



Mohamed Khider University of Biskra
Faculty of Letters and Languages
Department of Foreign Languages

MASTER THESIS

Letters and Foreign Languages
English Language
Literature and Civilization

Submitted and Defended by:
Zaabat Kamilia

Police Brutality towards African Americans in 21st century Young Adult Literature

Case Study: Angie Thomas's Novel "The Hate U Give"

Board of Examiners:

Mrs. Asma CHERIET	MAB Biskra University	Supervisor
Dr. Salim KERBOUA	MCA Biskra University	Chairperson
Mr. Abderlnacer BENABDELREZAK	MAB Biskra University	Examiner
Mrs. Zineb BOUGOUFFA	MAB Biskra University	Examiner

Academic Year : 2019 – 2020

Dedication

To my Beloved and precious mother Mimi Zakia, who was everything in my life; a mother, a father, a sister, and a friend, I gratefully acknowledge her hard work, love, support, encouragement, and belief in me.

To my pillar, my supporter, my hero, my brother Abderezek, who without him I could not live the comfortable life that I did.

To my husband Mimi Mohamed for supporting me, and encouraging me.

To my mother in law YAmira, and father in law Ammar.

To my brother in laws Lahsan, Fouad, Habib, and Mounir for helping me.

To my sisters in law Samira, Jahida, Hakima, and Moufida for their love.

To all people who have supported me with or without my knowledge, thank you.

Acknowledgment

First of all, I thank ALLAH for his help, guidance, and patience he has given me in my life.

Special gratitude to Mrs. Cheriet Asma for her guidness, hard work, patience, and support.

special thanks to Mr. Kerboua Salim, Mr. Abderlnacer Benabdelrerezak, and Mrs. Bougouffa Zineb for their guidness, patience, and for accepting to evaluate this diisertation.

Deep thanks to my mother, brother, and husband for encouraging me, and helping me without condiction. My sincere thanks to my best friends Legeoura Roiya Meriem, Yaich Teman Amina, and Remishi Amina and her daughter Iman for making bad times much better and just being there for me all the times.

Finally, I thank every person who has given me any help or advice to claim this work.

Abstract

The purpose of this thesis is presenting the different reactions to police brutality towards African Americans, in which it highlighted the beginning of the sufferance to black people starting from the moment that they step the American soil; where they witnessed the bad treatment through slavery, racism, and segregation, moreover, their struggle to achieve equality and freedom. Although all fights of blacks to achieve equality, they were still felt as been inferior as in the cases of police brutality, which were largely committed to black African Americans. Many 21st century novelists cared, wrote and gave a respectful value to the issue of police brutality towards African Americans, for instance, Angie Thomas, the novice author in her novel “The Hate U Give”; which deals with the issue of police mistreatment to black people and how it affects them on the level of psychology directly and indirectly.

Key words: African Americans, Angie Thomas, Black Lives Matter, The Hate U Give, police brutality, Young Adult Literature.

List of Acronyms

BLM	Black Lives Matter
KKK	Ku Klux Klan
YAL	Young Adult Literature
WNDB	We Need Diverse Books
THUG	The Hate U Give

Table of contents

Dedication.....	I
Acknowledgment.....	II
Abstract.....	III
List of Acronyms.....	IV
General introduction.....	1
Chapter One: Racism and Police Brutality in America.....	5
Introduction.....	5
1. Historical Background of Police Brutality.....	5
1.1. Atlantic Slave Trade and the Middle Passage.....	5
1.2. Reconstruction Era.....	6
1.3. The Ku Klux Klan.....	7
1.4. Jim Crow Laws.....	7
1.5. Plessy vs. Ferguson.....	9
1.6. Brown vs. the Board of Education.....	10
1.7. The African American Civil Rights Movements.....	11
2. Police Violence against African Americans.....	12
2.1. The Concept of Police Brutality.....	12
2.2. Police Brutality against Black People.....	13
3. An Overview of the Shootings of Black Americans.....	14
3.1. The Shooting of Oscar Grant.....	14
3.2. Michael Brown.....	15
3.3. Tamir Rice.....	16
3.4. Sandra Bland.....	17
3.5. Trayvon Martin.....	18
4. The Rise of African American Black Lives Matter Movement.....	20
Conclusion.....	21
Chapter Two: African Americans in Young Adult Literature.....	22
Introduction.....	22
1. Definition of Young Adult Literature.....	22
2. African Americans in Young Adult Literature.....	25
3. Common Themes in African American Young Adult literature.....	28

4. Police Brutality in Young Adult Literature.....	29
5. Biography of Angie Thomas	30
6. Summary of “The Hate U Give”	31
Conclusion.....	35
Chapter Three: The Psychological Outcomes of Police Brutality upon the Characters of “THUG”	37
Introduction	37
1. Characters Description.....	37
1.1. Starr Amara Carter.....	37
1.2. Maverick (Big Mav) Carter.....	38
1.3. Officer Brian Cruise Jr. (One Fifteen)	39
1.4. Khalil Harris	40
2. Erik Erikson Psychological Development Theory	40
3. Characters Analysis	41
3.1. Starr Amara Carter.....	41
3.1.1. Identity Crises	41
3.1.2. Trauma.....	44
3.2. Maverick (Big Mav) Carter.....	46
3.2.1. Trauma.....	47
3.3. Officer Brian Cruise Jr.(One fifteen)	48
3.3.1. Stereotype	49
3.4. Khalil Harris	51
Conclusion.....	53
General Conclusion	54
Works Cited	56
ملخص	62

General introduction

Police brutality towards African Americans is a controversial issue in the United States especially in the last century, and reactions against this cause are coming from different pivots. However, the most affected with it; African Americans are raising their voices through different movements, and a vivid example is the Black Lives Matter movement.

The situation of black people in America has always been dark and gloomy, and their lives there never been easy. It can be traced back to a long history of sufferance, and it was seen back in time when slaves were brought to America. Slavery started from that point and continued to be practiced in a long time around 246 years (from 1619 where the first slaves were brought to America till the publication of the Thirteenth amendment in 1865). Despite the existence of laws, slavery was the only thing that started to disappear; however, racism did not. Racism continued to be performed through Jim Crow laws and segregation, and the sense that blacks are inferior to white people also did.

However with the rise of intellectual organizations such as The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, black people learned how to fight to gain importance; yet racism continued, and it became to be performed by police forces. Police officers misuse their authority towards African Americans with abused treatment even if they were innocent. Moreover, the cases of mistreatment and brutality towards African Americans by police officers were in increase and they seemed to be nowhere to be decreasing.

The reaction of African Americans toward these actions was intense, in which the civil rights movement appeared during the 1950s and 1960s to call for justice and equality for black people. Thanks to the ongoing performance of police abusive power, Black Lives Matter was created for standing against violence. Moreover, it is a movement that was created

specifically for black people for them to fight for their rights and to stop being misused by the government.

The issue of police brutality received a diverse interest by many authors, who found it outrageous and a case to be defended and wrote about it. Angie Thomas's "The Hate U Give" is a young adult novel, which she wrote as a reaction to the shootings of armless people by police forces. Moreover, it is a novel that purely talks about police brutality towards innocent people and its consequences on the characters, and it also tackles the different reactions of the black community in the novel. Police brutality against African Americans is a misuse of legal power that should be stopped because of its mixed consequence on African Americans at different levels, specifically the psychological, and "The Hate U Give" is a vivid example of its effects.

This research tackles police mistreatment and abasement of power towards African American citizens and the latter's reaction to those actions through Black Lives Matter movement, which was incorporated within Angie Thomas's young adult novel "The Hate U Give" that depicts the true face of black lives in America, and how they suffered from injustice and discrimination, which was resulted in their psychological and mental health.

The present research aims also at answering the following sub-questions:

- What are the forms of injustice that African Americans experienced throughout history?
- Why police brutality was included in American Young Adult Literature?
- How did Angie Thomas portray the psychological outcomes of police mistreatment on "THUG"'s characters?

This research aims to put a focus on African American situations in the last decade and to answer the question of injustice towards African Americans, and their struggle to get rid of racism, prejudice, and stereotype against them throughout history. It also tries to show how African Americans suffered internally, and how their struggle was implemented in American young adult novels; throughout the context of Angie Thomas's "The Hate U Give", where she depicted the treatment of white Americans to African Americans and the latter internal and psychological sufferance towards it. Moreover, the present research provides a description of struggle and sufferance that African American people went through from mistreatment and discrimination that started from ages ago and continues to exist till the present days.

The major limitation that occurred throughout out the process of writing this thesis is that each character from the novel "THUG" has its different psychological effect from police brutality, and each one of them is highly interesting to tackle, however, it is somehow difficult and misleading to mention all the psychological effects of all the characters, thus, only the main characters were included.

In terms of methodology, this research relies on different articles, and books that are the same or closely related to the topic, moreover, it depends on one primary source which is "THUG", and several other sources to support theoretical chapters. Furthermore, this research uses Psychoanalysis Approach following Erik Erikson's psychosocial development theory to explain the psychological conditions of the main characters, which was the most suitable theory to be applied to those certain characters.

The present research is divided into three chapters; the first chapter is entitled **Racism and Police Brutality in America**. This chapter provides a historical background on the life of African Americans in American soil, where their sufferance began. Moving to defining the

concept of police brutality and giving account to different shooting cases that were linked to the material of the study “THUG”.

The second chapter which is entitled **African Americans in Young Adult Literature** is concerned with defining different terms, concepts, and the reason behind the inclusion of the theme of police brutality in YAL, while giving a view to the author Angie Thomas’s life and achievement, furthermore, giving a detailed summary on “THUG” mentioning the important events and details to make the story clear for the reader of the research.

The third and the last chapter; **The Psychological Outcomes of Police Brutality upon the Characters of “THUG”** aims to analyze each main character to abstract the different psychological effects of police brutality. This analysis of the characters is to explore the different outcomes of police brutality on the psychology of African Americans not just focusing on the social outcomes, and giving an image to what happened to African Americans because of this brutality.

Chapter One: Racism and Police Brutality in America

Introduction

Police brutality against African Americans is a controversial issue in the United States especially in the last century, and reactions against this cause are coming from different pivots. However, the most affected by it African Americans are raising their voices through different movements, and a clear example is the Black Lives Matter movement. Moreover, the situation of black people in America has always been dark and gloomy, and their lives there never been easy. It can be traced back to a long history of sufferance.

1. Historical Background of Police Brutality

Historically, African Americans have been subject to violence, mistreatment, and inequality. The maltreatment against African Americans dates back when they first step in the American lands, and it continued to be practiced through centuries but by different names such as slavery, segregation, and later on to what is known as police brutality. To put up, the life of Blacks in the American soil was not a comfortable one, and there struggle sought to be from the moment that the step America, and continued to exist for years to come.

1.1. Atlantic Slave Trade and the Middle Passage

The sufferance of African Americans started a long time ago from the colonial era; the moment they were brought to America through what was labeled as the Atlantic slave trade also known as Transatlantic Slave Trade.

The Atlantic trade of slavery was the first of three stages in the so-called triangle trade, in which the export of weapons, textiles, and wine from Europe to Africa and slaves from Africa to America, furthermore, sugar and coffee were exported from Asia to England. It started shortly before 1450 and continued until after the middle of the nineteenth century.

Over the course of more than four decades, the Atlantic Slave Trade triggered the largest intercontinental emigration in world history; where more Africans than Europeans had settled in the Americas before the late nineteenth century (Wright 23 -24).

Moreover, the term Middle Passage has been used for a long time to describe the movement of slave boats from African to American harbors. At the turn of the sixteenth century, this forced trip took about 11 million people before the slave trade ended in the 19th century (Rodriguez 381). According to Rodriguez, historians and abolitionists described how the white man treated the slaves cruelly, brutally, and harshly during the period they were on the ship; in which it took at least six months on sea. Also, the terror experienced by the captives and the high mortality rates on some of the voyages to demonstrate some of slavery's worst aspects (p381-382).

