

**THE WAY BLACK WOMEN FACE RACIAL PROBLEMS IN MAYA
ANGELOU'S SELECTED POEMS**

THESIS

Submitted as Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Sarjana Degree of
English Department Faculty of Arts and Humanities UIN Sunan Ampel Surabaya



By:

Rizky Maulidta Fahmi

Reg. Number: A73215130

**ENGLISH DEPARTMENT
FACULTY OF ARTS AND HUMANITIES
STATE ISLAMIC UNIVERSITY OF SUNAN AMPEL SURABAYA
2019**

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2019

DECLARATION

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Declares that the thesis under the title *The Black Power in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems* is my original scientific work which has been conducted as a partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor Degree and submitted to the English Department, Arts and Humanities Faculty of State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya. Additionally, it does not incorporate any other text from the previous experts except the quotations and theories itself. If the thesis later is found as plagiarism work, the writer is truthfully responsible with any kind of suitable rules and consequences.

Surabaya, January 23rd 2019

The Writer,



Rizky Maulidta Fahmi

THE WAY BLACK WOMEN FACE RACIAL PROBLEMS IN
MAYA ANGELOU'S SELECTED POEMS

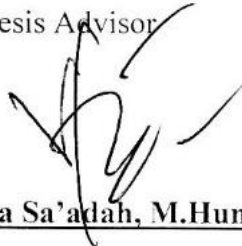
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ABSTRACT

Fahmi, Rizky Maulidta. 2019. *The Way Black Women Face Racial Problems in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems*. English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

The Advisor : Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah M.Hum.

Key Words : Poem, Racial Problems, Black Woman.

This thesis discuss the way Black women face the racial problem in three selected poems written by Maya Angelou. The researcher employs feminism theory spesifically Black feminism and new criticism limited to imagery and figurative language in analysing the poems. The research is conducted in descriptive qualitative method. The result of the study shows that in Maya Angelou's three selected poems, Black woman faces different problem in each poem. In the poem "Still I Rise", black woman faces the problem about discriminated, injustice and hatred because of her different colour and gender during the slavery era and she can deal with the problems through the self-confidence and strong personality. In "Phenomenal Woman", Black woman faces the problem about the standard of beauty that the society made and it does not belong to the speaker physical appearance but she can deals with the problems by showing her pride and inner strength. And in the last poem "Weekend Glory", Black woman faces the prejudice from the whites who always underestimated her and she can deal with the problems on how she lives life gratefully.

INTISARI

Fahmi, Rizky Maulidta. 2019. *The Way Black Women Face Racial Problems in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems*. English Department, Faculty of Arts and Humanities. The State Islamic University of Sunan Ampel Surabaya.

Pembimbing : Sufi Ikrima Sa'adah M.Hum.

Kata Kunci : Puisi, Masalah Rasial, Wanita Berkulit Hitam.

Skripsi ini membahas tentang cara wanita berkulit hitam menghadapi masalah rasial yang ada di dalam ketiga puisi Maya Angelou. Peneliti menggunakan teori feminisme khususnya Black feminism dan new criticism yakni imageri dan figurative language dalam menganalisis puisi. Peneliti menggunakan metode deskriptif kualitatif. Hasil dari penelitian menunjukkan bahwa di dalam ketiga puisi Maya Angelou, wanita berkulit hitam menghadapi masalah yang berbeda-beda dalam setiap puisi. Dalam puisi “Still I Rise”, wanita berkulit hitam menghadapi masalah tentang diskriminasi, ketidakadilan, dan kebencian karena perbedaan warna kulit dan gender pada masa perbudakan dan dia bisa menerima permasalahan yang ada melalui kepercayaan diri dan kepribadian yang kuat. Dalam puisi “Phenomenal Woman”, wanita berkulit hitam menghadapi masalah tentang standard kecantikan yang dibuat oleh masyarakat dan ini tidak dimiliki oleh tokoh dalam puisi tetapi dia bisa menerima permasalahan yang ada dengan menunjukan rasa bangganya sebagai perempuan berkulit hitam dan kekuatan dari dalam dirinya. Dan dalam puisi terakhir “Weekend Glory”, wanita berkulit hitam menghadapi pandangan dari orang kulit putih yang selalu meremehkannya dan dia bisa menerima permasalahan yang ada dengan bagaimana dia menjalani kehidupannya dengan penuh rasa syukur.

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PTER I INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

In a patriarchal society, women always face injustice from men. They struggle to gain equal rights as men have. As in Lara Huda Faris' statement "...women have traditionally been dehumanized by a male-dominated society, which they call patriarchy and that has been always better to be a man..."(1). It means that women had undergone years of sexism and struggled to be what the women are today.

Relating issues that woman had faced, there raise the term feminism. However, if the issues are related to black women (African-American) the injustice that they face might come from different sources. It is because what African American women faced are different compared with the white women (Caucasian). if white women face injustice from men, black women might face injustice not only

from men, but also from white people. In other words, black women might face problem not only because they are women but also because they are black.

Living as an African American women is hardly more difficult rather than white women because they have to deal with double oppression that is not only sexism but also racism. As Zammani stated that “being female and African American places African American women at the confluence of two forms of oppression” (7). This situation is supported in Howard-Hamilton that “double oppression racism and sexism was born for African American women when their subordinate status was assumed and enforced by white and black men as well as white women.” From the quotation, it is implied that black people especially black women are seen as the lowest class in American white society and always face oppression (Howard-Hamilton 19).

Moreover, Collins stated that the “lives of African American women have been affected by racism, sexism, classism, and colorization” (11). Racism is the discrimination toward people from different race while sexism is the discrimination related to sex, and classism is the discrimination based on social class (Merriam Webster). It means that the problem as black women is more complex than white women. Their skin color limits their ability to show what they are able to do because of the stereotype of black women in American society who always look them down and see them as powerless women. Due to the fact, black women unite to fight back the issues that black women faced since in slavery era. It is known as the Black Power Movement. The black power movement is a movement from black women to

gain their rights. This movement helped empower the black women to be brave to show their voice by establish an association of black women (Joseph 81).

The racial issues of African-American women had also reflected in numerous literary works. It is because literature is a product of human thought and imagination poured into words, phrases, or sentences. Literature also represents culture and tradition. Taylor states that “literature, like the other arts, is essentially an imaginative act of the writer's imagination in selecting, ordering, and interpreting life-experience” (1). Moreover, Wellek and Warren said that “literature must always be interesting; it must always have a structure and an aesthetic purpose, a total coherence, and effect” (212). All those quotes imply that literary works are closely related to human life. Life experience is often recorded in literature. Nevertheless, literature is not only the portrayal of life but also an expression of a person's feeling which reflects the reality of life.

Literature is divided into several parts like novel, poems, plays, and poetry (Jones 1). According to William Wordsworth, “poetry is the spontaneous overflow of powerful feelings” (5). Poetry is the product of human imagination that is showed through the association phrases which have meaning. Poetry is composed of diverse elements variety. These elements include a form of words, shapes, patterns of rhyme, rhythm, ideas, or issues gained significance in the life of the poet and life to be conveyed to the reader, listener, through techniques and specific aspects. The language which is used in poetry is also different. Shumaker asserted that poetry is

“the idea or mind of the poets are flowing as a media to express a certain kind of perceptions, feelings, and thoughts” (10).

