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**GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN AMERICAN NOVELS:
AN EXPLORATION OF LOUISE ERDRICH'S "THE ROUND HOUSE"**

Dissertation submitted to the Department of English Language and Literature as partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of *Master* in Literature and Civilization.

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DECLARATION OF ORIGINALITY

I hereby certify that the attached paper is my work, I affirm that all the references in my work are cited and my dissertation has not submitted by another one, I have used quotations but all they are cited in the list of references, I declared that my work is devoid from plagiarism and it is written by myself, it contains no materials that have already published by anyone. I proclaim that this is a true copy of my dissertation; this work is the result of my efforts.

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Dedications

- ❖ Every challenging work needs all efforts as well as the guidance of others, especially from those who are very closer to our hearts.

My thankfulness, I dedicate it to my sweet and loving father& Mother

(Laid & Marbouha).

They give me all kinds of evidence bodily and morally, their love, affection, and prayers of the day and the night make me able to success.

- ❖ Also, there is no greater gift on this earth than to be loved, but to be loved by a grandmother is something to behold, will never be able to fully put into words how much you mean to me, your laugh when you see me give me a pooh to challenge all the difficulties(**Affane Zohra**).
- ❖ Without forgetting the support of my brothers, **Mohamed, Zakaria**, and the rosebud **Abdrahim**, I do not have a sister, but I am compensated by three brothers who enrich me for the entire world who take a great part in my life.

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Abstract

The purpose of this research work is to give an overview of the American writer Louise Erdrich's attitudes in the portrayal of women in one of the most beautiful masterpieces "*The Round House*". The research has invested an analytical method to depict the position of women in the eyes of the American female writer Louise Erdrich through the use of literary criticism mainly feminist criticism and psychoanalysis theory. Thus, this dissertation highlighted the injustice that women were suffering from especially rape that was considered as obsessed on the life of the American women living in a conservative town. Through her novel, Erdrich tries to defend the existence of the Native American women and their right for freedom to express their feelings, thoughts and opinions. Besides, this piece of research has delineated the way in which the novel examines the sufferings of women and how they overcame odds to regain their rights with the help of their family and took revenge from the rapist who changed their entire life. From this novel, Louise Erdrich focused on certain topics such as sexism, ethnicity, tribal identity, suffering, oppression, social injustice, tribal law that are presented to us from the perspective of a young boy. These themes are taken from the real-life as accurate subjects for her novel.

Keywords: Ethnicity, native women, rape, revenge, social injustice, suffering, tribal identity, tribal law

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List of Abbreviations

CR: Civil Right

FBC: Feminist Book Club

ITC: Indian Tribe Courts

MC: Major Crime

MNS: Mirror of the Mind of the Society

OSITA: Oliphant Suquamish Indian Tribe Authority

PLC: Psychoanalytic Literary Criticism

VPD: Virago Press-Discover

WLM: the Women's Liberation Movement

WM: Women's Movements

General Introduction

At the outset, the American literature witnessed many changes over time from the colonialism to the present day, in economics, histories, religions; these changes led America to be flourished in all sides, especially literature through literary movements such as romance and realism. It contains many forms such as poetry and drama. Indeed these changes affect social classes of the society. Besides, gender discrimination is one of the most topics that few writers wrote about it and is considered as a basic subject should be addressed, essentially, these serious issues of rape, inequality, race, gender, violence, ethnicity, culture and human identity, injustice, poverty, and sexism.

Moreover, Louise Erdrich tackles these crimes committed against humanity and their power over the weak, both women and men, especially women, who commit crimes under the authority of unjust law. The American writer, who has overcome all the expected consequences, showed the reality of living for the people, particularly, the conservative native people who suffer from poverty and exploitation. However, women must have a high status in society, then the same rights and duties as men. They have the right to learn, educate and use their voices.

The novelist Louise Erdrich has excelled in numerous writings dealing with different issues taken from reality of each society, one of the most beautiful and wonderful books throughout history her novel award-winning is labelled as a new technique used by Louise, since she did not write on one thing only, but blamed all the topics in one novel "*The Round House*". Then rape, violence, exploitation, race, all these issues have been presented as a result of injustice that native women were living in reservation anguished from.

Indeed, Louise exposes all these through the perspective of a young boy, the protagonist of the novel Joe who suffers from the rape of his mother as much as she does. Impressively, in the current research, there is a struggle on the rape that exposed

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to the native women portrayal by Louise in her novel “*The Round House*” in the following questions:

-How did the writer represent gender discrimination in the Round House? In a specific way, what were the types of gender discrimination embodied? Alternatively, how did the characters react against social injustices that are suffering from?

-To what extent Louise Erdrich portrays the rape from the perspective of a young boy?

These questions in return led the researcher to assume the following hypotheses.

- Discrimination takes a position in the novel throughout Geraldine’s rape, which the native women are more exposed to violence rape then non-native women.

- The types of gender discrimination are included in the novel: sexual gender violence, sexism and racism, rape, exploitation and injustice.

- The most observable plight Joe suffers in figuring out how to deal with the social injustice acted against his mother, which leads him to kill Linden in order to regain the right for justice of his family.

This work is divided into three main chapters; the first chapter is entitled “A Glimpse on Literature and Feminism” provides a depth look of female writers and how they represent gender in their literary masterpieces. The second chapter furthermore entitled “An Overview on Erdrich’s Major Works and Themes” sheds light on social issues in Louise Erdrich’s fiction. The last chapter, “A Literary Analysis of *The Round House*” illustrate show Erdrich presents the issues of gender discrimination, social injustice, rape and their effects on the native women and how they suffer from non-native men.

The significance of this work is to examine how Native American females struggle in society where there are cultural differences. In a specific way, it aims to shed light on sexual violence and how it is experienced by native females. It also shows how gender discrimination led to social violence mainly revenge. The limitations

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surrounding the conduct of this study were basically related to the lack of sources available locally.



❖ *Chapter One: A Glimpse of Literature and
Feminism*

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1.1 Introduction

As readers, we know that literature has a very large impact on our society. It is important to note that literature is a kind of the transformation of messages in a way or another, orally or in a written form to introduce or transport what happens in a given society. Therefore, it is supposed to be influential on humans because it is also assumed to teach us lessons that are taken from daily life without any doubt used by a writer, who has a large experience to draw it in an artistic way.

In this vein, the present chapter aims to clarify the concept of literature and its reflection on society, and how literature affects society and vice versa, without forgetting to introduce the relationship between them. It also provides an in-depth look at female writers and how they represent gender in their literary masterpieces. In order to analyse the novel, the researcher focuses on literary criticism, mainly, feminist and psychoanalysis literary criticism.

1.2 Literature and Society

Literature is a mirror of society and they are interrelated to each other because the former represents what takes place in society. Before digging deeper on the relation between literature and society, one has to know what is meant by literature, and what is society?

A simple definition of literature is a written art that expresses the reality of society. It has many forms, mainly, poetry, plays, or novels. On the other hand, society is a geographical area in which a group of individuals have the basics of living, which are values and morals, customs and traditions, as well as rights and obligations. In this regard, Roshni (2015) determines the relation between literature and society as follows:

Literature is a reflection of society; it is a fact that has been widely acknowledged. Literature indeed reflects the society, its good values and its ills. In its corrective function literature mirrors the ills of the society with a view to making realize its mistakes and make amends. It is also as an imitation of human action, often presents a picture of what people think, say and do in the society. (p.192)

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Therefore, literature portrays what is hidden in society; it cannot neglect its attitudes, morals and values because the aim of each writer is to shed light on the social structure of his society. This means that writers transfer the real-life situations of their society in a given period of time to the readers with the addition of some fictional facts and events. In this vein, Roshni (2015) highlights that:

Thus, literature is not only a reflection of the society but also serves as a corrective mirror in which members of the society can look at themselves and find the need for a positive change. It is necessary to take a close look at some works of literature, in order to understand how literature reflects society. (p. 192)

Without a doubt, one of the most powerful tools that have a great impact on society is literature. However, the effects of literature lion the representation of different backgrounds, cultures, concepts, and ways of life that are significant to understand the conditions of humans at a given society with a certain period. In a way or another, one can consider literature as a medium of media such as radio, television, and films, etc. It provides us with realities taken from society; this is why it is considered as the mirror of the mind of society (M.M.S). A good example, which shows us the impact in an easy and clear way, is when the author has something that he or she wants to write; in fact, it extends his/her ideologies from what happens in his/her society. It will be very helpful to more understand things because basically literature is a part of our society and it allows us to the setback at the moment to learn about life from the ones who live before us.

More importantly, the impact of literature is apparent in modern society because it transmits cultures, opinions, and feelings of some people in a given society. As such, authors like Fitzgerald are prime examples of this as his novel *The Great Gatsby* was a reflection of his experiences and opinions of America during the 1920s. This shows us how literature can impact our mind because it reflects society and tells realities on societies in a fictional way.

It may be concluded that literature teaches humans real-life events and how to overcome situations of distress with a wider view of our life. Sharing experiences,

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thoughts and events, makes readers visit places, meet people, listen to them, and share with them the same feelings of joy and sufferings. Every society writes down its values, dreams, hopes, laws, sadness, outlook, imaginations, and identities.

Literature makes readers accept all differences of humans from the globe and it gives them unique insights of the past and present in terms of cultures and traditions in order to better know how their ancestors deal with their daily life without forgetting that they should learn from their mistakes.

