

I. Searching for the Hope in Hopelessness

This research work analyzes the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee from the perspective of subaltern studies to show how Lee has depicted the subaltern's voice for forming the agency of the subalterns. The novel presents the consciousness towards the subaltern issues through the constant struggle of Atticus Finch, a white lawyer to defend a Blackman who has accused of raping a white woman. Atticus Finch, the protagonist of the novel belongs to elite family of Alabama. Even though, he attempts to get rid marginalized person like Tom Robinson who belongs to race and class subaltern, accused of raping Mayell Ewell. Finch is sympathetic towards a black boy, Tom, in particular and black community as a whole. Subalterns have made other, marginalized in the white dominated society during Nineteenth-century, and they are unable to speak for themselves. Even more, they ignore their situation and do not produce single word against cruel governing power that has false assumption that they are superior, intellectual, independent and talent by birth and subalterns are inferior, dependent, emotional, and weak. All the subaltern group of people are hegemonized and taken it as their fate. For instance, Tom Robinson is innocent and he knows about the reality that he has not raped a white woman, Mayella Ewell, but he is unable to revolt and become a victim of ignorant white court and sentence to the death. In the surface level, it seems that the protagonist of the novel, Atticus Finch, has respect and love towards Tom Robinson but in deeper level, the writer attempts to show her empathy towards subalterns where class subalterns, gender subalterns and race subalterns like Tom Robinson, Calpurnia, Dill are marginalized and dominated in contemporary society of Southern America.

In Nineteenth century and first half of Twentieth century, race subalterns (especially blacks) are victimized and even do not get chance to speak for their right.

At the same time, African American writer Nelle Harper Lee dares to show the real story of the contemporary society through the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She has used the same name of the place where she was born, also has taken the same situation and circumstances of her life in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She is best for writing the Pulitzer prize winning, bestseller *To Kill a Mockingbird*, her one and only novel. For most of Lee's life, her mother suffered from mental illness, rarely leaving the house. It has believed that she may have had bipolar disorder.

Nelle Harper Lee was born on April 28, 1926 in Monroeville, Alabama, a sleepy small town similar in many ways to Maycomb, the setting of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Like Atticus Finch, the father of Scout, the narrator of novel, Lee's father was lawyer. Among Lee's childhood friend was the further novelist and essayist Truman Capote, from whom she drew inspiration for the character Dill. These personal details notwithstanding, Lee maintains that *To Kill a Mockingbird* was intended to portray not her own childhood home but rather a nonspecific Southern town.

Yet the book's setting and characters are not the only aspects of the story shaped by events that occurred during Lee's childhood but also an outcome of her deeper psychic of her trauma. According to S.K Desai, in 1931, when Lee was five, nine young black men accused of raping two white women near Scottsboro of Alabama. After a series of lengthy, highly publicized, and often bitter trials, five of the nine men were sentenced to long prison terms. Many prominent lawyers and other American citizens saw the sentences as spurious and motivated only by racial prejudice. It was also suspected that the women who had accused the men were lying, and in appeal after appeal, their claims became more dubious. There can be little doubt that the Scottsboro Case, as the nine men came to be called, served as a seed for

the trial that stands at the heart of Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Lee in this sense includes little autobiographical experience in this novel.

The very novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* sets against the background of the 1930s Southern American life. It portrays the story of black who has accused of raping a white woman and a white lawyer attempt to defend him by heart.

Unfortunately, the trial ends with a tragedy of accused black boy, Tom Robinson.

The novel directly depicts the brutal social discrimination of the inferior people in the Southern American society. The white layer's deep support into the issue of black boy's case surely reveals a subaltern subject matter through the novel. A white layer, Atticus Finch positions himself to save the innocent black, Tom Robinson, despite the hatred of his own community members. It shows the consciousness of intellectual towards subalterns; it is their duty to make them aware about their status and position. Moreover, with this respect, Atticus has given the value, the idea that a person must examine and respect people whoever they are and wherever they come from. We have no right to discriminate people on the ground of race, class, age and so on. This includes even the most distinguishing characters like Bob Ewell and Mrs Dubose. The first one is poor white of Maycomb and second one who succeeds in teaching lessons of bravery to Atticu's children. Bob Ewell is the father of Mayella who hopes to get self-respect which he never earned by degrading Tom. Atticus spends much of his time trying to understand them, it seems from the care of Atticu's belief that "all human beings must be accepted and treated equally" (213). It creates no demarcation between humans and really supports the value of human being.

This idea about equal love, respect and treatment of other human being on humanitarian grounds irrespective of class, race or ethnicity is not something, which Atticus is supposed to profess ideally, "We don't have mobs and nonsense in

Maycomb, I've never hear of a gang in Maycomb" (78). He must also live these beliefs, not just voice them, which is why he takes the case of Robinson. Tom is an African American in a small Southern town and has accused of raping a white woman, Mayella Ewell. "It was the night of Novemember twenty-first I was just leaving my office to go home when Ewell came in, very excited he was, and said get out to his house quick, some nigger raped his girl" (88).

A false accusation, this blame was sufficient to alien him from the atmosphere of prerogative white dominated society. Informed by a long existing racial domination of white people and demonization of the black races, Tom being a black is supposed to be submissive to the white-skinned people. Tom himself discloses, "One day Mayella asked me to come inside the fence and bust up a chiffarobe for her" (101). But, he cannot see a white woman even with a straight and daring look. When such a situation happens, Tom's rumored attempt to rape a white woman made worse his situation. Atticus is there for him defending him to the best of abilities when no one stands by him in such situation. Description to the subalterns here is cultural and runs a very deep in the town of Maycom. Everyone thinks, "but around here once you have a drop of Negro blood that makes you all blacks" (186), black's blood is different from whites. In the middle of such an adverse condition, though a white man, Atticus strongly holds a belief in Tom's innocence. Even, those who believe in Tom's innocence will not stand for him. It would be against the social morals of most people to defend a black man, especially in a case that contradicts the word and honor of a white woman. However, Atticus stands for what he knows is right. He is aware of the condition and right of subaltern and tries to make him (Tom) awake.

Atticus not only goes after the perception of the individual sidelining the deep-rooted discrimination of subaltern but also his children from his ideal. Readers watch

them mature into people who look into a person's soul and do not make judgments based on race, class or social status. For example, in part one of the story, there are two references made to Atticus defending Tom Robinson. In chapter nine Cecil Jacobs makes fun of Scout "You can just take that black boy" (40) because her father defends Negroes. Francis, a grandson of Aunt Alexandra who first gives the reader the family's reaction to the Tom Robinson case later refers to Scout's father that "he is nothing but a nigger lover" (83). In both instances, Scout is ready to fight for her father's good name. Though in the beginning she does not exactly understand the Negro's point of view for which she is humiliating from her own classmates and by her own community members because to have anything to do with Negroes are hateful. However, gradually in continue touch with the Negro people and her own adventure to the pitiable Negroes, she sees the openness of the Negroes who allow her sins to be called out publicly. Then there is the generosity of the Negroes who, out of the poverty, "Estelle down at the hotel send'em" (113), give to help Helen Robinson. Helen is a wife of Tom and she ceases to take Calpurnia for granted. For the first time, she understands what Atticus meant when he explained to her that she would get along better with people if she learns to climb into her skin once in a white and try to do their point of view.

In such ideal activities of white people, like Scout and Atticus, we can experience a love of human being towards another human being, which flouts the boundaries created along the racial, communal lines. Atticus says, "I 've never hear of gang in Maycomb" (78). It is a treatment of man as a man, an unshakable faith in humanitarian values. However, racial domination is cultural in 1930s in Southern America. Whites are dominant in social structure and blacks are merely subordinate to them. Whites make work blacks without paying, "Where you paid for your service?"

No suh, not after she offered me a nickel the first time was glad to do" (180). They are brutally treated and the extremity of white atrocity and racial hatred is the example of Tom Robinson's case around which the whole plot of novel revolves. A white woman, Mayella, in fact, blames Tom of an attempted rape. She is daughter of white family and her blames to Tom in the court due to fear of her father. She is all alone, "it came to me that Mayella Ewell must have been the loneliest person in the world" (102), she wants friend for company. Nevertheless, in fact, if we are to believe, Tom's narration of the day of declared rape, we witness how a subaltern or powerless was treated in 1930s in white dominated South America. In such situation of Tom, we see the racial hatred on the one hand by the white supremacy and belongingness of humanity on the other hand by the same society.

