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**Racism in the Mark Twain's novel "*the Adventures of  
HuckleberryFinn.*"**

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## **Dedication**

-First of all, I dedicate this modest work for my teachers, relatives, and friends.

-For all who helped and encouraged me to continue my study.

-To my lost parents.

-To my husband and my dear children; Riyadh, Houssam, and Malak.

-To my best friend Hamida who is always supporting and sustaining me.

-To my brothers and sisters.

-To my nieces Kenza and Manel.

-For all my teachers without forget any one of them.

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## General introduction

Mark Twain wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* novel two decades after the Emancipation Proclamation which means the end of the slavery in the United States, and the end of the Civil War, the Southern states of America harassed blacks with racism that is consequences of slavery. The United States wanted to agree and to integrate freed slaves into society, but, the new racism of the South was extremely hard to conflict especially after the appearance of Jim Crow laws, intended to limit the power of blacks in the South. Twain in this novel wants to portray racism as consequences of slavery as an allegorical and symbolic of the situation of blacks in the United States, even after the abolition of slavery.

The story of *Huckleberryfinn*, is a perfect depiction of the southern society and their thoughts over slavery and racism. Through the twentieth century, the novel has become famous not only as the peak precious and grand work of one of America's greatest writers, but also as a subject of intense controversy. The novel occasionally has been banned in Southern states because of its steadfastly critical take on the South and the hypocrisies of slavery. Others have dismissed *Huckleberry Finn* as vulgar or racist because it uses the word *nigger*, a term whose connotations obscure the novel's deeper themes which are plainly antislavery and even prevent some from reading and enjoying it altogether. The fact that the historical context in which Twain wrote made his use of the word irrelevant and, really, part of the realism he wanted to create. Ultimately, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has proved significant not only as a novel that explores the racial and moral world of its time but also, within the controversies that continue to surround it.

Twain wanted to mention the issues of racism and slavery which threatened to divide the nation as early as the Constitutional Convention of 1787, and throughout the years a

series of concessions were made on both sides in an effort to keep the union together. One of the most significant of these was the Missouri Compromise of 1820. The disturbance had begun when Missouri requested to enter the union as a slave state. In order to maintain a balance between *free* and slave states in the Union, Missouri was admitted as a slave state while Maine entered as a free one. And although Congress would not accept Missouri's proposal to ban free blacks from the state, it did allow a provision permitting the state's slaveholders to reclaim runaway slaves from neighboring Free states. The federal government's way of Fugitive Slave Laws was also a compromise to conciliate southern slaveholders. The first one, passed in 1793.

The novel begins where *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* ends, with Tom and Huck Finn who found six thousand Dollars which caused many problems to Huck. Some wanted to civilize him like Miss Watson and her sister Widow Douglass, and the maltreat of his abusive father and the want to steal him. All these problems led him to elope to Jackson's Island where he meets another runaway, Jim, Miss Watson's slave who is running to obtain freedom. So, they engaged to flee together. During their adventures, Huck realizes what is a really life and he knew the sense of friendship, kindness, love, and freedom.

Among their adventures with wrecked ships, murderers, heavy fog, slave hunters, and accidents, the two encounter cruelty, trickery, violence, and hardship along the Mississippi River. Huck is taken in by the Grangerfords, well-to-do plantation owners who actively feud with the Shepherdsons, leading to the deaths of many of their men and boys. Jim is cared for by the family's slaves until they can join up and head toward their next and most disturbing liaison, with the Duke and the King, two con-men who use them as they go from town to town tricky people out of their money. Huck's ultimate escape from these rascals comes at the price of Jim's being sold by the King and held captive at the Phelps farm, unexpectedly the home of Tom Sawyer's aunt. Tom and Huck then plot to rescue Jim, who

has already been freed by Miss Watson at her death. Since Jim is free, Huck's Pap is dead, and Aunt Sally has plans to adopt Huck, the boys decide to head for Indian Territory for fear that they be civilized more.

Huck and Jim's adventures are extensive with life lessons, various with the hope for freedom, the pain and loss of missed opportunities, the memories of family and friends, the cruelty they've witnessed, and the moral troubles they encounter. And yet among these trials, they meet with kindness among strangers, the comfort of life on a raft, lovely days and nights of long conversations, the rescue of real friendship, and the healing beauty of nature itself on the river.

Mark Twain, the pen name of Samuel Langhorne Clemens; was born in the town of Florida, Missouri, in 1835. When he was four years old, his family moved to Hannibal, a town on the Mississippi River; towns depicted in his two most famous novels, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) and *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (1884) (Mark Twain).

Twain spent his young life in a prosperous family that owned a number of household slaves. The death of Clemens's father in 1847, however, left the family in adversity. Twain left school, and worked for a printer, and, in 1851, having finished his apprenticeship, began to set type for his brother Orion's newspaper, the *Hannibal Journal*. Twain eventually became a riverboat pilot. Life on the river gave Twain matter for several of his books, including the raft scenes of *Huckleberry Finn* and the material for his autobiography *Life on the Mississippi* (1883). Clemens continued to work on the river until 1861, when the Civil War blew up across America and shut down the Mississippi for travel and shipping (Mark Twain).

During the late 1860s and 1870s, Twain's writings characterized by using different and various vernacular and dialect. His novel *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) was bestseller, and *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer* (1876) received even greater national acclaim and covered Twain's position as a giant in American literary domain. As the nation prospered economically in the post-Civil War period; and came to be known as the Gilded Age because the United States witnessed prosperity and development either economically, politically and even in literature (Ad of Huckfinn historical context).

Twain began work on *Huckleberry Finn*, a sequel to *Tom Sawyer*, in an effort to take advantage of the popularity of his earlier novel. This new novel took on a more serious character, however, as Twain focused progressively more on slavery and the South. Twain soon set *Huckleberry Finn* aside, perhaps because its darker tone did not fit the optimistic sentiments of the Gilded Age. In the early 1880s, however, reconstruction, the political program intended to reintegrate the defeated South into the Union as a slavery-free region, began to fail. The insensitive procedures the winning North imposed only embittered the South. Worried about maintaining power, many Southern politicians began an effort to control and oppress the black men and women whom the war had freed (Ad of Huckfinn historical context).

Meanwhile, Twain's personal life began to collapse. The illness of his wife, and the death of their son beside Twain made a number of poor investments and financial affairs; eventually he, found himself in weakening debt. As his personal fortune decreased, he continued to offer himself to writing, he finished a planning of *Huckleberry Finn* in 1883, and by 1884 had it ready for publication. The novel met with great public and critical acclaim (Twain).

Twain continued to write over the next ten years. He published two more popular novels, *A Connecticut Yankee in King Arthur's Court* (1889) and *Pudd'nhead Wilson* (1894), but went into a considerable decline afterward, never again publishing work that matched the high standard he had set with *Huckleberry Finn*. Personal tragedy also continued to pursue Twain; his finances remained worrying, and, his wife and two of his daughters passed away. Twain's writing from this period until the end of his life reflects a depression and a sort of reproach at the injustices of the world. Despite his personal troubles, however, Twain continued his literary life until his death in 1910 (Twain).

The major themes of the novel are; slavery, racism, Prejudice, autonomy, authority, freedom, and hypocrisy. As well as the symbols which represent abstract ideas and concepts in the novel as the Mississippi River that represents the hope and freedom. The motives are childhood, superstitions and folk beliefs and Parodies of Popular Romance Novels.

In this dissertation we want to investigate about racism in Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. The research problem of this work; some consider the novel as powerful attack on racism. Others see *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* not as an attack on racism, but as inherently racist itself. African Americans and others, began to challenge the book in the 1950s, shocked by the novel's portrayal of the slave Jim and its repeated use of the word "nigger." So, is the novel *Huckleberry Finn* considered as racist or not? And what are the clues of this book to be appealing and interesting for many even it sees the sights of several appropriate subjects that stimulate and encourage asymmetric interpretations (i.e. different explanations) So how is the nature of the reception about the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Positive or negative? And to which criteria was it classified and ranged?

The hypothesis of the research is according to the historical and psychological thought experiment about human nature Huckleberry Finn. We may evaluate the story in the course of negative or positive reviews reception. So, Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is or is not racist novel. Is the author denouncing racism in his novel through satirical and ironic figures and situations? As well as, is Twain bearing a will or an intention of racist behavior?

Then the significance of the research is that *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a perfect example of realism, in which the author describes the real problems and the daily life of that period by using common language and various dialects, drunken fathers beat their children, and blacks were seen as inferior. The author assured the consciousness and the wisdom of the ordinary people. This is an essential step in understanding the novel and the message behind it.

The method that is appropriate to our research is descriptive which fits our purpose. Given that we are dealing with facts and events which happened in chronological order to show the significance of the issue, we are expected to examine reliable documents and books related to our research topic.

The literature review concerning this research is that *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has been the continued object of study by serious literary critics since its publication. It was criticized because of its common language and became more controversial in the 20th century. Twain later remarked to his editor, "Apparently, the Concord library has condemned Huck as 'trash and only suitable for the slums.'" Many subsequent critics as Hemingway who declared, "All modern American literature comes from" *Huck Finn*, and greeted it as "the best book we've had". He cautioned, "If you must read it you must stop

where the Nigger Jim is stolen from the boys. That is the real end. The rest is just cheating" (HuckleberryFinn).

The novel continues to be used by twentieth century critics, including Leslie Fiedler, Norman Mailer, and Russell Baker.) Moreover, Ron Powers states in his Twain biography (*Mark Twain: A Life*) that "Huckleberry Finn endures as a consensus masterpiece». But all what has investigated previously did not answer the issue of racism in the Twain's novel *HuckleberryFinn*.

Because of this controversy over whether *Huckleberry Finn* is racist or anti-racist, and because the word "nigger", the sense of this word referring to a "black person" is sometimes used among African Americans . And according to the world English Dictionary the word nigger means a derogatory (i.e name a member of anydark-skinned race) for black person (world English Dictionary). It is frequently used in the novel, many have questioned the appropriateness of teaching the book in the U.S. public school system this questioning of the word "nigger" is illustrated by a school administrator of Virginia in 1982 calling the novel the "most grotesque example of racism I've ever seen in my life". According to the American Library Association, *Huckleberry Finn* was the fifth most-frequently-challenged book in the United States.

The research aims to acknowledge about real facts and situations that lasted in certain period of time in which black people suffer from as slavery and racism. Moreover, to convey reader that ordinary and common people have good perception and experiment to prove their awareness and wisdom to distinct the reality. Furthermore, to confirm that Twain I is not racist and yet he has not any will or intention of racist behavior, in contrast, he wants to portray and to denounce it through his novel .

In the end of the novel the main character, Huck decides to break the law so as to prove the goodness and the understanding of common people. Thereby, we will divide the work into three chapters. The first chapter is about a general overview concerning the novel, slavery and racism in the America. The second chapter will be about the literary angles of the *Huckleberry Finn* novel. Following up with Traits of racism in *Huckleberry Finn* novel in the literary process. At last, we intend to give general conclusion of the research with deduction and personal opinion and appreciation because this is the sake of literature.

## **Chapter One**

The historical issues in the American Literature

## **I-1-Introduction**

During its early history, America was a series of British colonies on the eastern coast of the present-day United States. Therefore, its literary tradition begins as linked to the broader tradition of English literature. However, unique American characteristics and the extent of its production usually now cause it to be considered a disconnect conduit and tradition. It was in the late 18th and early 19th centuries that the nation's first novels were published. Among the first American novels are Thomas Attwood Digges' "Adventures of Alonso", published in London in 1775 and William Hill Brown's *The Power of Sympathy* published in 17915(American Literature).

