

## Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* as a Historiographic Metafiction

This research paper analyzes Kathryn Stockett's *The Help* in the light of Historiographic Metafiction. The research reveals how historiography not only represents past events but it also give meaning to them as it is signifying system and turn historical events into historical facts and analyze metafiction elements of the texts stressing self-reflexivity non-linear narrative and parodic intention to pinpoint. Generally, history is defined as the study of past events that reflect historical events whereas fiction is supported to describe imaginary events but this research projects the nexus between these two. *The Help* is the story of racism, segregation, and feminism set between 1962 to 1964 in Jackson, Mississippi. It mainly tells the stories of African American Women who work as maids. The novel is narrated by three different characters two African American maids, Minny Jackson and Aibileen Clark and a white woman called Skeeter Phelan. The novel presents the issue of racism. Stockett's reflects the perspectives of black maids many of whom raised several white children who later mistreated the maids after these children grew into adulthood.

Hutcheon considers historiographic metafiction as "constructed and whose self-reflexivity renders (its) implicit claim to historical veracity somewhat problematic" (121). Historiographic Metafiction combines the argument of poetics with historicism in such a way it mutually interrogates with each other. History as a discipline has struggled for decades to assert itself in a legitimate scientific discipline whose methodology results in a truthful of the past. Historiographic Metafiction is a term coined by Canadian literary theorist Linda Hutcheon in the late 1980s. Historiographic Metafiction as, defined in her work, a poetics of postmodernism, offers an interpretation of the relationship between history and fiction. Historiographic Metafiction is the attitude towards the truth. Hutcheon says "

postmodernism works through parody to both legitimize and subvert that which it parodies” (101).

Hutcheon further writes, “Through a double process of installing and ironizing, parody signals how to present representation comes from past one what ideological consequences derive from both continuity and difference ” ( Hutcheon 93). Thus, far from dehistoricizing the present or organizing history into an incoherent and detached pastiche, postmodernism can rethink history and shed light on critical capacities. Here Hutcheon defines the term Historiographic Metafiction as “those literary texts that assert an interpretation of the past but are also intensely self-reflexive that is critical of their version of the truth as being partial, biased, incomplete ” ( Hutcheon122-123). Stockett’s *The Help* not only presents the history by narrating the story through the old maid but also analyzes the history through the present-day situation. Thus the text revisits history by revising and questioning it.

Kathryn Stockett was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi. After graduating from the University of Alabama, she moved to New York City, where she worked in magazine publications and marketing for nine years. About 9 years she offered her service in marketing and publishing of magazine where she later moved in Atlanta. The story of *The Help* was inspired by Stockett's childhood. The novel, set in 1962, took Stockett five years to complete and she received a rejection from sixty literary agents before Susan Ramer agreed to be her agents. When published in 2009, it made the New York Times bestseller list for more than 100 weeks. The book was adapted by DreamWorks and made into a movie starring Emma Stone and Octavia Spencer. Abilene Cooper, a nanny who worked for Stockett's brother and once babysat for Stockett, filed a lawsuit against Stockett regarding her book. Cooper claimed that the character Aibileen Clark is modeled after her. Stockett denied the

claim and hints country judge dismissed the case. Here Stockett presents the setting of segregation because this segregation significance time where civil right leaders focused a good deal of their work.

Black maids in *The Help* are depicted to be stupid, poor and foolish. Throughout the novel the Whites are always addressed as superior to the blacks, they also treat the Blacks as animals. So, Similarly, Mississippi deals with problems of racial discrimination at the time. They explore the problem of domestic abuse, the social hierarchy, and prejudice over the poor and the problems faced by women who pressured into the life of a housewife when all they wanted to achieve was a decent career for them. Stockett tries to capture the different points of view of Miss Skeeter, Aibileen and Minny. Descriptions of historical events state about the early activities of the Civil Right Movement which are prepared throughout the novel it describes as an interaction between the maids and their white employers. This novel presents the view of the black housemaids in the society and the story about this novel begins young white women Skeeter and her relationship with two black maids, Aibileen Clark and Minny Jackson. And the black maids work with Skeeter Phelan a white woman to create a book depicting their lives. *The Help* garnered instant attention after its publication due to its unusual and rarely addressed subject matter, the relationship in the south between white families and black domestic servants in the 1960s. Having grown up with the black as familiar this period in Mississippi, Stockett was familiar with the qualities dynamic but was nervous about addressing it in the novel. In an interview with the website Bookreporter, Stockett explained her attitude as a child saying “Growing up in Mississippi, almost every family I knew had a black woman working in their house cooking, cleaning and taking care of the white children that were living in Mississippi. I was young and assumed that's how most Americans

lived" (December 4, [bookreporter.com](http://bookreporter.com)). Only after she moved North Stockett realized that her memories of her childhood were not a universal experience she found herself reminiscing with other southern she met in New York, trading stories about growing up with black domestic help. Gradually those memories began to spark an idea and she decided to write a story about her relationship with her family's maid when she was a child. Despite being very close to her maid Demetrie, Stockett never stopped to think what Demetrie's life might be like outside of the work she performed for the white household, she wrote this novel to bridge the gap.

Skeeter Phelan a recent college graduate who returned home after finding a job in Jackson's journal. The local newspaper and two housemaids Aibileen Clark and Minny Jackson are both maids. Aibileen has spent her life by raising as many little white girls. Minny is a maid who is the best cook in Mississippi but she is fired unfairly by a local social leader, Hilly Holbrook after long years of service. Life gets harder for Minny before she is hired by another white lady Celia Foote as she has to run her family without a job. Hilly Holbrook is a radical racist who separated household bathrooms for black maids. She thinks it transfers so-called disease to the whites. She did not allow her maid Minny to use her toilet but once Minny use her toilet mistakenly and that was the reason she fired Minny from her job. Skeeter horrified witness of these and racist notions, determines to break the long-suffering of the black maids with this novel based on their trail. But it is not as easy to collect black maid life because it was dangerous for both their life and job too. Skeeter convinces Aibileen and then Minny to speak frankly with her sharing their stories and as the novel develops so does her insight and anger. Skeeter doesn't like to build relationship with Aibileen and Minny for her secret project that breakers social rule and put them all in risk during the 1960s in Mississippi, Aibileen shares her pain

including the murder of her son with eyes full of tears and how she has raised 17 children in her life which very emotional touched every women's. On the other hand, Minny reveals her most dramatic and rebellious action. Skeeter and Aibileen were shocked when they hear Minny had made Hilly Holbrook eat her toilet just to take revenge with her. She made a pie mixed with her toilet and Hilly Holbrook ate it.