Subaltern's inability has presented in the novel where black and white society exists. Mayella Ewell, a white woman waits for months for a chance to get some true affection," Mr. Finch, I got down that chair an turned around an' she sorta jumped on me" (103). Being a Negro (subaltern), Tom cannot yield to Maella without getting the blame of her actions, "she'd call me in, suh, seemed like every time I passed by yonder she'd have some little something for me to do" (101). At the very situation, Tom does not dare to push her in order to get away by the desires, "why were you scared? Mr Finch, if you was a nigger like me you'd be scared too" (104). Finally, when he denies and dismisses any such possibility, he has accused of rape and left alone to struggle for justice. This is the bad fate of hypocrite society, Tom is a marginalized, and low classed Negro in white community, he found no voice for safety whatsoever; in Maycomb, townspeople always of a white person (so called elite), no matter how arguable. "If you had a clear conscience, why were you scared? Like I says before, it weren't safe for any nigger to be in a fix like that" (106). By

which we have glimpse of dominant white community's hatred toward dominated black people.

Her own community member ridicules Scout, a little girl just because her father Atticus has appointed as lawyer to defend Tom, a Negro. The white community laughs at him by saying "Negro lover" because as educated and white man he is ready to help a poor, uneducated black boy. Moreover, the novel explores white people's feeling towards socially backward especially Negro. Repeatedly, Aunt Alexandra enquires, "You all were coming back from Calpurnia's church that Sunday!" (72), she does not want her family associated with dominated black people anyway. Alexandra is Atticu's sister, who represents the traditional values of South hoe family, heredity, gentility and white supremacy. Alexandra's main concern is the preservation of good family name in order to keep one's place in society, "son you know you're a Finch, don't you?" (70). She thinks, this social dignity has polluted in the contact with Negro community and she really fears it.

On the other hand, Atticus Finch is worried about the backward and dominated Negro community. He appoints Calpurnia as cook; she take cares his children after the death of his wife. The children, Scout and Jem have taken her as their mother, "She gave a dime to me and dime to Jem... you are my company" (64). Scout finds the shadow of her mother in the face of Calpurnia because she has lost her mother at the age of two.

White society is polluted and hypocrite in general but particularly Finch and his children are there who are always in favor of the subaltern group of the black people. They are representative of white community, disobey the community construction of subaltern people as non- humans, "a mob always made up of people, no matter what. Mr Cunningham was part of a mob last night but he was still a man"

(83). They love and perceive subalterns on the ground of human values and fight for social equality and justice. They represent love and humanity.

Around 1950s and 1960s discrimination and prejudice against subalterns especially black and poor people was very common in the southern status of America. The earning of high strata people was double then lowers one. This discrimination in earning and wage created the big gulf between subalterns and elite. *To Kill a Mockingbird* has been enormously popular with reading public raising such issues. It has much appreciated for its author's ability to weave together the vivid eccentric characters of a small town, the observation of a small but sensitive child and a plea for social justice. The novel has accumulated a variety of criticism since its publication in 1960. The novel has viewed from different perspectives. Many reviewers lauded the book as an insignificant expose of social reality of the South, and a powerful rendering of modern heroism.

For Laurie Champion, the novel generates new meanings of 'right' and 'left' ordinarily used for "opposing spatial directions"(234). She sees that they "suggest... virtue and... inequity respectively" (234). The importance, according to her, of the meaning of these two categories has seen in the trial scenes of the novel. She writes:

Connotations of 'right' and 'left' play a crucial role during the climatic trial scenes [...] Directional words 'right' and 'left' are repeated, emphasizing the dichotomy [of virtue and iniquity]. [...] The term 'left' also denotes what remains what is 'left of something and 'right' denotes the humanity [...]. [Both refer to] harm [...] and humility respectively. (234-36)

Tom Robinson's physical handicap of crippled left hand, the arm having been "caught in a cotton gin" at the age of twelve, is emphasized. Lee's novel as a factor which

should have resulted in acquittal or at least serious doubt not only concerning Tom Robinson's ability to choke and rape Mayella Ewell but to produce the kind of injuries she suffers on the right side of her face.

Another critic, Donald F. Roden, views the novel, as "a story of experience", analyses how children learn the evils of the adult world as they are about to enter it."

(54) They find the world of adults full of injustice. As he writes:

The theme of the novel may extend even further than either the racial issue or the ideas of trying to see the other person's point of view. For the three children, this is the story of imitation. At the beginning, he is an unsophisticated boy but before the story is finished, he has learned much about the ways of adults. Thus, we might say that the theme of this novel is evil seen through the eyes of innocent. The principal evil, of course is that which works upon Tom Robinson. The adults of Maycomb perform it. The innocent are the three children Jem, Scout, and Dill. As the story progresses they learn more about the adult world until finally each child has own reaction to it. (55)

In this way, the exploration of the moral theme of human beings that is, whether people are essentially good or essentially evil is achieved by dramatizing Scout and Jem's transition from a perspective of childhood innocence. They assume that people are good because they have never seen evil, to a more adult perspective, in which they have confronted evil and must incorporate it into their understanding of the world.

Stephen Lubet in his attempt to reconstruct the major character, Atticus Finch, a lawyer, who despite being a white man defends a black man, and a much adored figure for his belief in humanitarian causes, argues on "the possibility that Atticus Finch was not quite the heroic defender of an innocent man wrongly accused" (1340). He

generates several questions and sets them as premises of his arguments that has generated after a deep concentration on the trial scenes of the novel. The questions are:

However, what if Atticus is not an icon? What was more a man of his time and place that we thought? What if he were not a beacon of enlightenment, but just another working lawyer playing out his narrow determined role? [...] What if she really was raped or nearly raped by Tom Robinson? (1340)

He further says that the advocate's job is to provide the jury with reasons for an acquittal. He declares, "Mayella lied, perhaps in fantasy, or out of spite, or in shame, or as a result of sexual frustration or may be just because she was confused"(1353). As he remarks, "No real-life lawyer has done more for the self image or public perception of the legal profession, the hero of Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*" (1357) for nearly four decades, the name of Atticus Finch has been invoked to defend and inspire lawyers, to rebut lawyer's jokes, and to justify (and fine-tune) the average system. After a long discussion on every aspect of the legal scenes of the novel, he concludes that:

The moral problem is more difficult, if not intractable. Whether Tom was innocent or guilty, Atticus no doubt fulfilled his obligations under the standard conception of professional ethics. But that only brings us directly to the hardest question to all. Is Atticus still a hero? [...] I am able to see the social value to vigorous defense must be defended. But the willingness to rely upon cruel stereotypes, to play the "gender card" should be criticized not applauded. (1361)

Atticus relays on cruel society so he could not be a hero and he should be criticized.

James Barton sees a necessity to reexamine the novel "not because it fails to live up to the empathetic ideal that its canonical status suggests, but because of its treatment of empathy, particularly in relation to the opposing principle of professional detachment" (1682). From a lawyer's perspectives, the critic sees the application of empathy as a hurdle for the professional effectiveness of a lawyer, Atticus Finch, in the novel. But when empathy functions, it bridges the gap between what is professional and what is personal. He says, "In other words, ritualized empathy makes a personal emotion professional and vice versa" (1702).

Similarly, Don Burther, another critic, sees Lee's work with a rare compassion that makes her novel soar. For him, it is the best contemporary novel he has read since 1939. The critic here emphasizes the ability of the author to write with sympathy.

The above -mentioned critics have concentrated their views on the different aspects of the novel but none of them has sufficiently focused on its adopting a subaltern issue. Because of the severe domination of subalterns in Mayocomb, Alabama and the extreme prejudice of the town, Tom Robinson has unjustly convicted, and sentenced to death for a crime he did not commit. The novel indeed draws the case of how subaltern has suppressed in America by upper-class people, dramatizing a white lawyer's attempt to defend a subaltern: it focuses on the hope within hopelessness. Simultaneously, it also shows positive behavior towards marginalized people. Thus, the theme of representation of subaltern voice remains a provocative issue to research.

Subaltern Studies shows the issue of subaltern in local as well as global concern. Subalternity is only the idea in which we can relay and search the identity of marginalized people. Now, it is not only colonial concern. It initiates in South Asia and going to spread in all over the world. We find subaltern issues in Nepal in local

context, it is discussed transparently in the field of literature by Dr. Tara Lal Shrestha through his book *Shakti, Shrestha ra Subaltern*. In one way or the other, we can find the glimpse of subaltern voice in literature.

For the purpose of textual analysis, the researcher's aim at analyzing different critics, for example David Arnold, Dipesh Chakrabarty, Antonio Gramsci, Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak, David Ludden, Ranjit Guha and their views on subaltern and subalternity and the context has provided in American society in the 1930s, about the consciousness of intellectuals on subaltern. Therefore, the study of subaltern will be included as a background to interpret the novel. For the purpose, a general concept of consciousness for subaltern and its study up to the present day, and its impact on literature will also be dealt. It shows that the issue of subaltern is local as well as global concern. Subalternity is only the idea in which we can relay and the search the identity of marginalized people.