In this research, the researcher intends to analyze poems about black woman power written by Maya Angelou. “Being one of the key African-American authors and public speaker of the 20th century, Maya Angelou primarily talks of herself and fellow African-American slaves that suffered in the black civil war” (Janouskova 1). Her works are mostly known to contain her own experiences and often written as autobiographies. Maya Angelou’s work has influenced a large number of people in the field of literature and had helped her gain many awards as an active feminist.

This study analyzes Maya Angelou’s three selected poems. The researcher choose these poems because each poem is like a sequel that have relation from one poem to other poem the researcher has choosen. Those selected poems are “Still I Rise”, “Phenomenal Woman”, and “Weekend Glory”. These selected poems are analyzed under the concept of black feminism. This theory aims to help the analysis of black power expressed in Maya Angelou’s selected poems.

1.2 Statement of the Problems

Relating to the discussion of black power represented in Maya Angelou’s selected poems, this study formulates the following questions:

1. How do black women face racial injustice in “Still I Rise”?
2. How do black women face racial stereotype in “Phenomenal Woman”?
3. How do black women face racial prejudice in “Weekend Glory”?

1.3 Objectives of the Study

Relating to the research questions, this research concerns of presenting a description of black power represented in Maya Angelou's selected poems. Thus, the writer intends to present the following objectives:

1. To reveal how black women face the racial injustice in "Still I Rise".
2. To show how black women face the racial stereotype in "Phenomenal Woman".
3. To portray how black women face the prejudice in "Weekend Glory".

1.4 Significance of the Study

The writer expects that this research can be useful both theoretically and practically. Theoretically, this study is expected to be useful as a reference for understanding and analyzing literary works using feminist theory, especially black feminism. Practically, this study expects the common readers to be aware of any issue of racism so that they can avoid any racial behavior towards others, especially towards women. Moreover, this study also expects the female readers to gain insight that women should not feel objectified and subordinated because of their race and color that they should live their life more confidently.

1.5 Scope and Limitation

This study focuses on how the speaker faces the racial problem in Maya Angelou's selected poems those are "Still I Rise", "Phenomenal Woman", and

“Weekend Glory”. The researcher use feminism theory spesifically black feminism and new criticism to reveal any racial or sexism problems that black women used to face and how they deal with the problems through figurative language and imagery.

1.6 Methods of the Study

1.6.1. Research Design

In order to answer the problems stated in part 1.2, the researcher conducts library research. The research uses descriptive qualitative method. The method is used because the analysis of black power in Angelou’s selected poems in words instead of the number.

1.6.2. Data

This study uses two kinds of data; primary data and secondary data. The main data are taken from Maya Angelou’s selected poems “Still I Rise”, “Phenomenal Woman”, and “Weekend Glory”. Meanwhile, the supporting data are taken from the references related to the main data. The references include the author’s biography, the history of the poems, and the applied of feminism spesifically black feminism and new criticism theories.

1.6.3. Data Collection

Briefly stated, the steps to collect the data are as follow:

- (1) Conducting general reading to the poems;
- (2) Selecting and classifying the related references that consists of black woman and Maya Angelou’s work;

- (4) Recording the data from the poems and the references based on the statement of the problems by taking note and highlighting the words; and
- (5) Conducting the analysis.

1.6.4. Data Analysis

Meanwhile, the analysis itself is gradually conducted as follow:

- (1) Analyzing the way black women face racial injustice revealed in “Still I Rise”;
- (2) Analyzing the way black women face stereotype showed in “Phenomenal Woman”
- (3) Analyzing the way black women face prejudice portrayed in “Weekend Glory”
and
- (4) Concluding the analysis on how the black women face racial injustice, racial stereotype, and racial prejudice in Maya Angelou’s selected poems.

CHAPTER II

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Feminism

Feminism is a theory relating to the phenomenon of women issues in society. Talking about feminism means to talk about women. Feminism is, definitely, identical with women, specifically in their struggle to achieve equality with men. According to Freedman, “feminism is a term that emerged long after women started questioning their inferior status and demanding of amelioration in their social position” (3). Moreover, Geoff argues that “feminism is a woman organization that struggles for equal rights and significance of woman” (837). The word feminism as well be employed to define a radical, racial, or economic movement to gain rights and legitimate protection for women. Feminism encompasses political, racial and sociological theories, as well as philosophies focused on problems of gender difference. Moreover, it is a movement which campaigns for women’s rights and interests.

Feminism is a term that arose long after women began to questioning their inferior status and depending on an enrichment in their social position (Freedman 3). And in a challenge at some categories of classification, histories of feminism have discussed the historical advent of resilient feminist movements at altered moments as

a sequence of 'waves,' they are the firstwave feminism, the second-wave feminism, and the third-wave feminism as well.

In its historical development feminism is divided into three waves. Selden explained that the first-wave feminism developed in America and Britain in the late of 19th century and the early 20th century. In this wave, the movement stressed on The Women's Rights and Women's suffrage movements. They were very crucial determinants in shaping this phase, with their emphasis on social, political and economic reform. The figures are Virginia Woolf and Simon de Beauvoir. Virginia Woolf considers women's situation as a writer then exploded the dominance of the major professions by men. She was a journalist; a job which was dominated by men. Therefore she made a list of job preference between man and woman. She also stated that if women were to develop their artistic abilities to the full, she felt it was necessary to establish social economic equality with men (118).

Moreover, Selden also stated that the second-wave feminism happened in the 1960s. It was triggered by the frustrations of white, heterosexual, and middle-class American women who were careless and trapped in domesticity. This movement put feminism on the national agenda, substantively and for the first time. In this wave, the movement found its radicality. The women demanded the same right, position as well as an occupation with men (120-121).

And the last wave is the third-wave feminism which began in the early of 1990s. it is called as Post feminism in which women realize to the difference between male and female. Women comprehend that both men and women need to

actualize themselves without treating ‘the opponent’ as their rivals. Women refuse the idea to ignore or reject men in their life. They are partners who have a different portion and a different way in actualizing their existence (Dinurriyah 70).

In this third wave, feminism raised another term of feminism that is called black feminism. This term appeared since the problem of white women and black women are different although they live in the same nation. Black women are always seen as the lowest class in white society. The struggle of being a black woman was hardly more difficult than white women. If the white women had to deal with issues of sexism, the black women had to deal with the issues of both sexism and racism. As Collins stated in her book “The lives of African American women have been affected by racism, sexism, classism, and colorization” (11).

A. Black Feminism

There are some types of feminism which characterize the different struggle which is faced by women in the world. However, they only focused mainly on the problems experienced by white middle-class women (Dreserova 115). Feminism is continued by building the classifications division of feminist’s depending on ethnic, race, language, and religion (Assaffie 88)

“Because of these divisions and the apathy of white feminists toward the problems of women who are different from their groups, they neglect to notice the struggle of women of color” (Dreserova 115), like African-American women even though they are, in fact, are sisters and live in the same land. Moreover, white women rejected to back up the struggle of black women intended for their rights (Izgarjan &

Markoz 22). Knowing this fact, black women scholars make a new movement known as the black feminist movement. “Black feminism is a political and social movement which focuses on the liberation of black women by ending the interlocking system of racism, sexism, and classism on the economic, political and ideological levels”

(Collins 98). One of the important person of black feminism is Bell Hooks. Bell Hooks is the American author of “Ain’t a woman” book which is tell about women’s rights, oppression and race.

