

DEMOCRATIC AND POPULAR REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA
MINISTRY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND
SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH
UNIVERSITY OF AMMAR THELEDJI- LAGHOUAT
FACULTY OF LETTERS AND FOREIGN LANGUGAES
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH



**Racial Discrimination against African Americans from Ralph
Ellison's Invisible Man (1952) to Claudia Rankine's Citizen: An
American lyric (2014)**

A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH IN PARTIAL
FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MASTER DEGREE IN CIVILIZATION AND
LITERATURE

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Academic Year 2021-2022

Acknowledgements

First of all, I am deeply grateful to ALLAH Almighty for the divine blessing through the years .

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my dear supervisor Sarra Ahlem BEDERINA for her precious guidance and advice .

I am most grateful to my proponent family for their consistent moral, emotional and financial support. Thanks to my parents Abedelkader , Feriha , my sisters and brothers Ahmed , Lamin , Fatna , Talia and Amina , and my fiance Youcef . And my teacher Aicha HOCINE for her help .

Finally, I would like to thank the teachers of the Department of English.

Dedication

This work is dedicated to my parents , my father for his endless support , and my mother for encouraging me in moving forward to finish my studies in perfect way . To my brothers Ahmed and Lamine for being there for me whether in my studies or in my life . To my dear sisters Fatna , Talia and Amina for supporting me .To Youcef for encouraging me . Moreover , to my supervisor Sarra Ahlem BEDERINA .

Ragab

Abstract

Abstract

The African-American traumatic experience with slavery aroused another battle with identity along the way. The end of segregation in schools , politics , marriages and workplaces created a mask that hid racial inequalities and injustices . Whereas , the African American literature sprang from the blacks' suffering during and after slavery . At the beginning , the authors faced challenging circumstances ; they had to challenge and to change the stereotypes about considering the blacks as invisible , inferior and not able to produce work of literature. This dissertation will undertake the explanatory approach to focus on the issue of racism in America and its impacts on the life of African American individuals and the reasons that made race acts grow up , throw examining the novel *Invisible Man* 1952 of Ralph Ellison and the American lyric *Citizen* 2014 by Claudia Rankine in order to highlight the relationship between the American society and African American society . *Invisible Man* deals the blacks' identity and their American experiences , focusing on themes of identity , invisibility , alienation , racism and blindness in order to explore , while investigating *Citizen : An American Lyric* (2014) and the African American racial experience , it discuss similar themes to *Invisible Man* in addition to microaggressions . This dissertation demonstrates different faces of racism and its consequences on the African Americans ; yet tries to find out the main reasons of racism between people . As a result , this dissertation concluded that the issue of race in America in the twenty-first century is still a turbulent matter , while the racist actions were encouraged by the principle beliefs that human beings raised on as race , culture , skin color .

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General Introduction :

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Human beings always tend to ask and to know about their nature their position in life , their meaning among other species , people interrogate about their identity and about what will make them speical from others . There are many similarities and differences that will differentiate people from other ones .

People should know the main principles that will define and differ them and must learn it from their birthtime as race , culture , religion , ideology , Personalitie , emotion , talent , habit , gender , these main principles that will make them who they are , which can also affects the way they acts and talk . However , Racism is the belief that humans may be divided into separate and exclusive biological entities called “races” ; that there is a causal link between inherited physical traits and traits of personality , intellect , morality , and other cultural and behavioral features ; that some races are innately superior to others , which caused discrimination between groups . People , groups , and minorities faces racism every day over the world with various levels and forms .

Racism is a part of American history that can never be forgotten ; a dark past that shows the constant mistreatment of African-Americans . Although African-Americans were freed from slavery in the 1860's , discrimination continues to be seen today . Racism is defined as prejudice , discrimination , or antagonism directed against someone of a different race based on the belief that one's own race is superior . Black people were one of the most largest groups in the United States minorities .

African Americans were the large minority of enslaved people in America . African Americans were suffering from slavery over centuries , struggling and fighting for their freedom , to gain and to establish their identity , and fighting to have a refrence to any country. The U.S law had inequalities as well as customs of the early republic that excluded large parts of the

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population. This meant that African Americans started off with absolutely little to no rights . During slavery , the unpaid labor of the slaves was a crucial element to the staggering profit of the industries . The slaves were actually the single most important element. African Americans went from being slaves who were treated as animals to finally became people with names related to a country to normal citizens in America .

Therefore , African American went through many steps and laws in order to establish their real identity , they were brought from their home land Africa in order to work in American plantations which was based on agriculture system . They served the needs of their owners ; yet forbidden from all ways of life to read , write or learn , while , they behave and move in limited way . They were so valuable and one of the biggest financial asset to the European slave markets . First of all they were suffered from racial names such as Negro , Colored , Black , and finally to African American . Then they rebelled for their freedom and liberty , thus After slavery, African Americans were granted their freedom but segregation and injustice as citizens prevailed and persisted for over a century . However , their human life , dignity and worth needs to be respected . Another way to look at the soul was their spirit . Their spirit has been damaged due to oppression . Their mind , body and soul has to be respected and deemed just as worthy as white people's . Moreover , the 14th Amendment of U.S Constitution , made them American citizens regardless of color , race or former slave status . African Americans gain their freedom from all what was mentioned , but still treated unequally to whites and discriminated , racism is still a big part of the American culture .

African American literature , is regarded as an outstanding kind of literature that sprang from the suffering of the blacks from enslavement and ill-treatment of the whites that stripped them of any rights. Therefore their authors at first wrote to challenge the common controversies that the blacks are not able to produce an adequate literary work besides to claim

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their rights to be treated as equal human being as it has been stated in the Declaration of Independence “ That all man are created equal ”.

Moreover , the twentieth century modernist literature is known for its split from traditional writing ; Ralph Waldo Ellison is one of those modernist writers who helped the shaping of the African American literature. While reading *Invisible Man* , readers feel that the author draws upon his personal experience and cultural history , he strives to investigate the depths of racism as well as the cloaks of invisibility that is placed in the white dominated society on black people .

Ralph Ellison’s work *Invisible Man* , depicted the social realities of the blacks , and their dilemmas they get encountered within a world dominated by white values and ideologies in which they were marginalized from . Ralph Ellison’s portrayal of the protagonist’s journey towards his self-discovery depicts the harsh reality where the blacks have less chance to participate in a society that marginalizes them . The protagonist is a nameless character who claims to be ‘invisible’ in the opening of the story , he then proceeds to narrate his voyage while he adoptes multiple identities in order to fit with the system that is ruled by the whites only . The story shows the personal growth of the narrator who first believed in the American dream ; which hard work can bring success , but he eventually realizes that a colored man will always find obstacles to guarantee his success and acceptance in a society that is culturally hegemonic and finally he decides to be invisible man .

Otherwise , Claudia Rankine *Citizen : An American lyric* about everyday racism arguing that the overlooking of microaggressions are allowing macroaggressions to occur . Rankine is concerned with “everyday racism” , African Americans experience on a daily basis and the profound affects this has on their self-image , but also the threat this poses to their lives . *Citizen* also is filled with anecdotal microaggressions from both Rankine herself and her

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friends , but also moments when microaggressions escalate to incident that have been frequent in the media such as the Trayvon Martin shooting and Zinedine Zidane's World Cup headbutt . Rankine meditates throughout *Citizen* on what it means to be black in the United States of America in the twenty-first century . Rankine takes the issue of racism which has been a part of the U.S memory for centuries and brings it forth into the twenty-first century where the legacy of racism continues at a time when nobody alive has a memory of slavery .

Hence , this dissertation focuses on the issue of racism in America , and the racist actions that faces African American individuals . It also investigates the blacks' identity and their American experience through the analysis of Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* and Claudia Rankine *Citizen : An American lyric* , in order to fulfill this aim ; the reserch is formulated by a question : how could writers reform attitudes of individuals about racial and psychological cases such as racism ? This research seeks to answer questions in need of further investigation :

- Through the History of Black people in America , how were Black people viewed in the

White dominant society ? How are Black people viewed today ?

- What are the different facets of racism and how does The invisible man depicted them or how does Ralph Ellison approach racism in The Invisible man?

- What are the ways that racism is portrayed and described in Claudia Rankine's book *Citizen: AnAmerican Lyric*?

This dissertation sets a number of hypotheses in order to answer the main question as well as the sub-questions :

- Holding enough information about the history of Black people in America will provide

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more knowledge about Blacks in the White society .

- The events in the Ralph Ellison novel the historical realities of racism and proves that the novel is a mirror of the historical events at that time .
- With the help of Rankine stories , the very essence of Citizen is that Rankine shows how racism has become a part of the structures of the U.S. society .

Therefore , this dissertation will be based on explanatory approach to examine Ralph Ellison Invisible man , and Claudia Rankine Citizen . The dissertation research structure will be divided into three main chapters , in which every chapter will answer one research question . Chapter one will be mainly devoted to the history of Black people in America . The second chapter will be the literary analysis of the novel Invisible Man , investigating the racist experiences and main themes . The last chapter deals with investigation on Claudia Rankine Citizen, discussing examples of racist acts of Rankine's book .

Chapter one :

The History of Black People in America

Chapter one : The History of Black People in America

Introduction:

The history of the black people is an age-old problem that had existed through the world from decades. Black people were one of the most biggest ethnic groups in the United States minorities , who have African origins, as well as , African Americans were the large minority of enslaved people in America . However , the question of black rights was one of the most social phenomena that had appeared in America and suufered from , started from the emergence of slavery and racism till today. African Americans were suffering from slavery over centuries , struggling and fighting for their freedom ,to gain an identity, and for having a refrence to some historical and cultural country .Thus , they were taking from their native home lands Africa by force to work in America in a harsh and catastrophic way. During the 17th and 18th century the enslaved African people were under commerce operations as any goods , they were victims of the whites , bought and sold by them .The blacks became free after the Abolishionist Movement and the end of slavery , but it was just an illusion for them because they have been facing another phase of slavery .

I-1.Blacks in New World:

Oxford Dictionary 2021 defines a slave as " a person who is the legal property of another and is forced to obey them and work for them " , while in Merriam Webster Dictionary 2021 slave is " a person held in servitude as the chattel of another " , and Vocabulary Dictionary 2021 mentions that " slavery is the brutal practice of forcing someone to work hard without paying them a fair wage , sometimes without paying them at all " . " Slavery is a legal under which people are treated as property and treats them as a good under the slave trade , which was a successful economic system " . (Oxford Dictionary 2021 ; Merriam Webster Dictionary 2021 ; Vocabulary Dictionary 2021) .

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Historians had agreed that the most of Blacks in America have an African descent , who had brought by force from their home land Africa to work in new world. Blacks were lived in agriculture groups , influenced by the territory they were born in , some of them were farmers ,while some of them were servants , an some were hunters and fishermen. However , experts assessed that at the period of slave trade in the new world ; 1.5 million and more enslaved people were kidnapped from Africa between 1525 and 1866. Moreover , people who survived from journey of the Middle Passage estimated by 10.7 million .

Since the seventeenth century, Portugal and Holland had dominated the African slave , people were brought from their native land Africa by force to work in new world , All of them were poor people , they were working day after day in illegal and cruel conditions . their rights were limited , no rights to ask, judge or having a vacation , even enslaved women were obliged to work as men , also children were obliged to be ready to do heavy work ; furthermore , marriages between enslaved men and women were illegal . The First entry of slaves were in The British colonies by a Dutch ships in 1619 in Virginia , As John Rolfe stated " Twenty and Odd Negros" , were originated from Angola . Slavery statrted to increase because of economy field (tobaco , cotton) and rice plantations in Virginia , Maryland and North Carolina .However , slaves were consisted more than 50% of population lived in small farms , by 1776 slavery started to spread rapidly as a result of plantations and crops production , which needed high numberos of workers , the African American slaves assisted built the economic basis of new nation ; because they were skillful in agriculture, farming, and mining . By 18th century reached 6 to 7 million enslaved people (History.com) .More, the owners of enslaved people made their slaves depend on them , they were forbidden to read , write or learn , while , they behave and move in limited way . Amillion of African people was seen as savages by their masters , whereas they were wrested from their own ways of life , while obliged to adopt new ones .

