

Tribhuvan University

May, 2019

Critique of Mainstream Racism in Paul Beatty's *The Sellout*

– Suman Lamsal

**A Thesis Submitted to the Central Department of English, T.U.
in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the
Degree of Master of Arts in English**

By

Suman Lamsal

Roll No.: 207

T.U Regd.No:6-2-568-35-2010

Critique of Mainstream Racism in Paul Beatty's *The Sellout*

Central Department of English

Kritipur, Kathmandu

May, 2019

Tribhuvan University
Central Department of English
Letter of Recommendation

This thesis entitled “Critique of Racism in Paul Beatty’s *The Sellout*”
submitted to the Central Department of English, Tribhuvan University, by Suman
Lamsal has been approved by the undersigned member of the Research Committee:

Members of the Research Committee

Internal Examiner

External Examiner

Head

Central Department of English

Date: _____

Acknowledgements

I thank Mr. Laxman Bhatta for his unconditional guidance, motivation and other various assistances during the moment of preparing this thesis. I would like to extend my hearty gratitude to him for his constant support in understanding various aspects of the counter upon mainstream value of American and providing the constructive feedbacks to carry out this research.

I also thank Prof. Dr. Anirudra Thapa, Head of Central Department of English, for accepting my thesis proposal and inspiring me to complete this work. I am equally pleased by the role of respected teacher Mr. Badri Prasad Acharya for his unconditional support and precious time for my academic guidance. This paper would have been less readable if he had not suggested the rightful feedbacks and materials on right time. Similarly, I am grateful to -Dr. Komal Phuyal and other Lecturer of Central Department of English for their emotional and academic upliftment.

Indeed, my thesis would have been impossible without the constant love and compassion of my parents Dharma Jivi Lamsal and Shova Lamsal. In addition, the role of my family members and relative has been useful to complete this task.

July 2019

Suman Lamsal

Critique of Racism in Paul Beatty *The Sellout*

Abstract

This thesis examines the critique of racism Mainstream values of American society, particularly racism, as depicted in Paul Beatty's novel The Sellout. This novel presents the idea of slavery system and racism. By taking theoretical insight on racism proposed by W.E.B DuBois, Paul Gilroy and Henry Louis Gates, this research reveals how -mainstream American culture imposes the discourse of racism thereby stereotyping racial minorities. The research thus shows how Beatty takes out the injustice of American society through the characters like Hominy, Marpessia, Ms. Susan Silverman escalated by racism and calls for the need of racial harmony to establish humanitarian values as envisioned by the architect of America.

Key Words: Racism, Individualism, Consumerism, Subordination, Subversion

This research paper mainly grounds on critique of mainstream American values, particularly racism, as described in Paul Beatty's novel *The Sellout* (2016). This novel reflects upon the pertinent issue of contemporary America, that is, contextual voice of racially marginalized group of people, their quest for social justice and racial harmony. In order to address the sentiment of these African-Americans, Beatty assimilates his voice with the characters from African-American origin and expresses his discontent over the racialized thinking. Beatty thus ponders into issues of racism, slavery, discrimination from humanitarian perspective bringing character and context of contemporary American society with the aim of critiquing racism and its impact on American society.

This study focuses on the issue of racial thinking endorsed by slavery system as practiced in mainstream American culture and its consequences on both African Americans and White Americans. *The sellout* mainly focuses on how the Whites damage the Blacks.

Paul Beatty (1962-) is a renowned American author and an associate Professor of Columbia University. He owns the Man Booker prize in 2016 for *The Sellout*. Beatty in this novel basically presents tension invited by racism institutionalized by slavery system. The prologue of the novel introduces the narrator, a man from black community who never committed any criminal work but happens to be in the court. The session of court begins with "Me vs. the United States of America" (7). The narrator and his father live in ghetto Community. His father is known as social scientist and "the Nigger whisperer" and same time from map of USA, Dickens was disappeared, -his father was killed by the police and he knows nothing about the where about his mother. The novel thus presents family crisis from the very beginning and we get to know that the narrator not knows about nothing his

mother.

As the novel progresses, the narrator seeks help from elderly man named Hominly Jenkins about Dickens. At the same time, the narrator is shown in relation with a woman named Marpessia Delissa Dawson, Hominly tries to hang himself but the narrator saves him. Hominly wants to live as slave in his home while the narrator wants him to make free but Hominly thinks of his freedom.

To take out that place from map, the narrator starts meeting with intellectual groups like Dum Dum Donut, the group known as “lead thinker”. In the story no one uses narrator’s name but they refer to him as “The Sellout”. He meets the DumDum Donut Intellectuals group no one pays attention to talk to him. At the same time the narrator loudly announces “bringing back the city of Dickens” (26). One King Cuz Faror hears his voice but others do not. In is rage, he utters, “fuck my shit up” (26). When the missed place Dickens was found, the narrator thanks the police officer and offers them the chewing gum with a sense of gratitude. It reveals humanitarian values possessed by the narrator.

The narrator starts romance with Marpessia where he recalls his childhood friendship. Then they start to rethink about school day program and birthday activity. And starts to recall about childhood activity and nickname too. The Narrator has passion to find Dickens map and at office he calls his staff Ms. Susan Silverman to dig out the place from map. Ms. Silverman answers that Dickens was disappearing from map because it is “too black” (230) The narrator starts to recall the history as like Dicken where three cities no longer exist like Dollersheim, Austria, known as “the lost city of white Male privilege” (230).

