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**The Effect of Racism on the African American Individual's
Consciousness in Angie's The Hate U Give**

Dissertation Submitted as Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Degree of *Master*
in Literature and Civilization.

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Academic Year: 2020/2021

Declaration of Originality

I hereby declare that this submission is my work and that, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which has been accepted for the qualification of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institution.

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Dedication

I dedicate this work to my parents, sister, brothers.

To Abigail, Rania, Amel, and all my friends who supported me and were there for me.

To Gaara who gave me hope.

To all people who have doubted themselves, and all survivors.

To people of color.

Acknowledgments

I am heartily thankful to my supervisor Prof. Benadla for his patience and help in completing this research work.

I would also like to thank the members of the committee, Dr. Berrezoug, and Dr. Bessadat who have given their time to read and evaluate this humble work.

Likewise, I owe my deepest thanks to my colleague Kandouci Mouna who provided me with the book *The Hate U give* which is the case study of this research work. This work would not have been possible without it.

Abstract

The recent spate of police violence, injustice, and racial discrimination has thrown the United States into disarray. African Americans are losing their lives and suffering from various mental health issues as a result of racism. Therefore, the purpose of this research study is to examine Angie Thomas's novel *The Hate U Give* to better understand the psychological impacts of racism and police brutality on the consciousness of African American individuals. The novel's characters who symbolize black Americans will be subjected to Lacanian psychoanalytic and Du Bois' Double Consciousness study to highlight the various factors that caused these effects.

Keywords: African Americans, Consciousness, Lacanian Psychoanalysis, Racism, White Individuals

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

General introduction

Race and the ideology of white supremacy have created a long-standing tension between the white majority and the various minorities in the United States. Danger and fears surrounded in particular Americans of color who have long been subjected to racism, color discrimination, brutality, and injustice which triggered them and put them under ongoing pressure.

Furthermore, the continuous police savagery against African Americans and the series of killing innocent black people brought them out of their silent zone. Consequently, they joined the streets besides using other forms of activism to demand their rights to be safe and respected as other white Americans in which many tongues have repeated and insisted that Black Lives Matter.

Literature on the other hand has always taken a part in activism. People who were eager to make a social, economic, and political change used literature as a functional tool to reflect both, the opaque and crystal-clear problems that society carries. They attempted to treat these issues through strong words and meanings. However, not all the words are intelligible in which the reader has to dig deeper into what is beyond the superficial meanings.

Like many reflected social issues in literature, Racism took a huge and important place as a theme in many writers' works. Thomas Angie's *The Hate U Give* was one of the brilliant books that mirrored the impact of racism on African American individuals and its story, on the other side, played a major role in making many voiceless souls heard.

This study aims to highlight the main reflected effects of racism on the consciousness and identity of African Americans in the novel. Moreover, it sheds light on how police brutality and injustice destroy the individual's mental health and put him/her in an endless maze of fear and anxiety. It discusses also the importance of family and support in helping black

individuals to get out of this maze and build strength from weak moments as well as using their voices to fight against racism.

The researcher attempts to provide answers to the following questions which are directly linked to the topic under study:

- How can racism affect someone's consciousness and identity?
- Does it affect African American characters in the same way and at the same level?
- How did they manage to overcome its effect?

The following hypotheses are suggested as answers to the previous questions:

- Racism may cause an identity crisis, the loss of African Americans' sense of belonging, the experience of living with double consciousness as well as some mental health issues.
- Not all African American characters in the novel experience the same psychological effects. They may defer from one character to another.
- Family support, using their voices against racists, and standing up for each other could help them overcome the psychological impact of racial discrimination and brutality.

To achieve the main aim and objectives of this research work and in an attempt to answer the former questions, the researcher uses Lacanian Psychoanalysis and Du Bois's theory of Double Consciousness.

This thesis is going to be divided into three chapters. The first one is devoted to defining the concept of Racism, its forms, and its relation to Xenophobia. It will also tackle the concept of the Black Lives Matter Movement since it took a part of the novel as a reaction to police brutality and injustice. The second chapter is going to be a theoretical framework. It will deal with some Lacanian psychoanalytical notions, the definition of Consciousness, and Du Bois's views on African American identity and their double consciousness. Last but not least, the

third chapter will carry a short biography of Angie Thomas, the plot summary, and analysis of the novel and its characters through the use of the previous theoretical framework.

**CHAPTER ONE: DEFINING
RACISM AND THE BLACK
LIVES MATTER MOVEMENT**

Chapter one: Defining Racism and the Black Lives Matter Movement

Introduction

Racism has always been repugnant in every age and culture. However, despite the intense efforts to eliminate it, it has always been a very much practiced and experienced reality up to now. Sadly, Racism takes on new shapes and occasionally renews itself, rendering individuals unable to put an end to it definitively. Furthermore, mental health concerns, xenophobia, and racism are all intertwined, making them more powerful and difficult to eradicate. People of color, on the other hand, continue to speak out against what they are experiencing in a variety of ways, and movements are one means to make their voices heard. Consequently, the Black Lives Matter movement is regarded as an important ongoing movement in defense of their rights.

1.1. Defining Racism and xenophobia

Racism can be defined as a set of passive feelings and stereotypical thoughts carried by certain members toward other people who do not share the same cultural background, religion, and biological features. Several researchers pointed out that racism is a broad concept and a complicated phenomenon that cannot be simply defined, as Ali Rattansi has mentioned, “The idea of racism is obviously closely tied to the concept of race, but it should be clear by now that the more one delves into the history of both notions, the more puzzling they turn out to be” (2007, p.20).

The distinct varieties of shapes and colors that the world carries were an important starting point to divide people based on their physical characteristics. This led to the rise of “Racial Ideology” and subsequently classifying people into different groups and categories according to their race, society, and cultural norms. As a result, some of those who made the distinction desired to be superior to others. Therefore, they created a non-parallel world in which people were divided into two categories: the most superior and civilized white category and the inhuman and illiterate category that represented people of color since the early history

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of racism. These folks were placed in a position where they found themselves obliged to choose between serving the white and risking their lives. Furthermore, racism was stated to be molded by fear of strangers and foreigners who differ in skin color, shape, language, gender, and origins from the individual who carries these feelings. In other words, Xenophobia leads people to see others as a threat to their existence and being. This certainly coincides with Erika Lee's observation, "Even as Americans have realized that the threats allegedly posed by immigrants were, in hindsight, unjustified, they have allowed xenophobia to become an American tradition." (2019, p. 16).

Racism and xenophobia are related in some way. Some argue that xenophobia is a form of racism. However, there is no clear definition or scientific proof of both of them other than what white people attempted to demonstrate to the world that supremacy belongs to them and other races come in second place. People who have power greatly contributed to the dismantling of the world and its unity. This made people see each other as shapes, colors, and with materialistic views only.

Xenophobia became a part of American culture, affecting all aspects of American life. Beginning with politics, economy, and moving into society in which white people started losing their peaceful coexistence with other races. Black people were considered to be the most abhorrent race in the United States. In other words, racist people see them as a crisis even though Westerners obliged them to leave their homeland and brought them into America.

Moreover, what has caused xenophobia and racism to increase was the support of the capitalist and democratic excuses. They have been used to cover racist doctrines that have been deeply inserted throughout the United States of America. They also worked on hiding the white prejudice, inequity, and hostility towards other races, as reflected through this quote, "It has endured because it has been an indelible part of American racism, white supremacy,

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and nationalism, and because it has been supported by American capitalism and democracy” (Lee, 2019, p.16).

1.2. Race and Color Discrimination

Skin color became a measure to identify individuals rather than giving much importance to their personality, abilities, and mindsets. People are valuing others based on their skin color. Particularly, in the U.S.A, although race and color triggered racism, race does not share skin color the same level of importance. That is, racist Americans cannot discover someone’s identity or race from first sight. Therefore, they visualize people’s color and treat them accordingly with stereotypical and passive behaviors.

Colorism is a modern term firstly used by Alice Walker in 1983. It defines the phenomenon of treating people based on their skin tone with prejudice and bias. Furthermore, Colorism is considered to be a part of racism, “Racism is a larger, systemic, social process and colorism is one manifestation of it.” (Hunter, 2017, p. 238).

In addition, the belief in white supremacy and beauty standards have created a constant struggle among different races and ethnicities in the United States. In other words, white racists depend on race and color to choose the way they treat people, “These two systems of discrimination (race and color) work in concert. The two systems are distinct but inextricably connected.” (Hunter, 2017, p. 238).

To white supremacists, dark skin is the least appealing category in terms of aesthetics and beauty standards. It symbolizes the wildness and mannerlessness of black people who should be guided and educated by white individuals, “The maintenance of white supremacy (aesthetic, ideological and material) is predicated on the notion that dark skin represents savagery, irrationality, ugliness, and inferiority. White skin, and, thus, whiteness itself, is defined by the opposite: civility, rationality, beauty, and superiority.” (Hunter, 2017, p. 238).

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Additionally, studies have shown that physical characteristics and facial features play a major role in the white society in either opening a door of chances for people or closing the door, “African Americans, Latinos, Asian Americans, and other people of color are routinely denied access to resources and fair competition for jobs and schooling.” (Margaret Hunter, 2017, p.1). Unfortunately, African Americans have fewer chances to get jobs and earn sufficient wages similar to white Americans. Even among African Americans themselves, “darker-skinned African Americans may earn less money than lighter-skinned African Americans, although both earn less than whites” (Hunter, 2017, p. 238).

