

The Power of Language in *Huckleberry Finn*

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Abstract

Huckleberry Finn is a very controversial novel, and has made some disagreements between the readers. Most of the issues are concerned with the way Jim is portrayed. The novel deals with the issue of racism as an ideology and a cultural phenomenon. Jim is a character who is inferior, passive and dehumanized through many ways, like the way he uses the language and the way he behaves. The language is used to represent the black Jim as a subject of the racist ideologies of his time. The message that the writer tells us is that although he is a white he fights for the right of the slaves and the persecuted class of the society. Twain creates characters that are imprisoned by their social milieu. Huck, Jim, and the society as a whole are entrapped within the confines of the existing slave system and the other entrapments of culture, most notably language.

Huckleberry Finn is dialectic in that Twain uses the language against itself. The controversial nature of Twain's subject necessitates the reader's full awareness of Twain's use of irony, language, and point of view in *Huckleberry Finn*.

Keywords: Huckleberry Finn, Nigger, Language, Jim.

The Power of Language in *Huckleberry Finn*

Mark Twain's innovative use of language in *Huckleberry Finn* is one of the most attractive agents in the novel, and a paradise for critics to talk about. Early observers argue against the moral laxity in the language. But more visionary critics seem to feel comfortable with Twain's folkloric style to address the language in his work. One very clear example on *Huckleberry Finn*, besides his use of irony, is the use of language. Whether intentionally or not, Twain makes a very important point on remarking the dialects used by a tool to make his characters look

realistic. One of the tricks and resources of the culture that works as a mirror of society and can cause some kind of harm to it. Language creates a social fiction that connects our senses to reality. Twain successfully reveals the badness of slavery, black and white, by the use of his language, and he expands an anti-racist theme in the novel. An examination about the use of language by Twain shows that in reality *Huckleberry Finn* is a dialectic. Twain employs language in a way that stands against itself. Nonetheless, a very significant aspect of the Mark Twain's novel is the language of the novel. The language is full of the dialectic expressions. That makes the novel interesting to all of the dialect owners. Each one feels that their language is represented in the novel. Like many other cases Huck represents Twain. Huck's Dialect is the same as Twain's one. Twain refers to this in the notes. To be known Twain does this intentionally, and the aim is to have a sense of novelty and newness for those who don't know the English dialects, on the other hand it is a feeling of recognition for those who don't know the expressions of the other dialects. There are many Examples for dialectic variability's. For example it says: "that ain't no matter," another Example is when he says: "it warn't no time to be sentimentering,"

Another example is the difference between Jim's dialect and Huck's. Jim's dialect is a very strong and strange dialect. His dialect is the dialect of the southern part of America that black people used. At that time it was known as the slave's dialect. Additionally, it was so odd to find an author who uses the language of the slaves, because the slaves were degraded to the extent that it was a shame to a writer to use their dialect. I think that Twain does so to show the readers and the society that the blacks and the other vernacular languages should be presented.

In 1840, blacks had no access at all to any kind of education, to learn to read and to write. They were deprived from their mother tongue and were not allowed to communicate with a new language nor different language. Jim's notion of "self" is controlled and limited by the same society in which he lives. "It seems axiomatic to us that the social milieu helps one to define his self-concept, and the self-concept that evolves affects the manner in which one person communicates with another" (Hall & Freedle, 1975, p. 129). I believe that Twain gives his ideas of abolitionism and antislavery through the hero, which is Jim. Jim is the tangible hero of the novel. He is brave and full of courage. He puts himself in danger in order to be free. Huck gets to know that Jim is very philanthropist and humane. Jim shows his passion and love for the others.

He is friendly and willing to help the characters in the novel. Although it was difficult to show the good sides of the southern part of the country and the slaves, but Mark Twain intentionally, shows the reader that the slaves should not be degraded and they are full of love and friendliness.

I think there are many examples in which the slaves are shown as humane characters. For example Jim says: "De man ain't asleep -- he's dead. You hold still-- I'll go en see. "He went, and bent down and looked, and says: "It's a dead man. Yes, indeedy; naked, too. He's ben shot in de back. I reck'n he's ben dead two er three days. Come in, Huck, but doan' look at his face -- it's too gashly." In the example it is obvious that Jim is humane, because he does not want Huck look at the corpse of a dead person, he thinks that it is sad to see a dead man, so he does not want Huck to hurt himself by looking at the face of the dead. Moreover Jim does not allow Huck to talk about the dead man, because he is afraid of the images he saw. This is evidence which shows that the slaves are not cruel, but they are philanthropists.

