

IDEOLOGICAL OPPRESSIONS OF WOMEN IN ZORA NEALE
HURSTON'S *THEIR EYES WERE WATCHING GOD* AND TONI
MORRISON'S *TAR BABY*.

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Abstract: This article examines the ideological oppressions faced by African American women in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*. Through the protagonists Janie Crawford and Jadine, the novels explore how Black women are often objectified and denied individual agency, experiencing profound marginalization and frustration rooted in racial and gendered biases. Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* depicts Janie's upbringing within a white household and her subsequent journey towards self-actualization within the self-governing Black community of Eatonville. Morrison's *Tar Baby*, often classified as a feminist novel, delves into the pain and agony of African American womanhood, reflecting the author's own experiences with the oppressions faced by Black people. Both novels highlight the pervasive fear of marginalization and ill-treatment, as well as the regular occurrence of sexual misconduct faced by Black women. Ultimately, the article analyzes how these narratives portray the emergence from and the enduring impact of these oppressions.

Keywords: Oppression, Women, Racism, African American, Gender, Marginalization, Self-actualization.

Résumé : Notre article porte sur les « Oppressions Idéologiques des femmes Afro-américaines dans les œuvres de Zora Neale Hurston, *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, et Toni Morrison, *Tar Baby* ». C'est une histoire triste qui parle de deux protagonistes, Janie et Jadine qui sont souvent traitées comme des objets plutôt que comme des individus dotés de désir. Elles ont été marginalisées par leurs maris. Dans *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, l'auteure relate que Janie a été élevée par sa grand-mère dans une famille blanche. La petite Janie a souvent l'habitude de jouer avec des enfants blancs dans la communauté d'Eatonville qui est l'une des premières communautés noires autonomes des États-Unis, offrant sécurité et opportunité aux résidents noirs. Les deux romans *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, et *Tar Baby* parlent de la douleur et de l'agonie des femmes afro-américaines qui se sont confrontées régulièrement à des comportements sexuels inappropriés au sein de leur propre communauté. En tant que femme afro-américaine, Toni Morrison, l'auteure de *Tar Baby*, a même été gagnée par la peur d'être marginalisée ou maltraitée. Dans *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, le narrateur présente le personnage

principal, Janie, comme un exemple de réalisation de soi et de l'émancipation face à l'oppression.

Mots-clés : *Oppression, Femme, Racisme, Afro-américaine, Genre, Marginalisation, Réalisation de soi.*

Introduction:

Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, published in New York on September 18, 1937, stands as a seminal work of American literature, considered a classic feminist novel and one of Hurston's most popular creations. Though published after the peak of the Harlem Renaissance, the novel is deeply rooted in the African American experience, with its narrative set in Central and Southern Florida and framed by the significant Black community of Eatonville. Hurston designed the protagonist, Janie Crawford, at a time when African American female heroes were notably uncommon in literature. Through Janie Crawford's three marriages, Hurston masterfully explores the protagonist's profound struggle for female autonomy and self-determination.

Janie's relationships expose different forms of oppression, highlighting the rigid expectations placed on women concerning their roles as wives, keeper, and supporters of their husbands. In Hurston's writing, the protagonist Janie is forced to lead the tension between societal expectations and her own desires for freedom and self-determination. Her different marriage to Logan Killicks; Jody Starks; and Tea Cake illustrate varying degrees of oppression, ultimately controlling her vision related to determination. Janie's first marriage to Logan Killicks is arranged by her grandmother Nanny, who believes that defense and material stability are more important than love. As an African American woman who endured years of suffering, Nanny the grandmother of the protagonist Janie Crawford fears that Janie Crawford will face the same hardships if she does not have a protective husband. When he insists that she helps him covering the land, "Janie realizes that love will not grow in such an oppressive environment, leading to her first act of defiance leaving her first husband Logan Killicks to pursue a different life" (Hurston, 1937:32). Ironically, these oppressive marriages make these women powerful. Initially, these women are feeling upon as possession, and thus their identities are demeaning. Janie's society is very oppressive towards women and puts traditional gender roles on

Janie. During this research papers we mentioned that, the protagonist Janie Crawford goes through with marrying Logan Killicks, even though she did not like this. Although Janie's grandmother wants her to marry Logan Killick in order for her to have a better life, I cannot have cared if it is my grandmother. If my grandmother kept on pushing me to marry an old, man like Logan Killick, I would run away.