Skin color has a significant influence in determining a person's fate at work and in other aspects of their lives too. A person with dark skin color would find it difficult to win acceptance from others because the color is more important to racists than their skills and their ability to take responsibility at work, “many people will hire a light-skinned person before a dark-skinned person of the same race” (Espino and Franz 2002; Hill 2000; Hughes and Hertel 1990; Mason 2004; Telles and Murguia 1990, as cited in Hunter, 2017, p. 238).

According to several sources, colorism and racism are a form of indirect colonization. White supremacists take advantage of dark-skinned people and leave them marginalized without giving them their full rights. However, light-skinned Americans “continue to benefit from their association with whiteness.” (Hunter, 2017, p. 249). Moreover, beauty standards have crossed all boundaries. They control people's lives and their chances of work, marriage, and even coexistence with others. The media, on the other hand, supports beauty standards that prioritize whiteness and light skin color than other dark skin tones:

The new global racism transcends national borders and infiltrates cultures and families all over the world. It draws on historical ideologies of colonialism and internalized racism buttressed with

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visions of new world order. Images associated with white America are highly valued and emulated in the global marketplace. This is part of what makes colorism and racism so hard to battle: the images supporting these systems are everywhere and the rewards for whiteness are real. In addition to wrestling with the values of their colonial pasts, many Third World nations are also contending with the onslaught of US-produced cultural images valorizing whiteness and especially white femininity (and the occasional version of light brown femininity). Television, film, Internet, and print ads all feature white women with blond hair as not only the cultural ideal but the cultural imperative. White and light-skinned people are rewarded accordingly. (Hunter, 2017, p.248)

Furthermore, people have created several impolite nicknames for dark-skinned African Americans which were used for ages since the start of racism in the United States, as mentioned in the following quote:

Dark-skinned African-Americans were often given offensive names, including midnight, darkness, charcoal, tar baby, watermelon child, burnt, and jigaboo; while light-skinned African-Americans were often given more favorable names such as pretty skin, vanilla, caramel, mulatto, mixed, French vanilla, and fair. (Tasia Pinkstonp, 2015, p.18)

Besides the physical effects of racism, colorism has several severe psychological ones on people of color. To make it clear, excessive exposure to tense situations and offensive words on a daily basis exposes the individual to several psychological problems. The most important

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of which is the lack of reconciliation with oneself. This causes a lack of self-confidence and low self-esteem. It makes individuals in conflict with their bodies and reality, as it is argued in this quote, “African-Americans who are discriminated against due to colorism are at risk of suffering from lowered self-esteem related to their romantic relationships, occupation, perceived physical attractiveness, and competence.” (Tasia Pinkstonp, 2015, p.18).

1.3. The Forms of Racism

Racist reactions differ from one individual to another. Whereas some white individuals react unconsciously with racist behaviors and comments, others express their hatred to other races purposefully through violence and segregation. In addition, it was argued that racism took several forms, for instance, Cultural and Biological racism, “There is, they contend, a new cultural racism that has increasingly supplanted an older biological racism.” (Rattansi, 2007, p.8). They are either practiced individually or within a community. Racism is a much broader and deeper concept than simply being a biological or cultural phenomenon. It also has various branches, each of which differs from the other, yet they are strongly linked and share the same ruthless effects on the individual at a personal level.

Many theories and studies have focused on analyzing racism carefully and studying its development in different eras, from one person to another and from one region to another. Consider the following example, in the United States, Americans of color have been subjected to pressure and segregated laws since the Jim Crow era. They have been unable to get the same civil rights as other Americans or to be free of the racist restrictions they were enduring. This was referred to as “old-fashioned, or Jim Crow, racism” (Milner, Franz, and Braddock, 2020, p.3), which was the well-known form of racism at that time.

To make it more explicit, despite the abolition of racism and the Amendments (13th, 14th, and 15th) that were in favor of black people, white individuals are still treating black people as inferior and extra citizens who should not have equal rights.

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1.3.1. Institutional and Systemic Racism

Institutional and Systemic Racism can be identified as a set of racist beliefs that shape a system and control society as a whole. They do not only affect people at an individual level, rather they affect the whole community and society, as it is explained by this quote, “The system of structures that have procedures or processes that disadvantage racial minorities and particularly black people.” (Julian Glover & Ken Miguel, 2020).

Furthermore, institutional racism control education, the health sector, institutions, working conditions, and media. White supremacy dominated almost every part and each domain of the black life. That is, African Americans had limited chances compared to white Americans.

Children were facing troubles in education and their parents were afraid of getting their kids killed. Also, there was no equal treatment in almost everything in their daily lives. Moreover, many African Americans lost their jobs and were in a financial crisis because of Systemic Racism. Some could not find suitable jobs despite their qualifications due to the bias of whites and the discriminatory laws of some urban areas.

Consequently, the society of the United States of America was divided into two parts, white and black. Black people had not the right to coexist with white individuals and share with them common things and transportation. Besides, whoever did not respect these unjust rules was punished or killed, “Before 1965, any violation of such ordinances or statutes by American Africans (so-called black people) could have resulted in severe punishment or possibly even death” (Systemic Racism vs. Institutional Racism, n.d, para. 2). Although laws have been enacted to prohibit any form of systemic or institutional racism, some Americans continue to act in a racist manner, and the roots of racism have not vanished but have deepened to the point where it is difficult to deal with.

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1.3.2. Symbolic Racism

Over time, systemic racism was supplanted by new and modern forms. One of which is symbolic racism, which differs from the previous one in several ways. Symbolic racism came to proclaim that racial issues against black people lost their relevance in American society. It accused African Americans to be responsible for the conditions they live in and of exaggerating in continuously claiming their rights.

Symbolic racism is the modern shape of the traditional one or Jim Crow racism, and it is “the expression by suburban whites in terms of abstract ideological symbols and symbolic behaviors of the feeling that blacks are violating cherished values and making illegitimate demands for changes in the racial status quo” (John B. McConahay, 1976, p. 23). In other words, symbolic racists maintain the same passive views of inferiority and hide their hostility to reduce black people's willingness to continue asking for fairness and demanding their rights. They wanted to urge them to give up and accept their situation as it is because, for them, they are nothing more than foreigners and extraneous individuals on American land.

1.3.3. Laissez-Faire Racism

Laissez-faire racism was shaped by the stereotype that Black people are not capable or suitable for positions in the workplace and that they cannot be compared to white Americans in terms of aptitudes and mental capacities. According to Wendy Katkin, Ned Landsman, and Andrea Tyree (1995), “laissez-faire racism blames blacks themselves for the black-white gap in socioeconomic standing and actively resists meaningful efforts to ameliorate America’s racist social conditions and institutions” (p.4). Black people have always been hard-working individuals since the age of slavery who used to work on plantations, and contributing to the development of the American economy, particularly in the South. However, the thought of black people claiming their rights and freedom was not acceptable. As a result, they tried to underestimate them as individuals who were neither skilled nor productive like other whites.

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1.3.4. Blind Color Racism

After struggling with accepting Black people in American society, colorblindness ideology came into existence. Racists believed that the United States has overcome the matter of race and racism. To make it explicit, Colorblindness prevents people from understanding the historical background of racial inequality, its causes and its effects on other people, the way racism continues to exist in American society.

People reject the idea that racism still takes a part of American society when they do not want to reveal their racist side or to be frightened to treat someone with racist behavior:

Unfortunately, however, I can say firsthand that some people still really don't want to talk about it. At all. They'll be the first to tell you they don't have a racist bone in their body, and they don't care if you're white, black, purple, or blue, etc. In fact, they say, they're "color blind"—meaning, they don't even see race. And that refusal to see it often goes hand-in-hand with an urgent desire to stop discussing racial disparities as soon as possible. (Samantha Vincenty, 2020, para.2)

They also believe in the existence of equal opportunities for all races. In other words, white Americans have stopped thinking that racism is a barrier for Black people to live on an equal footing with racial prejudice:

1.4. Racism in the United States of America

People tried to put an end to racial discrimination and abuse through bringing movements into existence, music, public speaking speeches, producing anti-racism pieces of literature. Hence, the continuous struggle between racists and anti-racist people was described by Kevin Boyle as “a battle of ideas” (2005, p.9) which revolves around the inferior and

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superior race ideology. Racist ideologies, however, were developed and work in progress in which the “Race Purity” principle, wrong religious beliefs, and racist education were combined to shape ineradicable racist roots throughout the world in general, and in the Western world specifically.

To illustrate, the story of the first invaders of the Americas with the indigenous peoples was a strong proof of the white Christians’ elitism and pride. It represented the racist ideologies and hostility they hold toward those inhabitants in the name of religion and civilization, “Columbus dismissed this as predictable ignorance, for he had found the continent he had come looking for. He had a passionate double mission: he had come looking for gold and to spread the word of the Christian God” (Rattansi, 2007, p.21).