It was obvious that blacks are different from their white counterparts in physical features and cultural. Unfairly, whites made their own decision that differences make the blacks inferior and not the other way around. Jim naturally accepted the color of his skin was a sign of slavery, and these standards are displayed in the language that he must speak. Jim's interpretation of Huck's destiny in the hairball is an accurate example of his feelings towards his blackness. The idea that shows two angels governing around Jim, one which is white and the other is black. The white one leads him to the right path, in contrast to the black Angel, taking him to the wrong way (Clemens, 1977, p. 20). Jim has successfully adopted the Euro-American norms of evil and good which are symbolized by his marking the black angel as inferior and the white angel as superior. Jim was illiterate so whatever he picks up from the white culture turning him practically in a ghost. He was sure of not possessing any good of his own. Because of Jim's situation of bondage and the color of his skin, he sees himself as inferior to all whites, poor or rich, old or young. Using nineteenth century propriety, he referred to Huck as Lord upon their first encounter on Jackson Island:

-‘Why, how long have you been on the island, Jim?’
-I come heah de night arter you ‘s killed.
-...? ‘And ain’t you had nothing but that kind or rubbish to eat?’
-‘No, sah- nuffin else.’ **Page number?**

He indicates to his higher-ranking, Huck Finn, as “sah” and sometimes as “boss” and presumes his enslave situation. In Jim’s reluctant confession to Huck about why he ran away from Miss Watson, he accepts the fact of his mistreatment but cannot go through being sold “down the river”, He speaks of his servitude and possible sale as his only fate.

Well, you see, it ‘uz dis way. Ole Missus-dat’s Miss Watson-she pecks on me all de time, en treats me pooty, rough, but she awluz said she wouldn’t sell me down to Orleans. But I noticed dey wuz a nigger trader roun’ de place considerable, lately, en I begin to git oneasy... [page number?](#)

An important historical footnote here is needed. When he says “she always said she wouldn’t sell me down to Orleans”, he is referring to the fact that some of the largest plantations and cruellest slave owners were located on the Mississippi River, and the closer you got to New Orleans, the crueler the treatment of the slaves. It was a very common threat toward slaves at the time to threaten them if they misbehaved with being “sold down the river” and every slave of the day knew well what that meant.

Jim must speak of himself in the white language, as an object rather than a person; because they are on the island floating in the water of the Mississippi, and they can leave the society’s commands and dictates temporarily. However, as long as their friendship eventually grows, Jim is immerse in believe that he is equal to a white young boy. Donald Gibson in *Mark Twain’s, Jim in the Classroom* supports this position, and continues to recommend that the child-adult roles are opposite. The experts of the novel consider that the acquaintance between Huck and Jim is basically weak and humiliating. He (Jim) could only represent the character of leader; defender and supporter... all other grown-ups in Huck’s environment represent power. In fact, both characters appear to be less than an adult, instead of showing their masculinity (Gibson, 1972, p. 137). Huck’s reactions are different towards every other grown-up in the novel. In Huck’s world, all the adults represent authority except from Jim. There is a social understanding in the relationship between white and black concerning authority which is carried onto the raft and continues, Huck declares his attitude towards Jim and says that he would prefer to go to hell rather than turn Jim in. ‘All right then, I’ll go to hell – and I tore it up.’ (Twain 225) The moral climax of this novel is the quotation above, because Huck decides on something which is forbidden or unusual to all the people at that time in their thoughts towards the black. Huck neglects the way of thinking and behavior in the society towards slaves especially towards Jim.

Huck ignores the society's unkind and hypocritical beliefs in order to give Jim a chance to avoid slavery and come together again with his family by saying 'going to hell'. Huck makes a very courageous decision by choosing his moral compass over the society's judgments.

I consider that Huck shows himself as a good and ideal character when he steals the money. He does not steal it for himself; he does so to give it to the right owners. He takes it from the artists. The problem lies when he loses the money, because he is agonizingly afraid of being known as a Steeler. Huck says it, "They took and shoved the bag through a rip in the straw tick that was under the featherbed" (177). He then goes to the room, "had it out of there before they was halfway down-stairs" (177). The main function of Huck as a white person is to defend the rights of the balks. At that time it was a rule to send the slaves to their owners wherever they are. The southerners had accepted that, but Huck stands against that. So, Huck and Jim go down to the river in order to get rid of the society which represses the poor and powerless slaves.