Collins then adds that “although the name of the first black women movement is black feminism, most of them are not willing to call themselves “feminist” since they think that feminism is the exclusive term if white women, not black women they refer to themselves as “womanist”(7). This term is understood to be the depiction of black women or who struggle from oppression and discrimination.

► **Sexism**

According to Settembrini, sexism is the assumption that the members of one sex collectively are superior of those of the other, together with the resultant differentiation practiced against members of the supposed inferior sex, especially by men against women. the term is also used to designate conformity with the traditional stereotyping of social roles on the basis of sex (1180).

► **Racism**

American women of all races are socialized to think of racism solely in the context of race hatred. Specifically in the case of black and white people, the terms racism is usually seen as synonymous with discrimination or prejudice against black

people by white people. For most women, the first knowledge of racism as institutionalized oppression is engendered either by direct personal experience or through information gleaned from conversations, books, television, or movies. Consequently, the American woman's understanding of racism as political tool of colonialism and imperialism is severely limited. To experience the pain of race hatred or to witness that pain is not to understand its origin, evolution, or impact on world history. The inability of American women to understand racism in the context of American politics is not due to any inherent deficiency in woman's psyche. It merely reflects the extent of our victimization (Hook 119).

2.1.2 New Criticism

New Criticism is a process in analyzing literary works that will be more focused on the intrinsic element of the literary work. As Tyson stated in his book *Critical Theory Today*, new criticism is "one of the literary theories which dominated literary studies from the 1940s through 1960s, has left a lasting imprint on the way we read and write about literature" (135)

Since the researcher will analyze the black women problem in the poem, intrinsic elements will be helpful to obtain the deeper meaning of the poem. Wellek and Warren argue "A study of literary work should have been based on interpretation and analysis of the literary work itself" (157). Thus, the researcher will use some intrinsic elements from the poem, such as theme, imagery, and figurative language.

Based on Leech and Short in Ahsan, “Poetry is one kind of literary work which its aesthetic effect cannot be separated from creative manipulation of the linguistic code which expressed through language” (7). Etymologically, poetry comes from the Greek term ‘poises’ which means ‘a making, forming, creating (in words), or the art of poetry, or a poem.’ The ancient people have used it, and the most cultured have cultivated. In all centuries, poetry has been carved and excitedly read or heeded by all kinds and circumstance of people. That is for the reason that it has given pleasure; people have recited or listen to it as they love it for its satisfaction.

A Poem is one of literary work that has the most decisive expressions; the component of literary work displays ordinary verses in the arts of literature. Reading a poem point to artistic value and provides us a literary pleasure, so the poem is produced, narrated and read by people to relish them and the psychological feature in the ancient and at the presentday. Thus, people always love poems. The development of civilization mostly connected to the interest of poems is an enhancement in appreciating.

➤ **Structure of Poems**

There are four main aspects of poems. Pardede in Sembiring says, “the aspects of a poem are sense, feeling, tone, and intention” (24). Pardede in Sembiring in her coaching materials “Understanding Poetry” mentions some terms of versification, those are:

1. Verse

Verse is a solo line of poetry or regular metric line. Verses are divided into two kinds those are blank verse and free verse. The blank verse usually called as unrhymed verse, especially the unrhymed iambic pentameter most repeatedly used in English theatrical, heroic, and reflective verse. Free verse is the verse that does not have and does not follow a permanent metrical pattern.

2. Line

Generally, a row of written or printed words called as a line. In a poem, the poetic line might look like an arbitrary length. A line might end in the mid of a sentence, that makes us break for a second (pause) in reading it before we jump to the end of the statement. This pause in a line is named caesura. If the break approaches exactly in the middle of a line, it is named as a medial caesura.

3. Stanza

Stanza is a regular combination of two or more verse, lines in term of length, metrical form, and regularly rhymed scheme. A stanza is an arbitrary and regular division of poetry containing feet number of lines. Kinds of the stanza are:

- Couplet is the shortest common stanza which consists of two lines.
- Tercet is stanza which consists of three lines.
- Quatrain is stanza which consists of four lines.
- Quintet is stanza which consists of five lines.
- Sestet is stanza which consists of six lines.
- Septet is stanza which consists of seven lines.
- Octave is stanza which consists of eight lines.

4. Syntax

The syntax seems to be the important things of a poem. In other words, more familiar ways, uncommon word order able to give a special poetic effect. Placing a sentence out of its normal elements is named as Inversion. The most common use of inversion is the noun, in such expression as ‘house beautiful’ or ‘lady fair’ of some varieties of inversion.

A. Elements of Poetry

The elements of poetry have eight main elements, which that embrace together to create a fascinating poem. “The main feature of all these data eight units is to provide easy-to-read flow, synchronized expression and necessary meaning to the composition” (Jones in Ahsan11).

1) Theme

Every poem has a theme. It is not expressed randomly. Some thoughts and expressions are matched together, to give an appropriate theme to the poem. In fact, the theme could be defined as the atmosphere of a poem. It is literally what the author wants to express through his words. It might either be a thought, a feeling, an observation, a story or an experience.

2) Symbolism

Symbolism is the pragmatic expression in poetry. In a poem the expression usually is not direct. Rather, it creates use of some symbolic and virtual elements and

themes to prompt the deep hidden meaning behind the words. Symbolism use to gives a further reflective to the poem.

3) Meter

The basic structure of a poem is meter. It is refers to the pattern of stressed and unstressed syllable in verse. In English verse, meter is based on stress rather than quantity. A line may have a fixed number of syllables and yet have varying number of stresses. As a rule meter keeps to a basic pattern within which there are many variations. A common form of variation is substitution. (Penguin Dictionary).

4) Rhythm

For an even flow of expression, a melodic symphony in the poem is necessary. An arid and shattered piece of literature may never ever be good poetry, in spite of having a good theme. Yet, it is not the rhyming flanked by two words of successive lines, rather the resonation of words through the sounds and the music manufactured, once the poem is read aloud. This musical link cannot be separated in a poem.

5) Rhyme

A rhyme can or cannot show in a poem. Free stanza variation of poetry does not follow this structure. Though, where present, the design is shown in different forms, such as aa, bb, cc (line number one rhymes with the number 2, number three with number four, and so on) and ab, ab (line number one rhymes with number three and number two with number four). Rhyme has a significant role in giving rhythm

and flow to a poem which helps in keeping up the reader's interest. (Penguin Dictionary)

6) Alliteration

A figure of speech in which consonants, especially at the beginning of words, or stressed syllables, are repeated. Though, most of the poets use it, therefore, to give their poem a lovely sound effect. In this, some words in a line might be starting from the similar word as for example say 'M', say 'musical melody of the mystic minstrels'. Alliteration is mainly a way to like poetry. (Penguin Dictionary).

7) Figurative Language

“Figurative language is the language using figures of speech and the language that cannot be taken literally to captivate readers' interest and deliver our idea an imagination in a more entertaining way” (Perrine 605). This kind of language is regularly appeared in a poem to make the readers more fascinated although sometimes there needsto be a different interpretation in interpreting the figurative language. Using figurative language is further effective to say what individuals mean rather than with “a direct statement as figurative language afford people imaginative pleasure, it is a way of bringing additional imagery into verse, is a way of adding emotional intensity to otherwise merely informative statements, is a way of saying much in brief compass” (Perrine 605).