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I-1.2. Names and Labels :

Labels and names played a significant part to define racial individuals , minority groups and ethnic groups . Race names were related a long time to the racial behaviors and attitudes (Fairchild 47). In fact ,the first coming of Europeans to Africa to know Africans , their culture and identity , they rapidly named them "Blacks"; However such terms defined the mental , physical , cultural and skin color variances between both Africans and Europeans (Jordan 1968). Likewise, for a long time , Jordan (1968) and others (e.g., Longshare, 1979) had noted that negative expressions had related always to "Black" ;otherwise , the positive one's had related to "White" (Fairchild47) . There are many distinct racial connotation that had used by Europeans to racial groups in general and to blacks particularly , during previous centuries to segregate and dicriminate African people, started from "Negro" to "Black" to "Afro-American" .

"Negro" means color black in spanish, it is "member of a black-skinned race of Africa" , "black, dark", which started to appear in the late 19th century , and it had a huge acceptance by black leaders as Booker T.washington and W.E.B. DuBois. Negro became acceptable in the period of the migration to the North for gaining jobs on factories. As well as the term "Negro"was preferable expression by the civil war freedmen (T.W.Smith 1992) ; additionally, DuBois argued that "Negro" was "etymologically and phonetically . . . much better and more logical than "Colored" "(Bennet 1970) . Negro was observed too as strong term , like Kelly Miller (1937) noted " Usually where deep-seated philosophical meaning "Negro" is much stronger term of the two ,try if you will to express the idea involved in Negro art, Negro music , Negro poetry ... " . The term "Negro" was extremely used by white Europeans as a brief from in order to describe people of African heritage ,This term was highly used for African Americans on the mid-20 century , however it fell out in the late of the 20 century . Now a days "Negro" seen universally as unsuitable and disdainful word .

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"Black" this expression "Black" refers to people with African origins , it was popular between younger black people , this connotation was widely favored because it had equal balance between racial labels as "White" as "Black" (Allen 1990) , also this term had sense of strengthen and power ; moreover , "Black" was used in order to characterize those who had an advanced forward-looking or radicals (Bennet 1970) . The term covers a wide view of ethnic and cultural backgrounds that reinforces racial stereotypes.

"Afro-American" this connotation has been used since 1920s and it was favored until 1970s . They were seen as the largest ethnic minority in America .At the Black leaders meeting in Chicago on december 1988 , Ramona H.Edelin the head of National Urban Coalition , suggested that "African American" replace "Black", inwhich this exchange took wide attention . Additionally , " Afro-American" indicates that those people had some historical and cultural relation and link to a specific homeland , having African ancestral origins identified by others as African American , also it gave them cultural identity to a native land as the spokesperson of the group Jesse Jackson stated : " To be called African American has cultural integrity" . Most of African Americans in the United States are now citizens with their legal rights .

I-2.Significance of Slavery in the Economic System of America :

The African slaves were called the Black Gold , the bodies of enslaved people were so valuable and one of the biggest financial asset to the European slave markets . From 1646 to 1790 , the practice of slavery flourished in which the merchants brought slaves from the west coast of Africa as Ghana , Sierra Leone , and Mali. However , Europeans and some Africans participate in the slave trade , which brought millions of Africans to the new world . The slave traders brought their African captives from the interior continent , in which they had to wait for business transaction , that would take them thousands of miles from their homeland . slave trade was a journey called the triangle journey , which started from the European port towards

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western ports in Africa to load kidnapped Africans , and exchange them by goods as molasses , then these ships travel toward North America and the Caribbean . Thus , the last leg was the " Middle Passage " , the European ships returns to their homelands (European port) to restart the process again . The majority of the survivors lived a harsh lives as plantation workers , while some of them lived in towns and learned some trades ; however , some of them lived as servants .

American colonies operated on agriculture and plantation economy .where the structure of American economic engine were based on the slavery system , inwhich the economy of matority of the colonies were based on enslaved African labor to survive , the economic engine required large number of labors especially in the south . Furthermore , most of the workers were poor , homeless and unemployed people, from both African black people and European white people , who had traveled to America to work , feed themselves and to have shelter . by 1680 the economic system get better and alot of jobs were available (History.com) .On 1641 after the authorization of slavery , the auctions of slavery spread everywhere in the hole country , enslaved people were in opertaions of sold and bought .

Before the American revoulution , the British colonies were specialized in tobacco , which was the main cash crop source , in 1622 the overall tobacco that was exported from colonies were 60.000 pounds , while , by 1639 it was 1.5 million pounds (History.com) . However , by the end of the century , the British colonies exported 20 million pounds of tobacco yearly . The British ships went into a journey , started from England to importing guns and textile , to western Africa to sell their productions , and imported slaves to American colonies to work in plantations of tobacco , sugar , cotton , turning back to homeland with imported materials exported from colonies . Ronald Findlay (1935) professor of Economics in his essay "The -Triangular Trade- And The Atlantic Economy Of The Eighteenth Century" , quotes

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Malachy Postlethwayt (1707-67) a British commercial expert about the importance of slavery in the economics of the Kingdom as follows :

Are we not indebted to those valuable People, the Africans for our Sugars, Tobaccos, Rice, Rum, and all other Plantation Produce? And the greater the Number of Negroes imported into our colonies, from Africa, will not the Exportation of British Manufactures among the Africans be in Proportion, they being paid for in such Commodities only? The more likewise our Plantations abound in Negroes, will not more Land become cultivated, and both better and greater Variety of Plantation Commodities be produced? As those Trades are subservient to the Well Being and Prosperity of each other so the more either flourishes or the other must be necessarily affected ; and the general Trade and Navigation of their Mother Country, will be proportionably benefited or injured.

Then ,after the American revolution , where the colonies won their independence , Britain no longer needed and preferred tobacco production in America ; however , tobacco was changeful material because of its influence of weather and nutrients of soil . Furthermore , after tobacco lose its importance , another cash crop came to the arena and became the main planted product was cotton that gave new life to enslaved people in the United States . The produced cotton (1800-1860) extended from south Carolina and Georgia to new occupied lands west of the Mississippi , this change of economy lead to comparable shift of the enslaved African population to the lower South and West. (History.com).

The domain of slave career was wiled in cities , while slaves occupied different jobs , domestic servants controlled the range , carpenters , masons , bakers , tailors , peddlers , porters

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, sailors , painters , others worked as skilled laborers on plantations , on public works , and in industrial enterprises .

I-3. The Road to the Freedom of Slavery :

Slavery system had lasted for two centuries and half and more in the United States, in which , bringing slaves from home land Africa to the new world to work ,enslaved people were tired from the long sufferance of racial prejudice ,unjustice treatments , and the limited rights .They were in need to see some spot light of hope and freedom , because of the unfortunate situation that slavery went to , they need to believe and feel the sense of humanity and free citizen again . Blacks were made around one-tenth of the total African American population , at the period of of slavery , they were nearly 500,000 free African Americans , while half of them were in the south and half in the north in 1860 . Hugh Brogan in his book The Penguin History of USA stated " For the blacks ; slavery was a regime of sorrow, of degradation, of unremitting toil, dreadful personal insecurity and perpetual frustration " . Black people were interested in Christianity particularly in the times of The Second Great Awakening , which was a religious movement that came as a reaction to the Enlightenment Movement that turned people away from religion , and had a huge impact on American culture and different groups of Christianity (History.com). Protestantism encouraged people and individuals to be responsible on one's salvation , that motivate Blacks to put plans for their freedom (Boyer10-11) (Drescher 303).

The Abolitionist Movement was an organized work that attempted to finish the practice of slavery and to eradicate slave ownership in the United States , which took place from 1830 to 1870 . The Abolitionist Movement in the 18th century , began in north of the United States , it appeared in order to end the slavery in the country which valued the individual freedom , and believed on the equality of all people . During the British colonial period , and before the birth and the spread of this movement , there were different efforts

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against slavery . In 1652 was the first attempt to abolish slavery in British colonies by Roger Williams and Samuel Gorton , who made the slavery system illegal in North America . However , in 1688 was the first American protestation which organized in Germantown, Pennsylvania , and New York by Quakers against slavery , more , in 1712 slave rebel when 21 slaves are executed . More , the first Abolitionist society in the United States were organized in Philadelphia in 1775 . Northern states abolished slavery after the war of independence . However , Jefferson as the president of the United States in 1807 signed the Act Prohibiting Importation of slaves ; it had no effect till 1807 (History.com) .

I-3.1.Before the Civil War :

Black people began to think how to take their freedom and free themselves from their masters and slavery , but in the most of times it ended by punishment ; however , they started to arrange rebellions in order to gain their freedom by the way it is . There were several individual resistance by slaves to save themselves from slavery , and it took multiple forms such as mothers kills their newborn children , and the poisoning of slaves owners , the destruction of machinery and crops , arson , and running away .

Gabriel Prosser (1775-1800) was deeply religious man and literate enslaved blacksmith , who organized the first slave major rebellion in Aug 30 .1800 in Richmond, Virginia which proposed to end slavery there. Gabriel was son of an African-born mother , he was a slave of Thomas H. Prosser . Gabriel seen the whites as enemies , who decided to destroy the economic domination of the merchants , he planned to steal guns from the military warehouse of Richmond and kill all Whites who were there . This attack was postponed because of a bushy rain storm . Moreover , James Monroe knew about the plans ordered by a black man called Will Billy King ; as a result of this James Monroe called the state militia , Gabriel Prosser with his two brothers and 34 person were arrested and hanged on September , 1800 . (Britannica.com) (History.com)

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The Underground Railway was an organization Harriet Tubman (1822-1913) , Frederick Douglass (1818-1895) to gaining freedom before the civil war , in which slaves run away from the South states to reach Canada the north states , where it was against slavery system and it abolished slavery in 1819 . Harriet was the hero of this organization , in which he helped hundreds of slaves to escape and to gain their freedom , by organizing numerous trips to the north . Thus, the number of black people who escaped to north states estimated from 40,000 to 100,000 , the success of the Underground Railroad helped to spread of the abolitionist feeling . Free Blacks believed on their freedom , they were beyond the first abolitionists , including John B. Russwurm and Samuel E. Cornish , who founded Freedom's Journal, which was the first African American news paper in the United States in 1827 , also the white abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison established the Liberator which is a journal that begun in 1831 . However , the most famous African American journals was the North Star founded by the old slave Frederick Douglass in 1847 , who stated that Antislavery movement must be led by black people (Britannica.com) (History.com).

Nat Turner's rebellion 1831 , was the most mortal Black revolution in the history of the United States . Nathaniel "Nat" Turner (1800-1831) was an enslaved man in the plantation of Benjamin Turner . His Father was a native of Africa , he escaped from slavery and emigrated to Liberia . Turner was sold in his childhood three times , he learned to read and write . He was deeply religious , he claimed that he was a prophet chosen by God to lead the enslaved Africans . Turner was influence by Gabriel Prosser's plot . On the evening of August 21, 1831 Turner and his followers Hark Travis , Henry Porter , Samuel Francis , Nelson Williams , Will Francis , and Jack Rees , they killed fifty-five white men , women and children . This massacre started by the house of Joseph Travis , the owner of Turner . Then , Turner and his allies marched from plantation to another , collecting some guns and soldiers. Therewith , Turner and his allies really killed fifty-five white men , but all it turned , there was an attack that ended by the death

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of his partners .Turner was lost for nearly Ten weeks in plantation from the time he declared his attack. Numerous of slaves were killed just because of Nat Turner's actions , believing that it wasn't a revolt just by Turner , but it was a general conspiracy . Then , Nat Turner was found and hanged on Friday , November 11, 1831 (Cromwell 208-217) .