Gibson has to deal with that event on the raft, the general norms of the interaction between black and white in regard to authority is kept in good condition. Due to his different color and his birth circumstance, Jim restricted to use his language. He understands very well his position in society and participates by virtue of his limitations as a person and his lack of knowledge of a conventional language to communicate. It was obvious that Jim was enslaved but not only by the laws that fixed but by the spoken language of people as well. The center of slavery is inherent in his label as "Nigger". In *Change the Joke and Slip the Yoke* Ralph Ellison indicates that Twain was smart enough to stand close to see and talk about the whiten statement that black should not be treated as a man. So Huck and Jim's relationship kind of friendship was incomprehensible in the eyes of the American society of that time. Huck was less than a young white man. And Jim was a young black male, but not considered as a man either. So more or less they could be equal in mental behavior, but still Jim's refers to Huck as master, giving him a superior category (Ellison, 1964, p. 50-51). Huck was a great friend of Jim, and he was always with him in every situations. Jim was grateful that he has a friend like Huck and he sees him as the only "white genlman dat ever kep' his promise to ole Jim" (16.16), and Jim was good to him too, when they found a dead body in the cabin Jim did not allow Huck to look at it because it was his father. He kept him from seeing the dead body on the ground and let him to sleep through his watch. Jim was always a wake and could not sleep even for a moment because he wanted to observe

accurately ("he often done that" (23), says Huck); and when he found out that Huck is still alive, he was so delighted and started dancing a jig practically. "It's too good for true, honey, it's too good for true," he says: "Lemme look at you chile, lemme feel o' you" (15.19). In here Jim is extremely pleased and happy by seeing Huck again, and it was his nicest moment. Huck decides to play a little trick on him that none of these things ever happened and he wanted to show them as a dream in Jim's life. Jim was surprised, but later on when he found that none of these are true but tricking, he is genuinely hurt. Huck may have to be educated into friendship with Jim, but Jim seems to come by it naturally. Just imagine his sweet way of talking: "honey," "chile," "same ole Huck"—it is not quite clear why Jim is interested in Huck's friendship but it is a strong relationship between them.

The black skin of Jim is the cause that the society rejects to give him the freedom he deserves as a human, particularly in the South but in the North as well. At a particular point, Huck sees the Jim's difficult situation "Once I said to myself it would be a thousand times better for Jim to be a slave at home where his family was, as long as he'd got to be a slave". The opinion that niggers had "got" to be slaves spread through the south. The connotation of the use of the word "nigger" was very effective as a tool of language in the novel. "Nigger" was and has been an offensive word in the vocabulary to refer people of black skin. And still *Huckleberry Finn* causes polemic and prejudices to black people that pretends to ban the novel to exits in schools or libraries. Many black writers like John Wallace, believe that the word 'nigger' upsets and annoys black people. There is a mark of disgrace and shame on the skin of blacks to identify them as nigger and to know that they are the same as their ancestors.

The sentimental influence that the mark of disgrace has on the individual is detrimental, and its sign is something that is everlasting. According to John Wallace, this is a very idiosyncrasy feeling promoted by afro American people themselves. Only them still believe that the connotation of such a word convey to a negative meaning of slavery and degradation. On the other hand, the word nigger is mostly considered as an active rather than a passive entity, and it evokes bad connotations given by the whites to blacks. An example of this effect could be noticed in another novel by Mark Twain. I think the social norms have influenced Jim. He uses the N-word to refer to the blacks. Huck asks, "S'pose a man was to come to you and say Polly-voo-franzy--what would you think?" Jim does not get what he means and replies, "I wouldn't."

think nuff'n; I'd take en bust him over de head. Dat is, if he warn't white. I wouldn't 'low no nigger to call me dat" (Twain, Anthology 314). This quote reveals Jim has accepted the idea that blacks are not equal to the whites. They are inferior to whites. He tells that he is able to fight if the one who fights him is not white. It means that Jim has surrendered to the social norms of that time. The people of that time thought of the back as if they were lacking the human qualities. Twain conveys that one of the causes of dehumanizing the blacks is themselves, because like Jim they were thought of themselves as a degraded race. But the New South version shows: "I wouldn't 'low no slave to call me dat" (310) Jim devalues his black friends by calling them using the "N-word".

