

STRUGGLE OF BLACK WOMEN REFLECTED IN BERNARDINE EVARISTO'S GIRL, WOMAN, OTHER

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Abstract: The purpose of this research is to describe struggle of black women in Bernardine Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other*. There are three kinds of struggle that the researcher found such as black women's struggle against racism, society's prejudice, and gender oppression. Due to the fact that the data are presented in the form of words, this study is qualitative. Napikoski's feminist literary theory will be utilized for the data analysis. The novel itself served as the primary source for the data collection, and various books, journals, web pages, and other references were used as secondary sources to support the research. The novel's context and interpretation of the text serve as the foundation for the concept's analysis. The result of this study shows how black women struggling with racism, society's prejudice and also gender oppression.

Keywords: *Struggle, Black Women, Oppression, Racism.*

INTRODUCTION

In literary works, women figures are frequently talked and utilized as imaging objects, since ladies are exceptionally fascinating to talk. Women are multifaceted. Women, on the other hand, have their own charms and can make men crazy. Women, on the other hand, are thought to be weak, and bad men use their weaknesses to take advantage of women's beauty. Anything is connected to women's existence. A literary work's central character a woman is not only a story's complement but also a central character.

Literature reflects the diverse experiences, ideas, and passions of everyday people in a variety of literary forms and styles. Literature can help us learn more about human issues like values, morals, cultures, and human interest because it is directly based on human life. Maru stated "Since ingredients of literature are taken

from daily life, it touches every human dilemma, conflict and yearning unravelling the plot of a short story or decoding the language of a play and is more than a mechanical exercise" (Maru, 2009). Based on the description, we know that literature is a body of written works: the collection of written works that represent a culture, language, people, or time period. In addition, it generally refers to human experiences and imaginative works

One type of literary work is the novel. It is generally characterized as impression of life or everything, all things considered. Because the novel talks about human activities and describes what happened in the surrounding area, it expresses some aspects of human love and existence. Bernardine Evaristo, with her novel *Girl, Woman, Other*, was one of the authors who attempted to portray human life experiences, particularly those of women, in a novel. Twelve female characters, all of whom are descendants of black people in the United Kingdom, tell their stories in this book. The author describes how they survived in a setting where women and people of color struggle. This Evaristo's eighth work of fiction shared the Booker Prize this year with Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Story*. These books are connected for any kind of future family presently, as conjoined kin. *Girl, Woman, Other* is a major, occupied novel with an enormous root foundation. Amma, Yazz, Dominique, Carole, Bummi, and LaTisha are among the characters who begin to appear, as are Shirley, Winsome, Penelope, Megan/Morgan, Hattie, and Grace. The novel follows the existences of 12 distinct characters living in the Unified Realm all through quite a few years from a little kid to an older lady. Each character has her own section which contains a tale about her battle, love, family and enthusiasm.

This novel is extremely fascinating to be examined in light of the fact that each character is a relative of blacks who came to the Unified Realm quite a while before then need to oversee endurance in a climate where ladies are mistreated so they need to battle in their lives.

Some women with colored skin have to fight for their lives when we talk about them. Notwithstanding, in this novel, there are 12 characters, the greater part of them dark English ladies, traveling through the world in various many years and

figuring out how to be. There is a chapter for each character; Their lives overlap in the chapters, but their experiences, backgrounds, and choices are very different. There's Amma, a lesbian communist writer, and non-paired Morgan, who utilizes the web to explore their orientation character - yet additionally Shirley, an educator who feels outsider in Amma's people group, and Winsome, a lady of the hour who has shown up from Barbados to a troubled marriage. Some of the characters are close to one another—friends, family, or lovers—while others just go to the same theater on the same night or argue on Twitter. Black female artists' struggles are the focus of this novel. Amma is a theater chief however she endures a great deal of issues prior to sending off her own theater and plays. Despite her talent, she was not accepted due to prejudice against black people. She believes that life is difficult, but the idea of having her own family and theater brings her comfort and happiness. Amma's friend also starts a women's art festival in the United States, but she also had some problems before the festival started. This story mirrors the battle of lady in Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other*. Lady assume a vital part throughout everyday life, a figure who is solid in doing different jobs, knows no weakness, focused, and can assume a double part is viewed as ready to adjust and, surprisingly, ready to overcome the job of men. The researcher wants women to not have to work hard. However, men are indeed portrayed as stronger and more powerful than women. This forces them to struggle, particularly black women, who continue to hold the lowest social status