There are some types of figurative language that are applied to the analysis of this study to help to get the deeper meaning. Those types of figurative language are explained as follow:

a. Simile

Perrine defines simile as “Simile is the comparison expressed by the use of some word or phrase, such as like, as, than, similar to, resembles, or seems” (605). For example, the poem by Robert Burns which has the simile “My love is like a red, red rose.” It attaches to the comparison between love and red rose using the word “like.”

b. Metaphor

“Metaphor is a direct comparison made between things that are essentially not alike” (Perrine 605). Moreover, Wainwright adds that “metaphor can be described as a figure which expresses one thing in terms of another by suggesting a likeness between them” (5). Both explanation simply that that metaphor is comparing two things which are fundamentally different, but they have an object which can be compared. For illustration Shakespeare once stated that “All the world’s a stage”. From the quotation, Shakespeare is comparing two things world and stage. They are different things, but they have something similar. The world is compared to a stage as the world has people who perform and made-up like and actor in the stage.

c. Repetition

A poet frequently repeats particular lines or entire stanza at intervals to emphasize a certain idea. According to Shetty, repetition is “a figure of speech in which a word or a group of words is repeated for poetic effects” (135). Repetition is found in poetry which is pointing to a special musical effect or when a poet wants to

focus on a very close intention to something. For example the repetition of the word ‘water’ in these lines from a poem titled *Ancient Mariner*:

“*Water, water, everywhere*”

“*And all these boards did shrink*”

“*Water, water, everywhere*”

“*Not any drop to drink*”

d. Hyperbole

“Hyperbole, or overstatement, is simply an exaggeration and, but exaggeration in the service of truth” (Perrine 646). This overstatement can make several effects such as humor, grave, fanciful, restrained, convincing, and unconvincing. For example when someone says “I will eat you if you do not love me” shows that he would like his partner to love him instead of betraying his partner.

8) Imagery

Perrine defines imagery as “the representation through language of sense experience” (594). A poet may use imagery to create a certain image of several things and several circumstances. It is effective to remind the person who reads the poem about the sense to feel what the writer feels. There are some types of imagery, which are:

1. Visual imagery

Visual imagery is the picture which could be seen with an eye such as color and shape of a certain thing. For example is a poem by Robert Browning *Meeting at*

Night. This poem is a poem which tells about the gladness and the experience of having love. However, the author of this poem does not openly state about love and does not use the word “love”. Browning chooses to compare the gladness of love to the vision of the lovely sea. He states:

“The gray sea and the long black land”

“And the yellow half-moon large and low”

“And the startled little waves that leap”

“In fiery ringlets from their sleep..”.

From the part of Browning poem above can make the reader feel the “gray of the sea,” “the yellow of half-moon,” and “the wave which have little splash,” The readers can feel the thing what the author has seen by eyes.

2. Auditory imagery

Auditory imagery is the image which is correlated to which can be heard like a sound. For examples like the sound of leaves blown by the wind, the sound of the tide, the sound of the howl, the sound of crying, sounds of birds, and many more.

3. Gustatory imagery

Gustatory imagery is imagery which is connected to the sense of taste. It defines something that can make the readers imagine the taste. For example “The salty sweet flavor of salt water taffy was Carrie’s very favorite thing about going to the beach for summer vacation.” The phrase “the salty sweet flavor of salt water” portrayed about how the taste of water in the beach.

4. Tactile imagery

Tactile imagery the image which purposes to arouse the reader's sense linked to the smell of something such as freshly baked bread, the smell of flower blooms, and the smell of the ground poured rain.

5. Organic imagery

Organic imagery is the image which provokes an internal sense such as thirst, starvation, fatigue or sickness.

6. Kinesthetic imagery

Kinesthetic imagery is the image which portrays the sense of body movement, gesture, touch, feelings, and the temperature.

2.2 Review of Previous Studies

Sembiring (2011) wrote a thesis, "An Analysis of Feminism in Maya Angelou's Selected Poems." Those poems are "Caged Bird", "Equality", "Men", "Phenomenal Woman", "Remembrance", and "Still I Rise". In this research, she used descriptive analysis method. She found that feminism thoughts were found in the seven poems of Maya Angelou and the events during which women often get the unpleasant treatment of men. The result of her research can be concluded that the women depicted by Maya Angelou in her poems have struggled to fight to earn their right to challenge the beliefs and the patriarchal society.

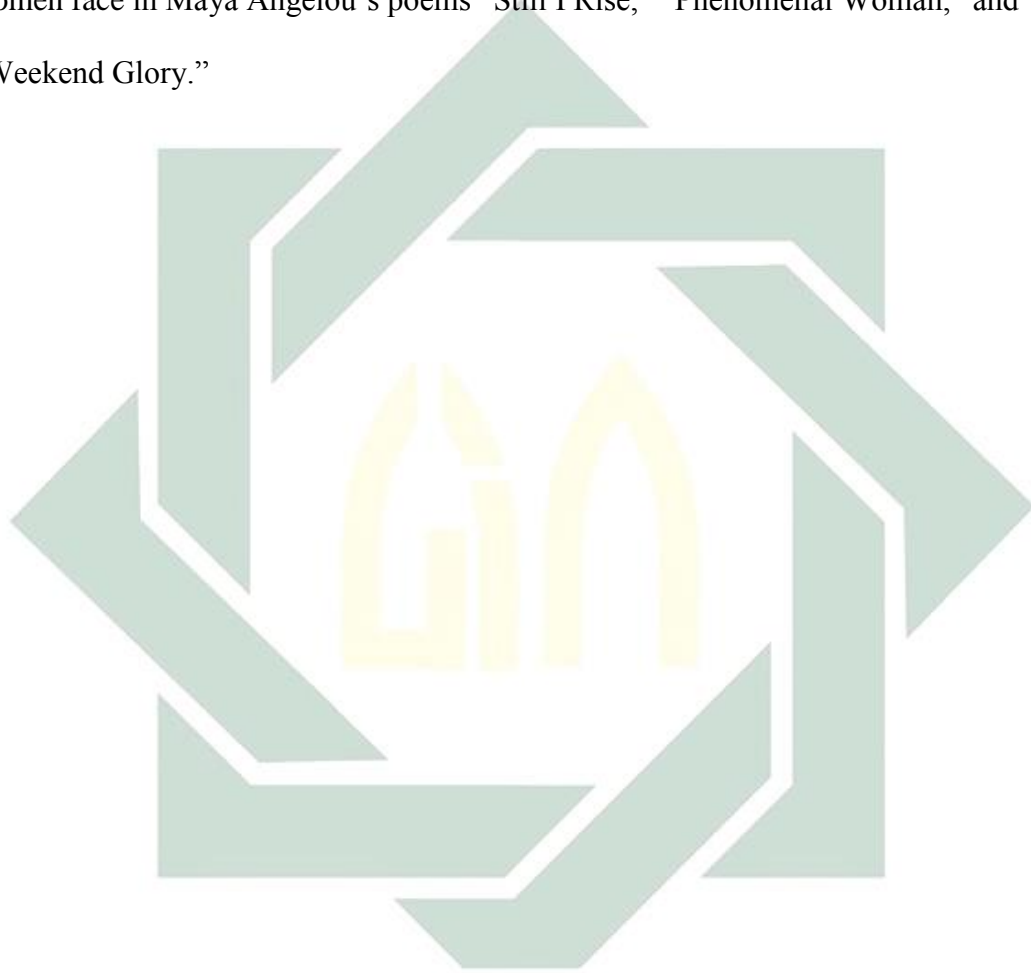
Another research using feminism theory is conducted by Ilham (2015) in her thesis "*Racism Reflected in Maya Angelou's Poems.*" The poems that she analysed

