely catching inoffensive people ,andfor coining a personal gain (2) which considered to be an offense towards justice and humanity in the bigger phase.

The third one is enslavement based on race; is the key difference between slavery in America and other countries , it was not uncommon for America and other countries to force labour among enslaved people still in the others it was not based on race or colour like it is on it (nytimes,par,2) in which John Hope Franklin said: "we've got to tell the unvarnished truth".

#### **1.6.African American Writings**

In the 18th century the African American literature saw the first light, when the Americans became as recognized citizens owning slaves in which their conditions led to the creation of a new genre of writings described as slaves narratives. (blog.bookstellyouwhy, Golden, par, 1) Moreover the slaves narratives provided evidents for the advocates about the struggles of their lives, as an example of this is the autobiography of the famous abolitionist Frederick Douglass under the name of "*Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass*" (bookstellyouwhy, par, 2).

### **1.6.1. African American Writings Figures**

The African American writings was full of the people, who wanted to portray the reality of their race at the time when they were suffering from the horrors of slavery, as example of that are the next list of some of famous liberators of the history of America.

#### **1.6.1.1. Du Bois (William Edward Burghardt)**

One of the famous works of Du Bois, that considered to be a major influence in the black activists movements is *The Souls of the Black Folk* published in 1903; contains a collection of essays of his writings, a part of it had been previously published by the *Atlantic Monthly* magazine (Columbia.edu, par, 1.) it's an autobiography work that depicted the horrors of racism in the consciousness and lives of the African Americans (Columbia.edu, par, 2).

Moreover, even though Du Bois respected Booker T. Washington's ideas, he did not support in any way Du Bois view it as a way of accepting the inferiority of Black Americans by abandoning their rights of education, civil rights, and political rights. (Columbia.edu, par, 3.)

#### **1.6.1.2. Zora Neale Hurston**

*Their Eyes Were Watching God* is Zora's most notable work, that Alice Walker considered it very essential "*There Is No Book More Important To Me Than This One*". Alice Walker. It tells the story of a young independent black woman, although the novel had faced at first denial by the male reviewers, later on it became highly acclaimed in the African American literature. In her search of the reality of the African Americans "I have the nerve to walk my

own way ,however hard,in my search of reality ,rather than climb upon the rattling wagon of wishful illusions. "Zora Neale Hurston (zoranealhurston.com).

### **1.6.1.3.Toni Morrison**

Toni is best known of her novel « Beloved » in which it tells the story of a woman that escaped enslavement ,and later on in avoiding the destiny of reenslavement, killed her own daughter . In 1993she won the Noble Prize for Literature as the first black women winning it .moreover she was praised by Laura Miller in by saying; "She reshaped the landscaped of literature " in telling stories about the facts that "no other novelist ,Black or white,attempted ."

The writers of African American writings were trying to portray the reality of the black race ,in which they sometimes depicted the events of their lives in a fiction or a non-fiction way .all of these works impacted the situation ,and changed it by describing the problem of the twentieth century ; the color-line in which it went from slaves narratives to major works such as the previously mentioned . Her writing aimed in describing the suffering of African American as well as giving hope through her words: "home is an idea rather than a place. It's where you feel safe. Where you're among people who are kind to you – they're not after you; they don't have to like you – but they'll not hurt you. And if you're in trouble they'll help you... It's community – that's another word for what I've described." Toni Morrison (womenshistory.or).

### **1.7.Racism Towards The Black Americans**

Albert Memmi describing racism as concept that no definition can fit in ,and not everyone can agree upon.in which it is purely based on race ,and biological differences,moreover it it is considered as doctrine ,that consisted of a civilizing mission , the American natural superiority,in which it justified the invasion and domintion of of a certain race that was proved to be naturally inferior (183).

### **1.8.Slaves Codes**

In the second chapter of book about the Black Codes ,declaring the things African Americans were allowed and not allowed to participate in.regrding labor income ,home ,health,reward ,comfort, employment ,and a secure justice . Laws of granteeing their rights were passed during the twenty -first and twenty- ninth of November in 1865, in which Mississippi state had the initiate and undertake legislation in it.Moreover, black people were permitted to sue and to be sued as well,to marry from the same race ;not the white one.To hold and transfer property ,another thing they had the right in it was, to witness in cases.Another thing to highlight is, the punishment of violating the codes in any situation differs, in most cases they were working for no wages in other cases they were wether ,beaten narrested ,or fined ,these punishment were made in order to limit the freesom of African Americans in every possible way found ,however the Thirteen Amendement outlawed slavery, many southern states kept practising it (khanacademy.org.)

### **1.9.Life After Slavery**

At the End of the Civil War and,after the abolotionment of slavery new form of domination towards African Americans was created by the Southern states in order to maintain the white supremacy. It appeared in the way black people felt more trapped, then they used to be ,in what is called the Black Codes ; they are a set of laws, that limited the freedom the black race in almost every aspect of their lives ; in employment ,jobs ,marriage,properties, and voting rights (khanacademy.org)

### **1.10.The Fugitive Act of 1850**

The United States Congress passed The Fugitive Act on September 18,1850 The law had permitted for the capture ,and return ofthe runaway slaves even in free terretories ,moreover, it required goverment to aid the owners of slavers to control theirenslaved people ,in which they were not considred as citizens ,therefore ;could not testify or have a trial as well as being unprotected by the law (socialwelfare.library.vcu.edu).



### **1.11.Conclusion**

It can be concluded that antislavery that came as a reaction of the enslavement of the African Americans they had suffered for many years, aiming on liberating the blacks and granting their rights as citizens. In addition antislavery carried the efforts of black and white activists that was influenced by several writings. Though the differences of ideas and aims. However ending slavery was a cause they paid blood for it. Sending petitions, organizing societies, and forming, all aiming on freeing the society from racial racism and ensuring better conditions for the African American race.

## Chapter Two

### Uncle Tom's Cabin and Antislavery Movement

#### **2..Introduction**

Uncle Tom's Cabin is the novel that portrays the aspects of slavery and the struggles of the African American. Stowe used tools such as, Irony to show the hypocrisy of slave trade. The idea of the good institution, that helps the African American race is viewed in a new manner that affected the history of the United states of America deeply and reshaped its aspects. Including slaves narratives and testimonies of fugitive slaves among the telling of the story is widely clear; based upon real stories of the suffering of the black slaves .

In thischapter the analyses and main focus of the novel is going to be about exploring evils of enslavement throught different characters ,scenes, themes and the plot.Stowe includes sensitive treatment of the the slaves as well as their families.

#### **2.1. The Life of the Author**

Harriet Beecher stowe (1811-1896)

Harriet Beecher stowe was born in June14,1811 in Litchfield, Connecticut in a religious family. The daughter of Lyman Beecher and Roxana Foote Beecher and the seventh child in her family. Her mother died when she was five years old, an elder sister Catherine, and Henry Ward Beecher the brother ;are the two famous siblings(womenshistory.org,par,2.) Influenced primarily from her brothers and sister catherine, who helped her to shape her views about writings in which they were all raised in a literary housing (biography.com, par,2). In her early life her sister catherine raised her brothers, and took much of the responsibility, because her mother died. Morover Harriet incorporated her childhood in: "Poganuc People" in 1878, that's consdidred to be her last novel (Harriet Beecher Stowe center.org).

Harriet started her education at the age of eight, later on in one of the earliest institutions that encouraged girls to study, called Saraha Pierce's Academy. Also Stowe was bound to

household tasks ,since she was suffering from money issue. She dedecated herself in writing as a financial outcome as well as literary one, in order to support her family in which Stowe herself would tell that she wrote at first to gain profit ; "wrote for money, "still it was not always possible, due to her health situation (harrietbeecherstowecenter.com)

Stowe believed in changing the aspects of slavery through her works, " There is more done with pens than with words." Harriet Beecher Stowe.The major reason of her litrary influence about slavery was the lost of her son by the the cholera epidemic that took many lives at that time,the sympathy of the enslaved mothers and the suffer of their children inspired her to gave birth to the novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin, in which Harriet dipicted the struggle of the slaves during the the passage of the Fugitive Act of 1850 ,plus the fact that she tried to raise a call for the Northern people to affront this act (womenshistory.org,Michals,par,4.).

The incident of loosing one of her seven child reshaped Stowe's litterrary viewsof slavery ; it was then when she felt the real pain and suffer of the slave she said "It was at his dying bed and his grave that I learned what a poor slave mother may feel when her child is torn way from her." (Ammons,1997,161.179 )

Although, Harriet was involved in fighting slavery issue before ,and committed to social justice, her intrests saw light by the publishing of "Uncle Tom's Cabin", that threatned her position in the soceity, being a women ; who dare to write about equality for an enslaved race. A hostess for the Semi-Colons, Abby Lyman Greene cmmented that , "I do like Harriet Beecher very much .She has a truly liberal mind besides a real genius,and is the most perfectly unpretending person I ever met with." (Hedrick,91). Harriet devoted herself to the antislavery cause, an author and social activist epathaying with slaves by portrayin their struggles.When Mrs.Stowe visited the white House in 1863, President Abraham Lincoln, reffered to Harriet "So you're the little woman who wrote the book that started this great war" . In which her words changed the world and brought new viewsinto the core issue of

slavery. Though Harriet and Calvin Stowe shared the same beliefs of abolition, they sometimes contradicted in some other situations (biography.com).