Additionally, the word "nigger" does not represent a real person, but rather a spirit of a cruel joke in which nobody wants to become the target. After realizing he was born black, Tom begins acting a certain way, when he encountered a friend; he felt that his tendency for life in some strange ways had faded away. His arm loosened instead of stretching his hand for a shake. What made him to have such a kind of habit, only because he was black (a nigger), his blackness made him to feel ashamed. He thought that what fails him on the way of his life is the "nigger" in him (his blackness). The precious thing to Rowena, only his heart knew was his secret god which made him to feel confused for his black skin and feel terrified while sitting or mingling with white people. Blackness and calling him "nigger" made him not to be seen from there or here. He felt that whatever he does may be under doubt and questions in all appearances, his attitudes, walks and gestures. And Tom behaved such an odd and unusual way that people observed it, even people trying to watch him when he was walking on his way. He currently surrounded from all directions and stared at by people. That's why he ran away to the top of hills and stayed in isolation. He said to himself that calamity of Ham was on him (Twain, 1964, p. 75). He was worry about his meals, and it was shameful for him to eat and sit on the white relatives table. He had always felt of fear, especially when Judge Driscoll said, "what's going on with you? You always look as a stupid nigger," he felt as secret murderers are said to feel when the accuser says, "Thou art the man!" Tom said he was not well, and left the table.

The impact that the word, "nigger," has on black people is more profound than one would expect. Unfortunately for the nineteenth century and even the twentieth century the word comes along with a strong bad connotation that make readers understand the implications that conveyed the

use of that word. However Twain's use of the word is to reveal frightening realities for both whites and blacks. He exposes that every single person in society is imprisoned by the word. Nineteenth century whites used it for displaying the domineering manners over blacks and to dehumanize them, and it was a part from black person's name (ex. Nigger Jim). They obviously referred to them as property (ex. Miss Watson's Nigger) to convince them that the enslavement of slaves is just a proper thing to do. The repeated use of the word in the novel drills home the enormity of the race problem and the fact that whites were trying to create a negative story about blacks being less than human into law. But black people in America found nothing but white hard whipping and blood and bad treatment, without speaking even the same language of the whites, not being protected by representative of law, except by their masters, only to claim their ownership. Black people were a perfect target of all kind of mistreating by a blind American society who had no mercy to treat them as a human being. And, indeed the use of the word "nigger" implied so many things to think about it. But at that time it was "normal". David L. Smith, in *Huck, Jim, and American Racial Discourse*, points out that the concept of "nigger" was a word created by the whites to refer to the black people, to have the right to make them feel inferior in all possible ways. And the purpose of it to justify by all means the abuse and exploit of the blacks, denominated them in such a way because of the color of their skin (Smith, 1984, p. 5).

Susan K. Gillman believes that social fictions are nothing but realities of society (Gillman and Patten, 1985, p. 455). The influence of these novels should not be undervalued. In *Language and Identity in the Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*, Brook Thomas expresses the connection between the social fictions and language like that: speaking and writing is always considered as second hand. Through fiction man can play many roles that in society he could not be accepting them but this way the roles of a man in society could be so powerful in fiction more than in real life. Then writing fiction is a perfect tool for a writer to complain of his society (Thomas, 1982, p. 9).

The word "nigger" had negative influence on blacks and it made them feel boring and strongly broken their spirits. Some critics considered it as the best explanation of Twain on the race, Roxana, in her book make it true in her mouth about the relative priceless of black's life. Besides, she tries to change the identity of her son from black to white because he is nothing but thief, murder and a dangerous liar. She believes that her son's faults are justified since there is a

portion of black blood on him. There are different explanations about the appearance of the word nigger, Oxford dictionary marked it in 1786, but it is sure that it is older than this, according to the Morris dictionary of word and phrases origins. The word occurs at early 1700 in Samuel Sewall's Diary although it was spelled with a single "g". "Nigger" is interpreted differently of Negro which belongs to the Latin Niger for black. There are other sources that rather claim the word "nigger" is restricted to contexts of deliberate and contemptuous ethnic abuse (Burchfield, 1986, p. 1200). It was common of Twain's uses of the word in other novels, like in *Tramps Abroad* (1880). "He laid into his work like a nigger", here connotations implied working hard. There is an insistence or relating the meaning of the word with the life of an animal, evilness, death, anything less than a human. The 'N' word in the period of the novel was considered as a racial terminology, but it was an accepted reference and was common at that time. The word used disrespectfully and unpleasantly. But the emotional load of the 'N' word now is different and undeniable truth. It has negative meaning and attacks people through arrogance, ignorance, and hatred. Readers can easily feel the evilness of the word and its offensive word because it hurts people and shows vivid images of racism in American society. When you read the novel you find it unpleasant to hear the 'N' word in the novel, that's how powerful the word has become in its emotional connotations. I believe the Huck differentiates himself with Jim in some ways. He calls him a "nigger" this is a word of which Huck seems to not know anything about it. But he tries to make up some meanings to it, when he hears it. He understands that it is about the unconscionable times that are due to the niggers. Also he knows that they are making bad things and are able to hurt humans: "It was according to the old saying, 'Give a nigger an inch and he'll take an ell,' also, Huck says: "Here was this nigger which I had as good as helped to run away, coming right out flat-footed and saying he would steal his children—children that belonged to a man I didn't even know; a man that hadn't ever done me no harm." So, they tell Huck he is not able to be like a man until he is able to communicate with the nigger. It is worthy of being mentioned that the river is used symbolically. The movement of the river resembles Huck's change from a person who has inherited racism from the family and surrounding environment to the one who is clear of racism.