Even though I can have only been 16-year-old in Janie's situation, I still would have had better sense than to marry someone whom I did not want to and be unhappy for the rest of my life. In addition, Janie makes the bold decision to run off with Jody Stark a new life, as the story states, Janie Crawford hurried out south. "Even if Jody is not there waiting for her, the change is bound to do her good" (Hurstons, 1937:32). In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, the protagonist Janie who is an African American woman has experienced racial and social inequalities in the South. In Morrison's it is very tragic to see the effects of people on the minds of African American. In *Tar Baby* we notice that the protagonist Jadine who is an African is rooted in the practices of white's culture. In her adolescence she loses her mother and father. She was raised by her aunt and uncle where she lost the relationship between both the white and the black. She wants that world which is full of color and attraction to considers her grandmother as retrograde.

Tar Baby serves as an important message which illuminated that neither consider nor protection is realizable for women. The novel identifies how women *have been considered as an inferior by the male's and they are constantly been criticized and "use for only sexual favors and men do not even know them as an individual woman"* (Morrison, 1981:48). As far as, the protagonist Jadine Childs confronts others' expectations of her racial identity frequently in Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* she is up against her white boyfriend's expectations. She suspects that he is only interested because she is African American women, but she also wonders if this singular obsession of his prevents him from seeing her as the person she actually is. His expectations of who she is are defined by her racial identity and create a disconnect between them. However, Racism and sexism play an important role who focused on the conditions of Africa American, where blacks are considered to be slave nevertheless of their gender. Racism after makes the lives of black people intolerable as it focusses on the standards of white man society where they are oppressing. At one time a tar pit is a believing place at last important because tar is used to build thing. It held things together.

Tar Baby means the black women who can protect things together. In Morrison's *Tar Baby* considers initially the black women's oppression and their struggles against the oppression situation they inhabit as well as the white women's situating in the Patriarchal society.

This story discusses the effects of Morrison's story as a universal regulation involving whiteness in American society who led self-destruction and sexual objectification of women, Morrison's novel elaborates sexual abuse and white looks conscience. In Morrison's *Tar Baby* depicts the struggle of the protagonist Jadine to reconcile her black origins with her upbeat white lifestyle. Since the late twentieth century, especially in Eatonville it has been regarded as influence to both African American Literature and women's literature. The real community of Eatonville is one of the first self-governing African American communities in the United States, providing safety and opportunity for its African American residents. Feminism is one of the main themes of the novel as the story of Janie Crawford and Jadine Childs can be seen as analogy of the feminist revolution. Bell Hooks (2000) defined that feminism is a movement to end sexism, sexist exploitation, and oppression. It clearly states that the movement is not about being antimalle, but it is clear that the problem is sexism. Feminism is a consciousness-raising movement to get people to understand that gender is an organizing principle of life. The underlying belief is that women and men should be accorded equal opportunities and respect. In Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and Morrison's *Tar Baby*, deal with a feminist approach, because our themes talk about social problems between man and woman.

This study is about human society. The word feminism is generally defined as the movement to end women's oppression. Feminism is the study of how women are treated by culture. One of these feminist themes is woman versus society. The 20th century characteristics in Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and Morrison's *Tar Baby* include the struggle for identity, the interchange of racism and discrimination against African American women, the impact of social and economic changes.

Both novel address themes of African American women under oppressive constructions; the search for collocation, and the complexities of ideologues relationships within a society that marginalized and objectified African American people. The origin of black In the United States of America seventieth and eightieth centuries, at least 200. 000 Black people are taken

from Africa to America, and sold as slaves, most of the rich people in America as slaves in order to work in whites' plantations or farms. In the nineteenth century, the states in the North of the United States of America became more and more industrialized. They did not need slaves and more. And many people thought that slavery is immoral. So, in the North, the slaves are freed; and the Government in Washington asked the States in the South to free their slaves as well. But the North have won the war, and the slaves in the South are freed (Dominique, 1995:26). *Tar Baby* is a novel written by Toni Morrison (1931-2019) are two female American writers of the 20th century. Set in the Caribbean, New York. The plot opens on violent relationship between the protagonist Jadine Childs discriminating, and Son a man extremely joined to African American tradition. As well, Hurston's writing *Their Eyes Were Watching God* it is controversial because it did not fit easily into stereotypes of black stories. She is criticized within the black community for taking funds from whites her writing; she wrote about themes also black to appeal to many white.