Minny and Aibileen shared their trails but that was not enough for Miss Myrna to publish it as a book. So Miss Myrna asks skeeter to include more stories, about a dozen more. Skeeter has enough courage to speak and express their stories. The situation got changed when one day a black man was shot dead in front of his family. Yule Mae got arrested by the police for a charge of stealing the ring. Skeeter got enough stories to include in her book. Finally, Skeeter's book got published but without mention the name of Aibileen and Minny in it as it was a great risk for all of them. The book made a good earning in the market. Skeeter doesn't want to leave Minny and Aibileen alone from the less mess that the book has created in Jackson, Mississippi. But Minny and Aibileen pursue Skeeter to leave Jackson as she doesn't have a good life. Hilly blames Aibileen for stealing the silver and she tries to call the police to arrest her as she wants to take revenge for putting her horrible story in their book. At last, she left the job remembering her son she feels hope that maybe she is not too old to start over.

Stockett presents the reality of life where the people of black and white cannot sit together to have dinner lunch and not even breakfast. Stockett presents all the white characters in the novel except for Skeeter as racists even though many are not aware of it. Black women who were facing the domination of patriarchal society also go against their husbands as they become conscious and strong. To go against the white masters' black maids make with a white lady Skeeter. Black women unite with

each other overcoming their fear and share their stories of experience that they had while working in white families. Sharing their stories gives them relief as they take it as a chance to speak against the white and also an opportunity to make amends against white by sharing their awful and horrible stories. Black women's step is ultimately out of the journey of revolution against racial and patriarchal discrimination.

The Whites treat the Black maid poorly, believing that they are stupid and inferior. Throughout the novel, the whites are always referring to the maids or blacks in general in descriptive terms that usually apply to animals, suggesting that black have more in common with animals than humans. Here Stockett mentioned the fact of slavery. Several times by the black maids as their racial lineage suggesting that the treatment of the maids is another form of slavery. At the end of the novel where Minnie and Aibileen realize that the changes were worth it and a natural progression of living a lifestyle that exemplifies equality. Throughout the novel, there is a well-defined line between the whites and the blacks. This novel helps to bridge the differences between the white women and the black maids and they all worked together to dissolve that line between "us" and "them" while Martin Luther King and the Civil Rights Movement takes place in the background of the novel, the characters have their own Civil Rights Movement led by a few courageous black maids and one white woman. At the end of the novel, a few relationships between black maid employees are budding. They sit together at the same table and speak openly about their lives. In the last part of this novel, Stockett shows "us" vs "them" dynamic will end.

'Historiographic Metafiction combines poetics with argument by historicism in such a way to mutually interrogate each other. History is the study of written records that analyzes a theoretical understanding of human societies based on those records.

History is defined as a narrative account to examine and analyze past events while “historiography is the body of historical work on a specific issue. Historians do not study documents from the past” (Hutcheon 23). They also study what other historians have written. Historians examine and interpret sources from the past, including documents, art, and even human remains because they are considered the primary source. Metafiction is self-conscious about language, literary form storytelling and directly or indirectly draw attention to their status as artifacts. Metafiction is frequently used as a form of parody to undermine literary convention and explore the relationship between literature and reality, life and art. Metafiction is a literary device used self-consciously and systematically to draw attention to work's status as a work of imagination rather than reality. So here, in this novel, Historiographic Metafiction also uses conventional and experimental techniques by rejecting conventional plot and refusing to attempt to become a real-life convention to highly realistic. The opening of the novel shows the historical conditions that gave birth to the Civil Rights Movement. Hilly wants to enforce the law of segregation in the homes of Jackson residents. Her insistence on separate bathroom for African American and white highlight segregation degrading reality.

Historiographic Metafictions “revisit the textual past but communicate an awareness of its inevitable different from past and the same thing” (Hutcheon12) has been done by the author in this novel. Stockett's revisit her novel the help and this novel reflects the history of 1960 Jackson Mississippi. The Help is a representation of black women it is a disappointing resurrection of Mammy mythical stereotypes of black women who were compelled either by slavery or segregation to serve white families. In early 1960s maids and caretaker of white families were referred to as The Help. Most wealthy white families had black communities serve as their maid. Most

whites still saw themselves as the superior race and were generally satisfied with the restriction that existed for blacks. Stockett shows the segregation and intimidation where blacks not permitted to use the same facilities as white such as churches, schools, supermarket, and bathrooms. People who hire other people to work for them should maintain a professional distance from the worker. There are certain rules that people should know and follow when dealing with people of different social people of different races are so different from each other that they should stick with their kind society. Telling or writing stories can be a way of personal expression and freedom also telling or writing stories can be a way of changing society. In the 1960s Mississippi southern society girl, Skeeter returns from college with the dream of being a writer. She changed her small town on being a writer and after she takes to interview the black women who spent their lives taking care of prominent white's families. Only Aibileen the housekeeper of Skeeter's best friend will at first but as the pair continues the collaboration, more women decided to come forward and as it turns out they have quite a lot to say. Here, the history of 1960s Mississippi explores the relationship between literature and reality life, art and this novel itself examines the elements of fiction itself. This novel focuses on how black maids resist against the white domination and racial discrimination it has been deducted then regarding The Help blogger Erin Aubry Kaplan argues:

The Help is buoyant in its most saber moments, occasionally insightful.