This period was a period of slavery in the U.S.A, the enslavers and their supporters created a race-specific thought of white superiority and of black inferiority. Racism continued to make life dangerous and full of injustice and inhumanityfor African Americans even after 1865 that ended the slavery. The most novelists and writers at that time focused on this significant issue such as Harriet Stowe's *Uncle Tom's cabin*,1852, and Mark Twain's *HuckleberryFinn*1885.The novelists of the nineteenth century cared for the middle class values ,treated the social problems and emphasized well-rounded middle-class characters As well they portrayed the hero as a rational man of good quality .Furthermore, This period is characterized by realism ,urge to describe the everyday life, the reader could distinguish characters who were blend of good and bad quality, also attempts to present the natural development of individuality.

## **I-2-The novel in American Literature**

The story of American literature begins in the early 1600, the earliest writers were Englishmen describing the exploration and colonization of the new world (America)

(B.High 5). During the eighteenth century American writers focused on essays, political pamphlets and speeches inspired by the war of independence such as *Common Sense* by Thomas Paine ,attacking the British form of government (Grellet 39)As well as .the early novels served a useful purpose and spoke directly to ordinary Americans describing the reality of American life .The writers had to be careful and filled their books with moralistic advice and religious sentiments such as William Hill Brown's *Power of Synpathy 1789*.

Furthermore, important women writers also published novels. Susanna Rawson is best known for her novel, *Charlotte: A Tale of Truth*, published in London in 1791. In 1794 the novel was reprinted in Philadelphia under the title *Charlotte Temple* is a seduction tale of truth and made readers cry over the sad fate of young girl lured into sin (B.High 28). It was written in the third person, which warns against listening to the voice of love and counsels resistance. Charles Brockden Brown is another early American novelist, publishing *Wieland* in 1798, *Ormond* in 1799, and *Edgar Huntly* in 1799.

During the first half of the Nineteenth century slavery appeared as major issue in American politics and writings, eventually becoming one of the causes that led to a bloody civil war (Kolchin 28). One of the most successful books which exposing its cruelty and inhumanity was Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin 1852*, and Theodore Dwight Weld's *Slavery as it is 1839*.

In the mid of the Nineteenth century, novelists based on romantic writings and the appearance of the transcendentalists writers who believe that man can find truth through his own feelings, as B.High said that transcendentalist writers bring American literature to the attention of the world (B.High39).May be because they rejected the conservative of both Puritanism and Unitarianism; they trust only on their emotion and intuition. The best

known figure of the movement is Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) and Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862).

The post civil war marked by shift from Romantic to Realism that writers based on describing reality in comprehensive detail, complex ethical choices are often the subject of the literature and characters are related to their social class and their own past). Realism is to describe life without idealization and romantic subjectivity; it is most often associated with the French novelists Flaubert and Balzac.

America's greatest 19century, realistic novelists as Mark Twain (the pen name used by Samuel Langhorne Clemens, 1835–1910) was the first major American writer to be born away from the East Coast – in the border state of Missouri. His regional masterpieces were the memoir *Life on the Mississippi* and the novels *Adventures of Tom Sawyer* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* .

William Dean Howells also represented the realist tradition through his novels, including *The Rise of Silas Lapham* and Henry James (1843–1916). Many of his novels center on Americans who live in or travel to Europe with analysis of feelings and psychological nuance and tone. He confronted the Old and the New World impasse by writing directly about it.

The beginning of the 20th century, American novelists were expanding fiction's social field to include both high and low life such as Edith Wharton (1862–1937), who examined the upper-class, Eastern-seaboard society in which she had grown up. Moreover, Ernest Hemingway (1899–1961), and other novelists innovate, and create the American novel (Huckleberry finn ). During and after The period of World War I and II most of the writers

focus on war stories such as Joseph Heller, in his war novel *Catch22* (1961), When he describes the absolute violence and unsentimental vision of the war.

### **I-3 General approach of slavery and racism in America**

The history of slavery in the United States began within the arrival of the first African slaves to America, in 1619 in Jamestown nowadays Virginia. The notion of slavery and racism are major issues in American writings in the Nineteenth century, most of the writers attacking slavery on moral and religious grounds, such as Theodore Dwight Weld's *Slavery as it is in 1839*. The racism towards blacks is not a new problem; it was developed since the first arrival of blacks in the eighteenth century to America. During the first half of nineteenth century the black population grew and was used as slaves and workers in the large plantation especially in the south as Cook said in his book *Civil War America* that the most of blacks laboring in the agricultural sector worked on farms that produced primarily cotton (Cook 47).

Despite of Americans like to think that the United States was (conceived in liberty). But, the reality is somewhat different, by the early eighteenth century most of the founding Fathers were large scale slave owners, including George Washington, «Father of his country», Patrick Henry, author of the stirring cry “Give me liberty or give me death». And Thomas Jefferson who proclaimed in the declaration of independence that “All men are created equal.” Indeed eight of the United State's first twelve president were slaveholder (Kolchin 3). The invention of the cotton gin greatly increases the demand of slave labor in 1793 and the black population increased. According to Kolchin the first half of nineteenth century the slave population grew naturally at an annual rate of about two percent (Kolchin 23).

In order to put an end to this injustice and domination; many enslaved African American organized a slave revolt as Gabriel Prosser in 1800, intending to march on Richmond, Virginia. The plot is discovered, and Prosser and a number of the rebels are hanged. Virginia's slave laws are consequently complicated.

During 1808 Congress bans the importation of slaves from Africa. Then in 1820 The Missouri Compromise bans slavery north of the southern boundary of Missouri. But unfortunately all what have been enacted were just dreams and thoughts. In 1822 Denmark Vesey, an enslaved African American carpenter who had purchased his freedom plans a slave revolt with the intent to lay siege on Charleston, South Carolina. The plot is discovered, and Vesey and thirty four conspirators and plotter are hanged. Moreover, Nat, an enslaved African American preacher, in 1831 leads the most important slave rebellion in American history. He and his crew of followers launch a short, bloody, rebellion in Southampton County, Virginia. The private army ended the rebellion, and Turner is ultimately hanged. As a consequence, Virginia institutes much severe slave laws. The most effective and celebrated leaders of the Underground Railroad (i.e. escape from slavery); was Harriet Tubman who escapes from slavery in 1849 (slavery in the U.S.A.).

Many women writers supported the antislavery such as Harriet Beecher Stowe, who wrote her novel *Uncle Tom's Cabin* that is published in 1852. It becomes one of the most powerful works to stir and join anti-slavery sentiments. This book is considered as a real step that led to the civil war as Lincoln said when he met her: "So you're the little woman who made the book that made the Great War" (B.High 73).

In 1861 The Confederacy is founded, and the Civil War begins. Then in 1863 President Lincoln issues the Emancipation Proclamation, declaring "that all persons held as slaves" within the Confederate state "are, and henceforward shall be free." Two years later exactly

in 1865 The Civil War ends. Lincoln is assassinated. The Thirteenth Amendment abolishes slavery throughout the United States (slavery in the U.S.A.).

#### **I-4-Racism in the American Literature**

The concept of Racism is the belief that some races are better than others and people of other races are not as good as people of your race (Oxford dictionary). Racism yet means "the belief that race accounts for differences in human character or ability and the belief of one specific race's superiority. According to Steele Racism could have an impersonal life in the structure of society (customs, manners, and residential ,living patterns, even laws in the days of segregation).It could determine events apart from the will of individuals or even groups (Steele 28). Thomas Alva Edison once said that "our greatest weakness lies in giving up. The most certain way to succeed is always to try just one more time". That we have to challenge and confront all the different matters which face us by all means as possible.

We may locate Racism through people especially in Europe .The racism is not merely practices on blacks but also on different races for instance, the racism towards Arabs, and the racism towards Jewish people;and other races who suffer from this behavior.Racism is not a new problem either. One of the most potent and lasting instances of racism is the racism of Caucasians toward blacks. The books *Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver, *Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison, and *The Destruction of Black Civilization* by Chancellor Williams all discuss the brutality of the problem. While all of these books discuss the depth of the problem, they also discuss the opportunities people have to fix the problem in the future. Thus, racism toward black people has always been common across the world.

The racism toward blacks has been common in the United States. The latter is a leader as one of the greatest outposts of freedom and liberty in the entire world. However, for

much of American history true progress for blacks in the area of civil rights has been transparent and empty at best. The view of many whites in America toward civil rights is summed up in *Invisible Man* by a simple salutation: "To Whom It May Concern: Keep this Nigger-Boy Running" (Ellison 33). This idea is reflective of the desolate situation African Americans face in America. The idea behind this message is that blacks must continue to be strung along and constantly assured that their rights will be protected, while in reality ensuring that factual progress will not be achieved. This outlook was echoed for centuries in American law. The Declaration of Independence honestly stated that all men are created equal, yet blacks were treated as property. The 13<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> Amendments were supposed to guarantee that blacks made a successful and complete transition from slavery to equal citizenship (racism in American literature).

However, it was only through the hard work of the civil rights movement over a century later that any of these promises of equal citizenship and voting rights actually took effect in reality. Additionally, the dismal situation that blacks faced in America are repeated in Kingsolver's novel, which discusses how "back in Georgia Jimmy Crow makes blacks separate because he believes it's the best policy" (Kingsolver 35). The origin of this term "Jim Crow" appeared in 1830 when a white minstrel illustrates the performer Thomas Dartmouth "Daddy" Rice "blackened face and imitated African American singing and dancing, one song he has performed was «Jump Jim crow» in which he imitated an African American slave. Later it became a stereotype of African American inferiority in the year before the civil war and any laws or acts of racial discrimination towards blacks were often referred to as Jim laws and practices (Davis 1).

During 1831 William Lloyd Garrison begins publishing the *Liberator*, a weekly paper that advocates the complete abolition of slavery. He becomes one of the most famous figures in the movement. Finally, the racism that lasted in the United States becomes

obvious when Ellison describes how "the white folk tell everybody what to think" (Ellison 143). This declaration reveals how white dominance in America was totally complete that whites told blacks how to live, act, and even think. According to Williams, one of the main ways whites was so able to obtain and maintain such control over blacks is that they won the battle for the mind. In fact, the process was so successful that "blacks themselves came to feel inferior and to hate themselves and all of their kind. Caucasian victory was complete" (Williams 250). Thereby, one of the major ways to battle this racism is to overturn this tendency and show that we are all equal and there is no differences between all the creation unless on the belief and moral behavior (racism in American literature).

## **I-5 Conclusion**

We may conclude that the history of the United States was series of events and realization in both social and literature domain. We may consider that the nineteenth century was famous by several issues that writers and novelists focused on as slavery and racism in order to display and to publish the awareness and the consciousness between people.

In spite of the abolition of the slavery by the end of the civil war that was mentioning in The Thirteenth (1865), Fourteenth (1868), and Fifteenth (1870) Amendments of the Constitution ,as well established citizenship for the freed slaves, plus guaranteed them equal protection of the laws; and granted them the right to vote. The South of America was still struggling with racism as the outcome of slavery; consequently, Twain wrote his *Huckleberry Finn*, which is considered one of the first few books in early American Literature to address the issues and the problems of society. The novel is a perfect example of realism dealing with racism and slavery, in which the author

describes the real problems and the daily life of that period, by using common language and various dialects.