In other words, slavery started from the moment Black people entered America and continued till 1865; where the 13th Amendment was ratified, as a result of the civil war, which abolished slavery and owning slaves was only the result of punishment, and by that slavery was officially ended.

1.2. Reconstruction Era

After the end of the civil war, the Reconstruction Era started and raised another problem to African Americans; southern states supported slavery and wanted to keep it, while the northern states believed in the opposite and created a Confederacy; which is the called Confederacy of States. Furthermore, because the south did not want to abolish slavery, they started to pass Black Codes that restricted the rights of the emancipated slaves. As a result of that, congress responded with legislation that led to the Civil Rights Act of 1866, giving citizenship to African Americans and granting them equal rights to whites ("Reconstruction Era"). As a result, different reactions from the white supremacists such as the creation of the

Ku Klux Klan came as a response, which was considered as one of the harsh oppressing of the rights movement.

1.3. The Ku Klux Klan

The Ku Klux Klan was established in 1865, and by 1870 it spread to almost all southern states and became a tool of white southern opposition to the agenda of the Republican Party reconstruction policies, to create political and economic freedom for Black people. It has devoted itself to a covert campaign of violence against republican leaders and voters (white as well as black) to regain the transcendence of white race in the south (“Ku Klux Klan”). Moreover, Ku Klux Klan was created as a way for white southerners to show their opposition for giving Blacks rights, and their insistence to keep them oppressed and under their power.

The KKK was a white terrorist organization in the underground, for them, Black people must not be equal with them. Ku Klux Klan members dressed in white robes to reinforce their belief that whites are above black. They established a wave of terror including threats of violence, bullying, lynching, destructing buildings, and killings of blacks and their helpers. Moreover, whoever tried to vote or learn from black people was subject to the bullying, and beatings from white supporters of the KKK’s aims (Rank). Furthermore, the actions of the Ku Klux Klan members were not just directed to Blacks, but also to white people who supported the latter.

In other words, Blacks discovered the reality; they knew that they won the war, but it was not over; they still needed to battle racial discrimination to be treated fairly and equitably.

1.4. Jim Crow Laws

The term Jim Crow applies to the series of laws and regulations enacted between 1877 and 1965, on the enforcement of segregation within the Southern States and municipalities (the physical division of persons by ethnicity, sex, faith, or class).

Also, it refers to the whole way of life of white and black people in two extremely uneven communities in the south. Moreover, the white had all strength, prosperity, and rights, while the black, the poor, suffered constant and seemingly endless fear, with little security, resources, and justice (Tischause 1).

Jim Crow laws separated Americans according to race from 1881 till 1964; in which White Americans have their separate accommodations from African Americans. This process justified the lynching of Blacks as a result of their crimes; furthermore, it made many prohibitions against African Americans that hindered their lives even more (xi). In other words, Jim Crow Laws were enacted as a way to keep Blacks separated from white people, in whom each group uses specified accommodations and the Black who violates the laws will be punished; which in severe cases may lead to lynching.

The following etiquette standards from Jim Crow shows how awful and terrible these standards are (Davis);

- Whites were to be referred to as 'Boss' or 'Cap'n' by blacks as a replacement to the terms 'Lord' or 'Master', which was used in slavery. While, blacks were called by their first names or with the titles according to their age, such as: 'Boy,' 'Uncle,' and 'Old Man'
- Whites and Blacks could meet on the street and talk. Moreover, Blacks and whites were not expected to eat together in public.
- Blacks were also excluded from many public places, parks, and entertainment centers.
- Many towns have separate entrances for blacks and white residents to public buildings, and transit has also divided them; blacks and whites have a different waiting room and windows for boarding.
- In public hospitals, there were distinct divisions for whites and blacks, where the color line and the codes of ethnic protocols were firmly followed.

The life of Blacks during the Jim Crow era was similar to the period of slavery; they might have some rights; however, they were not allowed to make a connection with white supremacists.

1.5. Plessy vs. Ferguson

Because the south did not want to abolish slavery, they started to practice racial segregation, however, this practice did not only used by the south, it was extended to be used by all America and it became an institution accepted by federal law; in which The notion separate but equal was strengthened, and reached its highest peak when the accident of Homer Plessy occurred.

Plessy was arrested by the authorities on June 7th, 1892 as a result of violating the law; where he set in Louisiana train in whites man only cart, while he was considered as being black because of his ancestors, and he was a white skin man, and after further discussion with railroad official, he was ordered to sit in the black's car, and he did not do that, he was put in jail because he violated Louisiana's law (McNeese 8-12).

He was put on the trail; where he argued that the law was unconstitutional, but the government disagreed, and judge Ferguson agreed with the government. Thus, if Plessy was convicted, he would be sent to prison. Moreover, Plessy asked the Louisiana Supreme Court to issue a writ of prohibition against judge Ferguson to prevent him from enforcing the law; however, it found the law constitutional. Thus, he reached the United States Supreme Court to review the case; as a result, this latter found that the decision of the Louisiana Supreme Court did not violate the 14th amendment (Quimbee 00:04:34). Moreover, Homer Plessy did not consider himself as violating the laws, since he was much like a white person, and when the judge Ferguson considered him as guilty, he kept insisting on being right and he

sent the case to other courts, in the end, it reached to the Supreme Court, it showed that the 14th amendment not violated and Plessy was considered as guilty for breaking the Louisiana law.

In Conclusion, the decision of the Supreme Court at Plessy v. Ferguson justified the separate but equal separation of racial segregation in the United States, as it found that the 14th amendment was not violated, furthermore, each person had his equal rights; Plessy had his place in the blacks carriage, while the white carriage was only for those who are white. Thus, the Supreme Court found that Plessy was the one who broke the law.

1.6. Brown vs. the Board of Education

The case of Brown versus the board of education was considered as an overturn to the case of Plessy vs. Ferguson, in which it represented different results from the latter. The case started when Oliver Brown sued Topeka's Board of Education in 1951, after the refusal of his daughter, Linda Brown to admission into Topeka's all-white elementary schools. He argued in his trial that black children's schools were not equivalent to the white schools and that apartheid breached the 14th Amendment, the so-called equal protection provision, that no state may grant equal legal certainty to anyone within its jurisdiction. The case was upheld before the United States District Court in Kansas; which agreed that segregation of public schools has a disadvantaging effect on colored children, and contributes to them feeling inferior (“Brown v. Board”).

In September 1953, Earl Warren, the new chief justice came to office, and he was the one who believed that the doctrine 'separate but equal' has no place in the educational field. Therefore, the court ruled to end racial segregation in schools, however further implications were needed to be discussed. The acts of the Court ultimately opened the door to local judicial and political desegregation. While the decision was enforced by Kansas and certain other states, other schools and local authorities in the south opposed it (“Brown v. Board”). In other

words, when the case first reached to court, it was believed that segregation in schools is harmful to colored children, however, the further implication to dismal segregation was not put forward until the coming of Warren, who was the reason that the desegregation process initiated in all fields, not just the educational one.

All in all, the process of desegregation started from that moment to later include different fields, and it was also considered as one of the motivations for the establishment of the civil rights movements.

1.7. The African American Civil Rights Movements

The Civil Rights Movements was a black American program in the 1950s till 1970s of protests and civil disobedience; it was designed to overcome racist policies and legislations that denied black Americans from their civil rights and freedom and to guarantee the equality of laws, also to allow black Americans to have equal access to education, economic prosperity, and political life. It was under the control of black people, but to a certain extent interracial, in which it was supported by white confederates and national, regional, and local organizations, where they sometimes worked together at different degrees and combination, while at the same time maintaining their specific and changing focuses and methodologies (Newman 01). The civil rights movement was created for Black Americans to raise their voices to get their rights and to live equally within the American society, and it included various fields and had the support of different organizations.

The era of civil rights is known to be one of the most prominent, researched, and almost dominant time in American culture in the 20th century, and its consequences and effects on subsequent political struggles and social movements have been fully documented (Newman 01). Black Americans who conducted the movement sincerely viewed it as their

liberation struggle and found a new sense of empowerment, while African American leaders could not see their battle for unity and equality, racial discrimination, and the exclusion of Black Americans from getting the same lives (J. Ling, Monteith 01). In other words, with the creations of the movements, African American leaders gained hope, after they thought that their struggle to gain equality and endure racial discrimination cannot be achieved.

The Civil Rights Movement was dominated in the late 1960s with the term 'Black Power', which emphasizes on helping and encouraging black Americans to carry on self-determination, the era was dominated by massive root activism, a unique Black rebellion with first-class protesters and freedom fighters of all ages (Ezra 01).

To conclude, the era of the Civil Rights Movement was considered a turning point for Black Americans as a way that made them learn how to raise their voices to call for equality and to stop racial discrimination.

2. Police Violence against African Americans

African Americans have experienced injustice in their life in different aspects. Many cases represent police unfair treatment to African Americans, and the following cases represent some of the famous cases, which the motivation that led the author Angie Thomas to write her debuted novel "The Hate U Give", but first the concept of police brutality is needed to be illustrated since there are different definitions concerning this concept.

2.1. The Concept of Police Brutality

Police brutality is a description of when police officers use power and force while facing possible danger, whether it was intense or not, during performing their duties. Moreover, some police officers misuse their authority to perform harsh actions against the accuser, who might be innocent, and they perform what they found right according to their

standards while leaving no place for doubt for being innocent until the accuser is proven guilty.

According to Collins, police brutality is when police officers indulge in unjustified shooting, lethal beating, and deadly abuse in communities across the United States, while their supervisors fail to act effectively to limit, penalize and even track the full size of the problem(p1). Moreover, he explains that police brutality is the use of officers' unneeded and dispensable power, and in most cases, these acts are not punished or even penalized, as in the case of police brutality against African Americans, where officers are not punished rightly or at all.

2.2. Police Brutality against Black People

Police brutality against minorities is considered as a frequently occurring issue in the American society, a spaciouly Black community where they historically suffered from unfair treatment precisely during slavery and segregation.

In the 1960s, when Black people started protests and demonstrations, police brutality against them transformed into an automatic response to the black community, and they become exposed to what is known with police brutality and violence. Schuck defined police brutality against African Americans as “One of the most abusive practices of police authority is the use of excessive and sometimes deadly force. Not surprisingly compared to white, ethnic, and racial minorities are more likely to be victims of excessive force at the hands of law enforcement” (558). She explains that police brutality is police illegitimate abuse of power which can be deadly in some cases. Moreover, she believes that non-white people are probably the ones who are to be victimized by these actions. Furthermore, the question of race was dropped in this sense. Race is a controversial topic in the United States, many scholars and researchers believe that race is the explanation for police misconduct.

3. An Overview of the Shootings of Black Americans

3.1. The Shooting of Oscar Grant

On New year's Eve 2009, a 22 years old black African American was killed by a 27 years old Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police officer; Johannes Mehserle on Fruitvale Station on Oakland ("Officer punched Oscar"). Oscar Grant was a local grocery store butcher, and a father of a four years old girl, who was known as being a kind and nonviolent person. On the other hand, Johannes Mehserle was working for the BART Police Department for two years was known for using force; in which he used force six times in 2008 more than other BART officers. The incident started, when the BART officers responded to a report about a fight in the Oakland subway train. They caught 20 passengers; among them was Oskar Grant who was not a part of the fight as one of the witnesses say (Head). Oscar Grant was unarmed when police officers arrested him along with others, he was seen handcuffed with his face down and two officers were holding him, one of them is Anthony Pirone, who was grabbing Oscar's head to the ground and the other one was Johannes Mehserle, who was reaching a gun in his back then he shot Oscar in the back causing him to death. Mehserle Johannes told his lawyer that he was reaching for a taser and by mistake, he pulled out his gun (USA TODAY 00:01:17). However, according to the videotapes that were released showing the accident, it can be seen that Mehserle tried to reach for his gun three times before he finally shoots Oscar dead.