I-3.2. American Anti-Slavery Society :

American Anti-slavery society is an abolitionst movement that took place in 1833 in Philadelphia , specifically after the Nat Turner revolution in 1831 , where it consists a different participants from different Domains religious , business men and other free Blacks , as William Lloyed Garrison(1805-79) , Theodor Dwight Weld (1803-95), Lewis Tappan (1788-1873) and by 1840 it had 150,000 to 200,000 members and 2000 auxiliary societies (Britannica.com) .They view that slavery as a infringement to the human rights and to the believes and institutions of the United States .Therewith , it aims to immediate abolition of slavery in the United States . American Anti-Slavery society was more effective, then it faced dispute like attacking the speakers during meetings . Its main objectives were the total abolition of slavery in the United States , it aim to raise the character and status of the colored people by encouraging their cultural , moral and religious improvement , and by ending the public prejudice ; finally , any person who accept the principles of the institution and donates to the funds of the society , and is not a slaveholder , will have the opportunity to be a member in this society , and are able to vote in the meetings of the American Anti-Slavery Society . (lostmuseum.com)

In 1839 the organization was divided into two main approaches, the first one was formed by radical members by Garrison and his followers that denounced the Constitution ; and joined ranks with women rights while , the second one was less radical by Tappan Brothers who organized the American and Foreign Anti-Slavery Society (Britannica.com) . After this division the abolitionist movement entred to the American politics , and later on it was vanished after civil war in 1870 . However, American abolitionists recognized that they fail in

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persuasion, then , turn to immediate abolition with law . The organization helped the Blacks to work on their acts , like the 13th Amendment¹ in the American Constitution . As well as the American Anti-Slavery formed the opinions and views of the public to give more attention to the Black case , with giving them their rights . The organization ended by giving the right to vote to Blacks in 1870 , which was issued in the 15th Amendment in the American Institution (History.com).

I-3.3.The Civil War :

Civil War was the main event in american history , it was a four-year-war that declared on 1861 in United States , between Northeren and Southeren states about slavery and the rights of States for expansion . Civil war considered as the most bloodiest and expensive war in America ever with around 6200.000 murdered from 2.4 million soldiers and other millions injured (History.com) , it left a huge destruction in the South .

The economy of Southeren States were based on agriculture , plantation and trade that stands on slavery , so Southeren States wanted to hold slavery to farm their lands . The Southeren States asked for independence from the North as a result of several reasons as the expansion to westward , the rights of the state , and taxation . However , there was a big growing abolishment movement by Northeren States that formed the public opinion to talk more about Black people their case , rights , which led to a split between the States about Pro and Anti-Slavery .

Moreover , Abraham Lincoln (1809-1865) was elected president of the United States in 1860 , he was against the division of the United , so he warned the confederacy in his presidential oath , he said " You have no oath registered in Heaven to destroy the government, while I have a most solemn one to preserve, protect, and defend it " (O'Callaghan 50) . later on

¹ the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United states (archives.gov)

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Jefferson Davis (1808-1889) followed Abraham Lincoln , when the confederacy rejected the ideas of Abraham , in which the election of Jefferson was a spot that marked the start of Civil War , as well as the confederacy were weak than the union that was strong , having high number of soldiers . The south gain independence with no fighting at all . Abraham Lincoln wanted to protect the United State from breaking up but he had no option than war . (History.com) (O'Callaghan)

Abraham Lincoln had to issue the Emancipation proclamation that determine to free all enslaved people On 1 january 1863 in the Confederacy States . As a result, about 186.000 Black soldiers joined the army of the union ; while , 38.000 lost there lives . On April 9 , 1865 the Civil war ended with the winning of the union as a result of the surrender of Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) to the forces of Ulysses S. Grant (1822-1885) in Appomattox a small village in Virginia . On 6 december 1865 the 13th Amendment abolished slavery in the United States , the 13th Amendment states " neither slavery nor involuntary servitude except as a punishment for crime whereof the party shall have been duly convicted, shall exist within the United States, or any place subject to their jurisdiction " (History.com) (O'Callaghan) .

I-4.Civil Rights Movement :

Civil Rights Movement is a movement organized by the effort of Black people against racial discrimination , prejudice to gain equal rights under law as the Whites in the United States . Although the Civil War ended and it had abolished slavery , and gave them few basic civil rights ; but it didn't end the racial discrimination against Black people , they continued suffering and facing all kinds and effects of racism , particularly in Southern States . Jim Crow Laws (1877) were a set of laws that legalized in Southern States , that support the racial discrimination against black people; in other words , it denied the essential rights , as Black haven't the right to vote , they were denied to gain jobs and other opportunities , Black people were neither went to public places , nor went to same schools as Whites , also interracial

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marriage was illegal (Britannica.com). However , black people faced violence , danger , physical abuse and death after the announcement of the secret organization Ku Klux Klan² in 1865 (O'Callaghan 56) . In the period of Second World War the movement started to extend , while a large number of Black Americans freed themselves from slavery , by either escaping or purchasing their freedom . On June 1941 Franklin D. Roosevelt (1882-1945) the American president had to pass an Executive Order 8802 which gave the right to work to all Americans in all government jobs whatever their race, color , and religious belief . On December 1, 1955 , Rosa Parks (1913_2005) , who is the sparkle that lit up the civil rights movement , after she was arrested by white police men when she refused to leave her seat in the bus for a white man . Moreover , the Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA) by Martin Luther King. Jr (1929-1968) , it was created as a result of the accident of Rosa . President Dwight D. Eisenhower (1890-1969) on 1957 had signed the Civil Right act which was the first major civil rights legislation since Reconstruction that allowed Black people the right to vote in southern states , and prosecuted anyone tried to stop others from voting , it was considered as a big step towards freedom of Blacks and their racial equality in America . On August 1963 , approximately 250.000 people went into March on Washington calling for equal rights , freedom and jobs , this march was famous by Martin Luther King's speech "I have a Dream " . On July 4 ,1964 president Lyndon B. Johnson (1908-1973) signs civil rights act of 1964 into a law , that denied the discrimination of race , color and sex in employment and guaranteed equal jobs as Blacks as Whites . However , the racial segregation continued after its success , in which two of its leaders were assassinated Malcolm X (1925-1965) and Martin Luther King . The Civil Rights movement was a power movement by the effort of Black people , that issued the

² Ku Klux Klan a secret US organization of white Protestant Americans, especially in the south of the country, who oppose people of other races or religions (Cambridge Dictionary)

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end of black segregation racial practices in employment , education and housing and other rights . (History.com).

I-5.Blacks in the 21th Century:

African Americans after Civil Right Movement till nowadays have similar rights as other people , they seen as normal citizens in America recognized as African Americans , having their own culture and identity that characterizes and identifies them from other people. However , more than 36 million African Americans are lived in the south , and overrided 1 million of Black population in 10 southern states . African Americans lived in the lagest cities of America , more than 2 million person living in new york city and more than 1 million living in Chicago ; thus , from 500,000 to 1 million of Black population lived in Detroit , Philadelphia , and Houston .The 21th century attesting plenty social movements that attempts to end racial segregation , physical and verbal abuse . Lately , there were huge riots and protests over all the United States in May 2020 , because of the murder of the unarmed Black man George Floyd by white police officer , after this experience there is a renewed concentration about the pursuance of law in the United States , which only underscored how prevalent systemic racism and bias is in America today. (Bbc.com) .

I-5.The Interrelationship between Slavery and Racism :

Slavery and racism are two related concepts , which one comes after the other . White Americans think that they are superior to other groups : Native Americans , Latin Americans and African Americans . The Urban Dictionary defines racism as :

Racism is a system in which a dominant race believe they are superior and benefit from the oppression of other races - whether they want to or not. We don't live in a society where every racial

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group has equal power, status and opportunity (Rockso 2021).

Discrimination against someone based on their race. It is very commonly thought that racism is only when "white" people discriminate against "black" people. The truth is that anyone of any race can be racist. "White" people are constantly being called racist and can't seem to do anything involving "black" people without someone going crook. "Black" people are rarely, if ever called racist (Monkey,2006) .

However , The Oxford Dictionary defines racism as : " unfair treatment of other races ; belief that some races of people are better than others " .

Anup Shah in his article defines racism as :

Racism is the belief that characteristics and abilities can be attributed to people simply on the basis of their race and that some racial groups are superior to others. Racism and discrimination have been used as powerful weapons encouraging fear or hatred of others in times of conflict and war, and even during economic downturns .

Therewith , Racism is unfair treatments of people , who belong to different race . Racism is linked with power in which covers the institutional, political, economic, and social fields , which divided into ; Racial Discrimination , Institutional Racism , Economical Racism, and Cultural Racism . People face all types and means of racism , which led to separation between people , and treating specific group unfairly in society less than others . Racism can be found in all fields of social life in institutions , governments , religions , corporations and other organizations.

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African Americans are the most ignored group ever ; they suffered from the slave period till the Civil Rights Movement . nevertheless the slave trade ended and the abolitionism movement that eradicated slavery , but the blacks did not get their rights as American citizens, they still treated them as slavery. The slavery disappeared in the United States ; but the racist views towards blacks still existed till nowadays . The stereotypical ideas about the blacks stuck in American minds (Shah 2010) .

Conclusion :

Slavery and racism are two faces for the same coin . Where slavery has existed from immemorial time through the world , it played a significant role in the American history . Over decades Black people went through different steps full of obstacles , that shows their sufferance from slavery , racism , the discriminatory treatments and race names started from "Negro" to "Black" till free name with real identity and historical , cultural background "African American" . Therewith , they foughted against all types of racial discrimination , physical and oral abuse in education , jobs , daily life , and struggled for their freedom . Finally , they achieved their goals to gain freedom , and to be free citizens with all their legal rights as other human , as American citizens . Despite the end of slavery, the white Americans still had racist views toward African Americans , in which led to the spread of racism that made this subject lives until today .

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Racial Discrimination Of The Blacks
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Chapter Two : Racial Discrimination Of The Blacks In Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man

Introduction:

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison , was a novel about searching for identity , it was published in 1952 , which highlights the racial discrimination that applied on the life of the African American man in the American society . It is a novel that traces a horrible journey of unnamed black writer , which describes lifelong struggle of personal events and experiences started from his high school and college days in the South , to his cruel experiences in the North as a member of a strong organization the Brotherhood . While the narrator deals with difficult attempts to establish the identity of the African Americans in the United States , he lost himself and started to become an invisible man step by step as a result of the racial discrimination . Ralph Ellison highlights the social and political forces that conspire on black Americans and denied them from all rights of life , liberty and gaining happiness . Moreover , it discussed the sufferance of black Americans , who were excluded in the Constitution of the United States and not accepted by white Americans , also perceived as property not as men .

II-1.African American Literature :

African American literature is literature that was produced during the period of the late 18th century in the United States by writers with African origins .At this time ,the African American literature that was produced , addressed the slave cases , after the Abolitionist movement and the end of slave era , it tackled with cases of racism , segregation, and the racial discrimination that the black people had experienced .African American writers as Toni Morrison , Richard Wright , Ralph Ellison, and Alice Walker used their writings and their art to defend their rights and their freedom .They tried to enucleate racism with all its ways by their writings which they suffered for a long time. African American writers , in general focused on the the main interests of the black people such as the slavery case , and their place in the American society .As well as their matters as racism , freedom, and equality, through essays , poetry and fiction (Britannica.com).

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The Harlem Renaissance or New Negro Movement was a period that is considered as the golden age of African American culture, it was the development of the Harlem neighborhood in New York City, to a cultural city of blacks. The Harlem Renaissance emerged in the early 20th century, the Great Migration was the social foundation of the Harlem Renaissance, thousands of African Americans moved from the south to the north and Harlem, with the most prominent figures as W.E.B Du Bois, looking for better conditions of life, then the level of literacy increased, while the blacks became more educated and socially conscious. However, they settled in Harlem neighborhood of New York City, This cultural movement performed the African American literature and arts, which became the cultural main point of African Americans (History.com).

The African American literature played a significant role in Harlem Renaissance movement. The writer used various styles of literature in order to highlight their black experience in both Africa and America, in which their quest for equality with white Americans. Thus, the period between the mid- 1920s to the mid- 1930s, more than fifteen volumes of fiction and poetry was published by black writers.