1.3 Literature and Gender

One of the most discussable subjects that have gained attention in cultural discourse and has attracted sociologists, linguists, poets and novelists is the term feminism and its development through ages with regard to its role in defending and discussing the position of females in society, a topic deserves a lot of discussions.

Prior to the 19th century, women are considered as robot compelling to these traditional expectations and have not the same opportunities and rights for occupation, education and voting. Absolutely, they have no rights to be free and do whatever they want; it is forbidden for them even to express their emotions and opinions. They are not allowed as men, their life is just to obey their husbands, being good wives, keepers of households, bringing children and bearing them as good mothers. By the beginning of the 19th century, the admittance of these classical turns began to disappear and attend a gradual development and widespread in the acceptance of women as a human being. Women become major components, that is, they form an inseparable part of the whole society because they are sensitive and effective members who know how to connect between public and private life. Nonetheless, the appearance and status of women as an official part and becomes visible throughout, the 19th and 20th centuries; for instance, the 19th century is a well-known period in British history that presents the position of women, their role, and transformed it from the darkness to the light with all respect to men. Feminism has progressively become like a kind of revolution that involves political and sociological sides. It becomes more concerned with issues of

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gender, its attacks on male –a dominated society that requires to men to be equal with females, and most importantly have the right to vote as it is considered as apart in gaining this victory why not. The late 1960s assist a grand impact on the writing of women’s history; these devising histories manage to not be lost from views. On the other hand, the developments of feminists made a distinctive contribution by highlighting the experience of women’s in foundations such as children, home, public and private life and all that is concerned with family, emotions, its relationships are important with the same degree to their freedom, education, and work(Sisterhood and after research team, 2013).

The Women’s Liberation Movement (WLM)rediscovers and encourages new female writers, it also looks over the means of production by setting up feminist printing houses such as Virago Press-Discover (VP.D) the authors, themes, and techniques of 1970 feminism, the Women’s Liberation Movement (WLM) opens the doors for women in literature, women’s Press and Spare Rib springs up and the change happens in more complex ways too, through the creation of a new and broader sense of what is culturally valuable. In fact, these ideas fuel and support literary and aesthetic revolutions among women writers in the 1960and 80s, with many new classic texts being created at that time. Women have long had a presence in British literature, but this is largely forgotten by the mid-20th century and so had to be recovered. Since the 18th century, for instance, some educated women with dependents write to avoid destitution and the workhouse. Aphra Benn (1640-89)is one of the first women writers to earn her living by her pen, opening the door to other professional women writers in the 18th century. Most famously Jane Austen, the Bronte sisters and George Eliot shape 18th and 19th-century literature, and the opinions of the readers who read their works. It is a sign of the patriarchal society of the time that Charlotte Bronte and George Eliot both use male pseudonyms under which to the public their work. Female authors such as Virginia Woolf lead the way to modernism and the reinvention of the novel in the early 20th century, Woolf famously claims that a woman needs a room of her own and 500 years to writes, she also suggests that Shakespeare’s sister, if he had

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one, would like so many women have been more likely to die in childbirth than becoming a successful playwright(Sisterhood and after research team, 2013).

Though these have been professional women writers for centuries; women's writing tends to explore specific genres travel, health, fiction, and histories and this work receives comparatively little attention from both men and women. Much research by feminists' presses and one the part of feminist historians and writers go into unearthing. Many lost and forgotten women writers from the past, by the mid to late 20th century, with increased education and higher standards of the living spectrum of women's voices begin to be heard(Sisterhood and after research team, 2013).

1.4 Literary Criticism and Literature

Generally, literature has varied over time in a simple way, what is known to us is that literature refers to writing whether fiction or non-fiction according to substantial forms, novels, short story, or drama works are often written by experienced authors to describe features of a certain period. Through reading a literary work that manipulates issues based on assumptions, each one has its own imagination in interpreting things. What comes to one's mind is if this work has a relation to us as humans and if it translates our reflection and feelings about something else. Whatever these types are social, economic, or historical, it is related to us, and it depends on the author to address these issues and how he can transmit the message; therefore, this can also help both critics and readers to receive and evaluate the literary genre and understand the issues being explored by the writer.

More restrictively, literary criticism is an unavoidable part of studying literature; it is fundamentally the evaluation of the estimate of special or assembly work. On such basis, it can be defined that readers can write down their interpretation which gives their point of view about a specific literary work. Responding to their interpretation can evaluate the work and give appropriate meaning about something which has a relation with relative historical information tired on the ears of other critics so that they can give another chance to use their own views or expanding other views in discussing

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or judging certain topics with other critics. In another way, literary criticism is a kind of arts that gives the full explanation and meaning to each literary work, it is considered as the formal study of any given work of literature, and helps us to understand the relationship between authors, readers, and the texts.

Khairi (2017) affirms that literary criticism is considered as the heart of any literary work. Basically, it has a great impact and a relation with how we can read and interpret the text, also, when the author's writing is linked to what he is writing for good persuasion, because these events are surely taken from reality and need to write something original to attract the reader, whatever, it is bad or good of course related to society in certain period. In light of this idea, Khairi (2017) adds the following:

Literary criticism has an important role in literary studies several years ago. This is because criticism can see the whole aspect of literary work, based on the critic used in seeing the literary work. It does not only matter of how to read and understand the work but how to interpret the text within the work. Furthermore, criticism can be used to analyze and seething beyond the text, how the work relates to daily life, social community and the relationship within the community. Of course, the critic as basic word of criticism is totally different with review or report about literary work. Critics not only talk about good or bad about literary work, not only talk about the weakness but also about the strengthens of literary work. That is why literary criticism is important in literary studies. (para. 3)

This is because there are some literary criticisms proposed by some experts based on the focus study.

1.4.1 Feminist Literary Criticism

One of the most beautiful issues that have portrayed throughout history is the idea of feminism in literature. In the past, women were deprived of their rights and opportunities, that men held, they were inferior to them, and lost their abilities to endure difficulties, but over time, the women's voice became audible with the prominent position in all fields. Women's rebelled until they have a great role in delivering and criticizing literature. Obviously, feminist criticism is a form of literary criticism that reflects the mistreatment of women and inequality between males and

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females during their life in each society in interpreting literature (S.Goel& Phil,2010, para,01).

Feminist literary is most concerned with the context of literature that is expressed by women to show how they are depicted in any given text, and how they are represented in the fictional society and what is their role? Another important issue, that is addressed by critics as far as the issue of gender is concerned, are language and its misuse in the literary text. Nonetheless, it is important to understand gender relation with language and the structure that is used by male writers in describing females in literature. It gives us the opportunity to look at women in literature for women's point of view; basically, literary criticism that is made by females is concerned with the representations of sexual differences and based on gender as an essential division of literary analysis (Goel & Phil, 2010, para. 02).

Feminism is a term that complies all kinds of injustices and unfair on the rights of women that lead females to be more exposed to all brands of distraction, aggression from the male. Women still have some desires to be free and succeed in their life. Also, feminist criticism has some basics even they have multiple styles in describing their needs. In the light of this tight, Kolodny (1978) maintains that:

What unites and repeatedly invigorates feminist literary criticism is neither dogma nor method but an acute and impassioned attentiveness to the ways in which primarily male structures of power are inscribed within our literary inheritance: as characters, as readers, as writer, and with that a shared analytic encoding not only for a better understanding of the past but also for an improved reordering of the present and future. (para.1)

In this respect, the area of feminism without any doubt is created to bring change and reduce the suffering of women against the injustice prevailing on them, and open the door for them to regain their position and reject injustice and challenge men in all areas of life.

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1.4.2 Social Literary Criticism

Fundamentally, a literary critic is a person who searches for the apparent and hidden meaning, there are varied approaches of literary criticism can examine the context in relation to society; this latter is called sociological approach, that is, an essential part from literary criticism. Moreover, social critics orientate to hold literature from the social context. It transcribes the functions of society on literature and vice versa and then changing the role.

More importantly , social criticism is the study of the relationship between the artist and his society, from which the author takes his/her ideas if it is from the upper class or lower class, to evaluate his/her profession and creativity in writing, from any part that the author manipulates: cultural, economic, or political . In here, the role of the audience is to accept or not, and if it is reflected in the society or not. Social criticism in the wide sense can be practised diffusely across society. A critic tries to express certain feelings that are matters of concern in relation to issues that happen in his or her society to convey the reader that the writer should write a type of topics that are taken from society such as injustice, poverty, rape, drugs, homeless, and employment. These types are reflected on the reader in away or another. This maintains that the literary work cannot be separated from the social context in which itis created.

With regard to the dating that proves women's criticism helps us to more in understanding literature with its relation to society and fulfils the needs which are concerned with gender and its relation with criticism. The author can assert that the relationship between the literature and social approach should be proposed in education:

The inferences for the relationship between literature and sociology have been broached and opted for, such as Emile Durkheim rejected the idea that education could be the force to transform society by concluding that education can be reformed only if society itself is reformed. The precept of literature being a mirror to the society. To further the accessibility of sociological concepts, Lewis Loser proposed to use the literature in the classrooms, in order to deepen the understanding of various social issues. (Mambrol, 2017, para.01)

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In the guise of conclusion, one can conclude that social criticism plays an important role in determining the identity of the writers through writing and making it restricted under the leadership of the readers because they write events that coincide with that era to make the reader encouraging the authors' writings.