are “My Guilt”, “The Calling of Names”, “Riot: 60s”, “Harlem Hopscotch”, “On Working White Liberal”, “One More Round”, “Sephia Fashion Show”, “The Thirteen (Black) and The Thirteen (White)”, “Our Grandmother”, “America”, “Afrika” and “Ain’t That Bad”. She founds that Maya Angelou’s poems reflected racism based on the poem textual content and the expression in the poem. The result of this research shows there are types of slavery and racism in Maya Angelou’s poem containing slavery, discrimination, isolation, domination, partiality and stereotypes and class struggle.

The last study is done by Janouskova (2005). His paper emphasizes on survival theme in Maya Angelou’s poetry. Janouskova does not specify the poems of Maya Angelou which he analyzes, though it is showed that he investigates all poems in Maya Angelou’s collection poems book as the examination of his paper consist of numerous titles of Angelou’s poems. The result is that the survival theme in Maya Angelou’s poems could be seen from the struggle, pride, and bravery of black woman. The survival feature also is recognized through comedy, melody, and faith in Angelou’s poetry since Angelou create some odes as a poem, as well as give comedy and religious sense in several of her poems.

Most of the study mentioned above have discussed Maya Angelou’s poem which tends to reveal the discrimination, racism, life, and the struggle experienced by African-American women by using feminism theory. However, the feminism theory itself only focused on the women (generally White woman (Caucasian)) and not specific for Black women. Since the problem experienced by White women and

Black women are differences, so does the researcher will employ the black feminism theory to this research since the poem of Maya Angelou talks about Black women. It has been seen that the study which concerns on the black power in Maya Angelou's selected poems is still limited, so the researcher attempts to racial problems Black women face in Maya Angelou's poems "Still I Rise," "Phenomenal Woman," and "Weekend Glory."



CHAPTER III

RACIAL PROBLEMS IN “STILL I RISE”, “PHENOMENAL WOMAN” AND “WEEKEND GLORY”

The analysis of Angelou’s selected poems is divided into three parts based on the statement of the problems. The problems mainly about the black power that the speaker reveals to address any racial problems she faces in her life. The first part is about racial injustice revealed in “Still I Rise”. The second part of the analysis is about racial stereotype showed in “Phenomenal Woman”. The last part deals with racial prejudice portrayed in “Weekend Glory”.

3.1 Racial Injustice Black Women Face in “Still I Rise”

In the poem “Still I Rise”, African-American women had to face many problems in the society. The Black women always get oppressed because of their skin color. As Collins said, “Oppression describes any unjust situation where, systematically and over a long period of time, one group denies another group access to the resources of society” (Collins 4). The forms of oppression that happen in the United States commonly relate to the issues about race, class, gender, sexuality, nation, age, and ethnicity.

In this poem, the speaker founds the problem she faces is about injustice and hatred, however, she will never give up to overcome the problem and change it into her power. She will never give up to struggle to gain a bright life for her and for other

African-American. She won't give up of it and will move forward to reach it. She struggles very hard in order to have her right as a human being. The problem that Black women faces in this poem are shown through the diction and some figurative language that the speaker uses.

"Still I Rise" consists of forty-three lines divided into eight stanzas. However, each stanza does not have the same number of lines. Each stanza tells about Black woman problems has to face related to the injustice and hatred of the white society during the slavery era.

Firstly, in the first stanza, the speaker depicts her problem that she faces is about her painful history in the past that the society made up the story about African-American woman. In the first stanza, the speaker struggles to survive even though she often get bad treatments from the others and because of her different skin color. The speaker always discriminated by society.

"You may write me down in history/
With your bitter, twisted lies,/
You may trod me in the very dirt/
But still, like dust, I'll rise." (lines 1-4)

In the first line "You may write me down in history" and the second line "With your bitter twisted lies" the speaker tells her story in the past during the slavery era. The speaker indicates a lies and mute discrimination that ambiances the history of African-American women. The speaker tries to show that the oppressors try to make her look terrible and meaningless as a human. In this stanza, she portrays her situation

and power to survive in society as a Black woman. It is portrayed through the simile in line four “But still, like dust, I’ll rise”. In this line, the simile shows the speaker’s condition in her real life. The word “dust” is “tiny particles of earth or waste matter lying on the ground or on surfaces or carried in the air” (Oxford). The speaker compare herself with dust that is nothing but the dust can raise if carried by the air. Air can be interpret as an effort or struggle to raise from nothing to something. The oppressors always look the speaker like dust that has no value and meaningless in society. The oppressors make the Black women think that they are nothing. However, the speaker frequently says that the dust will rise, it means that even though the history has been challenging and hard, but the spirit will conquer. The speaker wants to show that the dust can rise from the ground. Although the speaker faces so many problems and difficult condition that will make her become stronger and stronger. She tries to show to others how persistent she is to get through all the oppression and discrimination she faces. Thus what the speaker says dust that will rise, in political sector can be seen that the Black women are able to raise. It proven with the black woman who become the Minister of Foreign Affairs. She is Condoleeza Rice, the black woman that succed to raise through the political sector.

In addition, the problem that the speaker faces in the society can be seen in the second stanza through another simile. In this stanza, she considers that she is not a weak woman and she asks questions to the oppressors:

“Does my sassiness upset you? /

Why are you beset with gloom? /

‘Cause I walk like I’ve got oil wells /

Pumping in my living room.” (lines 5-8)

In this stanza, the speaker approaches as a confident, sassy, Black woman is out of the standard for society. The simile can be seen in the seventh line “Cause I walk like I’ve got oil wells” (Angelou 163). In this line, simile is used to depict her pride as a Black woman. Oil is a luxurious thing, a natural resource that is priceless, and always needed by a human. The speaker uses oil well in comparing her pride and dignity in order to state that her self-confidence as a Black woman really matters. It is priceless, and it is worth more than anything material, like oil. Factually, Black people have been economically oppressed and governmentally subjugated in the U.S. political economy in the past. It does not mean that all African-Americans have been poor, yet most are in the present. It is very contrasted with the message found inside the poem. In the poem, the speaker shows that she is rich and the oppressors are pathetic. This stanza displays the self-confidence of being black and the self-doubt of being the oppressors. In lines 13 to 16 the speaker also asks questions to the oppressors:

“Did you want to see me broken? /

Bowed head and lowered eyes? /

Shoulders falling down like teardrops, /

Weakened by my soulful cries?” (lines 13-16)

In these lines, the speaker faces the problem about the hatred against African-American woman from the society. She is questioning why they want to see her broken? Why they hate her race while they are same as a woman who lives in the

same nation. The hatred from the society can be seen through the simile in the lines thirteenth “Do you want to see me broken?” and lines fourteenth “Bowed head and lowered eyes?” it is clear that the oppressors hate the Black woman and want to see her knocked down on the floor just like something not worthy. The hatred from the oppressors are strengthened in the following lines:

“You may shoot me with your words, /
 You may cut me with your eyes, /
 You may kill me with your hatefulness, /
 But still, like air, I’ll rise”. (lines 22-25)

In lines twenty-one “You may shoot me with your words,” and twenty-two “You may cut me with your eyes”, the speaker tells her experiences of being an African-American woman. It is shown that the oppressors always attack the speaker not physically but mentally to make the speaker feels down and discriminated only by word and gaze. In real life, the Black women always face racism such as bad nickname like they called as “Nigga” or “Niger” by the society. The society designated “Nigga” to call someone who is from African-American descent.