This study assumes that American women's rebellion against men's oppressions is the weapon they use in their continuous battle for social equality. In Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* portrays the protagonist Jadine Childs who abandons her culture and heritage and accepts a new one. *Tar Baby* is a name that white people call black children, black girls. At one time, a tar pit is a holy place, at least annually significant place, because Tar is used to build things. Held together things like Moses little boat and the pyramids. *Tar Baby* comes to mean the black woman who can hold things together. *Tar Baby* opens with an unnamed black swimming from a ship to the shore of a Caribbean Island. He meddles with the African American servants, Sydney and Ondine as they perform most of the practical labor of running the house. The heavier yard and house work is performed by Therese and Gideon, black natives of a nearby Island.

In Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby* explores conflicts of race class and sex. *Tar Baby* portrays a love affair between Jadine and Son, two black Americans from very different worlds and *Tar Baby* is the story of two families, the streets and the protagonist Jadine Childs who are connected as employee, but whose lives in the interconnected as though they are family. It is important to note that *Tar Baby*, is the first African American woman to win a Nobel Prize. In literature in 1993. Note that the story of *Tar Baby* took place in 1930 on the Caribbean Island of Isle de Chevaliers. So, deterioration, exploitation and privilege are key subjects in this study. These

concepts are totally linked to phenomenon known as oppression that exists in both black and white world. Attempts to eliminate oppression in the society are reasonably new and the focus may be on one group to the neglect of another. In the United States and the Northern Ireland in the 1960s, while the Civil Rights Movements bring a focus on inequality and opposition of human rights to minority groups on the foundation of race, class, and gender inequality, respectively the opposition of rights for women are largely neglected. It must be suggested as an aside that the forces that bring about freedoms for the groups in question finally led to the feminist movement and social changes that extended across the Western world in the next generation. Oppression refers to discrimination when the injustice does not target and may not directly afflict everyone in society but instead target or disproportion impacts specific groups of people. All black town in Florida where Son, and Jadine love concern. At the end of the story in *Tar Baby*, the main protagonist chooses to return to Europe, apparently rejecting the complication of her relationship with Son. This decision can be explained as her attempt to escape the oppression of both her African American identity and the assumption of her family. In terms of conclusion *Tar Baby*, focuses on the matters related to involvement and relationships.

Oppression of Janie and Jadine

The word 'oppress' derives from the Latin 'oppresses'. On the contrary, oppression is evil or unreasonable treatment, of African American in terms of power, and usually under government authority. Oppression can also refer to discrimination when the discrimination does not aim or affect everybody and may not directly afflict everyone in society but instead affects specific groups in society. No agreed universal image or termination process for oppression has existed so far, even though some theorists mention evidence of various forms of oppression in society, such as social oppression, cultural oppression, political, religious oppression, belief oppression, institutional oppression, and economic oppression.

Nevertheless, there is one aspect about oppression that can be viewed as universal and that is oppression occurs when an individual forces their views or will onto another without considering their natural rights. The definition of oppression according to *The Social Work Dictionary* "the social act of placing severe restrictions on an individual group or institution". Typically, a government or political organization in power places restrictions formally or

covertly on oppressed groups so they may be exploited and less able to compete with other social groups. “The oppressed individual or group is devalued, exploited, and deprived of privileges by the individual or group who has more power” (Barker, 2003:307). The universal declaration of human rights offers a bench mark from who to assess both individual and structural models of oppression. African American women have been made multiple victims of racial, gender inequality, racial discrimination by the males of their own community. They have been subject to both kind of discrimination racism. It is common experience women do have their own peculiar world and experiences unlike any white or black men and white women. They have to fight not only against white patriarchy and white women’s racism, but also against gender inequality. Females suffer from the triple oppression such as, sexism, racism, and gender inequality. One of the life problems that becomes the source of the literary works is the position of women in society. In Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* the protagonist Janie Crawford is oppressed more often everywhere than the protagonist Jadine Childs in *Tar Baby*. Morrison’s goal is to take down woman’s ability through her voice and her movement. In Toni Morrison’s *Tar Baby*, the protagonist Jadine is not the typical submissive character. She is a modern-day feminist. tragically, she cannot escape the part of oppression she comes in touch with throughout Morrison’s writing. Her characters, from the soul, nonetheless, seek to present day gender inequality belief of society. Both of these authors wrote out the abolement of what it is feel being a woman in society, and in doing so they make use of wish as a written tool. In Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and Toni Morrison’s *Tar Baby* subject matters is based on women’s rights and women’s freedom. The protagonist Janie Crawford who struggles for freedom is deeply intertwined with the subject of gender inequality; and her ability to articulate her thoughts, desires, and freedom. In Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eye Were Watching God* the narrator portrays Janie’s journey as a defiance of patriarchal structures that oppress women. For example, “the three key relationships in Janie Crawford life Logan Killicks, Jody Starks, and Tea Cake illustrate different forms of oppression and empowerment that influence her path toward self-realization” (Hurston, 1937:84). The significance of Hurston’s work extends beyond Janie’s personal journey. It reflects broader issues of race, class, and gender inequality in early twentieth century. American novel. By reclaiming her freedom, the protagonist Janie Crawford not only liberates herself but also challenges societal constraints imposed on African American women. According to the science