## **Chapter Two**

The literary angles of the *HuckleberryFinn* novel

## II-1- Introduction

The Adventures of *Huckleberry Finn* is a novel depicting a period of southern society and environment and the ignorance of southern people who support the slavery and racism. It is written in southern dialect. The author bases the novel on the conflict between civilization and natural life by using different elements of writing throughout the novel, such as realism, satire, irony and humor. Twain illustrates these aspects of his writing style to portray the flaws in society and how pre-and post-Civil War people treat each other, .He also mentions real facts and serious issues and problems that blacks suffered and endured from, such as racism and slavery before and after the civil war. Twain, one of the great American novelists of the nineteenth century, uses his books to teach others about life in the 1840s. He seems to suggest that the uncivilized manner of life is better: his belief is that civilization corrupts rather than improves human beings; this is what we are going to display.

## II-2-Summary of the novel

*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a satirical novel , characterized by local color regionalism “i.e the realism movement that emerged at that time”, first published in England December 1884 and in the United States in February 1885. The story begins in St. Petersburg, Missouri, on the shore of the Mississippi River, between 1835 and 1845. Two young boys, Thomas "Tom" Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn, have each come into a considerable sum of money as a result of their earlier adventures (*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*). Huck has been placed under the guardianship of the Widow Douglas, who, together with her sister, Miss Watson, is attempting to civilize him. Huck appreciates their

efforts, but finds civilized life confining and imprisoning. His feelings are raised somewhat when Tom Sawyer helps him to escape one night past Miss Watson's slave Jim, to meet up with his band of self-proclaimed "robbers". However, when the band's exploits turn out to be nothing worse than disrupting Sunday School outings and stealing paltry items like song books (Huckleberry-finn).

Huck is once more depressed. However, his life is changed by the sudden reappearance of his lazy father "Pap", an abusive parent and drunkard. Although Huck is successful in preventing him from acquiring his fortune, he gives all his money six thousand dollars to Judge Thatcher, Pap by force gains guardianship of him and moves him to his backwoods cabin. Though Huck prefers this to his life with the widow, he hates his father's drunken violence and his habit of keeping him locked inside the cabin. During one of his father's absences Huck escapes, hardly fakes his own murder, and sets off down the Mississippi River (Huckleberry-finn).

Huck encounters Miss Watson's slave Jim on an island called Jackson's Island. Huck learns that Jim has also run away after he overheard Miss Watson's plan to sell him. Jim is trying to make his way to Cairo, Illinois, and then to Ohio, a free state, so that he can buy his family's freedom. At first, Huck is conflicted over whether to tell someone about Jim's running away, but as they travel together and talk in depth, Huck begins to know more about Jim's past and his difficult life. As these conversations continue, Huck begins to change his opinion about people, slavery. The two engaged to flee together. The novel is noted for its rich description of people and places along the River, Satirizing a Southern society of that time.

During their journey down the Mississippi River; Huck and Jim's raft is swamped by a passing steamship, separating the two. Huck is given shelter by the Grangerfords, a

prosperous local family. He becomes friends with Buck Grangerford, a boy about his age, and learns that the Grangerfords are engaged in a 30-year blood feud against another family, the Shepherdsons. The Grangerfords and Shepherdsons go to church. Both families bring guns to continue the show, despite the church's preaching on brotherly love. This revenge comes to a head when Sophia Grangerford, elopes with Harney Shepherdson. In the resulting conflict, all the Grangerford males are shot and killed. Upon seeing Buck's corpse, Huck is too devastated to write about everything that happened. However, Huck realizes that he must escape to save himself from this cruelty. Later, he found his partner and together fleeing farther south on the Mississippi River (Huckleberry-finn).

Further down the river, Jim and Huck rescue two cons that join them on the raft. The younger of the two swindlers, a man of about thirty, introduces himself as a son of an English duke, and his father's rightful successor. The other man, about seventy, then trumps the Duke's claim by alleging that he is the Lost Dauphin, the son of the King of France. The Duke and the King then join Jim and Huck on the raft, committing a series of confidence schemes on the way south. To allow for Jim's presence, they print fake bills for an escaped slave; and later they paint him up entirely in blue and call him the "Sick Arab". On one occasion they arrive in a town and advertise a three-night engagement of a play which they call "The Royal Nonesuch"(H-F).

On the afternoon of the first performance, a drunk called Boggs arrives in town and makes a nuisance of himself by going around threatening a southern gentleman; Colonel Sherburn. The later, warns Boggs if he continues to insult and threat him , he shall kill him. Boggs continues and Colonel Sherburn kills him. Somebody in the crowd, whom Sherburn later identifies as Buck Harkness, cries out that Sherburn should be lynched. The situation become worse; the Duke and the King have already skipped town, and together

with Huck and Jim, they continue down the river. Once they are far enough away, the two grifters decide to impersonate two brothers of Peter Wilks, a recently deceased man of property. Using an absurd English accent, the King manages to convince nearly all the townspeople that he is one of the brothers, a preacher just arrived from England, while the Duke pretends to be a deaf-mute to match accounts of the other brother. One man in town is certain that they are a fraud and confronts them on the matter, but the crowd refuses to support him. Afterwards, the Duke, out of fear, suggests to the King that they should cut and run. However, Huck likes Wilks' daughters, who treat him with kindness and consideration, so he tries to prevent the grifters' plans by stealing back the inheritance money. When he is in danger of being discovered, he has to hide it in Wilks' coffin, and tells the truth personality of the two cons Wilks' daughter Mary Jean. The arrival of the two real brothers throws everything into confusion. The townspeople devise a test, which requires digging up the coffin to check. When the money is found; the Duke and the King are able to escape. They rejoined Huck and Jim on the raft, but Huck is disappeared. The King takes advantage of Huck's temporary absence to sell the slave Jim for forty dollars (Huckleberry-finn).

Huck rejects the advice of his conscience, which continues to tell him that in helping Jim escape to freedom, he is stealing Miss Watson's property. Accepting that-"All right, then, I'll go to hell!"-Huck resolves to free Jim.

Jim is purchased by the Silas and Sally Phelps which is Tom Sawyer's aunt and uncle. Since Tom is expected for a visit, Huck is mistaken for Tom. He plays along, hoping to find Jim's location and free him. When Huck interrupts Tom on the road and tells him everything, Tom decides to join Huck's plan, pretending to be his brother Sid.

Tom develops an elaborate plan to free him, involving secret messages, a rope ladder sent in Jim's food and other elements besides to a note to the Phelps warning them of a band planning to steal the slave. During the resulting pursuit, Tom is shot in the leg. Jim remains with him rather than finishing his escape. Although the doctor admires Jim's politeness, he deceives him to a passing skiff, and Jim is captured.

After Jim's bringing back, Tom's Aunt Polly arrives and reveals Huck and Tom's true identities. Tom declares that Jim is a free man; and that Miss Watson freed Jim in her will two months before her death; but Tom chose not to reveal Jim's freedom so as to entertain a plan to rescue him. Jim tells Huck that Huck's father has been dead and he was the dead man they found in the floating house. So, he may return safely to St. Petersburg if he wants. Mrs. Sally plans to adopt and civilize Huck. However; he intends to flee west and lives in liberty and freedom (Huckleberry-finn).

### II-3- The novel's structure

The structure and the plan that the author sets in writing *Huckleberryfinn* novel is important to clarify and emphasize the main idea and the theme of the story. The novel is consisting of five parts. The first one consists of six chapters; introduction is set in the village. It provides the background of village life, introduces characters, establishes relationships, creates the plain disposition which, flowing like the river, it is interrupted by effectively contrasting incidents of violence and horror. In part one it is Pap. Huck is defined by his relationship to Pap, and this relationship motivates the action which begins part two (structure of *Huckleberryfinn*).

Part two consists of twelve chapters, seven to eighteen, in which Huck fools Pap and gets away. The setting of part two is the raft and the river, with excursions ashore. Here the calm life of Huck and Jim on the raft contrasts effectively with "civilized" life ashore, as incidents of fraud, greed, cruelty, violence, culminating in the Grangerford-Sheperdson feud, reveal the evilness of "civilized" man .this part is the favorite of most readers and critics. Here the setting is the river, "the majestic, the splendid Mississippi, rolling its mile-wide tide along, shining in the sun. The main characters are Huck and Jim, and the character of most importance in relation to Huck is Jim. There are several incidents; action rises from Huck's escape from Pap through the Grangerford- Shepherdson feud; and the curtain falls on Huck and Jim re-united on the raft. Theme is developed through the relationship of Huck and Jim (structure).

Part three is from chapter nineteen to chapter thirty-one. Chapter nineteen begins a new sequence when the Duke and the King come aboard who together are the characters most important in relation to Huck through the thirteen chapters of this part. The setting is less on the river and more on the land, the cool and starry nights on the raft being replaced

by the dirtiness and dejection of "civilized" life along the shore. Part three differs from part two not only in the introduction of two new characters; it is marked by a shift of emphasis: there are fewer rivers and more land, hence the tone is satirical. The sequence of events in part three includes all those incidents in which the Duke and the King participate (structure).

Part four consists of eleven chapters, thirty two to forty-two, is again set off by change of setting, of characters, and of tone. Here the setting is the Phelps farm, and the character of greatest importance in relation to Huck is Tom Sawyer. Jim is no longer in the background, but comes again into the main action. This, of course, is falling action. The Phelps farm section has caused most of the confusion among critics, who have consistently considered it the conclusion of the novel. Both Trilling and Eliot consider it the end.

Part five, conclusion, is chapter forty-three, consists of two short pages titled "chapter the last" in which final dispositions are made and the last word is said. . (Nothing More to Write) and here, significantly, Huck remains consistent. He has grown from innocence to wisdom; he has savored "civilized" society and rejected it: "I can't stand it," he says, "I been there before." Now, having repudiated the demands of that society, he is ready to live by innate morality, a free man. "So there ain't nothing more to write about (structure of Huck).

Professor Lionel Trilling stated this theory: The form of the book is based on the simplest of all novel-forms, the so-called picaresque novel, or novel of the road, which strings its incidents on the line of the hero's travels. The linear simplicity of the picaresque novel is further modified by the story's having a clear dramatic organization; it has a beginning, middle, and an end, and a mounting suspense of interest.'

In the first sixteen chapters the theme has to do with what is of and from St. Petersburg: Huck, Tom, Nigger Jim and Pap. The second thematic unit includes the most strongly satiric, the most powerful part of the book, bringing Huck and Jim into contact with the outside world . . . The third thematic unit is short, a sort of postscript to the rest, covering the period at the Phelps farm in which Tom re-enters the story. This section repeats the romanticized motif of the first Part and thus brings the book around full-circle, before its close.' Professor Bellamy then proceeds, following Professor Floyd Stovall, to interpret Huckleberry Finn as a satire on institutionalism. The relationship of theme and structure is further considered by Professor Richard P. Adams, who says that "The basic structure, which expresses the of the boy's growth and which carries weight of the incidents and the imagery throughout, is a pattern of symbolic death and rebirth" (structure).

Like Bellamy, Adams finds a three-part structure: The beginning is Huck's life on shore in and around the village of St. Petersburg with the Widow Douglas and Pap. The middle, initiated by Huck's fake death, is his leaving from the life of society and The end is his shifty rebirth, his qualified return, under a false identity and with many reservations, to civilized life at the Phelps plantation. According to Professor Adams, Huck makes three major decisions: 1. to help Jim escape; 2. not to turn Jim in; 3. to go to hell to save Jim (Structure of huckleberryFinn).