Beside that, Ralph Ellison was inspired a lot by Harlem Renaissance movement, he dealt with the main principles of this movement, He adopted its major message. Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* represents the concepts of Harlem Renaissance of literature, in which he reflects the African American experience and the struggle of them in America through his novel *Invisible Man*.

II-1.2. Ralph Ellison as an African American writer :

Ralph Ellison is an African-American writer and teacher, his novel *Invisible Man* (1952) gained a huge critical success. He used racial cases to present universal dilemmas of identity and self-discovery, according to Ellison « One writes out of one thing only _one's

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experience as understood through one's knowledge of self , culture , and literature » (Washington 5) , he was a writer of African American case ; as the renowned author and critic Henry Louis Gates Jr , wrote that « Ralph Ellison (1914-94) , Richard Wright (1908-60) and James Baldwin (1924-87) comprised « The holy male trinity of the black tradition. » Wright , most famous for his novel *Native Son* , and Baldwin famous for his work *No Body knows My Name* . Ellison was not seen just as an author and master of black vernacular , but he was also as an astute commentator on literature , culture and race . (Washington 5). Many artists of the Black Arts movement rejected Ellison for his insistence that America be a land of cultural exchange . Ellison was Talented in many fields an accomplished jazz trumpeter and a free-lance photographer.

Ellison view that the African-American culture and sensibility was far from the downtrodden, unsophisticated picture presented by writers, sociologists and politicians, both black and white .Instead , he posited that blacks had created their own traditions, rituals, and a history that formed a cohesive culture that was the source of a full sense of identity.

Soon After his move to New York in 1936 , his book reviews , short stories , and articles began to appear in numerous magazines and anthologies , and Ellison was on his way to becoming an acclaimed author . (Washington 3)

Ellison spent six years writing *Invisible Man*. He had not enough experience in novel writing thus he has encountered difficulties in formulating a coherent plot. For him fiction did not come easily as nonfiction works . On January 27, 1953 *Invisible Man* won Pulitzer Award and the National Book Award for fiction. For this remarkable achievement, Ellison was acclaimed as a prominent figure in the American literary history.

Despite the fact that Ellison was primarily known for his great novel *Invisible Man*, one cannot deny his works of nonfiction. For instance, *Shadow and Act* (1964) and *Going to the*

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Territory (1986) together with numerous unpublished speeches and writings were published in 1995 as *The Collected Essays of Ralph Ellison* . (Washington 4)

II-2.Style used in Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man :

Ralph Ellison's *Invisible Man* (1952) attracted a lot of popularity and instant acclaim shortly after it was published , it directly hailed as a masterpiece that have changed the shape of American literature . It won the National Book Award .On 1965 , in the book week poll , *Invisible Man* was chosen as the best postwar era novel , and it was translated into fourteen language . Saul Bellow called *Invisible Man* in *Writing Commentary* in 1952 « a book of the very first order , a superb book » ; moreover, in *The New Yorker* Anthony West wrote that *Invisible Man* was « an exceptionally good book and in parts an extremely funny one » and praised on it « and praised » . Further more , Irving Howe in a 1963 article in *Dissent* , stated that the novel was a brilliant achievement « No white man could have written it, since no white man could know with such intimacy the life of the Negroes from the inside; yet Ellison writes with an ease and humor which are now and again simply miraculous » .

The style of the novel has been sometimes criticized as exaggerated , in which Irving Howe found Ralph Ellison « literary to a fault » , a lot of critics praised in style , symbolism and narrative structure . Ralph Ellison has a special writing style because he went through this experience . The novel written in prose and the style of a bildungsroman during the civil rights era . The book tackles with adventures of a young black man whose successful search for identity , that ends by the realization that he is invisible to the white community.

The work is both epic and richly comic , written with Jazz style according to David Yaffe , the style of *Invisible Man* changes throughout the events of the novel as Jazz music , Ellison uses a very lyric and informal style that makes the reader switches with the events , as Peter Boyesen said « The reader feels like he or she is riding down a river , rather than sitting on

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a chair » ; more , Ralph Waldo Ellison in an overview talking about his writing style and describing the techniques used in the novel « The novel is a fugue of cultural fragments _echoes of Homer , Joyce , Eliot , and Hemingway join forces with the sounds spirituals , blues , jazz , and nursery rhymes » . The novel framed by Prologue that tells the reason why he hideout , Epilogue , and contains 25 chapters , the story opens in the present , turns to flashback , and then returns to the present , in which , Told in the form of a first-person narrative ; however , his voice changes over the time from a naive young man , to a person obviously more responsible , although he is still confused , to someone who is ready to tackle with the whole world whatever the risks . As stated by David Littlejohn « Ellison achieves his extraordinary power through artistry and control , through objectivity , irony , distance » .

Invisible Man is structurally complex and densely symbolic , thus he combines plenty symbols in his novel , each of it provides a special perspective to narration , and supporting the major themes , using flashbacks in which the most of the novel is flashback , infinite examples of symbolism as the calfskin briefcase is such an objective that accompanies the narrator over his journey , as Washington writes « The narrator's calfskin symbolizes his psychological baggage » , another object which is Tod Clifton's Sambo doll is kind of black caricature that dances when its operator pushes it down , which is a symbol of black oppression , the dark glasses , when he bought his new glasses he went out into public , many people referred him to a man called Rinehart , the dark glasses symbolize the multiple identities . Moreover there are Symbolism in colors , machine Symbolism . Ellison uses contemplative tone to convey meaning , which is the dominant tone , by using interior monologue « But what do I really want, I've asked myself. Certainly not the freedom of a Rinehart or the power of a Jack, nor simply the freedom not to run . No, but the next step I couldn't make, so I've remained in the hole » Ellison 446.

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Despite the big success of the novel and influence, Ellison described his book as " not quite fully achieved attempt at a major novel ". According to Ellison , the most thing that the novel could do was to replace "narrow naturalism" of the popular mainstream American literature with a prose style that was experimental and aimed to "challenge the apparent forms of reality itself" in the 1953 National Book Award speech . The aim of Ellison was to reevaluate reality ,thus reevaluate the past and history that we tell in order to form a coherent and logical reality through the events , times and grounds of a nameless narrator .

II-3. Racist Experiences in Invisible Man:

The events of the novel took place between the late of 1920s until the beginning of the 1930s. John S. Wright states that the Invisible Man is " a novel about innocence and human error, a struggle through illusion to reality" (wright 1988 ,158). the novel highlighted the main case which is racism , and how it influenced the lives of African Americans. However, the features of racism and segregation extended in all sections of life .

The protagonist is one of many other people who live in a racist society searching for his identity which is the main subject of the novel , narrating his adventure of self-discovery and series of experiences of racial prejudice in his journey. Ralph Ellison's The Invisible Man is an exemplification of the African American history which is about racism and the problem of black identity ,which deals during his journey with the struggle of black nameless man who tries to stay alive within a society rejects to see him as a member of this society , or as a human being, where racism is a fixed subject .In which he feels lost because of injustice and inequality treatments.

The narrator tries to escape from the segregation south to the racist north , in hope to find and build his true individual identity , in which he was victimized while his dreams are shattered. During this adventure he always faced the idea of race, finding himself passing

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through various experiences of segregation started from the Battle Royal while he was forced into a racist show , to fight against other young blacks to win a scholarship , when the scene of Battle Royal ends ,he tries to deliver his speech. Wherever he says "social responsibility" the white men shouts out on him to repeat it aloud, he unconsciously said "social equality" the white men become very angry , and asks him what he want to mean by his saying :

What's that word you say, boy?

You sure that about 'equality' was a mistake?

Oh, yes, sir," I said. "I was swallowing blood.

Well, you had better speak more slowly so we can understand.

We mean to do right by you, but you've got to know your place at all times. (Ellison 31)

Additionally , His membership role in Brotherhood whom betrayed him , which is an organization that claims to defend rights of minorities ,soon he realizes that the Brotherhood cares only about its benefits , the organization used the narrator in order to achieve and reach theirs goals . Barbara Foley argues that that the Brotherhood is a stand-in for the US Communist Party, which Ellison was closely , in which the text became as an anticommunist classic , using series of strategies to relate radical politics with white racism (Foley 1997)

In other words, Ralph Ellison criticized the communist party that claimed to fight for equality for people , which exploits blacks and uses them to gain their political goals , likewise the protagonist was exploited by the Brotherhood , by using him for own interests and their goals (Ward et al , 2002: 50-58 ; Prudchenko, 2012) .

Furthermore , a student at southern Negro college , during his studying in college , the narrator suffered a lot . He was dutiful to the order of the teachers in the school and the rule of

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whites in whites club , the narrator faced unfair treatment by them which made him understand the meaning of racism and to feel alienated . After being expelled from the college , the narrator moved to New York City by bus although it was empty , as a black man he can only seat at the end of the row , he met the vet in Golden Day , the vet told the narrator about his opinion about the situation of this society , he said that this community is unfair for the blacks . The vet clarify the fact of racial discrimination , he gave the narrator some advice :

Play the game , but don't believe in it -- that much you owe
yourself. Even if it lands you in a strait jacket or a padded cell .
Play the game , but play it your own way -- part of the time at least.
Play the game, but raise the ante, my boy. Learn how it operates,
learn how you operate. We're an ass-backward people, Though .
(Ellison 119)

In the vet's point of view , that blacks have to learn how to be their own master , this kind of opinion was very important for the narrator , but at that moment he did not recognize what means . He was so confident , when he came to New York , he wished to gain appreciation , he desired to be visible and having social status (US-China Review B 2016) , he went to Paint Factory, the protagonist gets a job there by the help of the son of a trustee Emerson . Where the main important event in the Paint Factory is the time that he got injured when he was working and quickly was sent to the hospital where he was seen as a test to the experiments of the white doctors , he lost his memory and his ability to speak or to do any thing because of the electric shock treatment that he recieved « But still meaning were lost in the vast whiteness in which I myself was los » (Ellison 185) , the experience of tha narrator sympolizes the racist actions against the blacks in the world . Moreover , the doctors questions about his name and the of his mother, is to remaining him of his African origins, however, this incident was degrading since he treated as a rat laboratory by the white doctors , he tentatively lost his memory and the

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ability to speak due to the electric shock treatment that he received there , this experience symbolizes the racist behaviors towards the black people even in public places . Eventually the protagonist get confused and finally refugees to the underground .

The experiences of the narrator , make him grow into a man who is not invisible at least to him self while he still invisible to the world, Otherwise , he remove the identities that the world decide to place it to him, and find out his true individual identity « The hibernation is over. I must shake off the old skin and come up for breath » (Ellison 450). (Prudchenko, 2012).

II-4. Main Themes in Invisible Man:

II-4-1.Invisibility :

Invisibility is the main important theme to start with , Invisible Man starts with a declaration of the narrator that he is invisible , he argues that invisibility comes from blindness as he declares :

I am invisible, understand, simply because people refuse to see me...When they approach me they see only my surroundings, themselves, or figments of their imagination -- indeed, everything and anything except me » (Ellison 3)

He simply means that he is not seen , because people refuse to see him , he decides to be Invisible because of the surrounded blind people who cannot see him . Blindness is the result of prejudices and stereotypes that were formed to view black people and which prevent the whites to see around and beyond them , these prejudices are a blindfold to the whites , which made limits to the range of thinking just on the skin color rather than the individual himself . Invisibility could be explained as « The situation of men whose individual identity is denied » (Lieber 1972) , Ellison reflected this on his book :

That invisibility to which I refer occurs because of a peculiar disposition of the eyes of those with whom I come in contact. A matter of the construction of their inner eyes, those eyes with which they look through their physical eyes upon reality.

