

Significant Facets of Harper Lee's Novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*: A Study

A dissertation Submitted in Partial Fulfilment of the Requirements for the Award of the Degree
of Master of Philosophy in English

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Under the Supervision of

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Department of English

MARY MATHA COLLEGE, Periyakulam

May 04, 2017

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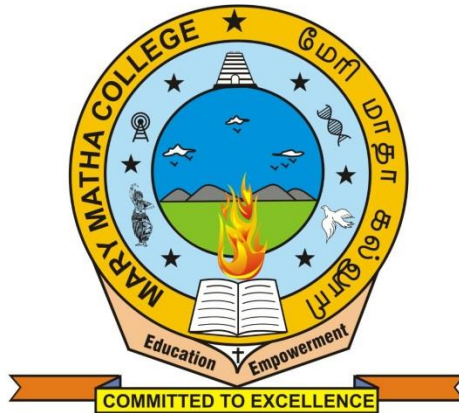
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Declaration

I hereby declare that this dissertation titled ‘Significant Facets of Harper Lee’s Novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*: A Study’ is the result of the study carried out by me for M. Phil. Degree in English under the guidance and supervision of Dr. G. J. Sathiaseelan, Head, Department of English, Mary Matha College, Periyakulam. This dissertation has not been previously submitted for any degree or Diploma and has not formed part of any paper or lecture.

Signature of the candidate

Certificate

Thus is to certify that the dissertation titled ‘Significant Facets of Harper Lee’s Novel *To Kill a Mockingbird: A Study*’ is the record of the research done for Degree of Master of Philosophy by Thomas A Mattappallil under the supervision of Dr. G. J. Sathiaseelan, Head, Department of English, Mary Matha College, Periyakulam, and submitted in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Degree of Master of Philosophy in English.

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ABBREVIATIONS

TKAM - To Kill a Mockingbird

ADTAN- American Dream Then and Now

AD – American Dream

LGBT – Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender

Chapter 1

Introduction

The life in the world was terribly interrupted by the World War I and II which took place in nineteenth century. The aftermath of two world wars hit the human life. It was a shocking experience for people around the world. Everyone was in chaos and the tension led people find their dearest ones. Especially, the lives of soldiers were in a great turmoil. A country like America suffered profoundly. The Wall Street Collapse occurred on October 24, 1929 and was called as the Great Crash or the Stock Market Crash of 1929. It was the most devastating Stock Market Crash in the history of America. The world depression and Wall Street collapse affected their life. The country experienced a sudden downfall in economy. Unemployed workers stole things to get their livelihood. The rate of committing suicide was high in the country. The families in America were collapsing. Divorce rates stopped at a certain level. Even the birth rate of the country was controlled. There was a sudden rise in the crime rate of the country. Every member in a family was addicted to alcohol and smoking. Prostitution was on the increase because women were unable to pay the bills. America faced social and cultural consequences of great depression and World Wars. As a result, mass migration took place and it reshaped America. It altered the attitude of people. They were searching for a new life and hope. The farmers, Native americans and African Americans and the immigrants wished for a modern life due to the past experience. New forms of expression were adhered to the American Culture. The works published were mainly based on these themes.

In 1920', the Americans tried to gain their prosperity. The development of automobile industry, other industries and efficiency in production took place in this period. This period was

also called as the “roaring twenties”. In these years, modernism gradually emerged in Europe and America. Modernism expressed a great sense of modern life through art. In 1926 Sinclair Lewis became the first American to receive the Nobel Prize for literature. William Faulkner published his novel *The sound and the Fury* in 1929. In 1930, he published another work *As I Lay Dying*. Federal Writers Project was established to support the writers like John Steinbeck and Sinclair Lewis. Margaret Mitchel wrote her novel *Gone with the Wind* in 1936 to depict women’s in America Literature. All the writers wrote which all dreamt of the country and they were searching for the real America.

The novel was written in the context of ‘Scottsboro boys’ rape case (John E Griswold 16). Nine Black men were convicted of raping two white women without valid evidence. The condemning of Tom Robinson was based on this true incident. Another incident took place where a black teenager Emmett Till, who was murdered for flirting with a white woman in Mississippi in 1955, and whose death led for the cause of the Civil Rights Movement in America. This incident was also considered by Lee to show certain tribulations faced by Tom Robinson in the novel. Lee was very much influenced by the incident.

During the Great Depression, Lee was influenced by different events that occurred as a result of it. The Emmett Till Murder Case was considered to influence Lee in writing her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. A fourteen- year –old Afro American boy from Chicago went to visit his aunt and uncle in Mississippi. After some days the dead body of the boy was found. The white jury acquitted two men for the murder. Harper Lee wrote *To Kill a Mockingbird* during the world wars and Economic Depression. Harper Lee’s girlhood was strongly influenced by the history of slavery in the southern states of America which ended with the American Civil war. It

helps the readers to understand the minds of people through the characters, moral and social issues presented in the novel.

A cultural difference between the North and the South was prevailing in America. Southern states were an agricultural land, where black slaves worked in the lands. Northern States had more industries, so everyone had better economic background. The people in southern states supported the black race by saying that they were fortunate enough to have contact with Christianity. The black slaves were also in need of guidance from their white superiors. Moreover, the African American was denied to have equal access to voting, education and employment opportunities. White farmers became bankrupt and found difficult for living. Harper Lee discussed the indignance and the harsh treatment of Afro Americans in her novel. All these incidents, cultural disparities which formed as the background for the novel can be studied on the basis of American Dream. Any work written in American Literature during this time can be studied along with their concept of American Dream.

Harper Lee wrote the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* when people were severely affected by social and economic downfall. The Great depression was an economic disaster that happened in North America, Europe, and other parts of the world. It started in 1929 and continued till 1939. It had greater effects on the life of People around the world. The devastating effects disseminated in America and affected their life. This period in America is a great source for the writers to produce prolific literary works. The economic crisis was an inspiration for the American writers like Harper Lee, Ernest Hemingway F. Scott Fitzgerald and others to do literary experiments in modern American literature.

Lee's contemporaries wrote novels with themes related to Great Depression and the two World Wars. F.S Fitzgerald was a great American writer. The critics were reluctant to accept him as a great craftsman in literature. Fitzgerald had a clear, lyrical, colorful, witty style which evoked the emotions at right time and place. Scot regarded it as the defining character of the American people. Mutability or destruction, loss was another major theme found in his works. Fitzgerald was identified with the Jazz age. In 1924, he wrote the famous work named as *The Great Gatsby*. The novel was able to show effects of Great depression period in America.

Ernest Hemingway is regarded as the master of compact and direct expressions in the novels. Hemingway had an economical and undermining way of writing. It had influenced the 20th century American fiction. He had a profound impact on other authors like James Jones, Nelson Algren and Norman Mailer. He had created only a few novels like *The Sun Also Rises*, *The Old Man and the Sea*, *Death in the Afternoon*, *The Green Hills of Africa*. He was a conscious male writer. Hemingway tried to show the men involved in extreme external conflicts and adventures. The characters were depicted with courage.

William Faulkner was raised in Mississippi, where he created an imaginative landscape Yoknapatawpha for his novels. The landscape was mentioned with several families with interconnections back to the generations. Faulkner recreated the landscapes and races like Indian, African – American, Euro – American and other groups. He was famous with his narrative chronology, different points of views and voices and baroque style. The famous novels of Faulkner are *The Sound and the Fury* (1929) and *As I Lay Dying* (1930). Most of his novels show how meaning resides in the manner of telling. The viewpoints used by Faulkner makes the novel more self – referential. The themes like southern tradition, family, community, the land, history and race are incorporated in his novels.

Sinclair Lewis was born in Minnesota and graduated from Yale University. Lewis's novel *Main Street* (1920) depicted the satirized monotonous, hypocritical small town life in Minnesota. He presented the life, materialism, narrowness and hypocrisy of the Americans to the world through his works. It gave him international and national reputation. He was offered Pulitzer Prize for his work *Arrowsmith*, published in 1925. It was a novel tracing a doctor's endeavor to maintain his ethics amidst of greed and corruption. Sinclair Lewis was the first American to win Nobel Prize for literature in 1930.