Mehserle resigned from BART Peacefully and with no comments about the shooting. Grant's family lawyer has brought against the city an unauthorized 25\$ million death lawsuit and Mehserle was arrested on 14 January 2009, and charged with suspicion of murder (Head). Moreover, he was charged with spending two years in prison for involuntary manslaughter, and Peroni was fired but not charged criminally (KPIX CBS SF Bay Area 00:01:51)

The case of Oscar Grant received intense attention from the entire world, not just America, and it was later adapted into a movie in 2013 by Rayan Coogler, call Fruitvale Station. In which it documented the life of Oscar Grant and showed the smallest details on the shooting, where it followed the actual shooting which was filmed on videotapes that were released at that time.

3.2. Michael Brown

Michael Brown Jr. was born in the surrounding of Florissant village in May 1996; he was the firstborn child of teenage parents; Michael Brown Sr. and Lesley McSpadden. Growing up, he stayed under the same roof with his mother, his father's grandmother, and later on his younger sister. As an adult, Brown didn't have a criminal record. He finished high school in Normandy in May, and began to sing with his friends in 2013, because he was a big supporter of rap music (Eligon).

On August 9, 2014, Michael Brown and his friend were on the center of Canfield Drive in the St. Louis neighborhood of Ferguson, Missouri, when a police officer approached and ordered them to use the sidewalk. The white officer confronted Brown, the 18-year-old black afterward words were exchanged. With the cop and Brown fighting, the situation escalated, and Brown was shot and killed, while he was unarmed (“Timeline of Events”).

After several intense protests from African Americans, the FBI began an inquiry into Brown's death on Aug 11th, 2014, and two witnesses told reporters that Brown raised his hands when the officer fired again and again. On Aug 15th, 2014, Darren Wilson was asserted by the police that he had been with the force since 2011, and he was the officer who shot Brown and killed him. Police also released a surveillance video that shows Brown catching large quantities of cigarettes from behind the Ferguson Market counter and chasing a man who challenges him on entering the grocery shop. Police are saying that Brown had taken cigarettes worth almost \$50. The released video upsets demonstrators. Moreover, the protest

and the anger of people escalated on Nov 24th, 2014, once prosecutor Robert McCulloch of St. Louis County, announced the decision of the grand jury to not prosecute Wilson. As a result, many buildings and police cars were destroyed, and many police officers were hit by rocks, and reports of gunfire said to be existing, and on Nov 29th, 2014, Wilson officially declares his resignation from the Ferguson Police Department (“Timeline of Events”).

The shooting of Michael Brown by the Ferguson police officer Darren Wilson drew the attention on the unfair treatment of African Americans in society. Although this case was a cruel experience for Black Americans, it helped to spot the light on the latter. For example, on April 7th, 2015, “In Ferguson’s first municipal elections since Brown’s death, two of the three City Council members elected are black. Blacks hold three of six seats, compared with one seat before the election”, and on July 22th, 2015, Andre Anderson, a black longtime police administrator in suburban Phoenix, is introduced as Ferguson's new interim police chief, also in March 2016, a former Miami police officer Delrish Moss, who is black, is appointed after a nationwide search as Ferguson police chief (“Timeline of Events”), and indeed despite the horrible event, the case eventually brought some positive effects.

3.3. Tamir Rice

Tamir Rice, an African American twelve years old male, was shot and killed by Cleveland Police Department Officer Timothy Loehmann, at Cudell Recreation Centre on Nov 22nd, 2014 in Cleveland, Ohio. Loehmann and his follow officer Garmback responded to a 911 call from a resident regarding a person who has a pistol on Recreation Centre, and the caller told the dispatcher that the device was probably a fake one; however, it was not taken into considerations, and the result was seen in the death of young Tamir Rice (Stoichet and Newsome).

Loehmann said that when he approached Rice, he instructed him to put his hand up. According to him, he believed that Rice looked to be over the age of eighteen and about 185

pounds, and he stated that the twelve years old Rice had reached for an item as he insistently told Rice to show his hand. Loehmann writes in his statement to prosecutors: "I knew it was a gun and it came out with his hands pulled out and his elbow. I saw the weapon going out of his waistband with his hands and it was a real and active threat to my partner and myself." Even though the story of the event of Loehmann was corroborated by his partner, there was still considerable debate about the shooting because of several things; among them the age of the victim and the duration of the whole accident, which took only two seconds (Stoichet and Newsome).

More than a year after the shooting in Cleveland, the Grand jury refused to indict Timothy Loehmann and his partner against a twelve years old boy shooting, finding that there is no sufficient evidence of the crime, in which; The Cuyahoga County prosecutor, Timothy McGinty argued that Tamir's death was caused by a perfect storm of failure, faults and confusion among all those concerned in the day the accident, but there was no proof of police misconduct; both officers thought they responded to a potential active shooter situation and were not given crucial data on a 911 call; that Rice probably was a youth with a fake weapon ("Cleveland Officer"). In other words, the accident was believed as being a mistake by Loehmann who rushed to conduct the rightful measure that needed to be done if it was a sign for real danger, thus the officer and his partner were not punished.

3.4. Sandra Bland

After the confrontational traffic stop on July 10th, 2015, Ms. Bland, who was a 28-year-old African American, was detained in southeast Texas and found hanging in jail three days later, and was officially announced as a suicide (Montgamory). Sandra Bland was pulled over by Brian Encinia after failing to signal a lane change. Bland clarified that she saw Encinia coming quickly and shifted directions to get off the lane. Making her irritation to Encinia quite clear, Encinia asked "are you done?" which prompted further provocation from

Bland. She lit a cigarette as a way to calm herself, Encinia asked her to put it out, but Bland refused, as she had every right to. Encinia then pushed her out of her car, and they screamed at each other when she resisted. Encina asked for help and as a result, Bland was convicted on a charge. Three days later, Bland died in police custody to an apparent suicide (Schullery & QuickRead 18)

Brain Encinia stated that his life was in danger more than one time, which is the reason that led him to make Bland get out of the car; to conduct a safe traffic investigation. However, the grand jury later found that he was lying, and the reason why he removed her from her car was that she did not put down her cigarette. As a result, the perjury recommended charges in January 2016, and Encinia was fired later that year (Elfrink)

Nevertheless, in connection with Bland's death, the grand jury recommended no criminal accusations to Encinia, and in 2017, prosecutors dropped his perjury charges in exchange for him giving up his credentials and never work as a policeman again. Later on, the Bland family sued and received 1.9 million in payment at the Texas public safety department and Waller County (Elfrink).

Even though the death of Sandra Bland was seen not the fault of officer Encinia, several protests were launched upon her arresting, with blaming Encinia to being wrong, and as being the one who led to her death.

3.5. Trayvon Martin

Born on 5th February 1995, Trayvon Benjamin Martin and his mother, Sybrina Fulton, lived in Miami Gardens, Florida together without his father because his parents were divorced. Martin had a ten-day suspension from Krop Senior High School, because of the discovery of drug residue in his school bag. After this accident, he visited his father Tracy Martin in Sanford, Florida; where the deadly shooting happened by George Michael

Zimmerman, who was a part-time undergraduate at Seminole State College and a Twin Lakes gated community neighborhood watch leader in Sanford, Florida.

On February 26th, 2019, Zimmerman called 911 to report a suspicious person, and he was instructed not to approach the person, however, he did not do what he was instructed to do, and later, neighbors reported hearing a screaming voice "Help, help!" then gunfire. Zimmerman confessed that he shoots Martin, however, he claimed that it was in self-defense. Officer Timothy Smith wrote in a police report that Zimmerman bled from his head and back. ("Trayvon Martin Shooting").

After filing a missing person report with the Miami Dade Policing Department, Martin's father Tracy knows that his son died. Later, Martin's parents have acquired legal representation and created a Change.org document which received over one million signatures calling for Zimmerman to be arrested. The case became a social media and national story, criticizing Zimmerman that his actions may have been motivated by racial antipathies. Among many supporters; President Barack Obama has advocated for the case to be reviewed, and he said to the media, "If I had a baby, he'd look like Trayvon." ("Trayvon Martin Biography ")

On 11 April 2012, after weeks of protest, Zimmerman was accused of second-level murder by a special prosecutor appointed by the Governor of Florida. In June 2013, he pleaded not guilty, and the case was brought to trial. In court, the prosecutor described Zimmerman as an ambitious policeman and he was pursued off and struggled against Martin as a suspect. Regarding Zimmerman's self-defense assertion, Prosecutions have tried to make him confess by referring out to contradictory statements that he made to the officers. Zimmerman's Defense lawyers did not approve of that, and he said that only after the teenage assaulted Zimmerman, he shouted Martin. Later on, a jury of six women found Zimmerman

not guilty on 13 July 2013 after deliberating after sixteen hours over two days (“Florida teen Trayvon”)

However the case did not unfold, in December 2019, Zimmerman returned once again; “Zimmerman and his lawyer sued Trayvon Martin’s family, their attorney, state police, and former state prosecutor making the unsubstantial claim that one of the witnesses that Zimmerman 2013’s trial was a fake” And Trayvon Martin's family responded in return saying that he is victimizing them, and he is making a shameless attempt to profit lives and grieves of others. (ABS News 00:02:13)

4. The Rise of African American Black Lives Matter Movement

The Black Lives Matter Movement originated in many ways through the unfinished revolutions of the 1960s Civil Rights Movements and more recently through the work of groups such as the Black Struggle Organization (OBS) and the Malcolm X Grassroots Organization. The hashtag #BlackLivesMatter was created on July 13th, 2013 by three Black Queer women; Alicia Garza, Patrisse Cullors, and Opal Tometi, moreover, it was the answer to anti-Black racism and states abuse, and from then on it raised a national wide voice as a way for African American to fight for their rights and call for justice.

Activities under #BlackLivesMatter involved chaos at the road, secondary school trips, boycotts, policy-maker forums, regional conventions, student marches, and establishing branches at the local level. Although the movement was not free of criticism whether on strategies or tactics that it used, moreover it has proven its ability to adapt to different political contexts while creating and defining a fairer future (“African American Studies”).

According to Alicia Garza, as an appeal for action for black people after 17-year-old Trayvon Martin had been posthumously put on trial for his assassination, and the

assassin George Zimmerman was not held responsible for his crimes, she created the #BlackLivesMatter along with Patrisse Cullors and Opal Tometi. For her, it was a reaction to the racism in society and the movements as well. Moreover, they believed that Black Lives Matter is an intellectual and political movement in a society in which Black identity is routinely and intentionally targeted for destruction. It is an acknowledgment of the commitment of Black people to their society, and fighting to gain dignity and endurance in the face of deadly oppression (“A Herstory”).

All in all, The Black Lives Matter followed the civil rights movements, in which they called for somehow similar rights; where they fought for the rights of African Americans which still in the present time unachieved properly.

Conclusion

Since the coming of Africans to the American land in 1609, they experienced different kinds of oppression, exploitation, and humiliation, and even a century later, they continued with that feeling and treatment of discrimination and marginalization. Although Slavery was abolished, it did not end the suffering of Blacks in the United States, who were still seen and even treated inferiorly; which was seen clearly in the police mistreatment to African Americans; from shootings, killings, and harassments. Moreover, with the decrease of those mistreatments, Black American could not handle it anymore and they started to develop reactions, and it was seen through protests and marches and one of the most important organizers of those type of reactions is the Black Lives Matter Movement, which was a real handful mean for African Americans to raise their voices in the face of inequality and hardship, also as a way to call for what is right and for what is just.

Chapter Two: African Americans in Young Adult Literature

Introduction

Young Adult Literature is considered one of several genres that are dedicated to teenagers and at the same time, all age categories can read, enjoy, and somehow related to it. Since the acknowledgment of Young Adult literature as a separate and sequel to children literature, it was famously used and loved by several authors such as Angie Thomas, who used this type of genre to speak about real-life issues.