RESEARCH METHOD

In this research, the writer used qualitative research. A qualitative study is one that looks into and tries to figure out what people or groups think a social or human problem is. It is an investigation in which various written works are used to gather information (Creswell, 2009). Other books on the subject serve as secondary sources, while the novel itself serves as the primary source. The details of the investigation are presented in the form of definitions, citations, articulations, or exchange, which provide this investigation with support. The information was broken down according to the type of conflict and its effects, and then the result

was presented clearly. As a result, the analyst divided the data into points and will then tell the story. The researcher followed some steps in conducting this research as follows:

1. Read the novel
2. Locating, selecting, and noting relevant information from primary and secondary sources
3. Arranging the data into several groups based on its theoretical category

The researcher classified the sources used in this study. The primary and secondary sources are those. In an essay on literature, there are two types of evidence that are relevant: evidence from primary sources, and secondary sources are facts and opinions outside of the work (Griffith, 2011). The primary source is the novel entitled *Girl, Woman, Other* and the secondary sources are taken from some books and internet references that could support this research

Analyzing something entails breaking it down into its component parts and finding connections between those parts that give the whole its unity and coherence (Griffith, 2011). So, analysis is an especially valuable tool for gaining a thorough understanding of literary works.

In examination the information, the essayist utilized women's activist artistic hypothesis. We are asked to consider the connections between people and their general jobs in the public arena by feminist literary theory. The connection between people in the public eye, according to a lot of women's activist scholarly hypotheses, is frequently inconsistent and reflects a particular man-centric philosophy.

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

Black women have always led the fight for equality from the front lines. Their strength, tenacity, and bravery cannot be overstated, even though their contributions to the Civil Rights and Women's Movements were sometimes overlooked. People of color have an unmistakable outlook from which to figure out the convergence of race and orientation and their novel experience of persecution. The ladies featured in here are associated by a multifaceted organization of activists that traverses a few ages.

The weights experienced by individuals of color are predominantly about prejudice and sexism either finished by white individuals or individuals of (Nurul & Arcci & Sri, 2017). The struggle of black people in the world, especially black women, to achieve equality and protection of civil rights continues. Overcoming racism, which is one of the main modern bases for the establishment of occupied countries such as the US, Canada and Australia, has become a common conversation. The Black Lives Matter movement also cultivates similar movements in various parts of the world which were mainly born out of ideas about other forms of racism, both in the form of colonial legacies that can be felt to this day, as well as in new patterns of racism that have emerged in contemporary contexts. post-colonial. The new spirit in Papuan Lives Matter which is inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement is an example of the refreshing results of thinking about post-colonial racism through the reflection of racism in the US.

As one of the most cruel underlying foundations of abusive brutality, bigotry should pass on straightaway. Nonetheless, likewise with different types of foundational brutality, the destruction of bigotry should be seen through an interconnected focal point. The objective is to comprehend its connection with other inhumane sources of violence.

When reading a text, a feminist literary critic challenges assumptions that were thought to be universal. A feminist also actively being supports including women's knowledge in literature and valuing women's experiences (Napikoski, 2020). We could expect that women's activist scholarly analysis will include an assessment of artistic works and that pundits will move toward writing with a specific mindfulness that orientation jobs assume a critical part in scholastic culture and day to day existence. Each of them is influenced by orientation, which also has an effect on the author, the reader, the character, and other external factors that influence the process of making up. Feminist literary criticism has a primary strength in supporting the notion that a woman can read as a woman, write as a woman, and comprehend abstract meanings as a woman

When individuals encounter a challenging circumstance that results in achievement, impact, and desire, this is called struggle. Our determination to face

the situation was pushed by the obstacles we must overcome in order to achieve our goals; Reasons are what cause people to struggle. For this situation the essayist will figure out the battle as people of color have in the book

Black Woman's Struggle Against Racism

Racism means ideology of racial domination (Wilson, 1999). Where it was assumed that one group was significantly more superior than the others. By causing groups of individuals who are different in terms of religion, skin color, or ethnicity to suffer, be degraded, and lose their rights as human beings, it ruins society.

Amma, the book's main female character, witnesses how discrimination is practiced through labels and other actions. what it means to be a black woman amid white feminists, in response.

"She listened to their discussion. What it intended to be a person of color what it intended to be a women's activist associations caused them to feel unwanted. how it felt when racist thugs beat them or people called them nigger. What it was like for white women when white men gave white women access to public transportation or gave up their seats, but not for them" (Evaristo, 2019:18).

Amma realizes at this point that white feminists also engage in this kind of racism because of her skin color. By conceptualizing race along these lines, we might better comprehend how bigotry works and is challenged, as well as how disgrace capabilities to make and sustain primary disparities.

"When Nzinga responded that black women should need to identify racism wherever they find it, particularly our own internalized racism, Amma was struck by the fact that this woman, could be a formidable opponent. Nzinga stated that when we are so consumed with deep self-hatred, we turn against ourselves" (Evaristo, 2019:82).

