THE TREATMENTS OF BLACK SLAVE BEFORE AND AFTER ABOLITION IN THE ADVENTURES OF HUCKLEBERRY FINN

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ABSTRACT

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The aim of this study is to find out the treatments of black slave before and after abolition in Twain’s novel. Through this research, the writer wants to explain the treatments of black slave before and after abolition and what the effects of slavery for blacks are, after abolition.

This is a descriptive analytical study. The writer uses two kinds of data, the primary data are taken from the Mark Twain’s novel while the secondary data are taken from references in the libraries and references from internet.

The result of this study reveals that the treatments of black slave before and after abolition are not too different. Moreover, the effects of slavery for black people after abolition were segregation in many ways. The segregation that was doing by whites, trigger blacks to make a movement to get their right. Their movement resulted the Civil Right Act in 1964 that support the right of blacks in all aspects.
CHAPTER I
INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the study

If we talk about slavery, there is no history of slavery that darker and crueler than in America. Slavery describes a wide variety of conditions whereby one person subordinates another, usually by the exercise of physical coercion and exerts some proprietorship, either legally or customarily. Slavery has been associated from simplest to the most complex, from the earliest times to the present. Slavery was a part of America history that never be forgotten of human life’s. Slavery was in America for hundred years, and it was a long journey for slaves to get their freedom. Freedom that is filled by struggle, misery, and hope. An endless hope to get freedom in the land where all the people from different races, religion, cultures hope for freedom, independence and better life.

The abolition of slavery started when the U.S President Abraham Lincoln proclaimed freedom for slaves with Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863. Moreover, it powered by the Thirteenth Amendments to the constitution on December 6, 1865 (with final recognition of the amendment on December 18). It was a foundation for black people to live free. Although after the abolition not all the slaves being treat quite different. Black slaves who were free from slavery and try to blend with societies still get prejudice and discrimination.

But in other part slavery was inspire American writers to write about slavery. Such as; Beeches Stowe in Uncle Tom’s Cabin, Margaret Mitchell in Gone with the Wind, and Mark Twain in the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn. The writer wants to analyze Twain’s novel because the main character is a young boy who has a special opinion about black slave. At that time before abolition, many white people thought
that blacks were inferior race “must be slaved”. However, Huck who is a young boy feel qualm about returning Jim “the black slave” to the world from which he so desperately wanted to escape. Then he struggled to set Jim free from slavery.

For decades after their Emancipation many former slaves living in the South and had a low standard of living. In some states, it was only after civil rights movements of the 1950’s and 60’s that blacks obtained legal protection from racial discrimination.

The reason why the writer chooses this topic because this topic shows that the treatments of black slave influence the slave to struggle to get their freedom with Emancipation Proclamation that abolish slavery. And after the abolition the treatments of black people is very interesting to analyze because all these slaves become free people but they still struggle to against the treatments of white people who still affected by the treatments of slave before abolition.

The writer wants to investigate the treatments of black slave before and after abolition. The treatments of black slaves before abolition made slave struggle to get their freedom, and it happened with the Emancipation Proclamation. The effects of slavery for black people after abolition have been feeling until now.

The writer chooses a qualitative method in her study, because the data in the form of word. The writer uses a historical approach because she wants to find the history of slave before and after abolition. The writer focuses on the work itself and other related references. The title of this thesis is The Treatments of Black Slave Before and After Abolition in the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.
CHAPTER IV
RESULT OF STUDY AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Biography of Mark Twain

Samuel Langhorne Clemens was born in the small village of Florida, on November 30, 1835. His parents John Marshall Clemens and Jane Lampton Clemens, descendants of slaveholding Virginians, had been married in Kentucky and had made their way through Tennessee to Missouri. When Sam was 4, his father, an impractical man with grandiose ideas of making a fortune, moved the family to Hannibal, where “the great Mississippi, the majestic Mississippi (rolled) its mile wide tide along.” There, on the west bank of the river, with steamboats making their daily stops, Sam spent his boyhood.