The narrator goes to teach student about agriculture in the Chaff Middle school. At that time he teaches about castration, where recalls his childhood trouble

by racism. The Narrator laments and recalls his father's activities. His father was no racism in America, while they are in trip his father recalls his story about Mississippi. At that time his father having sex with white woman and forced him, he turned away from the gas station. The narrator announced to build the Wheaton Academy Character Magnet school of the Arts, science, Humanities, Business Fashion and everything else and they want to construct in the Dickens. He imagines that where they attach only to white students. Now he declares that it is work of "the forces of evil" (30).

The narrator and Marpess begin going on dates again and have physical relation. Intellectual group wants to announce "Secret weapon" to take voice against the Wheaton Academy. In that academy they use book like weapon of mass Education" where narrator realizes that Dickens are recognized city again. After few months city was re-segregation where the name the event "whitey week". And start to celebration of white contributions now narrator feels nervous segregation about the hospital.

The disable narrator was picked by an ambulance and he was taken to the court. He attends at Supreme Court in the case. Fiske gives speech about black; the narrator start smoking in the court room and judge decides to leave the room while at the end Foy found innocent in murder case but narrator wins. Narrator tells Hominy "quitting slavery" while narrator watch T.V during that time report of America. The narrator feels so happy. Then narrator meeting with Dum Dum Donuts group and mainly he meets with white couple and he tell that "this is our thing". Then question answer start about flag of America and bout "black guy". The narrator agrees and feels happy about all events himself as a witness of racial discrimination he presents about that strongly in the novel.

Beatty criticizes American values, such as racism, individualism, money minded psychology etc. Due to such issues, many people are being made the subject matter of humiliation, objectification, torture and trauma. Mainly, Beatty's agenda is to satirize the American government. *The New York Times* book reviewer Hokum, In his introduction to Mr. Beatty speaks about reading the canonical black writers as a young man and "welcoming the rhetoric but over time missing the black bon mot, the snap, the bag, the whimsy upon which" (5) — I am working around a perfectly detonated vulgarity here — both righteous anger and freedom take flight. "It was as if the black writers I'd read," didn't have any friends. Of course, like Hokum argues Beatty reflects the social realities of American society in the light of 21st century. Beatty shows the declining faith of American people so that he uses different term to make aware of that and to satirize of that activity. This way, Beatty makes the irony and satire upon the American society in order to let victims feel justice through his novel.

Dwight Garner in a review in *The New York Times* writes the novel's first 100 pages read like the most concussive monologues and interviews of Chris Rock, Richard Pryor and Dave Chappelle wrapped in a satirical yet surprisingly delicate literary and historical sensibility. Since I have been study ideology of Beatty in his novel where he evokes the idea about a coming of age tale about young African American man's search for identity, the novel was met with critical acclaim and it has been noted for its postmodern treatment of African American gender and sexuality in addition to race. Being African-American too, Beatty feels responsibility to other community as well in his writing. He dismantles binary opposition and sets stories from multiple narrators to make it more trust. William Dean's journal "The Challenge of New Historicism" reflects how favors pluralism. Also, Derridean concept of

deconstruction and responsibility toward other will be highlighted.

Regarding *The Sellout* the literary critic Peter Kennelly writes, “This is not to say that Beatty soft soaps the realities of black live in the ghetto: it is just that , operating at the rhetorical, external level he does, they are a bit too easy to read about without suffering any lacerations at all” (9). Now this shows that, the issue of race is raising in the American society. The rate of discrimination between people and the social status in American society has some legacy- Afro American people are legally the American citizens though the feelings of oneness in them may be distracted by the social structure.

The American critic and Journalist Alexandra reviews *The Sellout* as:

a blistering satire about race in America, won the Man Booker Prize on Tuesday, marking the first time an American writer has won the award. The five Booker judges, who were unanimous in their decision, cited the novel’s inventive comic approach to the thorny issues of racial identity and injustice. With its outrageous premise and unabashed skewering of racial stereotypes, *The Sellout* is an audacious choice for the judges, who oversee one of the most prestigious awards in literature. The truth is rarely pretty, and this is a book that nails the reader to the cross with cheerful abandon. (17)

Amanda Foreman, the head of the judging panel, said at a press briefing in London before the winner was announced. It plunges into the heart of contemporary American society. The *Sellout* novel resembles around the real place of America, because it helps more easy to counter and critique the values of the society. Places of America California, Washington DC, White House. In simple representation of real place of USA, it presents the mainstream values.

The term critique is a method of disciplined systematic study of a written or

oral discourse. Although critique is commonly understood as fault finding and negative character, a resident of Dickens develops the beautiful farmland named “Dickens” where he keeps some Afro-American people as slaves. There, he argues that there should be slavery system even today’s American society and start to advocates for reinstating slavery system. Thus, Paul Beatty criticizes mainstream American values and reveals disparities prevalent in appearance and reality of American society. The term Mainstream refers to a story related to United States propagated by, mainline churches and ruling elites. The presentation of real place, real people and real event show mainstream American values the white culture, racial superiority, gender stereotype, regionalist and poses the question upon the mainstream.