Skeeter Phelan is misfit, a 24 year –old college grad growing uneasy with the social hierarchies of home; the two black women who risk their lives and livelihoods to help collect the interviews she seeks, Aibileen and Minny are sympathetically if somewhat predictably drawn. Yet the buoyancy often undermines the book's more serious intentions ultimately, the help can't decide

if it's modern Faulkner or pop lit with some racial lessons thrown in for fiber.

(May 9, 2009)

Here Kaplan expresses the racial discrimination which was clearly expressed by the characters. Though the freedom and Civil Right Moments come over they fight for their freedom, at first, the character Skeeter presents some sort of selfish which was limited for her book and focuses on her aim only later she knows the depth or the pain of the black people. So Skeeter collects all the interviews for her secret project only. That's why this critic argues Skeeter leads misfit.

Similarly, Janet Maslin argues:

The trouble on the pages of skeeter's book is nothing compared with the trouble Ms. Stockett's real book risks getting into. Here is a debut novel by a southern-born white author who renders black maid voice in thick dated dialect ("law have mercy says, when asked to cooperate with the book project" reckon I m on do it"). It's a story that purports to value the maids' lives while subordinating them to skeeter and her writing ambitions. And it celebrates noblesse oblige so reading that skeeter's act daring earn her gift from a local black church congregation." This one, this is for the white lady " the reverend of the church says. "You tell her we love her .like she's, own family. (NY Times May 28, 2009)

Here Janet Maslin's opinions that every people are equal and while here author expresses the black maids' voice. But here Skeeter indirectly becomes the voice of all the people who were suffering from such things. She wants to see all the people live happily and respect each other.

Another reviewer, Jesse Kombluth, editor of headbutler.com cross-posted in Huffington past by Jesse Kornbluth argues:

Smartest of all, Stockett has downplayed the horror that was Mississippi in 1962. Back then, it wasn't just Medgar Evers shot in the back outside his home, it was the leaders of state government defining the national association for the advancement of colored people as "Niggers, Alligators, Apes, coons and possums." and more and worse. (May 26, 2009)

Komblath expresses that black is being outside from everywhere not only from home but also their right and it's been worst seeing this situation.

Similarly, reviewer Sybill Steinberg from the Washington Post's book word/washingtonpost.com argues, "Aibileen and Minny share the narration with Skeeter, and one of Stockett's accomplishment is reproduction African American vernacular and racy humor without resorting to stilted dialogue. She unsparingly delineates the conditions of black servitude a century after the civil war"(May 26, 2009). Here Sybill Steinberg expresses that Aibileen and Minny show all hardship and hidden pain with Skeeters. All the conversation and words express their pain that they are not treated as equal to the White and also they have fear of talk and express their expresses.

Another reviewer Mark Golub argues that increasingly, Americans rely more on film than on books for information about historical events and experiences. As he puts it "(the) collective memory of past events is beginning to blur into dramatic, fictionalized, and commodified accounts"(12). By this light, the success of the film and the novel prompts us to ask what it might mean for a generation of viewers to come to an awareness of Jim Crow protocols through these texts not through images of the segregations of public spaces, but rather through images of the segregation of private homes.

One the one hand, the focus seems entirely logical. Because these are

narratives that focus on black women working in white people home in the waning years of Jim Crow segregation, it seems reasonable that they would highlight ways in which white supremacy was policed and enacted within domestic space. By focusing on a debate about the construction within private home of separate toilet for the women who are responsible for cleaning those toilets, doing laundry, toilet training children and who, by virtue of their work are steeped in the personal details of their employer's, lives, the narrative highlight the contradictory assumption required to uphold the system and make a forceful case for the dangerous and delicate balance between intimacy and estrangement within these household. Seen from a different perspective one could argue that this focus attenuates, if not trivializes, the political intensity of the period thus making the plot more accessible to contemporary readers and viewers. It locates black women's activism from the important work of organizing with which many were involved during that era. Moreover, it provides the contemporary viewer with an image of an egregious prohibition from which she can easily distance herself thus defamiliarizing ways in which white supremacy continues to operate. And it sets the stage for Minny's outrageous act of retaliation. This gesture highlights the power dynamic that structures the relationship between worker and laborer but it might all too easily be trivialized as a moment of comic relief.

Another critic Topher GL in his blog *it was uphill both ways.com* argues, "There also been some complaint that Stockett works with a lot of stereotypes in her black characters. This may be true the white characters .this may be true the white character don't come off looking any better or less stereotypical (May 27, 2009)".

Here Topher expresses the typical stereotype about gender, race, and equality as such. Black people are lazy, dirty, and they carry diseases and they are less intelligent and less valuable than white. *The Help* shows a deep mistrust of white on

the part of the black community, who have been betrayed by them again and again. It also shows how powerful and how dangerous it can be to challenge the stereotype and dissolve the invisible lines that are meant to separate people from each other based on skin color.

Similarly Motor Rich in New York Times argues, “with its intimate portrayals of the maid’s relationship with their employers and the children they care”(2 Nov 2009). *The Help* appeals to readers who feel they are getting a behind the scenes peek into a dark period in the country's history. Similarly, domestic work puts white bodies at risk of Aibileen also attests that "black women chose to move past whatever emotional boundaries they had in caring for white children. Black bodies show up verbally and physically as oddities, marked with despair so powerful that the physical intimacy of domestic work puts white at risk of their blackness rubbing off *The Help* about the relationship between African American maids and their white employers in 1960s Mississippi. Here Motor Rich states that while reading this book we may get sympathy and love towards the black character because here Kathryn presents the black condition as worst which whites always never feel such things.