Mark Twain was not a racist, but he was local color writer intent upon capturing both the romance and the realism of his part of the country. The romance of the Mississippi River and the beauty and freedom of life on a raft is an integral part of the novel, and Twain's use of vernacular style and his attention to specific detail contribute to its realism. In writing in the dialect and the

diction of his characters, Twain made them real. Mark Twain was definitely not racist. He wrote books such as "Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" in order to show people the evilness of slavery and how emotionally and physically it affected people. Therefore, he was angered by slavery and racism and wanted to put an end to it. Besides, he was strongly against slavery. That's why many of the slaves in his stories were set free or runaways. He is writing from a certain point of view.

The power and weaknesses of language and the constant calling of black people by Niggers was an obstacle in front of them to ask for freedom in America, and more particularly in the southern rivers towns. The word was a part of their life and because of this, they were deprived from participating all occasions, and whites took away their rights to vote for what they really wanted. Blacks were the victims of whites and the society, they were treated badly, and according to the white's opinion, blacks created to be slaved for them. That means, a black will never be free. The misunderstanding of blacks continued until the twentieth century in America and in the world. Twain hints out in *Huckleberry Finn* that, any kinds of incorrect activity and bad behavior in society is a shame for blacks. Jim was accused and blamed, because of Huck's supposed murder while Huck himself and the readers were certain that Jim is not guilty. The woman from the town river reports: ...before night they (townspeople) changed around and judged it was done by a runaway nigger named Jim... the nigger run off the very night Huck Finn was killed. So there's a reward out for him... (p. 49). Huck and Jim run away from the town, and people think that Huck is killed by Jim. They do not know anything about that; they just know he is killed. People believed that Jim is behind his death because he left the same night. The judge allocated enough money to find a killer, and a price is placed on Jim's head with a good reward of 300\$. "So there's a reward out for him-three hundred dollars."(Twain, p.53). The people also believe that Huck's dad is behind his death because he receives money from Judge Thatcher so as to find Huck. But he takes the money and gets drunk and then leaves the town.

According to the society, because Jim is black so he must be the guilty one. So Huck and Jim had to move from town to town because Jim was known as guilty in society. And because he is nigger, Huck obliged to lie to two men on the small boat who looks so strange in order to protect Jim's life. On the other hand, whoever asked about Jim whether he is white or black, Huck was hesitant to tell the truth and unwillingly lied: "I didn't response on time, that's why I couldn't hear the words he was supposed to say. I attempted to catch his words twice. And no more, I

wasn't the brave man as I was before , I realized that I was weak, that's because I stopped trying to listen , just I heard says: He's white" (p.75). The black skin of Jim and Huck implicated everything in life for them, because, they were not free to do anything they want. The language was unpleasant situation and offensive for Huck, while he was hate it.

At first, Huck was not able to see the delusions of the society which he lives in, because of the restrictions that affected on his language. But the wrong conception that society has shaped on Jim is considered as one of the noticeable conflict that faces Huck in society. There was a strong relationship between Huck and Jim especially on the river, Huck "...sees, without realizing it, that nigger is a misnomer, an empty signifier, an alibi." (Schmitz, 1986, p. 63). Huck learns quickly that Jim is not like society's portrait of a nigger. In *Three problems of Fictional Form: First Personal Narrator in David Cooperfield and Huck Finn*, J. Hillis Miller suggests: "Huck real choice in the book is not between the true speech of the raft and the false speech of the shore, but between speech and silence" (Miller, 1986, p. 27). Huck and Jim are close friends and are close to almost everything in society, and when Huck at the initial moments opens his mouth and wants to speak, he was under the strong pressure to use a kind of language that is difficult and was out of his interesting but he has no choice. The best way to deal with it is silence because he could escape from using that language, and civilization controls the use of the language where Huck is trapped (Miller , 1986, p. 27).

Despite the fact that, the issue of race becomes totally clear to the reader by the way of portraying ironic circumstances and the language, Huck does not familiar with the black cause and the fighter for it. He always reproaches himself because he thinks that the standards of the society are not a part from him, and he is constantly astonished of his declarations about niggers. He speaks for good of Jim in chapter fourteen: "well, he was right; he was most always right; he had an uncommon level head for a nigger" (p. 64). Another wonderful example that Huck praise Jim's kindness, Huck respectfully express his regret to Jim: "It was fifteen minutes before I could work myself up to go and humble myself to a nigger but I done it, and I warn't every sorry for it afterwards, neither. I didn't do him no more mean tricks, and I wouldn't make him feel that way" (p. 72).