## **II-4- Analyzing and studying the novel**

### **A-Analysis of the Characterization**

#### **The Major Characters**

##### **Huck Finn**

Huck is the hero, and narrator of the work, abused and kidnapped by his drunken father until he fakes his own death and runs away. It is Huck's vision through which readers will see other characters and events of the novel and his resolution to the moral dilemmas with which he is faced. From the beginning of the novel, Twain makes it clear that Huck is a boy who comes from the lowest levels of white society. His father is a drunk and a cruel who disappears for months on end. Huck himself is dirty and often living rough. Although the Widow Douglas attempts to improve and to civilize him, he rejects her attempts and maintains his independent ways. The society has failed to protect him from his father, and although the Widow finally gives Huck some of the education and religious guidance that he had missed, he has not been indoctrinated with social values in the same way a middle-class boy like Tom Sawyer has been. Huck's distance from normal society makes him cynical of the world around him and the ideas it passes on to him. Huck's instinctual disbelief and his experiences as he travels down the river force him to question the things society has taught him (Ad of Huckfinn major characters).

According to the law, Jim is Miss Watson's property, but according to Huck's sense and justice, it seems accurate to help Jim. Huck's natural intelligence and his motivation to think through a situation on its own merits lead him to some conclusions that are correct in their situation but that would upset white society. For example, Huck discovers when he and Jim meet a group of slave-hunters, that telling a lie is sometimes the right way of action. Because Huck thinks that lying for good objectives is not ugly behavior. Because of his

background, however, he does more than just apply the rules that he has been taught he creates his own rules. However Huck is not some kind of Independent, moral, intelligence. He must still struggle with some of the prejudices about blacks that society has ingrained in him, and at the end of the novel, he shows himself all too willing to follow Tom Sawyer's guide. But even these failures are part of what makes Huck appealing and sympathetic. He is only a boy, after all, and therefore weak. Imperfect as he is, Huck represents what any one is capable of becoming: thinking, feeling human being rather than a simple component in the routine of society (Ad of Huckfinn).

Twain develops Huck's character by the choices Huck makes as the novel progresses. Huck Finn goes through many moral changes. In the beginning of the book, Huck is careless; he plays jokes and tricks on people. When Huck's adventures grow to involve more people and new moral questions never before raised, it is clear that he has started to change. By the time the book is almost over, we can see a radical change in Huck's opinions, thoughts, and his views of right and wrong. Sometimes, serious events can affect a person's moral opinions and values. This is clearly shown in Huck as his adventures progress further into seriousness. Mark Twain expresses Huck's wildness and confused morals. His careless and wild ways are expressed with his superstitions as well. This is shown with his throwing salt over his shoulder (Twain43). And his other superstitions such as burning the spider, about the snake skin, and talking about the dead (61). Huck never tells the truth. One of his bloated lies is about being a girl and he keeps bloating and bloating to cover up his old lies (75) (Huckleberryfinn moral changes).

As the novel develops his seriousness changes. By the middle of the novel, we can see Huck's improvement. He now realizes that Jim is more human than he was supposed to believe. His view of "right" and "wrong" have changed. He continuous lying and playing jokes, but now he feels some guilt whenever he does this. For instance when he tricks Jim

into believing he was dreaming about the fog. Jim's words make Huck feel bad enough to apologize and he finally realizes that Jim has feelings too. Most Huck's growth and visible friendship to Jim is seen through this apology. Huck's conscience is awakened when he is helping Jim escape. Here is the passage from chapter xvi. Huck has to decide either to obey society or not. At this point his own conscience seemed to have no good answer. Through his judgment, we see the growth of his character as well as his friendship with Jim.(Huckfinn's moral changes).

Another example of Huck' moral seen in the Grangerford family, which admits him when he comes to the house after their raft was broken by a steamboat. He becomes their guest and stays with them for some time. His seriousness grows after he sees Buck Grangerford death because Buck had been somewhat of a friend to him. The ridiculous assassination between the Grangerfords and the Shepherdsons made him think in civilized ways that perpetuated a feud where basically good people foolishly follow old customs rather than changing tradition. Later, when he encounters the King and the Duke , and even later when he finds out that the King and the Duke are frauds, he does not tell Jim, but for a good reason (130). He doesn't want Jim to feel ignorant. This shows an improvement in Huck. He still keeps the truth away, but he does it for the good of others now. Huck was angered when the whole town was cheated by King and Duke (Huckfinn's moral changes).

By the end of the novel,, Huck shows more significance to religion, he thinks how religion and his morals are contradicting. He stops to think of which should refuse. Religion, as he understands it, tells him stealing is wrong, and combined with what he was taught, it makes helping a slave escape appear as stealing. On the other hand, Huck sees Jim as a human and wants to help him. Jim is his friend, and Huck now holds staying with his friend as one of his values. As well as, when Huck writes Miss Watson about Jim's place, after a deep thought, he decides to tear the note and follows his conscience and yet

accepts the consequences. . However, when Huck remembers their trip he says:... and I see Jim before me, all the time, in the day; and in the nighttime, sometimes moonlight, sometimes storms, and we floating along, talking, and singing, and laughing. But somehow I couldn't strike no places to harden me against him, but only the other kind. I'd see him standing my watch on top of his'n, stead of calling me ... and see how glad he was when I come back out of the fog ... and such like times ... and how good he always was ... and then I happened to look around and see that paper. It was a close place. I took it up, and held it in my hand. I was a trembling, because I'd got to decide, forever, betwixt two things.... I studied a minute, sort of holding my breath, and then says to myself: "All right, then, I'll go to hell"—and tore it up (201). So after thinking deeply about it and even writing a note to Miss Watson and eventually decides that his values are on top of the society's injustice and inhumanity. We realize that Huck is thoughtful and his mind becomes open over significant issues in life in general, and his friends in specific. Huck's morals have changed a lot since the beginning. He does not seem to enjoy lying to people anymore if it hurts others (Huckfinn's moral changes).

**Jim**

Jim, Huck's companion as he travels down the river, is a man of remarkable intelligence and compassion. At first look, Jim seems to be superstitious to the point of idiocy and stupidity, but a careful reading of the time that Huck and Jim spend on Jackson's Island reveals that Jim's superstitions conceal a deep knowledge of the natural world and represent an alternate form of intelligence. Moreover, Jim has one of the few healthy, functioning families in the novel. Although he has been separated from his wife and children, he misses them terribly, and it is only the thought of a permanent separation from them that motivates his criminal act of running away from Miss Watson. On the river, Jim becomes a substitute father, as well as a friend, to Huck, taking care of him without being intrusive or smothering. He cooks for the boy and shelters him from some of the worst horrors that they encounter, including the sight of Pap's cadaver, and, for a time, the news of his father's passing (Ad of Huckfinn Major characters).

Some views s have criticized Jim as being too passive, but it is important to remember that he remains at the mercy of every other character in this novel, including even the poor, thirteen-year-old Huck, as the letter that Huck nearly sends to Miss Watson demonstrates. Like Huck, Jim is realistic about his situation and must find ways of accomplishing his goals without incurring the wrath of those who could turn him in. In this position, he is seldom able to act bravely or speak his mind. Nevertheless, despite these limitations and constant fear, Jim constantly acts as a noble human being and a loyal friend. In fact, Jim could be described as the only real adult in the novel, and the only one who provides a positive, respectable example for Huck to follow (AD of Huckfinn).

## **Tom Sawyer**

Tom is the same age as Huck and his best friend and foil, gives Huck access to complicated adventures found within the Romantic novels he reads and tries to recreate in his own lies and pretend adventures. Whereas Huck's birth and upbringing have left him in poverty and on the margins of society, Tom has been raised in relative comfort. As a result, his beliefs are an unfortunate combination of what he has learned from the adults around him and the imaginary notions he has exposed from reading romance and adventure novels. Tom believes in sticking severely to the system, most of which have more to do with style than with morality or anyone's happiness. Tom is thus the perfect foil for Huck: his firm loyalty to rules and precepts contrasts with Huck's tendency to question authority and think for himself (Ad of Huck Finn Major characters).

Although Tom's escapades are often funny, they also show just how terrifyingly and unthinkingly cruel society can be. Tom knows all along that Miss Watson has died and that Jim is now a free man, yet he is willing to allow Jim to remain a captive while he entertains himself with fantastic escape plans. Tom's plotting tortures not only Jim, but Aunt Sally and Uncle Silas as well. In the end, although he is just a boy like Huck and is appealing in his enthusiasm for adventure and his unaware joking, Tom exemplifies what a young, well-to-do white man is raised to become in the society of his time; egotistical with dominion over all (The Adventures of Huck Finn).

## **The Minor Characters**

There are minor characters also who played an obvious and significant role through the events of the novel and have a huge influence on the protagonist such as the couple; - *Widow Douglas and Miss Watson* Two wealthy sisters who live together in a large house in St. Petersburg and who adopt Huck. The gaunt and severe Miss Watson is the most

prominent representative of the hypocritical religious and ethical values Twain criticizes in the novel. The Widow Douglas is somewhat gentler in her beliefs and has more patience with the mischievous Huck. When Huck acts in a manner contrary to societal expectations, it is the Widow Douglas whom he fears disappointing (Ad of Hucfinn character list).

*Pap*, Huck's father, the town drunk, he is bad and terrible when he appears. At the beginning of the novel, with disgusting, ghostly white skin and tattered clothes. The illiterate Pap disapproves of Huck's education and beats him frequently. Pap represents both the general dishonor of white society and the failure of family structures in the novel.

*The duke and the dauphin*, pair of con men whom Huck and Jim rescue as they are being run out of a rivertown. The older man, who appears to be about seventy, claims to be the "dauphin," the son of King Louis XVI and heir to the French throne. The younger man, who is about thirty, claims to be the usurped Duke of Bridgewater. Although Huck quickly realizes the men are frauds, he and Jim remain at their mercy, as Huck is only a child and Jim is a runaway slave. The duke and the dauphin carry out a number of increasingly disturbing swindles as they travel down the river on the raft.

*Judge Thatcher*; The local judge who shares responsibility for Huck with the Widow Douglas and is in charge of safe guarding the money that Huck and Tom found at the end of *Tom Sawyer*. When Huck discovers that Pap has returned to town, he wisely signs his fortune over to the Judge, who doesn't really accept the money, but tries to comfort Huck. Judge Thatcher has a daughter, Becky, who was Tom's girl friend in *Tom Sawyer* and whom Huck calls "Bessie" in this novel.

*The Grangerfords* A family that takes Huck in after a steamboat hits his raft, separating him from Jim. The kind hearted Grangerfords, who offer Huck a place to stay in their tacky countryhome, are locked in a long-standing feud with another local family, the Shepherdsons. Twain uses the two families to engage in some rollicking humor and to

mock a overly romanticizes ideas about family honor. Ultimately, the families' sensationalized feud gets many of them killed.

*The Wilks family* at one point during their travels, the duke and the dauphin encounter a man who tells them of the death of a local named Peter Wilks, who has left behind a rich estate. The man inadvertently gives the con men enough information to allow them to pretend to be Wilks's two brothers from England, who are the recipients of much of the inheritance. The duke and the dauphin's subsequent conning of the good-hearted and vulnerable Wilks sisters is the first step in the con men's increasingly cruel series of scams, which culminate in the sale of Jim.

*Silas and Sally Phelps*; Tom Sawyer's aunt and uncle, whom Huck coincidentally encounters in his search for Jim after the con men have sold him. Sally is the sister of Tom's aunt, Polly. Essentially good people, the Phelpses nevertheless hold Jim in custody and try to return him to his rightful owner. Silas and Sally are the unknowing victims of many of Tom and Huck's "preparations" as they try to free Jim. The Phelpses are the only intact and functional family in this novel, yet they are too much for Huck, who longs to escape their "civilizing" influence.

*Aunt Polly*; Tom Sawyer's aunt, guardian and Sally Phelps's sister. Aunt Polly appears at the end of the novel and properly identifies Huck, who has pretended to be Tom, and Tom, who has pretended to be his own younger brother, Sid. (Ad of Huck Finn).