1.4.3 Psychoanalysis Literary Criticism and Literature

We have dealt with several topics that are taken from society and study their relationship with literature. In the field of literature, there are some approaches that should be learned from social, feminist, and psychological sides. One of the most aculeate topics nowadays is psychological ideation which is concerned with the analyses of what the mind interprets to be shaped in reality.

Basically, psychoanalytic literary criticism(PLC) is defined as the analysis of each literary work from the psychological side, it is the resolve of the work of each writer, it helps us to understand what is between lines, and how the writer celebrates and interprets his or her daily life through his writing unconscionably, without knowing that what is written is apart from his biography and is reflected to the readers. Literary criticism and literature are reflected by this psychological approach that is mainly developed by Sigmund Freud and Jacques Lacan. Freud asserts that this translation to literary text is a kind of reformulation to what is the writer desires and wants. It transcribes his or her feelings, emotions by using symbols, images, and actions that cannot be understood easily (Julia, 2009, para. 01).

Freud's ideas are also of key importance in literary criticism as in psychoanalytic criticism Freud says that an author's chief motivation for any piece of literature is necessary. He says that it would gratify some secret desires that probably developed during the author's infancy and was immediately suppressed and dumped in the unconscious. The outward manifestation of this suppressed wish becomes the literary work itself. (Sisterhood and after research teams, 2013, p. 1908-1911)

Thus, the interest of the author is by what is meant not by what is the intention. More focusing is concerned with the language that the author uses because his

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language is the mirror that the reader ogles to and actually, it transforms his/her dreams and desires by his/her handwriting without any awareness.

1.5 Literature and Racism

The subject of racism is a thorny issue between the past and present generations. It is a subject that has taken a large space in society where scientists have played a major role in the study of all types of sexual discrimination, whether ethnic, sexual or religious discrimination in their literary works. The subject of racism is an important topic and deserves discussion because it is highly prominent in all societies. Thus, scientists took into account the subject and were included through their literary work on the basis of finding a solution to stop this phenomenon.

The writers denote this paramount topic in their literary works, but before we should know what means by racism? What is its effect on society? And how is it presented in literature? Racism is defined by Wilson (1999, p. 14) as: “an ideology of racial domination” and by other scholars as:

Racism is analytically distinct from racial discrimination and racial inequality. Racial discrimination concerns the unequal treatment of races, whereas racial inequality concerns unequal outcomes (in income, education, health, etc.). While racism is often implicated in both processes, contemporary racial inequalities and forms of discrimination are not always the immediate result of contemporary racism. (Pager & Shepherd, 2008, para. 02)

In his part, Arthur (2007) suggests that:

racism is usually a form of prejudice in just that sense: it is an attitude that is grounded in the beliefs formed on insufficient evidence or beliefs that are held too firmly without adequate regard for other information that may call these beliefs into question. (p. 29)

From this standpoint, one can understand that racism is a subject that has been circulating since ancient times to this day, and it is the result of the hatred that exists between people of different ages. The writers found a way to demonstrate this fact by denouncing it through their writings, to be explained to readers in an easy way, also to

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find a solution to reduce this biggest phenomenon, because there is no difference between black and white only piety as mentioned in the Koran.

In American communities, blacks are still suffering from discrimination due to the effect of race and skin colour. US President “Obama” has worked to change this phenomenon and give blacks their freedom and equality with whites, through political speeches and literary books, his attempt failed and there is no point. This has a great impact on the society because racism is different, it may be because of cultural, sexual, historical, social or political diversity. Every society defined racism according to their beliefs, it must be taken into account all the constraints and consequences in different countries to understand what it means this term in any country. In the twentieth century, the settlers exercised their power as superior to Africans and they fought for their national identity and freedom, but they are considered as victims of society (Koutsi, 2007, para. 2-3).

Through what has been previously presented, literature can be regarded as a means of exploring many views on certain phenomena related to history. Where it gives the reader the opportunity to learn as well as to express his/her views on the subject and explore it through what is mentioned in the book or folder, because if they did not write down, readers would not have the opportunity to evaluate in addition to expansion by giving new ideas that help in building a good society

1.6 Conclusion

This chapter allowed us to identify literature in general and what is between the lines in a particular way, through literature and its relationship with a set of concepts that help the readers to have an idea. It played an important and consolidating role to transform to us the livelihood, believes and traditions of the previous generations. Literature still remains the means by which ideas and expression can be disseminated by giving a view of something. As such, the present chapter was a map road that provides a glimpse of the main theories and features that can help in analyzing the novel at hand.

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❖ *Chapter Two: An Overview of Erdrich's Major Works and Themes*

Chapter Two: An Overview of Erdrich's Major Works and Themes

2.1. Introduction

The present chapter aims at providing a look at American feminism and tries to shed light on social issues in Louise Erdrich fiction. It starts with an overview of Louise Erdrich's fiction and gender. Moreover, it presents the gender perspective and how it is represented in the writer's works.

2.2. American Feminism

Society has regarded women as inferior and less important than men, i.e., they were treated on a gender basis. This stereotypical view led to the exploitation of women in the ugliest ways; Violence, rape, and social inequality. From here, females' movements began to emerge; their aims were to defend, educate women's rights and achieve equality such as equal pay and distribution of employment and education. These movements represented the voice of women of all ages and colors, black and white, without discrimination. In this respect, Zara (2013) states that "women have traditionally been dehumanized by a male-dominated society, which they call patriarchy; and that has been always better to be a man" (p. 1).

Women's movements(WM)were widely known from the late 19th century to the present. The inequality between them and men, their marginalization and denial of the most basic rights did not prevent them from raising their voice and demanding all their rights as a human being. Women's waves and movements began to appear in public, which had the sole purpose of liberating and communicating the voice of women as part of society and shedding light on all the suffering and oppression suffered as a female in a male society (Ann Dricker, 2018, para. 01).

The history of feminism movements passed through many activities or as they were called "The Three Feminism Waves". The first Feminist Wave goes back to the world war I, a party of women came out to protest their deteriorating situation, rights and several parties outside the United States also protested .One of their demands was the right to vote. In their view, this is not only in their interest but also for the community as a whole. Literature has also played an important role in supporting the feminist movement such as the writer Wollstonecraft 'A Victorian of the rights of women'. It is

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Considered as a revolution on its own. She pointed out in her book that education is the only way to be the woman in the highest positions in the community. Also, Virginia Woolf wrote a famous book about women rights "A Room of One's Own" (1929). Hence, these movements have spread widely in the world and led to the emergence of the second wave (Ann Dricker, 2018, para.02).

In the second wave, they performed plays in which women through all that is related or suggest feminism as the high heels and make-up in the basket of dirt in protest against the competition of Miss America Pageants in 1968 and 1969 work content focused on how to wear her and talked more than he thought. The situation worsened with the intensification of protests of this kind and from here began the issue is clear to the world in which the press and newspapers urged them .That period noticed many productions related to Second-wave Feminism such as; Juliet Mitchell in "The Subjection of Women" (1970) .The active members of these movements tried to raise awareness in society about the need for women to achieve their absolute freedom and not to make them subordinate to men. It began with success in a relative manner. The women have a number of identities and backgrounds, including cultural ones. They became interested in thought, literature and poetry (AnnDricker, 2018, para. 04).

The third wave of feminism came as a response to the previous waves of the nineties; it is considered as a liberation movement so that women from this movement are stronger than their predecessors .In light of this tight, Schneiders (2000)describes the third wave, as a movement of liberation. In his view, "this movement is concerned not simply with the social, political, and economic equality of women with men but with a fundamental re-imagination of the whole of humanity in relation to the whole of reality, including non-human creation"(p.98).

Women from the new generation began to think about how to make their message more effective and influential. The idea was to support women and increase their self-confidence by using modern technology such as television and the Internet. This is a success, it is true that they changed the ways from previous waves, but they preserved their true spirit despite criticism of the modern generation of their competitions, but they respected their courage to claim their rights at the time.

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Like other women's waves, the third wave saw two writers and researchers as; Eve Ensler (an American playwright) "*The Vagina Monologues*", Judith Butler (Gender and social theorist), "*Gender Trouble*" (1990) and "*Bodies That Matter*" (1993) and others like Willa Shalit and Elizabeth Wurtzel.

2.3. Social Issues in Erdrich's Novels

Within the main concerns, to the concepts of inequality issues of race, gender, violence, ethnicity, culture and human identity, Injustice, poverty, and sexism. Louise Erdrich tackles these serious issues in her novels to present and show us what happened in the real-life, focusing on life of Chippewa people living in small reservation, in north Dakota, *Tracks* novel that was written by Louise, published in 1988, her third book in series of books, that highlights the relationship between non-native American and deals with the destructions of the stereotype of Anishinabe people. From the role of two narrators Nanapush and Pauline, Erdrich creates a colonial scenario to make us understand the archenemies to the Chippewa people, with the same result, the loss of land and culture by the white, but Erdrich inspires another world to them, that natives are capable and have power, not just victims to what happens (Johnson, 2018, p.01)

However, Erdrich also focuses her attention on women by using Nanapush as an example of Authentic Indians who challenge all kinds of injustice adopted from man especially, and from the colonial and post-colonial society, indeed of that, acceptance of women, gives them their rights, it provides them with a push to do all their best (Robyn Johnson, 2018, p.06).