Because Young Adult literature is dedicated to the societal issues that occurred in the meantime, Young Adult writings were popular, and they were not only limited to a certain race, but they exceeded it and they used different characters from different races. Moreover, black and white characters were used similarly, and because of many problems that blacks suffered, the use of this type of characters was popularly used by different authors; whether they were white or black ones.

As the number of cases of police mistreatments toward African Americans increased, Young adult literature addressed this theme in its writings, as it showed all the possible scenarios of those shootings giving different reasons, and reflecting different consequences. Police brutality in Young Adult literature was one of the overly used topics, however, it was not the only one, but it also addressed other issues such as parental issues, drugs, self-identity, life, and death.

1. Definition of Young Adult Literature

Considering the diversity of meanings and definitions of who comes under the umbrella of "young adult," a precise explanation of what Young Adult literature is still not coined. The origins of young adults extend back to when "teenagers" first classified during the Second World War as social demographics. According to Michael Cart, author and former

President of the Young adult Library Services Association, "Sixteen Summer" is known to be the first novel written and published for teens, which was written by Maureen Daly in 1942. It was purely dedicated to girls as it talked about first love and romance. (Strickland)

In the 1960s, the Young Adult Library Services Association coined the term "young adult" to represent the age range from 12 to 18 years old. According to Cart, novels of that period such as "The Outsiders" by S. E. Hinton, gave adolescents a new realistic approach. Moreover, in the 1970s, writers were made to write more openly about adolescent problems with an emphasis on society and troubling topics throughout young Adults (Strickland)

The period between 1970 until the mid-1980 was characterized as the golden age of young adult fiction. Publishers started to concentrate on the emerging youth market, and bookstores and libraries began to create Young Adult divisions, which was separate from child literature and adult novels, and in the 1980s young people wanted to read something similar to their daily lives, thereby romantic novels were revived (Tallent). The first Golden Age has been associated with Judy Blume, Lois Duncan, and Robert Cormier who are known as being today's teen parents. The young adult novels of the seventies remain real-time capsules of secondary school life and the tension of confusion and Work like "The Chocolate War" by Cormier introduced deep literature into youth works.

However, according to Cart, teens started to get bored from these books as they were "single problem novels", in other words, they were discussing the same problems in different YA novels. However, because of low levels of birth, Young Adult literature was read only by few people. In the mid-1970s, teens and middle-school books bloomed, and YA Lit was thriving with better written. Furthermore, in 1992, an incensement in the number of the teenagers contributed to a revival of young readers, which led to YA Lit sales to hit 38,9 million dollars, and as a result, the second golden era began in 2000 (Strickland)

Around 2002 and 2012, there were more than twice as many Young adult titles released; more than 10,000 YA books in 2012 versus 4,700 in 2002 (Peterson). Furthermore, YA literature has been improved by popular books, such as the Harry Potter by Joanne K. Rowling, and The Hunger Games by Suzanne Colleins, which often contain film adaptations, and that helped in broadening Young Adult literature readers' base. Additionally, Young Adult literature had also a connection to the young readers as it addressed their needs; emotional, physical, and intellectual and it becomes valuable not just artistically, but also by its relevance to readers' lives, by allowing those to see their lives reflected in literature (Cart).

Young Adult Literature is a literary category that includes a broad range of genres, including fantasy and nonfiction. While it is not only directed to young adults, it is always about them. According to Patty Campbell, The main topic of major Young Adult novels is answering questions such as "Who am I, and what am I about to do?". (Nilsen and Donelson 4)

While the themes are diverse, Young Adult literature primarily portrays the life and issues faced by young characters facing problems encountered by other young people. Moreover, The experiences of YA characters are close to the situations and imaginations of their readers. Thus, YA readers feel connected with the characters as they have similar imaginations and circumstances, and as Nilsen and Donelson claim, well-written YA novels accurately reflect the psychological aspects of young adult life, from passion to terror to fear (30-35).

Young Adult literature is often narrated by the first person narrator, as this form allows the reader to consider the thoughts of the writer. This offers an important incentive for the narrative to attract the attention of the public (Nilsen and Donelson 26). YA literature may help young readers in exploring their identities because it is used by the narrator as a way to look around the globe through the eyes of the protagonist (36). As it directs readers to connect

with fictional peers and it makes them not feel as "the other" as they share the same difficulties and issues.

Over the years, the topics discussed in YA literature have shifted. While most of the YA books portrayed the love lives of white middle-class protagonists, in the mid-1960s the move towards actual character circumstances started, and Taboos like divorce, sexuality, and racial discrimination were discussed, and character tales whose opinions were unheard were revealed more and more (Nilsen and Donelson 32).

The topics of Young Adult Literature move by time to become more complex, especially with the rise of middle school literature. After it was in the 1970s a problem novel, then it shifted in the 1980s to romance and horror. Today, YA writing not only offers more and more viewpoints, but it also gives a voice to minorities. Therefore, contemporary writers expand the boundaries of YA literature themes, presenting different protagonists, fresh words, and diverse youth living scenarios, where themes like criminality, addiction, and abuse are discussed and present as a form of the creation of characters (Glasgow 47). With more diverse protagonists from different backgrounds in the contemporary YA literature, more young readers can recognize and play with their identities comfortably and easily (Koss and Teale 569). The growth of YA Literature is important in a diverse environment because books will help young people realize that they are not alone with their issues.

2. African Americans in Young Adult Literature

While the first half of the 20th century was uncommon in using African American characters in the Young Adult literature, certain black authors, activists, and white writers released novels featuring black characters. W. E.B. Du Bois was one of the first to create literature for black Youth and set down the foundations for further African-American children or Young Adult books (Bishop, *African4*). In 1920, the first publication in African American

books, *The Brownies ' Book* was published by Du Bois, and in his journal, he presented works of numerous African American writers, who wrote in various genres such as folklores, fiction, drama, and biography. His goal was directed at teaching young readers about African Americans ' past and accomplishments, giving dignity and optimism to black children and, encouraging them to stand up for their rights. (Harris 544,45)

Except for a few African American authors, who have sought to provide a broader range of characters for young readers, black people were also present in the literature of white writers, who portrayed Africans in ways often stereotyped and perpetuated mistakes of slavery (Bishop, *Reflections* 8). In other words, African Americans' portrayals were unjust and while there were not many of the Black characters existed, they remained biased and stereotyped.

Although some authors classified African American literature only by and about black people, others emphasize the importance of the material rather than the authors. This debate brings concerns about credibility, authenticity, and legitimacy to the table: who is allowed to portray the tale of someone else and how far can it be real? (Bishop, *African* 4). Moreover, there is a discussion about what is African Americans young adult literature, in which some believe that; to write about African American people life, they need to be in their shoes and to know what they experienced, and that could not be only if they were African Americans, which means that they truly know the suffer of how to be African American. On the other hand, others believe that the work is more important rather than the author of the material, in other words, the work has more value rather than focusing on the identity of the author, whether he or she was black or white.

African Americans wrote about literature that black young people could associate with; nevertheless, during the next decades' black YA writers were still rare. Further African

American authors, such as Jacqueline Woodson or Angela Johnson, appeared with the emergence of the multicultural YA literature of the 1990s (Bishop, *Reflections* 12). However, despite the gradual continuity in the 21st century of YA fiction and multicultural YA literature, white characters remain a prevalent trend, as it was seen in the example of Harry Potter, Twilight, and The Hunger Games, possibly the three most famous YA games (Doll). Whitewashing was and still is a common media technique that separates Black children from YA literature. Whitewashed covers are intended to help boost the selling of YA novels because companies believe that a black face on the cover will discourage people from buying a novel. For YA novels, whiteness is therefore not only widely portrayed in the narrative itself as standard but also rejected the color on the cover for the few black characters that appear in the literature (Nel 27). Furthermore, black characters were not used often because they were considered as being discouraging for people to buy them.

When the Black Lives Matter movement emerged in 2014, growing attention to black people raised the question of the existing slavery till the time, which was also hidden in Young Adult literature. As a result, Awards and associations to support the published YA books by and about people of color were created, and recent prizes like The King Coretta Award of Scott King honored the works of YA African American writers, as well as literary excellence advocates, are now being offered to recent African American YA authors through books for young readers such as We Need Diverse Books (WNDB).

African American YA Fiction has only become extremely popular in recent years and has increased sales exponentially. Since 2002 and 2017, there has been more than twice the number of books written by and about African Americans. However, the vast majority of African Americans ' related books are still yet written by non-black writers, in which just 122 out of a total of 340 African Americans writings were written by black authors, and the rest was writing by white ones.(CCBC). Organizations and prizes for African American YA

writings have already driven the development of black YA authors, and authors such as Angie Thomas reflect YA literature's latest diversity.

3. Common Themes in African American Young Adult literature

The literature of African American YA has been born from the need to address the disappearance of common black citizens of the 20th century. It aims to refute distorted black history portrayals and instead accept black performance. Furthermore, YA fiction also reveals black stories and values the African American experienced stories and shows how their lives matter, furthermore, YA novels written from the perspective of black characters provides a key to the universe as well as a gateway (Bishop, *Mirror* ix). The message received from young readers is that their perspectives are expressed in the novels. Therefore, as authors seek to represent the reality of readers, they engage with issues specific to black children in the United States, integrating elements of black culture, traditions, literature, and achievements (Bishop, *Reflections* 11).

Bishop outlined the main aspects of African American Young Adult literature as follows; (1) honoring the Black Family's role as a cultural institution and a survival vehicle; (2) witnessing proof of the relentless struggle of Black people for democracy, prosperity, and integrity; (3) cultivating Black children's souls by commenting, physically and orally, upon the elegance and the talents that we see in them as adults; (4) situation locating itself within African American literature and cultural backgrounds, through its vocabulary and material; (5) and recognizes the past culture as a source of education and knowledge (*Free* 273).

In other words, writings about African Americans in Young Adult literature led Black people to gain some importance in society, as they were neglected, and black themed writings were rare because they were unpopular within the public, however, with the emergence of YAL, Black stories become a trend, as black and white writers wrote about it, in which the

stories turned around the experiences of youth in general and black people and their lives in society in particular.

4. Police Brutality in Young Adult Literature

With the increasing number of cases of police brutality against African Americans and the rise of Black Lives Matter, several authors especially African American ones wrote about the theme of police brutality in their writings. Moreover, the issue of police violence against innocent African-Americans has been covered extensively in Young Adult literature as a way to show their position and frustration to what was happening to black people; a clear example of that is "Between the World and Me" by Ta-Nehisi Coates, which won the National Book Award, "They Can't Kill Us All" by Wesley Lowery (Alter), and "The Hate U Give" by Angie Thomas.

Most of the police brutality themed novels are results of anger based on the several shootings of unarmed black people; Angie Thomas's novel is one of these writings. Thomas started writing her bestselling novel "The Hate U Give" as a reaction of Oscar Grant's deadly shooting by a white police officer. It started as a short story of a teenager who saw her friend shot and get killed, and then with the increase of the deaths and the shootings of innocent black people, it has developed into a 444-page novel (Alter).

Given that many people fatally shot by police officers were black teenagers in recent years; it is not shocking that the topic of police brutality is particularly discussed in the YA literature. The current wave of YA fiction that breaks down police brutality allows teenage readers to understand why black lives matter. Moreover, literature enables writers to challenge the dominant stereotype of Blacks as criminals and dangerous, also showing the true lives of black people. Additionally, YA literature police brutality themed corrects the

distorted negative images of the black victims that surface in the newspapers, in which Black Americans image as being the wrong ones, while the white people are the victims.