John Steinbeck wrote his famous novel *The Grapes of Wrath*. It depicts the farmer's life during the Great Depression. It is regarded as his greatest work. Steinbeck's first novel *Cup of Gold* was published in 1929. The novel story is based on the life and death of Privateer Henry Morgan. It centers on Morgan's assault and sacking of the city of Panama, sometimes referred to as the 'Cup of Gold', and on the women, fairer than the sun, who were said to be found there. Steinbeck's New Deal political views, negative portrayal of aspects of capitalism, and sympathy for the plight of workers, led to a backlash against the author, especially close to home. . John Steinbeck's 1939 novel, *The Grapes of Wrath*, glorifies a simple, rural way of life. Jack Conroy's *The Disinherited*, a 1933 chronicle of an average industrial worker's life in the Depression Era, conveyed disillusionment and cynicism. *The Moon Is Down* is another novel about the Socrates – inspired spirit of resistance, was later adapted into a film. In 1952 Steinbeck's longest novel, *East of Eden*, was published. According to his third wife, Elaine, he considered it his *magnum opus*, his greatest novel.

Harper Lee was born in April 28th, 1926 at Monroeville, Alabama, America. Amasa Coleman Lee and Francis Lee had five children. She was the youngest in the family. Her grandmother's name was Ellen which was spelt backwards and Lee was named Nelle. Amasa

Coleman was a homemaker and Francis was a Newspaper editor and practiced law in the court. Francis Lee defended for accusing two black men who were punished for murdering a white store keeper. Harper Lee studied at Monroe Country High School. She participated in literary honour society and developed interest in English Literature. Later, Lee graduated from Huntingdon College, Montgomery in 1944, then to the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. She realised her potential for writing by contributing to the schools humour magazine "*Rammer Jammer*". She was also the editor for this magazine. Lee got the chance into Law school and did an exchange program at Oxford University. Lee wrote the manuscript of "*To Kill a Mockingbird*" and shown to Tay Hohoff editor at J.B.Lippincott & CO. The novel was published in 1961. *To Kill a Mockingbird* deals with issues of racism this was observed by Lee in her childhood.

Lee's novel is a semi-autobiographical novel based on her observations of her family, neighbours and the events that happened in her hometown at age of ten in 1936. The attitude of people was sensitive in the racist issues. *Go Set a Watchman* was written in mid – 1950s and published as a "sequel" of *To Kill a Mockingbird* in 2015. Nelle Harper Lee became a famous American novelist. She became popular and successful, winning the Pulitzer Prize for her novel. Harper lee was her pen name. Horton Foote wrote the screenplay for the novel and it was adapted into a movie in 1962. The adaptation of the novel into the movie had won three awards for the best actor, Gregory Peck's who enacted as Atticus Finch. In reality Atticus Finch was said to be Lee's father. Mary Badham wads Scout, Philip Alford as Jem acted in the film adaptation.

Truman Capote was her intimate friend who influenced her in writing this novel. Capote wrote the impact of the murder of four members of the Clutter family on their small Kansas farming community. The two traveled to Kansas to interview townspeople, friends and family of the deceased and the investigators working to solve the crime. Lee served as his assistant and helped with the interviews. They eventually won over some of the locals with her easygoing, unpretentious manner. Truman was flamboyant in personality and style found hard to get him into his subjects' appreciation.

Harper Lee was successful in depicting the real life of people during great depression. She presented real elements like race, justice and economy. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is also a bildungsroman novel. Lee wrote her two novels with semi - autobiographical elements. If the first novel is based on childhood experience, then the second novel was based on her experience as an adult. The characters of the novel include her family and neighbours as the character and an event that occurred near her home. This indicates that Lee understands her family, neighbours, town and country. As a writer, she presents the tribulations of her 'self' and 'others' in her novel. *To kill a mockingbird* is novel which shows the maturation of the author. The novel starts by showing the author as child and conclude in matured state. The novel is narrated by Harper Lee from first person point of view.

Lee narrates the story in a simple manner and straightforward style to avoid all complexities in language. The dialogues between the characters are presented in a conversational manner. Dialects and slangs used in the language show the speaking style of people during that time. The language is easily understood by the readers. Themes like race, justice, prejudice and civil rights are discussed in the novel to show the social realism in the novel. The novel caught

the audience attraction in the form of book and film. This indicates that Lee's novel is real choice for the audience to know about America in 1920's. These factors make Lee a distinctive writer among her contemporaries. The study on the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee is based on the realistic topics. The themes like race, justice, poverty and segregation is elucidated based on the real life experience of the author and the incidents that took place in the novel. The Scottsboro trial cases, poverty in Alabama, segregation of blacks are the main incidents depicted in the novel. Though these issues occurred in America in early twentieth century, it is still prevailing in different forms in the world. It segregates the human beings based on money, civil rights, freedom and liberty. This leads to the hegemony in a globalized world.

Harper Lee wrote the novel in a realistic manner along with her life experiences. The novel was written during 'Great depression' in different parts of America and the world. Amasa Coleman Lee is her father and shown as Atticus Finch in the novel. Most of the characters created in the novel are her family members and neighbours. Truman is also presented as Dill in the novel. Truman and Lee were neighbors. Truman Capote also influenced Lee to write this novel. The research focuses on the aspects like Social Realism, Narrative techniques and Binary Opposites in the novel. The main incident of the novel is the false accusation of Tom Robinson for raping Mayella Ewell. The realities of people's life in America have been analysed with the major issues like race, class and justice found in the American society. The novel is a real representation of incidents that occurred in 1920's and after. The research objective is to study and discuss the above realistic incidents, the narrative techniques based on the American Dream. The characters will be analysed based on the theory of Jacques Derrida's Binary Opposites.

The novel discusses the social realism during the Great Depression and World War I. Social realism and binary opposites can be studied along with the concept of American dream.

The term American Dream was first used by James Truslow Adams in 1931. He was a historian and popularised “American Dream” in his 1931 book *Epic of America*.

But there has been also the *American dream*, that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for every man, with opportunity for each according to his ability or achievement. It is a difficult dream for the European upper classes to interpret adequately, and too many of us ourselves have grown weary and mistrustful of it. It is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position (James Truslow Adams).

‘Later he wrote that the American dream has been a dream of being able to grow to the fullest development as man and woman, unhampered by the barriers which had slowly been erected in the older civilizations, unrepressed by social orders which had developed for the benefit of classes rather than for the simple human being of any and every class’ (James Truslow Adams). In his book, James discusses the criteria necessary to achieve American Dream. Freedom, Individualism, mobility, flexibility, optimism, hard work, progress and patriotism are the qualities required to achieve the American Dream. It became part of American history for 1776- 1970’s. American Dream aimed at equality of all races, gender and class in the society. The immigrants who came to America dreamt of personal freedom, self-fulfillment, dignity and happiness. They wanted economic prosperity and success by rising from poverty to fame and fortune. They wished to live an egalitarian, classless society. The religious dream was to have

religious freedom in “Promised land” in which they believe that they are Gods chosen people. Finally their political dream was to have a democratic government (ADTAN).

The lives of people in Maycomb, give the readers idea about the real situation of people in the country. During the Great Economic Depression, everything was in a chaos. Especially, the families, parenting and basic needs were in a deteriorated state. The racial issues are analysed in the study based on the concept of American Dream. The family situation and institution of marriage and other events are discussed as part of social realism. People in America were facing a tough time. Lee was deeply influenced by the American dream to show the real situation of people to make readers understand through her own life experiences. She speaks to the readers directly through her characters. As an author, she inspires the mind of readers to achieve American dream. Lee has intertwined a beautiful story based on his neighbours and the incidents happened during her childhood. Lee is presented as Scout in the novel. Atticus Finch is shown as her father. Atticus Finch is the hero who fights for Tom Robinson. He represents America where everyone desires to live equally.

The fragile nature of the court system is another social issue discussed by Harper Lee in the novel. Afro American was denied justice and a peaceful co - existence. Afro American community represented the people’s condition around the world. The execution and implementation of law was not in the right path due to the discrimination of African American community. It resulted in convicting an innocent person. An innocent cannot be judged merely with some prejudices. In a contemporary society, people see a person with his or her prejudice. Human values are given less prominence. It is clearly seen in public places like court. Everyone criticises based on his assumptions and prejudices. In the case of a magistrate he cannot judge a person based on his personal interest or some discriminations. It is the time when the law and

order are unstable. Justice and equality is provided for only a certain category of people. The formalist community idealise social injustice and inequality for their selfish motives in different manner. These consequences of social injustice and inequality are analysed and interpreted in terms of social realism. The court system is only social problem. Other problems like education, finance culture and other events are studied based on the American Dream.