Europeans trampled on the territories of America's indigenous peoples, stealing their raw materials and goods. They also humiliated them, oppressed them, and thought of them as strange creatures. They referred to them as animals because of their rural cultural characteristics that were unusual and distinct from those of Europeans, “For Sepulveda, the Indians were non-rational and closer to apes, and could therefore only be useful to the Spanish if they were enslaved” (Rattansi, 2007, p. 22).

Over time, they brought people from a distinct race, from African countries to become subject to white individuals in America. According to them, black people were seen as strong and wild creatures that could serve their plantations and hard work, yet “the dominant image of the black was that of brutishness and bestiality” (Rattansi, 2007, p.28).

From another angle, they were viewed as dangerous, primitive, and illiterate people who needed to be guided and civilized by whites. The slavery process succeeded in shaping black people’s lives and destroying their homogeneous way of living in their mother country. They forced them to live under the rule of other people, subjected to hardship, and unfavorable conditions.

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Many innocent black people were killed brutally, “black capital defendants are more likely to be subject to execution than defendants of other races” (Michael Cholbi and Alex Madva, 2018, p.1). However, if they would not get killed by police officers, they would face unjust, prejudiced, and racist laws or behaviors from some white individuals in the community, schools, streets, and so on.

Furthermore, the conventional image of blacks as extra-savage and criminal individuals who pose a threat to the white community has resulted in an endless struggle. Whites are constantly victimizing themselves while the blacks are marginalized and facing death regularly.

These killing events created fear and panic among Black individuals who have no way of knowing whether they would return alive or dead if they go out. In addition to this, prejudicial treatments toward black people impact the way blacks react to white people. Similarly to police brutality which forced black parents to have “the talk about how to safely deal with police” (Cholbi and Madva, 2018, p. 9) with their children, and to educate them at an early age to remain silent, to stay calm and not to make sudden moves to prevent suspicions so they do not get shot.

1.5. The Black Lives Matter Movement in the United States

The Black history and the influence of the racial ideology have taken the lion’s share of American history. That is, the struggle between white supremacy and black human rights has been raging throughout the history of the United States. Although deterrent laws are imposed against racism, it spreads over and over causing the death of numerous innocent individuals. Dead and injured Black people have just become numbers and statistics since serious actions were not taken and efforts have not been made to stop police brutality, discrimination, and violence.

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It is universally known that every action has a reaction; therefore, the continuous events of brutality, discrimination, and restrictions against African American people created an endless conflict between whites and people of color. Movements arose and people went out to stand up for their rights. However, racism never stopped spreading and Americans of color did not have their complete freedom since they were an ethnic minority living in the ethnic majority's lands.

They are still going out to the streets and calling for justice and demanding their rights to feel secure and safe in their homeland. Black people were fed up with racial discrimination, injustice, police brutality, the cruel attempts to make them undesirable creatures to live with as well as the plans to detach them from American society.

On one hand, they shaped black people's history, lives, and reality and they made them suffer for something that they are not responsible for. On the other hand, although the white category was responsible for bringing black people into the United States, they were not to be blamed.

Racism affected African American people physically and psychologically in a harsh way. They have struggled with the loss of identity where they found themselves living a life based on white supremacy and shaped by illusions that were created by racists to satisfy their ego and their desire to control other races.

Racism has long-term effects on people's psychological side. Negative feelings and thoughts were carried with the African American individual as deep scars that could neither be forgotten nor erased. Black Americans could not adjust to the racist atmosphere they were living in; however, they tried to use their voices against it stubbornly several times and they were actively fighting against injustice.

Furthermore, innumerable unarmed African Americans have been victims of police savagery and other forms of racism in American communities. Thus, Black lives Matter has

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become a worldwide spread sentence repeated by thousands of tongues from different origins and races to support them. They were calling for finding solutions for killing innocent people by white police officers and for racism too, “Official data, although woefully inadequate, show that over half of those killed by police in recent years have been black or Latino” (Ghandnoosh, 2014, p.3).

Additionally, the judicial system is not on their side as well. They have to face struggles with officers in their daily lives even in traffic because they are black people, “Once pulled over, people of color are more likely than whites to be searched, and blacks are more likely than whites to be arrested” (Ghandnoosh, 2014, p. 4).

It is also mentioned by Ghandnoosh (2014) in his report that “Blacks were 31% more likely and Hispanics were 6% more likely than whites to report a recent traffic stop in 2011” (p.10), which proves that Racism and color discrimination have become ineradicable and their roots are deeply stuck in the American society.

Recently, with the regular out-breaking news of black people’s death caused by police officers, especially after George Zimmerman’s death, people used black *Lives Matter* as a hashtag on social media that soon turned to be an activist movement. This term has faced a lot of criticism in which some politicians, authors, and journalists argued that all lives matter not only the black lives. However, activists and BLM supporters responded as follow:

To say that Black lives matter is not to say that other lives do not; indeed, it is quite the reverse—it is to recognize that all lives do matter and to acknowledge that African Americans are often targeted unfairly (witness the number of African Americans accosted daily for no reason other than walking through a White neighborhood—including some, like young Trayvon Martin, who lost their lives) and that our society is not yet so advanced as to have become truly color blind.

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This means that many people of goodwill face the hard task of recognizing that these societal ills continue to exist and that White privilege continues to exist, even though we wish it didn't and would not have asked for it. I certainly agree that no loving God would judge anyone by skin color. (Daniel S. Schatz, n.d., para. 3).

In addition to several supportive expressions that were created to support the African Americans, "I can't breathe" is also used by activists as a major slogan to reflect police torture of black people to death in the current time. It became "a rallying cry for organizers and activists fighting to end police violence and impunity" (Camp and Heatherton, 2016, p.12). In 2020, following the death of several blacks, people began to use and develop appropriate terms to support social media and street activists. Social media platforms were full of supportive expressions and statements that inspired numerous newspapers to discuss the series of murders by police officers.

Conclusion

Sadly, despite the excessive awareness and the tremendous technological and cultural development that Western societies are witnessing, racism is still undefeatable. People of color are still marginalized and the ideology of white supremacy is still practiced and used to justify the repugnant behaviors and actions taken against African Americans. People used to wake up every day to find the big headlines in newspapers about the issue between blacks and whites, and how black individuals have been tortured to death. The question that keeps coming up is whether racism will ever be defeated and whether the concept of White Supremacy will ever be only a part of history and no more of reality.

**Chapter two: Lacanian
Psychoanalysis,
Consciousness, and
Double Consciousness**

Introduction

Psychoanalysis has made its way out of the realms of science and therapy into literature, narrative, and the inner lives of characters. Although it is difficult to foresee what is exactly in the human mind through reading a piece of literature, psychoanalysis could assist critics in analyzing authors' words and exposing their hidden psychological motives, traumas, emotions, and untold stories. They paid serious attention to how words reflect a person's conscious and unconscious sides. Similar to Freud's theories, Lacanian psychoanalysis serves as an interesting tool to investigate the psyche of the individual through literature. Furthermore, Du Bois' concept of Double Consciousness is used to analyze literary works and help readers to understand how certain social conditions affect and alter someone's consciousness.

2.1. Jacques Lacan and the French Psychoanalysis

Sigmund Freud's invention of Psychoanalysis in the 1890s was one of the most significant psychotherapeutic developments of the nineteenth century. It reached its zenith of expansion in European countries in the 1920s influencing numerous psychologists and therapists. Subsequently, they followed Freud's footsteps and applied it to several disciplines and fields. It has been used in treating many mental health disorders and enabled doctors and specialists to understand and decipher various complex psychological problems which occupied scientists over centuries.

Like other European countries, France witnessed the invasion of psychoanalytic theories in the 1920s by a group of psychiatrists whose aim was to establish the basis of French psychoanalysis as it stands now. In the 1926s, they founded the Psychoanalytic Society in Paris. Following this, several branches were formed, and various modifications arose as a result of the members' ongoing disputes and disagreements on how psychoanalysts

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should be taught and trained. Consequently, Jacques Lacan intended to set the ground for the establishment of his Freudian School of Paris.

The development of French Psychoanalysis was built upon the remarkable efforts of psychoanalysts in depending on philosophical theories, scientific studies, and Freud's principles. Besides, the outstanding role of Jacques Lacan in producing fresh theories had a significant influence on French Psychoanalysis. Additionally, his impact on other psychoanalysts was unquestionable. His energy and focus that were put on flourishing the French Psychoanalysis were praised by many specialists and therapists as it is reflected through Gilbert Diatkine's quote, "We are often Lacanians without knowing it. One must read him to realize the influence he has had on us." (as cited in Birksted-Breen & Flanders, 2010, p.3).

However, despite Lacan's efforts and his fresh theories and concepts, he was disapproved by many French Psychoanalytic schools, for instance, the Paris Psychoanalytical Society which disagreed with some of his theories as it is mentioned in this quote:

If French psychoanalysts of the three IPA Societies (the Paris Psychoanalytical Society, the French Psychoanalytical Association, and the new Psychoanalytic Society for Research and Training) have been reluctant to admit the extent of Lacan's influence, it is above all because he manipulates the setting with his introduction of the practice of variable-length analytic sessions (séances scandées'; Lacan, 1973 as cited in Birksted-Breen & Flanders, 2010, p. 4)

In addition, he showed an ardent interest in Freud's theories and concepts. Nevertheless, he considered Freudian thoughts to be a work in progress "rather than a finished and complete theory." (Lionel Bailly, 2009, p. 12). He took Freud's psychoanalysis as a paramount tool used in his work on other disciplines and in investigating different psychological cases. It was

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also used in treating various psychiatric situations. On the other side, he focused on developing Freud's theories, as well as building models inspired by other scientific, linguistic, and philosophical fields to illustrate and represent his theories.