of biology women and men are different, but as spiritual and physical person equip with reason and right to freedom, both of them have intrinsic equation. Both of them have a right to develop themselves. In society, women have the lower position than men. When women get married, they will have role as wife and mother.

In both *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *Tar Baby* in educational system including their positions; in American society. Women do not get freedom and equality; they cannot get professions that they need. And intellectual inferior to the man" (Rubenstein, 1987:7). This assumption causes the women become the second ordinary class in political and social level. Women are only responsible to their husband, child and household like a wife or a mother. In men's view, women do not have freedom, equality and any important feeling.

They do not deserve to get job and education and cannot enter some professions. Society considers women as people who have no ability to do something. On the one hand, these conditions make the protagonist Janie and Jadine to struggle for their right to preserve their image in their community. In both *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *Tar Baby* women characters claim for their rights to be treated equal to men. Men want women to stay under their domination that is why they do not want their women to be free. At the twentieth century men do not deserve their wives to get job and education and cannot enter some professions their say that the place of women is at home to take care of family and household. But not all of them who think so. Nowadays it is not the same because some of them notice that women also help the family when she is worked and getting the salary, she can take care of herself or her family. Like this their relationship will be good. And her need will not totally depend on men. In doing so, men cannot oppress women and the domination of men will be reduced. The protagonists Janie and Jadine are under the control of their husband and live in patriarchal in society. That is why *Tar Baby*, consider primarily the African American women's oppression and their struggles in the oppressive environments they inhabit as well as white women's positioning in the patriarchal situation. Morrison has dealt with the subjects of oppression and sacrifice in all her novels.

The conflict between the black and the white societies, the victimization of the blacks by the dominant whites, the violence and bloodshed within the black communities have been presented nowhere so effectively in the entire American fiction. In all her major novels Toni Morrison

has live upon the theme of oppression and gender inequality. The African American women's position in the society seems harsher than white women in general since they experience triple oppression as race, class and gender inequality. In those types of society's, the women are oppressed because of males who are dominant. In Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* the main protagonist Janie and Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*, the main protagonist Jadine, are oppressed in the society they are brought up in. The role of women in traditional societies is to tend to the house and the children. Women in those societies have no say anything or in most cases men took away their freedom. Now in our society women are able to speak out and do as they want to do. As far as, men in those society's wanted money, power, food on the table and for their women or wives to just be quiet and to sit back and be pretty. Although these women are from different backgrounds, they are both dominated by the men and their family members. In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *Tar Baby* life around the turn twentieth century through novels. In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, and *Tar Baby* reflects and engages with the human condition, offer insights into our share experiences, values, and aspiration.

Gender roles

Gender roles are defined as the behaviors expected of men and women because of their status as males and females. As part of the criticism against role theory by gender theorist such as Candace West and Don Zimmerman (1987), one will notice that the statuses of boy or girl and man or woman carry different meanings and powers, which are not captured by role theory (you could read more about this issue in Chapter 8). Using role theory, we could say that the sexual characteristics of an individual become his/her master status. From the moment they leave the womb, babies usually wear either pink or blue to designate their sex. Hence, the internal sexist nature of black men is clear, as they sought a pure patriarchal society alienating women from the political spectrum eventually, the black community is split because of gender roles, as the black men enjoyed the right to vote and gained more political power, black women are ambivalent to choose who direction to follow. On the one hand, if they advocate women rights this means that they consent themselves to amalgamate with white females who declare publicly their positive attitudes towards racism. This issue leads black men to accuse them for betrayal to the whole black community and offending to black men in particular. On the other hand, if they reject such decision they fall under the commands of black men and put their destiny in