(Ellison 3)

The novel of Ralph Ellison proposes a lot of scenes which related to the theme of invisibility using metaphors and at times symbolism. To start with invisibility happens because of people's reaction to see and accept him as individual, and because how people treat him with the way they see him, not what he really is, also by taking different identities that he does not belong to. Likewise, the moments of the hospital, more he is visible because he was famous as a member and as the spokesperson of the Brotherhood, the public knew him as the man who speaks, not who he really is. Furthermore, when he was hiding from Ras the Exhorter he puts sunglasses and a hat, directly he known as a man named Rinehart who have multiple identities. He recognize that he have to answer the question of who he is in terms of his blackness. The narrator holds his invisibility after his horrible experience with the white society, in which he was contented that the only way to success is by serving whites, which they are the superior and the powerful as he was learnt :

And so it is with me. Without light I am not only invisible, but formless as well; and to be unaware of one's form is to live a death. I myself, after existing some twenty years, did not become alive until I discovered my invisibility. (Ellison 6)

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Invisibility requires isolation from society , the protagonist is invisible because he chooses to hide himself in his hole . Moreover , invisibility also refers to the loss of identity. in other words , the narrator is invisible because he has no identity .

II-4-2.Identity :

The overwhelming theme of the novel is search of identity that is defined as « the qualities, beliefs, etc ., that make a particular person or group different from others » by Merriam-Webster Dictionary Online , *Invisible Man* is a novel about defining one's identity as an individual and as part of a larger group, Ellison experienced the human struggle to find one's identity while living one's life in a world one feels worthless . More , in the novel the narrator is nameless in a journey of self-discovery which takes him from the rural south to Harlem , at the first he desires to discover a noticeable identity or having identity that is determined by others to him , the protagonist looks like a victim struggling to understand his place over the world , which usually others placed him or the conditions forced him to be there , almost every character in the novel pretends to be the guide of the Invisible Man . Throughout the events of the novel , he tries to elicit some kinds of meaning and essence of identity :

All my life I had been looking for something and everywhere I turned someone tried to tell me what it was [...] I was looking for my self and asking everyone except myself the question which I, and only I, could answer [...] my expectations to achieve a realization everyone else appears to have been born with: That I am nobody but myself. But first I had to discover that I am an invisible man! (Ellison 7)

Ellison suggests that to know oneself is a source of power which frees individuals from alienating forces of oppression . Nevertheless , invisibility represents the status of a group stripped of its native culture , and forced to adhere the alien standards and values while its own

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culture qualities were ignored , and most significantly it embodies the complex psychological dilemmas of men without a sense of vital group identity , whose sense of human identity is often denied by the dominant society (Lieber) .When the invisible man joins the Brotherhood , Brother Jack gives him a "new identity." At many points in the novel he has been offered papers which name him and identify him as a person has a new role , student , patient , member of the Brotherhood , but none of those names could be his real name , also he has no identity when Dr Beldsoe tells him « "You're nobody, son . You don't exist -- can't you see that ? » (Ellison 112) . At the end of the novel he comes to a confession that he is able to recognize a particular order in the mess and the dominant disorder of his society , as he states :

Thus , having tried to give pattern to the chaos which lives within the pattern of your certainties, I must come out, I must emerge . And there's still a conflict within me: With Louis Armstrong one half of me says, "Open the window and let the foul air out," while the other says, « It was good green corn before the harvest » (Ellison 450)

Finally , identity is related with race and social status , which is clear in the end of the book that the blackness of the invisible man makes him prefer invisibility , in his essay entitled « Hidden Name: Complex Fate » , Ralph Ellison depicts :

We must learn to wear our names within all the noise and confusion in which we find ourselves. They must become our masks and our shields and the containers of all those values and traditions which we learn and/or imagine as being the meaning of our familial past . (Toker)

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As a result , the experiences that Ellison passed on changed his naivety to maturity , which helps him to find out the amount of African American heritage .Invisible Man can be read as a story about a black man's struggle to get along and learn to be himself (Abbott) .

II-4-3.Racism :

Racism is the discrimination between two different groups or individuals due to their religion, race and skin color . Invisible Man is a novel that is an exemplification of the African American history , it is about racism and the problem of skin color race , the personal experiences of Ralph Ellison of racism and social inequality , which black people suffered from severe discrimination , segregation , disenfranchisement from rights , economical utilization , and cruel victimization , that motivated Ralph Ellison to write his novel Invisible Man . It also investigates the question of whether race might be an original mark of individual identity , where race is a constant theme in Invisible Man . The narrator begins telling his story with the claim that he is invisible man , as he says , his invisibility is not physical status or literally invisible , but actually is the result of the refusal of the whites to see him , It was their racist behaviors and actions towards his blackness that causes this refusal , as Mitchell Haugen states « Invisible man , the protagonist's life in the North is played with its own brand of racial challenges » (Mitchell Haugen 10) , the incident that made the narrator realized his invisibility in the eyes of people , when he accidentally crash into a white man and suddenly the narrator becomes visible « One night I accidentally bumped into a man, and perhaps because of the near darkness he saw me and called me an insulting name » (Ellison 4) . Throughout the novel , the nameless protagonist faces the racist American society and series of obstacles over his journey , he experiences all types of racism and meet racist people from the segregation of the South to the racist North , such as Mr. Norton who looks to blacks as poor kids requires skills and intelligence to help themselves , and considers himself the great white father that his duty is to civilize blacks , Dr. Bledsoe and Lucius Brockway in which both of them are betrayer to

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their own race , and both of them are men that act submissive in front of their white masters to keep their positions . The narrator was hiding from the world , living underground away from the other , he was not violent under no conditions , even when they misbehave him as he declares « I am not so overtly violent . I remember that I am invisible and walk softly so as not to awaken the sleeping ones » (Ellison 4). Racism in the novel portrayed as positive object to the protagonist to be invisible to the world , which could bring the narrator the interior peace as he feels in his life , he recognizes that his invisibility is so significant , he says that :

Several years ago (before I discovered the advantage of being invisible) I went through the routine process of buying service and paying their outrageous rates . But no more. I gave up all that , along with my apartment, and my old way of life: That way based upon the fallacious assumption that I, like other men, was visible. Now, aware of my invisibility ,I live rent-free in a building rented strictly to whites . (Ellison 5)

The protagonist realizes that the refusal of others to see him is something good , so he decided to stop complaining or fighting their racist actions and behaviors ; however , continuing doing whatever he wants to do , for instance stealing electricity from the Monopolized light and power company as he states :

I learned in a time though that it is possible to carry on a fight against them without their realizing it. For instance, I have been carrying on a fight with Monopolated Light & Power for some time now. I use their service and pay them nothing at all, and they don't know it . (Ellison 5)

Even though , the narrator finds his invisibility something positive , but it has affected his life , growing up . Whites are always against Blacks and against what they do . Hence, blacks also do not like the way they were treated . The narrator is the person who wants to change , but he didn't find help .The narrator wants to feel and touch the social equality instead of social responsibility , however, African Americans feel as if they are supposed to live this way in the community . The protagonist struggles with various expectations which pressed upon him as a black man , Ellison indicates that the only way to find an authentic relationship with race is to puzzle it out for oneself , and only an active, individual mind can define his relationship with his history . As a result , the identity of the narrator is defined by his race , leading to his invisibility .

II-4-4.Blindness :

Blindness is the most important theme in the novel , which recurs throughout the novel . It represents how people willfully avoid seeing the truth and this strengthens the theme that racism is an obstacle to individual identity . Whites are blind because they conceive blacks as a mass rather than as individuals , while blacks are blind for submitting to their inferiority and for not conceiving any white exception as an individual beings . Whites are blind because they conceive blacks as a mass , while blacks are blind for the limited way that they conceiving themselves as individual beings . In the Battle Royal , the narrator is called to deliver a speech in a white party about freedom he was obliged to participate « as a part of entertainment » (Ellison 14) a racist show that he has to fight other blacks with blindfolded eyes fighters accepted to be blindfolded « All ten of us climbed under the ropes and allowed ourselves to be blindfolded » (Ellison 17) , it was humiliating , here the blindness of blacks is confirmed when they allowed themselves to be blindfolded and accepting this humiliation , this means their inability to recognize their exploitation at the hands of the white men , who think that they are

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superior every where . More , when the vet from Golden Day says to invisible man « But for God's sake , learn to look beneath the surface , » he said. « Come out of the fog , young man» (Ellison 119). Therefore , the fighters are unable to create their identity , since they accept the idea of fighting , they are invisible as human beings as much to the whites as to themselves . Ellison uses blindness to dissect the cultural prejudice against African Americans by the ingrained ideology of society. As the narrator struggles to find his identity in a world full of racism and stereotypes he is forced to accept his invisibility. Ellison uses of sight and blindness to represent the flawed nature of the visions of many people , ideologies , truths and prejudices , that lead the narrator to accept and believe his invisibility . Thus , the narrator experiences all types of social ignorance and blindness that whites have used towards African Americans .

II-4-5.Alienation :

Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man shed lights on different ideas and concepts that tackle with the values of culture and society , using a character who is alienated from the society because of racism . The narrator feels like his name the Invisible Man and describes him , invisible , ignored , forgotten , disregarded , isolated and overlooked throughout the novel because he is African American. In Ralph Ellison's novel , he creates a character that shows how its alienation shows society's moral values , alienation is shaped by the society that refused to see him as a result of his identity and his cultural heritage . However , The disregard of the white counterparts towards the existence , worth , and humanity of the narrator , causing a sense of alienation . Furthermore, the title Invisible Man sadly conjures the image of loneliness , despair and isolation as to threaten the wholeness of the human spirit ; more , he said :

I might even be said to possess a mind. I am invisible,
understand , simply because people refuse to see me...
When they approach me they see only my surroundings ,

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themselves , or figments of their imagination – indeed ,
everything anything except me . (Ellison 3)

It means that someone who sees himself invisible because the other people surround him refuse and are blind to see him , makes him develop a sense of alienation and estrangement from his true self and from what he really is . The invisible Man is person able to see and other people around himself , but he goes unseen and unnoticed , he is highly aware of a universe , in which his existence is disregarded , annulled , discounted , nullified , denied and rejected . Thus , invisibility is the ultimate alienation . The alienation of the protagonist which is obviously manifested in chapter 10 that talking about Liberty Paint Factory which illustrates his alienation from American community , its slogan « keep America pure with liberty paint » (Ellison 151) , that symbolizes the disregard of white Americans to the hard work and labor of African American and many other people that Liberty Paint Factory stand on them , for instance when the invisible man has to add ten drops of a black chemical to make the paint more white which means that despite the hatred and segregation white people are still in need for black people . The protagonist at the end of the book understands that hiding underground makes him recognize that his relationship with himself does not look like his relationship with his community , and that he is invisible but not blind , as he states « I'm an invisible man and it placed me in a hole -- or showed me the hole I was in , if you will -- and I reluctantly accepted the fact » (Ellison 443) , he makes a deal that « Life is to be lived, not controlled; and humanity is won by continuing to play in face of certain defeat. Our fate is to become one, and yet many » (Ellison 447) . The narrator is alienated from his native place , his birth place , he is also separated and alienated from his own people , the black society , as consequence he reached a stage of alienation makes him feel that he is self-alienated (Toker) . To be both inside and outside of one's world , to see what one cannot share : this is invisibility; this is alienation (Collier) .

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Conclusion :

During the fifties , Afro-American literature presented the revolutionary vision of racism and racial discrimination , alienation , searching for identity in a white dominant community . However , Ralph Ellison in *Invisible Man* challenges the traditional ideologies and views that restricted the understanding of individual identity in the United States , he wanted to show the universality of identity which should not be limited to race , culture or skin color that is a burden the Negro has to manage with . *Invisible Man* is a story of unnamed person , a naïve black man , who has face plenty experiences of racism , segregation , racial discrimination , and loss of identity, while he attempts to seek his identity or find himself . At the beginning he is pure , innocent and servile to the white racists , through his suffering and humiliation , he learns how his identity particularly and the whole African Americans in general are in crises and invisible in the United States . Also , through his interactions with the white and black folks , he learns that is not only the whites but also the blacks are responsible for their invisibility , loss of identity , dignity . Finally , he comes to decide his way for his freedom and self definition and to get rid of being invisible. He determines to emerge from his hibernation and exert his power to prove himself by making useful contribution to his society , in his own way .