Similar to Freud, Lacan was able to motivate many academics and students around the world to make his obscure and ambiguous propositions and conceptions under investigation and discussion. Furthermore, his theories were considered as the most influential works in the French Psychoanalysis as said by Birksted-Breen and Flanders, “Lacan’s focus on unconscious processes, his insistence on the importance of language, and the specific non-linear temporality of après-coup inform some of the most creative contributions in French psychoanalysis” (2010, p.3).

2.1.1. Lacanian Psychoanalytic literary criticism

Psychoanalysis literary criticism came to reject studying language in isolation from the psyche of the writer, reader, and characters, without attempting to grasp what is beyond the words. It also gives importance to the effects of the literary work on the author along with the readers. Consequently, critics started applying numerous Freudian theories and notions to literature. Over time, they happened to apply different psychoanalysts' theories and psychological viewpoints, for instance, the Lacanian Psychoanalysis. They paid significant attention to how the unconscious and diverse events that the character experiences have a vital part in forming their consciousness, awareness, behaviors, and hence their lives.

Lacan’s interest in Arts and Literature helped him in developing his psychoanalytical theories through studying characters’ psyche and understanding various personalities' traits. As a result, many literary critics, scholars, and other psychoanalysts are now applying his psychoanalysis to literature.

He developed the hypothesis of the mirror stage, which explains the first stages of creating identification and identity for the child. According to Lacan, the first time an infant

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looks in the mirror; it develops a feeling of identification. Before this, the infant does not consider itself to be an individual but rather lives as a single subject that is unable to be defined (unfathomable) and is at one with everything else around it. When the infant first perceives itself as having an identity, the actuality of being a full subject is gone. This is what leads to the schism between the unconscious (the instincts) and the ego (reality), “For every human being, the temporal origin of the ego is in the mirror, as a constitution of the image of his or her own body” (Philippe Julien, 1994, p.16).

When the identity starts to take its shape, the infant begins to make sense of itself and its environment. Its ego will be able to be interpreted in a way that helps the person to become full of reasonable sense and can protect himself against undesirable desires. It will also start differentiating between what is real and what is imaginary:

During the mirror phase, the body passes from a real state (fragmented body) to an imaginary register (virtual image). Lacan emphasized that this identification, which takes place during the mirror phase, is crucial for subjectivity: he employed the term identification in its literal sense, i.e., the transformation which happens for someone, as he adopts an image. (Stéphane Thibierge & Catherine Morin 2010, p.65).

Another thing Lacan has focused on is the three concepts of the Real, Imaginary, and Symbolic. Lacan suggested that the human psyche is divided into three major parts: The Real represents the things that the human experiences without any efforts or being conscious and aware of it. This indicates our needs that must be satisfied. Besides, it is known to be resistant to the Imaginary and the Symbolic.

According to Lacan, the Real is described as traumatic and linked with “the concept of impossibility because it is impossible to imagine, impossible to integrate into the symbolic

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order, and impossible to attain in any way” (Evans, 1996, p.163). He has also mentioned that the real is the most ambiguous and mysterious element of the psychic triad.

The Imaginary, on the other hand, is formed when the mirror stage happens, and the infant’s ego is shaped. The baby starts having a meaningful picture of itself in the mirror. The imaginary is thus rooted in the subject’s relationship to his own body “or rather to the image of his body” (Evans, 1996, p.84). For Lacan, it is not only related to images but imagination too. In this period, the infant will be eager to know his body more and to start having imaginary images about itself and the others as well.

Moving to the Symbolic order. When the child recognizes itself and its identity, it comes to the second level of knowing the surrounding people, having a language, and then accepts the social laws and demands. That is to say, the person can communicate and express their needs or desires to others through the use of language as argued by Evans, “since the most basic form of exchange is communication itself, and since the concepts of LAW and STRUCTURE are unthinkable without LANGUAGE, the symbolic is essentially a linguistic dimension” (1996, p.203).

The unconscious is not something that is biologically inherited. It is built on a series of events and experiences that humans have faced since childhood. Lacan with a fresh emphasis on the unconscious came up with the idea that the unconscious part of the human mind must be seen as closely connected with the function and dynamism of language.

According to Lacan, as with language, the unconscious is guided by the linguistic norms of the signifier. Lacan’s interest in Linguistics paved the way to make people seeing De Saussure's concepts of signified and signifier differently. According to De Saussure, a sign is a meaningful combination of a signifier that represents the acoustic part of the sign and a signified which represents the conception part, in other words, a phonological item with a concept.

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For Lacan, “the relation between signifier and signified is extremely unstable” (Evans Dylan, 1996, p.186), and the signifier has a major role and importance in shaping the language more than the signified because it comes first. According to him, the signifiers are what make the language instead of signs as Dylan has mentioned, “Where signifiers exist prior to signified; this order of purely logical structure is the unconscious.” (1996, p. 186). That is to say, this chain of signification is created by the dependence of a word’s meaning on the meaning of another word, “when you don’t know a word means you look up at dictionaries so you try to ascertain the meaning of a word by looking at other words.” (Derek Hook, 2020, 8:53).

To sum up, Lacan saw that language and speech were essential elements to shape the unconscious, and they are two fundamental elements to knowing, studying, and analyzing someone’s consciousness and unconsciousness.

2.2. Defining Consciousness

It is a dominant view among scholars, scientists, researchers, and philosophers that Consciousness is a mysterious and ambiguous matter. They are still struggling nowadays to present a final agreement on one definition of consciousness, its origin, and its essence.

They have not found a precise and fixed definition for it yet, due to its complicated and sophisticated state as Sigmund Freud clarified, “What is meant by consciousness we need not discuss - it is beyond all doubt.” (1933). However, they tried to give it some approximate definitions through several extensive scientific and philosophical researches and observations which were made specifically to discover what consciousness is.

According to the explanations and possibilities that were given for Consciousness, it could be known as the process of human’s experience, perception, and assimilation of everything around us. It includes senses, feelings, thoughts, noises, and other things in the state of awareness. In addition, the term consciousness has been strongly linked to the terms

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Wakefulness and awareness since the human being is not able to consume the information from the environment, and treating it unless in the state of being awake and aware.

According to Jaggi Vasudev, wakefulness and consciousness have slight differences, yet they can be used exchangeably, “Wakefulness and consciousness there is no clear distinction in medical terminology” (2020), which means that human's consciousness is based and related to the state of being awake and aware of the things that are going around. He also explained that consciousness cannot be lost and then regained but to be awake and not awake, “Everything you do with your anesthesia has nothing to do with consciousness. It has something to do with the body and various functions of the body. When somebody is going to the surgery you don't want to stop their hearts and brains, you would like to see the transmission of pain stop.” (Vasudev, 2020).

Consciousness plays a major part in our connection to the world where we absorb, think and react so that we feel alive. For instance, we think about the memories we had in the past, we live the present doing our daily tasks and we think about the plans that we have to make and to work on, as is mentioned in this quote, “Consciousness is the only way we experience the world. Without it, you would be like a sleepwalker in a deep, dreamless sleep, acting in the world, speaking, having babies, but without feeling anything” (Christof Koch, 2008, para. 2).

The human mechanism and the different functions of the brain work as a facilitator to connect human's internal world with the external world and the stimuli coming from the environment, “You need a certain sophisticated instrument to access consciousness which is the human mechanism” (Vasudev, 2020). However, consciousness is considered an important function that differentiates human beings from other creatures. Humans can connect mysteriously their brains with the external world and create a strong connection with life. Therefore, consciousness allows them to feel, think, plan and react rather than depending only

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on their instincts as other creatures do, “It is only the human creature on this planet who has the neurological capability and sophistication of mechanism that if they allow it they can access to this dimension of consciousness, no other creature is capable of accessing it” (Vasudev, 2020).

Self-consciousness according to psychology and philosophy can be exchangeably known as self-awareness. The individual acquires some personal and social characteristics which allow them to become aware of their value, beliefs, needs, and actions. It is argued by Philippe Rochat that “Human self-consciousness is construed here as the propensity to perceive and be aware of oneself not only for oneself but also through the evaluative eyes of other individuals.” (2018, p.1).

In addition, it is said that self-consciousness is related to the ego. The individual works on reinforcing the ego through developing personal and social skills, and through understanding one’s strengths and weaknesses, “Self-consciousness is the nature of the subject that manifests itself in her thinking thoughts whose linguistic expression requires the use of the first person pronoun I.” (Sebastian Rodl, 2007, p.vii). However, this consciousness may change whenever the conditions and circumstances change.

2.3. Du Bois’ Double Consciousness

The various harsh conditions and pressures that African Americans endure today are traced back to the time when Africans were brought to America as slaves. Their effects, on the other hand, evolved and were passed down from one generation to another.