2.3.1. Rape in Erdrich's Novels

Nowadays, rape is one of the most common crimes committed against women around the world and is the result of sexual contact against a person without his concern. This attack is used by force on women and girls especially. For the most part, this admittance considers females as victims, and males as perpetrators (Whismant, 2009, para. 1)

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Erdrich regularly in her previous novels introduces all kinds of injustice, violence, poverty in general and the case of Chippewa native women's being raped in specific, as well as, fighting to find justice by legal ways. Erdrich portrays this sexual violence by illustrating two examples particularly, moreover, to the rape of Geraldine.

Fleur Pillager in *Tracks* and June Morrissey in *The Bingo Palace*, and the rape in *The Round House* depicted by Joe, not the victim, Geraldine assault, the rape in *Tracks* transpire in the second chapter and *The Bingo Palace*, the rape described in the sixth chapter. Most importantly, this interracial phenomenon has a wide range on the attacks of the native women's, and the perpetrators of this crime are never punished.

However, *Tracks*, the climax occurs when Fleur lives the reservation for a short time to work in the butcher shop in the nearby town of Argus in order to gain money to pay tax for her land, she gambles with male workers, her success angered them, which leads them to attack her as a revenge. As the novel comment:

Lily couldn't believe, first of all, that a woman could their aims were enough to play cards, but even if she was, that she would be stupid enough to cheat for a dollar a night. (*Tracks*, 1989, p. 21)

This namely that her super mental power as a smart woman playing cards intelligently makes Fleur the victim of Lily and his teams. Pauline views to this scene regretted that she cannot help Fleur, feeling strong remorse that she couldn't help Fleur:

The men saw, yelled, and chased her [Fleur] at a dead run to the smokehouse ... I closed my eyes and put my hands on my ears, so there is nothing more to describe but what I couldn't block out: those yells from Russel, Fleur's hoarse breath, so loud it filled me, her cry in the old language and our names repeated over and over among the words. (*Tracks*, 1989, p. 26)

The attacker is well-known to the identity of Fleur as a native woman that has never been punished because Fleur does not have affirmed standing before the law. After all the difficulties that faced her but she stands on her legs as a strong woman who is not affected by rape and does not give up her hardship. In addition to that, she restores her power and miraculous ability to fight anyone who has stopped on its way and sought to destroy its town and the attackers to avenge itself.

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Another discrimination attacks Chippewa women is found in *The Bingo Palace*(1994), in this light, June Morrissey is raped by Leonard, her mother's boyfriend, alike the rape of Fleur in *Tracks* and Geraldine in *The Round House* which was not condemned by the rapist himself. Rape is described as follows:

She felt his hand across her mouth, big and heavy with tough pads. She smelled the sweetness, spice, the incense of his perfumes and under it the sour yeast and heavy flowers of his armpits. He touched her, his hands like hot bells. He took off her ropes but kept her bound up with his fingers. They were steel clamps. They found her, found her until she galloped against him. No matter where she went, his tongue came down (...)She tried to roll from underneath, but he was on every side. (*The Bingo Palace*,2012, pp.59-60)

The description of the rape is very effective and explains the suffering and pain felt raped by the rapist, making them live moments which will not forget for life. Erdrich chooses these brands of topics and persists to depict on society, so that they became audible and readers are aware of the fact that native women live on, the same position of June is innocent from the rape, it is considered as a victim of her mother's alcoholism.

The Last Report (2016), another novel which addresses the issue of rape, but in lesser importance to the previous ones, the novel explores aspects of lives of the Pillager Puyat and Kashpaw, deeper, to the rape that exposes Mary Kashpaw by Napoleon Morrissey in her childhood. The rape happens in the second half of the novel when Bernadette Morrissey concedes to her father that Napoleon:

“had forced himself on Mary Kashpaw, most probably raping her” (*The Last Report*, 2001, p.202).

Hence, the readers can know that the rapper is Marry and Napoleon again and are never punished

2. 4.Main Themes in *The Round House*

The Round House confirms a set of facts taken from the society in which we live. The phenomenon of women's disrespect, tyranny and rape are considered a thorny phenomenon in all societies. Erdrich in her novel proved that through a set of essential ideas considered as key themes played by some characters, to help the readers for

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more understanding of the real-life that women live on especially, native women who live in the North Dakota on the reservation.

However, the novel "*The Round House*" highlights many themes which show the weakness of Native American women in the reservation, who have no right in their society and should follow the customs and traditions of a tribal society, their freedom is limited and does not leave it as they like. According to the novel, the theme that is offline in all chapters is Women, Bigotry, and Sexual Violence, rape of Geraldine as the native women. These themes explain the suffering of women themselves because they were exposed to rape easily and what made things very difficult if the perpetrator is a non- native man and the law defends him from the punishments because he is not from the reservation.

Bigotry represented by Linden, who played the role of a rapist and murderer in the narration of "*The Round House*", not only raped Geraldine but also contributed to the murder and kidnapping of Mayla out of jealousy and racism because he is a white man, and has the right to control, he hates the native women's because of his bigotry and he also hates the Indians in general (Katherine, 2019, para,03).

Chippewa Traditions vs. Catholicism, another theme which is dramatically illustrated in the novel, two different traditions considered as spiritual practices, participate by characters from "*The Round House*" novel. Mooshum and Randall present the Chippewa religion. Moreover, the title of the novel is related to a place where a Chippewa people get form their spiritual ritual, which engaged their own set of rituals such as dances, Chippewa execute medicine people as they naming (Katherine, 2019, para,02).

Catholicism is introduced by the main character of the novel Joe and his aunt Clemence, they are interrelated in a large way with the Catholic Church and attended all services led by father, Travis, and they considered that Catholicism has strong ties with the culture of European people, Joe and his friend's gibes from the religion of Chippewa people (Katherine,2019,para. 03).

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Storytelling, Formality, and Writing, these three themes are very important, each theme teaches us a new thing that helps us in understanding novels and stories, etc. The storyteller should be conscious of, knows how he lists the events or narrates it to attract people for reading his works. For example, the narration in “*The Round House*” that contains many stories is narrated with the perfect way for the goal to attract readers and give them a destination to know how to deal with the positions of life and each event treats her according to the situation if it is a behavioral or emotional event (Katherine, 2019, para,01).

Throughout the novel, Joe narration is to help readers for more understanding of what is between lines through his eyes, to make things clearer, and also, to learn from each other's things that help us in daily life, the storyteller leaves a beautiful feeling in the reader because he lists issues related to his society and teaches him how to deal with them. Where the role of readers and listeners turns into narrators because he tells the story from the other side of the party he deems appropriate(Katherine, 2019, para,05). As a conclusion, these themes are the most attractive one from the novel, they considered as a keyword for more comprehend the novel.

2.5. A Feminist Reading of *The Round House*

“*The Round House*” is considered as one of the most attractive novels, especially the conservative American societies, where Louise exposed all the lies and her body to reality to become an idea for the reader about the American communities, especially women who suffer from poverty and exploitation.

From the perspective of the Feminist Book Club(FBC), they suppose that “*The Round House*” novel is a story that contains many issues about what happens in American societies with regard to the position of women, also, they denote that when the novel was written by the outlook of the native American boy Joe, a 13-year old who lives in the North Dakota. It is not a feminist book because it is written by the boy and the point of view differs from male to female, since the writer is a woman, but from another point of view, this is a special thing because they can survey and find out what a young child can do, how he thinks about it and deals with poverty and

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exploitation, in addition to the rape of his mother, yet his father prevents him from wanting to interfere and think about revenge because there are many difficulties in Indian law, he cannot punish non-Indians because the law forbids it. Louise's work is correct in exposing this unjust law which is against punishing unjust people. Although the book is a fiction work, it explains many of the real issues that concern the American society, one of them exposures one from three native women to rape and this crime perpetrated by non-native men (Feminist Book Club: *The Round House*, 2018, para. 2-3). The Feminist Book Club states that the novel, when told by a child, is very different when it is told from another party so it has another unexpected perspective.

Wise and suspenseful (...) Erdrich's voice, as well as her powers of insight and imagination, fully infuse this novel...She writes so perceptively and brilliantly about the adolescent passion for justice that one is transported northward to her home territory.(Taylor, 2012,para, 01)

Taylor recognizes the efforts exerted by Louise, where she excelled in writing a novel from the perspective of a young child and challenged all the difficulties to explain the harassment and tyranny that women suffering from it. She is considered the strongest woman defying the corrupt system .Ron, (2012) admits that the story of "*The Round House*" is one of the greatest stories that remain immortal throughout the ages. She knows the value of a teenager who sees his mother's condition and depression. He is responsible for finding a solution despite his age, though "Joe" who fight to find out the truth and take the right of his mother by his hand and retaliation to her, no matter what the cost of it, despite the lack of knowledge of the vastness of what may be faced by the calamities in life, especially the unjust law, which cannot deal with him alone.