Chapter Three :

Rethinking Racism in Claudia Rankin's *Citizen* : *An American lyric*

Introduction :

Claudia Rankine's *Citizen : An American lyric*³ 2014 , it highlights subjects that African Americans suffered from as race , racism , violence , and citizenship in American society . Rankine book deals with real events and stories of Rankine herself and her friends , in which narrates every day racism , microaggressions , prejudice , identity , other experiences of being black in America and other subjects . Rankine in her book used a very special and unique style of writing , she mixed between prose and poetry , images in order to cover the real images of African American racism in the United States . More , she demonstrates the racist encounters in schoolyard , grocery store , home , in soccer and tennis field , that helps the reader to understand the effects of racism on both body and mind . However , some of the racial events appeared as small crimes , while other as stupid ones . Rankine in her book clarified how such stress could effect the ability of African Americans to live a peaceful life as other human beings .

III-1.Style of Claudia Rankine's *Citizen* :

Citizen : An American lyric by Claudia Rankine was published in 2014 , it was an unique masterpiece , which has been known by a wide range of critics , and was being a matter of criticism from the moment it was published , because of her option of genre which was exceptional , its publisher Graywolf press describes it as : « an innovative work of poetry , prose and visual images that addresses race and its individual and collective effects in America » (*Citizen in classroom*) . *Citizen* deals with a group of experiences of vivid stories of Rankine herself , her friends and other black Americans in the world , in which she based on the main idea that is racism . From *Citizen* is very important to be discussed , the book-length poetry which is defined as writing that uses rhythm , vivid language , and often rhyme

³ A lyric poem is short, highly musical verse that conveys powerful feelings. The poet may use rhyme, meter, or other literary devices to create a song-like quality. (see Thoughtco.com)

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to provoke an emotional response (Merriam Webster) ; it includes lyrical poetry and prose , this application produced a very special effect . In the Norton Introduction to Poetry , lyric poems described as « ... relatively short ... focusing primarily on the feelings , impressions, and thoughts – that is on the subjective , inward experience –of a single first-person speaker » (Norton Introduction to Poetry 406) . Citizen contained seven chapters , every single chapter using such form of writing style , mixing between prose , poetry , essay , pictures , graphic design , monologue and other famous persons from our society , as a way of linking between the text and the photographs in order to support the main idea that she want to explain and present it , and to give more meaning to the reader . Rankine's book Citizen is without a table of contents to lead the reader and direct him . Claudia Rankine is a poet and playwright , she wrote in poem form , she recognized that poetry is powerful genre which attract a lot of attention , and will help her to transmit a strong message as racism . Rankine used poetry to set more light to the topic and presenting it to many people , Rankine declares that poetry is a special unique medium that is competent to deal with the problems that she interested in , which allowing her to do more than simply condemn racism . She stated that : « poetry allows us into the realm of feeling , and it's the one place where you can say « i feel bad » » ; she argues that : « Feeling is as important as perception and description » (Pri.org) . She clarified the reason why she used poetry rather than prose in an interview , in the University of Baltimore School of law , Rankine argued :

I started to interview black people about micro-aggression . I didn't want to pretend to be in their position ; I just wanted to say what they told me . They told me what happened but not how they felt . These sentences and their prose made lyric seemed like the right Genre . (Yoon)

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In the Festival of the 26th Annual Chicago Humanities , Claudia Rankine talked about her motivation that make her to write such book , she said : « I think i was just interested in what it meant to bring the stories to page an how language could hold history and enact the simplicity of the moment that is never simple » (Youtube.com) ; in other interview with Alexandra Schwartz of The New Yorker magazine , she stated that her book started by asking her friends , she declares that :

Tell me a moment when you suddenly found yourself feeling invisible or internally unsettled by something that came down to a moment that you then read as racism , but I want it to happen between you and a friend .” I didn’t really care too much about what people were doing in Ferguson, at this level. I meant in their day-to-day working lives . And then , as people began to tell me stories , I began to see it in my own life , everywhere , happening , and I just started writing them down . (Schwartz)

Since the puplication of the book , *Citizen* gain a wide impressive successs , it was an extra ordinary poetry work , that spread on television shows . Rankine writing style of *Citizen* was chagneable from one story to another , i twas not just poetry , she wrote some stories in poetry , while other ones has written in prose , as when she wrote an essay talking about Serena Wlliams , she used essays , lyric essays , prose narratives , stories , poems , and prose poems ; this contradiction in the book , might be best seen in reference to it , by poet Ruth Ellen Kocher « The poem , the language that is perhaps poem or not poem » ; Rankine contiunes changing from essay to prose , to poetry , interspresed with images to convey meaning ; nevertheless , this change make the classification of the book very difficult to be classified to one type . Mary-jean Chan stated in her article in the Journal of American Studies , that Rankine book is hyprid

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text , she says that : « Citizen is work that seeks to extend the lyric's possibilities through creating a hybrid text containing lyric essays , photography , public art , and video scripts » , she carries on : « Rankine's own work emerges out a critical awareness of the need to refashion the lyric in response to the tribulations of being a black citizen in contemporary America » .
(Lareviewofbooks.org) (supersummary.com)

The book at the first time , could be seen as directed to black people ; however , it is directed to the white people in order to change their view about black people , and rethink on their relationship towards different black people . Moreover , White people never experienced or faced race , racism or being alienated , ignored , and isolated from the society , so they hardly interested to the concept of racism . An article about Claudia Rankine's Citizen , that can be found in website of Harvard University press ; which mentioned that :

If you are used to the idea that you can present yourself however you like , walk wherever you choose, apparently unaffected by race , then you might be white ... All of us have been shaped by what we call "race ," but white people —white writers—often don't know it . "Yes, of course" could be the sound of a white person knowing it.

Rankine starts her book with a combination of vignettes , poems and photographs . she narrates every day racism that faced African Americans and racist violence , in other words of the same sort of racism that applied by white people , she writes about microaggressions of colleagues and friends , and being black man in American society . Rankine also narrates the feeling when you are told that your face looks like white person . She also recounts racial aggressions toward famous names as Serena Williams and Zinedin Zidane .

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The book *Citizen* included seven chapters , each chapter deals with various verbal forms , mixing between essays , prose , poetry , images , scripts . Rankine used second person pronoun « you » in order to recount the black experiences . Furthermore , the tone used in *Citizen* is objectivity separated interspersed by moments of intensive feelings as anger , weariness and disgust . The first chapter written in second person deals with racial microaggressions ; however the second one outlines Youngman Hennessy meditation on black artists , as well as the racial event that effected the tennis player Serena Williams . In both third and fourth chapters deals with a normal moments , in ordinary situations , in store , office ... etc ; and focuses on the power of racial discrimination of language and its effect ; moreover , the fifth chapter , talked about identity and more microaggressions . However , the sixth , there are “video situations” , in which Claudia Rankine created them in collaboration with her husband John Lucas , in which Rankine narrates multiple kinds of video recordings with other passages in *Citizen* . The final chapter finishes with complicated thinking on race , language , and body . (supersummary)

Claudia Rankine *Citizen : An American lyric* recieved 2014 National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry , and both Pen Open Book Award in 2015 , and Pen Literary Award 2015 . Also it was chosen a finalist for The National Book Award in Poetry , and The National Book Critics Award in Criticism , more *Citizen* won the NAACP , furthermore Rankine won of the *Los Angeles Times* Book Prize in Poetry , which was the first book , that choosed in both criticism and poetry . *Citizen* also recieved the uniqueness of being the only poetry book to be the New York Times bestseller in the nonfiction category . Among her many awards and honors , Rankine is the receiver of the Poets & Writers' Jackson Poetry Prize . (lareviewofbooks.org)

III-2.Themes of Identity in *Citizen* :

Citizen : An American lyric , by the playwright and poet Claudia Rankine , which is mostly dealt with everyday racism events that interrupted by racial comments and gestures , these comments and gestures are microaggression , that people received it from their friends their co-workers , and other people . Sometimes those comments and gestures are very quick , in which no one have not the time to think and to recognize what has been happen ; nevertheless , in other times those interruptions is slow which creates big hurt that lasts for ever . *Citizen* was a wide range to understand how black people and other people of color live their lives , especially concerning identity .

III-2.1. Racial Microaggression :

The book of Claudia Rankine deals with stories of all types of racism and every day race , in which she herself and her friends experienced and faced it in American society . According to Merriam-Webster microaggression is the unconscious or unintentional actions and comments toward marginalized group which express prejudiced attitude . Moreover , Derald Wing Sue psychologist in University of Columbia , was infatuated by the concept of racial microaggressions , however his definition : « Racial microaggressions are brief and commonplace daily verbal , behavioral , or environmental indignities , whether intentional or unintentional , that communicate hostile , derogatory , or negative racial slights and insults toward people of color » (Sue et al. 271) . The term micro aggression was first coined by Chester M. Pierce (1925-2016) a psychology professor in the University of Harvard in the 1970s . Microaggression look similar to everyday racism , which is small incidents , comments that is unnoticed . Rankine begin her book *Citizen* with small thinking combined of eight lines about someone past : « When you are alone and too tired even to turn any of your devices , you let yourself linger in a past stacked among your pillows » (Rankine 5) , she portrayed when you are alone your day finished and no one is behind you to talk to you about feelings, imagining about what has been experienced and seen , Memories are around and eventually you have to

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deal with this effects of racism , Rankine telling us that theses thinking could effect the mental ability of black people . These racial words stays long time in the body do not disappear . Rankine continues narrating incidents of black people , she wrote :

You are twelve attending Sts . Philip and James School on White Plains Road and the girl sitting in the seat behind you asks you to lean to the right during exams so she can copy what you have written she tells you you smell good and have features more like a white person . (Rankine 5)

Rankine portrayed the girl incident , who faced racial microaggression , in which she was compared to another person that will hurt her self-possession . Rankine carry on narrating her encounters with everyday racism and microaggression , which faced most of people of color , she presented another story which had similar conditions , she said :

Because of your elite status from a year's worth of travel, you have already settled into your window seat on United Airlines, when the girl and her mother arrive at your row. The girl, looking over at you ,tells her mother, these are our seats, but this is not what I expected .The mother's response is barely audible—I see, she says. I'll sit in the Middle . (Rankine 12)

The comment that the mother said , suggested this black person is not trusted and she would protect her doughter from , so she sited between them .

Rankine thinks on why certain people feel comfortable when saying things to you that is inappropriate . she also ponders that it is strange that certain discussions that are clearly inappropriate somehow will become appropriate when they are directed to a black people . The Excuses and convincing will not stop what such words will make you feel . As a result of that , people will continue with microaggressions and black Americans will continue to be affected by them . Eventually , these moments lead to bigger moments of misunderstandings when a situation raises and physical violence seems possible , macroaggressions exists because microaggressions are overlooked . (Hersi 2016)

III-2.2. Invisibility and Hypervisibility :

The notion of being either invisible or hypervisible is an important theme in claudia Rankine's *Citizen* . Moreover , invisibility is defined by Merriam-Webster as something or someone that cannot seen or preceived , it is also defined as someone who is not able to be recognized and identified . However , hypervisibility is defined as something or someone extremely visible, known and recognizable (Youcefi , Benaceur 42) . Invisibility, as well as hypervisibility , are main keywords when reading interviews and reviews of *Citizen* . Alexandra Schwartz demonstrates in her interviews with Rankine from *The New Yorker* that : « the condition that Rankine describes is one of being alternately invisible and “hyper-visible,” watched too closely or not seen at all » (Schwartz). Kenna O'Rourke writes in another review that : « Rankine strives not to “make it new” (as the modernists would have it), but to make it legible – to articulate the contradictory state of invisibility and hypervisibility, of aggressions and microaggressions, that black citizens endure daily in a society that continues to place them as “other” » (O'Rourke) . Those moments of invisibility and hypervisibility are all mediated by the white look , how the white people views , sees or does not view the Black people . George Yancy (2016) said that : « within the context of white racist America , whites inherited the privileged status of being the “lookers” and gazers , with all the power that this entailed . » ,

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also he added : « White people adopt the status of the gazer , and inflict assumptions upon the black subject , assumptions that are intrinsically caught up in the history of America , and the history of slavery » . We can see these assumptions portrayed in *Citizen* . However , Rankine shows different stories to the two concepts particularly in chapter VI , Rankine talked about the murder of James Craig Anderson , she wrote :