Race is seen in or on the actual body, while race might illuminate social spaces, it is essentially connected to the body, or all the more especially the skin.

Jazz is one of the book's hero which is Amma's companion, for instance, is completely mindful of the way that Amma continually encounters an undetectable segregation, since she doesn't have a place with the greater part.

“Even though it may appear that she is the only one of her friends, she tells them, as the evening draws to a close around her kitchen table in her cozy terraced house in Brixton as they get stuck into the dishes each to celebrate getting older because it is such a privilege to not die prematurely. Yazz is well aware that Amma will never be normal and that, despite being in her fifties, she is not yet old. Despite this, try telling a 19-year-old that.r” (Evaristo, 2019:11).

According to the text above, Through the life of Amma, the novel's main character and a black lesbian who wants to start her own theater, the unintentional reduction of life opportunities is described. Helen, who was born in Scotland, is half-Nigerian, and her father was a student there. There is a distinct, semi-autobiographical writer's element in there.

“The same thing was wanted by black lesbian radical feminists, with the caveat that no white people of any gender could enter.” (Evaristo, 2019:21).

What Amma said really explains that there is still a lot of rejection and injustice to being black. Amma preferred to go it alone and hang out with people who didn't try to control anyone else

Black Woman's Struggle Against Society's Prejudice

Prejudice is an often negative preconception or attitude toward members of a group (Kendra Cherry, 2022). It could have a significant, even unconscious, effect on people's behavior and communication with others, especially those who are different from them in some way. Bias habitually shows itself as an inclination to victimize individuals from the gathering, as well as bad perspectives and perspectives on them that depend on generalizations. Prejudices based on race, gender, religion, culture, and other factors are common in society.

“Even though he was top of his group back home when he was underhanded with his white classmates, he alone was singled out and shipped off the Transgression Receptacle when he blew up at the foul play. They say he was

being forceful so he chose to be, tossed a seat at an instructor, barely missing him the first time but not the second time. When he complained about the cool, the teachers said he had conduct issues because he spoke patois. They thought LaTisha, for chair-throwing, he was sent to Borstal; He spent time there with junior murderers, rapists, and arsonists because it was similar to a facility for juvenile detainees.." (Evaristo, 2019:195).

The novel's author takes in these negative social judgments of the person. The self-perception reflects the society. Prior to the start of a "criminal career," processes of defining, labeling, and marginalization take place. These actions decrease a person's chances of engaging in socially acceptable alternative behaviors while undesirable conduct gains stronger. These social categorizations that occur in interpersonal interactions affect more than just the individual and may result in prejudice towards various ethnic and racial minority groups.

At the point when one of the highlighted ladies characters named Carole first visits school, she feels her distinction, not just due to the shade of her skin but since of a social climate that is not quite the same as most others.

"The majority of students were not like that, but the most affluent of them were the loudest and most self-assured, and they were the only voices she heard. They spoke to her without even noticing her, making her feel crushed, worthless, and worthless. No one discussed never having gone a solitary occasion, as ever. She wanted to spin around and yell"

(Evaristo, 2019:132).

One kind of oppression that Carol encounters throughout her visit to the faculty is her difference, which causes her to feel invisible and socially isolated. In reality, the protagonists of Evaristo's book's numerous stories must deal with both "visible" and "invisible" social identities, such as sexual orientation and socioeconomic class, as well as "visible" social categories or identities, including race and ethnicity.

The account of Megan/Morgan does the best occupation of delineating the issue of social biases and looking for harmony in change. Despite the fact that a large number of the characters fight social marks of shame, Morgan's process

stands apart from the others. As an individual of color who was brought into the world as a young lady named Morgan, she by and by encountered the assumptions for social jobs. Morgan chose to allude to them utilizing the pronouns they/them in the wake of laying out their way of life as orientation free. Her mother, Julie, treated her as a real woman. Megan preferred to dress and appear like her brother as a child, but her mother continued to oppress Megan by dressing her in girly clothes so that she could be accepted in the community.

“Bibi, I just want to be me. Goodness, discuss low aspirations, don't you need to impact the world? Bibi, I want to change my world first, one step at a time. Now you're taking the piss, but no, I completely agree with you. We all just want to be ourselves and make sure we're okay in the world. Hey, I'll be the judge of that! Ooooooh, presently you're giving as great as you get, haha” (Evaristo, 2019:322).

