

Racism in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness*

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Abstract

Racism is the authority in which people differentiate between inferiority and superiority over the colour, language, custom etc. This article explores about the racial discrimination of African peoples. Heart of darkness is one of the adventurous novels which tells about the idea of white domination over African people. The narrator Marlow was recalling about the dark experience while travelling to Africa. He tells the narration to the crew members. Once Marlow aimed to own a new boat, but he does not have any job. Later his aunt helped him to work at an ivory trading company. There he was provided with a steam ship and allotted a work in Africa. Africa is a place surrounded by danger, but Marlow accepted the agreement and moved to save Kurtz. After reaching Africa he visualizes the haunted view of African people. In a new land Marlow is attempting to find the outlook of African people.

Keywords: Joseph Conrad *Heart of Darkness* Racism, slavery, sufferings, desperation, longingness, colonialism, separation.

Joseph Conrad was a Polish British writer and he was the greatest novelists of English literature. He completed master in prose stylist, and he introduced non English sensibility into English literature. The racism had been a common theme in a lot of American and European literature as it is Joseph Conrad willing to describe the African people inferiority of racism towards the white people of the American. one of the most excellent example for racism is the heart of darkness. The natives were used to project as a slave in their country. The natives were not looked after by the white men and simply crawled away to die when they cannot work anymore.

Conrad was employed for 16 years in the British merchant marines then he got a rank so he became a British citizen and he sailed to many countries, but Africa gave him lots of experiences that he would later reflect the suffering of African in his novel.

This novel tells the story of sailor Charles Marlow's white he was a captain of an ivory handling steamboat. His work on ivory trading company was to explore Africa and save Kurtz. But the hidden story reveals that Kurtz was one of the members of ivory trading company. But

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he did not continue to be the member. So they send Marlow to bring Kurtz. The intention of bringing Kurtz is to kill him. But they told Marlow to save Kurtz and bring him to the company. This shows how slavery and racism was revealed. The Kurtz was called to kill because of not perusing the company norms.

Racism otherwise called as racialism, any action, reaction, practice that reflected the racial world is the view of the ideology that humans may be divided it into many that was called races. There was a casual or forma link between physical traits and traits of personality, culture, dress code and behavior that some races were superior or inferior to others like wide Conrad described the African men’s *“faces like grotesque masks”* lumps then in with all the other distasteful, ugly things Marlow sees in the Congo.

“They were dying slowly it was very clear. They were not enemies, they were not criminals, and they were nothing earthly now –nothing but black shadows of disease and starvation. Lying confusedly in the greenish gloom. The black bones reclined at full length with one shoulder against the tree, and slowly the eyelids rose, and the sunken eyes looked up at me, enormous and vacant, a kind of blind, white flicker in the depths of the orbs, which died out slowly. The man seemed young almost a boy, but you know with the it’s hard to tell”.

This passage crystal-clearly described the *“Unhappy Savages”* of Africans. They were treated as animals why because they did not have to eat on their journey down the Congo. No more to tell in that passage because it would lead a reader to believe that the Africans Marlow had encountered were essentially human. In the heart of darkness central issues of Joseph Conrad’s view was the misrepresent the African race. Conrad projected the westernized image of African people, so Joseph Conrad maintained his novel to damage the label of native people.

This novel explores the black race through the lens of a hegemonic European representation; Conrad’s uses of myth and metaphor supported the colonial conquest of African people on the colonizer’s assumption that these people were racially inferior. The central protagonist and narrator of heart of darkness Marlow was expressed or explored the old racist prejudices against the Africans; *“they howled and leaped, and spun, and made horrid faces. But what thrilled you were the thought of their humanity-like your ugly”*. Not only did they deny the Africans distinctions of a name and he also rids them of normal human behavior.

As a conclusion Joseph Conrad’s *“Heart of Darkness”* was the best example of racism and the Europeans use of violence and racial ideologies help them a lot. Then the Africa clearly visualized the haunted view of African people.



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