The African American civil rights activist and sociologist William Du Bois coined the concept of Double Consciousness. He lived long enough to witness what African Americans had been through from 1868 until he died in 1963. He also took a part in the events that occurred throughout his lifetime. Therefore, he produced several pieces of literature in which he discussed the issue of being black in white American society. It was his concern to shed

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light on how the slave trade ended but left behind its roots to keep black people tied up. They were seen as slaves through the eyes of white people, although they were free American citizens.

Based on his words “One ever feels his two-ness, — an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder.” (Du Bois, 1897, p. 2), it can be concluded that the struggle to acquire a single identity was a common problem among African Americans. In other words, to be both American and black was a real challenge in the United States of America.

They were obliged to think like white Americans which left them blind to themselves. They acquired a new identity which was the creation of white individuals and racism. This led them to live with double consciousness and double visions. They were imprisoned in the middle of two different worlds in terms of culture, beliefs, standard of living, and lifestyle. Therefore, many of them lost themselves and their original identity to get acceptance of the other community to be a part of it.

In his essay *Strivings of Negro People*, he reflected the way black individuals questioned their existence and selves, “Why did God make me an outcast and a stranger in mine own house?” (1897, p. 2). African Americans were obliged to face all kinds of racism. They had to question their situation and their nature, asking why they were black instead of white, and why always white refers to power and supremacy.

Additionally, they felt that they were rejected and unacceptable in American society. They were inferior in the eyes of the white people, and they represent for them a minority of undesirable citizens who have neither culture nor original identity. Besides, they were subjected to a variety of external and internal stimuli caused by a racist atmosphere that had a

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huge negative effect on their psychological side. They have experienced and still experiencing nowadays psychic traumas, pain, and life with dual identity and dual consciousness.

Conclusion

The inner world of the human being is immense and ambiguous. This world carries buried thoughts, fears, and needs besides other mysterious things that take a part of it. As claimed by Lacanian Psychoanalysis, words and language are fundamental to shape our inner world and to reveal this exterior reality too. Also, the unconscious and the conscious mind are affected by what is surrounding us. On the other side, Du Bois suggested that people with whom we share our lives and the society we belong, highly influence the human consciousness.

Chapter three : Textual

Analysis of The Hate U

Give

Chapter three : The analysis of the novel and characters

Introduction

Racial discrimination and police brutality have a huge impact on African Americans' daily life in which many of them are suffering from physical abuse and mental health issues. Angie Thomas like many African American writers who were subjected to racism worked on using her voice against it. She used her words as a means of activism where she treated several social issues that Americans of color have been experiencing up to now. Besides, she emphasized how racism affects black individual's consciousness in her novel *The Hate U Give*.

3.1. Characters and real-life stories

The Hate U Give according to Angie is a story of recalling childhood memories. Characters helped her in bringing out her silence, fears, ambition, and dreams. That is, Starr served as a mirror, reflecting Angie's childhood trauma and her adulthood ambition for black people to be safe. She has experienced similar events and fears which took a part in Angie's life too as she has mentioned, "When I was six, I was at the park, and two drug dealers decided to recreate the wild west with a shootout, Thomas recalls. I ended up running out of the crossfire, and, the very next day, my mom took me to the library, because she wanted me to see that there was more to the world than what I saw that day." (Afua Hirsch, 2017, para. 5). Similar to Angie, Starr grew up surrounded by police and gang crimes and lost her childhood friends Natasha and Khalil because of them, "I've tried to forget it, but I remember everything. The shots, the look on Natasha's face. They never caught the person who did it. I guess it didn't matter enough. But it did matter. She mattered. I look at Ms. Ofrah, but I can barely see her for all the tears. And I want everyone to know that Khalil mattered too." (Angie Thomas, 2017, p. 219).

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Starr also managed to use her voice by the end of the story against injustice and racism similar to the writer who used her voice through writing. They chose to let the silence go and make the world aware of the effects of racism and police brutality on black individuals as it is mentioned in the novel, “Who said talking isn’t doing something ? She says. It’s more productive than silence. Remember what I told you about your voice ? You said it’s my biggest weapon.” (Angie Thomas, 2017, p.410).

On the flip side, Khalil represents in the story the spirit of the deceased Oscar Grant who was killed by a policeman in 2009 in California, and several other innocent souls who fell victim to racism and bad social conditions. Thomas argued:

One thing that stood out about Oscar was the way people talked about his past. At school, people were talking about what he had done, that he may have deserved it, that he was in the wrong. But Oscar could have been any of the young men I get up with, who were maybe doing things they shouldn’t have been doing. (Hirsch, 2017, para.7).

Based on Angie’s words, the act of judging the victim and trying to clear the killer or the racist’s heinous act is constantly repeated in American society. So, instead of making efforts to see reality from a logical perspective and to understand African Americans’ situation, people have blamed Oscar for his tragic death rather than supporting him.

Similar to Oscar, Khalil’s death sparked debate among students and people over whether he deserved to die, “I mean, it’s kinda messed up that we’re protesting a drug dealer’s death. Like I mean, if he was a drug dealer, Hailey says, that explains why... He got killed even though he wasn’t doing shit? So it’s cool he got killed? But I thought you were protesting it ?” (Angie Thomas, 2017, p.183).

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Additionally to Oscar's death who was a source of motivation for Angie to write the story, the incident of Khalil with the white cop reflects the real story of Tamir Rice. Tamir was a Black child who was shot by a white police officer while playing with a toy airsoft pistol similar to Khalil who was killed because of a hairbrush, "That's the so-called gun, Ms. O'frah explains. Officer Cruise claims he saw it in the car door, and he assumed Khalil was reaching for it. The handle was thick enough, black enough, for him to assume it was a gun. And Khalil was black enough, Daddy adds. A hairbrush. Khalil died over a hairbrush." (Angie, 2017, p.217). Tamir's name joined many other names of innocent souls who were killed by white police and were mentioned as hashtags for the Black Lives Matter Movement.

In addition, according to CNN, it was hard for his family to get fair justice for their son, "federal prosecutors with both the Civil Rights Division and the US Attorney's Office for the Northern District of Ohio concluded that they could not prove that Rice's constitutional rights were violated or the officers obstructed justice." (Jamiel Lynch, Christina Carrega and Steve Almasy, 2020, para. 3).

Moreover, this phenomenon is increasing in American society and lack of justice is making it harder for people of color to feel secure in their homeland as it was argued, "This is part of a problem that we've been living with as a society for as long as anyone can remember, that is the unjustified excessive use of force by police officers against people of color. And the idea that people would not be held accountable for this is really more than upsetting." (Lynch, Carrega and Almasy, 2020, para. 5)

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3.2. The experience of identity crisis and double consciousness

3.2.1. From Du Bois's Double Consciousness view

Having self-realization and adapting an identity strongly depend on our position in this world and the society to which we belong. In other words, the conditions and circumstances that the person experiences from early age affect and impact their process of shaping their identity and self-consciousness. Additionally, the person's personality, unconscious, and consciousness are a set of characteristics that were adopted from different social contexts, however, they change whenever the circumstances change.

The struggle for black Americans to keep their original identity pure and stick to it was a hard task for them because of the white influence. Besides, the attempt to belong to one of the two realities created for them an endless inner conflict based on what Du Bois' said, "One ever feels his two-ness,—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings; two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder." (2007, p.8). In addition to this, they felt themselves strangers and oppressed in their country which was supposed to be for them a peaceful and safe place to live in.

The protagonist Starr was an essential figure in illustrating Du Bois' beliefs on how African Americans feel as they strive in white American culture to find their true self and identity. Starr belongs to the black Garden Heights where crimes and noises continuously take place, however, she attends the white Williamson Prep school, where she is one of the few black students there. This made her two versions, none of which makes her herself as she said in the novel, "There are just some places where it's not enough to be me. Either version of me." (Thomas, 2017, p.3). She was obliged to switch her personality and vocabulary when she is present in one of the two places to fit in, "My voice is changing

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already. It always happens around ‘other’ people, whether I'm at Williamson or not. I don't talk like me or sound like me. I choose every word carefully and make sure I pronounce them well.” (Thomas, 2017, p.95).

Furthermore, identity and environment should give the individual a peaceful atmosphere to live in and a chance to coexist smoothly with other individuals regardless of their race, ethnicity, and other social aspects. However, racism, color discrimination, and violence in both white and black American Society make it difficult for Starr to find her inner peace. Besides, having a dual identity was tiring for Starr to practice her normal life, “Being two different people is so exhausting. I've taught myself to speak with two different voices and only say certain things around certain people.” (Thomas, 2014, p. 301).

This affected her relationships with her friends and with herself too. She could not invite her friends to her home because of the violence and the ongoing series of gunshots in the neighborhood, “Hailey didn't come. Her dad didn't want her to spend the night in the ghetto, Maya came but ended up asking her parents to come to get her that night. There was a drive-by around the corner, and the gun-shots scared her.” (Thomsa, 2017, p.36).

Aside from Starr's effort to create a balance between her two worlds, her life was altered when she witnessed a white police officer shoot at her best friend Khalil. She did neither share with her white friends that she was the only witness of the incident that night nor she could speak out for Khalil's justice, “That's the problem. We let people say stuff, and they say it so much that it becomes okay to them and normal for us. What's the point of having a voice if you're gonna be silent in those moments you shouldn't be?” (Thomsa, 2017, p 252).