Similarly Janet Maslin argues in brief words about Ms. Stockett when she moved to New York city from Jackson, she came to understand how deeply ambivalent she felt about her roots. If a New Yorker told her that Jackson must be beautiful, she would say it was fraught with crime. But if a New Yorker spoke contemptuously about Jackson Ms. Stockett would raise to its defense "Mississippi like my mother ", she writes in an afterword to *The Help*. And you will see, after your wrestling match with the problematic but ultimately winning novel, that when it comes to the love-hate familial bond between Ms. Stockett and her subject matter, she's telling the truth (May 28, 2009).

Here Janet Maslin states that Kathryn Stockett said Mississippi is like her mother so she knows the all history of the civil rights movement as well as the black and white discrimination, slavery. Different Critics have analyzed *The Help* from a different perspective many critics have argued that black soul-killing labor Southern US in the 1960s. They argued this novel deals with the issue of racism and cruelty of racism more than other issues. Some other critics focus on the war, but here author present character in different ways but here my issue of this research is different from those critics. This research deals with the issue of Historiographic Metafiction in *The Help*.

This research deals with the issue of Historiographic Metafiction as in the novel shows the rising consciousness among the black characters and their hope for freedom and their rights. Before discussing Historiographic Metafiction it is necessary to discuss the history and fiction in general which were presented in the novel. As we know as history is fact and academic and also history is the study of the past as it is described in written documents and it reflects truth and reality-based. The novel shows that segregation and also the civil rights movement. A heightened awareness of the civil rights movement develops as a result of Dr. King's effort at the march on Washington. This historical detail shows how life for southern African- American culture changed when the nation began to develop a greater understanding of Civil Rights. It is a historical fact that separate but equal facilities were the legal requirement in the south in that period. Here Stockett descriptions of historical events of the early activities of the civil rights movement are peppered throughout the novel. The American Civil Rights Movement started in the mid-1950s. Civil Rights Movement against racial segregation and discrimination in the southern united states that came to national prominence during the mid-1950s.

This movement has deep-rooted for the century-long effort of African slaves and races. Writing about African –American domestic and the women the support in 1960s Mississippi requires great imagination and observation. Black maids reveal the secrets of their white employers in particular. The novel exposes how people think past of drive the relationship and life choices of the 1060s south and indeed so much of life today. Color barrier an entire life could be ruined. The truth is less interesting than our racial imaginations. The presence of racism and segregation in Mississippi and other southern states of America has its roots in slavery. The development of slavery and the presence of the slaves in the states caused some anxiety for the white Mississippians. Indeed, the colored slaves were essential for the running for white Mississippi was the second state to secede from confederacy in 1861 and played an important role in the union during the civil war (1862-1865). After the victory of the confederacy, reconstruction took place until 1877, during which time the republicans fought to prevent the democrats from re-establishing white control in the southern states.

In, 1867 during reconstruction, federal military rule was enforced in most of the south, which forced the now occupied state to adopt the 14th and 15th amendments into their constitution. These amendments state that all American citizens, including the former slaves, befits from "equal protection of laws" and the right to vote. Thus, until the end of reconstruction in 1877, the colored population benefitted from treatment and rights equal to those of their white counterparts. However, once the federal troops had withdrawn violence and hostility against the colored resumed and many segregation laws were created, such as the Jim crow laws furthermore in 1890 a convention was established to creates a new state constitution intending to prevent coloreds from voting. Indeed many colored men who

were largely qualified to vote were not granted authorization to vote. But whereas many white men who were barely literate were allowed to do so. Thus by 1940, the colored population of Mississippi was registered to vote and therefore they practically did not influence politics and society. However, during the 1950s the civil rights movement began its goal was to retrieve basic civil rights that the coloreds were being denied. Today, segregation has officially been demolished, although the relationship between white and coloreds are still tense. In 1970 and 80 several black women writers rose to the literary and critical forum and started voicing out their agonies as marginalized and doubly oppressed as black and as women in their works. They were victimized by black and women they were doubly suppressed. Alice walker is a black writer who wrote and raised voice in favor of a black female. Alice walker is another black female author poet, self –claimed womanish and activist. She was an active member of the civil rights movement, fighting for equality for all African Americans. Walker continued to explore writing in all its forms. In 1976 she published her second novel meridian. This novel dealt with activist workers in the south during the civil rights movement.

The 1960s south relied heavily on these broad fear-based stereotypes. The life of black people full of hardship and fear so here Stockett tries to capture complex reality and also present the racial segregation history of American. But history is the study of the past as it is described in written documents and it reflects truth and reality-based so here, The help novel raises a highly sensitive issue of racism. It deals with the story of the Jackson society where the dominant white social superior and black people marginalized life. It deals with how white people dominated black people according to their racism. The main focus of this novel is Racism. Racism is portrayed as the antagonistic force in the character of white and black characters are

bounding and consciousness is the weapon against the domination in the conflict between oppressor and oppressive. Black women have been stereotyped by both black and white men as "bad" women. US society will perceive and represents black women as fallen women's whores and prostitutes. White people established a social hierarchy based on race. During 1960s Jackson, Mississippi was too much discriminative between white and blacks. Black women are allowed in the kitchen to cook food, but not allowed to eat living together in a dining room. Black women are assigned to look after white children but white bosses do not allow the maids to use the same bathroom which they use or the children use. This novel reflects the early 1960s Jackson Mississippi was divided by race, colored people. The black maids who work the whole day after taking care of the white babies and cooking food for the white families were not even allowed to use the same bathroom the white family uses.