Mark Twain’s Harford years were unquestionably his most creative. Following Roughing It, in relatively swift succession he published The Gilded Age (1873), a satire written in collaboration with Charles Dudley Warner; Old Times on the Mississippi (1875). A series of sketches for the Atlantic magazine that carried him backward in time to the great days of steam boating but forward in art to a complete mastery of humorous autobiography; and The Adventure of Tom Sawyer (1876), a novel that reached into his masterpiece, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, begun in 1876 but not finished until 1884.

4.2 Synopsis of The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

The beginning of the story is Huck and his friend Tom (you can see the story about Tom in The Adventures of Tom Sawyer by Mark Twain), found the money from the robbers that had hidden in the cave. Six thousand dollars each, all in gold. But they didn’t need that money, yet. Therefore, Judge Thatcher put it in the bank, and they could each get a dollar a day.
The Widow Douglas took Huck as her own son promised to civilize him. But Huck couldn’t stand any longer lived with her. The Widow Douglas was so regular and decent in all her ways that is way Huck ran away to live free. But it didn’t stay longer because Huck came back to the widow home. Because Tom Sawyer haunted him and he was planning to start a robber gang. The widow has a sister, Miss Watson; she looks like her old sister decent in all her ways. Huck’s pap was scare, he always treat Huck so badly. Huck’s pap was almost fifty; his hair was long, tangled and greasy. With his bad attitude and temperament that made him so mean.

In their adventures, they met people who they did not expect. They saw a steamboat that had crashed on some rocks, and there was a death man on the steamboat, unfortunately the steamboat filled by a gang of murders. Another story they met two fraud who wanted to sell Jim, Huck friend to slave market to get money.

The two-fraud felt upset with Huck was doing so they sell Jim to the landowner. Huck very sad that his best friend was sold by those frauds. Then, Huck met his old friend Tom Sawyer; Tom was helping Huck to release Jim from the landowner. With Tom helps, Huck can save Jim. Then at last Huck live free with his friend Jim—the black slave, and start the new adventures.

4.3 The Characters

4.3.1 Huckleberry Finn
4.3.2 Tom Sawyer
4.3.3 Jim
4.3.4 Widow Douglas

4.4 Discussion

This thesis would like to investigate the treatments of black slaves before and after abolition and what the effects of slavery for black people after abolition.
4.5 The Treatments of Black Slaves before the Abolition

4.5.1 Sell to the Slave Trade

Trade is an activity of buying and selling or exchange of commodities for profit; especially between nation; commerce and trading. Slave trade is the procuring, transportation and sale of human; especially Africans as slaves.

In The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Jim will be sold by his owner to the slave trade.

“Well, you see, it’uz dis way. Ole Missus-dat’s Miss Watson She pecks on me all de time, en treats me pooty rough, but she awluz said she wouldn’t sell me down to Orleans. But I noticed dey wuz a nigger trader roun’de place considerable, ………, but she could git eight hund’d dollars for me, en it’uz sich a big stack o’money she could’ resis”
(TAoHF, chapter viii, page 284)

“Whoever saved him would send him back so as to get the reward, And then Miss Watson would sell him South, sure”
(TAoHF, chapter xiv, page 320)

From the quotation above, the writer concludes that the master of the slave have right to treat his slave in many ways. The quotation above shows that the master wants to sell his slave to Orleans. The master will get money of selling his slave because at that time slave market was a vital element. Selling African slave brought profit for the slave owner, and the slaveholder.

4.5.2 Runaway Slave

Runaway slave is a slave who figuratively stole himself from his master faced a bleak future. It was usual for a slave to runaway from his owner, but the punishment was very painful and mean. Although it was hard for a slave to run away but many slaves were still trying to risk their life to free by escape from the mines, plantation, or event from the house where they work as servant.
“It had a picture of a runaway nigger, with a bundle on a stick, over his shoulder, and ‘$ 200 reward’ under it...., and whoever would catch him and send him back, he could have the reward and expenses”
(TAoHF, chapter xx, page 384)

Runaway slave must be careful because runaway slave is a free slave and for anyone who can take him they have a power to sell him or her. Although no one knows, he or she belongs to whom at the first.