In addition, she could not be happy with the idea of having a white boyfriend while blacks are suffering from whites' racist behaviors, “But it's almost as if I'm giving Khalil,

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Daddy, Seven, and every other black guy in my life big, loud, ‘F’ by having a white boyfriend.” (Thomas, 2017, p.106). Furthermore, this tragedy opened her eyes to her friendships, revealing that her friend Hailey was racist and backed the white cop who killed Khalil, referring to him as a drug dealer who deserved to die, “Hailey texted me immediately after, freaking out. I thought it was because she couldn't believe someone would do that to a kid. No. She couldn't believe I would reblog such an awful picture.” (Thomas, 2017, p.77)

Not only Starr was stuck between two separate dimensions, but also the other characters of color in which each one struggled with two sides. Racism and color discrimination resulted in many social problems where poverty became widespread in black neighborhoods followed by corruption and gang crimes. Therefore, this affected people’s consciousness and created a corrupted social consciousness in which characters had to deal with illegal things to survive. To illustrate, Khalil's situation drove him to do things he would not like to do. He became a drug dealer to afford money to help his grandmother get rid of her debts and King’s gang:

Why was he a drug dealer? why are so many people in our neighborhood drug dealers? I remember what Khalil said, he got tired of choosing between lights and food. They need money, I say. And they don’t have a lot of other ways to get it. Right. Lack of opportunities, Daddy says. Corporate America doesn't bring jobs to our communities, and they damn sure ain't quick to hire us. You got folks like Brenda, who think they need them to survive, and then you got the Khalils, who think they need to sell them to survive. (Thomas, 2017, p. 169).

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According to previous quote, the cycle of poverty, gangs, violence, and drugs was the outcome of a lack of opportunities. Several African Americans have to deal with illegal businesses to afford their daily needs. They have not the chance to get a real legal job similar to white Americans because of some racist institutional acts, so they find selling drugs and engaging in gangs matters a way to survive, “that’s the hate they are giving us, baby, a system designed against us, that’s thug life” (Thomas, 2017, p.170).

Moreover, Uncle Carlos was another character who had to struggle with two worlds. He was obliged to act as an American of color who should stand with his niece Starr as well as for Khalil’s justice, on the other hand, he had to act as a white policeman, “Lisa I keep telling you, you need to move her and Sekani out of this neighborhood; I’m sorry about Khalil, baby girl! He says. I was just telling your parents how the detective would like for you to come in and answer few questions.” (Thomas, 2017, pp.52-53)

3.2.2. From a Lacanian psychoanalytical view

Humans are inextricably linked to the outside world. The personality and identity of the individual can be affected by people since their childhood in several ways. That is, people around the person aided in the process of shaping the person’s identity and the way they view themselves as individuals who belong to certain culture and society. In other words, the Other for the subject is a significant element that contributed to grasping a clear image and getting a full understanding of oneself. On the other hand, this Other can destroy the perfect image that the individual has been creating as a child growing up.

For Lacan, the Mirror stage is an important pre-linguistic identification of the subject with the image of itself in the mirror. The individual starts to discover him/herself as a human being who belongs to reality and he/she creates a peaceful relationship with the image in the mirror which reflects the person’s real image and biological features, moving

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to build another relationship with other individuals starting by the mother, father and the rest of people, “As the infant, or referred to as individual when (he/she) grows and begins to mature, it enters into social relations through language. This Other of language will become more complex throughout the individual’s life through social and linguistic frameworks giving the individual its specific characteristics.” (Lewis Katie, n.d, p.2).

Like other infants, Starr and her siblings went through the mirror phase as well. The work of Starr’s parents Lisa and Maverick on shaping their children’s personality through language helped them as subjects who passed through the mirror stage to enter the symbolic order and raise their awareness of themselves and the environment. They could contribute to building temporary confidence among them by first giving them names, “That’s why, I named you Starr, my light during all that darkness” (Thomas, 2017, p. 58). Then, through the process of educating them and guiding them throughout their lives which was not a gift for everyone, “When I was twelve, my parents had two talks with me. I hope somebody had the talk with Khalil” (Thomas, 2017, pp. 20: 21).

Racism, on the other hand, breaks what the mirror phase did. It changes the identity and self-realization the individual has created during this phase. That is, when the subject starts falling a victim to racist words and tragic events, they find themselves hating their situation, questioning their original identity and biological differences as well as their existence, “What society feeds us as youth and how it comes back and bites them later.” (Thomas, 2017, p.17).

To make it more explicit, white racists have created a false image about people of color and attempted to make it their reality. They see them as a threat; therefore, they treat them based on that stereotypical image they have created and behave violently to defend their hidden intentions and fears, “That's the so-called gun, Ms. O'fray explains. Officer

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Cruise claims he saw it in the car door, and he assumed Khalil was reaching for it. The handle was thick enough, black enough, for him to assume it was a gun. And Khalil was black enough, Daddy adds.” (Thomas, 2017, p.17). As a result, black people were lost in a maze of confusion. They do not know whether it is their fault for being a part of the American society or it is the whites' one.

In addition, black people want to feel the same way white individuals feel as completely free citizens who enjoy their full rights and freedom. However, they also want to keep their original black identity. To illustrate, Starr lived with an identity crisis and double consciousness due to the separate different worlds she was obliged to live in. The infant identity that she got from the mirror stage has changed when she witnessed the tragic events from an early age and started experiencing the separation from her reality and entering the white world, “It's dope to be black until it's hard to be black.” (Angie, 2017, p.11).

She also started to compare herself with the Other's image and state, that is, she saw her black self in the white Other who reflects her current reality, “You’re white, I’m black. You’re rich, I’m not. I don't care about that kinda stuff, Starr. I care about you. That kind of stuff is part of me!” (Thomas, 2017, p. 161). This reflects her real order when the inner pain and fears that were caused by racism and police brutality began to control her actions and behaviors, “I still don’t know if I’m betraying who I’m by dating Chris” (Thomas, 2017, p.162).

Besides, her father carried passive feelings toward other white people and Chris was one of them, “The hell, Starr? Daddy says. You're dating a white boy ?” (Thomas, 2017, p.229). He did not accept him as his daughter’s lover until the end of the story when he stayed with her during the protest. To clear it up, according to the following quote,

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“Lacan’s notion of the mirror stage I highlight the way in which colonial black identity is constructed in relation to whiteness.” (Simon Clarke, 2003, p. 100), the white person plays an important role in the life of the black individual. They represent a mirror for them. They perfectly reflect the years of fatigue, fear, suffering, and racism that the black people have faced from the beginning of American history up to the present time. They played a major role in creating the colonial black identity which covered the original black one based on what Simon has mentioned in his book, “Jean-Paul Sartre (1976) argues that it is not the Jewish character that produces or induces antisemitism, it is the anti-semite who creates this image of the jews. Again as with the black person, the Jews become a phobogenic object, a stimulus that causes anxiety.” (Simon Clarke, 2003, p. 103).

That is, white people have greatly contributed to changing the identity of black people and led to their suffering. The black person always finds it difficult to adapt to a racist environment where whiteness is the basis of a decent life. This created a hole in people of colors' life in which there is always something missing in their lives.

Furthermore, white supremacy took a serious place in the United States over people of Color. As a heritage of the past, this ideology of black people are wild creatures who need to be educated and guided has long put scars on their souls and ruined their lives, “Slave masters thought they were making a difference in black people's lives too. Saving them from their wild African ways. Same shit, different century. I wish people like them would stop thinking that people like me need saving.” (Thomas, 2017, p. 245).

Additionally, based on Bu Bois’ words, “Between me and the other world, there is ever an unasked question: How does it feel to be a problem?” (2007, p.44), it can be said that there are two probabilities to be pointed out. First, this feeling of being a problem is a mirror that reflects the white racist individual’s enjoyment of being a supremacist in their

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society among different races, and the African Americans for white racists are the thief of this enjoyment (as claimed by Slavoj Žižek). Black Americans who want to be treated equally to white Americans and share the same rights, respect, and safety represent a menace to their enjoyment of all rights that are stolen from the other part as Lacan suggested:

Racism is founded on what one imagines about the Other's jouissance; it is hatred of the particular way, of the Other's own way of experiencing jouissance ... Racist stories are always about the way in which the Other obtains a plus-de-jour: either he does not work or he does not work enough, or he is useless or a little too useful, but whatever the case may be, he is always endowed with a part of jouissance that he does not deserve. Thus true intolerance is the intolerance of the Other's jouissance. Of course, we cannot deny that races do exist, but they exist in so far as they are, in Lacan's words, races of discourse, i.e., traditions of subjective positions. (Mukherjee Ankhi, 2018, p.157).

Consequently, by claiming their rights and speaking out for justice and security, they are challenging and stealing the joy of white people for being powerful and well educated who must rule other races, "The black person becomes a phobogenic object, in other words, a stimulus that causes anxiety." (Simon Clarke, 2003, p. 102). This triggers their hostile side, causing them to act aggressively which leads to killing innocent people, "If I kill Tyrone, I'm going to prison. If a cop kills me, he's getting put on leave." (Thomas, 2017, p.53).