5. Biography of Angie Thomas

Angie Thomas was born in Jackson, Mississippi, raised and still lives there as she indicated. She is a former teen rapper whose most important achievement was an article about her in which her picture was included in the Right-On Magazine. Moreover, she earned a BFA (Creative Writing) from Belhaven College and an honorary Certificate in Hip Hop. She is an inaugural winner, awarded by We Need Diverse Books, of Walter Dean Myers 2015 Grant. Her cherished first book “The Hate U Give” is a best-selling # 1 New York Times and was adapted into a big film by George Tillman, Jr., featuring Amandla Stenberg, in 2000. (“About Angie”).

Angie Thomas considers being one of the most successful Young Adult Literature authors in the present time, as her writings receive reactions from all over the world. She admitted that her Young Adult novels are inspired by Black Lives Matter movements and the shooting of Black Americans. Also, she asserted that she had previously written children literature, but her writings were not accepted by agents, and she acknowledged that she had received more than 150 rejections for that genre of literature, thus she turned into writing Young Adult Novels, and got her chance of success when she published "The Hate U Give".(Lewis)

"The Hate U Give" is one of a group of young-adult novels addressing the brutalities of the police, racial profiling, and the Black Lives Matter movement, based on a phrase coined by the singer Tupac Shakur. Angie Thomas began to write her young-adult novel ‘The Hate U Give’, after a deadly shooting of white police officer to Oscar Grant, which took place about 2 000 kilometers far from her residence place, But it was painfully private to her. She

was under a shock when her classmates said that the shooting happens because he deserved it and because she could not speak out, she responded in a form of a short story; about a girl whose friend was shot by a white police officer, and later on, it was developed into 444 pages novel, because the shootings of unarmed black people by white ones continued, such as the deaths of Trayvon Martin, Tamir Rice, Michael Brown, and Sandra Bland; who they were major influences on the novel (Alter).

"The Hate U Give" to some point is an autobiographical novel, in which the novel's environment resembles the neighborhood, where Thomas grew up in, which was considered as being an unwanted area with crime and gang violence, with people who look for one another, and the main character Starr features resemble certain element the characteristics of Angie Thomas, which can be seen in Starr liking basketball and Tupac, also the similarities between their livings in two realms; her wealthy, largely white private school and her poor community, which is the case for Thomas too. (Alter)

According to Thomas, she could not believe the novel "The Hate U Give" which was published at the beginning of 2017, was a strike, in which it went into bestseller chart and continued to stay there for a year. Moreover, it won 2018's Waterstones Children's Book Prize and sold more than two million copies in the entire world, all of this after she failed in writing several times (Lewis). Angie Thomas released her second novel 'On The Come Up' which tells the story of a black girl who dreams to be a rapper. This novel is highly personal to Angie, as it represents her and her dreams. This novel considers being a complete success as well, as well as being a bestseller (Lewis).

6. Summary of “The Hate U Give”

Angie Thomas’s ‘The Hate U Give’ is a story about the 16-year-old black girl Starr Carter, who because of harm full events such as her witnessing the death of her friend when

she was a child, led her family to make her and her brothers study far from her neighborhood. Thus, from one hand she lives in the poor neighborhood, called Garden Heights, where the majority of people living there are black and poor, and from another hand, she goes to school with her brother at Williamson Prep, which is an uplifting private high school with the majority of white students, and she even has a white boyfriend there called Chris. So, through her teenage years, she continued to live her life in two different surroundings.

One day, when she was in a spring break party with her friend Kenya; who she is the half-sister of Starr's half brother Seven, she met her childhood friend Khalil, and there where Starr's life started to change. Because a fight begins at the party, they run away together in his car, and on their way home, they get stopped by a white police officer. The white police officer asks for Khalil's papers, and he asks them about what they are doing, and whether they have drugs or no, but Khalil makes it clear that it's not out of his business, and because Starr is taught by her father of how to react if a cop stopped her, she tries to convince Khalil to act polite and answer the question, and she even memorizes the number of the officer's patch, which is one-fifteen, furthermore, because of further discussion between the officer and Khalil, the previous asks the latter to step out of his vehicle. Although the officer's instructions to not move when he got out of the car, and Starr's warnings to Khalil to follow the instructions, he ends up opening the door as a way to check Starr if she is fine, and as a result, the officer one-fifteen shoots Khalil in the back and he fell onto the ground dead in front of Starr. Starr is shocked seeing her other childhood friend dead on the street, moreover, the situation makes her recall the events of the shooting of her friend Natasha when they were kids.

The next day, Starr recalls the event of Khalil's shooting, and she emphasizes that he was unarmed, however, because she is afraid that she will be under the eyes of everyone when they know that she is the witness of the shooting, her parents and she agree to keep it secret,

although she swore before to stand up for the cases of police brutality, however, when the story included her she kept quiet. The death of Khalil soon turns into a domestic headline. Many people have called him a thug, a drug dealer, or a gangbanger, and she is the only one who knows the truth, however, she cannot speak up because of her fear of getting threats from both the public and the police.

After some time, Starr's uncle who is a police officer came to her house and wants to convince Starr to testify to the police about the shooting, but both of her parents refuse because they do not want people to know that their daughter is the witness, and her mother, Lisa is afraid that Starr is still under shock, and her father believes that her testimony will only justify the officer shooting. However, when Uncle Carole convinces Starr that Khalil will get justice if she approves to testify, and she agrees directly.

Days later, Starr along with her mother Lisa went to the police station for her testimony upon the shooting. During the investigation, Starr is convinced that it is useless and complete nonsense because the investigator is only blaming Khalil and trying to link the shooting with him being a drug dealer. April O'frah from Just Us for Justice, who is an attorney and advocate, wants to provide help after the investigation, to ensure that Starr's voice is heard without being exploited because she knows that the investigation will not take its fair path. However, Starr and her mother refuse because they want to keep the peace.

Starr sees on the news that the police chief acknowledges that the officer one-fifteen will not be arrested for any reason. Starr blames herself for not telling everything about the incident like the one-fifteen pointed a gun on her face although she was handcuffed. Along with news on the television, Starr's friends also start talking about the shooting and describe Khalil as a drug dealer without even knowing that the witness is beside them, who is Starr.

Starr is summoned by the District attorney to talk to them. Her parents say that she might reject it, but Starr is determined to do so. Moreover, it turns out that the crime is turned over to the DA, and they are ready to take the prosecution before a grand jury. Starr speaks with Ms. O'rah before the DA meeting, where she explains to her that when she testifies in front of the grand jury, they will decide if the officer is guilty or no and whether they will charge him or not. When Starr was waiting for the meeting of the DA, an interview on the television is aired which shows one-fifteen's father, and she is completely furious because of the false and misleading statement that he put through.

A week before Starr's testimony in front of the grand jury, Ms. O'rah arranges an interview called Friday Night News Special, in which her face will not show as a way to keep her safe. During the interview, Starr exposes everything to the public even the secret that she kept from her parent; that the officer even points the gun to her. When the interview is released, it gives some reactions from certain people. Starr and her family start to get threats from police officers in Garden Heights and on the night before the testimony in front of the grand jury, Starr and her family receive gunshots while they are at home, and luckily no one gets hurt, only the glass of the house get broken. However, because of this accident, Starr becomes afraid and decides not to go in front of the grand jury, but her father asks her to remind him about point one of the Ten-Point Program, which is seeking freedom as a way to tell her that her voice is the way to achieve justice for Khalil.

On the day of the testimony, the media is all over the court, thus Starr is obliged to enter from the back door, and she enters a room where there are only twenty grand jurors, and no audience is allowed and even her parents are not too. During three hours, Starr is able to tell what happens on the day of the shooting with details, while further discussions are made.

Seven weeks after the testimony, Starr's family move into a new house to stay away from violence and riots. At that time, the decision is announced, and the grand jury decides not to prosecute Officer Brian (One-fifteen). On the streets of Magnolia Avenue, Starr hears a few young men shouting "Justice for Khalil!", so she starts screaming along with them. Soon, the protests became a riot, and police officers shoot them. Then they move east, but the police also close the road there, moreover, in that place, she finds other people and Ms. O'frah shouting 'a hairbrush is not a gun', and because Ms. O'frah knows that Starr is going to do something she asks her to dismiss her, thus Ms. O'frah is no longer responsible on her, as a result, Starr goes on top of a police car, and she calms down the crowd by introducing herself as the witness and she asks them to fight for Khalil and keep calling justice for him. Then, police officers throw tear gas cans on the crowd, and the latter start running everywhere and Ms. O'frah tell Starr to go on the bus, which comes for help.

Starr and her friends' run away to her father's shop and they hide there, but fire is launched there and they all start panicking, and their lungs are filled with smoke, and they ask for help but no one hears them, luckily, after few tries, they are able to get out safely.

In the end, the grand jury decision did not change, and Khalil's case is closed without punishing the criminal. Starr acknowledges that her fight to get justice for Khalil is not just for him, but it is for all the people who are mistreated or killed and did not get their justices and equality, and she knows that her fight will not stop even if she can get justice for Khalil, and she pursues activism as her profession to fight for the rights of Black African American people.

Conclusion

Young Adult Literature is a type of literature that is close to teenagers' minds, as it was a generation of their daily life experiences and problems. Moreover, because of the

frequency of police brutality in today's society, many writers wrote about it in their YA writings. Angie Thomas along with different Young Adult authors such as Ta-Nehisi Coates found themes of police brutality and black lives matter very important to be used in their writings as police mistreatment becomes random and continues. In Angie Thomas's case, her use for such themes of police abuse and enforcing the importance of black lives goes back to her identity as she was influenced by the shootings and the killing of black people during her lifetime, and as a result, she developed her feelings toward the accidents to a short story, which turned into a novel "The Hate U Give", where she used and discussed the issue of police unjustified deadly shootings to black Americans in a fictional context, also describing the psychological outcomes behind police brutality.

Chapter Three: The Psychological Outcomes of Police Brutality upon the Characters of “THUG”

Introduction

Police brutality against African Americans is frequently happening in present-day America, and it has different consequences on the lives of those who suffered from it, which it can physically or mentally, or in some severe cases, it may include both. The sufferance of “THUG” characters from police brutality was inspired from events that happened to real people, as a way to show the actual struggle of black people, minorities, and people in color, and they're wanting to live a normal life far from suffering because of color, being killed, or having physical and psychological problems as a result of being abused. This chapter deals with the analysis of different psychological consequences of the main characters from police brutality using Erik Erikson’s psychosocial development theory.

1. Characters Description

Characters in the novel know well the regulations between black and white relationships, specifically if there was a relation to the law community. The main characters in “THUG”, who were affected or influenced by police brutality, are Starr Carter, Maverick Carter (Big Mav), Khalil Harris, and the accuser Officer Brian Cruise Jr.(One fifteen)

1.1.Starr Amara Carter

Starr Carter is a black sixteen years old high school girl, who lives her life divide between two lifestyles; the first is Garden heights; which is a Black neighborhood where she lived her life and the second is Williamson prep, where she studies, which is a rich high school with the majority of the students are white. For Starr, her life consists of shifting between two versions; “I’ am not even sure I belong at this party. That’s not on

some bougie shit, either. There are just some places where it's not enough to be me. Either version of me..." (Thomas 7). In other words, she got two versions; a version for the white community, and another for the Hood.

Starr describes herself as being a beautiful black girl with her father lookalike eyelashes and eyebrows, and her mother lookalike big brown eyes and a little forehead (Thomas 35). Moreover, Starr is logical and alert, yet her reactions are spontaneous and unfiltered as she is the narrator, she reveals and recounts things as she observes them.