## **B-Themes analysis**

Themes are the fundamental and often universal ideas explored in a literary work. Twain portrays in the novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, various themes ; Prejudice, racism , autonomy , authority, slavery, freedom, and hypocrisy. One of the themes Twain portrays is prejudice. The way Twain depicts prejudice in the novel through

Huck; who is “uncivilized” in the way that he smokes, doesn’t always agree with religious practices, dislikes attending school, when he said “. I didn’t want to go to school much before, but I reckoned I’d go now to spite pap” (Twain 31). And has a drunk, abusive father. The town prejudices Huck as being uncivilized for the reason that Huck is dissimilar from the others in the town. Twain uses irony in the theme of prejudice that Huck, in reality, is far more civilized than any of the other townspeople. Huck shows civilization in the way that he respects Jim, even though Jim is a “run away slave.” Many times, Twain refers to the Caucasian race as being “stupid”, The prejudice that Twain uses against the white race isn’t meant as being aggressive, but rather meant to prove a point of how low-life white’s were acting superior(Major themes in Huckfinn).

Twain depicts racism by showing its immorality through the character of Jim. He himself acknowledge this image when he declares “I’s rich now, come to look at it. I owns myself, en I’s wuth eight hund’d dollars” (Twain 54). Even though Huck Finn was raised in a society dominant of racist values, as the novel progresses, Huck’s feelings on racism change. Through the device of satire, Twain shows the foolishness of racism within the very first few chapters, it arises through the character of Pap; when he gets drunk one night, he goes on to explain how the government is so “wonderful.”He speaks of a “black man, who was a p’fessor in a college, and could talk all kinds of languages, and knowed everything”(Twain 35). The worst thing to Pap, though, was that the black man could vote, he says “this country where they’d let that nigger vote, I drawed out. I says I’ll never vote again” (35). The absurdity of racism is shown in this instance with irony. Pap wouldn’t vote just because the fact that one state was letting a black man vote; a black man that was of higher civilization

and realization than Pap. In reality, it was more appropriate for the black man to be voting than for drunken Pap to be. Another instance of racism is shown when Huck arrives at Aunt Sally's, and fabricates a story of how a cylinder-head was blown. When Aunt Sally asked "anybody hurt" Huck replied with "No'm. Killed a nigger" (Twain 215). Aunt Sally is calmed and replied with "Well, it's lucky because sometimes people do get hurt" (215). Aunt Sally acts as if a nigger being killed means as nobody getting hurt. Twain includes many satirical instances of racism throughout the entire novel to show the foolishness of racism that was, and still is, in the world.

Twain includes the theme of Autonomy, (which is to act freely without controlling by anyone else) Twain depicts autonomy through the character of Huck when questioning several times whether he should be helping to free Jim or not. The first instance where the reader really sees Huck struggling with the fact that he is responsible for freeing Jim is when the two are almost to Cairo. The entire time that Huck senses that Jim is approximately to Cairo and free, he feels like he committed a fatal crime. The second time Huck shows difficulty between conformity and autonomy is when he writes a letter to Miss Watson saying that he knows where Jim is "Miss Watson your runaway nigger Jim is down here two mile below Pikesville and Mr. Phelps has got him and he will give him up for the reward if you send HuckFinn"(Twain 208) (Major themes in Huckfinn).

Through much inner conflict, Huck eventually decides to value his friendship and loyalty to Jim, and he tore it up. Huck said "All right,then, I'll go to hell" (208). He may not disobey his loyalty to Jim. This is a major turning point in the novel for Huck ,he understands that slavery is a part of the law, and that to free a slave is legally, socially, and morally wrong in his culture- his feelings about Jim lead him to break these rules.

Authority figures within the novel developing the theme; are the king, the duke, and Pap. Huck's father is an abusive drunk that hides Huck in a cabin along with the attempt at stealing Huck's money. The King and Duke who use Huck and Jim to promote their plans, and sell Jim when they run out of money. Contrary to the three men's negative impact on Huck, each of them is supposed to be "authority figures" in Huck's life. Twain shows, through these three unsecure men, that not always the authority figures are reliable and loyal (Major themes).

Slavery is one of the main, dominant themes with the novel. The use of satire is used, once again, to portray the theme of slavery, by showing alternate sides of characters. For example, Pap is Huck's father who should be a model to Huck and should be protecting Huck. Instead, Pap is a drunk who abuses Huck. On the other hand, Jim, who is a slave, shows more consideration and fatherly figure than Pap ever has towards Huck. The contrast between Pap and Jim's character is used to show the foolishness of slavery. Twain also shows the strange ways of slavery by having each white raced character in the book have something emotionally wrong with them. Such as Pap who is abusive and drunk, the people down South that Jim and Huck come across who chew all day long, and the king and duke who are con men (Major themes).

Twain's depiction of slavery as an allegorical of the condition of blacks in the United States even *after* the abolition of slavery. Just as slavery places the noble and moral Jim under the control of white society, no matter how degraded that white society may be, so too did the insidious racism that arose near the end of Reconstruction oppress black men for illogical and insincere reasons. Twain makes it seem as if white people developed the use of slaves because white people were too lazy themselves to do their own work (Major themes).

Freedom is depicted by two characters in the novel, Jim Being freed from the slavery which is his goal in the novel. Slavery is a chain on Jim that ties him down from happiness and his ultimate goal in life which is being in the presence of family. The reader can sense the anxiety in Jim as he almost becomes free when approaching closer to Cairo « is a free state ». The other character that wishes to achieve freedom is Huck. Freedom for Huck means escaping from the civilization of everyday life- away from the Widow Douglas, Miss Watson, and his father. For Huck “it was rough living in a house all the time” (Twain 11). The theme of freedom is depicted by Twain showing how freedom is different for everyone. Jim wished to be released from the chains of slavery while Huck wished to be released from the civilized home life (Major themes).

Hypocrisy is shown in two main forms in the novel; the first is the hypocrisy of slavery. Twain uses hypocritical value to show the foolishness of slavery. America is so called “Land of the free”. How can a society that advocates freedom and liberty supports racism, slavery, and discrimination? The other use of hypocrisy within the novel is the hypocrisy of religion. Within the Grangerford’s house is bibles and art work of family members, symbolizing how the Grangerford’s has religious beliefs, however, the family is in a battle with the neighboring family, the Shepherdsons. Twain shows how many families are only pretenders when it comes to believing in religious values (Major themes).

### **C- Motives**

Motives are recurring structures, contrasts, and literary devices that can help to develop and inform the text’s major themes; as a childhood, lies and con, superstitions and folk beliefs, and parodies of popular romance. Twain introduces the childhood in Huck’s youth which is an important factor in his moral education. Since Huck and Tom are young,

their age lends a sense of play to their actions, which excuses them in certain ways as well deepens the novel's commentary on slavery and society. Ironically, Huck often knows better than the adults around him, even though he has lost the guidance that the family and the community should have offered him. Twain also frequently draws links (relatives) between Huck's youth and Jim's status as a black man: both are in danger yet Huck, because he is white, has power over Jim. And on a different level, the silliness, pure joy, and naïveté of childhood give *Huckleberry Finn* a sense of fun and humor. Though its themes are so important, the novel itself feels light in tone and is an enjoyable read because of this adamant and rebellious childhood excitement that enlivens the story (Adv of Huckfinn).

Another motif that Twain showed in his novel; Lies and Cons, many of them coming from the duke and the dauphin. It is clear that these con men's lies are bad, for they hurt a number of innocent people. Yet Huck himself tells a number of lies and even cons a few people, most notably the slave-hunters, to whom he makes up a story about a smallpox outbreak in order to protect Jim. As Huck realizes, it seems that telling a lie can be a good thing, depending on its purpose (Adv of Huckfinn).

Furthermore, Twain mentioned the Superstitions and Folk Beliefs that Jim spouts widely about it. Whereas Jim initially appears foolish to believe so trustily in these kinds of sign and divine, it turns out, curiously, that many of his beliefs do indeed have some basis in reality or foretell events to come. Much as we do, Huck at first dismisses most of Jim's superstitions as silly, but ultimately he comes to appreciate Jim's deep knowledge of the world.

Parodies of popular Romance Novels; Twain's *Huckleberryfinn* is full of people who base their lives on romantic literary models and stereotypes of various kinds. Tom Sawyer,

the most obvious example, bases his life and actions on adventure novels. When he said “I warn’t so ignorant, but had read a book called Don Quixote” (Twain 22). The dead Emmeline Grangerford painted sad maidens and wrote poems about dead children in the romantic style. The Shepherdson and Grangerford families kill one another out of a strange, manic conception of family honor. These characters encourage toward the romantic allow Twain a few opportunities to indulge in some fun, and indeed, the episodes that deal with this subject are among the funniest in the novel. However, there is a more substantive message beneath: that popular literature is highly stylized and therefore rarely reflects the reality of a society. Twain shows how a strict devotion to these romantic ideals is ultimately dangerous: Tom is shot, Emmeline dies, and the Shepherdsons and Grangerfords end up in a deadly clash (Adv of Huckfinn).

#### **D- Symbolism in the novel**

Symbols are objects, characters, figures, and colors used to represent abstract ideas or concepts. The major symbol of Twain’s novel *Huckleberryfinn* is The Mississippi River. For Huck and Jim, it represents liberty and freedom. The river carries them toward freedom: for Jim, toward the free states; for Huck, away from his abusive father and the restrictive “sivilizing” of St. Petersburg. Despite their freedom, however, they soon find that they are not completely free from the evils and influences of the towns on the river’s risk. Even early on, the real world intrudes on the paradise of the raft. The river floods, bringing Huck and Jim into contact with criminals, wrecks, and stolen goods. Then, a thick fog causes them to miss the entrance of the Ohio River, which was to be their route to freedom (Adv of Huckfinn).

As the novel progresses, then, the river becomes something other than the inherently compassionate place Huck originally thought it was. As Huck and Jim move further south,

the duke and the dauphin invade the raft, and Huck and Jim must spend more time ashore. Though the river continues to offer a refuge from trouble, it often merely effect the exchange of one bad situation for another. As Huck and Jim's journey progresses, the river, which once seemed a paradise and a source of freedom, becomes only a temporary means of escape even though pushing Huck and Jim ever further toward danger and destruction (Adv of Huck finn).

## **II-5- Aspects of writing in *HuckFinn* novel**

### **A-Realism**

It is the major aspect that the author uses; realism is an aesthetic style with the classical desire of art to indicate life as it should be for the sake of showing life as it is. As William Dean said: «Realism is nothing more and nothing less than the truth full treatment of material” (Realism and the realist novel). Twain employs several examples of realism in the way he wrote *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Twain explores the innocence and naivety of society when the duke and king go to the camp meeting and collect money from the poor, unsuspecting, church-going people. Twain also reveals examples of realism through the dialect that his characters use in the novel besides to the detailed descriptions of the river and nature are Realist observations. In his book, he utilizes the real vernacular used at the time, which really demonstrates the realist qualities that he possesses.

Throughout the book, Twain includes many different dialects including “the Missouri Negro dialect and the ordinary ‘Pike County’ dialect in order to add credibility and realism to the story. Other examples of realism happen throughout the setting. The story takes place in St. Petersburg and on the Mississippi, near Twain's place of birth. In particular,

Twain makes use of the episodes of realism as a way to satirize society.