Then the pickup is beating the black object to the ground and
the tire marks the crushed organs. Then the audio, I ran that
nigger over , is itself a record-breaking hot June day in the
twenty-first century . (Rankine 94)

Rankine wrote about eighteen-year-old Daryl Dedman who stole , beat , ran over , and killed forty-seven-old James Craig Anderson in 2011 , Drayl Deeman over him by his car screaming « I ran that nagger over » , after beating him with other white guys , the crime condemned between 7 to 50 years of jail for the murderer and his participants . The accident did not take its attention that it deserves from the media . Claudia Rankine shows another incident in order to make readers compare between justice for black people with justice for white people , the accident take a wide attention from the meida unlike the other one of the murder of James Craig Anderson . It was the “the Jena six incident” of 2008 , In Louisiana Jena high school , in which six Black teenagers attempted to kill White teenager after beating him , the Black teenagers were abused by White ones , they were condemned 100 years of jail . Rankine did not agree with the injustice of these kids , yet she did not support them , sje states that :

Boys will be boys being boys feeling their capacity heaving
butting heads righting their wrongs in the violence of

aggravated adolescence charging forward in their way
experiencing the position of positioning which is a position
for only one kind of boy face it know it for the other fists the
feet criminalized already are weapons already exploding the.
landscape and then the litigious hitting back is life
imprisoned . (Rankine101)

Rankine talked about other incidents that is related to invisibility . The incident of the women who has been overlooked in store by a white man , however she was seen by the cashier , but the white man confirms that for him she does not exist , she wrote :

In line at the drugstore it's finally your turn , and then it's
not as he walks in front of you and puts his things on the
counter . The cashier says , Sir , she was next . When he
turns to you he is truly surprised . Oh my God , I didn't see
you. You must be in a hurry , you offer
No , no , no , I really didn't see you . (Rankine 77)

In this situation , the woman is not seen by the white man , yet she was seen by the cashier , while the white man he was unexpected for the existence of the woman . Furthermore , the woman made an apology for the man and she gives him the full control of her existence . However , he emphasizes that to him she was really invisible when he said "No , no , no , I really didn't see you " , this will touch her self-confidence and , existence .

Rankine demonstrates how individuals are seen and not seen in different ways. Black people realized their invisibility , and they are not normal citizens as Whites , African Americans are seen as doubtful .

III-2.3. African Americans' Struggle for Citizenship :

African Americans did not take their freedom and being rightful citizenship in America easily . The African Americans started with no right , the U S law did not gave equal rights , slavery , citizenship , racism , violence . African Americans suffered for long time to guarantee their citizenship in white dominant society , because they were seen people less than white people , they always see themselves as superior . After slavery , African Americans guaranteed their freedom from slavery but they were still faced segregation actions and injustice treatments , they were not accepted as normal citizens over years and years . The Fourteenth Amendment of the American Constitution , which was signed in 1868 , that declared all people naturalized or born in the United States are American citizens regardless their skin color , or having slave status , in which secured their citizenship to blacks who were born in America . Yet , black people were treated unequally and facing all kinds of racial discrimination , which still exist as a form of life in the society , till the incoming of Civil Rights Movement . The Civil Rights Movement was the spotlight that sparked a change that brings a lot of new laws that had to be confirmed and other ones that had to be removed . The Civil Rights Movement did not gain equality for African Americans , while racism still a major problem in American society , yet it still considered as a closer step to equality . Claudia Rankine was discontent about the stories she wrote of her and her Black friends and people of color in America . She reported the injustice actions and treatments that you have to went through as an African American in the United States ; however , still recognize as a citizen .

Moreover , Rankine indicating that to be a citizen in the United States , there is a set of differences , and you will not be treated as other people . Citizen concentrates a lot on everyday racism , further she collected murders and violence against black people whom they were either guiltless or did not take their chance to defend themselves . African Americans are citizens who experience racism , injustice treatment , prejudice , pain , fear , discrimination and more ; she

demonstrates an example of those injustice treatments of Black Citizens , some of the insults were collected from Rankine's friends , while other insults Rankine herself experienced it as 'Stop-and-Frisk'⁴ , she wrote :

...The police vehicle came to a screeching halt in front of me like they were setting up a blockade. Everywhere were flashes, a siren sounding and a stretched-out roar. Get on the ground . Get on the ground now... And you are not the guy and still you fit the description because there is only one guy who is always the guy fitting the description. I left my client's house knowing I would be pulled over .
(Rankine 105)

The criminal justice system had a long history of being participants in the racial discrimination of African Americans . A lot of the poems in "Citizen" deal with the violent deaths of the black people that have dominated the headlines of the news over the last several years as : James Craig Anderson , Mark Duggan and Trayvon Martin . Black Americans always being disturbed by the police for whatever they do , in which They have a history of oppression and a history of being accused of crimes they did not do it , they are treated differently than whites , this "policing of the black body" was something that was happening all over the country , Rankine says that : « the outdoor space is dangerous for the black male body to move about in » . In an interview *from PRI's Studio 360 with Kurt Andersen* Rankine says : « One hopes that when you step out with that passport , that is overrides racial distinctions – sexual , gender , all of those things . » . Rankine is describing a continual fear

⁴ stop and frisk according to Merriam Webster is a state law that allows a police officer to stop any person without making an arrest based on a reasonable suspicion that the person has committed or is about to commit a crime .

that comes with being a black man in the world . He is eventually drawn over . He is dragged to the ground, fettered and pushed into the police vehicle . (Hersi 2016) (pacaaca.org.com)

III-3. Racism in Sports :

Racism is a part of American history that will not be forgotten , in which Racial discrimination is an evil that blinds people . However , African Americans are living in a White dominant society , Black people are facing all kinds of every day racism , prejudice actions , that will be dangerous on their lives , and they could be killed .

A lot of Black people were dreaming to be an athletes in a White discriminated society , that society presents them with few other options . However , There were a severe racial , social and economic barriers that African American athletes have been experienced , and went to , throughout history . Black athletes were forbidden from competing as professional and talented athletes . But trailblazers like Jackie Robinson slowly broke away the color barriers in American sports and opened the door for other stars from their race .

Jackie Robinson was the first black man broke the color line and became the first Black baseball player to play in the American major leagues during the 20th century. Robinson deal with unimaginable pressure , he faced many acts of verbal and physical abuse, fans ridiculed and threatened (Biography website) . However he had to prove to the world that a Black man could be just as good as a white man, not just at baseball, but as members of society . Then , Black people started to participate and in all types of sports . African American athletes have recorded impressive achievements and also used sports to fight for greater rights and freedoms .

Moreover , Claudia Rankine dealt with some examples of people who fight against racism and racial discrimination in sports domaine , as the American tennis player Serena Williams ,

and the Algerian/French football player Zinedine Zidane . Rankine demonstrated their experiences with racism in sport field .

III-3.1.Serena Williams :

Serena Williams was born on September 26, 1981 . She is an American professional tennis player . She was very successful and had a lot of victories , in which she won 23 Grand Slam singles titles , she holds the most major singles, doubles, and mixed doubles titles combined among all tennis players with only four losses in her 25 appearances in the finals . She reached the first ranking in women's single tennis for the first time on July 08, 2002 , and she holds the title for 319 weeks . (National Museum of African American history & culture) .

In *Citizen : An American lyric* , Rankine concentrates on Serena Williams , she narrates a story about her quarterfinal match of the 2004 United States open , Serena lose the game when she was facing Jennifer Capriati , because of The famous tennis chair umpire Mariana Alves made multiple bad calls , causing Williams to lose the match . Rankine said :

The serves and returns Alves called out were landing ,
stunningly unreturned by Capriati , inside the lines , no
discerning eye sight needed. Commentators, spectators ,
television viewers , line judges,everyone could see the
balls were good , everyone , apparently ,except Alves. ...
Tennis superstar John McEnroe , given his own keen eye
for injustice during his professional career , was shocked
Serena. was able to hold it together after losing the match
(Rankine 26-27)

Serena after this bad comments , succeeded to control herself , her anger , and her reaction , by containing herself to finger shaking and saying "no" multiple times , from doing any

unsuitable reaction , which will be a bad reflexion on all the Black race . Yet, when the match ends Serena said : « I'm very angry and bitter right now. I felt cheated. Shall I go on? I just feel robbed » (Rankine27) , Serena was disappointed from the actions of the umpire . However , At the 2009 U.S. Open , Williams lost her temper at a bad call and swore at the umpire and she reacted aggressively against him . This incident obtained her a lot of criticism. Serena suspended from playing for two years and she was fined by 82.000\$. Rankine points out that this loss of mood was a buildup of anger finally boiling over after gathering a lifetime of racism .

III-3.2. Zinedine Zidane:

Zinedine Yazid Zidane was born on June 23 , 1972 , in Marseille , France . He is the son of Algerian parents , Zinedine Zidane who was at his peak at the time won a three-time FIFA World Player of the Year , he won Ballon d'Or in 1998 , he won the FIFA World Player of the year in 1998, 2000 , and 2003 . (Biography website) .

Rankine describes a notorious match from the 2006 World Cup , where the famous player Zinedine Zidane butted a player by his head from the opposite team sparked by racial insults . In 2006 World Cup Final between France and Italy , during the second term of extra time of the match , Zidane was provoked by Materazzi , in which he said a few words , Zidane tries to walk away from him , but eventually turns around him and went directly to him and butted Materazzi with his head ; which bashes him directly down to the ground , he immediately took a red card and was sent away from the field as the end of his career , and Italy wins the World Cup . In an interview stating about what Materazzi had say to Zidane , Rankine quoted Zidane : « Do you think two minutes from the end of a World Cup final , two minutes from the end of my career , I wanted to do that » (Rankine 124) . After much assessment people believed that Materazzi uttered some racial words to Zidane , inwhich excited him , while Materazzi himself had spoke , that he didn't told anything about religion , racism or nationality , However , Zidane

Chapter Three : Rethinking Racism in Claudia Rankin's Citizen : An American lyric

said that what he said had : « touched the deepest part of me » (Rankine 128) . Zidane says : « Every day I think about where I come from and I am still proud to be who I am » (Rankine 122) . Zidane went through many troubles in his life , which has touch his glory , but he is still proud of who he is regardless of all of those sufferance . He experienced racism both before , during and after his soccer career . (Hersi 2016)

Conclusion :

Claudia Rankine book Citizen : An American lyric is a formidable book , starting from her style writing , the way of narrating the stories , to her kind of stories , her use of essay , prose , poetry , graphic design , famous names , photographs . Rankine dealt with stories herself experienced , and her black friends and other ones people of color , she spoke about microaggressions as if they were macroaggressions , yet she showed how these small microaggressions are affecting people's mental health . Rankine deals with everyday racism as type of menace that is decreed to African Americans' lives . Yet the self-harming happens because of the stable microaggressions that are affecting the mental health . African Americans are still considered as second category citizens because of the physical , mental and emotional effects of everyday racism that took place in the form of microaggressions . Rankine is sending a message that microaggressions should be considered racism to the same degree macroaggressions are , and they should both be considered detrimental .

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

Humans are too inquisitive concerning every single thing , which surrounding them and their life , more people want to know all answers about the questions that they asked about , while sometimes a lot of issues stays ambiguous without any answer . Furthermore each time comes with new interests , that rebuilds new questions , these matters might be resolved and answered to fulfill human curiosity that could made him that person.

However , every single person had a set of features and characteristics that identified him , such as nationality , race , culture , sexuality , religion , which people believe in , and it gives them meaning . The notion of racism had separated people from each other , and it made many disfigurement between their relationship , and race become a part of the human life . More , much of racist actions are presented today against many groups , just beacaus they wear in differetnt way or speak differently , or have a different skin color , especially black people . African Americans suffered a lot over decades from racism in The United States , from slavery , second citizens till they become American citizens , but they still face racism acts in ways of microaggressions in their daily life .