their hands, otherwise celebrating the emergence of another patriarchal society with more legitimate power (Hooks, 1981:3). Therefore, black women are torn between the black men's sexist intentions and white females' interpretations who sought to "romanticize the black female experience rather than discuss the negative impact of that oppression" (Hooks, 1981:6). Try to describe them in a way that seems more idealized than it really is, through describing them as strong black females who are an example of bravery and their capability of change, but what is hidden behind that perspective, is that they regard a strong black woman the one who knew how to survive with oppression and accepted her fate as it is, but the reality is that: Black women are told that we can find our dignity not in liberation from oppression, but in how well we can adjust, adapt, and cope. Peoples have been asked to stand up and be congratulated for being "good little women" and then told to sit down and shut up. No one bothered to discuss the way in who sexism operates both independently of and simultaneously with racism to oppress us according to (Hooks, 1981:7). Hence, that perception does not fit the real ambitions of black women who see freedom only through overcoming any kind of oppression whether racism as far as they both articulate in the same way, for the same purpose, and by the same people.

Race and Gender

Africa-American women are not always treated equally with African American men. This assumption could that they can either be treated better or worse than men. However, it may be true at some point that one gender can be privileged more than another in specific circumstances. It is important to note that gender issues in the black communities are inseparable with race issues in America. The presumption that one gender within the black community may have enjoyed relative privilege seems quite inappropriate, since black people as a whole are under a white oppression and are discriminated regardless of their sex. However, it is essential to acknowledge the differences between men and women in their gender.

Racial Discrimination in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* and *Tar Baby*

In regard to novel innovation, black women who were born at the turn, of the century had no choice but to keep following their continue path of liberation into freedom along the next century.

So far as, women started to challenge the stereotypes, unequal political laws, social constraints and mainly sexist decisions that assumed them to have a subordinate position, because it is the last thing that can prevent them from living as normal life other women. Accordingly, while black females worked hand in hand with black males to resist racism, they find themselves following a different path because they realized afterwards that this resistance actually started in favor of the whole black community but turned towards constructing a patriarchal society. In this regard Bell Hooks claims: Although black women and men have struggled equally for liberation during slavery much of the Reconstruction era, black male political leaders upheld patriarchal values. As black men advanced in all spheres of American life, they encouraged black woman to assume a more subservient role. According to A. D. Morris (1984) “a tripartite system of oppression is the system of dominance in the south that protected the privileges of the white society” (qtd. in Foster and Tillman, 2009:27). He assumes that in the shadow of this system African Americans are controlled economically, politically and personally” (27). This means that when the whites dominate blacks financially, the social and personal aspects are to be controlled unwillingly. In view of that, blacks are concentrated in the cities with low paid jobs, and most of black women in the southern states are either holding domestic jobs or working in the plantations, while the whites are highly positioned in jobs and enjoying a better working condition and status; This class paradox is in favor of the whites since it empowered them to control who is lower than their position, however, for the blacks it urged them to revolutionize against this inhuman inequalities, and as far as women are concerned, this generation of submissive and silent women who internalized racism and got used to invisibility started to fade with the rise of a new generation who held definite objectives, believing in the cultural rebellion who is basically built on hope.

Black women of the late 19th century started resistance primarily by understanding what it takes to become free and to get out of the silence zone, they knew that liberation is not only confined to rejecting sexist ideas within black society and just sit there waiting for a miracle to set them free, rather they believed in their ability to participate in social movements calling for women rights and eventually this is the case; black women participated in the women's right movement with female figures such as Anna Cooper, Maria W. Stewart, Sojourner Truth and others, and although they emerged gradually alongside men to make a change in the way blacks are perceived by the other, activists from both genders emerged having the same objectives, for

some reasons men's voice seemed to receive great importance in comparison to females. In this regard, in the equal rights convention Sojourner Truth delivered her famous speech saying: There is a great stir about colored men getting their rights, but not a word about the colored women; and if colored men get their rights, and not colored women theirs, you see the colored men will be masters over the women, and it will be just as bad as it is before.