Another incident impacting Mrs. Stowe's life and concern her in slavery issue would be the African American women who, were brought by the family in order to work as employee. After the loss of her mother at a young age, she remembered them comforting her, that could be considered as the first time Harriet Stowe knowing about slavery. In addition to that, the first-hand encounter of a fugitive slave and formerly enslaved people whom her brother and husband aided along the underground railroad, and hearing the stories made her attached even more to their words, due to the loss of her child. She herself helped hiding 'John Andrew Jackson' in his journey to the North escaping from enslavement of the South.

(harrietbeecherstowecenter.org)

However, when the children left her father's school for a protest, due to the forbidden of societies and debates of antislavery. The discussion about slavery and its concern, could aid the division the community was the thing Harriet Stowe learned in Cincinnati. When Stowe published Uncle Tom's Cabin, was already half way through her life. She kept writing to better the societies for most of her days. Harriet wrote other better works while living in Hartford, after the publishing of Uncle Tom's Cabin: "The American Woman's Home" (1869), other book was in the year of 1871, "Lady Byron Vindicated", and "Pogonuc People" in (1878) (harrietbeecherstowecenter.org). Moreover, before Uncle Tom's Cabin Stowe felt miserable, even compared her self as a slave, she had been living in poverty and exhausted due to her house requirement being a wife and a mother took much of her time. Therefore the publish of the novel had been a transition point in her life and even named it in her own words, Uncle Tom's Cabin was her "declaration of independence, ... her emancipation proclamation". Before the release of the book Harriet was unknown and poor, then after its publishing, she

became popular and wealthy. The novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin made her immortal, not only famous (Griesing,9).

### **2.1.1.Overview of Harriet Stowe's Major Works**

Harriet had wrote many works, includes novels and memoires and even short stories. For instance, she wrote novels such as, "Uncle Tom's Cabine" ,Charlott James suggests " it helped to change people perceptions of slavery during the years before the American Civil War" . It is consided as one of the most influencial works in the American Literature, that dipicted the evils of slavery (theculturetrip.com,par,1). Before the period of Stowe's marriage, she wrote several works as the following : "Primary Geography for Children" in the year of 1833 plus, "New England Sketches" in 1835 and the stories following her marriageare are : "The Mayflower : Sketches of Scenes and Characters among the Descendants of the Pilgrim" in the year of 1843, and in the same year, "The Coral Ring" in 1843. Moreover, regular news papers and journals published her articles and essays, and her short stories (harrietbeecherstowecenter.org.)

Stowe's considrble works of antislavery are three main ones : the first and most important one is the novel that changed the history of the United States, Uncle Tom's Cabin ; it is a novel where slavery is portrayed in its actual form in a way that no other author at the time dare to oppose the institution of slavery the way Harriet Beecher stowe did. Eventhough, otherwriters attempted to deliver the issue of enslavement, it did not had the same impact as Uncle Tom's Cabin . The next antislavery work of Stowe is A Key to Uncle Tom's Cabin , the book offered documents to enhance the proves of the previous novel, because some critics questioned its validity. The book contains testimonies of slaves of the way slavery institution is truely managed (history.com)

Another novel of Stowe's that is considred as a forceful antislavery novel is : Dred : A Tale of the Great Dismal Swamp in 1856 (History.com). it is the second novel of Stowe, that

addresses the issue of slavery during the most heated period of America's history. The novel focuses on slaves owners and mistreatment of slaves in the South. The main character Dred is portrayed upon the real life of a slave Nat Turner, but that does it mean ,it specifically appears in the novel as so. Stowe offers historical documents in supporting her portraying of enslavement (americanantiquarian.org)

### **2.1.2. Background of the Novel**

Uncle Tom's Cabin or "Life Among the Lowly" is the best selling novel of Harriet Beecher Stowe, the first publishing of it was in The National Era magazine on Thursday, June 5, 1851. plus the 30 books that she had published. (harrietbeecherstowecenter.org,par,1). The book was published in two volumes, in a serialized form in 1851-1852 and in the year of 1852 as a book. However, throughout the years it was translated into more than seventy languages and spread into the world. The Bible is the only book to outsell Uncle Tom's Cabin, that Hughes referred to as "The most cussed and discussed book of its time". Langston Hughes. Moreover, the book took wide popularity from the white readers in the North (Britannica.com).

Uncle Tom's Cabin is considered as a Groundbreaking novel in its aspects of spreading, in which it was written in period of the release of The Fugitive Act in 1850 that demanded to return runaway slaves. Initially Harriet Beecher Stowe produced the novel according to two main events ; the first one is personal and the second is national. After the loss of her son Harriet observed the slaves mothers 's sons taken away to be sold, and that incident inspired her to produce one of the most controversial novels about slavery in the history of America (Office.com,par,5.). The book was the production of Stowe's decision of expressing her ideas in a literary work portraying slavery, that were primarily influenced by slaves narratives. The story was based upon her own observation, plus the life of "Josiah Henson" ; a former slaver, who served as a model and a character in Tom in Uncle Tom's Cabin. Moreover, in the

process of writing the novel , Stowe cited Henson's autobiography , "The Life of Josiah Henson" as a source inside her work (Britannica.com). Stowe utilised the slave narratives among her novel , including their words and experiences as tool of depicting realities of their conditions .

"Edmund Wilson", described Uncle Tom's Cabin as "a much more impressive work than one has ever been allowed to suspect" . in a way that exposed the reality of not only a issue , but an institution as well.(Brown). Some of the characters in the book are taken from real life figures and slaves narratives autobiographies such as : Josiah Henson(1849), Frederick Douglass(1845), Lewis Garrard Clarke(1845), William Wells Brown(1847), Henry Bibb(1849), and Josiah Henson(1849) ; who is represented in the novel as the character of Uncle Tom (essentiancivilwarcurriculum.com).

Andrews viewed that Stowe saw the problem of slavery not only a Southern regional issue, but rather as national, hence Mrs Stowe expressed her national concern in it by trying to raise awareness of the issue, that made the lives of both white and black in danger ,so a solution that would free them all, would be found (Andrews ,5) . Moreover, Harriet did not only changed the way of portraying the slave narratives in the novel ,by breaking convention ,that were established in the portraying, also, she was very critical in depicting the characters of Southern white men characters in the story , in which their hypocrisy and favour of slavery were explicitly shown in the novel ,for example the character of 'Simon Legree'.

Stowe wrote the book despite household and marital irritations,as well as being a woman interfering in one of major issue ,that considered to be America's first sin.also, Stowe's strong believe in the cause of the abolitionist made her argue her husband , in order to declare her ideas directly, that later became one of the most controversial books in the history of the United States. She send him a letter saying the following "There is one thing I must suggest .If I am to write , I must have a room to myself ,which shall be my room ". (Stowe). Her

sympathy towards slaves when the slaves families were departed and children were taken to be sold effected her way of seeing the society that tolerated such a cruelty and permitted as if it was nothing wrong "I well remember the winter you were a baby and I was writing Uncle Tom's Cabin. My heart was bursting with the anguish excited by the cruelty and injustice our nation was showing to the slave. and praying God to let me do a little and to cause my cry for them to be heard .I remember many a night weeping over you as you lay sleeping beside me and I thought of the slave mother whose babies were torn from them". (Ammons,1977 161.179).

The story of Uncle Tom's Cabin revolves about a slave called Tom, in which the novel's is titles upon his name, a man of heroic proportions, whose believes were Christians in a way that his characters was centered upon his faith, he observed the evils of slavery, and its horrors towards the black race in plantations such as, Legree's. Comforting them sometimes and others he felt helpless, even towards his closest people.

In the work of Uncle Tom's Cabin Harriet enlisted that the sources ; they were brought by friend and family after the hearing of the slaves narratives, as well as antislavery magazines that exposed the wrongness of enslavement, morally and physically. More specifically the novel was influenced after the creation of The Fugitive Act on September 18,1850. Abolitionist and free blacks argued ; that the law justified the enslavement of the kidnapped people by doubling their burden even more (Harrietbeechercenter.org). Stowe's words changed the way of things were seen, although at first she did not believe in the strength her words, Isabella Porter Beecher, her sister -in -law motivated her by saying : " ...if I could use a pen as you can ,Hatty ,I would write something that would make this whole nation feel what an accursed thing slavery is." She showed power through words, to revolt against the evils practised on the enslaved race (harrietbeecherstowecenter.org).