Harper Lee has used different techniques to make the novel comprehensive for readers. The narrative techniques used by Lee in the novel is analysed in the study. It examines whether the author has created the desired impact of American dream. At the same time, the study analyses how the author achieves the American Dream and follow it as a writer and an individual. The novel is written in the first person narrative based on autobiographical elements of the author. The *Scottsboro trial case*, *Emmett Till Murder Case*, *Great depression*, *Wall Street Collapse and World Wars* occurred during when Lee was a child. As we know certain incidents happened in childhood is always remembered in everyone's life. Lee is successful in depicting her childhood experiences in an extraordinary fashion. Lee infuses fiction into realities. The readers can understand the effects of Great Depression in people's life not only in Alabama, but all over America and other countries. Her first novel was written based on her childhood experiences. Her second novel *Go to Set the Watchman* was written based on her adulthood experience of the country. She depicts the situation of families and relationship between the siblings, parenting during this time. She aimed to bring in more reality into her novel using her real life experiences. She is a versatile writer able to create realistic effect in her novel than the other authors.

Lee narrates the novel based on the reminiscences of her childhood. It interrupts Scout's timely narrative which enhances the plot with prior events by making it reaching on the right

time. The novel opens with an adult Scout Finch reminiscing about her childhood. Readers are taken into the memories of her old town Maycomb. Scout develops the values and ideas learnt by encountering the characters in Maycomb's society. She learns about justice and injustice by watching the trial of an African American man. Tom Robinson is a portrayal of the African American community during the Great Depression. Lee views the American society without any partiality to an extent. She witnesses the divisions of class and race in her small town in the novel. Lee is groomed in way to consider everyone in an egalitarian manner. She has the courage to know herself and those around her. Lee is able to respect the diversity of the people in her community, people such as Tom Robinson and Boo Radley. There is rarely a situation in which Scout does not learn something new about education, superstition, bravery, or cowardice. The story evolves in a world where the children lose their innocence as they grow up and questions the harsh realities of adult life. Lee's story accepts the Afro American Community through her characters like Tom Robinson and an eccentric Boo Radley.

In the novel, Lee uses symbols like Mockingbird. 'Mockingbird' is one of the symbols shown by the author and it is analysed in the study. Mockingbird is a bird which is famous for mimicking the songs of other birds. In the novel, like the bird, the children mimic their parents in becoming an adult. The readers can understand the themes and ideas like justice, equality, mercy which are connected to this symbol. These ideas are received by Jean Lousie Finch, Jem Finch and questioned by the characters at certain point in their life. At the same time, these ideas are manipulated by certain characters for the survival. The survival of people is also questioned by the author. Mockingbird also represents Atticus Finch in the novel. His endeavor is to establish an egalitarian society. It is the vision of Lee seen in the novel. Atticus tries to save Tom Robinson from Mayella Ewell rape case. His children follow the good qualities like their father.

The title of the novel is discussed and questioned in the context of the novel. Lee also uses certain terms like 'Tired old town', 'reclusive Arthur Boo', 'Nigger lover', 'town drunk', 'coloured balcony' to denote the character and the settings of the novel in a very explicit manner. The setting and time of the novel makes the effect of bringing reality to the novel.

Boo Radley appears as a symbolic figure. He is the symbol of the downtrodden and discriminated people in the society. He is alienated by the people in Maycomb. The creation of the character Radley is noticeable representation of social realism in this novel. He is not ready to trust in others. It talks about the people who were sidelined during the crisis. In a fictional narrative like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the author presents this character who craves for true love, acceptance and mercy from the society. He acts in the right situation and is mysteriously presented by the author. This mysterious act is connected in questioning the mentality of people in declaring an innocent person as insane. The society declares an honest man always as a culprit and it is clearly visible in the case of Atticus Finch. This remains a 'Mystery' for the readers and society.

Jacques Derrida developed semiotic analysis. He is a French thinker and philosopher who pioneered deconstruction. Derrida wrote and published three books titled *Of Grammatology*, *Writing and Difference* and *Speech and Phenomena*. He discusses the ideas like difference, binary oppositions and aporia in his various books. In Binary Opposition, he discusses the tacit hierarchy where the first term is privileged and superior and second one is derivative and inferior. Both the two hierarchies are inverted or reversed and the terms destabilised. It leaves a condition of undecidability. The second process attempts to establish platform in a textual work to differentiate a work externally and internally. The third process in binary opposites is to

analyse the rhetorical figures and figurative language in the usage of language for which it is strictly literal and logical arguments of philosophy.

In Jacques Derrida theory of deconstruction, we study about the binary opposite (Derrida 354). This theory is adopted to analyse the statements, views, opinions of the main characters like Atticus Finch, Jean Louise Finch, Jem, Mayella Ewell, Bob Ewell and Boo Radley in connection with the American Dream. Other minor characters are analysed in the research. It gives us different dimension about how the court and society is convicting an innocent person. The theory shows how the characters are behaving at different situations in their life. It checks the real behavior of a character. The child characters like Jem, Scout and Dill have a greater role in understanding certain facts and ideologies present in the society. Boo Radley is considered as the representation of human beings in search of true love and acceptance in a complex modern society.

Mayella Ewell represents the situation of women in America. The situation of women is not much noticed in the country. They are suppressed and seen as a commodity for sexual pleasure. In certain cases, women misuse such cases to take advantage over the male community. Especially, the white women take advantage over black men. Families are deteriorated and as a result, women lost their husbands. Women are searching for true love and care from the men. Some women have gone for prostitution to earn money which is a clear effect of Great Depression. Mayella Ewell is married but her husband left her. This frustrated situation of women can be seen in Mayella. Her father used to hurt her physically and it shows pathetic situation of families in Maycomb. Bob Ewell discloses his mistake and condemns Tom Robinson. The case is taken to the court. She is questioned and her reply is not sincere. Mayella

is afraid to reveal about the father. This shows how women are treated and suppressed by the dominant male community.

The characters role in condemning Tom Robinson shows isolation of people who live with good intention. The characters situation is stated along with the examples of characters from other novels. Merits and demerits of the character are analysed to prove the thesis statement. The unintentional mistakes committed by the main characters are compared to Adam and Eve incident from the bible. In the bible, God punished both Adam and Eve. In the novel Lee has shown the social injustice and inequality in a formalist society. The legal system which is supposed to provide social justice and equality is subverted here. As a result the common people are afflicted by formalist society. Even the society tried to idealise the social evils as right. This behavior can be connected with the character Bob Ewell. Bob Ewell is representation of hypocritical society. He has been depicted as a drunkard and his lifestyle is the result of great depression in the American society. Tom Robinson is condemned by the court, though he is innocent. His condemnation is an example. This shows the fragility of court system and police officials in providing and maintaining justice equality in the society. A person is valued based on inner self and his action, speech and good relationship with people in a society. Human beings become humane when he respects divinity in others heart.

Chapter 2

Social Realism

America got independence in 1776. American dream originated along with American Independence in the same year. Later it became a state of mind, attitude or belief. Social realism in Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* can be discussed in the light of American dream. The term was first used by James Truslow Adams in 1931. He was a historian and popularised "American Dream" in his 1931 book *Epic of America*. American dream denotes the pursuit of happiness by enduring in an optimistic manner. It aims at the personal well-being and leading a quality life. This kind of diehard optimism helps the Americans to think about their existence and survival in a world of chaos. They are called the Big Brother because of their involvement in global issues. America still survives in their dream due to the endurance and testimony of power. They blame themselves for not achieving the dream because it is related to the American mythology and consciousness of people. This makes American people to bear and be connected with freedom, cultural value, opportunity and equality. There is equality among the people to sacrifice for their dream. Recently, it took its form in different manners like LGBT a progress which they started claiming in their country. Popular culture has disseminated as a strong voice to American dream in the present context. Most of the modern ideas, practices have sprout from America which is result of the American dream.

America in sixteenth and seventeenth century faced a great migration of immigrants who came in search of a new life in the new land. Already English, Dutch and French emancipated from the religious problems and sought for a promised land. The first settlers wanted to detach them from the past life to escape from poverty and other issues. In 19th century, issues like poverty, religious deterioration, corruption, and slavery brought Irishmen to America.

Later, Scandinavians, Jews and eastern and southern Europeans came in large number to America. Afro - American suffered greatly because they were treated as slaves and later brought to America by the colonisers. The forefathers of present Afro- Americans are from African countries. All immigrants were looking for a new chance, new opportunities, new life and new land to forget about their past. In constitution, bills were amended to treat fundamental human needs, right and equality. Another factor decided the future of American dream was the idea of Open Frontier (AD 1-3). In the early stages the immigrant's livelihood was based on agriculture and later they shifted to the development of industries in 19th century. They worked hard and achieved success in their life by trusting God. They believed this as the roots for developing their values like American family life, self – help, neighbourly, charity and religion.