Moreover, in line twenty-two, the words “cut me with your eyes” means that the society prejudices the African-American woman as a crime. The society image the Black women who are the people that always close to the crime scene or do the bad things. The Black women are always underestimated that they only able to do the unhonored job like as a slave or slut. In addition, in line twenty-three “You may kill me with your hatefulness” seen in this line, it shows that what the society treat toward

a Black woman is deep down it will kill her from the inside. They kill the personality and self-confidence of the speaker so does she will have no confidence and power to live the life. But still, in this stanza, the speaker can stay strong and get through this condition just like air. This could be seen through the line twenty-fourth as she emphasizes “But still, like air, I’ll rise.” This she shows her power again that no matter how hard the oppressor knocked her down she still can survive in the rough society as Black woman.

Furthermore, the speaker shows that she can survive and overcome the problem with their pride as a Black woman through the metaphor she uses in the poem. The metaphor here is to show her identity as a woman from the black race. In line thirty-three, the speaker uses a metaphor, “I’m a black ocean, leaping and wide”. The word “black” in the poem represents the speaker identity as African-American woman and she is proud of it. The word ocean means “a very large expanse of the sea” (Merriam-Webster 2012). The speaker uses the metaphor of ‘Black Ocean’ as the parable of herself and other African-American women. The ‘black ocean’ in this poem means the huge number of Black women expand and widespread throughout the world.

Lastly, the speaker uses repetition in this poem to emphasize that eventhough she has faced so many problems in her life at the end she can still rise and survive from those difficult situations. In this last stanza, the speaker displays that she will survive no matter what the condition is. Through the repetition in line forty and forty-three “I rise / I rise / I rise” she strengthens her idea that she won’t give up to stand

above her problems. The speaker emphasizes her passion and self-confidence. She states that she rejects to be knocked on the floor, No matter how difficult the barriers she will faces in front of her, the result will always be the same. She repeats the words “I rise” to show how persistent she is to struggle against the discrimination and oppression, she also wants to motivate the others to never give up on what they are struggling for. Like in this poem the speaker struggles to gain her rights as a human being.

3.2 Racial Stereotype Black Women Face in “Phenomenal Woman”

The second poem, “Phenomenal Woman”, talks about a woman that has confidence in herself eventhough she is from the black race. She does not care about what people think toward Black women image in society. The speaker of the poem begins every stanza by describing her situations and how people treat her as a Black woman.

In this poem, the black power arose to shows what the Black woman thought about herself. All African-American women that live in white society experience the same problems that historically humiliate women from the descendant of African they live like living in the different world from those who are not black and female. The exact experiences that growth to living as a Black woman in the U.S. can “stimulate a distinctive consciousness concerning their experiences and society overall” (Collins 24).

What the Black women had faced, it gives the speaker a unique viewpoint of idea regarding the Black woman. As members of an oppressed and powerless group, Black women are more likely to have a critical understanding of the condition of oppression than those living outside these structures. The speaker who is from African-American descent can understand the condition when someone is oppressed by different colors and gender. The speaker here is also trying to change the idea that women are a weak creature without the right to speak publicly. She points out in this poem that she is a black and a woman, she can become a 'phenomenal' being in society. A Black woman usually does not have the courage to speak out her mind. In this poem, however, the speaker challenges to express her idea that she was a woman and she also showed her self-confidence and power as a phenomenal Black woman. In this poem, the speaker uses diction and figurative language to show the black power of the speaker as a Black woman.

In the first stanza, the speaker uses visual imagery to show her power through the statement that she is special. This can be seen in line 1 to 4:

“Pretty women wonder where my secret lies /
 I’m not cute or built to suit a fashion model’s size /
 But when I start to tell them, /
 They think I’m telling lies” (lines 1-4).

In the second line, the words “not cute” and the phrase “not built a fashion model’s size” means that the speaker physical appearance is not like as a model. A model usually has a skinny body, long hair, white skin, and beautiful but the speaker is not

like what the model looks like. However, the speaker is still proud of being her as a Black woman even though she does not look like a model. Here, the speaker displays the black power that she can freely express her thoughts about herself and others. Through the visual imagery, she portrays her images as someone who is proud of her identity.

Another imagery that the speaker uses found in the following lines:

“The span of my hips /
The stride of my step /
The curl of my lips” (lines 7-9).

This stanza shows the hip, step, and lips of the speaker. Yet, How long is the hip, how is the step stride and how are the curls of the lips are not specified. The hips, steps, and lips of a woman can be described here as the hips, steps, and lips of a very confident Black woman. Through these lines, the speaker described a woman as someone who has pride and inner strength.

Moreover, the speaker uses metaphor and visual imagery in this poem to express her self-confidence and her power. She provides the idea that she is not a powerless woman anymore. It is found in the second stanza:

“It’s the fire in my eyes, /
And the flash of my teeth, /
The swing in my waist, /
And the joy of my feet.” (lines 22-25)

It shows how the eye, teeth, waist, and feet of the woman are represented. The phrase “Fire in my eyes” means the eyes filled with passion and spirit, for the fire symbolizes the spirit of flames. “The flash of my teeth” gives the portrayal of the shines teeth. The women who always smile because they show the flash of their teeth can also be interpreted as it. “The swing in my waist” shows how the woman moves. “And the joy of my feet” portrays how a woman's foot moves joyfully. In the line twenty-two “It’s a fire in my eyes” the speaker shows how pride she is of being herself. “Fire is the phenomenon of combustion manifested in light, flame and heat, or a burning passion is another definition” (Meriam Webster 2012). In this poem, the fire shows the passion of the speaker who can attract a lot of people to pay attention to her. It depicts her self-confidence that she is an African-American. The African-American women who have no power and other historically oppressed groups are looking for ways to escape, survive and compete against the dominant social injustice. They have confidence in themselves that they have the right to show how determined they are to put an end to their oppression and discrimination. Their strong confidence can empower the speaker and other black women to express their feelings and strive for a better condition.

In addition, in this poem, the speaker uses repetition in order to express the black power that she is “different” and “phenomenal”. It can be seen in the four last lines of every stanza. The repetition is used to emphasize that she is a phenomenal woman.

“I’m a woman /

Phenomenally. /

Phenomenal woman, /

That's me.” (lines 10-13).

The speaker frequently uses this sentences at the end of every stanza to emphasize her strength and power that she does not care about people perception toward her, No matter what people image about her she will never lose her pride that she is a phenomenal Black woman.