This research is basically concerned with the issue of racism and its horrendous effect on the people living in the American society. Racism is belief system of superiority one race to another. In this context Du Bois poses that "the problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the color-line." His concepts of life behind the veil of race and the resulting "double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one's self through the eyes of others," have become touchstones for thinking about race in America. In addition to these enduring concepts, *Souls* offers an assessment of the progress of the race, the obstacles to that progress, and the possibilities for future progress as the nation entered the twentieth century. Du Bois concentrates on how racial prejudice impacts individuals. "W. E. B. Du Bois's double-consciousness depiction of black existence has come to epitomize the existential determinants of black self-consciousness “For me, a critique of racism and race-thinking provides a route into clearer, deeper understanding of humankind and its contested nature,” Mr. Gilroy said. The prize committee, in a citation, called Mr. Gilroy, 63, “one of the most challenging and inventive figures in contemporary scholarship.” His landmark 1993 book "*The Black Atlantic: Modernity and Double Consciousness*" which

argued that slavery and the slave trade created a hybrid culture that transcended national boundaries, transformed the study of the African diaspora and “offered an alternative to essentialist conceptions of identity by showing how race, nation and ethnicity are culturally constituted” (57).

Theoretical framework of American values its critique as a methodological tool for the research. The theoretical concept from Racism, by W. E. B DU Bois, Derrida, American dream is the main methodological framework for the analysis of primary text in this research. The critique of Mainstream American values concept of Ray L Brooks *Cultural Diversity: it’s all about the Mainstream*. In this text Roy L Brooks Writes “To help simplify my critique, I shall for the most part, focus on the black/ white binary (the black/white relationship). That in itself, is controversial: for many if not most civil rights theorists particularly critical theorists, reject the black/white binary in favor of a putatively more “inclusive” or “Progressive” binary the outsider/ insider binary" (16). So, the concept of mainstream American values also has been used as a theoretical tool to understand the primary text. Likewise the concept of deconstruction also interaction in the research deconstruction by Derrida and this methodological tool deal the text with textual evidence and concept. Audience might be the my fellow students who join same department in coming years, and in coming days and not only that who is interested in studying about race, clash, critique of mainstream American values, deconstruction, critique and conflict.

In this research paper, the researcher will talk about the race in American context. Analyzing the tension between the black and white is the prime attempt of the researcher. And the researcher will talk about the present situation of race in the American society. But this research cannot deal all about the history and all situation of race in America only it limits the area of racism, critique, deconstruction, values,

mainstream and clash.

The consciousness of color or skin base discrimination in modern phenomena is quite less but until it was deeply rooted. Mainly human was being classification on the basis of race. Race began to be understood as a biological factor and racial hierarchy. It was done so the level of cultural in the society and it creates the high and low culture and American value too. In this context, Margaret M. Russell, the Associate Professor of law from Santa Clara University America, writes, “The concept of ‘representing race’ within the context of everyday legal practice is neither new nor voluntarily learned; at a basic level, it is what we do whenever we enter a court-room or conference room in the predominantly white legal system” (766). From the very lines we see that the concept of race shifted from economical biological factor to, social, and other factor like political too.

This thesis investigates how Beatty's *The Sellout*, critiques racism American social values protested through different discourses. This research makes use of theoretical concept like racism, deconstruction, American dream, and racism. This study based on library research and textual analysis. This study finds that the American society still practices racial discrimination in implicit ways and the author Paul Beatty uses various literary devices like deconstruction, counter of mainstream values in order to critique such evil social practices. The conclusion that it arrives at that Paul Beatty has used such literary tools to raise voice against the social injustice prevalent in American society. One the other hand, this study investigates how Paul Beatty's novel reveals critiques American values purpose that is to bring the injustice of American society and on the other hand it tries to look condition of racial decimation in the present time of American community. This way this research tries to show critique of racism in American values.

In this research paper I hypothesize that slavery and real place in fiction attack the mainstream American values and examining the American base action, event and character. American society in mainstream discourses is defined as free and democratic community; however in reality it is totally opposite is depicted in *The Sellout*. American society and its institutions like academia, judiciary, and public base systems are biased and racist in practice as the opening dialogue between the reporter and President Trump.

The Sellout focuses on how the African- American people still suffer from inferiority complex in the society. The common discourse of society represents the suppressed voice and marginalized voice. When the narrator was young, he assumed he would lead an average life and stay in Dickens. However, both his father and Dickens disappear, leaving him with no idea of who he is. The narrator's father is killed by the police. At first, the narrator feels sure that his father is going to leap back to life and explain his death as just another way of teaching his son about the plight of the black race. Growing up, the narrator did not know his mother; he tracks her down later in life and learns that her name is Laurel Lescook.

Paul Beatty assumes that the white population creates the general assumption of their discourse regarding the black people and tag the Black people as negative character in the society. People believe that the American societies are better in the world where personal happiness and freedom is granted and where there is no racial segregation and discrimination. But the discourse created by white majority is against the Black people. *The Sellout* points out that the perspective of the white people towards the Black is biased and the African-American people are not regarded as negative character in their society.