### **B-Satire and irony**

Satire, another element in Twain's writing, occurs many times throughout his novel as well. According to Stephen that Twain wrote many books in the Southern humorist style with an element of satire in them (Stephen 339). A convincing example of satire occurs in the first chapter when Huck says, "By and by they fetched the niggers in and had prayers, and then everybody was off to bed" (Twain 13). This pokes fun at the fact that Miss Watson attempts to become a better Christian and a better person but she still owns slaves and considers them property. Another satisfactory example of satire occurs when Pap becomes outraged at the thought of a black man having the opportunity to vote. However, the black man actually has more education than Pap. Twain uses the Boggs-Sherburn event to include more satire. When Boggs enters the story he says he has come to murder Colonel Sherburn. Sherburn then proceeds to shoot Boggs and the townspeople plan to hang him. Sherburn laughs in their faces and says to them, "'you are – cowards'" (142). Finally the crowd breaks up and moves on (142).

Another example of satire occurs when Huck goes to the Phelps plantation and sees the two frauds, the king and the duke, tarred and feathered. He points out that "human beings can be awful cruel to one another". Twain includes numerous examples of satire throughout the novel.

Twain used the families the Grangerfords and Shepherdsons that Huck met during his journey down the Mississippi River, to emphasize his obscure satire on religion, because the two families attend the same church, leaning their guns against the walls during the sermon about "brotherly love." The combination of religion and gunplay is ironic, as well

as the intention of the two families to continue to battle despite that they don't know why they persist to fight is ironic.

Seeing that with the satire of the camp meeting of the two frauds; the Duke and the King, the parody of Shakespeare is another aspect of humor that Twain uses for comic effect. The humor increases when the king confuses "orgies" with funeral "obsequies," and his explanation of the Greek and Hebrew origins of the word only adds to the ridiculousness of the scene, the entire plan that Tom made to rescue Jim Phelps family becomes a comical and romantic such as a tunnel and devices such as a rope ladder . Another facet of satire when Tom says that Jim needs to keep a journal, Huck replies, "Journal your granny — *Jim* can't write." Huck's response is both humorous and revealing at the same time that Jim does not need to keep a journal, The ability to read and write was not common among anyone in the mid-1800s, and because Jim is merely a common slave.

The bitter satire is obvious when Huck wonders about the logic of digging a tunnel with ordinary case-knives. When he questions Tom, Tom replies that "It don't make no difference how foolish it is, it's the *right* way . . . . And there ain't no *otherway*, that ever *I* heard of, and I've read all the books that gives any information about these things." (Twain 235). Another element of satire that Twain mentioned at the end of the story When the slave Jim scarified his freedom for Tom by staying with him until the Doctor come but eventually Tom realizes that Jim has been recaptured, he declares that "They hain't no *right* to shut him up! *Shove!* — and don't you lose a minute. Turn him loose! heain't no slave; he's as free as any cretur that walks this earth!" (Twain 277). Tom's statement, then, is one of Twain's harshest and most ironic comments on the American condition before and after the civil war.

Huck fails to see the irony. He does not project social, religious, cultural, or conceptual nuances into situations because he has never learned them. For example, when Miss Watson tells Huck that "*she* was going to live so as to go to the good place [heaven]," Huck, applying what he knows about Miss Watson and the obvious existence that makes her happy, responds that he "couldn't see no advantage in going where she was going". Huck cannot realize what she wanted to mean because he is young and uncivilized boy.

Moreover, Pap's threats towards his son are humorous because of the obvious irony; how could a father not be proud of his son learning to read and to be civilized. Also, The absurd critic of Pap against the government and blacks is sadly comical because of his obvious arrogance and ignorance. The irony, however, is more painful than it is humorous because it symbolizes a racist behavior based on ignorance and lack of confidence.

In addition, Twain's decision to name the boat the *Walter Scott*: (Sir Walter Scott (1771-1832) Scottish and romantic poet and novelist) continues his mockery of romantic novels and their authors

### **C-Humor**

Humor is another element of writing in Twain's novel. He carries on the southwestern humor tradition of vernacular language; that is, Huck sounds as a young, uneducated boy. In the first sentence of the novel; Twain shows that Huck Finn is the narrator by using his own language and dialect. . Humor is used in various ways in the novel, because Huck is young and uncivilized, he describes events and people in a direct manner without observations or comment. Huck does not laugh at humorous situations and statements because his plain advance does not locate them to be funny. We find humor in Tom's

character and his fascination of romantic novels. His humorous exaggerations symbolize Twain's dislike of popular and overvalued romantic novels. In Chapter three, Tom mentions *Don Quixote* as a model of the romantic novels.

Dissimilar the playful humor of Tom Sawyer, the humor of Huck Finn is harsh satire using the hypocrisy and violence in the society that Twain observed. For instance, when Tom decides that the gang will rob and murder people "except some that you bring to the cave here and keep them till they're ransomed," (Twain 18). the boys discover that no one, including Tom, knows the meaning of "ransom." The boys give a meaning to the word that is "keep them until they are dead" (18). This sense is wrong. Because the group believes it to be true, it becomes their fact, and the rest of their action is based on this error, a serious issue related by humor.

The humorous moment is another example of Huck's plain advance to his surroundings. He struggles to understand religion. When Miss Watson tells him that he can receive anything he wants through prayer; he considers the concept of prayer and thinks that it is far to be true yet .Another facet of *Huck Finn's* humor; that is, the ability of Huck to disguise himself as girl.

## **II-6-Conclusion**

Twain used the elements of writing in order to sarcasm, and ridicule the southern society over different issues going on during that time such as slavery and racism that black people suffered from, and he used this elements as tools to expose human folly and demonstrated foolishness or vice in the characters depicted; sometimes it is a serious protest intended to cause change in attitude. Sometimes satire pokes fun more gently and

comically, to make people laugh. In either case, the audience should be left to think at least a little more deeply about the condition of the world.

## **Chapter Three**

Racism within the elements of the story in *HuckleberryFinn* novel

### III-1-Introduction

*Huckleberry Finn* novel has become famous not merely as the precious work of one of America's greatest writers, but also as a subject of passionate controversy. The novel occasionally has been banned in Southern states because of its loyal critical take on the South and the hypocrisies of slavery. Others have dismissed *Huckleberry Finn* as vulgar or racist because it uses the word *nigger*, a term whose connotations unclear the novel's deeper themes which are plainly antislavery. The fact that the historical context in which Twain wrote made his use of the word insignificant, indeed, part of the realism he wanted to create and offers little support to some modern readers. eventually, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* has proved significant not only as a novel that explores the racial and moral world of its time but also, through the controversies that continue to surround it, as an objet d'art of those same moral and racial tensions as they have evolved to the present day.

*Huckleberry Finn* Twain's novel was written with satirical and allegorical tone brilliantly so as to present a different view of issue going on in society before and after the Civil War time such as slavery, racism and discrimination that blacks suffered from. Issue of central importance to *Huckleberry Finn* is racism one besides to the using of abusive language throughout the story especially the term (nigger). As well, there are prejudices and racist behavior toward blacks within the elements of the story; racism through the point of view, setting, characters and even in language.

### **III-2-Racism through setting**

*Huckleberry Finn* takes time in the 1830s or 1840s. This period is time of slavery in the U.S.A when racism reaches its peak over black people who were seen inferior than whites especially in the southern states that encourage slavery; on the contrary the Northern states which abolitionists (antislavery). This story began in St. Petersburg, in Hannibal, but its main action occurs on the Mississippi River. After Huck met Jim on Jackson's Island, the two travelled down river on a raft that comes to symbolize their brotherhood and freedom. Hoping to drift to Cairo, Illinois, where Jim can escape and obtain his freedom, they are diverted by a fog and travel southward to Arkansas instead. The trip ties together a sequence of adventures.

Mark Twain wrote *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* nearly twenty years after the end of the American Civil War, between 1876 and the early 1880's. The novel was first published in 1884, and depicted a world that had theoretically passed into history.

### **III-3 Features of racism within the character's behavior and speech**

Twain develops both the character of Huck Finn and other characters in the novel by using both dialect (local, regional language) and point of view. This use of regional dialect and local color contributes to the novel's being a Realistic work, rather than a Romantic one, representing a shift in 19th century fiction and a notable tool in character development. Since the novel is told exclusively by Huck Finn, Twain reproduces not only Huck's unlettered, simple, and regional speech pattern, but he also, through Huck, differs from the speech of others whom Huck recalls for the booklover, each with his or her own causal factors affecting speech: intellect and educational level, difficulty and socio-economic level and race (Understanding Twain's use of Dialect).

Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Is a masterpiece or an insult. That is the question asked by many parents, teachers, and scholars. When "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" was first published, it seemed doomed from the start. With a hero who lies, steals, and uses rough language, may be because the hero is confronted with different forms of dishonesty and evil as Grellet said (Grellet 172). Black parents in the U.S.A. Thought "*Huck Finn*," as it is commonly called, would corrupt young children because of the several use of the word nigger within the characters of the story even by the hero. It is obvious and seemingly that is racist behavior.

Throughout the novel we find examples of blacks being less intelligent than whites, and are stupid and superstitious; in chapter fourteen are having an argument over King Solomon , when Huck realizes he cannot get out of his argument as winner, he decides that "you can't learn a nigger to argue". Also, they are stupid and superstitious when Huck said "niggers would come miles to hear Jim tell about it and he was more looked up to than any other nigger in that country" (Twain 16). That is extreme racist and prejudice behavior over them.

Furthermore, there are many quotations that show prejudice and racism throughout the novel for instance in chapter thirty two when Mrs Sally said: "Weblowed out a cylinder-head." / "Good gracious!anybody hurt?" / "No'm. Killed a nigger." "Well it's lucky; because sometimes people do get hurt." (Twain 215). This is perhaps the most obvious quote concerning race in the entire novel. Huck's response that the steamboat explosion killed merely a nigger and is therefore no big deal contradicts the tender feelings he's expressed toward Jim and his recognition that slaves were human. This attitude indicates that blacks are truly inferior; besides, Huck has had racist attitudes drilled in him for so long that he is unable to eliminate them. And Aunt Sally's comment that the death of the

nigger doesn't matter because he wasn't a person contradicts her otherwise compassionate nature. Twain demonstrates the hypocrisy and flawed way of thinking possessed by racist Southerners

Another quote showing racism: "It was the most astonishing speech I ever heard--and I'm bound to say Tom Sawyer fell, considerable in my estimation. Only I couldn't believe it. Tom Sawyer a *nigger stealer*" (Twain 219). There is no need for Huck to pretend to be anything in this segment of the novel. He's speaking to nobody but the reader and it's apparent that Huck does not feel his aiding of Jim as a noble act. It's one thing for an outcast, son of a drunk, good-for-nothing, uneducated like himself to help a slave runaway, but for a respectable boy like Tom Sawyer to do so is appalling.

In addition, the apparent behavior of racism in the following quotation: "Here was this nigger which I had as good as helped to run away, coming right out flat-footed and saying he would steal his children--children that belonged to a man I didn't even know; a man that hadn't never done me no harm. I was sorry to hear Jim say that, it was such a lowering of him." (Twain 92). This is irony. Twain presents the events in the story to show beyond a doubt that helping Jim escape is the right thing to do. Huck, however, is unable to recognize this reality. Even in Huck's character who said "Miss Watson big nigger named Jim" (14). The frequent use of the word nigger, is a perfect racism towards blacks. Besides the Pap's behavior and speech that blacks cannot vote because they are not human and merely property and belongings.

### III-4 Racism throughout the narrator and language

The novel is depicting a period of time of southern society and environment; besides to the ignorance and opposition to slavery. It is written in southern dialect and seen through the adventures of two boys from different societies running away from civilization. Huck is the first-person narrator, the whole story is told in his voice. Twain use this young character to convey reader to the credibility of the story dealing with realistic matters. Because everything is filtered through Huck as innocent, he cannot lie and tell the events as it is. So, we have to rely on him to interpret the story and present it to us.