In the beginning, Afro- Americans were treated as slaves by the white people. Later, this problem turned into racist issues which were prevalent in America during nineteenth century. The migration took place inside Europe which constituted the backbone of America. It framed the idea of the Open Frontier. Jews, Irish, Africans and Catholics moved to America. They have seen America as a pure country for them to start their life. In the initial stages, migrants wished to escape from the discrimination and poverty. They created a cult of success where they were not ready to fail by sensing the pettiness. It has become an attitude and become part of American lifestyle. This lifestyle was transformed by the attitude of the puritans who had ethics in their work. It affected the imagination of American people and their social life. The migrants became successful and identified that the material success was the gift and sign of God's grace. Some admired the American dream and became rich in an extraordinary manner. In 1920's, there was a breakdown in the pursuing the American dream. World wars, Wall Street collapse, Great depression affected the life of people in America. As a result, many were unemployed and

became poor. The middle class families suffered and took time to recover from their draught situation. In 1980's, everything restored back to the right path and people started pursuing the American Dream. The immigrants hoped for a new life in their new land. They achieved their own home, a good life, education, goods and novelty. The people have their freedom of choice in their life and resulted in the abundance and prosperity.

The immigrants were in pursuit of American dream, but in case of Afro Americans they were not treated with equal status. The abolition of racial issue was in a very slow process. It started with the Atlantic slave trade between 1626 and 1860 where many Africans were forcefully transported to America. They were treated as insiders and it prevailed for three centuries. The racial problems were not abolished. It was prevailing even during the time of Harper lee. Lee has portrayed inequality and loss of innocence by showing class system in the Maycomb town. The research studies the events which consider the background for Lee to write the novel.

Harper Lee published *To Kill a Mockingbird* during the Civil War Tights era (prevailing from 1955 to 1958). Harper Lee's girlhood was strongly influenced by the history of slavery in the southern states of America which ended with the American Civil war. A cultural difference between North and South was prevailing in America. Southern states were an agricultural land where black slaves worked in the lands. Northern States had more industries, so everyone had better economic background. The people in southern states supported the black race by saying that they were fortunate to have contact with Christianity. The black slaves were also in need of guidance from their white superiors. The African American was denied to have equal access to voting, education and employment opportunities. White farmers became bankrupt and found difficult for living.

The study analyses the social realities in American society. Social realities include problems like cultural and class difference, injustice in court system, economy insecurity and education. These realities are found in Maycomb town. It helps the readers to understand the minds of people through the characters, their actions, their moral and social issues presented in the novel. It is associated in achieving American dream. Lee has discussed the consequences of problems as race, class, inequality and loss of innocence in the Maycomb town. Maycomb town is described in the novel as:

Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself (TKAM 5-6).

Maycomb was a ravaged town due to great depression and world wars. It is portrayed as an old town. The readers understand that people from different class have suffered economically and socially. Lee shows this fictional town as representation of other American cities and towns. The town is called as a “tired old town” by Lee. Economic Depression was an unfathomable period in the history of America. The study shows that great depression deteriorated education, court system which led to rise of racial and class issue in Maycomb town. The town is gloomy, dull and lacks liveliness. The attitude of people is even digressed to do anything for their existence and survival. The native people of Maycomb have lost their track in pursuit of happiness. They are not living according to their dream. They have the tradition of accepting their mistake in achieving American dream. It is manipulated and has started blaming others for their mistakes. They have lost faith in others. Certain practices like, ‘closed doors meant

illness and cold weather only' (TKAM 10), are found among the people. It shows that Maycomb was suffering from poverty, illness and lack of peace.

Atticus Finch is a character in the novel. He endeavours to walk in others shoes and skin. This makes him understand the social realities in his town and neighbouring families. Finch's family is an upper class family. Though they belong to an upper class, he sees everyone with an egalitarian attitude. He works for the betterment of his family, society and country. The study finds that American dream of the author is achieved by presenting Atticus. He works for the equality of people in the Maycomb irrespective of class, race and poverty. He tries to solve problems in an optimistic manner. Social problems like race, class and loss of innocence is solved through Atticus. Atticus endures these problems with optimism for the existence and survival of everyone in the Maycomb town. The readers are greatly influenced by portrayal of Atticus Finch as it is like giving hope to all Americans. The lives of many American readers get changed by the novel. Lee fulfils her dream of becoming a great writer with the qualities of American dream.

Atticus works to save the town from narrow thinking of people. The study views that people in the Maycomb County are responsible for their arrogant and adamant behaviour. The diehard optimism is overtaken by 'vague optimism'. Everyone is unclear about their dream. They have no idea how to revive themselves in achieving American dream. The chaos brought by world war and depressions have manipulated divinity and resulted in loss of their innocence. It is clear that people in Maycomb were marginalised in terms of money, race and class. The social problems faced by Atticus were complex. Lee shows Maycomb as town with caste system:

Scout,' said Atticus, 'Nigger –lover is just one of the terms that don't mean anything – like snot – nose. It's hard to explain – ignorant, trashy people use it when they think somebody; 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. (TKAM 120)

There was Indeed a caste system in Maycomb, but to my mind it worked this way: the older citizens, the present generation of people who had lived side by side for years and years, were utterly predictable to one another: they took for granted attitudes, character shading, even gestures, as having been repeated in each generation and refined by time. (TKAM 145)

Class stratification is another social problem found in the novel. Finch family represents the high class. They are always right, considered taking everyone with them like a good leader. The Cunningham's were farmers and representing the middle class. Their situation was miserable but they were self-prided. Farmers were called as 'White Trash'.

Atticus said professional people were poor because the farmers were poor. As the Maycomb County was farm country, nickels and dimes were hard to come by for doctors and dentists and lawyers. Entailment breed of men (TKAM 23).

Ewells are the next category who is dirty and uncivilized due to lack of education. They used to live behind the Negro cabin. Ewells were uncontrollable even by the government. They lived on the pity of upper class and were accepted only because of their white complexion. A clear division based on class and race was practiced. Afro Americans were considered slaves even by the Ewells. This denies the freedom for them to pursue and acquire American dream. It

indicates suppression of humanism and negligence of humane values among the American people. American dream gave importance to human values. Americans have lost their humanitarian values during this time. The situation of Tom Robinson is similar as shown in the novel. Atticus fights for the equality of society, but he is isolated from the society. Society suppressed the humanistic values which led to the death of Bob Ewell by Arthur or Boo Radley. Boo Radley is the representative of peaceful American. This serenity got collapsed after the great depression and world wars. The quality of acceptance is lost in the American Society. People are not ready to trust each other. In the novel, Atticus says that:

Atticus says cheatin' a coloured man is ten times worse than cheatin' a white man,'

I muttered. 'Says it's the worst thing you can do (TKAM 222).

The racial issue in Maycomb is found in worst situation. Especially the white people have treated the black as trash. They are marginalized and alienated from the society. They are not accepted by the whites. This behavior of whites shows that they were worse than the black people. The situation of certain characters like Calpurnia and Tom Robinson are really prevailing in the society. Calpurnia has double life. She is living with both white and black people. The difference is identified in different situations. She takes Jem and Scouts to their church. Lula is a character who asks Calpurnia in a tensed manner. She asks, "I want to know why you bringin' white chillum to nigger church" (TKAM). Blacks are considered inferior and they started thinking themselves as inferior. Whites have denied the hope, freedom which is necessary in achieving the American dream. They have endured to an extreme level, but still they were suppressed in the society. On the other side, Afro – Americans were generous in achieving American dream during 1960's in America. They have suffered for the development of country with positive attitude. As a result, whites and other communities are able to live a quality life.

The study says that Afro American have played a great role in acting as a model to present America. The foundation stone for their positive feeling was attending the church services on Sunday. It denotes the real faith and belief of the Afro Americans.

The court system has worked in a very corrupt and futile manner. Judges declare the court decision in favour of the whites. The behaviour of judges is also under discussion of social problems. The court system in Maycomb stood for injustice and inequality. The studies find the appointment of Atticus as the crucial moment in the novel. It is described as, ‘lemme tell you somethin’ now, Billy,’ a third said, ‘you know the court appointed him to defend this nigger’ (TKAM 181). It turns out to be the focal point where the author neutralises the racial discrimination (Hermann 1-6). Later in the novel, the attitude and gullibility of the judge is presented in a sarcastic manner. The demeanor and the attitude of Judge Taylor can be understood as:

Judge Taylor was on the bench, looking like a sleepy old shark, his pilot fish writing He permitted smoking in his courtroom to ask you (TKAM 181- 182).