Elijah Anderson, a renowned scholar in the field of literary and criticism,

defines discrimination in the American context as “almost every black person in America has experienced the sting of disrespect on the basis of being black. A large but undetermined number of black people feel acutely discrimination they everyday lives, discrimination they see as both subtle and explicit” (7). From that we easily assumption that mainly in the American societies about the Blacks is different from what it is said to be in the discourses. People believe that the American societies are better in the world where personal happiness and freedom is granted and mainly where there is no racial segregation and discrimination. But the discourses discuss created by the white majority is against the Black people even day. African-Americans want equality like Americans but society still denies them to be accepted as equal to the white. Mainly the white judged people one their character and ability. There is nothing to do with the skin and its color.

Paul Beatty implies, as Derrida argues, that it is not enough to expose and deconstruct the way oppositions work and then stop there in a nihilistic or cynical position, "thereby preventing any means of intervening in the field effectively" (15). To be effective, deconstruction needs to create new terms, not to synthesize the concepts in opposition, but to mark their difference and eternal interplay. This explains why Derrida always proposes new terms in his deconstruction, not as a free play but as a pure necessity of analysis, to better mark the intervals. Derrida called undesirables that is, unities of simulacrum— "false" verbal properties (nominal or semantic) that can no longer be included within philosophical (binary) opposition, but which, however, inhabit philosophical oppositions—resisting and organizing it—without ever constituting a third term, without ever leaving room for a solution in the form of Hegelian dialectics (e.g. upliftment, hymen, gram, spacing). The way of American society projects the situation of Black people. Paul Beatty uses this kind of

method or weapon in the novel to achieve his motif as racial discrimination and critique of mainstream value.

Marginalization comprises those processes by which individuals and groups are ignored or relegated to the sidelines of political debate, social negotiation, and economic bargaining and kept there. Homelessness, age, language, employment status, skill, race, and religion are some criteria historically used to marginalize. Marginalized groups tend to overlap; groups excluded in one arena, say in political life, tend to be excluded in other arenas, say in economic status. Concern with marginalization is relatively recent. As the advance of democratization and citizenship swell the ranks of those “included” in the social order, the plight of those with limited access to the franchise and without rights or at least enforceable claims to rights becomes problematic.

In the American society, the terms Democracy and Freedom word are eulogized. But *The Sellout* critiques this nation pointing that Black people most of the time do not get chance to express their thought and lead free existence. The narrator in *The Sellout* for example, faces the problem in the court. Mainly court is for all and its work is to provide justice for all, who was in difficulty, but there is difficulty for the black people to entry the case in the court so, that we can easily analysis that the cases related to black people are not easy entertained in the court. The narrator says “This may be hard to believe, coming from a black man, but I’ve never stolen anything never stolen anything never cheated on my taxes or at cards.” (1) This very line proves what the condition of the Black Americans was in the present time. Not only that this indicates that American society is not what it professes to be. Mainly American dream poses the idea of democracy, right, liberty, opportunity and equality. Dream is to be better, richer according to ability. Beatty writes:

Regarding The American Dream is a term tightly associated with the social, economic, political, and cultural organization of the United States since the beginning of the country's history. Although the dream is termed "American", the principles of social and individual prosperity that underlie it have been pursued outside the United States as well. It would not be wrong to say that the dream that the expression refers to has actually been the dream of western societies for many centuries. (3)

In addition, we find that Paul Beatty, in his novel uses American dream to critique the mainstream values and those who always run to catch that dream. For example, in the novel narrator wants to achieve dream but he cannot. He mentions:

America, tearfully confessing my sins against color and country, begging my proud black history for forgiveness. But there's nothing. Only the buzz of the air conditioner and my high, and as security escorts her back to her seat, the little boy trailing behind her, holding on to her scarf for dear life, the sting in my cheek that she hopes will smart in perpetuity has already fade and I find myself unable to conjure up a single guilty pang. (17)

The method deals and reveals that American Beurocracy is biased and selfish. When the narrator was young, he assumed he would lead an average life and stay in Dickens. However, both his father and Dickens disappear, leaving him with no idea of who he is. The narrator's father is killed by the police. He did not know why and how that incident took place. He was called in the police station, but police officer told everything with the hope that the police would help to investigation and punish the culprit. It can be easily assumed that if black was in trouble the police also show the careless for that case. At first, the narrator feels sure that his father is going to leap back to life and explain his death as just another way of teaching his son about the

plight of the black race.

Mainly illogically discrimination is undigested for us or for black people. The narrator is granted a \$2 million settlement after the wrongful death of his father at the hands of the police. He feels relieved on the day of his father's burial. He reflects again on the difficulties facing black people, and concludes: "fuck being black" (9). Five years after the narrator's father's death, Dickens is quietly removed from the map of California. Signs announcing the town's existence are also removed. The narrator takes over his father's role of "Nigger Whisperer," however he isn't very good at it. He studies agricultural science at UC Riverside in the hope of turning his father's land into an ostrich farm. When Dickens disappears, the narrator goes to help an elderly man.