Twain develops both the character of Huck Finn and other characters in the novel by using both dialect (local, regional language) and point of view. This use of regional dialect and local color contributes to the novel's being a Realistic work, representing a change in 19th century fiction and a remarkable device in character development. The employ of the dialect used in the novel, especially in the Huck's initial speech patterns in Chapter One when he said "...but that ain't no matter" (Twain 11).and "Says I,me-you! me you!"(14). Through these three headings: Grammar, Vocabulary, and Speech Patterns, showing how does Huck's dialect differ from usual English; besides to the shifts in dialect through different characters of the novel such as Judith Loftus, Missouri housewife in page (65-67); and Colonel Sherburn, Arkansas gentry, in page ( 145-146), and in the tongue of the character Jim, runaway slave, 154 (shlensky 7).

Twain reproduces not only Huck's simplicity, and regional speech patterns, but he also, through Huck, varies the speech of others whom Huck remembers for us, so as to understand any of the characters intellect and educational level. The novel is based on the voice and point of view of Huck Finn. Huck's version of the speech patterns of other

characters not only develops them as characters, but also sets his own speech apart from them and distinguishes him as a dependable narrator and impersonator of others.

The racist behavior through language especially in the abusive and frequently word nigger almost in all the chapters. Throughout the whole book, blacks are seen less intelligent than whites when Huck and Jim are having an argument over King Solomon. Huck realizes that he cannot get out of this argument as winner, he decides that "you can't learn a nigger to argue" (Twain 84). Another example of this common belief when Tom says "Jim's a nigger and wouldn't understand the reasons of it, and how it's the custom in Europe". All these arguments show how Southern people in this story behave with racism and discrimination towards blacks.

There is also conduct of racism through Huck's character especially in the beginning within his conduct and speech. When Aunt Sally asked Huck "Good gracious! anybody hurt?" He responded "No'm. Killed a nigger."; "Well it's lucky; because sometimes people do get hurt." (Twain 215). Huck's response that the steamboat explosion killed merely a nigger; as he said and is thus no big deal contradicts the gentle feelings that he expressed toward Jim and his recognition that slaves were human. Thereby, Huck believes Jim is an isolated example and that slaves or blacks are truly inferior; also, Huck has had racist attitudes in him for so long that he is unable to eliminate them.

Including more serious issue of race and slavery; Huck's comment that people would call me a low-down Abolitionist and despise me for keeping mum; shows that his society does not tolerate those who denounce slavery. Furthermore, Huck's permission that "Jim was most always right; he had an uncommon level head, for a nigger." (Twain 81). This certainly shows that Huck still has not accepted Jim as an intellectual or human equal. Another face of racist acting is when Tom says that Jim needs to keep a journal, Huck

replies, "Journal your granny -*Jim* can't write"(Twain 233). Huck's convenient response is both humorous and revealing at the same time. It is apparent that Jim does not need to keep a journal. The ability to read and write was not common in the mid-1800s, and because Jim is a slave, his being able to write is much more improbable that means they endure racist society (Historical context of Huckfinn).

### III-5 Critical reviews (positive and negative), and some reviewers

#### A-Negative Reviews

Since Huckleberry Finn novel appeared in 1884 many critics increased about it including positive and negative criticism that: is the novel racist or antiracist. And was met with mixed reviews. Some reviewers called it flat, trashy, and irreverent. Others called it Twain's best work yet, hailing his humor and style throughout the novel. One of the most direct detractors to *Huck Finn*, is John H. Wallace. "*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, by Mark Twain, is the most grotesque example of racist trash ever written" (Wallace 16). He advises that this book should not be used with children; Thinking no longer describes Blacks as inhuman, dishonest and stupid. Is cited from the beginning of his critical essay from 1992, in which he tries to protect African Americans from the "mental cruelty, harassment, and persecution. listed (The Adventures of Huckleberryfinn).

Among the wide range of critics who clearly articulate a critical attitude towards *HuckFin*, may also belisted Forrest G. Robinson, who claimed that "[Jim] eventually reverts to a two dimensional characters, gullible and superstitious" (Chadwick-Joshua 5) as well as James Cox, who "never actually asserts a strong position on the character of Jim, placing him [...] in ambiguity" (Chadwick-Joshua 5) from (Adv of Huckfinn).

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, by Mark Twain, is an excellent example of racism in literature, because it uses language describing African Americans which goes beyond satire. It treats them as objects and perpetuates stereotypes. The society which Huck tries to escape looks down upon blacks, society sees them as nothing more than slaves, and possessions. Jim himself emphasizes this: "I owns myself, en I's wuth eight hund'd dollars (Twain 41).

The American Heritage Dictionary defines racism as 'the belief that some races are inherently better than others.' Mark Twain holds this belief, and his writing illustrates it. The use of the word 'nigger' does not merely serve as a point of satire. He is not simply ridiculing the times by using it, but saying, 'this is how it is.' He conveys the idea that whites are superior to blacks in different ways. While he might criticize white people's actions, he never supports them together, attributing similar characteristics to all of them by the use of a term 'nigger.' By doing this, he is also offending about 15% of the United States population. Every character in the book is racist, even Huckleberry himself. With such lines as: 'Here was this nigger, which I had as good as helped run away, coming right out flatfooted and saying he would steal his children that belonged to a man I didn't even know; a man that hadn't ever done me no harm'(Twain 133).( This statement shows that the main character of the story has behavior of racism towards blacks This is the point of view of a boy who has just fourteen, so, what is the attitude about others. As well as, what makes this book so controversial is the fact that the word nigger is used more than 200 times in the book (Adv of HF).

### **B-Positive Reviews**

Some reviewers believe that Mark Twain expressed apparently racist ideas. The reason being, this novel shows the relationships between blacks and whites in the nineteenth

century and all the cruelty that escorted these relations. However, this novel is not a racist novel; it shows these situations not to promote and support racism, but to bring a better understanding of the subject and how one can overcome and defeat individual prejudices and raise from these experiences. This novel shows Huck Finn, a result of this intolerable society, coming to the realization of how uncivilized and ignorant his white peers have become. By showing these situations and the transformations Huck goes through, the reader sees racism and its effects in real life settings either in time or places. Twain with his writing of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* attempts to challenge these ideas throughout the novel (*The Adventures of Huckleberryfinn*).

However, other reviewers think that *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is not racist novel because Twain's action of Pap's character makes it evident that he is against racism and slavery. He is attacking society's racism by speaking about it through a ridiculous drunk. . He is a violent alcoholic who steals Huck and abuses him both physically and emotionally. Twain wants to convey reader that he is against slavery and racism that Pap reacted towards Huck and others; he throws an approach over the government allowing a free black professor to vote: "...but when they told me there was a state in this country where they'd let that nigger vote, I drawed out. I says I'll never vote ag'in as long as I live." (Twain 35). The author here is attacking society's racism by speaking of it through stupid intoxicated. character. In addition, both Trilling and Eliot objected to the portrayal of Jim or to the use of the word "nigger." In fact, Eliot found Huck and Jim to be "equal in dignity" and observed that Jim is almost as notable a creation as Huck himself ( *A of Huckfinn*).

Supporters of *Huckleberry Finn* argue that anyone who reads the book carefully can see that Twain is in fact anti-slavery and anti-racist. Jim is, in fact, the best person in the

novel: honest, perceptive and fair-minded, a loving father and loyal friend. In contrast, the white characters include, among others, Huck's father, a child-abusing drunkard; the Duke and King, who are frauds and swindlers, and the Grangerfords and Shepherdsons, two feuding clans whose main purpose in life is the murder of as many of their enemies as possible. Thoughtful examination of Twain's use of the word "nigger" in order to help readers in the importance of understanding the context in which a word is used.

At the beginning of the book, Jim is depicted as an ignorant and naïve slave who is played tricks on by young boys. However, as the story progresses, new thoughts made to challenge this original description of Jim. When Huck is separated from Jim on the river, Jim thinks that Huck has drowned and shows deep affection. At other times as well, Jim is shown as a caring father figure towards Huck. For example, he did not permit Huck to see the face of the dead man finding in the island; this meant that he is human and sensitive; he is reacting as indeed a good father that Huck never known. Another incident that shows a more positive image of Jim is when he cries while thinking of his own family and how he misses them. He is shown to have sincere feelings for others. Twain wants to transmit that black people are caring, deep, affectionate persons; Twain must not be racist. He is challenging and contesting society's racism by showing how black people really are human.

Huckleberry Finn can definitely be described as having racist attitudes at the beginning of and throughout the novel. However, they are the attitudes of an inexperienced young who knows nothing about life beyond that which has been taught to him by society during his childhood. The events that take place in the novel, though, very much change the person that he is. He is forced to evaluate what he has been taught and come to personal conclusions based on his own experiences. At the story's climax, he eventually decides that he will rest by his black friend Jim, even if it means he will go to hell. At the very end

of the book, Huck decides to run away and says, "...Aunt Sally she's going to adopt me and sivilize me, and I can't stand it. I been there before." In this declaration, both Huck and the author reject society and the racism that it has taught them. Furthermore, Ford said that from Sterling Sturky, a black professor of history at North Western university "one of the most devastating attacks on racism ever written" (Ford 172).

The novel gains the rank of a masterpiece, the novelist Ernest Hemingway comments that "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called *Huckleberry Finn*," and other writers as the American poet T.S. Eliot and African American novelist Ralph Ellison insert their praise (The Adventures of Huckleberryfinn).

### **C-Some reviewers about the novel**

Most of well known writers and literary figures declared that *HuckleberryFinn* is a perfect piece of literarywork during the history of American literature. For instance, T. S. Eliot who says: "It is Huck who gives the book style. The River gives the book its form. But for the River, the book might be only a sequence of adventures with a happy ending. A river, a very big and powerful river, is the only natural force that can wholly determine the course of human peregrination.... Thus the River makes the book a great book... Mark Twain is a native, and the River God is his God"(What have writers said about Huckfinn).

As well as F. Scott Fitzgerald (1935) declares that:"Huckleberry Finn took the first journey back. He was the first to look back at the republic from the perspective of the west. His eyes were the first eyes that ever looked at us objectively that were not eyes from overseas. There were mountains at the frontier but he wanted more than mountains to look at with his restive eyes--he wanted to find out about men and how they lived together. And because he turned back we have him forever."

Furthermore, Ernest Hemingway says about *Huckleberry Finn* novel:

"The good writers are Henry James, Stephen Crane, and Mark Twain. That's not the order they're good in. There is no order for good writers.... All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called 'Huckleberry Finn.' If you read it you must stop where the Nigger Jim is stolen from the boys. That is the real end. The rest is just cheating. But it's the best book we've had. All American writing comes from that. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since." from Ernest Hemingway, "The Green Hills of Africa" (1934) (What writers said about Huckfinn).

Hamlin Hill (1985) says: "We are aware that Huck cannot live comfortably in any of the worlds he inhabits. He searches for a father he cannot find, having killed, at least symbolically, the legal one. He cannot find a home, at Widow Douglas's, in Pap's cabin, on Jackson's Island, at the Grangerfords, on the raft, or at the Phelps plantation, either because none of his worlds is insulated from outside interference or because he loses them to circumstance or expediency. The entire structure of the novel is one of frustrated attempt to escape from restrictions only to find the refuge susceptible to invasion and destruction. Judith Loftus's husband is 'after us'; the slave-hunters and the Duke and Dauphin violate the pastoral immunity of the raft; Tom Sawyer appears at the Phelpses to orchestrate an attempt at freedom."