So, I am for keeping the thing going while things are stirring; because if we wait till, it will take a great while to get it going again. (Hooks, 1981: 4) Furthermore, in the period when there is an ongoing activism about defending blacks' suffrage, white men agreed on giving the blacks the right to vote and censure the promotions of black women's rights. At this moment all what is kept under wraps is revealed as black men celebrated the decision and supported the whites in denying the role of black women. The latter word means the white superior who manages the lower social classes who consider both black men and white females, with no slight consideration to black women. However, the whites' representations of blacks in their literary works failed to reach the expectations, as they are convinced that the problem is due to racism. They are unable to see the reality because they are not put in the same position as black women (Hooks, 1981:6). Consequently, black females are encouraged to write their experiences from their perspectives to convince the world that they are manipulated by means of racism. Thus, they try to look for transformation and self-retaliation from within to overcome any kind of oppression from its roots. When mentioning racism and classism can be missing from the equation since it is the tool to exercise both of them. It is the social and economic structures that guarantee an absolute power.

The fact of being black, African American, poor, and a woman is a challenging position, especially when black men already got a political power. This study seeks to show that women are in the lowest level in social hierarchy. The socio-economic condition of America imposed a great heaviness on the shoulders of black women as they did not have a solid base that can assist them. In term of resistance writers under study make use of various narrative strategies that aim at reinforcing black society as a whole, working on the status of women. These author's visions lead to a double power to raise a strong black society.

Gender Discrimination

Gender discrimination is a result of unequal treatment according to base gender conducted by the community. Inequality and gender discrimination also affect both women and men. This different treatment creates a distinction on the roles and social position between women and men. According to Walby because of the discrimination, women suffer a lot of social restrictions on private life and social life (1990:46). In private life, women suffer from restrictions to participate beyond her role as a wife. Meanwhile, in social life, women suffer also from restrictions to participate in social institutions. As such, there are some causes and effects related to these two types of restrictions that need to be understood.

Conclusion

In Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*, we notice that the romantic relationship between the protagonist Jadine Childs and Son could be regarded as one of the most problematic areas. The relationships among the couples illustrate many contemporary problems of race, class, gender inequality and national power. Here we can see that, the three marriages of the protagonist Janie Crawford represent different stages of this oppression. The first marriage with Logan Killicks represents the struggle for economic security, with Longan representing traditional patriarchal ideology. On the other hand, the second marriage symbolizes objectification and control through a male-dominated political and societal framework. The protagonist Janie Crawford story ultimately concludes with self-actualization, as she has overcome the challenges of oppression to achieve a sense of personal fulfillment and freedom.

Toni Morrison uses some of the characters to bring out the issue of racial segregation between African American and white Americans. In the American society, people have preconceived opinions about Black's emergency. They despise them because they believe they are superior to them. The protagonist Jadine Childs believe that they are better than the rest of the people in the community. These two protagonists Janie Crawford and Jadine Childs experiences are marked by the double oppression of sexism and racism, where they are subjugated by both white and Black men. People hold preconceived ideas about the African American people that are very negative. Racial socialization is a behavior that is prevalent in the American Society. Consequently, they have inculcated in their children stereotypes that cannot eradicate.

It is interested to witness how a woman who is once adopted the culture of African American people treats a person whom they once share a common culture and heritage.

The behavior of the characters demonstrates that racism is still a big deal in the American society. There is mistrust between the African Americans and Whites although the two races cohabited together. we have concentrated first on the principle of oppression. Women have struggled for equality and against oppression for centuries, and although some battles have been partly won-such as, the right to vote and equal access to education-women are still discretionally affected by all forms of violence and discrimination in every aspect of life. The United States of America have been, in the words of the American Constitution, *a more perfect Union*. After the American Civil War, the African Americans in the United States of America are free. But they are not equal. Most whites in South did not want that to change. *Tar Baby*, is the story that clearly demonstrates the predicament of African American during the servitude era. Although, slavery ending many years ago; its effects can still be felt at this moment. White Americans have not yet settled well as it has been maintaining in a number of research works. The African Americans are conscious to be people who are caring of violence and like cause disorder in the society. The White Americans are considered to be superior to African Americans.

The American society cannot forget about the existence of dominant stereotype that serves as is a threat for to the cordial relationship between white and blacks in the society. *Tar Baby* individually concentrates on black feminist problems while her story *Tar Baby* that stresses the contain of white women along with the black women's issues. Whether white or black, women face a different level of subordination and oppression.

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