1.2.Maverick (Big Mav) Carter

He is an open-minded, creative man, who operates in Garden Heights a tiny grocery shop. Maverick is a devoted parent who dedicates himself entirely to his children, family, and friends, given his rough background as a member of the King Lords' band and spending a brief period in prison. Maverick's world view is influenced by the Black Power Revolution, particularly by Malcolm X and the Black Panther Party. Malcolm X regularly named the cover for nonviolent demonstrations by Martin Luther King Jr. by any means necessary to advocated black emancipation. Huey Newton and Bobby Seale were the ones who formed the Black Panther Party in 1966; they had advocated with black freedom and coordinated group projects, Maverick used them as a guide by opening a convenience shop to better support the city. Also, he often organizes street groups, leveraging the mechanisms from Garden Height to defend the community rather than depend on the police. Yet the commitment of Maverick to his beliefs implies that he does not realize the complicated facts connected with them, for example, because at first, he fails to evict the family from Garden Heights. That is to say, Maverick encourages Starr and his other kids to read about the principles of black power and insists to make his kids memorize the Black Panthers' Ten-Point program as a way to learn their rights; however, he refuses to

reconcile his Black Empowerment ideals with the reality that such ideals threaten him and his family.

Nevertheless, Maverick's ideals made him different from the typical black father, in other words, the loving essence of Maverick shakes blackened fathers' myths, sometimes missing and harsh, in mainstream culture. Although he was a gangster, his love for his children is unconditional, and that was clear in the tattoos he did in his body for his children, which shows how they are really important to him:

He rolls up his shirt sleeve, revealing the tattoo of my baby picture on his upper arm. "What it says at the bottom?" "Something to live for, something to die for," I say, without really looking. I've seen it my whole life. Exactly. You and your brothers are something to live for and something to die for, and I'll do whatever I gotta do to protect you. (Thomas 198).

Nonetheless, the one thing Maverick covers in Maverick's commitment to his principles is his affection for his daughter and his kids, which is why after King menaces Starr, he drove her and the family out of Garden Heights, which is against his beliefs to never leave his hometown.

1.3. Officer Brian Cruise Jr. (One Fifteen)

Officer Brian Cruise is often known by One fifteen, which is the name that Starr label him after she saw his number badge when he stops Khalil's car asking for license and car registration, moreover, he is the protagonist's enemy; which made him the antagonist since he shoots dead Khalil. Starr describes him at the beginning of the novel as being a white man in his late thirties or beginning of forties, who has a scar on his upper lip (Thomas 26).

Officer Brain is depicted by the media as a good person, in which he is represented by his father as a loving parent and a decent police officer. The father tries to protect his son by claiming that Khalil and Starr are the ones who oblige him to fire. Moreover, Officer Brain blames Khalil and Starr and says that they threaten him and glare at one another as they are planning to do something (Thomas 243). Moreover, One-fifteen also lies to his superiors about the circumstances of Khalil's death at night only to get away from his crime.

1.4.Khalil Harris

Khalil Harris is the protagonist's childhood friend, as babies, he and Starr were incredibly close in Garden Heights, sharing their first kiss, years of childhood, and even witnessing the death of their other childhood friend Natasha's shooting together, that's why Starr feels extremely guilty of missing communication with him before his death. Although Khalil is not present during the whole novel; its events are based upon him as Khalil was killed in vain due to police brutality, by One fifteen, who stops him during a traffic stop for having a broken taillight. Khalil is described by Starr as being a handsome man with dimples that can charm any person, and she even describes him as "brown-skinned Moses"(Thomas 15) as all people glare at him when he is present.

2. Erik Erikson Psychological Development Theory

Erik Erikson is the neo-Freudian psychologist who embraced many Freudian's theory core concepts; in which that personality evolves in a series of stages. However, he added his views; which he believed that human personality is influenced by social experiences; in other words, he believed that the development of human beings is centered by social interactions and relationships, thus unlike Sigmund Freud's theory of psychosexual stages, he came up with the theory of psychosocial development, which was based upon Eight stages (Cherry). Erikson believed that any person at different age

experience some complications in his/ her personality to get a better understanding of his/ her environment, self, and social life. Erikson's Eight Stages of psychosocial development are divided as follow; the first stage is the stage of Trust vs. Mistrust which occurs at the age that varies between birth to eighteen months old, the second stage is Autonomy vs. Shame and Doubt between two to three years old, the third one is Initiative vs. Guilt at the age of three to five, the forth is Industry vs. Inferiority which occurs at the age between six to eleven years old, the fifth stage is Identity vs. Role confusion between the age of twelve to eighteen years old, the sixth stage is Intimacy vs. Isolation between nineteen to forty years old, the seventh is Generativity vs. Stagnation between forty to sixty-five years old, and the last stage is Ego Integrity vs. Despair which occurs between sixty-five to death (Cherry).

3. Characters Analysis

The following analysis will be a psychological one following Erik Erikson's Psychological development theory, which is undertaken on the main characters of "THUG".

3.1.Starr Amara Carter

Starr Amara Carter is the main character in which the whole novel is around her witness for the death of Khalil. Because of this latter, she is faced with some mental and psychological consequences, which are as follow:

3.1.1. Identity Crises

Starr is at the age of sixteen years old, Thus, according to Erikson, he believes that at the age between twelve years to eighteen years old is the period of social relationships for a person, and it is the period of conflict of identity, loss, and confusion. Moreover, he believes that this period is the stage in which a person questions him/ herself about who they are and what they want. Furthermore, Erikson believes that the failure of one of any

stage may lead to trauma, in which it can cause a person to become stuck in that stage (Hammond), which is the case of Starr Carter. Starr's struggle with her identity started with her first trauma, as a result of it, she was obliged to change her school and that was the point of beginning with her identity's journey.

After the death of Natasha, Starr's parents were afraid that their kids will not grow properly if they stayed in Garden heights, thus they decided to move them into Williamson Prep to continue their studies there. When Starr moved to that school, she was obliged to change her attitude, behavior, and talking as a way to avoid people judgments upon her being a ghetto or poor neighborhood girl:

I just have to be normal Starr at normal Williamson and have a normal day. That means flipping the switch in my brain so I'm Williamson Starr. Williamson Starr doesn't use slang – if a rapper would say it, she doesn't say it, even if her white friends do. Slang makes them cool. Slang makes her "hood." Williamson Starr holds her tongue when people piss her off so nobody will think she's the "angry black girl." Williamson Starr is approachable. No stank-eyes, side-eyes, none of that. Williamson Starr is nonconfrontational. Williamson Starr doesn't give anyone a reason to call her ghetto. (Thomas 74).

Starr cannot act as her real self, and she is obliged to change her identity just as a way to match the appearance of the school. However, that is one problem, the other is that in her neighborhood (Garden heights) she is obliged to act as a hood girl and forget about her attitude in Williamson, just for people not to call her fake; "Hey, I'm just saying. You act like you don't know nobody 'cause you go to that school." I've been hearing that for six years, ever since my parents put me in Williamson Prep. "Whatever," I mumble." (Thomas 8). Thus,

when she is in Garden she uses slang, and when she is in Williamson she uses respectful language and attitude.

Starr shifting between the two personalities is vivid from the beginning of the novel as she asserts; “I shouldn’t have come to this party. I’m not even sure I belong at this party. That’s not on some bougie shit, either. There are just some places where it’s not enough to be me. Either version of me.” (Thomas 7). She admits from the start that she has two versions of her, in which later on she connects that expression with being in touch with two different communities. Starr's identities make her feel lost, and sometimes hypocrite, as she hides her real self from her Williamson friends; Hailey, Maya, and her boyfriend Chris, and when in Garden, she hides her other half and the first’s life from the people in the latter, as an example; hiding from her father the idea that she has a white boyfriend.

Starr’s identity confusion is linked to her trauma, moreover, her childhood trauma is somehow the lead to her shifting and confusion between personalities, and from one perspective to another, her shifting between identities is a way to hide and embrace her trauma too. In other words, from the moment that Starr develops her trauma when she was a child and moving to a different school, and this later is the result of her identity confusion; that is to say, both of trauma and identity crisis are linked to one another.

Starr’s struggle to hide her identity as a witness for Khalil’s death from both communities is on the point of closure when she embraced her trauma and revealed herself to the public as being the one and only witness, as a result of that, both of her trauma and identity crisis seems to reach to an end, and what keeps her away before from practicing her life normally is ended.

3.1.2. Trauma

At the beginning of the novel, it shows that Starr is like any normal teenager girl who has friends, and goes to school, however with slight difference in personality, which is her unlikeness to interacting with people outside her social circle (family and specific friends); “Kenya is about the only person I hang out with in Garden Heights – it’s hard to make friends when you go to a school that’s forty- five minutes away and you’re a latchkey kid who’s only seen at her family’s store”(Thomas 9). She is a type of girl, who does not have many interactions with different people. For her, new interactions make her uncomfortable; “Suddenly I’m Eve in the Garden after she ate the fruit- it’s like I realized I’m naked. I’m by myself at a party I’m not even supposed to be at, where I barely know anybody.”(Thomas, 14)

Moreover, with the development of the story, and the occurrence of the shocking and deadly accident of her childhood friend Khalil, she starts to distance herself from all people specifically her friends from Williamson Prep; furthermore, she starts to develop a sense of trauma. Starr's trauma does not only start with Khalil's accident, it is there from her childhood; “Pow! One. Khalil’s body jerks. Blood splatters from his back. He holds on to the door to keep himself upright.pow! Two. Khalil gasps. Pow! Three. Khalil looks at me, stunned. He falls to the ground. I’m ten again, watching Natasha drop.” (Thomas 27). Her trauma begins when she first witnesses the shooting of her other childhood friend Natasha, who gets killed in front of her and Khalil when they were only five years old. Both Starr and her family do not give the previous accident big attention, and they do not deal with it properly; to be accurate, they do not deal with the psychological shock that their daughter goes through, they are ignorant to the situation as they decide to change school for the safety of their children, in which they choose a school where everybody seeks to go to college and the concept of violence, killing and fighting does not exist there, however, that lead to another psychological trauma to Starr which is the conflict of identity.

According to Erikson, Trauma may cause a person to be stuck in the stage when he/she failed on, and the healing phase can only happen when the stage is completed with success (Hammond). Starr's acknowledgment for her first trauma is not uttered only when the second accident happens. Starr can describe what she feels and what she saw during the shooting of her friend Natasha after Khalil's death, in which she tells her parents that she sees the shooter and he is King Lord, and she could not say anything because she was afraid that he would kill her next. So, all the following years of the accident, she kept silent and did not "snitch" as she said, because of her fear of the consequences.

Starr's first trauma makes her regret that she did not face the killer of Natasha, and although she promises that if anything happens in the future, and she witnesses another accident, she will fight for it. However, when Khalil shoots dead, she cannot fulfill her promise, in other words, her trauma strikes again; and she becomes afraid about the consequences that will happen and the reaction from both societies, that she lives and encounters with (Garden Heights and Williamson Prep).

When Starr witnesses Khalil's death, she falls under a shock, in which she can properly describe what happened to the police. After her testimony, Starr feels guilty and starts to criticize herself for not being with Khalil's side and defends his case properly.

Starr struggles to overcome her trauma is vivid during the whole novel, as she struggles because of guilt and shame for not standing for her friend, who because of her silence is accused of a lot of things from being a thug to a drug dealer to gangbanger, and so on. Also, her fear from what her other relationships with the white society will go through if they know she is the witness of the shooting, as they do not know the truth, only what the media publishes (Khalil being a bad person who deserved to die) that's from one hand, and the

other, she is afraid that they will pity her as the poor girl from the ghetto who witnessed the death of a close person.

Starr is able to overcome her trauma partly when she realizes that she needs to keep the promise that made to herself, that she will stand up for what is right and what is wrong, as she approves on making a television interview and testifying in front of the grand jury and uttering the real and the whole moments of the accidents. However, her complete overcoming to her trauma is only after the decision of the grand jury came out, as they decide to not convict the officer (One Fifteen) and declares that it is his job to do what was done. As a result, a riot breaks out calling for Justice For Khalil, during that Starr declares for the world that she is the witness and she will not keep silent and will fight for Khalil's rights and the other victims of police brutality's rights.