The narrator is so happy that he cries. On the anniversary of his father's death, the narrator goes to watch Hominy perform at the LA Festival of Forbidden Cinema and Unabashedly Racist Animation with Marpessa. The audience finds Hominy, who is completely deadpan and sincere, hilarious. Later, the narrator asks himself who he is, and realizes that he is "as lost as I ever was" (56). Nobody attends the next meeting of the Dum Dum Donut Intellectuals. Foy stages a protest outside the Wheaton Academy, singing We Shall Overcome and then shooting the white students' school bus with his gun. Foy points the gun at the narrator, then at his own temple, and then, finally, shoots the narrator. Hominy cries and attends to the narrator while he bleeds. The narrator speaks:

You're supposed to cry when your dad dies. Curse the system because your father has died at the hands of the police. Bemoan being lower-middle-class and colored in a police state that protects only rich white people and movie stars of all races, though I can't think of any Asian-American one of his

elaborate schemes to educate me on the plight of the black race and to inspire me to make something of myself, I half expected him to get up, brush himself off, and say, "See, nigger, if this could happen to your dumb ass. Just because racism is dead don't mean they still shoot niggers on sight. (43)

These details show out the real face of police and further reveal how one can simply derive from mainstream. Further, Derrida contends that "in a classical philosophical opposition we are not dealing with the peaceful coexistence of a vis-a-vis, but rather with a violent hierarchy. One of the two terms governs the other (axiological, logically, etc.), or has the upper hand" (21) signified over signifier; intelligible over sensible; speech over writing; activity over passivity, etc. The first task of deconstruction would be to find and overturn these oppositions inside a text or a corpus of texts; but the final objective of deconstruction is not to surpass all oppositions, because it is assumed they are structurally necessary to produce sense. The oppositions simply cannot be suspended once and for all. The hierarchy of dual oppositions always reestablishes itself. Deconstruction only points to the necessity of an unending analysis that can make explicit the decisions and arbitrary violence intrinsic to all texts.

Presenting the real place and based on the real evidence is American mainstream value, the narrator compares the black and white as like ancient time in Rome and contemporary time in USA. He writes, "Be it ancient Rome or modern-day America, you're either citizen or slave. Lion or Jew. Guilty or innocent. Comfortable or uncomfortable" (6). The very line shows that contemporary time of America is same like ancient period of Rome it means in the humanity there was no any development in the slavery, skin base discrimination and domination. To prove other racial discrimination this line also help my argument too, "People have fought and

died trying to get some of that “Equal justice Under Law” (9). And “The one who acts white, talk white, but doesn’t quite look right?” (10). *The Sellout* raises the issue of race and how human behave are responsible for degradation of humanitarian value at present time. Paul Beatty in the very beginning of his novel reverses the pathetic situation of American and African context in the present time. In the novel, Paul Beatty talks about the satirical towards the white race and create funny. Text begins with prologue it means critiquing the mainstream value of writing pattern, and want to establish own pattern of society. Thus, the setting and style of plot also critique of value of mainstream.

Setting and scenario of African-American people look like they are in lonely. So, to make them feel something different from social structure. The narrator says, I admit it, Me v. the United States sounds a little self-aggrandizing, but what can I say? I’m Me. Literally. A not-so-proud descendant of the Kentucky Mees, one of the first black families to setting in southwest Los Angeles, I can trace my roots all the way black to that first vessel to escape state-sanctioned southern repression- the Greyhound bus.

Thus, that situation me vs United State proves condition of Afro-American and want to look lonely in the state, “Americans strongly believe in the concept of individualism. They consider themselves to be separate individuals who are in control of their own lives, rather than members of a close-kit, interdependent family, religious group, tribe, nation of other group" (11).

In the mainstream people having full authority in the every state of America and to get equal right and freedom as like white Paul Beatty critique mainstream values, norms and rules. In the USA African-American and Negro people are accused of being source of evils. Being American citizen black people cannot feel oneness,

they feel like uneasy and difficulty to run life. The Dum Dum Donut Intellectuals, Foy announces that he has a “secret weapon” to used weapon against the Wheaton Academy: a book called *Tom Soarer*, which he calls a WME: “Weapon of Mass Education.” Foy inscribes a copy for the narrator, addressing it: “To the Sellout, Like father, like son...” The narrator realizes that even if Dickens were to be recognized as a city again, so, that to make recognize like Dickens we must work hard to make Afro- American well-known in the USA community, there would be no fanfare—barely anyone would even notice. Still, over the next few months the narrator enjoys re-separation in the city. Mainly he invents an even known as “Whitey Week,” a celebration of white contributions to the “world of leisure.” He feels slightly nervous about segregating the hospital and school as he knows this likely will lead outsiders to notice his work for the first time. How Paul Beatty represents and criticizes such discrimination I want to discuss now, and how does plot and literally device was used in at this American society to fight against the mainstream by using tools of literary device like critique, deconstruction, mainstream values, and American dream.

The Sellout brings the reference of President Barak Obama, the reference of Obama uses here is political. To show the conflict between the black and the white communities. The main concern of author is to show the racial issue at novel. Beatty uses the clash and irony to bring out the issue of racism and to critique it. Politically and economically, African-American people have made changes after the long effort. The Civil Right Movement haves granted rights and duties for black people and it has been said that it is the period of post-racial era and those issue of racism, like segregation, marginalization and conflict have been completely abolished from the society. Even today African- American people not get equal right as think and as like we guess, but reality was different. On the basis of color and the attitude of people

was different. So, Paul Beatty present that both president Obama and Trump cannot accept racial equality as simply way thou President Donald J. Trump presents as resists. So, the author presents voice of raises the voice against the social structure.

