

ISSN 2349-5189

2018-19 - 8



# LangLit

An International *Peer-Reviewed* Open Access Journal

[www.langlit.org](http://www.langlit.org)

Vol. 6 Issue 2  
November - 2019



Editor-In-Chief

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**VOL.6 ISSUE-2 2019**  
**Drama & Short-Story**

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Website: [www.langlit.org](http://www.langlit.org)

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November, 2019

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Indexed: ICI, Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia.edu, IBI, IFC, DRU  
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**THE VICTIMS OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION IN MULATTO OF  
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Dist. Ahmednagar**DR. ANITA MUDKANNA**Assistant Professor  
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Tal. Tuljapur Dist. Osmanabad.**ABSTRACT:**

*Racial Discrimination is a major theme of Langston Hughes's work. Langston Hughes is a pioneer of modern Black literature. Racial discrimination is one of the major issues and theme of the African American literature. There are some prominent Black authors such as Toni Morrison, Richard Wright, Countee Cullen, Langston Hughes, Claude Mackey etc. Theirs writing is the outcome of exploitation slavery, discrimination, humiliation, revolt, racism, revenge, rebel, supersession, poverty, victims, inequality, unjust etc.*

**Keywords:** Pioneer, Slavery, Discrimination, Inequality, Mulatto, Suppression, Victims, Revenge, Rebel, Racism, Agony, Humiliation Etc.

**Introduction:**

Racism is one of the major themes in African American literature. Langston Hughes is a wider user of this concept to determine and designate the realities of Blacks in the southern America. This racism is basically rooted in the family background of Langston Hughes. He describes racial discrimination into his dramatic work. This is strongly reflected in his first full length play called Mulatto. Here, I want to show the racial discrimination through this research paper. Here define Racism as follows: "Racism is a belief or ideology that all members of each racial group possess characteristics or abilities specific to that race, especially to distinguish it as being superior to another racial group or groups".

The Racial discrimination is an integral part of the Hughes' play. Mulatto is a full length play of him. There are number of characters play a vital role in this play. Robert is a protagonist and aggressive character who always take action against injustice, inequality, slavery etc. The other characters are Cora Lewis, William, Bertha, Sallie. One more a major character is Colonel Thomas Norwood. He is known as a plantation owner in South America. He has a black lady as Care taker of his home. She has four children. Bertha, Sallie, William used to work as per the instructions and orders of Norwood. He is a leader of home and he just forwards an order to all. He is a dominant in the family but Robert is only opposed or rejects the orders of Thomas Norwood. Here is a dialogue between Norwood and Bert which is dealt with racial discrimination.

"Thomas Norwood calls him Cora's child,

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Website: [www.langlit.org](http://www.langlit.org)

November, 2019

Contact No.: +91-9890290602

Indexed: ICI, Google Scholar, Research Gate, Academia.edu, IBI, IIFC, DRJI



But here Bert replied, 'I am not only Cora's son but also you too'. Here argument starts, "Women don't have children themselves". The agonies have increased into the mind of Norwood and he replies, "Nigger women don't know the fathers, you're a bastard".

The above dialogue has been focused on the victims of the racial discrimination. In this play only a single character has raised his voice against unjust and domination of plantation owner i.e. Thomas Norwood. Bert wants to take revenge against suffering, victimization, injustice, slavery, discrimination etc.

Norwood rejected him as a son. His mother has not accepted as a wife. He puts a work and responsibilities of the home. He doesn't accept to Bert as son. He made an argument about women's father. He lost his anger and replied nigger women don't know the fathers, you are bastard. It is the victims of whites in South America. Even though, they don't accept as a wife in family. Another most important character is Cora Lewis, who has become a victim of racism. She takes care of Colonel Thomas Norwood as well his home. Cora always thinks about her young son Bert, whose appearance is yellow skin. Here it is become the victims of gender, color, etc. Norwood has great proud of his own race, color, prestige etc.

Robert has taken education outside. Therefore, he knows better about liberty. Here is quote of Pouquette about reality of the other state of America.

"In Atlanta, and Richmond, and Washington where the football Team went- real Colonel People who don't have to take off, their hats to white folks or let' em go bed with their sister". It is also become a victim of system which is found South America. Bert has experience of liberty. He explains that there is no need hats up for the Whites and not necessary to send you their sister with them. But, there is contradictory situation in South state.

Bert is always opposed to his father and he insists on his liberty. Even though, he used car of his father without his permission. His brother and sister have become the victims of this discrimination Sallie and Bertha has not made any argument themselves tries to save Bert from Norwood. But, he is an impudent and arrogant in behavior. He wants to take rebel against this system. Here is another event describes by Bert about using front door. His brother made dialogue with him

*William: where's Bert? He didn't come round back (seeing his brother in the room) how'd you get in here?*

*Robert: (Grinning) House has front doors.*

*William: oh, usin de front door like de white folks, heh? You gwine do once too much".*

Through this conversation it recognized that Bert is always in rebellious mood but his other brothers have become the victims of whites in South America. Blacks are not allowed to use the front door. But, here Bert has intentionally used the front door.