To conclude, Starr has several struggles to create its strength to express and demand redress. Starr has overcome her reluctance with the aid of family, relatives, peers, and all colleagues. She proceeds to campaign for social discrimination until the conclusion of the novel and avoids the reality that the officer who killed Khalil is not charged. She says she cannot quit trying because there are a lot of cases in the world like Khalil. Moreover, her sufferance from police brutality is faced with shock and fear, however, with resistance and the support of her family and her love for the right, in the end, she is able to overcome all the difficulties and retrieve herself.

3.2.Maverick (Big Mav) Carter

Maverick is Starr's father and he is the second main character, alike Starr he also went through some psychological outcomes from police brutality, which can be seen as following:

3.2.1. Trauma

Like his daughter Starr, Big Mav also experiences trauma, it may be indirect, however, it can be seen with him being always alert when it comes to police laws. It does not clearly show where does Maverick gets his trauma whether from his spending time in jail, or during the time he was in Lord's gang, or just since he lives in a rough neighborhood he would have sees and experiences a lot of accidents which make him gain that trauma. Moreover, as Erikson believed the failure of one stage among the Eight stages will lead the person confined with that particular stage, and that what led Maverick to become the way he became. Maverick trauma makes him prepared to expect the worst while encountering with law, and police officers; where he told his kids while they were children, about how to act during the presence of police officers:

The other talk was about what to do if a cop stooped me. Momma fussed and told Daddy I was too young for that. He argued that I wasn't too young to get arrested or shot. "Starr-Starr, you do whatever they tell you to do," he said. "Keep your hands visible. Don't make any sudden moves. Only speak when they speak to you. I knew it must've been serious. Daddy has the biggest mouth of anybody I know, and if he said to be quiet, I needed to be quite. (Thomas 24)

Knowing the fact that they are living in a black neighborhood, where there are a lot of conflicts, and police are always around, this later cannot be easy with black people, as they see them as a source of crimes; Starr's father had to have "The talk" along with his babies, as a way for them to know how to act and react if they ever encountered with police officers and law forces.

However, Maverick trauma is completely different from Starr's one, instead of being afraid of what would happen, he is a man of principles who memorizes the Ten

Point Black Panthers' Program and work by them, he would stand in the face of the wrong and fight for what is right, as it is in the case of Starr, in which he is the one who gives her courage and insists upon her to raise her voice for the sake of Khalil, and all other oppressed and right token people:

He kneels in front of me and sits the Glock beside my feet. He lifts my chin." Point one of the Ten-Point Program. Say it." My brothers and I learned to recite the Black Panthers' Ten-Point Program the same way other kids learn the pledge of Allegiance. "We want freedom," I say. "We want the power to determine the destiny of our black and oppressed communities." "Point seven." "We want an immediate end to police brutality," I say, "and the murder of black people, other people of color, and oppressed people..." "So why you gon' be quite?" Daddy asks. (Thomas 316)

To put in the right words, Starr's father Maverick is the one who supported and encouraged her to fight for Khalil and abandon her fear, as his principles turn around these ideals about stopping police brutality and giving rights to black communities; "Exactly. We can't be silent." "So I can't be silent." "daddy fixes his gaze on the road again. He nods. "Yeah. Can't be silent."(Thomas 170)

3.3. Officer Brian Cruise Jr. (One fifteen)

Officer Brain Cruise Jr. is recognized from the beginning of the novel as One Fifteen by Starr as it is the first thing she sees when the accident occurred. Similar to other characters, One Fifteen also has side psychological effects from police brutality and the white community, and the following is the most recognizable one.

3.3.1. Stereotype

In the whole novel, one-fifteen is a systemic bias in law enforcement and misconduct. It begins when for certain moments, Officer Brian and Khalil disagree. Then Khalil passes unexpectedly when the cop gets his back to Khalil. Thanks to this abrupt shift, their disagreements end three times with fire; officer one-fifteen shoots Khalil three times in the back, while Starr was watching. In reality, Officer Brian doesn't see something dangerous in the vehicle, but because of his lack of confidence in Khalil, he kills him, in other words, he shoots Khalil only because he thought he had a gun:

That's the so-called gun, Ms. Ofrah explains. "Officer Cruise claims he saw it in the car door, and he assumed Khalil was reaching for it. The handle was thick enough, black enough, for him to assume it was a gun." "And Khalil was black enough," Daddy adds. A hairbrush. Khalil died over a [...] hairbrush. (Thomas 214-215)

Because of this accident, One- fifteen is under the spot for being an officer who misconducts the law, that is to say, this case knows as being one of the cases of police brutality, where police officer misuse their power against innocent people just because they are colored. Khalil is credited with derogatory connotations after the police shooting such as "criminal," "thug," or "drug dealer." Many unconscious people are demanding clarification of the actions of an unarmed Khalil's toward the police officer and even Starr's family is wondering if her friend is a danger to Officer Brian Cruise. Starr's Uncle Carlos himself, a cop, tries to streamline the act of the officer by referencing Khalil's supposed past as a narcotics dealer, which may justify Brian's action if he feels endangered. Carlos' response indicates that the interplay of common Black people perceptions is not a practice exclusively identified with White people but rather with

individuals within the same group. The influence of the white gaze will also form people who think of the black individual, whom a priori has the white gaze as a danger, as a fault:

"I knew that boy. Watched him grow up with you. He was more than any bad decision he made," he says. "I hate that I let myself fall into that mindset of trying to rationalize his death. And at the end of the day, you don't kill someone for opening a car door. If you do, you shouldn't be a cop." (Thomas 252)

While Khalil's murder is explained by his image of being a criminal, the acts of the police officer are simplified by a portrayal of him as a survivor. Although Starr, the only one who testifies for his murder, attests to the defense of her friend, the officer is not arrested for killing the young unconscious man, rather than citizens feel sorry for him and lift his image as a decent guy. In comparison with the picture of Khalil which contradicts the common assumptions, media outlets explicitly contribute to this pleasant picture of Officer Cruise. Pictures of the officer as a laughing guy on a family trip together with mom, children, and golden recruiter challenge a recording of the rough neighborhood of Khalil. Even after he murders an innocent boy, people consider him a decent man and sympathize with his family. The reluctance of the media to mark the alleged suspect as a criminal or danger also shows how culture identifies white with morality automatically in contrast to blackness. The whiteness of Officer Cruise brings him compassion and innocence. Interestingly, his father spoke about those who "turn him a villain," which is what happened to Khalil. People distracted by their white fantasy, neglect the reality that he is a child and an innocent citizen, while the officer took the life of another, his whiteness always grants him innocent status. It is observed that innocence is mostly a question of color. Victims then transfer to the attacker from the poor, deceased black male.

Because of stereotypes and prejudice of white people like officer One- fifteen, black innocent people like Khalil Harris are shot dead. Khalil refers back to Tupac's definition of Thug life, as he explained that what society gives to young people will consequence in the future (Thomas 21). In other words, Khalil wanted to make Starr understand that society is the source of all hatred and problems, and that's what Maverick insists to make Starr understand that; "A'ight, a'ight. You on it." He gives me a dap. "So, what's the hate they're giving the 'little infants' in today's society?" " Racism?". (Thomas 167)

3.4.Khalil Harris

After the news of the shooting reaches the media, Khalil is the one who got shot and lost his life, however; people still blame him depending on their stereotypical view on black people, or people of color in general, and he is described as being a gangster, a gangbanger, and a drug dealer. Moreover, Khalil lost his life due to police brutality and misuse of power, but people stereotype him based on his race as being a "thug".

Although Khalil's death is judged by many people, many others feel like his death is a loss, and they start protests and demonstrations calling for justice to him. After the decision came out of the great jury to not prosecute officer One-fifteen, Starr joins the protest to make sure that Khalil's life matters too not just the officer. Moreover, she starts a blog named "Khalil I know", Starr wants to focus on how Khalil lived not how he died, as she states Khalil was just a teenage boy who was living a regular existence, he cherished his grandma, he liked Harry Potter, and he was terrified of wildlife, and through this depiction, Starr is able to show him as being nice and fragile, while showcasing his personality.

As DeVante informs Starr that Khalil will collect funds for the security of his family, his drug-dealing issue than is explained differently:

DeVante says, "Khalil wasn't King Lord, Starr." "But at the funeral, king put the bandana on him-" "To save face," DeVante says. "He tried to get Khalil to join, but Khalil said nah. Then a cop killed him, so you know, all the homies riding for him now. King not 'bout to admit that Khalil turned him down. So he got folks thinking that Khalil reprd King Lords." "Wait," I say. "How do you know he turned king down?" "Khalil told me in the park one day. We was posted up." "So y'all sold drugs together?" "Yeah. For King." "Oh." "He didn't wanna sell drugs, Starr," DeVante says, "Nobody really wanna do that shit. Khalil ain't have much of choice though." "Yeah, he did" I say thickly. "No, he didn't. Look, his momma stole some shit from King. King wanted her dead. Khalil found out and started selling to pay the debt." "What?" "Yeah. That's the only reason he started doing that shit. Trying to save her." (Thomas 234)

While the media depicts drug dealing as innate in Khalil's nature, the reality shows that Khalil took hard choices based on his circumstances. Khalil's complex image cannot coexist with the derogatory black youth stereotype. Therefore, Starr's emphasis upon talking about the life of Khalil instead of his death at the protest helps to inform the audiences, the viewers, and the readers of the multi-dimensionality of Khalil as a person not as a display of blackness by police or media.

Khalil lost his life because of mistake, in other words, he is the victim of police brutality against people of color, despite him doing no wrong, he ends up losing his life and being put under judgment for being a drug dealer and thug even before the truth come out, since that the usual black person; stereotyped as being "Thugs".

Conclusion

The consequences of police brutality on the life of the black individual may differ from one person to another, however, its consequences are dangerous as it can live with a person his whole life as in the case of Maverick, or it can be fixed in a certain period as in the case of Starr, moreover, it can be also transmitted to next-generation as Maverick did to his kids. However, it is not a matter of being cured or not or being influenced or not, it is a matter of taking off the problem from the roots, as police brutality starts from the society, who perform stereotype, racisms, and prejudice. Moreover, if the social mentality and ideas were fixed, other things may be fixed gradually.

General Conclusion

Brutality and mistreatment towards black Americans do not seem to be a new topic as they were exposed to injustice and unfair treatment along history, in which they went through all types of humiliation from slavery, racism, till the new type of mistreatment, which is police brutality.

Police brutality towards African Americans seems to be a never ending issue, as the cases appear to be rising and never reaching an end. Despite the existence of awareness campaigns, movements, and protests, every year there is at least one, two, or more cases of police mistreatments to African Americans for example in 2020; there was the case of George Floyd who was killed by a white police officer in 25th May. This case was known many people in different parts of the world, as it was published in different newspapers, television, and in different social media platforms, as a result, people were hand to hand with this case, as protests by different people with different races from different parts of the world united with it. In other words, police brutality is a hated issue between people, as its results harm especially the African American community, as it is the number one affected whether physically, socially, or psychologically.

Because of the popularity of the subject of police brutality towards African Americans, many writers such as Angie Thomas try to express their frustration, anger, and disapproval towards those actions, as they write about police brutality as a reaction to what is happening because of those actions. Angie Thomas in her novel “The Hate U Give” outlined the psychological effects of police brutality, as it showed that police brutality does not only affect the victims, but also the ones that are close to them, and it does not only affect them socially but also psychologically, as they can suffer from death, long term trauma, and identity crisis.

To conclude, police brutality has always been known as one of the important subjects in American society, as the cases are on the rise. Police brutality towards African Americans is characterized by its harmful effects, as there are always mistreatments and cruelty towards Blacks by the enforcement of the law, which may end with death as many cases, which it consequence into to manifestations, movements, and protests. However, these effects may not only be social but also psychological, which could be long term psychological shock. All in all, police brutality with all its effects considers being a harmful and malicious act towards certain people in society.