Historiography is the study of the methods of historians in developing history as an academic. Historiographic Metafiction is a term coined by Canadian literary theorist Linda Hutcheon in the late 1980s. The term is used for works of fiction that combine the literary device of metafiction with historical fiction. Hutcheon says that "Historiographic Metafiction is the scoping study of postmodern that tell about the right and lies from history and fiction also tells about the novel with fiction and history merged deliberately"(113). Further, Hutcheon explains that " postmodern fiction has characteristics, that is first Historiographic Metafiction plays in the right and lies of history note or record second, actually postmodern fiction use detail and historical data"(114). As stated by Hutcheon said that "Historiographic Metafiction show that historical condition and history can be discursively structured and debating about the implication of ideology"(120). Historiographic Metafiction is about the implication of ideology. Historiographic Metafiction suggests the limits of" event"

and "fact" that shared by most of the historian with a purpose to look event that can be factual. Historiographic Metafiction uses convention paratextual from history, especially footnote to describe and merge the authority and objectivity from the source and explanation of history. Hutcheon " divides the types of reference into types: Intra-textual Reference, self –Reference, Inter-textual Reference, Textualized extra-textual reference, and Hermeneutic Reference."(153).

Intra – textual reference holds that history is not reshaped in any way but its discourse has direct access to reality and does not measure the true reality. Self – Reference or automatic representation indicates that language cannot be connected directly to reality. Self-Reference raised the name of the protagonist of the novel. Self-reference raised the name of the protagonist of the novel. Self –Reference not only sees something coherent, but it also sees fiction as fiction. Intertextual Reference or intertextual is a process of re-working the past by focusing on reading in parallel, by looking at the word level and problem structure in a work of fiction. Textualized extra-textual Reference emphasizes history as inter-text and Historiographic as factual presentation or event tracking textual. Hermeneutic Reference emphasizes the interaction between the fictional world and the real world of readers.

The term is closely associated with works of postmodern literature according to Linda Hutcheon in a poetic of postmodernism works of Historiographic Metafiction are included in various novel which reflects self –reflexive and yet paradoxically also claim to historical events and personages and also constructively about the past in a way that acknowledges the falsity and violence of the "objective" historian 's past without leaving us in a totally isolated present . One of the first to coin the term was Linda Hutcheon for whom the term should "best be reserved to describe fiction that is at once Metafictional and historical in its echoes of the texts

and contexts of the past" (Hutcheon120). Postmodern scholar Linda Hutcheon poses the key concern of Historiographic thus "how can the present know the past it tells?" (69). The answer to this leads to discussions of the archive, which involves all of the raw materials out of which history is constructed. It should be noted that technically there are some types of historical writing that don't use literary devices Hayden White, who has written extensively on the relationship between " literature and history, identifies three types of historical representation the first two of which are less prone to using literary devices in their representation of history: the annals, the chronicle, and the history proper" ( 4). The annals type of representation is simply a list of events in chronological order: the chronic approximates a narrative form but lack closure: and the history proper is narrative historiography, complete with a narrative plot structure that has closure. Of the three form of historical representation, this third form is most likely to employ literary techniques.

Though the annals form of representation used to be a typical form of historical documentation .while gives an actual example from the 8th century. The history proper is currently the most prevalent form of historical representation .when a student pick up a history book, she sees more than a mere list of events she beholds a story general with plot developments, descriptive, prose and antagonist and protagonist. The line between historical fiction and historiography is thus blurred, and the historiography becomes an aesthetic object akin to literature. The help is a novel about African maids working in a white household in Jackson and this novel reflect color discrimination, domination. Stockett's novel shows black and white narrators find themselves drawing together emotionally as they exchanged stories of humiliation and exploitation. The more Skeeter and Aibileen share stories she hears, she finds herself transported into the lived of the maids who work for her friends and

that of her childhood mate of Constantine who has since disappeared from life.

The help where we can see African – American maids who contributed their stories to Skeeters' book express their deeply felt gratitude to the aspiring young writer. It is a reassuring picture of racism defeated of Civil Right also. The help shows love for hate relationship between two races. The black maid who works for a white household raising her 17 white children and nurture, caring them But black maid own son tragic death while nurturing them she feels it meanwhile Linda Hutcheon and White Hayden theory find the Historiographic Metafiction in this novel. According to these two's theorists in the historiography Metafiction the idea of history. The most precise and reliable source of knowing the truth about the past gets contaminated by the notion of fiction which immediately deprives the former term of the fifty. The very term "historical fiction" is a kind of oxymoron, joining 'history (what is 'true/'fact) with 'fiction what is untrue/invented but may aim at a different example of the metafictional novel by graham Swift Jules Barnes and Vladimir Nabokov, the past as factor , which shapes the present . similarly, white Hayden has managed to give an encompassing account of problematic issue that has been one of the major concerns of historical studies as well as many other areas of theme human sciences. Although the author 's mentioned deals with this subject in different ways white find in them common characteristics which confirm the point made by him historical narratives form a semi-logical perspective, concerned with the production of meanings. A notion such as political power, wars, economic, activity, and the establishment of alliances interest him to the extent that these discourse involve intentional creation and destruction being. Like, wise In This novel Kathryn Stockett's she talks about the history and combined with fiction. Similarly, in this novel, Kathryn talks about the contemporary situations of black women who are victimized by white people. This

novel shows the history and fiction which is happened in this novel. The help gives more information about the horrific conditions of the 1960s Africans Americans who are ignored by the contemporary government. All these things are beautifully written by Kathryn Stockett. It is because she exposes the history of black people through the help of fiction. In this novel, Kathryn talks about past things which are known as history. It means that presents sensory indicated the past thing. likewise, Linda Hutcheon states ("How can the present know the past it tells?") ( 9) the answer to this question leads to the discussion of the archive to the novels. Stockett writes:

..so I said, miss, walters, the world doesn't want to see your naked white behind any more than they want to see my black one. Now get in this house and put your underpants some clothes on"

On the front porch? Naked?" kiki Brown asks.

"Her behind hanging to her knees".

The bus is laughing and chucking and shaking their heads.

"laws, that women crazy "kiki say. "I don't know how you always seem to get the crazy ones, Minny."