Ron considers the story of "*The Round House*" a childish story version of the content, and reads it by a lot of children's awareness and maturity, to correct the idea that the child cannot take responsibility because of his young age, it is a misconception that 13-year-old boy Joe proved it by taking responsibility for the rape of his mother, despite his small mind, but, he does what his father cannot do, he gives women their status and proves their worth in society and goes through all the difficulties to fight

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this phenomenon that happens to women in the North Dakota on a small reservation. As a conclusion, it is said that, although it is a sad and confusing story, but it has done a worthy job by understanding what is between the lines and discovering the intimacy of the family of Joe despite all the pain that they faced, they remained united facing difficulties with all the challenge and strength to reveal that women are important members of society and cannot be dispensed with because they fight in their society and compete men in all areas (Charles,2012, para,6-9).

2.6. The Native Identity in Erdrich's *Round house*

Through her famous and much-admired novel, Louise Erdrich has enriched her readers with traditional American identity through legendary characters that have successfully incorporated issues of the American society, with a focus on the living reality of the conservative North Dakota, where the issues included the reality, which they are suffering from especially, women. Louise as a soldier woman is able to define the suffering of the natives, to the readers to have an idea and defend them to become to the American people as an original identity which did not marginalize the conservative people and did not expose them to violence and rape.

Louise played an important role in mainstreaming conservative society, through her "*Round House*" novel, which gave the American traditional culture a special advantage to be known to other people and incorporated into Arab literary culture. Since she wrote one of the most important works of realism currently impressed many and raised her status until she became proud of her work that speaks about the reality of Anishinaabe peoples that cannot evade it. In her view, Alexie (2017) highlights that:

I think as a minority writer, as a brown writer, you end up feeling and getting thought of as being limited because you're only writing about your people," the writer Sherman Alexie told me. "But Louise taught me that you could write about one town, one family, through the course of a couple of dozen books, and be endless. When people ask me, 'Why do you only write about Indians?' my response was always, 'Every moment of Shakespeare happens on my reservation every day.' And it was Louise's epic stories about small places that taught me that. (Para, 04)

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Alexie (2017) also adds that “she writes hyper-realistic literary fiction, there are murder and violence and desperation and hunger and prayer and car wrecks and love letters” (Para, 06).

As mentioned earlier, Louise was one of the few American writers who have written about her homeland, where she lived with pride, she talked about the violence experienced by women about the rape, as a major phenomenon experienced by indigenous women by the white man who is an obsession for an honest woman who wants to live like any other woman like her. She chose the subject with the confidence of herself to make a major achievement worth bending it in terms of time, characters, place, and also in terms, rape, violence, murder, all this can find it in her work everything was arranged shows the proficiency of the writer.

Erdrich interviewed readers in her own language so that the reader could understand that she wanted to convey all the explanations about the identity of her home country. The details of the novel were incorporated in a rural setting with conservative people in the town of North Dakota. Everything was thought out by an American writer who takes care of the feelings of her people.

2.7. Conclusion

This chapter gave us an open view of one of the finest novels written over the ages by an American writer who listed the issue of her people who were suffering from exploitation and oppression, it highlighted especially, on women who suffer from injustice, and equality between them and men. It was a cry against the conservative society suffering from totalitarianism in silence; Erdrich presented this to us through a group of bigger and smaller personalities that played a major and important role in delivering this suffering to all people in a professional way.

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**❖ Chapter Three:
A Literary Analysis of *The Round House***

Chapter Three: A Literary Analysis of the Round House

3.1. Introduction

The present chapter aims to illustrate how Erdrich presents the issues of gender discrimination, social injustice, rape and their effects on the native women and how they suffer from non-native men. Through this chapter, we will also give an in-depth look at how Erdrich presents the law that cannot give them, their rights by punishing the perpetrator. It also sheds light on gender differences through the roles of both males and females who play the story in professionally way, to raise the awareness of readers about life in American society through the use of social and feminist literary analysis.

3.2. Rape in *The Round House*

The novel sheds light on the issue of rape. It explains the attacks every three Native American women by non –native men because of the failure of the U.S government to protect them by punishing the perpetrator of these crimes and give the females their rights. The feeling of being a rapist woman is not easier for Geraldine.

Throughout the novel, the identity of the attacker is obscure, and Geraldine refused uncovering who is. “*The Round House*” has located crossroads of three types of land jurisdiction: tribal, state, and federal. These illustrations make things easier to the attacker. On regard to the testiness of Geraldine, the rape happened near the roundhouse, which is a place of native teams where they held their ceremonies. He chose the era of the attack with a perfect way to avoid all resembling. At this stage in the novel, Joe remarks:

“I already knew, too, that these questions would not change the facts, but they would inevitably change the way we sought justice”. (*The Round House*,1988, p.17)

This means that they cannot find the identity of the attacker nor the location of the crime (state, or federal land. In this attempt, Bazil calls all exemplifiers to meet Geraldine, and takes their testimony, with the respect to all representatives, Joe notices that:

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“The problem with most Indian rape cases was that even after there was an indictment, the U.S attorney often declined to take the case to trial” and that, “My father Bazil wanted to make sure that didn’t happen”. (*The Round House*, 1988, p. 49)

Thus, Bazil tries very hard to not neglect anything and the exploration of this case is continual. Accelerate of the events, Bazil says:

“took from us tribal jurisdiction the right to prosecute non-Indians who commit crimes on our(tribal) land” (*The Round House*, 1988, p. 268)

In this view, Bazil argues that Native Americans are more exposed to these kinds of crimes. Moving on, in the novel declared that the crime was committed by Lark Linden and Mayla Wolfskin, another native woman was profaned by the same attacker to Geraldine, a non –native man is the rapist of both, but unfortunately, Mayla is killed by Linden and Geraldine outlive. Geraldine is considered as a powerful native American woman. In this regard, Armstrong (1996) points out:

It was a woman who shaped the thinking of all its members in a loving nurturing atmosphere within the base family unit” (ix) she says “it was a woman who controlled and shaped that societal order to the state of harmony. (p. x)

Eventuality, the native American women are fighting against those practices in the society and not be inferior to men submitted to him because of their sex; their goal in life is more than being rapist and has their position in society as the same degree to men. Geraldine has a resistant position in both her family and reservation.

3.3. Social Injustice

Prior to the 19th century, women faced multiple difficulties in their life such as inequality in economic and politic opportunities. Indeed, they are considered a robot for the needs of men, and remain under their mercy; they have not the right to live their life as they want. This fact leads them to be more susceptible to men’s lusts and vulnerable to crimes.

Exposing Native American women to the sexual violence, murder, assault, and rape, and all these kinds of crimes would be justifying by the specific pieces of legislation, the exertion of which results in women’s infection to sexual violence in general and

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Geraldine in specific. The first one, the Major Crimes of Act 1885, affirms the right to try Major Crime(MC) such as murder, assault, and rape that Indian perpetrate to the Federal Authorities. Through Indian Civil Right (CR) in 1968, they set that a \$5.000 fine and one year enforced by Tribal Jurisdictional for the punishment of these criminals as the maximum limit.

Oliphant Suquamish Indian Tribe Authority(OSITA), case of 1978 stated whether Indian Tribal Courts(ITC) have Criminal Jurisdiction over non-Indian but the Court decided that they did not, and had no right to try non –native offenders who violate Tribal or Federal Law in Indian Country.

In this respect, Tharp (2014) maintains that “Indian Tribal Courts do not have inherent criminal jurisdiction to try and to punish non-Indians”(p.27). This creates a wonderful system declared by Owens “Jurisdictional Maze” more complex without respect to the Pieces of Legislation above of the Native American Tribes that are considered as incapable to judge the Major Crimes. Although it has the right only to prosecute, it committed a big mistake in neglecting the native cases and this disorderly for them to present their duties as it should.

Accordingly, Erdrich in her fiction goals criticizes the Federal inability to prosecute these crimes, she proficiently illustrates difficulties that Native Americans faced in their attempts to get justice through the U.S. Legal System which portrays:

difficulties that Native Americans faced in their attempts to get justice through the U.S. legal system ... by emphasizing the problem of attaining justice in the face of a brutal attack, Erdrich reiterates the long-standing argument that Indians have repeatedly been the victim of federal law. (Mace,2013,p. 161)

In her article, for the New York Times “*Rape on Reservation*”, Erdrich criticizes the high numbers of the so-called “sexual predators” who have the right to attack native American women while the tribal police do nothing to them. Also, she is angry with the fact that “a no Indian can drive up from the cities and be home in five hours, the Tribal police can’t arrest him”(Alexandra P,2009,para.05). In Tharp’s (2014) words, “grave situation, over which tribal law has had no direct power and which others often dismiss” (p.28).

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This creates a high number of rapist women and other crimes without any punishment to the majority who perpetrate this crime. This phenomenon is defined by Weisman in clearly way, that is “jurisdictional black hole”, which leads the culprits free to commit other crimes, and victims without any protection and they could be raped again.

The jurisdictional maze is well presented in *The Round House* that portrays the culprit’s evasion from the punishments; the pot in the kitchen illustrates well this phenomenon which describes the composition of the pot as symbols for the pieces of the U.S Jurisdiction.

with a savage thump, he turned the casserole over onto the table. He lifted off the pan. The thing was shot through with white fuzz but its oblong shape. My mother rose again and pulled the box of the cutlery from the cabinet counter. He led a large carving knife carefully in the top of the frozen casserole and all around it proceeded to stack on the fork. Another fork, one of the next, adding a spoon here, a butter knife, a ladle, a spatula, until he had a jumble somehow organized into a weird sculpture. (Erdrich,2012, p. 228)

Through the conflicts that took place, Bazil tried to explain to Joe the rotten casserole out of the back of the fridge as it is the basic components of the ‘Indian Law’, as it is explained in the quote above, and tells Joe that Native Land is under the domination of the United States and stealing their land because they are considered as inferior savages.