Works Cited

- ABC News. "George Zimmerman sues Trayvon Martin's family for \$100 million." *Youtube*. 05 Dec. 2019, <https://youtu.be/Wk8ZzCZlEk>. Accessed 04 Feb, 2020.
- "About Angie Thomas." *Angie Thomas*, © A.C. Thomas. All Rights Reserved, 29 Jan. 2020, angiethomas.com/about. Accessed 15Mar, 2020.
- "African American Studies Research Guide: Black Lives Matter." *MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY*. <https://libguides.lib.msu.edu/c.php?g=95622&p=2325510>. Accessed 07 Feb, 2020.
- "A Herstory of the #BlackLivesMatter Movement by Alicia Garza." *Thefeministwire*. 07 Oct. 2014, <https://thefeministwire.com/2014/10/blacklivesmatter-2/>. Accessed 07 Feb, 2020.
- Alter, Alexandra. "New Crop of Young Adult Novels Explores Race and Police Brutality." *The New York Times*, 19 Mar. 2017, www.nytimes.com/2017/03/19/books/review/black-lives-matter-teenage-books.html.
- Bishop, Rudine Sims. "Contemporary African American Children's Literature." *Wasafiri* 24.4. P2-9, 2009.
- Bishop, Rudine Sims. "Mirrors, windows, and sliding glass doors." *Perspectives* 6. P ix- xi, 1990.
- Bishop, Rudine Sims. "Reflections on the Development of African American Children's Literature." *Journal of Children's Literature* 38.2. P 5- 13, 2012.
- "Brown v. Board of Education." *History*. 27 Oct. 2009. <https://www.history.com/topics/black-history/brown-v-board-of-education-of-topeka>. Accessed 04 Feb, 2020
- Cart, Michael. "The Value of Young Adult Literature." *Young Adult Library Services Association (YALSA)*, 15 Nov. 2011, www.ala.org/yalsa/guidelines/whitepapers/yalit.

- Cherry, Kendra. "How Erik Erikson's Own Identity Crisis Shaped His Theories." 20 Mar.2020, www.verywellmind.com/erik-erikson-biography-1902-1994-2795538. Accessed 17 Aug 2020.
- Cherry, Kendra. "Understanding Erikson's Stages of Psychosocial Development." *Verywell Mind*. 26 June 2020, www.verywellmind.com/erik-eriksons-stages-of-psychosocial-development-2795740. Accessed 17 Aug 2020.
- "Cleveland Officer Who Fatally Shot Tamir Rice Will Not Face Criminal Charges." *The Guardian*, <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2015/dec/28/tamir-rice-shooting-no-charges-cleveland-officer-timothy-loehmann>. Accessed 25 Jan 2020.
- Collins, Allyson. *Shielded from Justice: Police Brutality and Accountability in the United States*. Cynthia Brown, Human Rights Watch (organization), 1998.
- Davis, Ronald L. F. "Jim Crow Etiquette - September 2006." *FERRIS STATE UNIVERSITY*.<https://www.ferris.edu/HTMLS/news/jimcrow/question/2006/september.htm> Accessed 29 Jan, 2020.
- Doll, Jen. "The Ongoing Problem of Race in Y.A." *The Atlantic* 26 Apr. 2012. Web. 13 June 2018.<https://www.theatlantic.com/entertainment/archive/2012/04/ongoing-problemrace-y/328841/>.
- Elfrink, Tim. "Open up the Case, Period': Sandra Bland's Family Demands Answers over New Video of Her Arrest." *The Washington Post*, 07 May 2019, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2019/05/07/open-up-case-period-sandra-blands-family-demands-answers-over-new-video-her-arrest/>. Accessed 26 Jan, 2020.
- Eligon, John. "Michael Brown Spent Last Weeks Grappling With Problems and Promise." *The NewYork Times*. 24 Aug. 2014, <https://www.nytimes.com/2014/08/25/us/michael-brown-spent-last-weeks-grappling-with-lifes-mysteries.html>. Accessed 22 Jan, 2020.
- Ezra, Michael. *Civil Rights Movement: People and Perspectives*. ABC-CLIO, 2009.

“Florida teen Trayvon Martin is shot and killed.” *History*. 12 Nov. 2012, <https://www.history.com/this-day-in-history/florida-teen-trayvon-martin-is-shot-and-killed>. Accessed 22 Jan, 2020

Glasgow, Jacqueline N. “Radical Change in Young Adult Literature Informs the Multigenre Paper.” *The English Journal* 92.2. P 41-5, 2002.

Hammond, Christine. “ Understanding the Impact of Trauma at Any Age.” *The Exhausted Woman*, 10 Oct. 2017, pro.psychcentral.com/exhausted-woman/2016/06/understanding-the-impact-of-trauma-at-any-age/. Accessed 16 Aug 2020.

Harris, Violet J. “African American Children’s Literature: The First One Hundred Years.” *The Journal of Negro Education* 59.4. P540 -555,1990.

Head, Tom. “The Shooting Death of Oscar Grant.” *ThoughtCo*. 11 Aug. 2019, <https://www.thoughtco.com/shooting-death-of-oscar-grant-721526>. Accessed 25 Dec, 2019.

J. Ling, Peter. Monteith, Sharon. *Gender in the Civil Rights Movement*. Routledge, 2014.

Koss, Melanie D., and William H. Teale. “What’s Happening in Young Adult Literature? Trends in Books for Adolescents.” *Journal of Adolescent & Adult Literacy* 52.7. P 563-572, 2009.

KPIX CBS SF Bay Area. “BART Releases Report On Oscar Grant Shooting; New Details Revealed.” Youtube. 02 May. 2019, <https://youtu.be/--rWxWm8YtY>. Accessed 04 Feb, 2020.

“Ku Klux Klan.” *History*. 29 Oct. 2009, <https://www.history.com/topics/reconstruction/ku-klux-klan>. Accessed 25 Dec, 2019.

Lewis, Tim. “Angie Thomas, Author of The Hate U Give: 'Books Play a Huge Part in Resistance'.” *The Guardian*, Guardian News and Media, 27 Jan. 2019,

www.theguardian.com/books/2019/jan/27/angie-thomas-the-hate-u-give-interview-famous-fans-readers.

McNeese, Tim. Plessy V. Ferguson. Infobase Publishing, 2007.

Montgomery, David “Sandra Bland, It Turns Out, Filmed Traffic Stop Confrontation Herself” *The New York Times*, 07 May 2019, <https://www.nytimes.com/2019/05/07/us/sandra-bland-video-brian-encinia.html>.

Accessed 26 Jan, 2020.

Nel, Philip. “Was the Cat in the Hat Black?: the Hidden Racism of Children’s Literature, and the Need for Diverse Books.” *New York: Oxford University Press*, 2017.

Newman, Mark. *The Civil Rights Movement*. Edinburgh University Press, 2004.

Nilsen, Alleen Pace, and Kenneth L. Donelson. *Literature for Today’s Young Adults*. 2001. 8th ed. Boston: Pearson, 2009

“Officer punched Oscar Grant and lied about facts in 2009 killing, records show.” *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2019/may/02/officer-punched-oscar-grant-and-lied-about-facts-in-2009-killing-records-show>. Accessed 25 Dec, 2019

Peterson, Valerie. “Young Adult Book Market Facts and Figures.” *The Balance Careers*. 16 Dec, 2018. www.thebalancecareers.com/the-young-adult-book-market-2799954.

Quimbee. “ Plessy V. Ferguson Summary quimbee.com.” *Youtube*, 04 Sep. 2017, <https://youtu.be/vsDTqtyiNZk>. Accessed 04 Feb, 2020.

Rank, Scott Michael. “ Black Peoples of America – The Ku Klux Klan.” *History On The NET*. <https://www.historyonthenet.com/black-peoples-of-america-the-ku-klux-klan>. Accessed 29 Jan, 2020.

“Reconstruction Era: 1865 – 1877.” *Library System- Howard University*. <https://www.howard.edu/library/reference/guides/reconstructionera/>. Accessed 24 Dec, 2019.

Rodriguez, Junius P. *Slavery in the United States: A Social, Political, and Historical Encyclopedia*. ABC-CLIO, 2007.

Schuck, Amie M. "The Masking of racial and ethnic disparity in police use of physical force: The effects of gender and custody status." *Journal of Criminal Justice* 32:557-564, 2004.

Schullery, Lea. QuickRead. Summary of "Talking to Strangers" by Malcom Gladwell- Free book by QuickRead.Com. QuickRead.com, 2019.

Shoichet, Catherine E, and John Newsome. "Tamir Rice Shooting: Officer Says Threat Was 'Real and Active'." *CNN*, 2 Dec. 2015, <https://edition.cnn.com/2015/12/01/us/tamir-rice-investigation-officer-timothy-loehmann-statement/>. Accessed 25 Jan, 2020.

Strickland, Ashley. "A Brief History of Young Adult Literature." *CNN*, Cable News Network, 15 Apr. 2015, edition.cnn.com/2013/10/15/living/young-adult-fiction-evolution/index.html. Accessed 10 Mar, 2020.

Tallent, Katherine. "The History of Young Adult Literature." *Prezi.com*, 17 Apr. 2014, prezi.com/lpqk0uwiwvp-/the-history-of-young-adult-literature/. Accessed 10 Mar, 2020.

The Cooperative Children's Book Center (CCBC). CCBC University of Wisconsin, Madison,n.d. 19 June 2018. <https://ccbc.education.wisc.edu/>. Accessed 10 Mar, 2020.

Thomas, Angie. *The Hate U Give*. Balzer Bray, 2017.

"Timeline of events in shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson." *AP News*. 08 Aug. 2019, <https://apnews.com/9aa32033692547699a3b61da8fd1fc62>. Accessed 22 Jan, 2020.

Tischauser, Leslie V. *Jim Crow Laws*. ABC-CLIO, 2012.

"Trayvon Martin Biography." *The Biography.com website*. 02 Apr. 2014, <https://www.biography.com/crime-figure/trayvon-martin>. Accessed 22 Jan, 2020

“Trayvon Martin Shooting Fast Facts.” *CNN*, 09 DEC. 2019,
<https://edition.cnn.com/2013/06/05/us/trayvon-martin-shooting-fast-facts/index.html>.

Accessed 25 Dec, 2019.

USA TODAY. “Witness video of police shooting a man in an Oakland train station.”

Youtube. 15 Oct. 2010, <https://youtu.be/c-ntTJLXYMA>. Accessed 04 Feb, 2020.

Wright, Donald R. *African Americans in the Colonial Era: From African Origins through the American Revolution*. 4th ed. John Wiley & Sons, 2017.

ملخص

الغرض من هذه الأطروحة هو تقديم ردود الفعل المختلفة على وحشية الشرطة تجاه الأمريكيين من أصل أفريقي ، حيث سلطت الضوء على بداية معاناة السود منذ اللحظة التي خطو فيها على الأرض الأمريكية ؛ حيث شهدوا المعاملة السيئة من خلال العبودية والعنصرية والفصل وكفاحهم لتحقيق المساواة والحرية. وبالرغم من أن جميع معارك السود لتحقيق المساواة ، لا يزالون يشعرون بأنهم أقل شأنًا كما و الحال في حالات وحشية الشرطة التي كانت ملتزمة إلى حد كبير بالأمريكيين السود من أصل أفريقي. اهتم العديد من روائيين القرن الحادي والعشرين بقضية وحشية الشرطة تجاه الأمريكيين من أصل أفريقي حيث كتبوا وأعطوا قيمة محترمة على سبيل المثال الكاتبة المبتدئة أنجي توماس في روايتها " الكراهية التي تمنحها" التي تناولت قضية سوء معاملة الشرطة للسود وكيف تؤثر عليهم على مستوى النفسي بشكل مباشر وغير مباشر.

الكلمات المفتاحية : الأمريكيين الأفارقة, أنجي توماس , حياة السود مهمة, الكراهية التي تمنحها , وحشية الشرطة , أدب الشباب.