This shows the fragile nature of the court system which is prevailing in the America. There is negligence in the execution of justice to the poor, middle class and the black. As we know that Justice is given by the court and fairness is moral uprightness. The concept of justice is what is right according to the judiciary system; whereas the concept of fairness tests our moral capabilities — and the ability to judge whether or not the judiciary system is always right (Nick Allen 1-2). These qualities are absent in the Maycomb judiciary. Another fact is that Judge Taylor is mocking at the entire court system and treats innocent people harshly. The partial

decision can be seen in the case of condemning Tom Robinson. It is a clear that the court supported the formalist society. It saves them from all punishments given by the court. At the same time, we can see that Finch family is successful in giving moral support to Tom Robinson. They are white people who believe in equality and respect black people. There are some characters such as Tom Robinson, Helen Robinson, and Calpurnia. They are black people in the story. Mr. Ewell, Mrs. Dubose, and Mr. Cunningham are the white peoples who could not accept equality. Even they believe in an assumption that that all Negroes are basically immoral and untrustable. But unfortunately the court gave Ewell justice by condemning Tom Robinson as a culprit. Finch family tries to give hope, freedom to Robinson's family.

Calpurnia said Atticus told her that the day they took Tom to prison he just gave up hope, she said Atticus was doing his best to get him free (TKAM 259).

The study discusses that every adult has a memory of being unjustly treated as a child. The courtroom scene, we can see that Scout is baffled by the strong argument that took place between Finch and other lawyers (Priyanka 6). Jem is trying to follow what his father does and learnt not to listen to children who comments about his father. Even Dill is confused by seeing the court room events. Tom Robinson is sitting quite unable to answer. He is fidgeting and unable to answer. He understands that Tom Robinson is questioned in a rough manner. The study analyses the innocence of these children to show that Tom Robinson is not guilty. In this crooked world, Tom Robinson was condemned to safeguard the interests of white people by the court. The court has taken the decision by discriminating a set of people in a town. A judge has the right to give the decision based on the right analysis and judgement.

Judge Taylor acts lethargic and partial for the safety of white people. He is creating conflict among the white and black people. He mocks at the innocence of people and the court system. The innocence can be discussed in relation to the characters like Jem, Scout and Boo Radley in the novel. Lee depicts this scene to show the loss of innocence in connection with the court system. In the court system, Lee presents Jem and Scout waiting for the Judgement. When judgement is against Tom Robinson, it creates a doubt on justice and equality in their mind. Atticus Finch struggles hard to obtain justice for Tom Robinson. Even the Jem and Scout have wished for the same. When the judge condemns Tom Robinson, the belief of the children is shattered. They lost their belief in justice and equality of the court system and the society. As a result, it acts as a powerful narrative in showing the reality of children in Maycomb County.

In this sense, perceptions of slightness in the development of the principal black characters – Calpurnia, the family cook for instance, or Tom Robinson is wrongly accused of rape – are a product of Scout's engagement with life in Maycomb County, rather than a blinkered paternalism on the part of Lee. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is concerned with racial prejudice, but with other social issues besides; class, gender, politics, poverty. Scout's engagement with all these facts cumulatively create a rich and detailed tapestry; the perceived shortcomings in the characterisations – and one might add to this, for example, Scout's bemusement with the poor white Ewell family, who accuse Robinson of rape - merely emphasise Scout's comprehension of a particular time and place.

It is transparent that the people in Maycomb are illiterate. It leads to the division of people in the society into different classes. Educating every American is part of American dream. The government failed in providing proper education to the young students in America during

1960's. It created a vacuum in persuasion of American Dream. The students in educational institution were unable to pay and continue their studies. Students went for part time jobs. The parents were unable to pay the huge amount for their studies. In a way, it helped them to give more importance to the individuals. Later, the families practiced the same trend aiming at the development of their children. They understood that this could kindle their efforts in achieving the American Dream. The study discusses the other instances from novel are like a testimony to the readers. Atticus Finch induces the minds of his son and daughter by making them always read some novels. The parenting in American families is different. Atticus aims at the self-development of Jem and Scout by giving total freedom. The excerpts taken from the novel manifests that:

I didn't look any more that I had to. Jem re- opened *Ivanhoe* and began reading.

I tried to keep up with him, but he read too fast. Atticus had two yellow pencils for me and a football a magazine for Jem, Which I suppose was silent reward for our first day's session with Mrs. Dubose. Jem told him what happened (TKAM 118-119).

The finch family has the habit of reading daily which makes them literate in the society. This habit is an advantage for Jem and Scout comparing with other children in the novel. Scout's teacher finds her ability and encouraged them. "She discovered that I was literate and looked at me with more than faint distaste. Miss Caroline told me to tell my father not to teach me anymore, it would interfere with my reading" (TKAM 119). In American Dream, we discuss quality. It can be seen in the finch family, when Atticus teaches Calpurnia how to speak English.

Calpurnia became aware that learning good English can make her smarter and wiser. It shows that education and illiteracy which prevailed in America.

The study focuses the economic situation of people during Great depression and Wall Street collapse. The Maycomb County was divided into different classes. Everyone was suffering financially. The two world wars shattered the dreams of Americans. They were in great despair and were not able to overcome. Certain groups in Maycomb were creating trouble to society. Ewells worked without any sincerity. They were uncultured without any proper attachment with the society (Agarwal 1). Lee portrays that these kinds of people were a great hindrance to the society. It can be understood from the words of the main protagonist as:

Atticus said the Ewells had been the disgrace of Maycomb for three generations. None of them had done an honest day's work in his recollection. He said that some Christmas, when he was getting rid of the tree, he would take me with him and show me where and how they lived. They were people, but they lived like animals (TKAM 30-31).

In American dream, it is said that the people endeavour for owning their home, land and education. Ewells is not taking any effort for past three generations. Many people have lost their land during the World War and great depression. It has afflicted many families with poverty and famine. This might be a reason for people in Maycomb in not fulfilling their dream. In spite of all tribulations, Lee brings out the examples from the novel to show how Atticus has tried to achieve economic prosperity in Maycomb. Harper Lee inspires the readers in achieving economic security and prosperity by showing the deeds of Atticus Finch. Finch has spent money to uplift the life of his family members, neighbours and the society. Atticus Finch saves money

which he received as a lawyer. He is educating his brother. In the court case, Atticus fights for Tom Robinson without looking into his financial crisis.

During his first five years in Maycomb, Atticus practiced economy more than anything; for several years thereafter he invested his earnings in his brother's education..... He liked Maycomb, he was Maycomb County born and bred; he knew his people, they knew him, and because of Simon Finch's industry, Atticus was related by blood or marriage to nearly every family in the town. (TKAM 5)

The people in the town came outside their home to discuss politics and death. It is said that, 'In Maycomb, grown men stood outside in the front yard for only two reasons: death and politics. I wondered who died, Jem and I went to the front door, but Atticus called, 'Go back in the house' (TKAM 159). The children were asked to go inside the house. The political condition of Maycomb is another reason in creating chaos in America during 1960's. It was during this time the civil rights movement was greatly discussed in the novel. Alabama was the center of attraction in the media. Many incidents like Montgomery bus boycott, Martin Luther King's leadership and Autherine Lucy's attempt to graduate at University of Alabama. In the novel, the existence of the town Maycomb was mainly due to the government.

The culture of Maycomb is eccentric. The doors and shutters of Radley House are usually closed on Sunday. The closed doors indicate the illness and cold weather. The research discusses that the illness are disease and famine caused not only by the World wars and great depression but also due to their narrow thinking. The cold weather is the loss of energy and zest in the people. It was the time when most of them lost their culture due to immigration. They were trying to achieve a new identity by pursuing the American Dream. They had a culture of going to

church for Sunday worship. It was different among the people. A separate church was maintained for black and white. Lee has mentioned about the church in the novel as:

First Purchase was unceiled and unpainted within. Along its walls unlighted kerosene lamps hung on brass brackets; pine benches served as pews. Behind the rough oak pulpit a faded pink silk banner proclaimed God Is Love, the church's only decoration except a rotogravure print of Hunt's The Light of the World. There was no sign of piano, organ, hymn-books, church programs—the familiar ecclesiastical impedimenta we saw every Sunday. It was dim inside, with a damp coolness slowly dispelled by the gathering congregation. At each seat was a cheap cardboard fan bearing a garish Garden of Gethsemane, courtesy Tyndal's Hardware Co (You-Name-It-We-Sell-It), (TKAM 121).