However, things become clear to Joe and are realized to him that each vessel represents a separate court decision which, unfortunately, has a great influence on native rights, and what makes this kind of crimes widespread and that should riddance is Oliphant .V. Suquamish. This decision helped non-native people to commit crimes because the right to punish them is not allowed. Joe asked him for the second time “why Bazil continues working in Law” (*The Round House*,2012,p. 220).

Bazil explains to him that he and other tribal judges: “try to make solid decisions with no scattershot opinions attached..” (*The Round House*,2012,p. 220).

“build a solid base for sovereignty. We try to press against the boundaries of what we are allowed, walk a step past the edge. Our records will be scrutinized by Congress one day and decisions on whether to enlarge our jurisdiction will be made. Some day. We want the right to prosecute criminals of all the races on all

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lands within our original...What I am doing now is for the future, though it may seem small, or trivial, or boring, to you”(*The Round House*,2012, p. 220).

He feels that one day this small decision will be permitted, and the native land take her independence. This illustration is considered as magnificence images that defined the reality of perpetrator of crime without any punishments in the Law of the American nation.

3.4. Sexual Assault in *The Round House*

Through *The Round House*, Erdrich plays an important role in presenting the real life of the native women. Exposure women's to the sexual harassment a result of conflicts which stems from the culture of a tribal society, where it is harmful the society in general and the native women in particular.

Although, *The Round House* is fiction but generally explains a phenomenon that is apart from the real-life; for example, the case of sexual violence against Joel's mother Geraldine, by exploring the particular difficulties faced by the native women, often, the perpetrators of these kinds of crime are non-native men. Unfortunately, it is impossible to bring them to justice. This directly demonstrates the overexposure of women to all forms of repression and racism, where it threatens the physical integrity of native people. This results of the criminals being left without punishment.

Rape of Geraldine, kidnapping and killing of Mayla because of jealousy and rejection of him and he does not accept her relationship with another man on the basis that he is a white man who does not reject his request because he hates Indians in general, and has the authority to do what he wants, all this was done by linden Lark.

This phenomenon is widespread in the novel where many original and non-original men treat women badly. One example is Curtis, who uses his position as a ruler and forces Mayla to sleep with him, as an old man to manipulate her. As well as, the protagonist of the novel does not treat Sonja well. It seems that exploiting women is well known in Joe family.

Joe's mistreatment of Sonja leads her to not allow him to see her tape, as he had a Sonja dance, but Joe rejected it and threatened not to stay. His actions surprised them

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and when Joe saw Sonja dancing she was angry because her former manager had cut her nipples with a blade. Joe cried and confessed to him that he cried when he saw women suffering. This is what many men do, thus, leads Sonja link to her severe suffering of social and sexual injustice, such as her chest mutilation.

From that Joe starts to understand the life and community, and being adult because these bad transactions caused the rape of his mother.

Rape is more than a metaphor for colonization it is part and parcel of colonization ...Sexual assault mimics the worst traits of colonization in its attack on the body, inversion of physical bombardiers, and disregard for humanity...The perpetrator of sexual assault and colonization thrive on power and control over their victims. (MP Carden,2018, p. 1)

From this point of view, one can understand that sexual harassment means that women to be colonized by the colonizer who is the man, where they are brutally exploited and this is what colonialism do in the country that occupies, it uses all kinds of arbitrary to despise women.

Erdrich presents the exposure of women to sexual rape throughout the novel and at the same time presents the results, as a revenge as explained to Joe that he wants revenge on his mother, because suddenly the events turned upside down, he lived with his father and mother in happiness, but the rape of his mother leads him to commit murder, this, in turn, causes more psychological issues. These kinds of crimes are particularly damaging the victim rather than the physical sense.

Erdrich announced that *The Round House* novel is considered as “suspense novel masking crusade” (Luscombe, 2014, p. 60). , mounted a crusade against the rape which the women are exposed to, where she explained the central focus in the novel is to illustrate the effects of sexual violence that the native women expose (Tharp, 2014, p. 01)

The decision of Erdrich in depicting the sexual violence in *The Round House*, which is considered as a fantastic job including the effects it has on the entire family, helps the readers more in understanding the damage that the rape can cause.

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3.5. Femininity vs. Masculinity in *The Round House*

One of the most beautiful books, which were written in the history of American Literature, tells the suffering of the people from poverty in addition to the exposure of women's to all kinds of sexual harassment and exploitation by non-Native American men. This is reflected in the stories that were written by the American writer Louise Erdrich, which tell to us the suffering of the Indians, where she embodied this in one of the most famous novels that won prizes, *The Round House* through characters who played the roles in wonderful and beautiful ways.

Erdrich excelled in the distribution of roles to the characters and used all the categories, senior and young to well translate the reality of the pension that the native American living on, especially in reservation on the North Dakota when the novel takes place, and raise the awareness of the status of American society to make things ideal to the readers.

However, starting from the novel's narrator and protagonist, son of Bazil and Geraldine Coutts, Joe a Chippewa boy of the 13- year- old living on the reservation. Throughout the novel, Joe lives on a happy family with his father and mother, in one day they find Geraldine, covers with blood in the driveway they transit her to the hospital in hours of disintegration they revealed to them that she was beaten and raped in place which called Round House frame used for their sanctifier ceremonies.

Joe declared that “during the old days when Indians could not practice their religion –well, actually not such old days: pre-1978 The Round House had been used for ceremonies. People pretended it was a social dance hall or brought their bibles for gatherings”. (*The Round House*, 2012 p. 29)

This makes Geraldine a victim to be raped by non-native men. From that the stories start but what is more important is to know the characters of the stories and their roles, begin with the friend of Joe, Cappy La fournais which are related to brotherhood and love since their childhood, their friendship is wonderful they share everything to gather, this presented on ,when Joe says what happened to his mother to his friend a sign of the sincerity of their love, after that he helps him in killing Linden Lark, and do not let him alone ,the white man who rapes Geraldine, because he finds her trying

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To help his wife Mayla in carrying after her child, they are in love with each other but without a sexual relationship, and he realizes that he has no relation with the child which leads Lark to abuse drugs and alcohol...etc. Linden is the son of Grace and George Lark and it is the twin of Linda Lark.

Another character is Mooshum, father of Bazil and grandfather of Joe. They called him Anishinaabe, he considered himself still young who still drinks whiskey in some days, his old age gives him value in the tribe where he is consulted in some things because he knows the culture of the Chippewa people since ancient times. Mooshum has a law book he gives to her son Bazil to help him in more understanding the law called the Bible in the case of Geraldine, he said that

I was parsing out the idea, established in other cases and reinforced in this one, that our treaties with the government were like treaties with foreign nations. That the grandeur and power my Mooshum talked about wasn't entirely lost, as it was, at least to some degree I meant to know, still protected by the law. (*The Round House*, 2012, p.4)

One of the most thematic conclusions from the novel is the character Linda, another strong personality who sacrificed herself for her biological brother by giving him a kidney despite being unacceptable in her family because of congenital malformation but she found help from another woman's side, Betty Wishkob. He helped her cope with all the difficulties despite the problems she caused her but did not allow her to be displaced and exploited. She is also a friend of the Koutis family, tried to help them to find out the rapist of Geraldine, who was her biological brother, Lark, where Joe killed him and the gun was hidden under her bed, but she did not show an atmosphere of danger, but she surveyed her teams elsewhere.

Linda tells Joe and Bazil how she was born after Linden and she struggled to take their first breaths. As the nurse was about to clear out her airway, the doctor pointed out her deformed head and limbs and asked Grace Lark if he should try to save Linda. Grace said no, but the nurse cleared Linda's mouth anyway, against orders, saving Linda. After it was clear that Linda was going to live, the Larks decided that they would not care for her. The hospital put Linda in the nursery while they tried to figure out what to do with her. (*The Round House*, 2012, p. 55)

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This excerpt tells us the suffering of Linda, but nevertheless, she has endured all the difficulties, and challenged everyone and built a future for herself with the help of Betty Wishkob.

3.6. Women and Sexual Violence

Women are considered as a victim of society, because of the harassment of all aspects, where it must be happy for all parties such as: raise children and respect for the husband, work at home, they are more exposed to danger especially, sexual violence.

Louise Erdrich in her novel "*The Round House*" focused her attention on the issues of women who suffer from injustice, especially sexual rape. Their stories give attention to it because the author herself is a woman who knows what a woman like he suffers from. Although Louise's biggest concern was to address a range of issues, most of the violence against women, she had presented this, especially, through the eyes of 13 years old boy Joe and the suffering of his mother, without forgetting that all the characters, who play, have a significant part in the novel, but this brutal of sexual violence has destroyed the family, the community and affects them in a negative way. Furthermore, the attack of Joe's mother leads him to take action without any kind of awareness.

It is true that Geraldine was raped, but she must remain steadfast to face the community and complete her work as nothing happened because if she stayed on that case, she would be psychologically dead leading to her death, on the contrary, the mother, Geraldine exceeded the state of danger and stood as a powerful woman who does not care about what happens in the date before because it is part of the past. The character of the depiction of Geraldine is chosen for a reason, not like that, and he is considered as a message to all women who fight for their freedom.