In the slavery era, African-American women cannot regard themselves as gorgeous women because of their physical appearance such as their “dark skin, broad noses, full lips, and kinky hair” (Collins 89). The speaker as an African-American woman in the poem “Phenomenal Woman” does not consider herself as a beautiful woman but she is proud of being her and she is proud of being black descent. She attempts to demonstrate that beauty is not only about the physical appearance. The self-confidence of being herself and can accept what she is is more important. The speaker repeatedly says that she is a special being and she is proud of it.

Furthermore, the speaker also uses hyperbole to emphasize that she has a strong personality. It is found in the second stanza. The speaker uses hyperbole in order to strengthen her black power. The hyperbole here is used to show the speaker authority and power to those who always see her as a powerless woman and always underestimate her.

“And to a man /

The fellows stand or /

Fall down on their knees” (lines 16-18).

As African-American woman, the speaker shows her power through hyperbole to show her power and her self-confidence that can defeat men with her inner strength. She shows the senses that the man as the oppressors will bow and crawl to her as the oppressed and African-American woman. Black power involves general knowledge that helps aAfrican-American woman to survive in differential treatment, to deal with it and resist it. The speaker as the representative of Black women displays her black power to explicit her power as a Black woman. The discrimination and oppression from the society make the speaker see things differently and she feels that she is designated to live like other people. Through this stanza, the speaker believes that the oppressor will admit her as a Black woman in the society.

3.3 Racial Prejudice Black Women Face in “Weekend Glory”

The third poem, like the earlier poem “Phenomenal Woman”, shows the speaker’s black power to survive in society. “Weekend Glory” displays African-American woman’s capability to be grateful for her life no matter of her condition she has faced. Through this poem, the speaker tries to show her point of view about the lifestyle of white people which she considers artificial and ungrateful.

“Weekend Glory” consists of fifty-one lines divided into eight stanzas.

However, each stanza does not have the same number of lines. Each stanza tells about the chronology of white people’s lifestyle compared to the speaker’s way of life.

“Some dighty folks /
don't know the facts, /
posin' and preenin' /
and putting' on acts, /
stretchin' their necks /
and strainin' their backs” (lines 1-6).

In the first stanza of this poem, the speaker displays her pride and power that she has a better life rather than the one who oppressed and discriminated her. This can be seen in this stanza through the visual imagery. The visual imagery here is used by the speaker to make the reader illustrate a group of women that cannot be compared with her as African-American woman.

In the first line, the word “dighty” in “Some dighty folks” refers to those from the white society that is a fool and just talk nonsense about the Black woman. Dighty is originated from the word ‘dicty’. It is a slang expression which means “high-class, stylish, or snobbish and pretentious”. (Dictionary). However, the word ‘dicty’ undergoes a slightly change because the word is used in the black vernacular English, thus it becomes ‘dighty’. The context in this poem is about black, so the word has slightly changed as since the speaker is a Black woman.

The second line “don’t know the fact” means that the whites just talk some nonsense without knowing the fact about what life should be. They do not know the fact and the truth about the life of a Black woman or Black people in general. Through lines “posin’ and preenin” (line 3) and “and puttin’ on acts” (line 4), the speaker tries to show that the whites just pretend that they have an excellent life. The words “posin’ and preenin” means to act and to pretend. Here posin’ and preenin’ are an attractive alliteration Maya Angelou’s uses which pointed to a person that is pretended and acted like they have a lifestyle which actually does not belong to them. The whites act and pretend that their life is better than the speaker’s but it is actually not the truth.

“They move into condos /
 up over the ranks, /
 pawn their souls /
 to the local banks./
 Buyin' big cars /
 they can't afford, /
 ridin' around town /
 actin' bored”. (line 7-14)

In this stanza, the speaker reveals the life of white people that they live beyond means just to impress other people even though it will sacrifice their soul. They compel

themselves to buy something fancy to upgrade their level in society that is actually, in fact, the market is not for them.

The phrases “They move into condos / up over the ranks / pawn their souls / to the local banks” (lines 7-10) mean that they will do anything to fulfill their desire to have something luxurious. It is strengthened in the following lines “Buyin’ big cars / they can’t afford, / ridin’ around town / actin’ bored.” (lines 11-14). It can be seen from those lines what the white people life looks like is different with what their life actually like. It is just a cover. It is an artificial life because the whites want to show to others about their luxury life. They will do anything to be what they want people to see them as the high classes in society. They live consumptively, therefore they have to work hard even on weekend to pay the debts.

After describing the lifestyle of White people, the speaker of this poem attempts to give the idea that her life is better because she lives her life gratefully. It is expressed in stanza 3:

“If they want to learn how to live life right, /
they ought to study me on Saturday night”. (lines 15-16)

In the following stanza, the speaker shows that even if she only has an ordinary job as labor she can cost her life, fulfill her needs and save some of her money for donation. It can be seen in lines seventeen to twenty:

“My job at the plant /
ain’t the biggest bet, /

but I pay my bills /
and stay out of debt.” (lines 17-20)

through this stanza, the speaker tries to give sense to the readers how she lives her life gratefully about what she has eventhough she is not rich. However, she still can save some of her money to give to others as a donation to church like in the phrase “Take the church money out” (line 25).

In addition, out of what the speaker earns and spends, she still faces the prejudice for the whites who always underestimated her. As in lines thirty to thirty-three:

“Folks write about me. /
they just can't see /
how I work all week /
at the factory”. (lines 30-33)

White people do not know how Black women work hard at factory everyday. They work from day to day to earn money for their lives. White people always think that Black women live ignorantly though actually, it is the white who do so.

In the last stanza, the speaker also shows her black power that she has a strong personality and ability to overcome the problems that she faces as African-American woman. In this stanza, the speaker uses metaphor to displays her black power that is found in lines forty-four to forty-five:

“My life ain't heaven /
but it sure ain't hell /

I'm not on top /

but I call it swell" (lines 44-47).

Through the metaphor on these lines, the speaker attempts to compare her life with heaven and hell. The phrases "My life ain't heaven" (line 44) and "but it sure ain't hell" (line 45) shows that the speaker does not have a perfect life, but her life is as good as she wants to be. She reveals that she does not live in order to satisfy the others, which is the right way to live.

Moreover, she still can enjoy her life, do whatever makes her happy, and get paid job to cost her life because life is worth living. It can be seen in line forty-seven "but I call it swell". The word "swell" refers to very well or everything is going well (Dictionary). It means that the speaker can live very well out of the problems she has faced. She experiences the challenges that she has to face because of her different physical appearance and gender. She reveals that it is hard and challenging to live as African-American woman in white society. They have to struggle to survive.

The speaker believes that her life situations not only increase her sensitivity to rights and demands for power but also encourage her and many poor women to be brave to take action. In this stanza, the speaker wants to show that even though she is only a Black woman she can find her happiness in her own way. Thus, it does not make the speaker as a weak woman. She displays her pride and power as African-American woman. Regarding the circumstances that the speaker experiences due to her identity as African-American woman, she believes that her life is brighter than the one who oppressed and discriminated her.