This shows that there is a transparent demarcation followed against the Afro Americans in the country in all the areas. They are marginalized based on the all areas like class, politics, race, culture and other areas. The white people have a strong hatred against them. These realities are a great hindrance for America as a country in achieving their American Dream. Any literary work produced in American literature after 1920's or before should be studied based on the American Dream. It is prescribed for the people who aim at a great life. This ideology of Americans are spread and now followed in the contemporary society. Students prefer to study across the world. They mingle with different people from different class, race and nation. Everyone is ready to endure for a quality life. In this manner, American dream disseminates the good news of equality, enduring with optimistic mind, better life across the world.

Chapter 3

Narrative Techniques

Harper Lee is a realistic writer who has used different narrative techniques in the novel. The Scottsboro trial case (John E Griswold 16), Emmett Till Murder Case, Great depression, Wall Street Collapse and World Wars occurred during when Lee was a child. It induced her mind to dream for a peaceful country. When she became an adult, she pursued the American dream as a writer, individual and a good citizen. Later the social realities like race, class, loss of innocence are experienced by her is incorporated in the novel. These issues are presented in a real manner and written from the first person narrative based on autobiographical elements of the author. Real incidents are fictionalised in the novel. In *To Kill a Mockingbird*, she explains the novel from her childhood memories and experiences. *Go to Set the watchman* is the sequel of the first novel based on the adulthood experience. The novel is the reminiscent of Lee childhood and the readers are drawn into the world of her memories.

The novel is divided into three parts. First section consists of historical and literary information. Racial discrimination in Alabama and the deep south of 1930's are discussed in parallel with Scottsboro incident. This incident is the base plot for the condemning Tom Robinson's case in the court. The other incidents like Montgomery Bus Boycott, Martin Luther King's leadership and Autherine Lucy's attempt to graduate at university of Alabama. The second section deals with sensitive discriminations like race, religion, time, class, sex, tradition and politics. In this the physical and mental illness of people in Alabama is described to the audience by Lee. The final section discusses the literacy and communication of people in the Alabama. Alabama is fictionalised into Maycomb town in the novel (Gary D Schmidt 69-70). Lee is very bold to write racial and class issues that prevailed in the society.

Harper Lee was born in April 28th, 1926 at Monroeville, Alabama, America. Amasa Coleman Lee and Francis Lee had five children. She was the youngest in the family. Her grandmother's name was Ellen which was spelt backwards and Lee was named Nelle. Amasa Coleman was a homemaker and Francis a Newspaper editor who practiced law in the court. Francis Lee defended accusing two black men who were hung for murdering a white store keeper. Truman Capote was her intimate friend who influenced her in writing this novel. Lee wrote her first novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* which was published in 1961. The impact of Lee's novel was enormous in America. *To Kill a Mockingbird* received Pulitzer Prize for fiction in 1961. American President George W Bush remarked the novel as,

To Kill a Mockingbird has influenced the character of our country for the better. It's been a gift to the entire world. As a model of good writing and humane sensibility, this book will be read and studied forever. And so all of us are filled with admiration for a great American and a lovely lady named Harper Lee (Camp Shakespeare 3).

It was instantly a successful novel. It had become a classic of modern American literature. It was sold in many languages and became the second best seller next to the Holy Bible in America. The novel is a good model of good writing and humane sensibility. The portrayal of human weakness and strengths in a wicked society is valued and liked by the readers. The movie version of the novel has won three awards for best actor for Gregory Peck's enacting of Atticus Finch (Purnomofitriyani 1-2). In reality Atticus Finch was said to be Lee's father. Mary Badham was Scout, Philip Alford as Jem acted in the film adaptation. All these developments show that *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a masterpiece of Harper Lee. It can be studied and read by readers belonging to different age group.

Harper Lee has chosen this title based on few reasons. The first reason is that the title is intriguing to the readers. It gives a vague idea about the novel and there is chance of questioning created in the minds of readers. A novel is complete only with its character, because they have greater role to play in a story. They are connected with the incidents and themes. In the case of the novel *To kill a Mockingbird*, it creates an interest among the readers. The setting of the novel is in Maycomb town which is an imaginary place in Alabama. It focuses on the southern side of America. The time depicted in the novel is during the 1920's where there was famine, poverty, Great Depression as a result of World War I. It is narrated from the first person point of view by the author (Dr. Shikha Agarwal 1-3). Lee is shown as Jean Louise Finch or Scout who is the main protagonist of the novel. Lee has aimed to create anti-racist community. The study sees that the title *To kill of Mockingbird* also means eradicating racism from the minds of people. In the beginning, Lee has titled the novel as Atticus but she has changed because Atticus is not been considered as the main character. Scout is the main protagonist in the novel. Lee is depicted as Scout in the novel. Amasa Coleman Lee is her father, but he is shown as Atticus Finch. The title of the novel is self-explanatory. It refers to the main themes in the novel and it is the most appropriate title for the novel.

To kill a mockingbird can be considered a bildungsroman novel. Scout is the main protagonist who develops the story through her experiences and understanding of the world. The other characters can be represented as mockingbirds. Mockingbird represents innocence and the author has focused on the life of common people like Tom Robinson and Finch family. The innocent characters are killed by the hypocrites in the Maycomb town. This shows that the killing of Mockingbird kills the innocence in the society. Mockingbird is a symbol of innocence

and it questions the innocence of both honest and hypocritical society. The killing of Mockingbird is a punishable offence and it depicts the behaviour of American society.

The study analyses that the innocent mockingbirds are killed by the evil ones. Miss Maudie explains to Scout: “Mockingbirds don’t do one thing but . . . sing their hearts out for us. That’s why it’s a sin to kill a mockingbird” (TKAM 99-100). The title of the novel talks number of characters like Jem, Tom Robinson, Dill, Boo Radley and Mr. Raymond. Mockingbird represents everyone in the novel. On one side, it represents innocent people and on the other side hypocrites like Judge Taylor, Bob Ewell and Mayella Ewell. But the innocent mockingbirds are destroyed by the evil mockingbirds. The study discusses that the author wants to write on her own society. She has used this title to mock at the hypocrites and support the innocent people. The various incidents in the novel like Court Trial session, after Tom Robinson’s death is compared by Mr. Underwood as, “the senseless slaughter of songbirds is connected with all the characters. The author discusses the main issues related to the character and incidents in the novel. At one point Miss Maudie gives a strong advice not to kill the mockingbirds.

The setting of *To Kill a Mockingbird* is in Maycomb town. It is an imaginary place in Alabama a southern part of America. Maycomb has been famous with racism, class system and Great depression. It is presented in gloomy and gothic style. Lee endeavors to write about the settings in the novel. She has taken sufficient time to bring real effect of the town by visiting the gallery of courthouse where her father has worked as a lawyer. Lee has collected the necessary documents, pictures, and clips to get a clear image about the courthouse. Monroe county Heritage Museum is the name of the courthouse. This courthouse witnesses the trial on the rape case in Alabama and the case is defended by Lee’s father Amasa Coleman Lee. According to the

experience of Jane Ellen Clark, It reports that, “People in town say that Mister A.C. Lee was a lost like the character of Atticus —soft-spoken, dignified, and did the right thing” (Kathleen A. Guthrie 3). It has a profound impact in Lee. Though it focuses Alabama, it explains the situation of America and other countries. Alabama is fictionalised as Maycomb town in the novel. Maycomb focuses on six-year-old Jean Louise Finch (Scout), who lives with her elder brother, Jem, and their widowed father, Atticus, a middle-aged lawyer. It is presented as,

Maycomb was an old town, but it was a tired old town when I first knew it. In rainy weather the streets turned to red slop; grass grew on the sidewalks, the courthouse sagged in the square Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself (TKAM 5-6).

The description about the Maycomb as "an old town," "an ancient town," and "a tired old town," shows that it is a conservative place bound in tradition and convention. This gives an impression about the local courthouse. They have followed the Greek and the Victorian design for construction of the courthouse. The time of the novel is shown as Great Depression which took place in the midst of 1933 and 1935. It was a hard time for everyone. People found it difficult to survive in the world. Maycomb is a ravaged town due to economic depression and the world wars. It is portrayed as an old town where the readers understand that people from different class were suffering economically and socially. Lee shows this fictional town as representation of other American cities and towns. The study shows that great depression deteriorated education, court system which led to rise of other anti-social issues in Maycomb town.