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Second, the other possibility is being a problem for themselves, that is, white people want to urge Americans of Color to believe that they are the main problem for their situation and issues, “Other races aren’t killing us nearly as much as we’re killing ourselves.” (Thomas, 2017, p.53). Their blackness according to whites is the main reason behind their suffering and getting killed instead of their racist behaviors that lead to the death of numerous innocent people, “I’ve seen it happen over and over again: a black person gets killed just for being black, and all hell breaks loose.” (Thomas, 2017, p.34).

3.3. The effect of Racism on African Americans’ Mental Health

Racism has affected black individuals psychologically and physically, yet, not in the same way. Some experienced mental health issues and others have experienced poverty, engaging in illegal matters, and using their anger in a violent way against other black individuals, “Garden Heights has been a battlefield for the past two months over some stupid territory war. But even if I’d grown up in it, I wouldn’t understand fighting over streets nobody owns.” (Thomas, 2017, p.17). To illustrate, Khalil’s grandmother and DeVante were drug dealers and King was a gang leader. Others faced their death as Khalil and Natasha did, and others suffered from traumas, fears, and physical pain like Starr did.

In addition, Due to the continuous exposure to police brutality, segregation and injustice, people have experienced long-life fear of losing themselves or their family members. As a result, African Americans were obliged to start teaching their children how to deal with police to avoid being shot and killed at any time. Starr's father Maverick did the same thing with his children. He taught them in their early ages how to act when police are present, how to keep calm and avoid any sudden moves so they can keep themselves alive:

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The other talk was about what to do if a cop stopped me. Momma fussed and told Daddy I was too young for that. He argued that I wasn't too young to get arrested or shot. Starr-Starr, you do whatever they tell you to do, he said. Keep your hands visible. Don't make any sudden moves. Only speak when they speak to you. (Thomas, 2017, p.20).

Furthermore, Angie Thomas has emphasized the psychological side of characters to shed light on the daily suffering of people of color who are undergone continuous police brutality and racism. The traumatic events which Starr has experienced and witnessed harmed her mental and physical health considerably. She suffered from panic attacks, sleep disorders, and Post-Traumatic Stress Syndrome, "it feels like everything in me is coming out, and all I can do is let it." (Thomas, 2017, p. 27).

Murdering Khalil in front of Starr traumatized her. She started having flashbacks of her childhood friend Natasha's death who was murdered by a gunshot too. At that moment the unconscious started taking control of her consciousness. Starr was paralyzed by fears since the moment where the cop pulled Khalil's car over, "My heart pounds loudly, but Daddy's instructions echo in my head; get a good look at the cop's face. If you can remember his badge number, that's even better." (Thomas, 2017, p.22). Fear tied her voice up, she could neither speak to defend herself nor to stop Khalil from being killed. Fortunately, her father's words about how to act when someone gets stopped by a policeman arrived at the right moment to save her life, "My parents haven't raised me to fear the police, just to be smart around them. They told me it's not smart to move while a cop has his back to you." (Thomas, 2017, p. 23).

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Khalil's death affected Starr psychologically and physically on a daily basis. She could not be happy from the day of his death until the day of the riots, "Khalil's in a grave. He can't get a day off from that shit. I lie it every single day too." (Angie Thomas, 2017, p.183). To explain, losing a beloved person twice for Starr was more tragic than living with double consciousness. This reflects the reality of many black people in the United States in which people there are losing themselves, mental health, and their beloved ones too due to racism and constant police brutality.

Scientists pointed out that psychological pain causes strong physical pain to a person who is continuously exposed to fear and anxiety, "Migraines, back pain, stomach pains, body aches, and other issues can easily stem from PTSD symptoms." (how PTSD can cause physical pain symptoms, n.d). These distressing events put Starr in a gloomy zone in which she has experienced Post-traumatic Stress Disorder, nightmares, fear of death, social distancing which led to physical pain, "Hot spit pools in my mouth. My stomach twists tighter. I gag. Nightmares wake me over and over again. Momma reminds me to breathe, the same way she did before when I outgrew asthma." (Thomas, 2017, p.27).

She was also afraid she might be killed by a cop as Khalil did, "Besides the cop, I'm the only person who was there. And you've seen stuff like this. It ends up on national news. People get death threats, cops target them, all kinds of stuff." (Thomas, 2017, p.34). On the other side, Lisa and Maverick were worried about their daughter and her fate. They were afraid she might be killed by policemen or by a gang member too, "She wipes her eyes a few times, probably thinking about Khalil or how that could've been me lying in the street." (Thomas, 2017, p.27).

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Nevertheless, meeting April O'fray besides her family and friends' support encouraged her to get rid of her fears and to start speaking out for Khalil, "Brave doesn't mean you're not scared, Starr, she says. It means you go on even though you're scared. And you're doing that." (Thomas, 2017, p.331). O'fray repeatedly asked her to use her voice against injustice and police brutality. She was sure from the beginning of the novel that her voice was her strong weapon which she was afraid to use, "Who said talking isn't doing something? she says. It's more productive than silence." (Thomas, 2017, p. 410). However, the act of controlling her voice and keeping silent at the moment she should not be saved her life.

At that moment, Starr became an activist and joined the streets to chant against police savagery and injustice. She joined the Black Lives Matter movement which was reflected by the end of the story. Angie had a belief that police brutality, racism, and color discrimination will continue to exist since justice is absent, "People like us in a situation like this become hashtags, but they rarely get justice." (Thomas, 2017, p.59). In addition, Starr could build-out of her fear strength to fight for justice, for Khalil, other innocent people, and herself, "Khalil, I'll never forget. I'll never give up. I'll never be quiet. I promise." (Thomas, 2017, p.444).

Conclusion

Racism has long-lasting consequences on people of color; however, they vary from one person to another. Therefore, some researchers and scientists put efforts into studying them, for instance, Du Bois who has disclosed the psychological problems and double consciousness that African Americans have faced due to racism and color discrimination. Moreover, Jacques Lacan's theory of the mirror stage was an important point to understand how the Other can help in shaping or destroying someone's identity through language. On

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the other hand, Angie Thomas as an activist writer has produced her novel *The Hate U Give* to illustrate how racism can damage someone's identity, mental health, and social relationships. Aside from that, she managed to convey her message that it takes courage to use one's voice to advocate for oppressed people, justice, and oneself.

General Conclusion

General Conclusion

The Hate U Give was for Angie Thomas a voice that speaks out for her childhood. It reflects the trauma she had experienced because of police brutality and racism and what many Americans of color are still facing nowadays. This voice could successfully reach various minds and reflect the echo of many voiceless souls.

The novel provided an in-depth analysis of African American society. It also reflected the exhausting way black people are dealing with double consciousness and dual identity. Racism splits their world into two parts and none of these parts makes them feel better about themselves. It also addressed the inhuman act of killing black people for no rational reason other than what white supremacists try to convince the world that black people pose a threat to them.

This research study aimed to answer the previous research questions to explore the different angles of racism and how it affects the African American individual's consciousness and their relationship with other black and white individuals. Besides, it attempted through the use of Lacanian psychoanalysis and Du Bois' concept of Double Consciousness to analyze characters' psyche which reflects the writer's psyche herself. It worked also on revealing their inner fears and struggles to find their lost peace, identity, and sense of belongingness as the outcome of racial and color discrimination as well as police brutality.

Accordingly, the first chapter has dealt with providing the definition of racism which is a debatable problem that has been profoundly ingrained in American society from its inception till today. Therefore, it was stated in the first chapter that racism is a set of stereotypical thoughts and a blind reliance on wrong beliefs that were formed under historical, social, and psychological conditions. Racists depend on their beliefs to treat people who are different in terms of physical or moral characteristics cruelly.

It also presented the various forms of racism and its relationship to xenophobia. On

one hand, racism is considered to be a group of beliefs and attitudes that reject the idea of equality and elevate the concept of superiority. On the other hand, xenophobia is a psychological state in which the fear of foreigners and hostility toward others who are different control someone's behavior and make the individual act in a racist and aggressive way.

Moreover, Americans of color are exposed to external and internal pressure. A person's external world represents their environment as well as the society to which they belong. However, some racists do not want them to be a part of their society so they cannot share with them the same level of freedom and rights they have. These racists formed stereotyped and xenophobic beliefs and acted on them without having a rational and human awareness. They fear that black individuals would steal their happiness and enjoyment by taking chances equally to them. As a result, African Americans had to suffer from poverty, social problems, gangs as well as physical and mental issues.

Additionally, it gave a quick overview of the Black Lives Matter movement which took a significant place within the important events of the 21st century. This movement began when numerous black individuals, teens, and children were killed by the police. This movement continues to this day since this terrible phenomenon becomes more prevalent. In addition, many slogans were invented and shared everywhere on social media to denounce the cessation of this heinous act and leave things to justice.

The second chapter has provided a theoretical framework of Lacanian psychoanalysis and Du Bois' notion of Double consciousness. It attempted to shed light on the importance of Jacques Lacan's fresh concepts in the French psychoanalysis which differed from Freudian psychoanalytical theories, for instance, Lacan's hypothesis of the Mirror stage. This phase according to Lacan is an important step in shaping the infant's identity and ego. It strengthens the apparent relationship between the subject and the Big Other and between the unconscious

and language.