II. Quest for the Subaltern Voice

Hope means wish for something and a person can be hopeful when one is positive towards something else. In addition, representation of the voice builds the positive concept. As it is mentioned in the previous chapter, Subaltern Studies is a discipline, which represents the voice of people who is forcefully being 'othered'. Subaltern studies represent the voice of people who is marginalized in politics, law, education, culture and so on. The term 'subaltern' refers to the marginalized or oppressed people, in terms of class, caste, age, religion, ethnicity and gender. The subalterns are thinking that they are marginalized and cannot speak though they are aware of the suppression or marginalization. They lack the language of their own, which can express their pain and sufferings. So, it is the duty of intellectuals to unite and make subaltern aware of freedom who are just serving the elite in the condition of history less, wordlessness and powerless.

The novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is the example of representation of subaltern in literature where the writer portrays the fate of subalterns in Twentieth century Southern America. The elite and educated Atticus Finch, the protagonist of the novel is trying to defend subaltern character, Tom Robinson in particular and he is sympathetic towards the low class black community in general. One-way or the other, the writer shows the subaltern voice in the novel which creates hope in the readers.

The very word 'subaltern' is used in medieval period for the vassals and peasants. In 1700 too, the term 'subaltern' has used to denote the lower rank people in military because they are from peasant family. By 1800, some intellectuals like writers and historians are dissatisfied on this trend and they have written novels, histories from the subalterns perspectives about military campaign in India and

America. When Antonio Gramsci adopted the term 'subaltern' to refer those group who are othered in any society, got an authentic voice to refer those groups "who are subject to the hegemony of the ruling classes" (76). Peasant, workers and other groups may fall under the term subalterns, who are denied access to hegemonic power. These subaltern classes have forced to stay away from the hegemonic power and suffer the exploitation of the ruling classes. The idea of Gramsci is appropriate here, it is accepted that subalterns are hegemonised and denied to speak against hegemonic power but it is easy to speak for powerful person in favor of subaltern people who are not mercy of power. For instance, in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, Mr. Finch, a lawyer of white community speaks for the right and existence of black boy, Tom Robinson. He says:

Gentleman, I shall be brief, but I would like to use my remaining time with you to remind you that this case is not a difficult one, it requires no minute sifting of complicated facts, but it does require you to be sure beyond all reasonable doubt as to the guilt of the defendant. To begin with, this case should never have come to trial. This case is simple as black and white. (108)

Atticus is showing the simplicity of the case which is perceived very hardly by the jury and the people of white society. He shows the evident of Tom's innocence and argues that it is clear like black and white and no problem to find the truth. The intellectuals who are not ready to speak for the equality and afraid for losing their power and position, are not intellectual in real sense, they are cowardice. But, Atticus Finch, the protagonist of the novel is truly dared and courageous man who is defending the case of black boy.

Subaltern Studies has begun since 1970s to provide history and voice to the subaltern people. It encourages writing the historiography of the people who are ignored by the colonialist as well as bourgeois nationalists. It works to establish the subalterns as an autonomous body. Subaltern Studies discipline is started from Asian country India and it questions the academic history in South Asian historiography by calling it "elite culture" resulted as "the consequences of British colonialism" (Guha VII). According to Subaltern Studies Group, the bourgeois nationalist history is successful to ignore the activities of subalterns and they become independent as an elite group. The history which is written by colonizers did not record the deeds and actions of indigenous people and made it other. They just represent the elite's voice in history. It totally ignored the voices and deeds of the indigenous people.

As Ranjit Guha the history has written from elites' perspective and they never represent the deeds of subalterns. This very condition of un-representation paves the way to represent the subaltern's voice. Un-presentation shows the loopholes of elite's history and from the same point subalterns starts to write their own history. In this novel too, the black, woman Calpurnia, is one who recognizes the serious nature of rabid dog's situation; she makes the right phone calls and runs to warn neighbors. She spares many from death. Atticus, a white man, shoots the dog. At this situation, Atticu's kill with gun is remarkable but Calpurnia's action and knowledge has ignored. But from this ignorance, reader get the knowledge about subaltern's situation and have chance to speak for them.

Subaltern Studies can define as a theory of change, which sustains vigorous political commitment. This study, that is why, has very much influenced for postmodernism and post structuralism. Cultural studies are getting much more attention from all sides. Subaltern studies recently deals also with the issue of

representation, critical theory and cultural studies from subaltern politics. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak writes, "The Subaltern Studies [...] perceive their task as making a theory of consciousness or culture rather than specifically a theory of change" (330). Spivak here is very much concerned about consciousness and cultural dealing of the elite to the subaltern. Her essay "Can the Subaltern Speak?" (1988) has raised the issues related to the welfare of the subaltern people, though it is hotly debated everywhere and gets many different ideas. And it is credited to have brought the subalternity in post- colonial domain, where she has presented women, as a subaltern group, now subaltern is not only the colonial issue.

In the context of Spivak's idea that women are subaltern group, strengthen the issue of subaltern. If it just focuses on race, age, ethnicity, class and so on it misses the subaltern of subalterns. Means to say that there are sufferings, pains and problems of women within subaltern group. The elite-subaltern relation cannot address the particular woman's suffering. For instance, Mayella Ewell, a white woman is suffering from the personal, familial pain, beaten, and dominated by her own father. If we analyze her through the eyes of class, she belongs to elite, white community. She is in higher position in term of class but she is also a subaltern as a woman. Her loneliness can see in these lines:

It came to me that Mayella Ewell must have been the loneliest person in the world. She was even lonelier than Boo Radley, who had not been out of the house in twenty-five years. When Atticus asked had she any friends, she seemed not to know what he meant, then she thought he was making fun of her. She was as sad, I thought, as what Jim called a mixed child: white peoples wouldn't have to do anything

with her because she lives among pigs; Negroes wouldn't have anything to do with her because she was white. (104)

Women are double subaltern. If we generalize and analyze them within a single term subaltern, it will not be justice for them. As we can see in above lines, a white girl is also victim of the society who belongs to white family.

The ultimate goal of Subaltern Studies is to seek to rewrite and redraw the boundaries of history and recover the erased or missed history of marginalized people. Therefore, it focuses on the activities and the muted voice of the marginal's. The publication of books on Subaltern Studies itself proves as an important event in the writing of the history of subaltern. The subaltern people have their own identity, history and their own way to identify the culture and lifestyle. Despite the domination of the subaltern people by the elite group, they try to protest it. Subaltern Studies Group has tried their best to provide a platform to the dominated voice, which is supposed to get enough attention.

In the same ground, we find Lee writes the new history of subaltern people via the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* where she depicts the silent revolt of Tom Robinson, a black boy. Even though, Tom's life ends in tragedy but it focuses the mute voice of blacks in contemporary society. The jury convicts Tom Robinson in the crime that is not done by him but the very death sentence creates sympathy towards blacks.

Subaltern Studies has become a global concern. It is no more the phenomena of Indian or South Asian only. "It has gone", as Dipesh Chakravorty says, "Beyond India or South Asia as an area of academic specialization" (9). It proves Subaltern Studies is creative and flexible project. It draws ideas from diverse discipline like history, culture, sociology, anthropology, literature and so on. Therefore, it is interdisciplinary in nature. It is a different way of writing historiography from the

perspective of the marginalized mass. While writing, it has reinvented many terms, which are essential for such kind of historiography including subalternity itself. It is participated in contemporary critiques of history and nationalism. It deals with inferiority and dominating structures of every global society. The history of subaltern classes is a very complex issue, no doubt, as the history of dominant class.

There are two types of views related to the question that either the subaltern people can raise their voice by themselves or they need to be represented by others. There are some critics like Spivak who believes that the subaltern subjects have regulated to the position of subjects. They are made only the subjects. Therefore, they cannot speak. They have to be represented by the elite intellectuals because only the intellectual elites can present interpretation of the subaltern voice filtered through the intellectual viewpoint. It is all because they "have no history" and "cannot speak" (Spivak 32). The subaltern is the marginalized one, which has no access to hegemonic power. So, they lack the means as well as strategy of their own. Moreover, they do not have the privileged position, from where they can express themselves.

I mostly agree with what Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak who says subalterns do not have the privileged position to speak against the hegemonic governing power, intellectual elites can present the voice of subaltern filtered through the intellectual's viewpoint. I would just want to add, subalterns are powerful and show their power on own way. They even have their history but in episodic form. But none gives the eyes on fragmented history of subaltern and praise the elites. As we see the same case in the novel, Calpurnia, a black woman, gives the message about rabid dog. The following lines show her consciousness:

Calpurnia listened. "I know it's February, Miss Eula May, but I know a mad dog when I see one. Please ma'am hurry!"