The setting of the novel is a rural area which was under development for a longer tenure in the Deep South of America. The story took place in 1930's where there was unemployment

and poverty in the country. People suffered from famine and various diseases. The people in Maycomb were united in the case of poverty. They suffered together where the class consciousness was eliminated from the minds of people. The Finch's family was educated but they were ready to mingle with the farmers. The students were not interested in politics and recent development in the country. They never wanted to know about the rule of Franklin de Roosevelt and Adolf Hitler. In South America, a strong division among the Afro Americans and the whites were prevalent. This led to racial issues and class system in America.

The readers can understand the story of the novel from the first person narrative. This shows that the novel is a clear depiction of Lee's personal experiences and life lessons. The story is narrated from the childhood memories of the author where she speaks to the reader in double voice as a child and an old woman. Scout Finch is six years old and narrates the story to the readers. It contrasts the formal language used by Lee in the novel. First person narrative gives deeper insights about the events that happen in the novel with an outlook of an innocent child. This type of narration continues in a straightforward and linear manner. The life of Scout in the novel is divided into two parts. The two years before the trial, summer trial and followed by autumn. William T. Goings a critic who suggests that the second part is divided into the trial and the Halloween pageant which seems like an anticlimax to the trial of Tom Robinson (Enotes 89). Though the facts or realities are fictionalised, Lee has shown the real life of Americans in 1920's. Some parts from the novel give more insights to the study:

Miss Maudie's horn', said Atticus gently. At the front of the door, we saw fire spewing from the Miss Maudie's dining room windows. As if to conform what we saw, the town fire siren wailed up to a treble pitch and remained there, screaming.

We saw why. The old fire truck, killed by the cold was being pushed from town by a crowd of men (TKAM 76).

As an author and social reformer of the society, she understands the changes inevitable for the country. It is generally accepted fact and said in Holy Scriptures that we should be innocent like a child. A child is loved by everyone with a true heart and mind. Lee makes people aware of the quality of being innocent in their life. These perspectives are disseminated through the novel in depth. The novel concludes with scout's mature state where she loses her innocence. America has lost its purity and perseverance in pursuit of the American dream. Lee as a citizen and an author endeavors for the same reason where she wishes for an equal status in the country. She wrote the novel at the stage when she was a young lady. It is the right time for every Americans to achieve American dream. The techniques which are used in her story are the tools for creating an impact on the minds of people. She makes people aware of the qualities like freedom, equality, individualism, hard work, progress, optimism, flexibility, mobility and patriotism necessary in achieving the American dream. She tries to bring unity among everyone by writing this novel.

Harper Lee's *To Kill a mockingbird* is a semi - autobiographical novel. In her real life, Lee has experienced the aftermath of world war, great depression. Lee's novel is a semi-autobiographical novel based on her observations on her family, neighbours and an event happened in her hometown at the age of ten in 1936. It is significant that she wrote her childhood experience when she became an adult. Lee maintains this narration from the point of her childhood experience. Since it is her own experience, she is able to fictionalise the facts. This makes Lee successful in presenting her own life experience in the form of a novel. It indicates a

clear difference between the author and author being portrayed as a character in the novel. As a writer, she presents the tribulations of her 'self' and 'others' in her novel. *To kill a mockingbird* is novel which shows the maturity of the author. The novel starts by showing the author as child and conclude in matured state. Lee wrote her two novels with autobiographical elements. If the first novel is based on childhood experience, then the second novel is based on her experience as an adult. The novel is narrated by Harper Lee from the first person point of view. Tom Robinson case, Maycomb town, World Wars and Great Depression are based on the public incidents that took place in the history of America. Lee depicts the real life of people during great depression. She presents real issues like race, justice and economy to show the attitude of people in America.

In her private life she has faced many problems (Meriem Bchir 8). One among them is the absence of her mother. Lee's mother has been treated arrogantly by her friends at school calling her father as 'nigger lover'. The private and public problems she has faced in her life are included in the novel (Meriem Bchir 1-5). The characters of the novel include her family and neighbours as the character and an event that occurred near her home. Lee narrates the novel from her own intuitions and experience about her country and the town. Harper Lee acts as both a writer and character for the novel. It shows her open minded heart in discussing sensitive issues in both her private and public life (Meriem Bchir 8). Lee has shown through her semi – autobiographical novel presented a true example for other writers. The story of the novel is narrated according to different situation. Lee narrates the story in a simple manner and straightforward style to avoid all complexities in language.

The events depicted in this novel are based on the real incidents took place in America. The Tom Robinson case, racial issues, poverty, illiteracy are fictionalised. The real incidents are

the observation and experience about the First World War, Scottsboro trial case, racial injustice, and Great depression and Wall Street collapse. Different situations are shown in the novel and these circumstances are the evidences to portray that it is a semi – autobiographical novel. Lee is the narrator, author and protagonist of the novel. She has focused on the representation of life author, his family and people in the South of America. The study analyses and checks whether the position of the author is fictionalised. The incidents connected with the author are the self-referential evidence in the novel. She is presented as scout in the novel. The name of members in her family and town is not real as a result of fictionalisation.

As a result, the combination of the reality and imagination of the author fictionalise various elements and makes the novel real to readers. The lives of Afro Americans are difficult because they have faced racial discrimination for centuries. At certain instance, in the novel Jean Lousie scout feels to go African American church. Lula asked Calpurnia, ‘I wants to know why you bringin’ white chillum to nigger church’ (TKAM 131). It keeps scout being in friendly with her. It is transparent that the discrimination, marginalisation and inferiority complex have afflicted their mind. During this point, Lee fictionalises the situation by Calpurnia and scout being in good company. The behavior of Lula brings authenticity to the novel in relation with the real situation of America.

The use of symbols in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* plays a pivotal role in identifying certain themes. Symbols are objects, characters, figures and colors used to denote abstract ideas or concepts. The main symbol in the novel is Mockingbird. Miss Maudie gives a description on the central symbol Mockingbird as:

Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy. They don't eat up people's gardens, don't nest in corncribs, they don't do one thing but sing their hearts out for us. That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird (TKAM 99 – 100).

The main characters like Scout, Jem, Atticus Finch, Dill and Boo Radley are the main symbols. They represent innocence, justice and fraternity in this novel. Jean Louise Scout is the symbolically represented as a Mockingbird. Other characters are the symbols for various themes, but they are connected with the main symbol. The readers can understand the themes and ideas like equality, mercy, race, class which are connected to different characters. Bob Ewell, Mayella Ewell and Judge Taylor represent the evil qualities. They try to kill the Mockingbird and manipulate those ideas for their survival. The survival of both innocent mockingbirds and evil mockingbirds are questioned by the author. Mockingbird is a bird which is famous for mimicking the songs of other birds. In the novel, like the bird, the children mimic their parents in becoming an adult.

Atticus tries to save Tom Robinson from Mayella Ewell rape case. His children follow the good qualities like their father. Jean Louise Scout is the main protagonist of the novel. She is symbolised as the mockingbird. This mockingbird represents innocence and fraternity in the novel. She endeavors to establish an egalitarian society and it was the dream of the author Harper Lee. Lee symbolises herself as a mockingbird to accomplish the American Dream. As a character Scout in the novel, she makes herself come down. She wants to share her childhood experience in the novel. Lee aims to create a fraternity on the minds of readers. A character who knows the readers situation and ready to share, care and bear in their life. As an author, Lee makes herself as part of the novel. She tries to create anti-racist awareness through her characters.

Mockingbird serves both as the title and symbol for the novel. When the children receive guns for Christmas, Atticus tells them it's all right to shoot at blue jays, but "it's a sin to kill a mockingbird." As Miss Maudie Atkinson explains, it would be thoughtlessly cruel to kill innocent creatures that "don't do one thing but makes music for us to enjoy." The mockingbirds are silent as Atticus takes to the street to shoot the rabid dog, and Scout describes a similar silence in the courtroom just prior to the jury pronouncing Tom Robinson guilty. The innocent but suffering mockingbird is recalled in an editorial B. B. Underwood writes about Robinson's death, and again when Scout tells her father that revealing Boo Radley's role in Bob Ewell's death would be "like shootin' a mockingbird." Another powerful symbol contains in the snowman Scout and Jem build after Maycomb's rare snowfall. Because there is very little snow, Jem makes the base of the figure from mud; they then change their "morphodite" from black to white with a coating of snow. When Miss Maudie's house catches fire that night, the snow melts and the figure becomes black once again. Its transformation suggests that skin color is a limited distinction that reveals little about an individual's true worth.