Paul Beatty uses the rhetoric of American dream and counter of that very dream in the issue of racism. To clearly that idea in the evidence here the narrator speaks with his friend. To show what was the condition of America in the present time. The narrator speaks:

What we must not fail to remembers is that ‘separation but equal’ was struck down, not on any moral grounds, but on the basis that the court found that separation can never be equal. And at a minimum, this case suggests we ask ourselves not quite equal, but infinity better off than ever before.’ Me v. the United States of America demands a more fundamental examination of what we mean by ‘separation’ by ‘equal’ by ‘black’. So let’s get down to the nitty-gritty-what do we mean by black? (274)

These critics have viewed the text from several angles. However none has till the date, analyzed through the lens of the failure of American Dream and empty rhetoric of life, liberty and pursuit of happiness. This study, thus, analyzes the text from the prism of Racism and American Dream point of view. Given criticisms mostly emphasizes over the culture, feminism, colonialism, and diversity. None has systematically analyzed this text from failure of American Dream.

Dreams are part of our life which motivates every individual to be alive. Orison Swett Marden American inspirational author says “All men who have achieved great things have been great dreamers” (22). Without dreams a person has no motivation. The American dream is a dream that several people believed in and still do. American Dream has distinctive implications for diverse implications. It

allows anyone that has an aspiration, a desire a yearning to carry out individual dream. It knows no bounds of race, gender or religion.

There is no fitting definition to be found anywhere of the genuine vitality of the American Dream. The commonly followed notion is that of a perfectly tidy life with two children, a house with a white picket driver, and a perfect spouse.

Regardless, The American Dream is not for the most part so obvious a thought. In general, the American dream is based on a national ethos of the United States in which freedom includes a promise of the possibility of prosperity and success. The idea of the American dream has much deeper roots.

Similarly, Beatty uses the critique of value to bring out the issue of racism and segregation it. Mainly the story conveys the message of literal level and it also delivers the message of another important meaning as deeper meaning of that one sense. To critique mainstream American values it can help easily to understand more, for example narrator speaks:

I was with the federal Department of Racial Injustice, and was conducting a month long study on the effects of “racial segregation on the normative behaviors of the racially segregated.” I’d offer them a flat fifty- dollar fee and three signs to choose from: BLACK, ASIAN, AND LATINO ONLY; LATINO, ASIAN AND BLACK ONLY; and NO WHITE ALLOWED. I was surprised how many small-business people offered to pay me to display the NO WHITES ALLOWED sign. (225)

Here we find the reference of African-American behavior and how they start to critique upon the mainstream values. To counter as like American days black display as like that. From this statement we can easily know how Paul Beatty to critiques the mainstream values and American dream too. The Narrator uses voice of African-

American to counter the main stream value and American value.

Despite the fact that many years have passed since the legal abolishment of slavery, the racist values and mentality have not changed yet. Paul Beatty presents the voice from marginal perspective. To critique so-called high values and he brings the form of deconstruction to express the equal right, justice and law. Those incidents in the novel give the kind of consciousness to people about race, for example the narrator states the narrating experience:

German engineering, so you'd better get your act together, bro, and stop letting these rack-and-pinion-steering moon-roof, manufacture's suggested-retail-price-paying monkeys show you up and steal your piece of the American dream!" At mention of the American dream, Laura Jane stiffened and returned the conn to Marpessa. "I'm offended," she said. Because I used the word 'nigger'? (138).

Within society's most important mainstream institutions, then, cultural assimilation implements cultural diversity at the lowest level possible coexistence, or mere representation. Diversity is calculated by physical proximity of different phenotypes (what can be called "esthetics diversity") rather than by ideological inclusion (what can be called a "diversity of voices"). "African Americans and other racial minorities thrown into the cultural mix have no distinctive, certainly no dissenting, voice. To the extent that cultural assimilation envisions a high level of diversity (a lateral exchange of values) in these institutions, the exchange ratio is so low as to be imperceptible. Any transmission of values is almost certain to be unilateral, going from majority oneway integration" (9).

In everyday life narrator wants to show the difficulties to follow the American values. Mainly the whole system itself is problem because of the whites want to show

supremacy toward the black community. Similarly, deconstruction understands the relationship between text and meaning and no one is in the center part and middle. As like deconstruction Paul Beatty want to show equal and surface relation with all. The narrator goes to Chaff Middle School for Career Day to teach a group of students at Chaff Middle School about agriculture, giving them a lesson on castration. He suggests to his friend Charisma, who is a teacher there, that the school be racially segregated. Charisma tells him to “go ahead,” but adds that “there’s too many Mexicans.” Hominy loves the idea of re-segregating the school, hoping that it will encourage white people to move to Dickens. For example it help more clear to know, “It would become the fourth-highest-ranked public school in the country within the next year, she should’ve known that while 250 poor colored kids getting inferior education will never be front-page news” (252). It means how news media also help to dominant the famous thing in contemporary time.

The narrator once “foolishly” told his father that there was no racism in America. In response, the narrator’s father took him on a trip to a random small town in Mississippi, where they linger by a gas station and engage in “reckless eyeballing.” The narrator’s father ends up having sex with a white woman he’d been ogling, and while he is gone the narrator is forced to pee outside after being turned away from the gas station bathroom.