Calpurnia asked Jem, "Radleys got a phone?"

Jem looked in the book and said no. "they won't come out anyway, Cal."

"I don't care, I'm gonna tell 'em."

She ran to the front porch, Jem and I at her heels. "you stay in that house!" She yelled, Calpurnia's message has been received by the neighborhood. (51)

Calpurnia gives the message about rabid dog to the villagers. She phoned to Finch and informed him already what the situation is. But none highlights her role and pay attention to Atticus' shoot to the dog.

In another idea of Spivak subaltern cannot speak and elite intellectuals can represent them in filtered form. I argued that the intellectuals should create the platform to speak for subaltern not they present their voice in their own perception. If intellectuals try to present the voice of subaltern they will never come out from hegemony and scare forever. This line of the novel proves it:

"Tom, go backonce more to Mr. Ewell," said Atticus. "Did he say anything to yo?"

Tom : Not anything suh. He mighta said somethin' but I weren't there
"That'll do," Atticus cut in sharply. "What you did hear, who was he talking to?"

Tom : Mr. Finch, he were talkin' and lookin' at Miss Mayella.

Finch : Then you ran?

Tom : I sho' did, suh.

Finch : Why did you run?

Tom : I was scared, suh.

Finch : Why were you scared?

Tom : Mr. Finch, if you was a nigger like me, you'd be scared, too.

(102)

Here, Tom Robinson, a nigger boy confesses that he was scare and ran away from the place of Mayell Ewell. He gives the hint that he is hegemonies and scare to revolt on the sport.

On the other hand, so many critics including Dipesh Chakravorti and David Arnold have presented so many examples of protest of the subaltern class people. In the process of making the authority aware about their condition and position, they follow different tracks. Sometimes they use strike as a fruitful means to get the attention of the authority. They keep on reminding the authority of the proper use of their power. And when the authority ignores the subaltern people, they constitute a continuing form of protest by acting together in small bonds, against it. Yes, the subalterns protest against power in bonds against authority to show their condition and position. If one speaks for one's right, his voice will lose in the air. So, subaltern generally speaks in bonds. As we see:

"...movin' him to the county jail tomorrow," Mr. Tate was saying, "I don't look for any trouble, but I can't guarantee there won't be any..."

"Don't be foolish, Heck," Atticus said. "This is Maycomb."

"...said just I was uneasy."

"Heck, we've gotten one postponement of this case just to make sure there's nothing to be uneasy about. This is Saturday," Atticus said.

"Trial'll probably be Monday. You can keep him one night, can't you? I don't think anybody in Maycomb'll begrudge me a client, with times this hard." (77)

Mr. Heck, Tate and friends are in the Atticu's home to ask about Tom. They want to be sure for the goodness of the client and raise the voice for their black boy. So they live in commonality and protest if situation forces them to do so.

According to Gramsci's opinion, the history of the subaltern classes is inevitably fragmented and episodic. They have less access to the means by which they can control their representation. Here, Gramsci "is concerned with the intellectual's role in the subalterns' cultural and political movement into hegemony" (78). As we know, subaltern people do not have the means and strategy to get access to the hegemonic power; they should be guided by the intellectuals. In such a context, intellectuals must play vital role to show them the right way. They should educate and make aware and mobilize the subaltern people. So, the subaltern people can be changed into revolutionary figures, who will strive and struggle to get independence and equal representation.

As Gramsci says, it is intellectual's role to guide the subaltern people in cultural and political movement. Otherwise, they are always the victim of hegemonic power. As we see, Atticus Finch, the protagonist defends the case of black boy, which provide him platform to revolt. His silent revolution manifests in the second part of the novel when he tries to escape from the prison and be shot. Even Tom's history ends in tragedy but one docile and obedient black boy changes into revolutionary figure. He tries to get equal right and equal representation in law.

A new type of history writing is inevitable. For this purpose, Subaltern Studies has emerged as an appropriate tool to balance the gap of injustice created by the elitist historiography. Subaltern Studies, which deals with the history, which is ignored or unseen, aspires to "rewrite the nation outside the state-centered national discourse that replicates colonial power in a world of globalization" (Guha 20). Therefore,

Subaltern Studies has brought a paradigmatic shift in the perspective through revision of elite historiographies. It stands against elitist system to secure a better future for the subaltern people. It is learning to hear them, allowing them to speak, taking back to powers that marginalized them and documenting their past. It means Subaltern Studies is only the forum for the subaltern people to raise their voice. It avoids top-down theoretical models and recovers subaltern consciousness as theoretical tool. It attempts to write the "history from below" (Ludden 12). It raises the voice of subaltern people, which was forgotten long by the bourgeoisies' historiography. Now subaltern people are known as the agents of change who possess the great potentiality to counter the elite hegemony.

An African American writer Harper Lee takes the subaltern character, a black boy as center part of the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. It gives the hint that Subaltern Studies is no more the colonial issue; it is shifting from local to global concern. Lee highlights the subalterns issue rather than elite resembles the idea with Ludden who focuses the tendency of writing history from below.

The first emancipator act that Subaltern Studies performs in our understanding of tribe, caste, class and other such groups as Veena Das writes "is to restore to them their historical being"(314). It tries to take resort to culture as well as literary modes to inquire into history. As a postcolonial cultural critique, Subaltern Studies tries to restore the integrity of indigenous histories that appear naturally in non-linear oral symbolic, vernacular and dramatic forms. It moves away from people's politics to the culture of indigenous histories. Indeed, Subaltern Studies has become, as Ludden says, "an original sight for a new kind of history from below, a people's history free of national constraints" (12). Veena Das and David Ludden posit subaltern study as history making ideas of backward and marginalize people. It is depicted in the novel

To Kill a Mockingbird where subaltern character Tom Robinson is convicted for the crime which he has not done. It happens because of the prejudice of Maycomb, Alabama but that even can create empathy towards subalterns. At this point, history gives its eyes in bottom not in top.

Obviously, Subaltern Studies attempts rewriting a new kind of national history, which accumulates dispersed moments and fragments. Spivak argues, "To investigate, discover and establish a Subaltern consciousness seems at first to be a positivistic project-a project which assumes that, if properly prosecuted, it will lead to firm ground, to something that can be disclosed" (338). And Subaltern Studies is a project, which tries its best to discover, investigate and establish subaltern consciousness and 'subaltern' means the colonized or oppressed subject whose voice has been silenced. Spivak, however, thinks, "For consciousness here, is not consciousness- in- general, but a historicized political species thereof, subaltern consciousness" (338). So, she regards their effort to recover peasant consciousness as a strategic use of positivist essentialism in a carefully visible political interest. She reinforces their strategic use of "peasant consciousness" by saying that they should be "concerned not with consciousness in general but in this crucial narrow sense" (342).

Unlike the idea of Spivak about peasant consciousness, the subaltern character of the novel, Tom Robinson is not consciousness himself; white lawyer (an intellectual) makes him conscious. So, intellectuals have obligation to make subaltern aware. Later, subalterns investigate and discover their right and able to write the new history. As we see in the novel, Tom Robin changed into revolutionary figure from docile and obedient person, which is possible only when Atticus makes platform for him. So, the role of intellectual is inevitable for the consciousness for the subaltern.

The central aim of Subaltern Studies is to understand the consciousness that formed and still forms political actions taken by the subaltern classes on their own, independently of any elite initiatives. It is only by giving this consciousness a central place in historical analysis that we see the subaltern as the history one lives out. In this way, subaltern consciousness has been always a critical point of subalternity. The peasants or subaltern groups tend to resist the elite domination. It emerges as an invariant feature about subaltern group, which makes the discussion on the subaltern mentality fruitful. The subaltern people resisted the bourgeois nationalists as well as indigenous elite leaders by disobeying their orders. They would take part in the anti imperialist movements in their own traditionalist way. They would derive the terms from the idioms of their everyday life so that they could make these struggles their own. Hence, "defiance" is not the only characteristic behavior of the subaltern classes but also "submissiveness to authority" equally important feature of their behaviors (Bhadra 54).

Bhadra's idea resembles within the character Mr. Boo Radly in chapter five of the novel. Miss Maudie Atkinson, a widow with a talent for gardening and cake baking who was the childhood friend of Atticu's brother, Jack. She tells Scout that Boo Radley is still alive and it is her theory Boo is victim of a harsh father. Miss Maudie also says that Boo was always polite and friendly as a child. It can be seen:

"No child", she said, "that is a sad house, I remember Arthur Radley when he was a boy. He always spoke nicely to me, no matter what folks said he did. Spoke as nicely as he know how."

"You reckon he's crazy?"