Huck is astonished when he found that Jim has feelings and easily affected by funny tale, that was amazing for him because he thinks that he is not aware of his surroundings but after he felt that, he realizes that Jim is not nigger anymore but a kind person and do care about humans and people around him, in contrast to that, Pap Finn shows himself as a nigger more than Jim, but their color was different and that made Pap to feel free from the sign of blacks. Twain with a heavy sarcasm points out to Pap's extremely white skin and to Colonel Grangerford's white suit. Jim equals the entire group of white people that Huck has met and Huck fully comprehends this truth. Indeed, the novel was known as bildungsroman. Huck is innocent and not guilty but he learns very much. However, he is able to feel and see the inequalities of his society, he and Jim are a normal citizen and are not able to do great things for themselves. They are obliged to use the norms of their society in which they tighten with misunderstandings and prejudgments. Twain's talent was the use of the language to present a sad picture of man's ineludible constraints of society transmitted by the language.

Although Twain conforms to the nineteenth century American racial discourse in his use of the Southern vernacular, his overall depiction of Jim as a character is completely opposite to the nineteenth century stereotype of blacks. The fact that Twain portrays go against with the imposing of the language. Indirectly, Huck felt that his early ideas toward Jim are wrong and he tries to understand him. He figures out some favorable attributes that Jim has as property in chapter thirty one: "But in some way I looked quite angry with him, but my anger wasn't serious toward him. I noticed him Stopping my watch when it alarmed, so I could keep on sleeping; and notice him how happy he was when I come back out of the mist, and when I go to him again in the morass, however there was some quarrels with him, but in that moments, calling me darling and touch me and how well-behaved he was. Finally, the watch alarmed, and I saved him by telling the guys that we had the disease of smallpox out of the country, and he became very thankful, and said Jim was the greatest friend I ever had in the world." (p.169)

Due to the racial restrictions of the community, Jim is inferior to whites and subjugated. Despite the fact that Jim is the influential man to Huck that he ever had in his life. Jim is good for him and do care about him in a high level of respect in a way that he means everything to him, and his love for him is rare, he considered Huck as the first person in his whole life. The society was against them and they looks different in people's perception, but their relationship made them

feel happy and do care about each other. Roy Harvey in his book, named *Yours Truly, Huck Finn* contends: "Still, (Huck and Jim's relationship) is an appropriately primitive, even precivilized relationship; for Huck sees Jim not as a man with the responsibilities of a man but as one essentially like himself. This is his fundamental limitation, and yet the source of his strength" (Pearce, 1985, p. 317). The relationship of Jim to Huck in chapter nine is in a high level and is protective. In the floating house, they find a body, at this moment Jim tells Huck to stop looking the body because it is truly horrible sight, then he hides the dead body. Because of these actions we can say that Jim is protecting Huck's innocence and childlike view of the world. Jim does not like Huck to see the cruel place the world can be which is ironic because Huck has already got experience in it. On the other hand, the relationship of Huck towards Jim in chapter ten is very friendly. Huck plays a prank on him like he would to any of his other friends assuming it okay. He sees no harm in his joke and has not quite yet established respect for Jim's authority.

Blacks were treated differently in the society but in spite all the distinctive, inside themselves they see no difference, Twain shows Jim as a good black character that has strong feelings of love for his own family. Early morning before the sunrise, Huck wakes up to testify Jim's grieving and groaning concerning his family: "... He was thinking about his wife and his children, away up yonder, and he was low and homesick; because he hadn't ever been away from home before in his life; and I do believe he cared just as much for his people as white folks do for there'n... He was mighty good nigger, Jim was" (p. 125). Jim is introduced as having moral sense and feeling of doubt toward his daughter, as someone that has no conscience for her because she was deaf and heard nothing and he does not know it. She was sick and because of that, she lost the sense of hearing, unwillingly, Jim slaps her and is haunted by it.

"... oh Huck, I bust out a-cryin' en grab her up in my arms, en say, oh, de po' little thing; de Lord God Amighty forgive po' ole Jim koze he never gwyne to forgive hisself as long as he live; oh, she was plumb deef en dumb, Huck ... en I'd ben a'treat'n her so" (p. 126)

In here Jim is telling the story to Huck about his deaf daughter. In the early morning, Huck woke up and saw Jim that is crying and put his head between his knees, and he explained how he screamed and slapped his deaf daughter just because she did not listen to him. Jim was not happy and felt terrible after that. This quote shows that even Jim is slave and seen as inferior, but just

like everyone else he has his own family and has sympathy for them. He always feels guilty to what he did and wishes he could do something to fix it and to compensate his mistake.