Uncle Tom's Cabin novel lay down the foundational humanization of the black race to other authors to adapt the work that exposed slavery the way it really was, in which she used movement vocabularies by explaining the implicit racism, that Samuel Heie argued about. Moreover, she aided abolitionist movements to raise their voices louder by giving the motive, and the necessary influence in order to fight for their rights liberty and the right to have independent life, that the American constitution had build its core upon it (samheie.com, Heie). The portray of The Shelby's plantation mentioned in the novel, would serve as a real inspiration of the plantation, that Harriet visited in her traveling in Kentucky, where slavery was legal and practised freely (harrietbeecerstowecentre.org).

The book is highly controversial in his ideas and the way of portraying events, however, Griesing viewed that : It is true that the book brought a debate over slavery by exposing parts of its true meaning, nevertheless, it can not be seen as a main reason of the Civil War since its beginning in 1861 (Griesing,7)

In addition, Harriet showed an antislavery purpose, by depicting characters such as, Shelby manifesting faith and Christianity, even though, he is a slaves owner who sells people from an enslaved race to another human and considering themselves to be inferior to others. Here is the Irony is shown clearly throughout the scenes of the story. Directing all the wrongness of the institution to the law, that aided the mission to enslave people regardless their existence as human beings :

Whoever visits some estates there, and witnesses the .....might be tempted to dream the off-fabled poetic legend of a patriarchal institution, and all that, but over and above the scene there broods a portentous shadow-the shadow of law. So long as the law considers all these human beings, with beating hearts and living affections, only as so many things belonging to a master, so long as the failure, or misfortune, or imprudence, or death of the kindest

owner may cause them any day to exchange a life of kind protection and indulgence for one of hopeless misery and toil, so long it is impossible to make anything beautiful or desirable in the best regulated administration of slavery (Stowe,16)

Although, the book gained widespread popularity and influence, it fell into neglect after the death of Stowe, and the end of the Civil War ,however the antislavery fiction book was revived by the Civil Rights Movement, due to its importance for the abolitionists ,since it depicted realities events as well as slaves narratives. And delivering messages of antislavery throughout the events of the story (billofrightsinstitute.org).

## **2.2.Literary Analysis of the Novel**

The analysis of the novel is going to be the researchers attempt to summarise the Plot of Mrs. Stowe's Uncle Tom's Cabin. To highlight major themes such as: The Evils of Slavery and The Moral Power of Women.Also the analysis of the chosen characters that portrayed the Sentiment of Antislavery throughout the novel.

### **2.2.1.Plot Summary**

The plot follows two plots the : the Northern plot and the Southern plot , the southern plot begins with Tom's sold away of his family his three children and his wife Chloe .And the Northern plot traces with the runaway slaves Eliza and George Harris and their son Harry on the Underground Railroad . Tom relates with the Eva the daughter of his master Augustine St.Clare, however,after Eva's death Mr St.Clare sells his slaves to pay his debts. The story starts when Mr Shelby decide to sell his to slaves forced by debts, Tom and Harry the little son of Eliza another slave in the Shelby's farm.Eliza and her son escaped when she overheard the discussion of the selling. They were chased, however the attempt failed,when she crossed the Ohio River and leaped over the ice.she was taken by a Quaker family, that supported her at the mean time her husband George heard her escaping towards Canada , and join her later there. The story progressed when Tom travels to the Mississippi, he meets Eva whom he

rescues her from drowning in the river. After that Tom is brought to Eva's father Augustine in the St. Clare's home. Both Tom and Eva become good friends, because they share the same faith in God. Eliza and George make their escaping way towards Canada, Tom tries to strengthen the faith of his fellow slaves and helps Emmeline and Cassy escape. His master Legree tries to make him betray his friend by telling their plan, however, Tom's faith was stronger than any beating, he was whipped and lost his life and did not oppose his loyalty values as well as his beliefs. Meanwhile Mr Shelby was coming to buy his old friend's freedom unfortunately, he appeared late. In the meantime Emmeline and Cassy had secured their escape, moreover they met with Shelby and George's sister in a boat, after they were together they went to Europe and the whole family is united once again in Liberia.

the novel final scenes are when Shelby frees all slaves in Kentucky. And slaves always remember, when they see the Cabin that Tom is the person who they owe their freedom to (Griesing, 23.25)

### **2.2.2. Themes**

The novel is dominated by a single theme is Evils of slavery, however other themes aided the reader to understand what the author was trying to depict in the book. It is important to note The Moral Power of Women in the context; is also portrayed through various characters in the book and considered as another major theme.

#### **2.2.2.1. Evils of Slavery**

One of the initial reasons in process of writing Uncle Tom's Cabin is period after the release of the 1850's Fugitive Slave Act. The act forbade people's of the United States to aid runaway slaves, and gave permissions to arrest them if seen at instance, however the novel seeks to portray the inhuman acts were practised towards enslaved people, and advocated the freedom of slaves and all people. Each of Stowe's portraying of scenes serves a goal whether in

the plot or a character in the book, also serves to convince Northern States readers of the evils of Slavery ; that is in a civil community is unhuman as well as intolerable :

This is God's curse on slavery ! a bitter, most accursed thing a curse to the master and a curse to the slave ! I was a fool to think I could make anything good out of such a deadly evil. It is a sin to hold a slave under laws like ours, always felt it was.... Abolitionist if they knew all I know about slavery, they might talk !..... you know I never thought that slavery was right never felt willing to own slaves.

(Stowe,63)

Eventhough, the characters of slaves masters such as St. Clares and Shelby possessed intelligence and kindness towards their houses slaves, they tolerated slavery and saw it as a legal act. However, Stowe exposed the morally weakness and hypocracy of allowing such an issue, and even when slaves had good masters ,they still suffer. In the novel when Mr Shelby were financialy suffering he torn Tom's family apart by selling Tom ,another evident is the death of "Eva" , Marie, her mother who was portrayed as selfish and fierce demanded the houshold slaves to not mourn her daughter's death, as a way of neglecting their existence and controlling their human emotions. Moreover ,Stowe argued the best intrests of enslaved people lay in their liberty from the institution of slavery, by showing portrayls of biting and suffering, eventhough, some defense of slavery claim that slaves intrestes is in acted by their masters and the institution aided their benefits . However the opening scene of the book exposed reality of enslavement, when Mr. Shelby bargained Tom ; one of his slaves, a trustworthy men , showing his existence as only a property, for a slave trade ; it occured in the novel as the following :

Well, Tom's got the real article, if ever a fellow had, " rejoined the other .why, last fall, I let him go to Cincinnati alone , to do business for me , and bring home five hundred dollars . 'Tom ,says I to him ,

'I trust you ,because I think you're a Christian – I know you wouldn't cheat .'Tom comes back ,sure enough ; I knew he would. Some low fellows , they say ,said to him –Tom, why don't you make tracks for Canada ? 'Ah , master trusted me , and I couldn't –they told me about it . Iam sorry to part with Tom, I must say . You ought to let him cover the whole balance of the debt , and you would , Haley , if you had any conscience. ( Stowe,4)

In the final third of the novel ,Harriet takes the readers to the plantation of Legree away from both the St.Clares's house and Shelby's deceiceive view . that may seems pleasant and peacefull. The true form and horrors of slavery is presented in The plantation of Legree in its most hideous and naked shape.Slaves were suffering from sexual abuse ,beating ,and worst cases murder,Stowe tried to show the difference between what is seen as legal and neccessary as n institution and what is happening in the reality platform .providing evidents and portrayinf events in the brutal setting in plantations ,that slavery in the bestposition is wrong , nightmarish and inhuman in the worst one. The following passage is extracted from the novel, shows Legree's beating of Tom in order to break his faith ,therefore, providing evidence of the evils of slavery :

The weight ; and hence the heaviest anguish often precedes eturn tide of joy and courage. So was it now with Tom .The atheistic taunts of his cruel master sunk his before dejected soul to the lowest ebb ; despairing grasp.Tom sat, like one stunned, at the fire . Suddenly everything around him seemed to fade, and a vision rose before him of one crowned with thorns , buffeted and bleeding.Tom gazed, in awe and wonder, at the majestic patience of the face ; the deep, pathetic eyes thrilled him to his in most heart ; his soul woke, as, with floods of emotion, he stretched out his hands and fell upon his knees,-when, gradually, the vision changed : the sharp thorns became

rays of glory ;and,insplendor inconceivable, he saw that same face bending compassionately towards him, and a voice said, 'he that overcame shall sit down with me on my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my father on his throne (Stowe,764.765)

The process of delievering the difference between hellish and pleasant form, portrayed by Stowe in a rhetorical method manner ,by posing both side of slavery as its best as proslavery argues its benefits ,then her own case in its worst shape by presenting realities that shocked readers of the wickedness of slavery :

..."Long before his wounds were healed, Legree insisted that he should be put to the regular field-work, and then came day after day of pain and weariness, aggravated by every kind of injustice and indignity that the ill-will of a mean and malicious mind could devise. " (Stowe, 761)

#### **2.2.2.1.The Moral Power of Women**

Although the book was written before the widespread growth of women's rights, still we can sense it as sample of an early feminism , in the novel,women are committed ,courageous, and conscientious ,often more in all of these than men ; Stowe used paralle in portraying the oppression of blacks and white women ,using the influence of women towards their husbands in representing hope for the oppressed; and showing the power of one oppressed group can effect and elevate the oppression onother group, plus women of white race can effect the voices of their husbands with elections rights and votes about what real enslavement is and its evils.