His brother has afraid about using the front door. William has not taken any argument and risk with Norwood, whatever he asks or orders he just follows him.

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One day the mother and Bert were talking each other in the kitchen. But at the same time Bert was stopped at front door. His mother didn't want to stay front door due to Norwood will come and scolding, beating to Bert. Bert hadn't leaved the place. He has impudent and arrogant behavior. This is called revenge and rebel against system. The usage of the front door is part of prestige, respect for their race. At the final part of the play event took place here. Eventually, Bert has been made a victim of the situation and system in South America. Here is made an argument with Norwood:

*"I am not your servant; you are not going to tell me what to do. You are not going to have Talbot run me off the place like field hand, you don't want to us any more".*

In this above dialogue Robert is misbehaving with his father Norwood. Bert has been insisted on acceptance of him as a son of him. He doesn't accept him. There's verbal argument between them. Lastly Norwood has been lost his control and anger; he tried to kill with pistol. But, fortunately he has not been killed to Bert. He has own prestige and honor of his own race. It is a rebel against racial discrimination. Bert snatched his pistol and fired towards him, unfortunately Norwood died here. His mother had afraid to people who will come and kill his son. But, Bert has been committed suicide here. Really, here Bert has been made a victim of this racial discrimination in South America.

The last action of the play is very suggestively important. Though, Bert commits suicide, Cora doesn't consider him dead. He tried to take revenge against system, but he becomes a victim of whites in South America. Bert's role is not developed as a black revolutionary militant. Bert's role was a revolutionary has come to an end and therefore is called a barky by his mother. Bert, an illegitimate child of whites culture and black soil, can't define his own position and as a result is killed his own son consciousness.

At the end of this play, Langston Hughes is not advocating that African American commit violent acts against whites. He becomes a victim of whites. In this battle no one has been won. Both Bert and Norwood has been made the victims of this system.

Cora Lewis, William, Bertha, Sallie has been accepted situation as it is. They don't make any changes against it. They have become the victims of racial discrimination. There is only destruction due to prestige, Honor for own race, gender etc. Norwood had been taken care of all children excluding Bert due to his yellowish color of skin. He was illegitimate son of him, thus, he is called mulatto.

Eventually, rebel has been taken place here. In this battle no one has been won but they become the victims of racial discrimination. Bert bravely fought against system for getting rid of from this injustice and inequality. All the characters have become the victims of the racial discrimination in Mulatto by Langston Hughes. The last scene of the play is very suggestively important. Though Bert commits suicide, Cora doesn't consider him dead. Berth's death, for Cora, is a temporary retirement in order to regenerate himself for his incomplete battle. Bert is not fully developed as a black revolutionary militant. Bert's role as a revolutionary has come to an end therefore is called barky by his mother. Bert, is illegitimate child of white culture and black soil, can't define his own position and as a result is killed by his own duel conscious.



In the end, Hughes wants to show that, when it comes to racial conflict nobody wins. If whites try to repress on African Americans, they will lose their patience and they stand against injustice. As a Robert's actions have been shown that whites are invincible, and can be killed just easily as African Americans. In addition to the whites have made number of victims of them. They have given illegitimate children. They created relationship with black but lastly they neglected their children. These are the victims of this system and domination of the whites towards the black. They are inadvertently producing a number of Mullato children. In the case of Mulattos here is finding Robert, whites are creating own problem.

In fact, Langston Hughes is a wide practitioner of this concept determine and designate the realities, problems of Blacks in South America. He gives various examples from black community, which is related to the racial discrimination, suppression, and victimization of black. His strong feelings for the victims of whites in South America. He shows agony of racism into his dramatic work. He transformed his own experiences into his own play. According to Hughes, economic condition is one of the governing factors that device the victims of whites. The is one of the most important reason to become s victim of the whites is poor condition of black. Thus, a black man has lost his harmony in the relationship. The agony and victimization of black is taken a wrong step in their lives. They have not received and accepted by the whites due their higher race and mindsets. The whites always think that our is superior to the black.

Lastly I have to make its conclusion. Mulatto is a tragedy of victims, slavery, suppression, exploitation, rebel, inequality, injustice etc. In this particular play Hughes has made focused on the victimization, revenge, self-respect and rebel against racial discrimination in South America. As a human beings we must accept to others. It is not necessary to make a difference between black and white. In this particular research I found the victims are made by situations and environments. Racial discriminations has not accepted for living happy. This discrimination led to killing human being. Langston Hughes has been shown here the victims of racial discrimination, inequality, injustice, harassment of human being. Eventually, humanity Plays vital role in our lives. Hughes shows many activities related to Black in literature. Especially he focused in his dramatic work.

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