Author wants to show voice against the race and social structure of American society. Afro- American people should get equal right and everything as white people get in the United State. Even today based on the skin and its color, attitudes are made in the society is unacceptable. To critique such discrimination we use different kind of voice and theoretical tool and author suggest message like “PRIORITY SEATING FOR SENIORS, DISABLE, AND WHITE” (128). This line provokes the pathetic

condition of society and what was in the priority for them. The creation of Dickens is the attack on post racial American society. Paul Beatty create the fictional city Dickens, the narrator a farmer In the end, Foy is found innocent of attempted murder, but the narrator wins his civil suit against him. Hominy kisses the narrator and tells him that he's "quitting" slavery, and that they will discuss reparations the next day. Marpessa and the narrator watch TV, and during open-mike night at Dum Dum Donuts. The black man performing standup chases out a white couple, calling them "honkies" and telling them: "this is our thing." The narrator closes with a memory of the day "the black guy" is inaugurated as president. Foy drives around Dickens waving an American flag. When the narrator questions him about it, Foy tells him he'll "never understand," and the n Here, Beatty resembles life of post-modernist, late twentieth and early twenty first century American society in the light of racism, blasé attitude, fragmented psychology, love, family crisis and heteroglossia. Why did "*The Sellout* and real blood emerges. The narrator's father is shot dead by Los Angeles police officer for, basically, driving while black. There's a surreal but aching scene in which the narrator drapes his father's body over the horse he keeps on his urban farm and clops home through the streets. Writer share their different versions of realities belonging to the similar events from their own position. They mock of how they are being suffocated due to color, individual. In my thesis I want to study how race has been understood in contemporary American society.

During Black History Month, my father used to watch the nightly television footage of the Freedom buses burning, the dogs snarling and snapping, and say to me, "You can't force integration, boy. The people who want to integrate will integrate racism was supposed to be ended, but there is no guarantee that and black also want African president, because of that various movement was taken place. To know the

condition we can analyse the idea from narrator's father's voice.

" I've never figured out to what extent, if at all, I agree or disagree with him, but it's an observation that's stayed with me. Made me realize that for many people integration is a finite concept. Here, in America, "integration" can be a cover-up. "I'm not racist. My prom date, second cousin, my president is black (or whatever)" (70). Narrator's father forced him to take relief from slave system and racial discrimination. The character named Hominy wants to be slave happily, because daily life was in trouble if he does not involve in the slavery system, So here question comes frequently to make issue of race, we must make all black able and educated from that they can easily raise the question against the slavery. He has lived in racism in the past; consequently he liked it. But new generations do not like it, by bringing the issue of race and counter of mainstream values author criticizing through the means of deconstruction, American dream and critique of value.

In the American society, the black people do not have the feeling of their oneness inside America, despite being American citizen the Black people accused of being source of evil even today, mainly attract from the mainstream society and mainly American cannot accept that anti-slavery movement. All social norms, value rules and regulation are changed in modern period. African-American people should get the equal right and everything as white people get. Racism was supposed to be ended, but there is no guarantee that black people are safe and free. It shows that the people in America are compelled to follow the order made by state and there is no other option because various movements were taken place, but the result is not satisfactory. But in reality it was totally different from what we see and heard:

There is little question whose values control the mainstream under cultural assimilation: white middle-class values, and not black or other minority

values. Cultural assimilationists do understand that America is not by design a homogenous society like Japan (which "has done little to open itself up to immigration"16). Hence, cultural assimilationists readily accept the fact that in our heterogeneous society immigration as well as interracial marriage will continue to change the face of the American mainstream from "Beaver Cleaver pink" to "café-au-lait."17 They wish to preserve, however, the values that control the mainstream. Thus, although the faces in the crowd can be white, black, yellow, brown or mixed, the mindsets and sensibilities that govern important institutional or societal questions must be of one unifying type - white middle-class. (7)

Even America thought world about the racist and slavery but not only about the democracy but also the difficulty of slavery. So, Paul Beatty use patriotic values and critique, criticism the contemporary context. The tool of criticism use to attack the unacceptable social formation. According to Louis Tyson in his *Critical Theory Today*, "Criticism is an evaluative or corrective exercise that can occur in any area of human life. Criticism can therefore take many different forms. How people go about criticizing, can vary a great deal" (7).

Therefore, it is not only the tool we use it as sake of literary tool but it also uses reformation and change the idea and concept. Thus, the use of critique help now day to counter the mainstream value of American society and want to reformation in the short period. The formation of development of recent American society was unacceptable for Black, Afro-American and third world people because they must improve policy level as well as law. Therefore, the novel *The Sellout* critiques the mainstream American values to fulfilled racial value and equality for all who have dominate from long time. White people facial was white but they seems like black in

the core of heart because it need to be behave like white, they consider as like god and superior than other community not only that they feel themselves very special. But the critique and counter is that how they can be near to super power and god? In the novel author criticize white attitude through the deconstruction, contextual voice and counter the mainstream value.