In thenovel there are many exmples of womenhood such as Mrs Shelby, Legree's mother, Mrs Bird StClare's mother , a modal and idealized mothers, who seeks the benefits and salvations f or their morally inferior sons or husbands, also the book portrays black women in a positive manner , capable, strong, and fearless ; as example of that is seen in the

character of Eliza, her sins and the morally wrong acts represented in the novel as slavery's evil influence, rather than women's own immorality. Moreover, the book seems to introduce the natural sentiment of both women's good and evil side that humans usually grow up with. Some of the characters in the book are represented as selfish, mean, and some start with many prejudices like the character of Ophelia. Also, Mary appears mean and petty, however, pointing out to the wisdom women use to change the things that should be done, by using social justice and clearing their voices to manifest freedoms of the enslaved race. Women characters in the novel attempted to rise their voices and oppose slavery, finding anywhere to live seemed better than the life they had as subjects of enslavement: "...said Cassey "We might set them all free, and go somewhere in the swamps, and find an island, and live by ourselves; I've heard of its being done. Any life is better than this." (Stowe, 771)

### **2.2.3. The Characters**

Characters in Uncle Tom's Cabin are varied as males and females. There are characters who play major roles in the book such as: Tom, Eliza, and Simon Legree, whereas characters who only appear several times or die in the middle of the story such as: Eva. The different characters of the book help to expose the hypocrisy of the slavery system in which some are portrayed as good while in some situations they are the contrast.

#### **2.2.3.1. Tom**

Tom is the book's title character, one of the most famous figures of America's fiction in the Nineteenth Century, a hero, and the Shelby's estate head slave. His behaviours were not seen as a model for the black race behaviours, but it was Stowe's attempt to be practised by everyone, not only limited to a certain race. "

Mas'r Legree, said Tom, I can't do

it. I did only what I thought was right.

I shall do just so again, if ever the time

comes. I never will do a cruel thing,

Come what may. ( Stowe, 744)

Tom's religious values justified his passivity in the novel some critics argue that he accepted his inferiority an old black man who, did not resist his posed position to please his masters and by taking no action , however, his reactios were shown clearly in the novel , for instance, Tom is not very old he is dipicted in the novel as bigger than Shelby by eight years which places him at the start of the novel in the late forties of his age. Moreover he did not accept his position with joy and happiness , he owes his passivity not to his conviction or to his stupidity, but rather to his deep Christian values ; that composed love and care for everyone. Endure suffering, eventhough treated cruelly.Tom's character portrayed faith in his true form ; spreading love and religious manners wherever he goes in the novel. Also, by enhancing the hope of salvation and easing the pain of slavery. His passivity also translated into encouragement to freedom for others, in which slaves learned from his pain and suffering in many times. He encouraged and aided in escaping slaves from the Legree plantation such as : Eliza as well as Emmeline and Cassy 'too :

Misse Cassy", said Tom, in a hesitating tone, after surveying her a moment in silence, if ye only could get away from here-if the thing was possible – I'd'vise ye and Emmeline to do it, that is, if ye could go without blood-guiltiness,-not otherwise.' "Would you try it with us, Father Tom ?" "No,"said Tom ; times was when Iwould, but the Lord's given me a work among these yer poor souls, and I'll stay with'em and bear my cross with'em till the end. It's different with you ; it's a snare to you –it's more'n you can stand, -and you'd better go, if you can. (stowe,773)

In the chapter XXXIII, Tom had showed resistance when his master Legree ordered him to beat the slave girl, he refused doing so and took the punishment instead ; he protected his



beliefs eventhough, his character was not always active throughout the novel, for instance it is shown in the novel as following :

“Well, Tom!” said Legree, walking up, and seizing him grimly by the collar of his coat, and speaking through his teeth, in a paroxysm of determined rage, "do you know I've made up my mind to KILL YOU? "Tom even when Legree threatened him stood to loyalty and kept faith:

It's very likely, Mas'r," said Tom, calmly.

“I have,” said Legree, with a grim, terrible calmness, “done—just—that—thing, Tom, unless you'll tell me what you know about these yer gals!”

Tom stood silent. (Stowe,791)

“D'ye hear?” said Legree, stamping, with a roar like that of an incensed lion. “Speak!” . Maintaining his view towards his friends Tom had answered him as the following : "I han't got nothing to tell Mas'r, said Tom"(Stowe,792).

Stowe believed that in order to abolish slavery the transformation though Christian faith and love must occur, in which it is represented in Tom's noble death. Moreover, his death is the hidden motivation of George Shelby to free all slaves, plus it proves the moral and personal inferiority of Legree. The author portrayed his character in a heroic manner , as Christ figure in the American fiction of 1852 ; as a radical role for a black character. Although Tom was posed upon minority status, his passivity is embodied as a virtue due to, its strong belief. Describing the death of Tom in te novel as the way that was paved to the fellow slaves sucricificing his life to the greater good was one of the abolitionist core ideas : "The martyr, when faced even by a death of bodily anguish and horror, finds in the very terror of his doom a strong stimulant and tonic. There is a vivid excitement, a thrill and fevor, which may carry through any crisis of suffering that is the birth-hour of eternal glory and rest." (Stowe,760)

### **2.2.3.2.Simon Legree**

Legree is represented in the novel as the foil of the character of Uncle Tom and as an effective image of enslavement at its hideous position. Although his character contains some psychological depth, he is uniformly evil villain, some of the incidents of the novel reshaped his character, for instance his mother's death perhaps is the cause when we see his affection to Cassy. Mainly his character contrasted the image of the Tom, devilishness and brutal, while Tom represented good will and kindness even towards his slaveholders.

The end of the book was highly shaped by Legree's demoniacally evil ways, his strong will of breaking Tom's faith plays a grand part in the story. To see Tom fall to sin was Legree's constant wish, as well as falling in doubt and confusion. In the end Tom's death served as what Legree stands for the evil, that has been destroyed even though he killed him still he did not accomplish his ultimate wish of breaking his soul. In addition to, that faith prevails evils of slavery and its horrors is shown in Tom loving his enemy and losing his life in the process. Proving Legree's cruelty and evilness:

Tom looked up to his master, and answered, Mas'r, if you was sick, or in trouble, or dying, and I could save ye, I'd give ye my heart's blood; and, if taking every drop of blood in this poor old body would save your precious soul, I'd give 'em freely... Mas'r! don't bring this great sin on your soul! it will hurt you more than 't will me! Do the worst you can, my troubles'll be over soon; but, if ye don't repent, yours won't never end! (Stowe, 792)

### **2.2.3.3. Ophelia St. Clare**

Ophelia represents the white Northern audience problem in the novel, the ones who do not accept slavery; theoretically opposed it, however they feel racial prejudice and hatred in the presence of the black slave. "Don't you believe that the Lord made them of one blood with us?" said Miss Ophelia, shortly.... "Don't you think they've got immortal souls?" (Stowe, 334). She is the most complex women character that deserves attention in the book

because, Stowe depicted her as imaginary vision for an intended reader, in which her manners are contrasted at most times, she opposes slavery. Several times she had declared her ideas about enslavement of individuals as well as a whole institution :

"I tell you, Augustine, I can't get over things so, if you can. Its a perfect abomination for you to defend such a system, that's my mind"(Stowe,428)

Miss. Ophelia; At the presence of slaves she feels uncomfortable and not at ease and refuses the direct touch with them. However Stowe directs Ophelia's behaviours towards ignorance, unfamiliarity, rather than actually based hatred. Her character is considered as one of the few developing characters in Uncle Tom's Cabin. In the story Stowe shows that abolitionist should act out of love not only as a duty, for example when Topsy was handed to Ophelia, is the time when she had a direct contact with a slave in the beginning she act out of duty, later the relationship had progressed due to, the death of Eva in which Ophelia showed Topsy new kind of affection and love by viewing her as the human being she is, and that marked her transformation point in the story. Providing the Northern readers of Stowe 's writing a role model :

Miss Ophelia was the absolute bond-slave of the "ought". Once made her certain that the path of duty, as she commonly phrased it, lay in any given direction, and fire and water could not keep her from it. She would walk straight down into a well, or up to a loaded cannon's mouth, if she were only quite sure that there the path lay. Her standard of right was so high, so all-embracing, so minute, and making so few concessions to human frailty, that, though she strove with heroic ardor to reach it. (Stowe,304)

#### **2.2.3.4.Eliza and George**

Both Eliza and George can be considered as figures of the resistance of slavery, denying their position and trying to provide themselves a free life; clear from enslavement of the

white race. Seeking for freedom and taking the chance of escaping though knowing the consequence of it motivates the readers of Stowe of the importance of the free will of the slaves: "Will these years and years of misery come to an end? - shall we be free?" (Stowe,753) .