"Oh, like yours Miss Paterson ain't?" ...(13)

In this novel Stockett describing the how she combines the fiction and history but while examining this above line Stockett feel so comfortable pretending to be black female, she concocts an imaginary conversation where Aibileen and Minny talks about coochies, Minny mentions that the women Aibileen's estranged spouse Clyde has run off named cocoa, contracted a venereal disease a week after their departure . and black having " diseases" and being that things immoral as an excuse to block or mentioned that they are equality. Here Stockett creates this cocoa cootchie Clyde as in characters which is clear reflect in her novel. Where Aibileen doesn't realize she too

might have contracted a venereal disease and that most Christians devoted to god would be highly offended. But behind that Stockett has Aibileen invoking one of the stupidest lines in which is not related to the history but it can be as fiction.

Postmodern scholar Linda Hutcheon said that the postmodern relationship between fiction and history realities. The postmodern relationship between fiction and history is an even more complex one of interaction and mutual implication.

Historiographic Metafiction works to situate itself within historical discourse without surrendering its autonomy as fiction, and it is a kind of seriously ironic parody that effect both aims the interests of history and fiction take on parallel (though not equal) status in the parodic reworking of the textual past of both "world " and literature.

When that past is the literary period we now seem to label as modernism, then what is both instated and then subverted is the notion of the work of art as closed, self-sufficient, autonomous object deriving its unity from the formal interrelations of its parts. What Historiographic Metafiction challenges are both any native realist equality naïve textualist and formalist assertions of the total separation of art form the world.

The black population is terrified about this outbreak of violence against a deeply respected member of their community. Here Minny's horrified comment to Aibileen lines, "Thing ain't ever going to change in this town. Aibileen. We live in hell, we trapped. Our kids are trapped" (230). The white establishment, on the other hand, sees the vigilante murder of Evers as simply returning things to business as usual. On the radio, the white mayors of Jackson publicly refuse President Kennedy's directive to put together a biracial commission. 'Jackson Mississippi is the closet place to heaven there is he says "and it's going to be like that for the rest of our life"' (231). Here these lines reflected that nothing will be changed in Jackson's Mississippi white people's power existence .but while going through the novel we find the history

which is based on a real incident. Here writer also related this history in her life but here some incident Stockett bent with fiction through the history. Black – white relations in the south and about 20th century black domestic workers are not called as human being or it can be said that they are called stupid , no brain such thing but in oral history telling memories among southern women which are domestic workers and their employers in the segregated south and though no one said so explicitly this kind of historical documents which do not even capture the relationship between women in this novel *The Help*.

Depiction of white employers and black domestic, but they did not speak to for sake of interest but in this novel white women's trying to make a long bridge the racial divide. White characters are present satirizing their foibles and showing the heroine's resistance to their sometimes careless, other times vicious racism. Here Kathryn presents the white women's relationship with black relationship shows with the blended with the history. Here, black housekeeper, Aibileen says:

Mae Mobley two years old now . she got big brown eyes and honey color curls. But the bald spot in the black of her hair kinda throws things off .she gets the same wrinkle between her eyebrows when she worried, like her mama. They kinda favor except Mae Mobley so fat. She ain't gone be no beauty queen. I think it brother miss leefolt, but Mae Mobley my special baby.

(2)

Here *Can't Quit You , Baby* ( Ellen Douglas) which can be situated in the subgenre of the kitchen drama focusing on the relationship between housewives and their black housekeepers in the south at the crossroads of the issue of race , class and gender as they come out in the privileged locus of the meeting between black and white, the kitchen . writer for the first time in this remarkable novel will want to read everything

she has written set in Mississippi during the 1960s and 70s this lines indicated the black housekeeper narrator Aibileen is African American women were hired as maids but their main task was to help raise the white children. Skeeter Phelan has a monotonous relationship with her mother. Although Skeeter loves her mother loves her, Mrs. Phelan can be very exasperating and irritating when it comes to teaching skeeter how to behave and present herself in public. however as mentioned before the role of the white mother in the south was to teach her children about social behavior, and therefore she was not a close loving mother but could be demanding and harsh. However, the relationship between Skeeter and her mother is not that severe and unforgiving as Mrs. Phelan is simply determined to turn her only daughter into five young ladies and hopefully a caring wife and mother so that she can have the best possible life. Elizabeth Leefolt, on the other hand, represents the role of an authoritative mother as she rarely has any time for her daughter.

But here Aibileen and Mae Mobley relationship between them were pure .no color line used for them .where the help open with Aibileen explain what her job implies in a heavy dialect "taking care of white babies, that's what I do along with all the cooking and the cleaning I done raised 17th kids in my lifetime. I know how to get the babies to sleep stop crying and go in the toilet bowl before they mama even get out a bed in the morning.

Aibileen knows her worth and she does this kind job very well calling Mae Mobley is special because they both established a strong emotional bond with that white baby child. Some, how Aibileen presents to the stereotype of "Black mammy" whose sole purpose in life. But also Mae Mobley feels so strongly about her, she goes as far to call her "Real mama" (284) The hug, kisses, the stories, the way of saying I love you are a pure form of love between white and black. Hater way of

transformation into a personal thing which leads to social change. Here Kathryn presents the mixture of the period of historical event and fictional things because the racial conflict within the story makes it a work of historical fiction of the racism and the civil rights movements. The fact of separate but equal facilities was the legal requirement in the south in that period where the equality was frequently lacking but this could be a contemporary thing which mentioned by Kathryn. In the 1960s South White population worked as domestic help in comparison with the black population so here the novel is filled with details with history. There are many lines which reflect in the novel reflected fictionalized.

"Write about what disturbs you particularly if it bothers no one else'(83)

Here the above line explains that Skeeters which Elaine Stein offers this piece of advice in the letter she writes to Skeeter. Skeeter takes this advice to heart and starts thinking about her bond with Constantine and the ugly harassment of black maids she says every day, ultimately deciding to write her book about the maids. It is also the guiding of the help itself, which covers many situations. The help also shows the way of Kathryn writing from the perspective of the black maids Aibileen and Minny, Stockett different form of speech. While this is meant to lend authenticity to their voices, it also makes them hear stories which they belong to. Through her efforts to be a mouthpiece for the black maids of Jackson, Skeeter develops a close friendship with Aibileen and Minny. The help is set in Jackson, Mississippi and this novel features three main narrators, Aibileen, Minny, and Skeeter. Here in the novel analyze by Hayden White, who has written extensively on the relationship between literature and history, identify three types of historical presentation between literature and history, identifies three types of historical representation the first two of which are less prone to using literary devices in their representation of history: the annals, the chronicle.