Furthermore, this chapter aimed to present a definition for consciousness and double consciousness. On one side, consciousness is known among scholars as an ambiguous state of mind, that is, the fact of being aware of what is happening around us is an obscure mental process. The individual develops self-awareness and acquires social consciousness as well as some personal characteristics as a result of interacting with the external environment through the senses, the events experienced, and the influence of others on the individual. On the other side, Du Bois' concept of double consciousness was an accurate description of how racism and brutal events affect a person's consciousness and identity. It also explains how blacks suffer from psychological problems with themselves and their identity as a result of racial and color discrimination.

The third chapter was a work on the narratives and characters' psyche. It emphasized analyzing the psychological effects of racism on characters that represent specifically black Americans and people of color in general who have been subjected to colorism, racial discrimination, and police brutality.

This analysis has revealed that racism has a great impact in destroying someone's consciousness and identity that was shaped healthily since their early years of childhood. In other words, it breaks the individual's self-confidence, the positive image about themselves, and the reality they have created through the mirror stage. It also ruins the healthy relationship with other individuals whether they are black or white. As a result, their sense of belongingness disappears due to the racist and toxic society they live in.

It also affects people at an individual level in which each African American has to deal with certain circumstances and conditions that may differ from one another. Some people like Starr have experienced the split of their personalities in which their original identity is reshaped and there is no way to get it back. People of color try to coexist with white people in

one community and adopt some white characteristics, on the other side, they want to stick to their original black identity at the same time. However, racism makes it difficult for them to do both.

They had to live with double consciousness: the white consciousness and the black one. That is, the fact of living with white individuals and being exposed to racism and oral abuse creates double consciousness and a struggle to belong to one identity. Additionally, the abusive language they consume plays a major role in changing someone's unconscious part which in turn contributes to changing their conscious part.

Other individuals had to deal with illegal affairs and gang activities to survive as a result of institutional racism and segregation which caused the lack of opportunities that were mainly provided to white Americans. Some died like Khalil and Natasha, and others have faced mental health disorders.

Despite that, this analysis denoted that the support of family and close ones can highly contribute to overcoming mental health issues that are caused by traumatic events and racism. To illustrate, Starr's family, friends, and Mrs. O'Frah could bring confidence to Starr again through positive discourse and gentle actions.

Moreover, it has also shown that unity and standing up for each other can decrease the stressful effects of the harsh situation. It also emphasized that it takes great courage to fight for oppressed people and one's self against injustice. In addition, voice can make a difference, that is to say, being silent at the moment where words should be loud, does not help the situation, rather it destroys the chance to make a change.

Multiple lessons can be drawn from the novel about the difficulties of living in the face of social or racial barriers. Angie wanted to raise people's awareness about the danger of racism on others' mental health, how it can destroy a community as a whole. In addition, Angie shed light on how people have suffered from brutal poverty and guerrilla warfare in

black society. However, she insisted that hope still exists for those who refused to be swayed by bad and toxic external circumstances. People according to her should always be ready to hold on to their convictions and fight injustice, racial discrimination, and police brutality.

Likewise, the novel had a profound impact on the researcher's mind, as well as the soul of everyone who read it conscientiously. The writer's style of writing draws the reader into the story and allows them to experience the details of the happenings of each character's life. Besides that, it also raised people's awareness of what African Americans have faced and continue to endure as a result of racism and color discrimination.

The traces of the historical events that black people have been through remained imprinted in their lives and they were passed down from generation to generation. Fear, persecution, and the horrific forms of racism they were subjected to made people's lives unbearably difficult. Moreover, racism, color discrimination, and the preference of the white race over the black race in providing job opportunities led people to frustration. Many people ended up in poverty because they were unable to find excellent jobs that would allow them to live decently. So, in turn, it led to the spread of social problems, drugs, and thus the mafia and a large number of crimes.

Therefore, the attempts to fight racial discrimination and police violence should never stop. People as a whole regardless of their biological, cultural, social, and intellectual differences have the right to be legally protected. They have the right to equality, security, have different opinions, and be who they are.

In addition, educating people in general and children specifically from an early age to respect others and raise their awareness about the dangerous effects of racism on others can be a good step towards creating a respectful generation. On the other hand, activists should take serious actions against brutality, injustice, and racial discrimination by all means with the help of scientists, psychologists, and politicians.

Appendixes

Appendix A: Biography

Angie Thomas

Angie Thomas is an American rapper, writer, and most renowned for her work on *The Hate U Give* (2017). She was born, raised, and still living in Jackson, Mississippi. She has mentioned in an interview that the death of Oscar Grant by a police officer dejectedly affected her and other African Americans psychologically. They suffered from fears, traumas, and even post-traumatic stress disorder. However, this inspired her to start writing a novel to treat these issues of police brutality, injustice, and the act of killing innocent people based on the fact that they are not white. Additionally, Tupac, the African American rapper and activist, was a huge inspiration to her. She found her voice and thoughts in his words. She took the title of her novel *The Hate U Give* from the tattooed phrase on his body *Thug Life* which is an acronym that reflects how society there is highly affected by hatred and violence.

According to her, each one has a way to show their activism. As Tupac used music, she used ink and papers to fight against the dark side of humans, racism, and police brutality. Accordingly, Tupac's "The rose that grew from Concrete" was the bright side of her story in which each young character has to deal with certain strict circumstances and situations, yet they could survive in a way and make their voices heard, "I tried to make Starr and Seven and all the kids in the book the roses in the concrete. To me, they are kids who are growing up in bad circumstances and bad situations but they are still roses, they are still good and still shining." (Thomas, 2018, 1:41). She also stated that the story was written to educate people about the effects of racism and the tragic events that Americans of color have experienced and continue to experience up to now, "It would help people who might not understand our feelings during these cases." (Thomas, 2018, 2:05).

Appendix B: Plot Summary

Starr, the story's sixteen-year-old protagonist, undesirably attended with her friend Kenya the Big D's spring break party in Garden Heights, the African-American neighborhood. She lived in a struggle with two consciousnesses, Garden Heights consciousness, and Williamson consciousness. She felt that none of her versions could fit in and she was willing to leave the party when the opportunity arose.

She met and reconnected with her childhood best friend Khalil when Kenya left her alone. Out of a sudden, they heard shotguns at the party. Khalil fled with Starr and he offered to drive her home so he makes sure she is alright. While driving home, a police officer pulled them over because the car's taillight was broken.

Starr was afraid and she asked Khalil to do whatever the officer says without any sudden moves as her father taught her in her childhood. She noticed that he was officer One-Fifteen. He ordered him to get out of the car and not to move. Khalil did not listen. He wanted to check in on Starr when the cop went back to his car but this move made him suspicious, subsequently, he shot him dead in front of her sight. He assumed Khalil had a gun in his car, but it turned out to be a hairbrush.

Starr has lost her childhood friend Natasha in the same way; she was killed in a gang shooting crossfire. She entered a traumatic period in the aftermath of Khalil's death. Due to her mental health problems, she was initially hesitant to identify herself to her friends and people as the lone witness to the night's tragic events.

When Starr was questioned by the police, she got the impression that the cops were standing with their mate One Fifteen rather than against him for murdering an unarmed teen. During Khalil's funeral, Starr's fears were confirmed when she discovered that One-Fifteen

was not arrested. On the other hand, protests erupted in Garden Heights in support of Khalil. Starr and her parents met the lawyer and activist April Ofrah. She pushed her to get rid of her silence and fight for Khalil by using her voice.

Starr was irritated by her white classmates who conducted a phony protest only to get out of class. After One-Fifteen's father talked about his son in an interview, saying that his son is a victim, she fought with her friend Hailey, who insisted that One Fifteen's life is similarly important to Khalil's, and he might deserve to be killed because he was a drug dealer.

Nevertheless, DeVante a teen who was hiding from the best-known drug dealer in Garden Heights King Lord told Starr that Khalil never joined King's gang and he was selling drugs only to pay back his mother's debt to King and protect her from him and his gang.

Some days later, her father Maverick argued with his neighbor Mr. Lewis which caught two police officers' attention to intervene. They pushed him to the ground and started searching him in front of his daughter. This was the moment when Starr decided to use her voice and forget about her silence and fears. She had a television interview, although she was not allowed to talk about King, she did it.

Against the advice of Ms. Ofrah, she revealed the story behind Khalil's drug dealing and she mentioned that King was the head of the gang in Garden Heights. She also talked about how the cop pointed his gun at her which made her doubt whether she was going to die in the same way as Khalil did or not.

Afterward, she started receiving threats from King, and then someone fired a gun into their household which led her father to ask his gang mates' help to protect his family. She testified after that in front of the grand jury. However, the One Fifteen was under the jury's protection in which they decided not to indict him. People were disappointed, tensions increased and riots were raging all over Garden Heights due to the jury's decision.

After Starr and her white boyfriend, Chris helped Seven and Kenya to rescue DeVante from King's house, she and her friends joined the protesting folks on the streets. The tragic incidents she has witnessed and the words of April O'fray urged her to take action and to use her voice to fight against injustice. She was finally able to speak out loudly. She got the megaphone and led a chant in front of the protest and against the police.

Last but not least, King the drug dealer and the gang leader was caught and arrested. Additionally, her father could finally accept Starr's boyfriend after rejecting him because he is white; he had respect for him after knowing that he kept Starr company through the riots all night. Starr on the other hand promised Khalil to continue using her voice to support African Americans and to fight for justice and change.

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