Miss Maudie shook her head. "If he's not he should be by now. The things that happen to people we never really know. What happens in house behind closed doors, what secrets." (24)

Mr. Radley is polite and he is a victim of own father. Most of the rumors about him are false, but that if he was not crazy as boy, he is probably now, Miss Maudie adds. Means to say Radley is taken as crazy. In fact, he is resisting against domination silently. As subalternist believes, he is conscious on his own and revolting by hiding himself from the society and searching his identity and existence.

The term 'subaltern' has used to denote the entire people that are subordinate in terms of class, caste, gender, and office, or in any other way. The nature of power, exploitation and popular resistance in such a society is not therefore responsive to adequate understanding in term of clarity is expressed in their inability to unite the people around themselves. For the subalterns, on the other hand, this very lack of clarity makes it important for us to realize the significance of every trace of their independent initiative, even though it remained fragmented in scale and distant from the core of articulate political society. Here Gramsci, "is concerned with the intellectuals' role in the subaltern's culture and political movements in to hegemony" (78). Gramsci's reflections on the subaltern classes are indeed appropriate in this regard, for they are marked by a clear recognition of the incalculable value of such peripheral initiative for 'the integral historian'. The binary elite/subaltern relation must not be seen as a substitute for the more familiar categories of class struggle. The elite/subaltern dichotomy has certain specific analytical uses in the study of historical processes in a colonial society. The issue of class in *To Kill a Mockingbird* is more complex. The version of racial love-hate between the blacks and white is directly linked to class. The town Maycomb is based on stereotypes of its inhabitant that are

passed down from generation to generation. Atticus Finch, a white lawyer is ready to defend a subaltern, Tom Robinson going beyond the dichotomy of elite-subaltern. Finch as a member of elite family does not care what people think.

The way the Subaltern Study is marching ahead suggests that it is a rather creative as well as impressionable project. That is why it has been assimilating ideas from diverse disciplines: history, literature, anthropology, culture, sociology and so on. It is interdisciplinary. Tara Lal sherstha's reflection of the subaltern in literature is indeed appropriate in this regard, as for him, docile and silent 'subaltern speaks in literature.' It is a new way of writing historiography: a history from below. So, it has reinvented many terms including subalternity itself. However problematic it might be, it has brought about a paradigmatic shift in our way of perceiving life and world. Like other poststructuralist and postcolonial theories, it is very useful to those intellectuals who oppose the totalitarian concepts and met narratives like modernity, enlightenment as such in the process of inquiring colonialism. Just like postcolonialism, SS has to appropriate and re-appropriate the language and theoretical strategies of the elite group to speak on behalf of the subalterns. Likewise, it heavily derives raw materials from various discourses like Marxism, cultural studies, poststurcturalism, postcolonialism and so on.

Hence, the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by an African American writer, Harper Lee has taken as strong proof that intellectuals are making subalterns aware and speaking for them. No doubt, subaltern people are equally capable of doing everything to make their life as well as economic standard better. In the world of modernization, people either they are the elite or the subaltern do have same kind of wish and will to posses the benefit of advance education and prosperous and civilized life. It is a human nature, their demands and necessities are endless and one does hard

work to get it. Here is no demarcation whether he/she is elite or subaltern. But the very sorry thing is that subaltern remains silence in all field and so-called elite or upper class dominant people misrepresent their condition and bend it for their benefit. Subaltern must be strong to hold their voice against any kind of discrimination, suppression, exploitation and marginalization. And, the persons who have access for everything have to see and behave for all as humanitarian view point. Atticus Finch, being protagonist of the novel, who belongs to a rich and educated family of Maycomb, Alabama, is an example to have respectful and lovingly feeling towards subaltern, especially black people. He does not leave single effort to get rid of accused black boy, Tom Robinson. He equally does respect to low class people and woman. Calpurnia, a black woman, is cook in his house, it is the example of his equal behavior to all kinds man. Scout and Jem have also the moral supporter to their father.

From Finch's character, we can say that subaltern can take part in making the history, they can revolt but they have no language to manifest. So, intellectuals have to make them aware and conscious and provide platform to raise the voice against power. Until and unless they start to speak and raise the voice for their right, freedom is not in their favor. As we see, Tom revolts at last and tries to escape from prison. A docile black boy changes into revolutionary figure because of long practice of intellectual. As Gramsci says, approximately it is impossible to represent the subaltern's voice by intellectual unless it was happen the society would completely change. In the novel too, the black subaltern speaks for equality but he faces tragedy. It shows that, it is not easy job to re-create the history and speak for the subaltern. Nonetheless, the quest for the subaltern voice and giving space for the subaltern to exist is remarkable. Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* is one of the examples, in which the subaltern history and the subaltern voice exist with various modes of representation.

III. Representation of the Subaltern Voice in Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*

Subaltern means, as discussed in earlier chapter, knowing a marginalized, suppressed, backward person or group. In other word, subaltern refers to the oppressed people in terms of class, caste, age, religion, ethnicity and gender. Subalterns have huge power in history making but it has unknown for them. Harper Lee's novel *To Killed a Mockingbird* presents the voice for subalterns as the resistance of the own dominant class ideology. The protagonist of the novel, Atticus Finch raises the voice against white community. The consciousness for subaltern has manifested in different part of the novel. Actually, subalterns have treated as second beings or like animals. No love, affection, sympathy has shown towards subalterns in the contemporary society of nineteenth century South America. At this complicated time, Lee has raised the issue of subaltern where she is able to give the message the intellectuals should speak for the subalterns who are really unknown for their rights and no world to revolt for dominating power. She has shown that all human beings are born with equal right it is the man who has made the boundaries between people thinking one is superior to the other. Harper Lee has also shown the humanitarian value, love and affection through Atticus Finch, the white lawyer who is the protagonist of the novel. His children Scout and Jem are also sympathetic towards subalterns from their early age.

Discrimination and biasness are constructed not gifted by the god in the name of religion, culture, ethnic, social status and so on. Domination for the blacks is spread all over the American society during nineteenth century but this does not mean that there is no segregation before that but it persists in different latent form. Family, society, culture, law, religion made subaltern speechless, right-less and existence-less. Most of the so-called elite treat subalterns as their enemy and offer no opportunities in

every field like education, law, religion, and other social issue. The entire novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* is about subalterns in its many forms. The most prominent case is the sympathy on blacks.

In Maycomb, like most small Southern town, has a problem with widespread discrimination toward the subaltern black people. The novel focuses on one family; the Finches where Atticus is lawyer and Scout and Jem are the children. Atticus is defending a black man in court, something that is not often done in the South America due to elite-subaltern system. One characteristic shown of Jem and Scout is their ability to empathize or "...climb into their skin and walk around in it"(31). Jem develops a high level of emotional intelligence that allows him to understand the situation of others, as well as what they may be thinking or possible the way they will act. The reader first discovers this characteristic about Jem when he stops scout from bashing up Walter Cunningham in the schoolyard and invites him over for dinner. "I (Scout) stomped at him (Walter) to chase him away, but Jem put out his hand and stopped me." (24) Jem stops Scout bashing Walter because he knows the ordeals Walter and his family face every day. To make up for Scout, Jem invites Walter over for dinner because Jem knows Walter is lucky to get a proper meal a day. Scout develops her empathy from this example when Calpurnia takes her into the kitchen and explains the Cunningham's situation. " Yo' folks might be better'n the Cunningham's but it don't count for nothin' the way you're disgracin' 'em..." (26). Though the course of events involving Walter Cunningham, both Jem and Scout learn to climb into the skin of Walter and enhance their ability to empathize.

In the name of maintaining good conscience, Finches family undergoes the severe subalterns' intolerance of many of the townspeople and the extreme ostracizing. As niggers ask him works for "that generates bitter experience to the

children" (102). Mrs. Dubose calls back people "trash" without exception. But Atticus wants the children to understand that courage has to do with the fight for one's personal goals, no matter what the odds are against achieving the goal. He wants to see that though many of the townpeoples are ignorant and subalternist they have personal strengths that keep them from being all-bad and give them hope for becoming better. Further Atticus explains to Scout:

Nigger- lover is just one of those terms that do not mean anything- like snot nos. It is hard to explain- an ignorant, trashy person uses it when they think somebody is favoring Negroes over and above themselves. It's slipped into usage with some people like ourselves, when they want a common, ugly term to label somebody. (108)

Nigger is social tag of contemporary society. It symbolizes the backward, uncivilized black community in 1930s. Atticus Finch, the white lawyer is not biased in terms of status and color. He says, 'Nigger-lover' does not have any meaning. He makes his daughter understand that nigger is just ugly term to label somebody.