In addition, in lines forty-eight to fifty-one the speaker also shows that even she is black she can live very well:

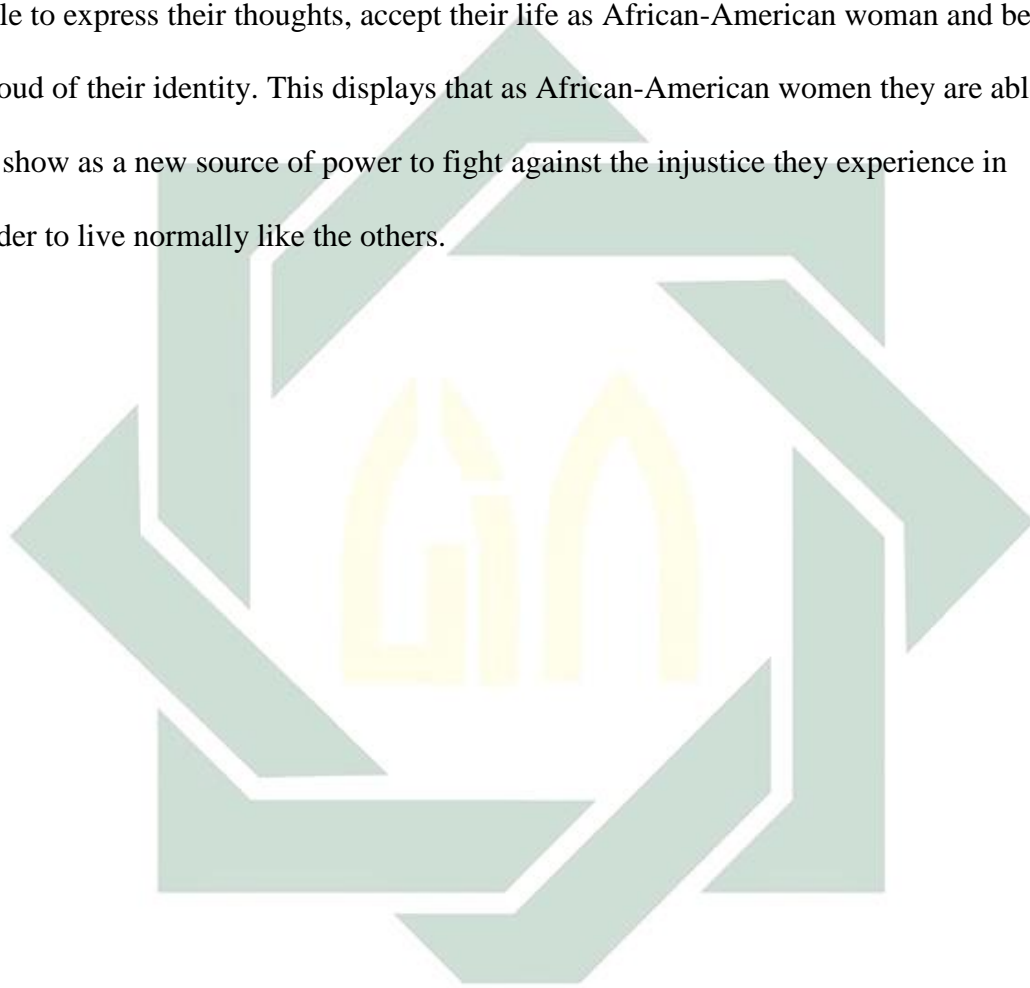
“if I’m able to work /
and get paid right /
and have the luck to be black /
on a Saturday night.” (lines 48-51)

From these lines, it can be seen that weekend is a very important part of life for most people. They have different activities to spend the weekend than on average weekdays that they spend most of the time to work. It can be interpreted that the weekend is a break from a long, challenging, of the monotonous daily routine. In “Weekend Glory” the speaker tries to portray what exactly the "glory" is during a weekend, and more generally in a fast- moving world that revolves around money, earned, and spent in many ways.

Phrases “and have the luck to be black” (line 50) and “on a Saturday night” (51) mean that black women spent the weekend differently than the whites. While other people spent their money to have fun, Black women have their weekend to earn money as well as to have fun as stated in the phrase “luck to be black” (line 50). This poem is published in ’80s, when black women in this era usually spent their weekend by having a job as a singer in a cafe or a concert and get better paid rather when they work in weekdays as labor. One of the examples is a concert with a Black woman as the singer. It happened in 1985 at Ellis Park Stadium where Brenda as the Black singer and The Big Dudes as the star. Thus, the word “Glory” is the glory for the

Black woman that no matter how hard the life is, how less she get paid, she still can enjoy the life eventhough she is not rich and has a lot of money. At least she knows how to live her life.

The three poems share the view that speakers can survive in society. They are able to express their thoughts, accept their life as African-American woman and be proud of their identity. This displays that as African-American women they are able to show as a new source of power to fight against the injustice they experience in order to live normally like the others.



CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTION

4.1 Conclusion

This research discusses the racial problems Black women face in Maya Angelou's selected three poems and found that there are different problems in every poem that the speaker has to face and how the speaker address the problem.

Three of Angelou's poems, "Still I Rise", "Phenomenal Woman", and "Weekend Glory" portray the speaker as an African-American woman. The analysis of those three poems finds that the speaker has self-confidence and strong personality as her power to overcome the problems she faced as a black woman.

Firstly, in the poem "Still I Rise" the speaker depicted her black power to survive in white society as a black woman. Through this poem, she displays that she can survive and overcome the problem with her pride as African-American woman still intact. The problem she faces in this poem is about injustice and hatred. However, she will never give up to overcome the problem and change it into her power. She will never give up to struggle to gain a bright life for her and for other African-American. Eventhough she has faced so many problems in her life at the end she can still rise and survive from those difficult situations.

Secondly, in the poem "Phenomenal Woman" the black power is expressed through the speaker who tries to tell that black woman should think highly about

herself. All African-American women that live in white society experience the same problems that they are historically humiliated women descended from the African live like in the different world from those who are not black and female. In this poem, however, the speaker challenges to convey the idea that she is a woman who has self-confidence and power as a phenomenal black woman. She tries to demonstrate that beauty is not only about the physical appearance. The self-confidence of being herself and can accept what she is is more important. The speaker insists that the perfection of beauty in the society cannot be compared with her self-esteem as African-American woman.

Thirdly, in poem “Weekend Glory” the speaker shows the speaker’s black power to survive in society. She shows her black power that she has a strong personality and ability to overcome the problems that she faces as African-American. “Weekend Glory” express a black woman’s capability to be grateful for her life no matter of her condition she has faced. The speaker of this poem attempts to give the idea that her life is better because she lives her life gratefully. She does not live to impress other people like the whites do.

Overall, from all the three poems, the speakers show that they have the power as a black woman to fight against the injustice. They share the view that the speakers can survive in society, they are able to express their thoughts, they agree to receive their existence as African-American woman and proud of her identity. Each poem which used by the speaker as the media to express their feelings that they are not a weak woman. The speakers display that as an African-Americans they are a new

source of power to fight against the injustice they experience in order to live normally like the others.

4.2 Suggestion

The researcher provides some suggestion connected with this study to other researchers as follow:

1. Femisims theory can employ by other researchers especially black feminism in analyzing the poem of Maya Angelou with the contrasting point of view, like black women role and movement.
2. The poem from Maya Angelou can apply by the other researchers to conduct a research since she has a huge number of works especially poems portraying black women's existence, romance, history, struggle, also the biography of Maya Angelou.
3. The other researcher can do research to analyze other poems about black African-American women from another black woman poet like Audre Lorde any many more.

Those are some suggestions for another researcher that will conduct research about African-American black woman to do further research.

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