And the history proper"(4).

The help reflects the hardship pain suffering of black people according to Kathryn African American women who works as a maid and she taking care of white babies and cooking and cleaning for the white family since she was a teen also Aibileen saw the hardship and have many struggles for survival. Aibileen helped raise 17th white babies and Mae Mobley who has just turned two years old she is much closer to the heart of Aibileen. Here Skeeter connected both black maids to develop her book. Skeeter is a young and talented person she just got a degree as well as but here Aibileen is forced to drop out school in junior high to help support her family. Here Aibileen, writer's her own story and work with Skeeter. They are giving a positive vibe or change in their communities for African American women in Mississippi in the early 1960s where the character hilly Holbrook made a toilet designed for black maids because she thinks that bad diseases. But here Skeeter mentioned these things in her book where Skeeter takes revenge with hilly Holbrook made her eat her toilet. Here, Skeeter made hilly Holbrook made her eat her toilet which seems taking revenge but it is not related to history in 1960s Jackson Mississippi. Kathryn mentioned just make the reader to entertainment and these things are just fiction. All the characters from this novel are different but Somehow they are not understanding here black people are not giving proper equality for everything. Kathryn basically shows the African American are biased from the white people even white people ting that black color people are harmful, thief is shown but here the character Aibileen who lost her son Treelore Clark . while opening novel mentioned Treelore Clark importantly but after this incidents she take one month bed rest and again to work but she didn't teach any things wrong to Mae Mobley, in fact, she said good thing all people are the same all are equal. Kathryn shows the black

people are dominated by people fighting for their right but here nothing just pure love seems.

We can consider what *The Help* is a discussions about the social inequality , especially in the south although the help gives horrific condition of the 1960s for African American do such struggle for everything such as Yule May crook to get her sons to college, the poverty-level wages for the better of him paid to maids, the impossibilities of legal representation, the abominable lack of human respect all these for the novel individuals who are not known in history because they are not the leading light movement . The novel *The Help* depicts the young protagonist, Skeeter, along with her friends, family and white employers. This novel has taken on a journey where a social change in the deep South." *The Help*" is the title where change begins with a whisper. This novel conveys the daily prejudice, abuse and silent suffering black s men and women faced in the 1960s. It shows the steps toward large and small change. One of the main historical topics that were Jim Crow laws. Racial segregation occurred between 1876 through social, political and of course economic separation.

Kathryn Stockett wanted to express the different points of view of different people in the society of the 1960s. During the 1960s racism and violence are prominent in the Sothern States due to the Jim Crow laws. In the novel *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett, it depicts what life was like Jackson Mississippi during the 1960s. Stockett takes inspiration from the segregation she witnessed in her home town and African American maid from whom she has written a passionate this controversial novel. In which she shows the struggle between white and black. The general story focused mainly on the problems of racism and how relationships are affected by it. But Stockett created this story similar to her own life and the life of Abilene cooper, Abilene cooper accused Stockett of fictionalizing her character without her

permission. The bathroom is the main symbol or highlights the down to earth. Everybody uses the bathroom for their purpose but here in this novel bathroom focuses on historical factors. Segregated bathroom to save from disease but here Kathryn Stockett presents all the history which were involved outside show through the characters which are fictionalized. White women trying to befriend black domestic worker that is written. Many oral histories which were southern women: Domestic workers and their employers in the segregated south historical document could accurately capture the relationship between white women and The help.

The help novel gets Rights is the importance of telling one's own story. Several people have expressed their indignation at the character of Skeeter Phelan, who has written a book about African Americans where sensitive to the possibility. The Help combines with 21st-century post-traumatic consciousness with the Civil Right Era of the 1960s as the traumatic historical reality. Kathryn Stockett's novel The help is controversial because of its present stories that are either known and use for racial, class, economic, educational, social or generational reasons. History is put to use by Stockett 's imagination to create a narrative of an engaging story. Skeeter is only subconsciously aware of the historic significance of the event of her world. Skeeter's efforts to be a writer to find a story to tell but here Skeeter has her imagination of the world which were full of stories. Black color people are not allowed to the used bathroom here Skeeter said "I sit there a second, feeling stupid," here she recalls the sit -in—trial, the police department simply stepped back and turned German Shepherds loose"(154). Neither Stockett or Skeeter give any kind of explanation on these things. This is not the only History it is the example of fiction.

The purpose of this research is to study how Post Modern novel constructing the history that does not concern the document History, but the events

that describe in the novel. As a result of their novel reveals re-tell past time. The help as an object of research and Historiographic Metafiction theory by Hutcheon.

Historiographic Metafiction theory by Hutcheon but focused on the question of reference and representation issue and textualized extra-textual reference type.