Subalterns are strong enough and they have played vital role in history making but they have not well known about it and the history has interpreted in favor of power holders. We see such atmosphere throughout the novel and unifying effect over the neighborhood during the presence of mad-dog. It shows:

"He's gonna lopsided," said Jem.
Calprunia stared, then grabbed us by the shoulders and ran us home. She shut the wood door behind us, went to the telephone and shouted, "Gimme Mr. Finch's office!" "Mr. Finch!" she shouted. "This is Cal. I swear to God there's a mad dog down the street a piece- he's comin' this way, yes sir. (50)

She gives the information about mad dog to Finch and trying to save all neighbors from it. Mad dog is the deadly dangerous to the community. Calpurnia, a black woman, is the one to recognize the serious nature of the rabid dog's situation; she makes the right phone calls and runs onto warn neighbors. She spares many people from death. Atticus shoots to kill the dog. After the death of the dog, doors open one by one and the neighbors slowly come jointly. This is only the situation where all low class and high class, blacks and white, elite and subalterns come together and make everyone equal for a moment. At this very situation too, Atticus's kill with gun is remarkable but Calpurnia's action and knowledge has ignored. This is an example of how the woman's contribution has made secondary in Maycomb of Southern America.

Subalterns are happy even in domination and marginalization because of solidarity within variety. They have long history of their own culture. Without any discrimination, they celebrate the culture and the life pattern. Calpurnia, a black woman is a cook in the white family. She does not have any racial differences within her. She takes Scout and Jem, the children of the house where she works, in the black church that offers the only real window into the life and culture of Maycomb's black community. At the church, another black woman tries for the rejection to the entrance of Scout and Jem in the church, which belongs to black community. Lula further says:

I want to know why you bringing white chillum to nigger church.

When Lula came up the pathway towards us Calpurnia said, 'stop right here, Nigger' Lula stopped, but said, 'You aren't got no business bringing white chillum here. They got their church, they got our's. it is our church, ain't it , miss call? Calpurnia said, it is the same god, ain't it? (119)

Though Lula exposes the racial hatred and discrimination, the entire crowd gives the Finch children welcome except Lula. It seems unified in a sense of solidarity in black community.

In addition, they have the common feeling of humanity. In black community, the needs of the poorest member felt from everyone else in the group. For instance, everyone in the community sacrifices a little more to help Helen Robinson. Helen Robinson is the wife of Tom Robinson. But cruel society never eyes the positive aspects of subaltern and always mistreats them. Alexandra, sister of Atticus is always against black woman Calpurnia even she does good or not and she asked Atticus to avoid Calpurnia and let her to leave the house. Says:

Atticus, it's all right to be soft-hearted, you're an easy man, but you have a daughter to think of. A daughter who's growing up. That's what I am thinking of. And don't try to get around it. You're got to face it sooner or later and it might as well be tonight. We don't need her now. (137)

Here, Alexandra tries to persuade Atticus to make Calpurnia out of the house as she thinks, Calpurnia is showing wrong direction to the children as Jem and Scout went to the Church with Calpurnia and met the black people. Alexandra is aristocratic lady owning the Finch's land tries to impose her own moral virtues to be accepted by Scout and Jem and wants to do the thing according to her ignoring Calpurnia's idea.

Subalterns has victimized not only because of gender, class, race but also by race. Child also has mistreated in South American society. Dill, friend of Scout and Jem who comes to Maycomb in every summer seasons, is innocent and loving child. His father mistreats him. Dill recites this narrative: "having been bound in chains and left to die in the basement (there were basement in Meridian) by his new father, who

disliked him, and secretly kept alive on raw field peas by a passing farmer who heard his cries for help, Dill worked himself free by pulling the chains from the wall." (77)

In spite of the presence of his mother he has suffered from the cruel behavior of his stepfather. By that, he goes off to Atticus in Maycomb. Atticus is only the person with good conscience for all people whether he is black or white, male or female, young or child. Dill is scared to get back and ask "Mr Finch, don't tell Aunt Rachel, don't make me go back, please sir! I'll turn off again!" (78) This shows his suffering and pain.

Atticus is kind hearted and always ready to help as:

"Nobody's about to make you go anywhere but to bed pretty soon. I'm just going over to tell Miss Rachel you're here and ask her if you could spend the night with us_ you'd like that, wouldn't you? And for goodness' sake put some of the country back where it belongs, the soil erosion's bad enough as it is." (79)

Dill, a child is treated badly from his family member, father and mother. He escapes and comes to Maycomb from home and pleading with Atticus not to send him in his home. This shows the pathetic situation of child. Atticus humanly treats which has shared the emotion towards children.

Like other, subalterns have treated wrongly in the name of race or in the name of skin. Racism is the constructed form in the name of religion, culture, social status, age, gender and so on. One has not been racist but family, society, culture, law, religion made one racist and knows their limited areas or boundaries. As Aunt Alexandra enquires with the children, "Are you from Calpurnia's church that day?" (114) They just get back from church with Cal. In nineteenth century, white treat blacks as their enemy and offer no opportunities to them. Whites think, blacks become their competitor if they are given opportunity. So they made boundaries to

save from that fair. If the blacks try to cross the limited boundaries, they are severely punished or given fatal punishments in the name of violating that which is also made by the whites. No voice of black has listened. Blacks are depended on whites because they have no job opportunities as whites are in higher post and the lower post is given to them which need more physical labor and serve white without wage. Tom does the work without any words when Mayell asks him to do. These lines show the docile nature of subaltern:

I was goin' hom as usual that eveinin', an' when I passed the Ewell place Miss Mayella were on the porch, like she said she were. It seemed real quiet like, an' I didn't quite know why. I was studyin' why, just passin' by, when she says for me to come there and help her a minute. Well, I went inside the fence an' looked somethin' for you to do in the house. Th' old door's off its hinges an' fall's comin' on preeety fast.' I said you got a screwdriver, Miss Mayella? She so had. Well I looked at the door. I said Miss Mayella, this door look all right." (103)

Tom is in the house of Mayella because he called him in. Whites have no mutual communication with the blacks. In the present novel also the same thing happens because of racism prevailed in the Maycomb, Alabama, black character, Tom Robinson who tries to help a white woman crossing the boundaries becomes the victim of cruel white society.

Unlike other white, Atticus Finch is different in black's behavior. He is a lawyer and conscious on human right. He tries his level best to defend Tom and his family. All community people are against him and his family says him a nigger lover but he avoids all these things and gives the same lesson to his children who are also mocked by their friends. He knows Tom and his situation as if he is a Negro, he is a

respectable one and lives in his own moral codes and does not harm anyone. Even though, at the surface level, the writer attempts to show the consciousness of intellectual towards subaltern as a tool that creates sympathy on whole subalterns. We clearly see that white character, Finch is ready to help black boy, Tom. Atticus's consciousness toward the black characters is transparent in the novel as he is central character and moral conscience of the novel. White community is against him and his family. So, Scout asks him why he is defending a Negro when she is mocked by her friends. From the rumblings of the Robinson case, the mantra Atticus instills in his children is "hold your head high and keep those fists down. No matter what anybody says to you, don't you let 'em get your goat?" She asks:

Do you defend niggers. Atticus?

Of course I do. Don't say nigger, Scout. That's common. 's what everybody at school says.

Atticus sighed. I simply defending Negro- his name's Tom Robindon.

He lives in that little settlement beyond the town dump. He's a member of Calpurnia's church, and Cal knows his family well. She says they're clean-living folks. (75)

In above lines Atticus easily accepts that he is defending a Negro, who is falsely accused of raping by a white woman. He taught his children moral lessons that all human beings are equal and do not accuse others without seeing the things from their point of view. Ignoring community's reaction against him and his family, he has taken the case of Negro. For him this case is one that touched him because not all blacks are bad or dishonest and not all whites are good. Despite he is a Negro and he is well living and respected in his society and does not want to harm anybody.

Tom Robinson's trial begins with the testimony of the Sheriff, Heck Tate. The Finch children, Jem and Scout find themselves welcomed and even honored among blacks when Reverend Sykes invites them to the balcony, and chairs are vacated in the front row on their behalf where black people sit. Reverend invites all of them "There's not a seat downstairs. Did you all reckon it'll be all right if you all come to the balcony with me?" (164). The prosecution's attorney Mr. Glimmer proceeds the case and asks Heck Tate about the events surrounding Tom Robinson and Mr. Ewell come to get him because "some Nigger'd raped his girls" (167). He says that he finds Mayella on the floor, very beaten up and that she says that Tom has taken advantage of her and beaten her. Atticus questions him next asking whether anyone calls a doctor or not we find Tate's response which is 'no' but Tate mentions about the entire right side of Miss Mayella's face which is bruised and sees all scratches all around her face.