Now you listen to me, Joe. You will not badger me or harass me. You will leave me to think the way to think, I have to heat any way I can. You will stop asking questions and you will not give me any worry. You will not go after him. You will not terrify me, Joe. I have had enough fear for my whole life. you will not

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add to my fear...she swept her arm toward the door. It is all a violation. (*The Round House*, 2012, p. 89)

This type of warning Geraldine gave to her child Joe, her desire to keep him away from danger, but she considers her speech just like a normal speech and does not work at all because it turned out that the rapist of Geraldine is discovered by her son because there are no results in waiting for the procedures provided by the law.

I suppose I am one of those people who just hates Indians generally and especially ...my feeling is that Indian women are –what he called us, I don't say. he said we have no standing under the law for a good reason and yet have continued to diminish the white man and to take his honor...I won't get caught, he said. I know as much law as a judge. Know any judges? I have no fear...The strong should rule the weak .instead of the weak the strong! It is weak who pull down the strong. (*The Round House*, 2012, p. 156)

In this passage, the dialogue took place between Geraldine and Linden, each one says conversation, according to him, related to Geraldine, said that there is a law that makes the right decisions and gives them their right, and Linden considers that the strong eat the weak and that they have no laws that apply to them. They consider themselves strong and the Indians are the weakest class.

Erdrich from her works, especially “*The Round House*”, gives more attention to the position of women; this is materialized from the role that Geraldine played as powerful women fight all the difficulties that faced her. Erdrich also illustrates that by using a male protagonist rather than a female to show us reactions from multiple trends because it is a fact that she is committed to rape, but it harms all parties from the father, son, the family, community and even it touches the customs of the society, and the Native American women.

Sexual violence against women is a subject of global debate. Erdrich knew how to choose her topic which is depicted in a very professional way from the character Geraldine and the other characters by explaining the suffering of women.

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3.7. Tribal Identity and Gender Discrimination

The Round House is one of the perfect novels written by Louise Erdrich, considered as a crime novel tells story of Anishinaabe peoples living in North Dakota portrayals of family on a reservation in which they try to recover from a brutal rape of the mother in 1988, from the perspective a young child has a 13year old boy, Joe.

Louise as a novelist starts in her novel “*The Round House*” a new kind of writing that tells or explains a collective topic such as sexism, gender violence and racism which harm to Native American communities. She did not find a solution other than that she was telling a truly human story about an authentic American woman suffering from harassment as there is no point in waiting for the justice system. This has led her family to search for the culprit without return to the law because she knows that the suspect is white and does not want to be punished because he is non-native manas it is shown in the following passage:

From the government point of view the only way you can tell an Indian is to look at that person history there must be ancestors from way back who signed some document or were recorded as Indians by the US government, someone identified as a member of a tribe after that you have to look at that person blood quantum, how much Indian blood they got that belongs to one tribe. Other hands, Indians know other Indians without the need for a federal pedigree, and this knowledge, like love, sex, or having or not having a baby has nothing to do with. (*The Round House*,2012,p. 34)

Joe explains how the Indian government is exposed to non-Indian from the Indian one by following its history and look at its predecessors because it could have been recorded by the Indian government or through blood, but most people in India know each other easily and if not, it is a non-Indian person and he does not follow the Indian dynasty.

Bazil and his son Joe in a controversy where the father explains the importance of their son in their lives who is considered as the most beloved that they cannot live without him. It seems useful because Joe is considered to be an income and the issue is regarded as an issue of honor and must intervene to find a solution because his mother suffers, he cannot stay without doing anything. In this regards, Bazil said:

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I should have told you I am proud of you. I am proud of how you love your mother. Proud of how you figured this out. But do you understand that if something should happen to you, Joe, that your mother and I would...we wouldn't bear it ? You give us life (...) I said. That's how it's supposed to work. So let me do what I want with it! I ran for my bike, jumped on it. He tried to catch at me with his arms but I swerved at the last moment and put on a burst of speed that put me of his reach. (*The Round House*, 2012, pp.92-93)

Erdrich in her work focuses on the position of native American people especially, women, and more focus on the sufferance of Indians from the injustice law collect all this in her novel "*The Round House*" that composes a unique site by which succeeded Erdrich in defining what is between the lines of a society suffering from poverty and deprivation, in addition to rape, which affects them significantly.

As a conclusion, Erdrich's "*The Round House*" goals to attract the attention of the readers to the huge of all kinds of injustice that Native American living on reservation suffers from. The title of the novel is also considered as the birthplace of tribal tradition on the reservation; several groups held some tribal laws inside *the Round House* to gather all tribes and families to unite. It is also, a title for the definition of the value of women and love, affection for their children, and this is explained in a great way through the novel Geraldine and others, which must raise her head and make her in a prestigious position in society.

3.8. Psychoanalysis Interpretation of the Characters

Throughout "*the Round House*" novel, Erdrich explained many events, including joyous and sad ones, and described this by explaining the lives of conservative people living in North Dakota. She was influenced by the situation in her homeland and expressed it through her novel, which won many awards because she explains the prevailing truth in her country did not leave the situation been swell, but tried to hear it to the world and let the readers have a general idea of what is happening in these small countries.

From an authentic American site began her story, constructed by a small child who does not exceed the age of 13 years old allows the reader to see for himself the psychological, and moral atmosphere of a conservative country and the point of a child

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who is not mature guess how to solve the issue without any losses, but it happens, something that they do not want both father and mother to happen, it exceeded all obstacles to come to his mother, her right and avenges her. From this, one cannot understand the psychological atmosphere of a child experiencing difficulties between himself and, the unjust law and on the other hand, his mother, who suffers a head his eyes because she was raped by a white man. Still, he has ambitions in his life and wants to build a future for himself from his successes, but life is difficult and not everything you want to find it or everything you dream become true. This aspect has a lot of impact on his life, which made him grow up and become mature through difficult experiences lived through his career in life.

Since the beginning of the novel, the rape of Geraldine is considered the biggest and important incident. This is constantly mentioned in the novel, despite the presence of his mother with him upstairs in order to rest and still a busy and felt that his mother is not with him. This led to the maturity of his mind and psychological maturity because the incident was too large to be exceeded by a child at the height of his youth.

From this respect, Bazil said that “In all years we’ve been married we have never once slept apart until now, said, my mother. This, of course, both repelled and fascinated me. I held my breath. She is isolating herself even from Joe. Doesn’t talk to anyone from work, of course. Won’t see visitors, even her old friend from boarding school days. (*The Round House*, 2012, p. 75)

With this regard, one can understand the suffering of both mother who exposed to rape and lives at a difficult stage in her life and a young child still wants to live as before in a family filled with tenderness, kindness and happiness without problems.

Geraldine said, “I know that wasn’t it. I frightened her, triggered her terror of the event”. (*the Round House*, 2012, pp. 75-76).

She hated herself because she did not expect this to happen, she blamed herself that she is the reason for what is happening. The experience was difficult and the pain could not be easily overcome.

From that, one can understand that the psychological side has a great impact on our life. This is what Louise wanted the reader to understand in addition to many things

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that we learned through her novel “*The Round House*” which illustrated events so that the reader can understand life and challenge all the difficulties to succeed. Joe, who witnessed the rape of his mother while he was still a child and young and struggled to find the criminal and punished him to avenge his mother, a young man who took from life enough to be able to fight anyone who stands in front of his family.

3.9. Conclusion

This chapter gave an overview of the lives of Anishinaabe people living in North Dakota through Louise Erdrich, who played an important role in raising attention towards the status of women in this society. The current chapter also analyzed, through the use of literary criticism, certain topics including social injustice, rape and tribal law and how these issues affect native women’s lives.



General Conclusion

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American literature witnesses the dawn of new literature with the works of Erdrich who portrayed real issues in her writings. In one of the most famous novel “*The Round House*”, published in 2012 and tells the story from the point of view of a 13- year-old child who suffers from the rape of his mother from a white man and intolerant of the unjust law that does not give Native Americans their rights and let them suffer from the pain of rape which prevents them from practicing their lives as they want. Louise collects all these issues and shows how things become understandable for the readers.

This work aims to pretest the position of women in the society, especially the native American females, who suffer from the sexual violence that exposed to them, which leads them to try to take revenge without waiting to the result of law because they suffer from injustice. Furthermore, in Louise's fiction work, the soldier women that abashed from what happens to her, as a victim exposed to rape. Undoubtedly, the writer Louise wanted to deliver the suffering of women to all people because she is a woman who knows the feeling of women like her and explained that the woman is a symbol of tenderness and kindness and also a symbol of sacrifice, from the eyes of the character Geraldine, who represented the role in all its meanings and lived the event to reach us the pain of the original women who were abused and found only to keep silence because, they despise in the country of the white man and cannot be punished him.

As result, although the pain that Geraldine suffers from, but still the sense of remaining and durability audible to us as readers, *The Round House* is a novel that really deserves to be read in order to spread awareness, and the subtleties become open

General Conclusion

to people to understand what the author actually did as she excelled in publishing so that the idea of women being raped as a global issue must be resolved and the novel “*The Round House*” was one of the books which were narrated and explained the role and position of females.