George had always questioned his status as a slave, he viewed himself better than his masters occasionally since he is a human being and should be treated the same. Though he was patient and contained his temper most of the times in one scene in the novel he had a conversation with his wife Eliza, when he manifested his ideas :

My master ! and who made him my master ? that's what I think of what right has he to me ? I'm a man as much as he is. I'm a better man than he is. I know more buiness than he can ; I can write a better hand, and I've learned it all myself, and no thanks to him, I've learned it in spite of him ; and now what right has he to make a dray horse of me ? to take me from things I can do, and do better than he can, and put me to work that any horse can do. (Stowe,29).

He resisted the opposed enslavement through the portrayal of the story; when he declared his ideas about his masters and the institution of slavery as a whole:

"I won't bear it. No I won't !" he said, clenching his with a fierce frown. "(Stowe,31).

Previous examples showed the stand against slivific that slaves manifested in the novel.

### **2.2.3.5.Mrs. Bird**

Mrs. Bird is one of the female characters of the book who did not accept the reality of slaves. Afer she heard of the law that forbbid people to aid slaves could be passed, Mary was furious though, the portrayal of her character is calm and quite temper. In one scene of novel she declared her ideas to her husband Mr. Bird ; the Senator about the initiated law :

You ought to be ashamed, John !poor, homeless, housless creatures !  
It's a a shameful, wicked, admoninable law,and I'll break it, for one,

the first time I get a chance ; and I hope I shall have a chance, I do !  
 Things have got to a pretty pass, if a women can't give a warm  
 supper and a bed to poor, starving creatures, just because they are  
 slaves, and have been abused and oppressed all their lives, poor  
 things ! (Stowe,151)

## **2.3.Symbolism of the Resistance of Slavery**

### **2.3.1.Uncle Tom's Cabin**

When the slaves were freed by Mr Shelby near the end of the book, he told them to behold Uncle Tom's Cabin and remember his sacrifices So, that you they themselves become dedicated Christians like he was.the Cabin becomes a metaphor of Tom's strong will and as constant reminder of the Tom's loyalty and the strength of his faith , he endured pain and suffering, rather than betraying his fellow slaves, his desire of fulfilling Christian's beliefs of love and and loyalty led him to his death. Uncle Tom's Cabin also, serves the main themes of the novel the Evils of slavery and the Power of love and Christian values to abolish slavery.

Scenes of blood and cruelty are shocking to our ear and heart. What man has nerve to do, man has not nerve to hear. What brother-man and brother-christian must suffer, cannot be told us, even in our secret chamber, it so harrows the soul ! And yet, oh my country ! these things are done under the shadow of thy laws ! (Stowe,793) . Tom turned the pain and suffer into glory and honor in which he embraced the antislavery values in a different manner : "But, of old, there was One whose suffering changed an instrument of torture, degradation and shame, into a symbol of glory, honor, and immortal life, and, where his spirit is, neither degrading stripes, nor blood, nor insult, can make the christian's last struggle less than glorious". (Stowe,793)

### **2.3.2.Emmeline and Cassy**

Both the characters of Emmeline and Cassy can be seen as figures of women's resistance of slavery throughout the novel. They attempted to escape from the Legree's plantation choosing to suffer anywhere else without any fear, rather than accepting the imposed inferiority :

O Cassy ! do tell me, -couldn't we get away from this place ?  
 I don't care where, -into the swamps among the snakes, -anywhere !  
 Couldn't we get somewhere away from here ?" .....  
 ... I'd be willing to live in the swamps, and gnaw the bark from trees.  
 I ain't  
 afraid of snakes I'd rather have one near me than him, said  
 Emmeline, eagerly ( Stowe, 734).

Another character from the book that resisted the proposed enslavement is the character of George his portrayal in the story when he declared his ideas about his masters and the institution of slavery as a whole can be, Also considered as a figure of resistance :

"I won't bear it. No I won't !" he said clenching his with a fierce frown. "(Stowe,31).

#### **2.4.The Struggle Between the North and the South Over the Matter of Slavery**

The struggle between the North and the South over the institution of slavery is clearly the base of Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. Slavery is represented in the South while freedom is in the North, the root of this opposition is in the history of America .The book contains two main stories ,that represented two different geographical dimensions, for instance Tom's story portrayed as a slave narrative who, struggles evils of slavery in the deep South, "There is all the difference in the world in the servants of Southern establishments" (Stowe,397). And the second one is Eliza's and George's chronicle of escape towards the North that represents freedom. In a conversation between St. Clare and his cousin Miss Ophelia they shared their ideas over the slavery issue : "There's a theory now ! I understand now why northern nations are always more virtuous than southern ones, I see into that whole subject." (Stowe,431).

While Tom's suffering horrors of slavery in Legree's plantation in Louisiana in the South. The contrast between the antislavery and the opposition of enslavement, and the acceptance of slavery represents the geographical split in the novel the South, that tolerates slavery and the North, that opposed it. Simon Legree's character from the book is direct representation of the brutal slaveholders deep in the South that Stowe attempted to shed light upon. While the Northern characters portrayed as more merciful towards slaves and the African American race such as the characters of Eva and her father as well (battlefields.org). for the African Americans what worse than being a slave was to be slave in the South where the real face of enslavement were performed upon them :

In order to appreciate the suffering of the negroes sold south, it must be remembered that all the instinctive affections of that race are peculiarly strong. Their local attachments are very abiding.....that selling to the south is set before the negro from childhood as the last severity of punishment. The threat that terrifies more than whipping or torture of any kind is the threat of being sent down river. We have ourselves heard this feeling expressed by them. (Stowe,181)

### **2.5. Escaping Slavery Through Supernatural.**

The book provides several examples of the supernatural sentiment of feeling and events in aiding the slaves in their darkest times. The will that wheeled their path towards freedom and escaping the horrors of enslavement :

The frosty ground creaked beneath her feet, and she trembled at the sound, every quaking leaf and fluttering shadow sent the blood backward to her heart, and quickened her footsteps. She wondered within herself at the strength that seemed to be come upon her ; for she felt the weight of her boy as if it had been a feather, and every

flutter of fear seemed to increase the supernatural power that bore her on. (Stowe,92)

Another scene in the book that shows supernatural is the escape of Eliza ; when Eliza was trying to leap over the Ohio River and jumping quickly between blocks of ice, fear and pain had no place in her heart. This suggests an above force aiding her to oppose slavery facilitating her escape :

The huge green fragment of ice on which she alighted pitched and creaked as her weight came on it, but she staid there not a moment. With wild cries and desperate energy she leaped to another and still another cake ; stumbling-leaping-slipping-springing upwards again ! her shoes are gone- her stockings cut from her feet-while blood marked every step ; but she saw nothing, felt nothing, till dimly, as in a dream, she saw the Ohio side. (Stowe,113)

Another scene, when Eva experienced a presentiment in her near death time, she saw glimpses of heaven, that reinforced her purity and her moral antislavery stance.

## **2.6.Conclusion**

Evils of slavery had impacted lives of the African Americans race and changed the history of America in various aspects. Harriet Stowe was one of few writers who rose to speak out their words of evils of slavery in a time, where no person dared to manifest any ideas of enslavement or anything was centered about it.

In this chapter the researcher aims to point out different aspects of slavery in Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin, also the author's desire to write against slavery as a result of her direct contact with fugitive slaves, considering The Fugitive Act of 1850, a primary cause of her writing this masterpiece that broke records of sellings.



### Chapter Three :

The Sentiment of Antislavery in Uncle Tom's Cabin in a Female Voice

#### 3.1.Introduction

This chapter the focus is to highlight the Antislavery sentiment in Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin plus the use of the Feminist approach in representing the role of the women. highlighting the sentiment of antislavery in fiction work while showing different aspects of slavery throughout Uncle Tom's Cabin that was considered as a peculiar institution to the American History. Stowe portraying of characters specially female ones gave a clear way of delivering the abolitionist messages to the her readers in order to sympathise with the African American race.