Similarly, next witness is Mr. Ewell, and claims that he hears Mayella screaming when he is coming in front the woods with kindling, and he runs to the highly offensive language pointing his at Tom Robinson "[...] I seen that black nigger yonder ruttin' on my Mayella" (173). This quote sets the court in fervor. Further, he explains about the scene and retorts to judge:

I run for Tate quick as I could I know who it was, all right, lived down yonder in that nigger-nest, passed the house every day judge I've asked this country for fifteen years to clean out that nest down yonder, they're dangerous to live around sides devaluing ' my property. (175)

Here we find that Mr. Ewell's manner is of one who seems beyond the law. He has described as a bantam cock that struts around arrogantly, yet ridiculously and he tries to invoke the good humor of the audience, whines to the judge about being asked to prove his ability to write, and offends everyone with his language, putting the court

into five minutes of uproar. This scene depicts him as brutal, insensitive and confident of his ability to get away with his perjury.

Likewise, after Mr. Ewells, Ms. Mayella is next witness. Her life is one of miserable poverty and deprivation, and she shows that she is accustomed to being treated without respect when she thinks Atticus is deliberately mocking her by calling her 'Miss'. She seems hopelessly immature for nineteen years old and her whiney or tearful attitude suggests a subtle sly manipulation of her audience. And her actions in the court seem motivated by cowardice: her initial reluctance to say Tom's name when asked to tell the court that her rapist is points toward her hesitancy to accuse him when he is innocent. However, she does surrender to fear and accuse him, thus putting her fear over the value of his life. Mayella's sad situation comes out more fully in Tom's testimony. Her short comments about "what her pap do to her don't count," shows that he is probably abused in some way by her father" (179). Tom's crippled state is more than that, but also serves as an emblem for his disadvantage in life a black man. Tom's arm has injured in cotton fields. His legacy of slavery cripples Tom in the court and in his everyday life, just as his actual injury is a constant burden for him:

Tom seemed to be a respectable Negro, and a respectable would never go up into somebody's yard of his own volition. [...] Tom was a black-velvet Negro, not shiny but soft black. The whites of his eyes shone in his face, and when he spoke, we flash of his teeth. If he had been whole, he would have been a fine specimen of a man. (129)

Though Tom is black, he seems highly respectable one however he is presented. All of Maycomb's social assumptions refute the idea that a black person feels sorry for a white person. Tom's comment "yes suh. I felt right sorry for her; she seemed to try

more'n the rest of 'em-' seems extremely provocative in the courthouse" (129) shows his honesty and kindness.

Black life is tough to be, by nature, inferior to white life, than his own, subverts everything that the town's social fabric is based upon. As Jem explains every class looks down upon the class below it, so black people should not feel pity for anyone. Atticus points out the case that comes down to the word of a black man against the word of the white people. The Ewell's case depends upon the jury's assumption that "all Negroes lie, that all Negroes are basically immoral beings that all negroes men are not to be trusted around our women, an assumption one associates with minds of caliber" (204). Atticus reminds that there are honest and dishonest black people just as there are honest and dishonest white people. He tells the jury that in court of law all men are equal. However, a court is, no better than the members of its jury, and he urges the jury to do their duty. Atticus appeals to the jury's sense of dignity and in putting together the facts of the case, he stresses on the simplicity of the evidence and shows that the facts of the case, that facts point out towards Tom's innocence. As later becomes apparent, Atticus does not really believe that the jury will set Tom free, even though he does hope that they will, as evidenced by the way he says and all he can hope for is to leave an impression up on the town by exposing the truth for all to see.

Atticus' treatment of Mayella reveals that in spite of being a victim of many cruelties, she has chosen cruelty upon Tom, and she must not excuse for this. He writes, "she was white and she tempted a Negro she did something that is in our society unspeakable: she kissed a black man. Not code mattered to her before she broke it, but it come crashing down on her afterwards" (204). Mayella wants to protect herself by placing her guilt onto Tom, knowing that her action will bring his

death because the jury will believe her not him. Thus, she manipulates the unfairness of the society towards her own ends.

Another white character, Mr. Link Deas who is the master of Tom Robinson shows sympathy towards Tom and his family. Tom has worked eight years for him and given no chance to complain. He is sincere and faithful toward his work and a helpful person. Therefore, he says Tom Robinson is most trustable and honorable person. When Tom is crossed-examined by the opposite side saying things that are not true he would not sit quietly hearing all those words. So, he stands up from the audience and announced: "I just want the whole lot of you to know one thing right now. That boy's worked for m e eight years an' I an't had a speck o' trouble outa him. Not a speck". (195) He is aware of the situation that Tom is not guilty but court treated him that he had done a big crime. His only crime is to help the white woman seeing her poor condition. Tom does not hide anything that took place and says, "I felt sorry for her, she seemed to try more'n the rest of' em". (197) In spite of her family, she is alone and they did not help her doing the work so he helped her when she called him by at watering her flowers, chopping woods and hauling. In November 21 too, he is called by her to take advantage from him. Tom said to the jury:

She reached up an, kissed me side of th' face. She says she never kissed a grown man before an' she might as well kiss a nigger. She says what her papa so to her don't count. She says, 'kiss me back , nigger'. I say Miss Mayella lemme puta here an' tried to run but she got her back to the door an' I' da had to push her. I didn't wanta harm her, Mr. Finch, an' I say lemme pass, but just when I say it Mr. Ewell yonder hollered through th' window. (103)

Tom Robinson is tempted by white woman though he is ignoring or rejecting the things because he cannot go beyond the moral codes as he is married with three children. So Mr. Link supports Tom but his voice does not matter for the court because he has raised the voice subaltern or let's say his voice for black boy.

Jem is sure that the trial would go in Tom's favor after the evidence come out about his left arm. Everyone notices that Tom's left arm is twelve inches shorter than his right due to an accident in cotton gin. As Tom tries to put his hand upon the Bible, it becomes evident that his left arm is entirely non-functional and slips off lifelessly. However, without any consideration, every jury member declares Tom guilty. This pronouncement of guilt, therefore, comes as a complete surprise to Jem's naïve mind. Jem thinks that the jury decided quickly, but Atticus reminds him that it took a few hours which is much longer than usual-typically a case like Tom's would be settled in a matter of minutes. Atticus sees this as a sign of the beginning of change for better. Atticus responds that some men do not behave rationally in some situation:

In our courts, when it's a white man's word against a black man's, the white man always wins. They're ugly, but those are the facts of life. Doesn't make it right. said Jem stolidly. He beats his fist softly on his knee. You just can't convict a man on evidence like that-you can't. [A]s you grow older, you' ll see white men heat black men everyday of your life but whenever a white man does that to a black man, no matter who he is, how rich he is, or how fine a family he comes from, that white man is trash. (220)

Atticus shows his rage in court when prosecution going on. He says white does not see the reality with open eyes. His claim is that the jury cannot convict Tom. The white men are trash who closes the eyes in innocence and pretending to give justice.

Jem and Atticus talk about what keeps people off juries. Women cannot serve on juries in Alabama, and many people do not want to get involved in court cases because their livelihood depends in some way upon maintaining good favor with both parties involved in a case. Atticus says that men do not behave rationally in the same situations, and will always take a white man's word over a black man's. Atticus tells Jem that any white man who cheats a black man is trash. Tom was a black man accused of raping a white woman, a crime that is punishable by death penalty. Even though all the facts prove that he does not do it, the jury still finds him guilty beyond a reasonable doubt:

Tom Robinson reached around, ran his finger under his left arm and lifted it. He guided his arm to the Bible and his rubber-like left hand sought contact with the black binding. As he raised his right hand, the useless one slipped off the Bible and hit the clerk's table. He was trying again when Judge Taylor growled, "that'll do, Tom." Tom took the oath and stepped into the witness chair. (101)

Robinson's hand gives proof of his innocence, which can be seen in above lines. His right hand is useless and slipped. Mayella accused him that he hurts in her left part of her face. But evidence proves his innocence.

Finch says to the jury that they should not doubt the defendant on the stereotypes and tries to see the real thing that had happened. Although there are no medical reports and other evidences except two witnesses who contradicted by the defendant during cross-examination, he is found to be guilty because of his race and his social strata which is though inferior by the power holder (whites) as they are superior being. Subalterns are always made the victim of whites though they are ignorant and

not guilty in such cases where whites have the case against black, no voice of black has heard and support the whites blindly.

Atticus says it is simply a case of white and black so the court's decision is also in favor of whites because it is a case of black-on-white sexual assault. But Atticus knows who is guilty; it is not Tom but somebody else in the courtroom, indicating Mayella, who pretends to be ignorant. The people who are there to protest him have sacrificed Tom's life to racism. The justice system does not allow this man to have a fair trial because of the color of his skin. Finch says to his son, "You'd be surprised how hard that'd be. I won't live to see the law changed, and if you live to see it you'll be an old man" (117), this line shows the rigid law system of Maycomb, which, is hard to change.