The tool we use like critique, counter, racism and deconstruction, American dream for improvement of contemporary values of American society. And by using voice of black, Afro-American and slave want to show deeper feeling of common voice. “In the name of the greatest people that have ever trod this earth, I draw the line in the dust and toss the gauntlet before the feet of tyranny, and I say segregation now, segregation tomorrow, segregation forever” (134). This example proves segregation of society. Greatest people use line of separation because they want conflict between both sides forever. “The white moth was still higher up the evolutionary and social ladder? Regardless, I supposed that black moth” (132). This line proves us only white moth is in the upper part of light or it means upper in the social values rather than black moth. Compose moth as contemporary society of America. Like this Paul Beatty put forward racial issue and want to critique that very issue.

To sum up the discussion of this research, *The Sellout* criticizes the American mainstream value. Paul Beatty highlights how they are being victim of their own country. By the role of narrator how the black treated in the USA. Paul Beatty argues that America is a white land so that all white people have comfortable life but not the Black people have. He establishes the freedom fight of white community. This we can observe in the role of Marpesseia and Hominly. The racial issue especially Afro-America and American seems good and different from civil right movement.

American government granted equally right for all citizens. However that granted law cannot implemented very effectively. America is known as leader of Democracy, justice, human right and development. So, that people get conflicted and misbehaved inside the country. There are vast different in appearance and act so reality is critical situation and need to criticize it.

Mainly African-Americans presents as negative and white always present as up and treated differently as like god. Not only that beaurocrates, police, court and even school and news present black as hoodlum and criminal. American investigation negro without any reason and encounter them because of black and negro but not the reason of criminal case. They use common value and comment like “All you niggers are lazy” (9). From this statement we can judge the racial discrimination was at everywhere and voice of discrimination was in the top level. We can find racial domination at society social institution like Judiciary and academia. So, that to critique mainstream value writer use counter for white and American. Author use criticism deconstruction, racial counter of mainstream value. Main critique upon the slavery system and racial discrimination by using the main character as unnamed narrator, it proves author middle voice and voice counter the mainstream too. Paul Beatty show humanitarian value upon the racial clash so want to make society without discrimination.

Overall Beatty critiques the American world by providing the voice of both white and African-American communities. Paul Beatty addresses the suppressed voice and marginal voice. He is guided by a broader goal of serving the humanities.

For this, critiques of mainstream values deconstruction as the sharpest weapon to counter the mainstream values.

Thus, makes a critique of the government and its ideologies of endorsing

racial stereotypes and voices equality for the oppressed. Beatty shows critical judgment upon mainstream society from the use of critique and deconstruction, basically author is showing the better reality of the society what it feels when such practices are done. From the reestablishment of slavery and racial discrimination, America cannot move ahead in the path of progress and prosperity. Through the critique of mainstream American values Beatty envisions colorless and slaveryless society and opposes the voice against the injustice and equality. Through the literary device raise the voice against the discrimination. By bringing the real place and real character author attack the mainstream value and give suggestion upon it. To make social justice, political establish and colorless society.

Works Cited

- “BBC interview with Paul Beatty, author of *The Sellout*, WINNER of the Man Booker Prize YouTube, uploaded by One world Publication, Oct 24, 2016, www.youtube.com/watch?v=rIDwklfYUgc. Accessed 1Jan. 2018.
- Beatty, Paul. *The Sellout*. One word Publication, 2016.
- Bloom, Harold. *The American Dream*. Bloom’s Literary Themes, 2009. Print.
- Bois W.E.B. Du *The Souls Of Black Folk*. A.C Mc clurg And Co. Chicago. 1903.
- Brooks L Roy. *It’s All About the Mainstream*. Oxford Journal Journals .2019.
- Cudden, J.A. *Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory*. New York: The Penguin Books, 1985.
- Delbanco, Andrew. *The real American dream: a meditation on hope*. Harvard University Press, 1952.
- Du Bois, W. E. B. . *The Souls of Black Folk*. New York: Bantam Classic. 1903.
- Gates Louis Henry, Losse *Canons Notes on the culture wars* Oxford University Press. New York 1993
- Green, Keith, and Jill Lebihan. “Literature and history.” *Critical Theory and Practice: A Course Book*. Indian ed. Routledge, 2011.
- Hokum. “Review: ‘The Sellout’, Paul Beatty’s The canonical Black writers as a young man”. *The New York Times*, 26 Feb. 2018
- James, Henry. *The Critical Muse*. Edited by Roger Gard. Penguin, 1987.
- - -. *Speech Genres and Other Late Essays*. Edited by Michael Holquist, and Vern W. McGee. Austin: University of Texas Press, 1987.
- Peter, Kennelly. “Review: ‘*The Sellout* : Paul Beatty’s Man-booker winning novel of race in the USA’ Australian newspaper; The Sunday Morning Herald on November 19, 2016.

Storhoff, Gary. *American Literature*. vol.66, no.2,1994, pp.409-10. JSTOR,
www.jstor.org/stable/2928021.

Tyson, Louis. *Critical Theory Today*. New York London: Routledge, 2006.

Yuki Fujioka & Kimberly A. Neuendorf (2015) Media, Racial Identity, and
Mainstream American Values, *Howard Journal of Communications*, 26:4,
352-380, DOI: 10.1080/10646175.2015.1049762

Yuki Fujioka And Kimberly. "*Media, Race Identity, and Mainstream American
Values*". Cambridge Scholar Press, 2007.