#### 3.2.Feminist Approach

Feminists aims to creat equal opportunities for women the same as men in which he freely enjoys. Mr. Raina explains its origins by saying it was primarily used regarding its meaning to describe the problem of equality for women as well as Women's Rights Movement since it original meaning is derived from the Latin word "femina"that refers to women(Raina). In a more specific way Toril Moi tells that 'The words 'feminist'or 'feminism' are political labels indicating support for the aims of the new Women's Movements which emerged in the late 1960's.' Another definition is founded in an article called 'Feminism in English Fiction' by Chaman Nahal ; he defined it as following : 'a model of existence in which the woman is free of the dependence syndrome. There is a dependence syndrome : whether it is the husband or the father of the community or whether it is a religious group, ethnic group. When women freethemeselves of the dependence syndrome and lead a normal life, my idea of feminism materialises.

' (Raina, 2017,3373.3374). Also, the main focus of the approach is to highlight the role of women writing in the world of literature since the beginning of human civilization. Women had been excluded from literature and the culture and dominated by male writers ( Raina).

### **3.2.1.The Role of Women in Abolitionist Movement**

Women always played a significant role in aiding the abolitionist cause since early age throughout the American History.claiming racial justice for the enslaved African Americans. Both black and white women felt the urge to react against the horrors of slavery, therefore they reshaped the history of antislavery cause. By aiding runaway slaves and changing the discourses of antislavery literature that would depicts realities of the enslaved race the way it is, using testimnies historical documents, plus slaves narratives as a prove of the validity of the works. As major example of the mentioned before, is Harriet Beecher Stowe the white American writer, who wrote the book, the reshaped the history of enslavement and helped in the rise of the antislavery cause."Uncle To's Cabin" is considred to be a valid historical document that have been taught to old generations, and still untill now is.the visibility of women's abolitionist writing took place in the 1820's by writing essays in order to make their role direct in the involvement of antislavery struggle. Tru the Sojourner said and dedicated her self to the cause of abolitionism by saying ; "used to be sold for other people's benefit, but now she sold her self for her own." by not accepting her psition as person enslaved by others. Moreover women from both races black and white serves as antislavery lecturers, organizers, fundraisers, and editors. Southern Slaveowners reffered to these women by saying, they needlessly stirred up trouble on the enslavement issue. Later on women's activism grew up even more in the era of the Civil War, making the antislavery cause much stronger by strenghten its aspects(abolitionismseminar.org,par1.2)

### **3.2.2.Women's Experiences**

Lucretia Mott lectured against enslavement and was active in defending the cause said in showing her status : "I have no idea of submitting tamely to injustice inflicted either on me or on the slave. I will oppose it with all the moral powers with which I am endowed. I am no advocate of passivity. " While men joined the abolitionist movement to lead lectures and organizations, Women were mocked. However, they defied their social position and declare ideas about antislavery plus Women's Rights in public. However, women were not permitted in the convention of the World antislavery ,nevertheless, they did not give up on their principals white and black women fought in order to realize their ideas in various ways and by delivering literary work (crusadeforthevote.org,par,1).

In the novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin, white women repeatedly faced moral dilemma to decide whether to help runaway slaves after the release of the Fugitive Slaves Act of 1850 or to obey the orders (Yellin,85). The essay of Yellin explores the role of feminist in demanding their right of full participating in the Americans life. Plus conforming their role in the antislavery movement. The evils of slavery and considering it as a sin is what Catharine Beecher Stowe and the Grimke sisters who debated in the role of women in abolitionism, showing the tenets of the American feminism in the nineteenth century. Catharine Stowe developed the notion of the moral superiority of females in which they could redeem the American culture (Yellin ,85-86). Moreover the book contributed to the discussion of women and true black womanhood. The accounts of women and the portrayal of mothers strengthened the novel and made it memorable, for example : Eliza crossed the Ohio River to safety plus, Prue who was kept to breed children for market tormented her and drove her to drinking (Virginia.edu ,par,5)

### **3.2.3.Feminism in Uncle Tom's Cabin**

Cidre examines in her journal under the name of 'Power of the Weaker' Feminism in Uncle Tom's Cabin, the female Characters in the novel of Stowe, that aided and contravened to

the antislavery achievements during the nineteenth century, that influenced America in that period as well as today's societies. Women, who stood to oppose slavery and to defend the damned race .though, they are kind and soft hearted, they act boldly in order to protect what had been left from the humanity of the society. The chosen female characters in Cider's work are two : the first one is Mrs Shelby and the second is Mrs. Bird. They had both opposed hushold slavery, that had been cleary dipicted in the novel Both of the characters are portrayed morally virtuos throughout the novel, tring to inflence ther husbands to change the aspects of slavery .their actions manifested in heping their houses slaves . though, these women's retaining traditional gender traits, their characters can exert feminin power throughout the novel.

Ideas that emphasised the influencial female power such as : 'the silent male preachers', and 'power in the kitchen' ; are drawn from an essay, 'Sentimental Power : Uncle Tom's Cabin and the Politics of Literary History', written by Jane P.Tompkins, plus the essay of Dawn Coleman '*The Unsentimental Woman Preacher of Uncl Tom's Cabin*'.

The idea of female power is embedded in the novel as well as the oppsition of enslavement. Stowe who supports essentialist feminism believes that male females role's should be prformed according to their gender. Where she portrayed most of the female characters of the book carries the expected traditional gender traits. while this assumptions may not be accepted by today's feminist. However, Cider find it essential and usefull in advocating women's power. By showing Stowe's attempt of dipicting the expected traits that only females posseses. Is in various ways aids the influence of women on the society in a ways that man can not. This evidence is showed clearly in the book, when men could not help the enslaved race women step out to do the mission. And that what Mrs.Stowe expected her readers to achieve.Though frail and timid they are bold and strong in need (Cider,2019).

### **3.3.The Aftermath of the Publication of Uncle Tom's Cabin**

The book of Uncle Tom's Cabin propelled the abolitionist movement, also it caused a chain reaction and aroused an anti slavery feeling into the Northerners, who were previously neutral about the issue of slavery. And increased the sense of responsibility to end such unhuman system (weebly.com).

In giving credit to the work of Uncle Tom's Cabin Mrs. Stowe says it was done by God in which she was merely acting as his instrument. The book was not expecting too much popularity since it tackled an institution rather than an issue; the publisher Phillips Sampsons, who published Catharine Beecher Stowe's work True Remedy for the Wrongs of Women, declined and considered it to be too risky and a venture to publish it. Any other publisher would gamble anything by publishing a so called an antislavery novel. However, by release it in Gamaliel Bailey's abolitionist National Era magazine gained success.

Evert Duyckinck describing the effects of the spread the novel had by saying: The Uncle Tom's epidemic still rages with unabated virulence. No country is secure from its attack. The United States, Great Britain, and by the latest accounts, Germany and France, have yielded to its irresistible influence. No age or sex is spared, man, women, and children all confess to its power. No condition is exempt; lords and ladies; flunkies and kitchen maids, are equally effected with the rage. The prevailing affection is universal, and all have the Uncle Tom, whether at rest or in motion, at leisure or at work, on the rail or at the street corner, in the idle repose of the parlor, or in the busy bustle of the kitchen (Hirsch,303).

Although, the character of Uncle Tom considered as an insult to many black people, and many critics described the main character 'Uncle Tom' by saying; he is a fat old black slave who is eager to please his masters; accepting his position by been passive through the novel. However, The book became a rallying cry for the abolitionists movement. And the fact the book educated whites. It had been cited as one of the instigators of the Civil War, as President Lincoln himself described Mrs. Stowe; the writer of the book who, brought flames

to the Civil War. The characters brought instant questions towards slavery, and debates its causes, racism, Fugitive Slave Law, the future of freed people, and what an individual could do

Some white Southerners who approved slavery argued, that the novel is just a pure fiction in which the events are whether, the imaginary is wholly false or wildly exaggerated. The clash between Northerners' approval of abolition slavery and the South's oppositions of it since it is considered it as an essential institution (Smithsonianmag.com).

As a result of Stowe's novel, white Northerners who had been hostile towards abolitionists and specifically the African Americans, started to become sympathetic towards the slaves and more receptive to antislavery views. Her style of writing was very unique in which ; it makes the reader feel a deep attachment towards the book's characters, unmistakable talent of portraying events that were viewed as intensely emotional for the contemporary audience (ohiohistory.org). Moreover, advocating Stowe's novel Joshua Giddings, Congressman of the U.S House of the Representatives said that : "A lady with her pen has done more for the cause of freedom during the last year than any savant statement or politician of the land." (weebly.com)

Booker T. Washington declared the value of the novel by saying : "The value of Uncle Tom's Cabin to the cause of abolition can never be justly estimated. [It] so stirred the hearts of the northern people that a large part of them were ready either to vote or, in the last extremity, to fight for the suppression of slavery." (Weebly.com). Stowe brought clarity to the cruel reality of enslavement in an artistic way that influenced and inspired many to join the antislavery cause. That became a transition point for the abolitionist movement. Mrs Stowe demanded equality and justice for the African American race, by starting one of the country's most controversial debates (humanrightsfirst.org). Moreover, Hon Chas Sumner of Massachusetts, on his speech he describes her work as : "A woman, inspired by Christian

genius, ... with marvellous power sweeps the chords of the popular heart. Now melting to tears, and now inspiring to rage, her work everywhere touches the conscience ... In a brief period, nearly 100,000 copies of Uncle Tom's Cabin have been already circulated. But this extraordinary and sudden success ... cannot be regarded merely as the triumph of genius. Higher far than this, it is the testimony of the people, by an unprecedented act, against the Fugitive Slave Bill." The success of the novel was very popular in which Harriet herself did not expect such reaction. The portrayal of characters plus the plot inspired people to rise and declare their ideas of the given work (weebly.com).