Megan realizes she needs to move out to find herself. She does not feel like a woman and wonders if she wants to be a man. But the society judge her, especially since Megan is black

Black Woman's Struggle Against Gender Oppression

Gender oppression caused by the social process of gender relations, which institutionalizes and reproduces gender norms to favor for the dominant group and marginalize, exclude, or harm the oppressed group in other ways (Ingrey, 2016). Ladies are as yet being assaulted, mishandled, typified, abused and victimized. There is a need for a significant shift in perception as a societal issue that includes women and human rights, despite frequently being disguised as a women's issue.

For a very long time, gender discrimination has become a global issue. Usually women or girls experience it. Particularly to those who are in precarious situations because of their financial adequacy, immigration status, and race. Evaristo describes how immigrants survived in a society that persecuted women and people of color.

In *Girl, Woman, Other*, the female characters confront oppression in a variety of ways. They demonstrate their inequality by expressing this, which indicates how to effect change. They are essential to the world around them and reject the idea

that they are helpless victims. The novel's main character, Amma, defies the conventional binary understanding of gender.

"Amma, the only black woman in the school, yelled at the course director, while everyone else including the other students, remained silent, asking why Shakespeare's male roles couldn't be played by women. Don't even get me started on cross-racial casting. I understood I was on my own the following day I was approached by the school head" (Evaristo, 2019:8).

They are aware of the necessity of naming, discussing, and opposing their subordinate position, particularly when it has embedded itself in them as internalized self-oppression..

One of the strategies to identify oppression in a variety of ways is from Amma's mother. In a patriarchal marriage, she accepted the subordination of herself as a wife and renounced her own development. Evaristo says:

"Amma saw it as suggestive and representative of her mom's abuse Mum never found herself, she told companion, she acknowledged her docile situation in the marriage and spoiled from within" (Evaristo, 2019:35).

Evaristo shows the struggle of black woman as the victim of gender oppression through one of the protagonist, who can say for sure that the different types of persecution are interlaced and structure different structures and levels of oppressed status.

"Yes, Courts; however, the fact that I am black makes me more oppressed than anyone else—with the exception of Waris, who is the most oppressed of all of them—but don't tell her that. In five classes: dark, Muslim, female, poor, hijabed. She's the one to focus on, Yazz can't tell to check her special" (Evaristo, 2019:80)

As we can see from the text above, thus multiple social identities such as gender race, and disability intersect at the level of individual experience to reveal multiple interlocking gender oppression.

The other issue of gender oppression is from the character Carole. She spent her childhood in poverty; She lives in public housing with her Nigerian immigrant mother, Bummi. Carole has always been a good student and has never been

interested in parties or boys. Everything changes when Carole goes to a party at her companion LaTisha's home and an understudy named Three pointer physically attacks her.

"At the point when Carole was thirteen and a half and at her most memorable party without any grown-ups floating like jail corrections officers preventing everyone from having fun at LaTisha's place, she had such buried memories that it was all she could do not to collapse on the floor of the interrogation room." (Evaristo, 2019:111).

Carole keeps the truth about her assault a secret for the rest of her life, and her unresolved trauma frequently causes her to experience a sense of separation from her body. Like many parents of immigrants, Carole's mother has given up everything to give her a chance at success in England. Carole, then again, finds support in her mom, who urges her not to surrender.

"did me and Father arrive at this country for a superior life just to see our girl offering up on her chances and wind up circulating paper hand towels for tips in club latrines or show scenes, similar to the destiny of such a large number of our countrywomen? You should return to this college in January and quit thinking everyone detests you without allowing them an opportunity, did you try and ask them? Have you approached them and inquired, "Excuse me, do you hate me?" you should view individuals who will need as your companions regardless of whether they are white individuals, there is somebody for everybody in this world. you should return and take on the conflicts that are your English inheritance, Carole, as a genuine Nigerian" (Evaristo, 2019:133-134).

The struggle that Carole's story exemplifies is that of second-generation immigrants caught between their parents' expectations that they succeed in a new country and adhere to cultural norms.

CONCLUSION

Based on the findings of the research, it can be concluded that it is true learning or finding the struggle of black woman is important so that we know and

not be racist against black people. *Girl, Woman, Other* is about struggle of being black women. Evaristo opens up and talks about the different kinds of racism, prejudice in society, and gender oppression of black women in the modern world, all of which are intertwining and making it harder for women to have opportunities in a patriarchal society. In this world they are named as a result of their disparities.

The experiences of Black women have long been misunderstood. Through the stories of women whose lives intersect over more than a century, Evaristo's novel examines the struggle of black women. The essayist tracks down that the truth of interconnection without naming it thusly. Individuals exist. They are ladies, men, gay, trans, Dark, blended, every kind of things victimized and acknowledged. They backing and reject one another, adoration and misuse one another. They are human, opportunistic, selfish, and generous

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