Hutcheon (3) states that the term postmodernism refers to contradictory phenomenon one thing can be used and abuse it can appear them subvert, and it has contradictory concepts. Postmodernism also can be found in various field such as architecture, literature, painting, psychology, philosophy, historiography, etc. further Hutcheon (4-5) argues that fundamentally postmodernism is most contradictive things in the field history and politics, but whatever the cause of it, postmodernism can't release from the concept itself that is " the presence of the past." Post- Modernism is re-thinking of figurative painting in art and history narrative in fiction and poetry and those things that became a critic or contradictory. Rewriting history into postmodern fiction called Historiographic Metafiction is the work of several contemporary poets that using several different things of literature to asking about the traditional method of representation history. She makes term Historiographic Metafiction is to describe literature texts that confirm the past time but also intensely self-reflective to the rightness concept, as a partial thing, refractive and incomplete. Hutcheon says that Historiographic Metafiction includes two terms, namely, postmodern fiction, and historical fiction. Both terms are known in the 19th century, and when viewed and interpreted at first glance they have the same meaning, but in reality, the two terms are not the same, even theorists of the difference between the two terms are very difficult to find because their opinion on where the place and culture of truth grew. In postmodern fiction, it focuses on the character who is a marginalized figure and Kathryn Stockett describes the status of his character and the facts are used to

form the narrative. While historical fiction focuses on the historical idea contained in the story, in terms of historical representation made by the author can be historical pictures different from the present. Postmodern fiction uses two ways in the story that is, first by pitting the historical truth. In the sense that there are some deliberately falsified historical records and second, postmodern fiction uses historical data. Meanwhile historical fiction. Similarly, Skeeter reflected the voice which is from black maids explain this sort:

There is undisguised hate for white women there is inexplicable love Faye Belle, palsied and gray-skinned, cannot remember her age. Her stories unfold like a soft line. She remembers hiding in a steamer trunk with a little white girl while Yankee soldiers stamped through the house. Twenty years ago, she held that same white girl, by then old women, in her arms while she died. Each proclaimed their love as best friends. Swore that death would not change this. That color meant nothing the white woman's Grandsons still pays Faye Belles rent when she's feeling strong, Faye Belle's rent. When she's feeling strong, Faye Belle sometimes goes over and cleans up his kitchen. (303)

Though this story comes from an elderly black maid, This voice comes from Skeeter who at this point is wise enough to describe the love between a black and white woman as unable to be explained. It is a hint that friendship can flourish despite the color divide and that such friendship can forge tie between them. Here Kathryn Stockett wants to be proved herself as white can be grateful towards the black color people. Here in the last paper of this where she said that "I wrote *The Help* while living in New York, which I think was easier than writing it in Mississippi, staring in the face of it all. The distance added perspective. In the middle of a whirring, fast city, it was a relief to let my thoughts turn slow and remember for a while. The help is

fiction, by and large. Still, as I wrote it, I wondered an awful lot what my family would think of it, and what thought too, even though she was long dead. I was scared, a lot of the time, that I was crossing a terrible line, writing in the voice of a black person. I was afraid I would fail to describe a relationship that was so intensely influential in my life, so loving, so grossly stereotyped in American history and literature."(450) Here somehow Kathryn reflected that she proving herself as white color people are not bad. But she presents all world history through the characters but somehow history is so different. Here she presents The help is fiction and her afraid to publish this novel which created a lot of buzzes. As we know that history can be fact and it is in written form but here in this novel Skeeter writer the historical fact which was oral. But oral history cannot present the fact. Kathryn Stockett this novel is a fiction and there are people out there that claim that their story. The major problem of this novel they are black characters speak, but what they say, and far too many scenes in the novel. Here Kathryn Stockett chose to have the black characters voice their displeasure with black males and one has a major issue with her skin color, as well as royally dissing their loved one their community doesn't make the offense any less. Stockett perceives is wrong with the black community because it's especially telling when comparing what the black characters say versus the white characters, where there's a marked difference and it's not just a dialect.

The reconstruction was done by the author on the historical events of 1960s Jackson Mississippi which proved by the existence of some historical events that were irrelevant to the fact, such as the existence of events that were different from the facts, the dramatized events, the events which told shortly. Meanwhile, the event has a very long story and the existence of different verses of interpretation in the novel and Skeeter reflecting through the historical events. These explanations show that the

author used a historical event which was color people suffered from discrimination, slavery in writing her novel does not base on the fact and tend to be fictionalized. This is closely related to Historiography Metafiction. Characters mentioned by Hutcheon says, " there is two characteristics of Historiography Metafiction that it plays or manipulates historical events and still uses historical event accurately"(114). Based on these events it was clear that the author did manipulate the historical events in her novel, and the author also keeps the historical events accurately. However, the excessive manipulation of the historical event by the author made her novel seem like a fictional narrative, although there was an accurate fact in it. The manipulated event indicates an intention makes the novel more interesting.

Since the author described a historical event the author presents an unusual main character, Aibileen Minny unlike other historical novels of 1960s Jackson Mississippi which the color people become the center of depiction in this novel the author displays the character of Aibileen Minny through the protagonist and antagonist side. Though, these two points of view the character of Aibileen Minny unveil which is beyond and depiction. It was often heard that the character Skeeter has a very high level of glory and good character but it indicated that Skeeter describes the character of Aibileen, Minny which was more showing compassion so it can be accepted by any group of different opinions. As it was known that in the 1960s Jackson's Mississippi history there were several bunches of people who dominated black people as they are human they treat as in animal. Here Skeeter character glorious big-hearted person who make a peace between two color people somewhere she misfit. Through this novel, the author portrays the things which seem on the intention to reconcile these characters. Through these two assumptions, it shows the usefulness of the postmodern novel which was too separated fiction and fact in a

historical novel and the idea that the truth was always open to question.

The present thesis focuses on consciousness, resistance and avenges taking steps of black maids against their white masters. The racial discrimination and domination of white towards the black women raise their voice against the white despite the possibility of backlash. Black women were facing domination. White lady Skeeter makes Black women unite each other. Kathryn Stockett has written a historically accurate book with the help as she conflicts setting and character that are historically realistic and because of that, she has written a book that has great readability since those small details help readers become invested with the book.

Based on this research, it can be concluded the author Kathryn Stockett used historical event by narrating the story through the old maid but also analyses the history through the present day situation and the text revisits history by revising and questioning it. The author emphasized and tell us history which is re-call or re-visited of the past.

Civil Rights Movement has been proclaimed by King Martin Luther according to which a new rule has set under the civil rights movement proclaimed by King Martin Luther in American. But according to which every citizen that the white or the black will have equal rights and that there will be no discrimination under any races.

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