Jim is very eager to his family and he always tried to save money to bring out his family from slavery, it was a disaster for him to be slaves and see his family live in a very bad situation. After he almost reached Cairo, started to think about them immediately and he thought that freedom is in his hands, with a great gladness and delightfully admits to Huck: He (Jim) was saying how the first thing he would do when he got to a free state he would go to saving up money and never spent a single cent, and when he got enough how would buy his wife... and then they would both work to buy the two children, and if their master wouldn't sell them, they'd get an Ab'litionist to go and steal them (p. 74). This statement is ironic because the way that slavery is run, slave owners tend to buy or trade their slaves, as if they are just property. With Jim stating that he would buy his wife and children, he is getting pulled into the system of slavery and in portraying himself as a becoming a slave owner, although buying their freedom; he is still treating them like property. He knows no other way to get his wife and kids besides to buy them, because purchasing an African American is the only way Jim knows how to. He does not think about how buying or even stealing slaves from a man he does not know is just like how he became a slave in the first place, begins stolen from his homeland. He sees no wrong in stealing these people, because he knows it is, morally, the right thing to do, while everyone else (whites) would view this as something that should not be done. At the time to buy a slave's freedom is against everything they had ever known. Jim just wants to be able to free these people from the burdens of slavery but to do so by buying them is putting them down - practically saying that they are not good enough to get their freedom on their own, which is what Abolitionists tried so hard to accomplish.

It looks difficult for Jim to buy whole freedom for his family and he was extremely anxiety about it. Huck had some moral problems in the society because of his participation against many crimes and it was a big problem for him if Jim truly successful in getting freedom for his own family. In addition to this, the norms and codes of society surrounded Huck and he is always in conflict with his moral and his heart. Obviously, the depiction of Jim by Twain is in opposition with widespread myths about unsympathetic and the brutality of black people. Although, the novel is criticized by some critics because they feel that the ending is against black people and

indicates their inhumanity. Jim becomes a victim of unsympathetic and barbarity that Huck and Tom imposed upon him, he is targeted to a ridiculous and suffering slave. However, Twain was successful in displaying the negative ideas toward blacks in the novel. Due to the fact that, even Huck can feel and see humanity in Jim, and it was a clear racial discrimination that committed on blacks. On the other hand, the last chapters focus on the brutality that imposed on blacks and it is another theme of anti-racist in the novel. Although, this does not mean that Huck is ethically blind. Levi-Strauss in his book named *Structural Anthropology* contends "... the observer cannot modify the phenomenon merely by becoming conscience of it." (Lévi-Strauss, 1963, p. 57). No one, especially a displaced person, could hope to change these deeply rooted problems of race. Twain did not challenge the racial issue in an easy way. The methods of the novel have a great influence and affected the reader's morality.

David Sewell in his book entitled *We Ain't All Trying to Talk Alike: Varieties of Language in Huckleberry Finn* talks about the restrictions of the language and the methods that can effect on language changing: The way of Huck's talking take us back to the language, like social traditions we had, and Huck's speech developed only through the relation between the dialect he spoke and the permanent principles that tied up old ideas, old accents and grammarless expressions together. Huck experienced continuous development and change of the chronological moment (Sewell, 1985, p. 215). The repetition of the word nigger in the novel is not only the needless repetition nor is the mirrored of nineteenth century, but it used to accuse the entire society. Additionally, David L. Smith indicates that Twain uses nigger to refer to slaves as a synonym (Smith, 1984, p. 5).

The concept of slavery is called taboo as something that is unspeakable by Harriet Beecher Stowe and some other famous abolitionists. While some authors used the word nigger in their writings such as; Cable, Page, Stowe but it does not conclude the same meaning or influence. Twain portrays the nature of the south and the language in *Huckleberry Finn*. And if nigger belongs to slavery, it can be noticed along the novel, besides; it repeated more than one hundred and fifty times. The word represents a high shout in order to get others attention about slavery. The repetition of the word nigger becomes the beat of the heart and becomes taboo of the guilty society. Robert Bridgman in the *Colloquial Style in America* expresses some interesting observations about the repetition in vernacular language: any word used sufficient frequency as

to become generally familiar gains access to the vernacular insofar as the vernacular is defined as a nation's common fund of language (Bridgman, 1966, p. 17). This repetition makes influence on the reader at best. Bridgman adds: The extent at which such a kind of relations is formed may frequently be less than what we would consider. Though in point of fact, the relations may be created in the result of their functions, other than the point is that all of these different repetitions and relations are to create the harmony of structure in conversational style (Bridgman, 1966, p. 38).