In fact , the social and cultural situations that the authors wrote their works guide them to creat divers novels , in which they emphasized on its rich of both the African culture and African American folk culture . The novel *Invisible Man* was written in the period corresponding to the growing interest in blacks and whites' racial relations in Africa and America . Blacks' alienation and segregation in both continents became a stimulus for the black writers to engage themselves in defending the rights of their races .

Ralph Ellison's *The Invisible Man* is a representation of African American history . It is about the reality of racism and the problem of black identity from the late 1920s until the beginning of 1930s . The key to understanding *The Invisible Man* is through the protagonist's

General Conclusion

flash backs ; memories and dreams . A glimpse into the events of the novel offers to the reader an image of the blacks' conditions in a racist American society , and demonstrates the reasons that cause the narrator to be invisible . The events in the novel mirror the historical realities of that time ; it did not only reflects history, but also portrays the social , economic , and politic features that took place in the late of 1920 and the beginning of 1930 .

Ellison's *Invisible Man* concentrates on a number of social and psychological problems facing African Americans early in the twentieth century . It touches on the conflict of Identity , Blindness , Invisibility , Rlienation and Racism . The major theme of invisible man is the necessity to construct a personal identity in a divided society . Throughout the novel , the narrator struggles with finding his identity . He tries to shape his identity into what others want before he realizes he will only have a chance at freedom when he has his own identity . The protagonist suffers from the society's blindness . People , whether blacks or whites , never see the narrator as a free thinking individual but as a foolish black man . As a result , he comes to a conclusion that he must be invisible if they cannot see him for who he is. Furthermore , Ralph Ellison acknowledged that words had the power to segregate people , and he is subject to much racism , wherever he goes he faces racism .

Claudia Rankine book *Citizen : An American lyric* about every day racism toward African americans , she depicted a number of racist encounters and illustrates how they can happen anywhere at any time . Rankine intervenes in current debates about racism with writing about racism in an unfamiliar way which opens up new dialogues to talk about the issue of racism . Rankine mixes different genre's which according to Reed creates an unrecognizable speech . Rankine includes all her readers in her accounts . The focus is not on how she feels and what she thinks, rather the focus is for everyone to forcefully enter these everyday situations and to understand the implications that follow , both physical and mental . She deals with racism due to her approach on everyday racism . In a time where macroaggressions such as police

General Conclusion

brutalities have reached the news and is taking up a lot of the racial discussion in the United States , Rankine decides to take out a magnifier to look at where the causes starts . Citizen is able to urgently speak about microaggressions as if they were macroaggressions . The urgency is created when Rankine follows up her anecdotes with meditations that show how these small microaggressions are affecting people's mental state . Rankine gives many examples about racism and every day racism « microaggressions , macroaggressions » . In addition, Rankine points out the debatable themes like Macroaggression , Invisibility and Hypervisibility which shows other views for Racism .

Rankine's point is that a reaction should be considered natural . When violence is used as a form of resistance to oppression . Violent words can linger in the body until something triggers it . Rankine's account on Zinedine Zidane , the French soccer player who head-butted a man from the opposite team , shows how the wrong words at the wrong time entered his body and his retaliation to those words . As well as , Serena Williams that needed to represent her black people race in US open tennis , Her offensive and aggressive reaction to violence were a normal and natural reactions .

Further more , the need of defending our principles , race , religion made a lot of problems and violence between people , No one accepts being insulted or humiliated by any one , as we see in Selenia and Zidane cases' they defend their rights of their race people as well as their own rights . Yet white people exercise racism because they believe in the superiority of races , in which they the superior one . However , this way of behaving that they are superior and examine all kinds of racism and violence toward Black people is very notable in the American history .

The case of racism and discrimination against Black people influenced higher number of philosophers and thinkers as John Locke , Booker T. Washington and W.E.B DuBois to talk

General Conclusion

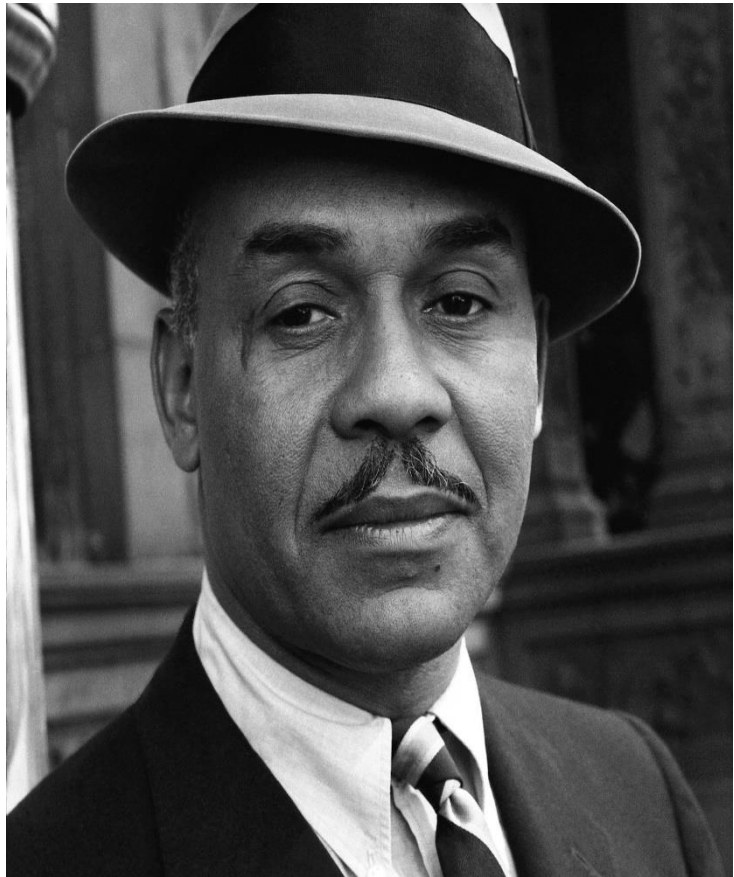
about them and writers to write about them , about their experiences and how they were treated criminally , cruelly , injustice and unfair , and how they viewed , labeled by the whole world generally and racist people , groups particularly in order to give them their rights back to live as humans . Racism against Blacks has always been a very sensitive topic which we have to talk and deal about it ; why the world viewed , treated and talked to people via their color skin , identity , culture and language , which insulted Black ego , personality , and their mental health just because they have different skin color or having different accent .

The destruction of Racism will be a complex operation that requires a lot of modifications in social connection and human relationships . Hence , this modification needs tolerant and peaceful minds which believe in equality , justice and humanity

Appendixes

Appendix one : Ralph Ellison Biography

Ralph Ellison , full name Ralph Waldo Ellison was born in March 1 , 1914 , in Oklahoma City , African american writer and literary critic . Ellison left Tuskegee in 1936 and moved to New York City and settled in Harlem .He studied photography and sculpture. Thus , he met Richard Wright who encouraged and motivated Ellison to write he was the starting point of the career of Ellison as a writer



Ellison worked as a cook in Merchant Marine from 1943 until 1945 , and in 1952 he published *Invisible Man* . He was teacher at Yale University and Rutgers University , while he was working on "*Shadow And Act*" . in 1953 he won U.S National Book Award for Fiction , in 1965 "*Invisible Man*" was announced as the most important novel ever after W.W.II .In 1969 , he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom award , he received The Medal of New York City College Langston Huges in 1984 , and in 1985 he awarded the National Medal of Arts , then he was elected in the American Academy of Arts and Letters . Ralph Ellison died on April 16,1994 , because of pancreatic cancer .After his death a plenty of manuscripts were detected in his house , which went into publication of "*Flying Home*" and "*Other Stories*" in 1996 ,while his novel "*Juneteenth*" was published in 1999 .On January 26, 2010 , "*Three Days Before The Shooting*" was published by Modern Library , which was considered as the last work of Ellison

Appendix two : Claudia Rankine's Biography

Claudia Rankine was born in the 1st of January 1963 in Kingston, Jamaica. She is a play writer, an educator, and an American poet . Rankine immigrated to New York City with her parents when she was seven years old, she was educated in Roman Catholic elementary and secondary schools in Bronx. She earned her BA (Bachelor of Arts) at Williams College then her MFA (Master of Fine Arts) at



Columbia University. She is known for her social activities in preventing justice between races. Her interesting writing styles and use of language was her explicit signature in all her works. Her best-known works are: Nothing in nature is private(1994), The End of the Alphabet (1998), Plot(2001), American Women Poets in the 21st Century: Where Lyric Meets Language (2002), Don't Let Me Lonely : AN American Lyric(2004), and Citizen : An American Lyric(2014). Rankine has won the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) image award and the Pen Open Book Award in 2015, also her book Citizen was finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award for poetry.

<https://www.britannica.com>

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Résumé :

L'expérience traumatisante des Afro-Américains avec l'esclavage a déclenché une autre bataille avec l'identité en cours de route . La fin de l'apartheid dans les écoles, la politique, le mariage et le lieu de travail a créé un masque pour l'inégalité et l'injustice raciales. La littérature afro-américaine est née de la souffrance des Noirs pendant et après l'esclavage . Au départ, les auteurs ont rencontré des conditions difficiles . Ils ont dû défier et changer les stéréotypes selon lesquels les Noirs étaient considérés comme invisibles, inférieurs et incapables de produire une œuvre littéraire . Cette thèse adoptera l'approche illustrative pour se concentrer sur la question du racisme en Amérique et ses effets sur la vie des individus afro-américains. Il enquête également sur l'identité noire et leurs expériences américaines en enquêtant sur "The Invisible Man" Ralph Ellison, et les aspects du racisme dans ce roman, en se concentrant sur les thèmes de l'identité , du déguisement , de l'isolement, du racisme et de la cécité pour l'exploration . Dans le livre de Claudia Rankine "The Citizen", une lyrique américaine (2014), il enquête également sur l'expérience raciale afro-américaine et aborde également des thèmes similaires à "The Invisible Man" ainsi que des microaggressions . Cette thèse illustre les différents visages du racisme et ses conséquences pour les Afro-Américains . En conséquence, cette thèse conclut que la question de la race en Amérique au XXI^e siècle reste une question turbulente , alors que les actes racistes sont encouragés par les croyances de base sur lesquelles les humains ont été élevés .

المخلص:

أثارت التجربة المؤلمة للأمريكيين الأفارقة مع العبودية معركة أخرى مع الهوية على طول المسار . حيث خلقت نهاية الفصل العنصري في المدارس والسياسة والزواج وأماكن العمل قناعاً يخفي عدم المساواة العرقية والظلم . نشأ الأدب الأفريقي الأمريكي من معاناة السود أثناء وبعد العبودية. في البداية ، واجه المؤلفون ظروفًا صعبة . كان عليهم تحدي الصور النمطية وتغييرها حول اعتبار السود غير مرئيين ودونيين وغير قادرين على إنتاج عمل أدبي . ستتخذ هذه الأطروحة المنهج التوضيحي للتركيز على قضية العنصرية في أمريكا وتأثيراتها على حياة الأفراد الأمريكيين من أصل أفريقي. كما أنه يحقق في هوية السود وتجاربهم الأمريكية من خلال التحقيق في رالف إليسون "الرجل الخفي" ، وجوانب العنصرية في هذه الرواية ، مع التركيز على موضوعات الهوية ، والتخفي ، والعزلة ، والعنصرية ، والعمى من أجل الاستكشاف. يحقق أيضًا في كتاب كلوديا رانكين "المواطن" قصيدة غنائية أمريكية (2014) في التجربة العرقية الأمريكية الأفريقية ، ويناقش أيضًا موضوعات مماثلة لـ "الرجل الخفي" بالإضافة إلى الاعتداءات الدقيقة . توضح هذه الأطروحة الوجوه المختلفة للعنصرية وعواقبها على الأمريكيين الأفارقة. ونتيجة لذلك ، خلصت هذه الأطروحة إلى أن قضية العرق في أمريكا في القرن الحادي والعشرين لا تزال مسألة مضطربة ، في حين أن الأفعال العنصرية شجعتها المعتقدات الأساسية التي نشأ عليها البشر .