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Appendix A: Biography



Erdrich (National Book Festival, 2015)

One of the most famous Native American novelists, writers of novels, short stories, poetry, considered as most awarded, prolific, defying of contemporary native American women is Karen Louise Erdrich born on June 7, 1954, in Little Falls, Minnesota, North Dakota, she is the oldest of seven children born to Ralph Erdrich a German American, and Rita a Chippewa woman. They have two different identities, this mixed heritage reflects, on her fiction, which makes writing something easy for her, she has loved writing since she was young, she found help from her parents to write a short story, and after that, she determines her writing in high school (Encyclopeadia Britannica, 2019, para, 01).

Post-secondary education, Erdrich attended at Dartmouth College, she was lucky because she was among the first women's who admitted on, she became one of the major women in English and creative writing, in her first year in the university

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because she gained A.B. She met the anthropologist, writer, and then director of the new Native American Studies program, Michael Dorris, when she starts to attend Dorris class, she began to draw her way for her literary work such as, short stories and poems. She is graduated in 1976 (Encyclopaedia Britannica,2019,para,02).

Enrolled in 1978, in a Master of Arts program at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland. While she is in the A.M program, she published some of her poems and stories and after, she returned to Dartmouth as a writer in a residence. She also began writing her novel *Tracks*. Although Erdrich and Dorris were on two different sides of the world, they are still in contact with each other, he attended her poetry readings and become interesting to work with her because he was impressed by her work and by the way she is working. With time they expanded the story into “*Love and Medicine*” which won the National Book Critics Circle Award for Fiction. Erdrich and Dorris combined in several books, which made between them a strong bond that made them close friends, which leads them to marry in romantic love, they married in 1981, where they had three children and adopted three biological, separated in 1995. In 1997, Dorris committed suicide over 15 years of marriage, after her husband died, she knows that he was depressed, and she moved to her parents after only a few hours in North Dakota.(Encyclopaedia Britannica,2019,para,03).

Her heritage and life experiences have reflected on her fiction writing, *Love and Medicine* is the first of a series of novels that are interrelated with one another, they are: *The Beet Queen*, *Tracks*, *The Bingo Palace*, *The Antelope Wife* and, *The Round House*, the book by which Louise became famous because of the global issue through which it addressed.

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Appendix B

Summary

Louise was best known for writing many novels that resonated with the reader, her novel, and 14, was one of the most beautiful writings of Erdrich, which was titled “*The Round House*”, which received a world prize and won the biggest prizes. *The Round House* addresses the story of a child who fights for the arrest of the perpetrator who raped his mother. On the other hand, his father, who is a jurist, is working to search for the rapist in a legal manner, but there is no evidence because the raped did not even know where the tragic incident took place where the criminal was left unpunished. This novel has a unique look as it tells the lives of conservative people suffering from injustice.

The story took place as follows, on Sunday evening, while Joe and his father were busy working in the garden, the husband noticed that his wife was late, Geraldine, they thought that the car broke down but when they approached it was another thing, they find Geraldine was stained with blood and nap, they rushed her to the hospital, and while Joe heard conversation, which leads him to understand that his mother had been violently raped. From that time he tries to find a solution to the arrest of the rapist of his mother, when the mother returns home she locks herself in a room alone. Basil tries to find a way to tell him what happened, but Geraldine refuses to tell him.

Joe knows that the culprit was dumped shortly after his mother was raped, life goes back to Joe's house but it did not stand a long time, unfortunately, the culprit was released because the rape took place in three branches. At each point of jurisdiction different legal and Geraldine did not tell anyone so the perpetrator was released because there is no evidence. Joe suffers from great fear and anxiety for what he heard which is trying to find a solution and that his mother did not suffer a crisis after hearing what happened. One day, Joe was thinking that he shared his nation with his friends, Cappy Zack and Angus, he goes with them to the brother of Cappy Randall to

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help him, Randall said to Joe to be aware because he sees a vision of ghost standing over him. Basil and Joe are still searching for how to find the rapist he is looking for a case similar to that of Geraldine who was suing him on finding a rapist. Joe and his friends went to the scene of the crime and they found gas a can of beer. In an interview between Bazil and Joe Edward's uncle, it is possible that Father Travis may have been the perpetrator. Joe recalls that his mother received a call on the day of the incident because she was working in the tribal registration office between the moment he went to sleep and saw a ghost that Bazil interpreted as the spirit of his future. Joe and his friends tried to spy on Father Travis, arguing that Joe sees a spirit at night, they infiltrated his home but discovered that he had no income because he had scars on his genitals and could not do such a thing. Joe and Bazil go to Linda Lark to listen to her case.

After years, her real mother asks her to donate a kidney to her twin brother, Linden. Though, she went to her brother, who was tough on her. Joe seemed to understand that Bazil doubted to Lindenlark. Joe finds forty dollars gives to his aunt at the gas station. Sonja gave Joe's aunt work he agreed. On his return home, he tells the federal officials about what he found unless the money and told them that their mother was going to reclaim import file that day. When they tell her about the file Geraldine dropped and starting narrate to them what happened without telling them the name of the attacker. Events go to one day, Joe and his friends went to the lake to spend some time and see the Search and Rescue Unit pulls a car with a tissue, which drew attention to Joe that the fabric is also present on the dolls, which he found it he understands that it is for Mayla, when he returns Joe asks Bazil about the rapist and shows him Linden Lark photo, which makes Joe doubts in place, Bazil says to Joe that the case is being filed, but has not yet been proved because the crime scene is not known where it is felt and that the child of Mayla was founded and reveals the child's father that he was in a relationship with his mother, but she was not coming of age.

After finding out the truth, Bazil and Geraldine go to Bismarck to follow the case and Joe remains at Mooshum tells him stories, including the building of Nanapush and Akii of the Round House of reservation as a memorial. A few days later, Sonja comes

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to Mooshum house to give him a memorial dance for his birthday, Mooshum is trying to drive Joe out, but threatens to tell Whitey about Sonja's blood money, she started dancing from and Joe's anger when she was finished, she told Joe that he was an unfair human being doing terrible things to women .

Joe went to the house to hear that there was no evidence of his mother rapist Linden Lark, which makes him screaming as well as his mother and addressed him harsh words, Bazil explains to Joe after several days the problems he faces in tribal law and that he seeks change for future generations. She left Sonja and left to Joe 10,000D and took the rest, since Linden's release Geraldine still feels scared and anxious, making Bazil and Joe shopping when they come they see Linden coming and attacking him, but Linden survives and Bazil suffered a heart attack, which led him to go to the hospital, in a conversation between Geraldine and her son tells him that she will kill Linden with herself because he chases her like a ghost, Joe was afraid about what his mother said and decided to kill him. Joe killed Linden on his own but Cappy insisted on helping him to learn how to work with a gun, they know that Linden plays golf through Cappy, who overlooks his home on the course, where Joe tries to find out

when Linden plays through his sister. She tells him that in the morning Joe and his friends plan everything and start watching him until Thursday Linden landed in the hill and was succeeded by Joe made the shot but it failed and froze in place until Cappy came from behind and straightened and then fled and inserted the gun in front of Linda's house and spend the whole day drinking. Joe spies on knowing if his parents knew that Linden had been killed, but he had no idea about of, he was scared and went to replace Venetian where Linda calls him and tells him that she knew that would do something when he asked her about her brother's time playing and used it as a way to know everything, he asked her why her brother raped his mother, she told him that he wanted Mayla to run away with him in order to stay silent about the child's father. Joe was worried about what Linda said and considered himself like linden, she also told him that he throws the gun, going through the events, Cappy receives a message from the father of Zelia not to talk to her. They were overturned and injured, but Cappy died. Joe looked for him hoping he was alive and went to ask for help, but he

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found Cappybody. In front of him, a policeman shows the same ghost that Joe saw in his dreams and is taken to the police station to find his parents waiting for him.

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Appendix C

Main Characters

Joe Coutts: the protagonist of the novel, the child who sharpened the beauty of the novel. The 13-year-old grows up between his father and mother in a small reservation in North Dakota. In addition to the rape of women's, one of them was his mother, who raised in him the love of revenge and regain the right of his mother, he played the role and personified it with pride.

Geraldine: The beautiful woman who took place by the events of the story. The obedient wife of her husband Bazil, the nurse for her son under a suitable family atmosphere filled with tenderness and family warmth. Considered as a victim of society being exploited and raped by white man Linden Lark in mysterious circumstances.

Bazil Coutts: The hard man is the husband of Geraldine, who suffers from the rape of his wife, but he is working hard to find the rapist, since he is a lawman who knows all the loopholes of the law and that the law cannot return him the right of his wife, thus asking about finding another way, but by law. A man who builds a new system for future generations so cannot live in the bitterness of rape again.

Linden Lark: Brute man with a harsh heart and does not have any mercy and no pity. He has psychological problems; usurp Geraldine, who wanted to help a pregnant woman in Chippewa tribe. He uses drugs and alcohol. A white man who hates indigenous women. He knows how to escape from the trial without any punishment.

Cappy: A friend of Joe who helped him to kill his mother's rapist. He lives with his brother after the death of his mother. He had an accident that led to his death after hearing that his girlfriend's father did not want him, he went with his friends and started drinking alcohol in the way of his anxiety. Joe thought he had not died, but went to seek help, but received serious wounds that led to his death (Churchill, 2017, para,1.2.3.4.5).