“He’s a runaway nigger, and they’ve got him”
“Well, I reckon! There’s two hundred dollars reward on him. It’s like picking up money out’n the road”
(TAoHF, chapter xxxi, page 469)

From the quotation above the writer concludes that the nigger slave Jim was runaway from his owner. Moreover, being a runaway slave was very danger if they were caught they were punishment wait them or even they were sold to the slave market. That is why a runaway slave being caught because there was a big reward for anyone who found the runaway slave. Because slave was a precious property at that time.

4.6 The Treatments of Black Slave after the Abolition
4.6.1. Prejudice

Prejudice was a common treatment that blacks get before the abolition. The Southerners and some of Northerners still have prejudice toward blacks. They still think that blacks were not accepted to live in United States and they should be treated as slave even after abolition.

Jim Crow Law that prohibited blacks from using the same public accommodation as whites. And it is powered by

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)

“The ‘separate but equal’ provision of public accommodations by state Governments is constitutional under the Equal Protection Clause”
Ex: In the United States, media have tended to foster ethnic stereotypes. Consider the portrayal of blacks in films, until the late 1950’s black did not appear in many films. When they did, they were usually shown docile, slow-witted, lazy and irresponsible.

This example shows that the prejudice toward blacks still happen after abolition. Blacks became ethnic group to be stereotyped by the media. The portrayals of blacks as docile, slow-witted, lazy, and irresponsible by media influenced many people’s attitudes toward them. The white’s treatment toward blacks was also influenced by the treatment of slave before abolition.

4.6.2 Discrimination

Discrimination can be practiced by an individual or an institution. Institution discrimination occurs when some large organization (for example, a government, business, or school) engages in practices that are unfair to members of some group and puts them at a disadvantage. Institution occurs when an institution makes laws or rules that affect the behavior of large numbers of people.

It is supported by Cumming v. Richmond County Board of Education (1899) “The Richmond County tax, that only supported schools open to white students, was not illegal. The city was allowed to determine the allocation of fund.”

Ex: James Meredith won a lawsuit that allowed him admission to the University of Mississippi in September 1962. He attempt to enter campus on September 20, on September 25, and again on September 26, only to blocked by Mississippi Governor Ross R. Barnett, who proclaimed that “no school will be integrated in Mississippi while I am your governor.”

From the example, shows that the Governor was refused to allow a black student to enter a university. It because there still tendency with blacks. In addition, many
members of senate and congress are white who can support the discrimination act. They hard to accepted blacks as their citizen, Negroes were considered as an addition to the despised caste of pre-Civil war and treat them in the same way.

4.7 The Effects of Slavery after the Abolition
   1. Racial segregation
   2. Disenfranchisement
   3. Exploitation
   4. Violence
CHAPTER V
CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

5.1 Conclusion

The writer drew a conclusion as follows:

The treatments of blacks before and after abolition are not too different. The treatments of blacks before abolition such as;
1. Sell to the slave trade
2. Runaway slave
3. Punishment
4. Prejudice
5. Discrimination
6. Freedom

The treatments of slave after abolition such as;
1. Prejudice
2. Discrimination

The effects of slavery are segregation that showed in many part. Moreover, the segregation that was doing by whites made, trigger blacks to make a movement to get their right. Their movement resulted the Civil Right in 1964 that support the rights of blacks in all aspects.

5.2 Suggestion

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn is one of American greatest literature. It is written by Mark Twain (his pseudonyms of Samuel Clemens Langhorne), the greatest writers from America. Twain’s creation of Tom Sawyer and Huckleberry Finn was also rooted in his extensive apprenticeship and hard work as a writer.
The life of black people before abolition was hard and blacks still get rude treatments even after the abolition. Blacks have been through a long journey to get their right. The struggle that never stopped by whites. One thing that we can find in this novel is that the historical novel is not a bore story to read because we can learn from the history. It gives enlightenments and knowledge to the readers. Moreover, the most important we can have other perception how to see and estimate the past events with present point of view.
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