There are many people out there that are willing to lose everything they have to fight for what is right. Atticus Finch for example, he knows that Tom would not win but he defends him anyway. He does not care what people think, he just knows that there is hope in the future for people to be non-judgmental. They do not understand how a jury could convict a man whom they know is innocent and it astonishes them. Atticus explains to them that it has happened before and will happen again, sadly he also told them when they do it, it seems only the children weep. For the black community, however, the death of Tom's death is devastating, has exemplified by Helen's collapse. Atticus could not promise Tom that all would go well for him because he does not want to promise anything that he cannot be sure. Tom loses the courage and determination to keep living long enough to be potentially released: possibly, like Jem, his hopes that people would listen to the voice of reason are dashed completely, and given all injustices he has experienced in his life, he does not think it is possible that his case will be appealed.

Later also, Mr. Link Deas provides the job for Helen, Tom's wife, because society avoid her and did not offer her work though he did not really need her. Mr Link is not only a good master but also a good person who goes against wrong things and work for fairness but also he is unable to do anything for Tom to free him from false accusation. He said he felt right bad about the way things turned out. He also helped Helen when Ewell "chunked at her" while she tried to use the public road coming to work from her way. He threatens Bob Ewell:

Ewell? He called.

I know every last of you'd there a-layin' on the floor! Now hear me, Bob Ewell: if I hear one more peep outa my girl Helen about not bein' able to talk this road I'll have you in jail before sundown!" Mr. Link spat in the dust and walked home. (249)

Mr Link sees that Helen comes to work from wrong direction and wants to drag the reason but she denied. But later when he followed her knew the problem of Helen that it is Bob Ewell who makes the difficulties in her way to work. Then he yells Ewell not to disturb her because it is not his private way if he does so any more he put him in jail soon. She is not alone I am here to stand for her. In this way he proves his deep affection toward Tom'a family and thinks that, it is his responsibility to do so for her.

We find Maycomb people's perspective toward the subalterns that they are liars, unbelievable despite of their clean living. Whites do not trust them and for them subalterns' life are no better than animal, easy come and easy go not thinking for future life. Even though, they have gone to church, worshiped god, done the work properly, worried for society, lived in their own moral codes, helped other but cannot admired. No subalterns have remembered and respected for their contribution. The word use for subaltern is 'trash', 'nigger', 'negro', 'boy', also humiliating which shows

so-called elite's dominant role. But the protagonist of the novel, a white lawyer, Atticus Finch is helpful and raise the voice for subaltern's right and existence. This line shows:

I simply defending Negro- his name's Tom Robinson. He lives in that little settlement beyond the town dump. He's a member of Calpurnia's church, and Cal knows his family well. She says they're clean-living folks. (75)

Atticus is not worry to defend Tom and he knows the solidarity of blacks and their cultural and religious belief, which is seen in given paragraph.

Despite the community's misbehavior toward Atticus and his family, they have sympathy with subalterns though discrimination and differences to subaltern prevailed in Alabama. The trend of cruel behavior toward subalterns (woman, black and children) block the sympathetic feelings because the power holders do not want to see the things from marginalized point of view, so they cannot understand the real situation, suffering, problem, feelings and wishes of subalterns. It has become the big disease of contemporary nineteenth century society of Southern America. At the same moment Lee shows one elite intellectual white character who is worried about voiceless and want to make them aware in their right and speaks for subalterns. Simultaneously another white good man Mr Link is conscious about subaltern's condition and ready to help them he thinks it is his responsibility to help helpless people. Through the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*, she conveys the message that we should speak for voiceless and study their life.

Atticus defends the case of black, going against his community. He does not care what the people think about him and listens to his conscience. When Jem asks him, "We've won, haven't we?" (110), he answers, "I've no idea." (110) In fact, he

knows the reality of biased society. As an intellectual, he wants to make aware the subalterns like Dill, Tom, Cal in their rights and duties. He knows the truth of Tom and he wants that the people and the court hear it too. He tries his level best to defend Tom ignoring his community and professional rituals because he is touched physically and emotionally with the condition of Tom and his family. He understands their situation and mental status very well but time and situation does not favor Tom, white woman's words are consider and he becomes the dead man because of discrimination and prejudice upon subalterns. Subalterns are part of society. They are strong and hardworking in every part of the life but their silence blocks whole reality and their importance in history. So, intellectuals, educated persons and good wishers should speak for them, awake them and create the platform for them in the mainstream.

However, at the surface level, we think that the novel has written to show racial ambivalence, segregation, domination of subalterns but in the ground level, the writer shows love, support, and compassion for the dominated people in terms of gender, race, class, and age. In the contemporary society whites has taken as superior, intellectual, talent, moral, educated and honest but African American writer Lee shows the dark side of dominant white people by the face of Ewell family. Again, she highlights the conscience and responsible white who sees the society by humanitarian eyes and she makes feel her intellectual character, Atticus Finch that it is the duty of intellectuals who understand the situation and reality of marginalized and suppressed people and speaks for them.

IV. Hope within Hopelessness

The thesis explores the representation of the subaltern people like blacks, women, and children in Southern America. Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* presents the issue of segregation and domination of subaltern, especially race subaltern that is pervasive in the American society, which really exists and has functionally depicted in the novel.

Set in the background of 1930s South America, *To Kill a Mockingbird* is based on realism as it shows the picture of discrimination of subaltern prevailed in Alabama. During that period race as subaltern is taken as major issue, which spreads all over America. Racism is constructed form of society, which becomes the main cause of social disintegration and destruction. One has judged by one's physical appearances and economical status like skin, color, facial structure, complexion, hair color, body structure, money and jobs not by one's ability and capability. Society has based on false assumption thinking whites are superior to the blacks. The legal system is also biased for whites and blacks. Because of prejudice, the jury convicts the subaltern boy who has not committed crime. The novel ends in tragedy of subaltern character, Tom Robinson, but it creates sympathy and empathy towards subaltern community. Despite of racism and prejudice, which has overwhelmed in the Maycomb, the writer shows hope within hopelessness. Unlike, Marxist view reader finds hope in subaltern's death or hopelessness. The death sentence of black boy, Tom Robinson, creates catharsis on the reader. It paves the way for the consciousness of the subalterns.

However, the writer Harper Lee tries to arouse sympathy for the black through the protagonist, Atticus Finch. Atticus attempts to defer the execution and defend Tom Robinson, a black, who has falsely charged of raping a white woman, Mayella

Ewell, going against the deep-rooted racial discrimination and his own community who despise him. Even though, he knows that it is impossible to win the case like that "black-on-white sexual assault", for which death penalty has given directly. But he tries his level best to defense Tom and makes him aware of rights and existence. Even, he fails to free Tom from the accusation because it is a white case against black or elite case against subaltern. As soon as Mayella opens her mouth and screams, the jury blindly favors her and declares Tom guilty without listen his words. He becomes the victim of cruel segregation and prejudice. He is shot down severely like animal, no humanly feeling toward subaltern when he tries to escape or want to revolt against power.

Firstly, Atticus tries to make Tom conscious but later Tom himself is conscious and silently revolts and tries to escape from prison. This step of Tom gives the glimpse of hope. Whether he dies or survives, the important thing is that he initiates to think for self-existence and identity.

Atticus has built a whole value system of the idea that a human being should treat like a human being. This is the main force behind his commitment to save Tom despite he earns hatred from his community. When other white people tend to forget the black's living in their vicinity, Atticus spends much of his time to understand them. Discrimination is cultural phenomenon in the town of Maycom. But Atticus goes against culture, this act has seen as a step against the social morality of most people. Like Finch, Mr. Link Deas has sympathized toward black woman who has ignored from white society completely.

Not only Atticus has to face the problem but his children also face the problem because of his decision to defend Tom. In their exemplary activities, especially of Scout and Atticus, one can experience love of human being toward fellow human

being that mocks the boundaries created along the racial, communal or color lines.

Despite the hate from own white community, unlike other whites of society, the Finch family speaks for the subaltern people and subaltern community. In this situation, we can see the light of hope in darkness.

From the beginning part of the novel, Atticus Finch tries to show sympathy towards subaltern, in fact, he is a member of elite family. He defends the case of black boy, Tom Robinson, offers job to black woman, Calpurnia, shares rituals and emotion with blacks. He wants to make conscious to the subaltern people and speak for them but one way or the other subaltern group are marginalized in every sector of the society.

Gramsci says, the history of subaltern class is fragmented and episodic. From fragmented history, subalterns should search their autonomous identity. Within lose and marginalization, there should be glimpse of victory and hope. So, subalterns should aware themselves to change their condition and to be free in society. Like Tom Robinson speaks for equal right silently and draws new line of subaltern history which makes new path for their autonomous identity.

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