Then , H. L. Mencken who says:"I believe that 'Huckleberry Finn' is one of the great masterpieces of the world, that it is the full equal of '*Don Quixote*' and '*Robinson Crusoe*,' that it is vastly better than Gil Blas, 'Tristram Shandy,' 'Nicholas Nickleby' or 'Tom Jones.' I believe that it will be read by human beings of all ages, not as a solemn duty but for the honest love of it, and over and over again, long after every book written in America between the years 1800 and 1860, with perhaps three exceptions, has disappeared entirely save as a classroom fossil. I believe that Mark Twain had a clearer vision of life than he

came nearer to its elementals and was less deceived by its false appearances, than any other American who has ever presumed to manufacture generalizations, not excepting Emerson. I believe that, admitting all his defects, he wrote better English, in the sense of cleaner, straighter, vividder, saner English, than either Irving or Hawthorne. I believe that four of his books--'Huck,' 'Life on the Mississippi,' 'Captain Storm field's Visit to Heaven,' and 'A Connecticut Yankee'--are alone worth more, as works of art and as criticisms of life, than the whole output of Cooper, Irving, Holmes, Mitchell, Stedman, Whittier and Bryant. I believe that he was the true father of our national literature, the first genuinely American artist of the royal blood."from H. L. Mencken, Review of Albert Bigelow Paine's biography of Mark Twain, in "The Smart Set" (February 1913).

Finally, Eric Solomon (1985) who says:"Huckleberry Finn himself is the most American of heroes: he is the boy-man in a male world... and solitary--alone even among others, a first-person narrator who is at home in nature and, like Cooper's Natty Bumppo, at a loss in town, yet as able to cope with the venality and evil of knaves as any Dashiell Hammett or Raymond Chandler version of the Scout. As alienated as a James Baldwin youth, and as deeply engaged in the search for a proper father as a Faulkner boy, Huck Finn, an American orphan... is, above all, a lonely survivor, one who accommodates to his changing world (What writers said about Huck finn).All these writers and literary men mentioned their admiration and praise concerning Mark Twain novel *The Adventures of Huckleberryfinn* Furthermore, William Faulkner called Twain "The father of American Literature".

### III-6 Conclusion

In *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* novel ; Twain depicts serious issues during the nineteenth century ,exactly between 1835 and 1840 a time of slavery when blacks were considered inferior to whites, sometimes considered less than fully human.. Twain portrays racism through the characters, setting , language and even in his narrator .The novel does not support racism, But denounce it throughout the society that Huck and Jim are members from and suffer from this behave. Consequently, many critics and reviewers of *Huckleberry Finn* are confusing if the novel is racist or not. Eventually the message that Twain wanted to show, is really obtained, we may see it through the praise and admire of the most celebrated reviewers and critics.

## General conclusion

To conclude all what we have studied in this research, and To answer the research question and the hypothesizes that we set; if the novel is considered as a powerful attack on racism or it is a racist novel? After the examination and deep analysis, we are persuaded that *Huckleberry finn* is not racist novel. Why and how? Because the author wants to send and spread a message and to convey readers that he is against slavery and racism through his satirical tone over different aspects of writing and the different elements of the story; such as the characters. When Pap mocks of the black man who had the will to vote .He considered him as inhuman and has not the right to vote like any one of white people. Twain set this example of racist behavior to show and indicate the foolishness and ignorance of this person, so, ironically Twain considers Pap as not as a comprehensive man who did not act with civilized conduct and behavior. Another element supporting that Twain's novel *HuckleberryFinn* is not racist when the author put the variable character of Huck, how? In the beginning, Huck was like any southern person who believes and sees the blacks as not as human beings and have not the right to do anything, and they are merely slaves and property, owning and belongings.

Throughout the novel and within Huck's journey down the Mississippi River accompanied with Jim ,Huck realizes that the slave Jim is really human and sensitive person .During their travelling Huck recognizes that the slave Jim protected him from bad things and situations, when Jim did not permit him to see the face of the dead man founding in the Jackson Island . Later ,Huck discovered that he was his father Pap . All this indicates that the slave Jim is already human and sensitive and has the total right to live freely and dignity with his family. Thus, he merits to be respecting and admiring. So, the behavior of Huck towards black people changed and becomes more positive, he is

persuaded that he must follow his conscience so as to help Jim to be free despite that he will confront the society rules. He said “all right then I’ll go to hell” (Twain 208).

It is obvious that Twain is anti-slavery and anti-racist when he portrays the character Jim that he is in fact, the best person in the novel; honest, sensitive and reasonable, like really father and loyal friend. In contrast, the white characters such as Pap, Huck's father, who mistreats his child and his rude manner ; the Duke and King, who are frauds and tricksters, and the Grangerfords and Shepherdsons, two feuding families whose main reason in is kill each other . The really use of the word "nigger" in the novel could help to understand the perspective in which the word is used. In addition, the end of the novel indicates the real opinion and the views concerning the author that he is against and is in opposition to slavery and racism that the southern society witnessed during the time of the story’s events; he just denounces, criticizes, and condemns racism in such society.

Twain wrote *Huck Finn* novel with a negative view of society and to show his real opinion, that he is against the thought and the beliefs of the southern people over different issues such as the greed, lying, slavery and racism through the character’s actions and behavior; like, greed of Pap who wants to steal Huck’s money when He says, "I've been in town two days, and O hain't heard nothing but about you bein' rich. I heard about it away down the river, too. That's why I come. You git me that money-tomorrow-I want it"(Twain 21). Greed drives people to do any things to obtain money and do whatever they want without thinking of others. This is one example and issue that Twain does not support and agree. Greed is common in this novel and it does not merely relate to Pap. The duke and the King are two characters who claim to be the son of the King of France and the Duke. The two characters bring many cons over the innocents. They swindle the Wilks family, who just lost a family member, into giving them part of the inheritance by pretending to be

brothers from England. (Mark Twain's view of society). Twain is showing how people act in society. So, he did not approve or appreciate these acts, thus, he illustrates and shows his thoughts and beliefs by writing this novel.

Furthermore, he portrays the society that is filled with ill racist behavior. The events of the story happened before the Civil War when slavery was still legal. Twain is trying to show that even though slavery has been outlawed and panned, there is still racism against blacks in society. For instance when he creates characters; Miss Watson who owned the slave Jim and Aunt Sally; who even although they are ethically correct and religious, they believe that slavery is obligatory for life like horse and house. They agree to sell Jim and to separate him from his family. This creates moral confusion and shows Twain's view that society is really full of corruption and evil. Also when Jim is captured by the King and the duck they sell him without hesitation. Jim is bought with any mercy; besides they call him with different humiliating names even Huck. The later is taught these things from the society and this confuses him because he becomes friend with Jim and he cannot understand why people act at this bad manner towards blacks. Later, Huck begins to understand that society is injustice and he decides to run away. These views are in fact those of the author, Mark Twain (Moral changes).

The writer denounces the social acts and values of the southern society especially racism and slavery before time. In addition, racism and slavery developed as a social reality even later on. Ultimately, we can say that we are all equal and have the right to breathe the liberty and to live in peace despite of the diversity of our skin color, language, and religion. Blacks also have the total right to ask their existence as human being and to live in liberty and dignity.

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## Abstract

This work investigates racism in Mark Twain's *Huckleberryfinn* novel, which depicts segregation and discrimination that witnessed the Southern states of America during the nineteenth century, accurately before the civil war where slavery was legal and seen as a natural legitimate state of society, and yet, an external sign of wealth. The southern society during the 1830s-1840s was deeply religious to the degree of superstition. The novel displays life experience varied with the hope of freedom, the pain and loss of missed opportunities, the memories of family and friends, the cruelty, and the moral dilemmas. And yet among these experiences we find kindness and compassion among strangers, the comfort of life on a raft, lovely days and nights of long conversations among the two main characters Huck and the slave Jim who discovered each other through what society dug as a gap. The gap of race. They found out love, respect and consideration. Firstly, we present a general overview of the novel, slavery and racism in America exactly during the nineteenth century. Some African Americans live in the South experienced a measure of racial equality even after the emancipation proclamation (end of slavery); most of them lived under an oppressive system of apartheid and discrimination that defined racial relations. Then, we analyze the novel through its literary angles, the summary, the structure of the novel, and the characterization, themes, motives and symbols. Through these elements, we intend to rise out the racist aspects decried in the novel. Then, we move to the writing that Twain focused on, such as realism, satire, irony and humor. At the end, we intend to study the traits of racism within the elements of the story, for instance, racism through setting, because the place and the time story are characterized by slavery and racism. Also, we see racism within the narrator, as well, through the characterization. At last, we present the most important critical reviews. Moreover, to answer if the novel is racist or not and giving the real intention and objective of the author. In the end, we can conclude that *Huckleberryfinn* is NOT a racist novel. All my work is centered on the basic inquiry which is (racism). So, all the literary aspects have to be studied in convergence to the issue of Racism.

## الملخص

في هذا العمل المتواضع سوف نتحقق و نبحت حول العنصرية من خلال رواية (مارك توين) هاك لبريفين، التي يصف من خلالها الكاتب العنصرية و العبودية التي شهدها جنوب أمريكا في غضون القرن التاسع عشر ،على نحو دقيق قبل الحرب الأهلية، أي قبل 1865 العبودية كانت شرعية و طبيعية في المجتمع، ومظهر من مظاهر الثروة آنذاك. المجتمع في جنوب أمريكا خلال 1830-1840 ،كان جاهلا و يؤمن بالخرافات. الرواية مملوءة بالعبر و الدروس، تشمل الأمل و الحرية، الألم و فقدان فرص الحياة، أيضا ذكريات الجو العائلي و الأصدقاء، بالإضافة إلى القسوة. و من خلال هذه التجارب التي مر بها كل من بطلي الرواية هاك و العبد دجيم نجد الحنان و الشفقة بين الغرباء كعائلة جرنجرفورد التي أوت هاك عندما تاه عن صديقه. الراحة و الأمن التي وجدها على متن الزورق، و الأيام و الليالي الجميلة التي قضاها بالإضافة إلى الصداقة التي نمت بينهما و جمال الطبيعة من خلال عبور النهر. أولاً، سوف نقدم نظرة عامة حول الرواية، العبودية و العنصرية في الولايات المتحدة الأمريكية خاصة أثناء القرن التاسع عشر. بداية الاسترقاق كان في فترة الاستعمار و نهايته مع نهاية الحرب الأهلية سنة 1865. بعض الأمريكيين الأفارقة فيالجنوب عانوا من التمييز العرقي حتى بعد نهاية عهد العبودية. أغلبهم عاشوا تحت الاضطهاد و التمييز العنصري. ثم سوف نتطرق إلى المظاهر الأدبية للرواية بالتطرق إلى مجمل القصة و كيفية تركيبها مع تحليل الشخصيات و الأفكار الأساسية لهذه الرواية. من خلال هذه العناصر نتطرق إلى العنصرية التي أشار إليها الكاتب بعد ذلك سوف نرى مظاهر الكتابة التي ركز عليها الكاتب مثل الواقعية. الهجاء و السخرية و حس الدعابة و الفكاهة. ثم ، سنكتشف و نوضح العنصرية من خلال عناصر و مظاهر الرواية مثل الزمان و المكان، الأسلوب، الراوي، و أيضا الشخصيات مع تقديم نقد و ملاحظات بعض النقاد و الملاحظين. و في الأخير سنستخلص و نجيب عن السؤال ما اذا كانت هذه الرواية عنصرية أم لا. و ما هو غرض الكاتب وهدفه من كتابته هاته الرواية.