Stowe announced that her book was initially inspired by Theodore Weld's book "American Slavery as It Is" in the year of 1839, the book was a huge influence for the antislavery novel because it contained a collection of testimonies and legal documentations and slavehold statements (Griesing,11).

One of Uncle Tom's Cabin famous reactions was childhood reminiscence in *A Small Boy and Others* written by Henry James. Moreover, he described Mrs. Stowe's novel by saying : "much less a book than a state of vision, of feelings and consciousness, in which [the audience] didn't sit and read and appraise and pass the time, but walked and talked and laughed and cried ... in a manner of which Mrs. Stowe was the irresistible cause." He described it as being ahead of its fellow works as a result, became a part of the cultural formation, moreover, further description was as following : 'a wonderful leaping fish' that 'fly anywhere' throughout the media. His description showed the work extended its popularity even more providing a wide range of audience to it (O'loughlin, 2000).

### **3.3.1 The Criticism**

Criticism on the novel was revolved on Stowe's attempt of portraying sexual evils of enslavement. Women themselves were raged at the delivering of the subject that is considered inappropriate. Also, the defence of slaves in the novel by The Senator and his wife

Mrs Bird aiding Eliza's escape to Canada, made the people of the South annoyed .also, other critics developed the idea that Mrs. Harriet did not portrayed the black race inferiority in a good manner, but mostly superior in some occasions. Describing maltreatment of slaves as it did not happen all time and considered only unusual. The hate of the white characters in the novel was often clear by Southern reviewers. As it is the case of Legree's character the antagonist of the story and the representator of evils of slavery in its true form, his portraying as a Northerner did not occur to them. The other character that was even more detested is the depicting of St. Clare's characters, for his manners and status in the society. Women representation in the novel was also, criticised in their portraying such as Mrs. Shelby and Marie St. Clare . They whether had been described as an unconvincing or, enraged the people, specially women who claims that Ladies do not behave the way these women characters did throughout the novel. As well as the depiction of the white slaveholders was too brutal than it really was. Moreover, they argued that Mrs. Stowe portrayed the characters the way she did in order to defame the South. In addition, according to southern reviewers black characters were seen merely unreal, however the white characters seemed offensive to them (Griesing, 21.22).

### **3.3.2. Stowe's Legacy**

The novel of Uncle Tom's Cabin had a great impact since the time it was published. It makes use of racist stereotypes that helped the views of black Americans in the nineteenth century .It gained fame as well as popularity in its portrayal of the situations of slaves by highlighting the roles of both males and females in the Antislavery cause ( rosenbach.org, par4). The book immediately became a play due to its popularity, it became the inspiration of several products such as: silverware , songsheets, handkerchiefs, and ceramics. (harrietbeecherstowecenter.org, par3).

Forrest Wilson describing the reviews of the book by saying : " It is doubtful if any magazine since has had so many readers in proportion to its circulation." (Hirsch,4). The book



had great impact in its selling of copies John P. Jewett words on the topic : For thrilling delineation of character, and power of description, this work is unrivaled. It has been dominated, and with truth *The Story Of The Age* : The fact that ten thousand copies have been sold in two weeks is evidence sufficient of its unbounded popularity. Three paper mills are constantly at work manufacturing the paper, and three power presses are working twenty-four hours per day in printing it, and more than one hundred bookbinders are incessantly plying their trade to bind them, and still it has been impossible as yet to supply the demand (Hirsch,6). Her portrayal of enslavement made the non interested in the cause of abolitionist sympathise with it, therefore it increased the tension between the Southern slaveholders and the non slaveholders in the North. Many reviewers declared the novel as an aiding tool to the advancement of the antislavery movement as its impact reached the downfall of the called enslavement institution.

Mrs. Harriet provided much than a message but a real representation for the antislavery movement, by relating the events of the novel the escaping for freedom that mother did for both herself and her child was a clear example of the opposition of slavery in order to convince Americans to abolish slavery (blackpast.org).

### **3.3.3. Anti-Uncle Tom's Literature (Tomitude)**

After the publishing of *Uncle Tom's Cabin* many writers wrote an anti *Uncle Tom's* novels from the North or majorly from the South as a response to the major book that affected all aspects of America's History (Griesing,22) .these writers tried to depict enslavement in a good positive manner as a defence to the institution. Although the number of the Stowe's anti novels differs from one scholar to another. The first anti Tom novel ever written according to *The Ohio State Journal* is W.L.G Smith's novel "Life at the South ; or Uncle Tom's Cabin As It Is "(ohiogistory.org). In the beginning various Tomitude had been sold fairly well, however, little among them display any literature talent. In the history of America's social fiction these

works remains boring to readers across the country. In which they they found similarities in characters, events, and story telling (proquest.com, Hirsch). In the depicting of characters the slavemasters are portrayed as caring and tender and the maltreatment of slaves represented in the novel as a personal defect of the masters or their mistresses. Examples of Anti Tom's Literature are shown in the following works: "Aunt Phillis's Cabin" in the year of 1852 written by Mary H. Eastman, it was the quickest proslavery response to be widely spread and sold out. The next one is on the following year of 1853 by Maria J. McIntosh "The Lofty and the Lowly". The other novel is W.L.G Smith's "Life at the South" in 1852, plus Baynard R. Hall's Frank Freeman's "Barber Shop" in the year of 1852 (Griesing, 23). All of the given works participated in the creation of new forms of literature based upon Stowe's novel.

### **3.4. *Uncle Tom's Cabin* and the Matter of Response**

Frederick Douglass, one of the most popular figures of antislavery movement, described the novel as: "a thrilling story, from the accomplished pen of Mrs. Stowe" (hiohistoryorg). Initial African Americans responses of Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* included engagement with and rejection of the text, plus the discussion of text from a racial matters. African Americans placed their response into the portraying of the history of slavery in the novel. Langston Hughes, regarded the book as: "a good story, exciting in incident, sharp in characterization, and threaded with humor". Moreover a number of poetic tributed to Mrs. Stowe's masterpiece were produced by Frances Harper; one of Stowe's works most eloquent respondents. Harper was effected by the novel deeply in which she demonstrated slaves mothers plus the tribute she did to the books character such as Eliza's. Mrs. Harriet work achieved many moments of recognition and honor that the African Americans were aware and appreciative of her works. Further addition Willia Wells Brown reported that her work had achieved what no other person did in portraying enslavement as an institution rather than an act: "Uncle Tom's Cabin has come down upon the dark abodes of slavery like

a morning sunlight, unfolding to view its enormities in a manner which has fastened all eyes upon the peculiar situation, and awakening sympathy in hearts that never before felt for the slave." (Virginia.edu).

According to Jordan Lake, as a response to the masterpiece of Harriet Beecher Stowe, the estimate of the anti works is more than thirty books. These works shares the ide of defending the institution of slavery by ignoring its brutality towards the African American race (Griesing, 22).

Response of the novel took place on Stowe's representantion of race to the extant that some critics described her dipiction as wrong, for example the white critic J. C. Furnas ; "The wrongheadness, distortions and wishful thinking about Negroes in general and American Negroes in particular that still plague us today." (Levin,1992). The novel was described as slanderous and criminal and the book met outrage. Other authors wrote books glorifying the system of slavery as a direct response of Mrs. Harriet's work (ndla.no, par.6).

Uncle Tom's Cabin still was considred ad a epicenture of a cultual phenomen that reshaped the relationship between the black and white and the entire American history (Mishkin, 37).

### **3.3.The Significance of the Title**

The title carries the life of an escaped named Josiah Henson who suffered from the horrors of enslavements in which Stowe based the character according to his tale. However, the end of Uncle Tom was not simillar to Josiah's. He did escaped slavery and became an inpiration to Mrs. Stowe writing figure . Josiah Henson a former slave is well know for his association of Uncle Tom's Cabin 's title in which, he is the direct influence in dipicting the characters name. Although the character of Tom and Josiah did not share the same fate. Tom was whipped to death in the novel, while Josiah escaped slavery chains influencing many others to follow his lead and claim their rights. However the title itself gives the reader the setiment of free will of the main characters considering his situation as a slave in the American institution

of enslavement and building an antislavery message starting from the title and through the different events in the story. Building support for abolitionism was the title's main focus. In today's time the title of Uncle (blackpast.org).