Slavery had controlled the thoughts of the nineteenth century and made a difficult contradiction between whites and blacks. Attempts to deny the problem of race only brings resentment into the situation. The problems were created by the depressions of the south, which continued after the publication of *Huckleberry Finn* and the Reconstruction. The perhaps of inadvertently didactic nature of the text indicates a faith in man's ability to alter these discrepancies since indeed man is collectively responsible for them. The purpose of repetition of the word nigger by Twain is to get attention for the deeply-seated problems of racial discrimination that is essential in the language. Twain's plan by repeating this shameful term in *Huckleberry Finn*, together with other racist agreements or misnomers that he criticizes is to sabotage them. This term is used in the conversation between Tom's Aunt Sally and Huck about a steamboat incident. Huck wants to concoct an accident about the steamboat in order to clarify his late reaching to the Phelps Farm:

'It warn't the grounding – that didn't keep us back but a little. We blowed out a cylinder head.'
'Good gracious; anybody hurt?'
'No'm. killed a nigger.'
'Well, it's luck; because sometimes people do get hurt.' (p. 175)

From the above conversation, looks like the nigger is not a person but a racist punch line of the time. Huck's bad expression about the dead nigger was just to soften Tom's aunt. It means that he is an active individual in the society. Huck is like the other members of the society and he wants to fit with the current system. In *Huck, Jim, and American Racial discourse*, Smith comments on this and says without seeing Aunt Sally, Huck falsely created a novel story to an unknown person, a story which surely was a self-beneficial, where the properly predict that the leading minds of compassionates for humanity going to be brilliant. Huck's impolite statement was to manipulate Aunt Sally's character but not his own (Smith, 1984, p. 5).

The accident was examined in detail by all kind of critics, and some of them agree the way Huck expresses himself in that conversation was a natural way of being of anyone in society. But it was to be taking into account that the only purpose of Huck for being at the Phelps farm was to rescue Jim. In order to change the direction of the Sally's investigation, Huck thought that the best way to remove this force is lying about it. He reveals the brutality of Aunt Sally who is a symbol for current situation of the society. Huck wants to pretend himself as a good exemplar of old boy. Twain stands against the execution of blacks without trial and it happened many times that an innocent man punished to death penalty. There was no law to protect blacks. Twain strongly writes in this article: "Ah, well. Too bad, to be sure. A little blunder in the administration of justice by Southern mob-low; but nothing to speak of. Only a nigger killed by mistake – that is all" (Foner, 1958, p. 218).

The conversation that happened between Huck and Aunt Sally is Twain's experience to condemn racism. The caustic phrase "only a nigger" expresses the nineteenth century ideas toward black people, and the critics of Twain were noticeable and obvious. Spoken language that is used every day is the reflection of the society; Twain exposes the reliability and spontaneity of the common language in the nineteenth century. In contrast to their genteel matches, they are still receivers of conventional language; the common people struggled with the instability they went through. On the other hand, these common people unknowingly follow the social conventional rules they do not ever comprehend. Twain reveals the dictates of the society norms to use language and people were obliged to speak with it, they had no freedom to speak their own language. Therefore, racism was deep-rooted in people's conversation. J. Hillis Miller analysis the false statements of Huck's language: He uses a vulgar dialect, taken in indigenous American rhythms, vocabulary, and syntax. His speech grows out of the way of life of people in a place. The Mississippi Valley society is not then a good example of speaking with the true, using literary language to express injustice and cruelties seen on slave, in Twain's view of Protestant Christianity (Miller , 1986, p. 28).

Huck and Jim were emblematic characters in the novel that expresses a New America. Neither Huck nor Jim could experiment freedom individually on the Mississippi. So they desperately are in search to a new territory not too much damaged by society prejudices. But they find themselves trapped and stopped in their attempt to be free human beings. An idea expressed by

Ralph Waldo Emerson's "self-Reliance" it's impossible to reach according to the numerous suppression than man faces in the story of *Huckleberry Finn*. Ralph Waldo Emerson and, more recently Jacques Lacan, make interesting affirmations of the importance of the language which purpose is to establish a legal connection that rule all humans and gives at the same time every man a sense of individualism as seal of a society. Since language has the power within itself to impose a distinction between one man to another and still be able to express the evilness spirit any time ever.

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