### **3.6. Adaptation of the Novel**

The adaptation of Uncle Tom's Cabin in theatre reached a wider audience than the novel itself did. Even its influence was larger in the following year after the initial Year of publication. Moreover its popularity was maintained throughout the rest of the nineteenth century. However many in the North did not sympathise with the novel and remained unmoved by its portraying and disregarded its messages to the antislavery cause after reading it (ohiohistory.org, par, 4.5)

Stowe was not comfortable to the use of her novel Uncle Tom's Cabin in the various forms of what is called 'Tom's Shows'. The dramatization of the book meant shortening its aspects of portraying the events, therefore the creation of a simple story rather than the original complex one. The shows were based upon her novel in which they were performed in travelling shows and theaters across the country. Often with the use of comic dialogues and exaggerated special effects (harribeecheerstowe.org). The plots were simplified and the focus was on highlighting racial stereotypes performed by actors in blackface. Examples of the novel were taken and reshaped into the contrast such as characters like Uncle Tom. His character was performed as submissive, shuffling old man while in the novel was depicted as a hero like figure, plus Topsy's character became slapstick figure. Later on new versions of the novel were developed. Tom Shows versions became movies and cartoons since most of slavery's references vanished after the Civil War. The use of the novel by various companies into theatre meant to perform the story according to their view, without the antislavery messages that Mrs. Stowe built the portraying of the novel upon it. Therefore it made her unwilling to collaborate with the stage adaptation, however the 1852 copyright laws

permitted fictional works to be the product of plays without the consent of the writer. George L. Aiken's adaptation; play remained the most popular one for seventy-five years in England and America. Stowe did not allow nor consent to the use of racial attitudes of the time to be performed as the base of her work (harrietbeecherstoxecenter.org).

### **3.7. Delivering Antislavery Messages Through Literary Fiction Work**

Uncle Tom's Cabin or Life among the Lowly is the nineteenth century melodrama of cruelty suffering. Delivering antislavery story was suitable in the timing of the release of the Fugitive Slaves Bill. A masterpiece Based upon real incidents of former slaves who runaway from the institution of slavery at the time when Mrs. Stowe had met them to hear their stories. She felt the urge to tell these tales in the way that would make a change the view of enslavement a brutal unhuman act rather than approvable system. The immortality of slaves characters exists beyond Stowe's tale, the depiction of suffering from the evils and cruelty of slavery. The characters like, Tom Eliza became a historical figures willing to oppose the enslavement institution at what cost. Making sacrifices did not bother them since their souls were immortal "when Tom stood to face with his persecutor, and heard his threats, and thought in his very soul that his hour was come, his heart swelled bravely in him, and thought he could bear torture and fire, bear anything, with the vision of Jesus and heaven but just a step beyond; but, when he was gone, and the present excitement passed off, came back the pain of his bruised and weary limbs; -came back the sense of his utterly degraded, helpless, forlorn estate; and the day passed wearily enough" (Stowe, 761). Eliza remains the figure of the desperate mother, leaping over the ice to save her child portrayed from the will of denying slavery's chains over the African Americans race. Moreover, many authors measured its importance in the antislavery cause; Woodrow Wilson wrote that Uncle Tom's Cabin "played no small part in creating the anti-slavery party." The power of the novel resides in the way of the portrayal of the events as well as, characters that enter our consciousness by the way of

their behaviours and reactions throughout different events of the novel. The true importance of the books lays in the readership of its entirety in a serious manner and to see its value as not only as a historical phenomenon, but as passionate literary fiction depicts messages of antislavery (gilderlehrman.org).

### **3.8.Conclusion**

Anti slavery cause was the message that Mrs.Stowe tried to provide through the portrayal of Uncle Tom's Cabin. This chapter dealt with the different aspects after the publishing of Stowe's masterpiece Uncle Tom's Cabin that broke records of selling responses and adoption in various forms. Shedding light upon the various aspects of abolitionism in the book. Delivering stories through a fiction work such as Stowe's was considered a hard mission since the tackled theme was slavery, not only as individual but rather as a peculiar institution. Mrs. Stowe rose her voice at time when no man dared to speak of such an issue. Mrs. Stowe had attempted to portray events and stories of the runaway slaves in order to convince her readers of the horrors of enslavements on the African American race in a way that no one could deliver a story of the enslaved race like she did.

### **General Conclusion**

Antislavery was the mission that white and black activist grant their lives in accomplishing it. They used their efforts to improve its conditions since it opposed the system of slavery. That considered as the most peculiar institution in the American history. Abolitionist names remained in history as the ones who rose to defend the right of the African American race, in a time where speaking of the matter may cost you your life. Harriet Beecher Stowe, a staunch abolitionist and writer who wrote the novel that the world describes as the cause the Civil War was ignited for. Uncle Tom's Cabin 1852, portrayed the real events of the suffering of black slaves. She based the story telling from testimonies and real runaway slaves depiction in the way that no other writer did. The sentiment of antislavery is showed through different scenes

characters and themes of the novel. Stowe's initial cause of writing it is to change the world's view of slavery and to convince northern readers of the horrors of the enslavement.

Through the present study, we attempt to show that the novel was the outcome of Stowe's own life and views regarding the issue of slavery. By following the life of many slaves deep in the south where slavery is totally different, and telling their stories in aiding the abolitionist path in portraying the struggles of the enslaved race. Stowe as a powerful abolitionist writer, attacked the institution of slavery and the events where the slaves declared their ideas about slavery and their opposition towards it. She illustrated that slavery made the African American race horrible and made the abolitionist task hard to be achieved.

In this dissertation, we illustrated that Stowe's novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* carries the sentiment of antislavery as well as the portraying of the different aspects of enslavement. Throughout the different aspects of the novel. She explores the characters' views over the matter and the various aspects that affect it. Moreover, she portrayed some of the characters from a real-life abolitionist figures.

By focusing on these portrayals of enslaved people; Stowe proved their will to oppose slavery and to be considered as human beings as the rest of the white, endowed with the same qualities and affection towards freedom, she called her white readers to women's specifically to sympathize with slaves and to enhance the antislavery cause.

Through her depiction of the sentiment of antislavery combined with the destructive impact of slavery. Stowe's messages of antislavery appeals directly and successfully to everyone who read the novel. Her narrative affected the reader and made the abolitionist cause widely debated in the way that the novel created a controversy and showed the conflict over slavery that led to the Civil War that abolished slavery and put an end to its horrors. It can be concluded that *Uncle Tom's Cabin* was Mrs. Stowe's way of expressing the antislavery messages attempting to change the world's view of slavery issue.

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### المخلص

هذه الأطروحة ترمي الى دراسة ضد العبودية التي تم تسليط الضوء عليها من طرف الكاتبة الامريكية هاربيت بيتشر ستاو في رؤايتها كوخ العم توم من اجل تدعيم قضية ضد العبودية و تبيان وحشية نظام العبودية في امريكا. كتبت ستاو الرواية ردا على قانون العبيد الهاربين في سنة 1850. قامت ستاو بالتعبير عن افكارها في الوقت الذي لم يتجرا فيه احد عن التكلم عن موضوع العبودي كما دلت نسبة المبيعات الهائلة على نجاح الرواية الى انها اثارت جدلا كبيرا في الجنوب لان القضية انتقدت كيفية تسيير نظام العبودية بدرجة اولى . تاثر الكثير من الاشخاص الذين حاولو الغاء هذا النظام بطريقة سرد الاحداث في الرواية. نظرا الى انها قامت بتسليط الضوء الى المعناة الحقيقية للعبيد عن طريق اسراد شهاداتهم ووثائق تاخية للعبيد الهاربين من النظام. نجحت الرواية في نقل الصورة الحقيقي لقسوة النظام للقراء الذين ليس لهم ادنى فكرة عن الاثر السلبي لهذه السياسة على العبيد و عن ارادتهم التي دفعتم للهرب منه وتبين موقفهم المضاد لهذا النظام و مكافحته. و ذلك من خلال اتباع منهج تاريخي موضوعي و بالاعتماد على تحليل الوثائق المتوفرة تمكن الباحث من من التوصل الى معرفة ان الرواية التي كتبت من طرف ستاو هي انعكاس لحياتها وعلى الظروف المحيطة ببنيتها في ذلك الوقت وكفاح من اجل انهاء العبودية. تم كذلك التوصل الى ان الجدل الذي اثرته الرواية اضاف الى كمية نجاحها و دعم كذلك قضية المعاكسين لنظام العبودية. ومن خلال تسليط عاطفة الوقوف ضد هذا النظام والمعاملة القاسية التي عان منها العرق الاسود في امريكا. نجحت هاربيت ستاو في اىصال الرسائل التي تتضمن مكافحة العبودية و الوقوف في وجه النظام لكل من يطلع على الرواية.