Boo Radley and Tom Robinson are also considered as the main symbols. The society is very cruel to Boo Radley. He is separated in the society. Boo Radley appears as a symbolic figure. He is the symbol of the downtrodden and discriminated people in the society. He is alienated by the people in Maycomb. The creation of the character Radley is noticeable representation of social realism in this novel. He is not ready to trust others. It talks about the people who were sidelined during the crisis. In a fictional narrative like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the author presents this character who craves for true love, acceptance and mercy from the society. He acts in the right situation and mysteriously presented by the author. This mysterious act has been connected in questioning the mentality of people in declaring an innocent person as

insane. The society declares an honest man always as a culprit and it is clearly visible in the case of Atticus Finch. This remains a 'Mystery' for the readers and society.

In the beginning, the children are afraid of Boo Radley. As the novel progresses, the attitude of the children gets changed. The study analyses that Boo Radley is another symbol. Boo Radley and the children have a good relationship. This symbolises the progression of innocence towards morality. In the end, when the Bob Ewell attacks the children Boo Radley saves them. Bob Ewell is a symbol of killing the innocence of children. They were confused with good and evil. Tom Robinson deserves Justice and the children are seeking for innocence. These two moral values are suppressed by Bob Ewell. Here the question of morality is raised by the author. This problem is solved through Boo Radley when he kills Bob Ewell and he retains the innocence in the children's mind. The superstitious belief of the children in the initial stage is transformed into the real faith. We know that Boo Radley was an introvert. In the end, he becomes fully human to Scout, Jem and Dill. It shows the symbol of benevolence that existed in Boo Radley. He is sidelined by the people in the Maycomb and becomes the ultimate symbol of goodness (Spark notes 9-10).

Tom Robinson is a symbol of equality. He is alleged for raping Mayella Ewell. The central event of the novel is based on Tom Robinson trial case in the court. Lee had the courage to discuss Scottsboro Trial case in the novel. Tom Robinson represents the African Americans in Maycomb. They are suppressed by the whites. The poor whites have considered them to be unworthy. Even though the mistake is on the part of Ewells, Tom Robinson is convicted. His condemnation is the portrayal of discrimination that prevailed in America during Great Depression. Tom Robinson's family become helpless. His wife becomes a widow and later in the end he is murdered.

The murder of Tom Robinson is the clear representation of hegemony of whites. The Afro Americans do not reject optimism and patriotism. The blacks are marginalised in the society from all arenas. This led to the civil rights movement in 1960's. The case of Tom Robinson proves that they are not allowed to achieve American Dream which has ended up in division of people in America. Lee finds resolution for this by discussing about racial issues and class system in her novel. Racism was found contagious like a disease in America in 1920's. It is also another result of post colonialism, Great Depression and World wars in America. Atticus Finch who fights for the freedom of Robinson is the true example which overpowers the racial issues and class system in the novel.

Lee symbolises the tree house as a place where all Americans equally work hard for achieving American Dream. The tree house symbolizes the innocence of the children. It is the place where the children play. This is the place where there is no tension. The inclusion of this symbol by Lee means to dream about his country which is free from all sorts of discrimination, violence and class system. It is a utopian symbol where everything is ideal. Scout provides an example of children spending time in the tree house:

Routine contentment was: improving our tree house that rested between giant twin chinaberry trees in the back yard, fussing, running through our list of dramas based on the works of Oliver Optic, Victor Appleton, and Edgar Rice Burroughs (TKAM 8).

The socializing of the innocent children is a solution for all problems in America. The author means that everyone has to come together and talk to each other without any ego in a frank manner. The children Jem, Scout and Dill have spent time to play with. This shows that they are ready to spend time for others. Lee requests the readers and elders to follow this attitude

in their life. Children's time in the tree house is shown as: " They spent days together in the tree house plotting and planning, calling me only when they needed a third party " (TKAM 42). They have played together and tried to make Boo Radley join with them.

The courthouse is another symbol found in the novel. It symbolises justice, equality, freedom for everyone in the country. The courthouse in the novel contrasts these qualities. It shows discrimination to Afro American and being partial to the whites. It is a symbol for the construction of hegemony of whites in the society. The judges have even denied true judgement to them in any cases. Their last hope is shattered when they are approaching the court for justice. The whites in Maycomb have thought Blacks as venomous and this deep aggression had been prevailing for centuries in America. These beliefs are symbolised as columns at the courthouse. The book states that these columns were part of the original courthouse: "The pillars were all that remained standing when the original courthouse burned in 1856" (TKAM 164). This behaviour has become a hindrance for achieving the American Dream.

Lee has included gothic elements in the novel. In literature, Gothic is a style of writing in fiction which was popularised in eighteenth – century England. It featured supernatural occurrences, gloomy and haunted settings, full moons etc. The Maycomb town is gloomy, dull and lacking liveliness. It has the features of a Gothic setting in the novel. The unnatural snowfall, the fire that destroys Miss Maudie's house, the children's superstitions about Boo Radley, Atticus shoots the mad dog, the night of Halloween part on which Bob Ewell attacks scout, Jem and Boo Radley. Miss Maudie's house is destroyed by the fire shows the gothic features as given in the novel:

'Miss Maudie horn', said Atticus gently. At the front of the door, we saw fire spewing form the Miss Maudie's dining room windows. As if to conform what we

saw, the town fire siren wailed up to a treble pitch and remained there, screaming. We saw why. The old fire truck, killed by the cold was being pushed from town by a crowd of men (TKAM 76).

These events create tension and foreshadow the aftermath of world war and Great depression in the novel. It is clear that there is digression in the attitude of the people. They are ready to do anything for their existence and survival. They have lost faith in others. Certain practices like, 'closed doors meant illness and cold weather only' (TKAM 10), were found among the people. It shows that Maycomb was suffering from poverty, illness and lack of peace.

Lee has used modern American English to narrate the novel. She has used American English for narrating the story and different dialects to show different communities. It varies according to Afro Americans and whites. The language style can be understood according to different classes in the Alabama. The African American dialect is different from the White. It can be divided into formal and casual manner. The language style between the rich white and the poor whites differed accordingly. Language is used in classic, formal and casual manner. The dialogues between the characters are presented in a conversational manner. Dialects and slangs used in the language show the style in which people spoke during that time. The language is easily understood by the readers. This helps the audience to know the changes in the way different communities spoke in America during 1920's. The sentences and vocabularies used in the novel differ according to the age of various characters. There is a variation in language used based on the families, educational qualification and individual characters.

The style of speech, attitude of people regional dialects can be detected in the novel. Bob Ewell says in the court, 'I seen that black nigger yonder rutti'n on my Mayella! (TKAM 190).

The main protagonist Jean Scout and Atticus speak a good quality English, whereas his brother Jack speaks in more royal manner than the town officials like Heck Tate. Even highly educated Atticus uses distinctive southern dialect expression like “You all”. It gives the readers a vivid experience of the landscape of southern America. The formation of dialects is depended on the landscape of various countries. Lee contributes to English language a new dialect which can be used everyone in the world. The novel can be read in a smooth- flowing manner. The response and appeal of the readers is positive. Later, we can see Americans and people all over the world started using language as it is given in the novel.

Chapter 4

Binary Opposites

The study analyses the importance of characters in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. The protagonist is Jean Lousie Scout. The other characters in the novel are Atticus Finch, Jeremy Finch, Dill, Boo Radley, Tom Robinson, Mayella Ewell, and Bob Ewell. All characters in the text are connected to the main themes like racism, class system, prejudice, tolerance, guilt, innocence, courage and cowardice. The plot is narrated from the first point of view to the readers. The study analyses these characters on the basis of American Dream. The theory of Binary opposites is applied in relation to various themes to see how these characters have pursued the American Dream. Jacques Derrida was born in Algeria; he developed semiotic analysis. He is a French thinker and philosopher who pioneered deconstruction. Derrida wrote and published three books titled, *Of Grammatology*, *Writing and Difference* and *Speech and Phenomena*. He discusses different concepts like difference, binary oppositions and aporia in his various books. In Binary Opposition, he discusses the tacit hierarchy where the first term is privileged and superior and second one is derivative and inferior. Both the two hierarchies are inverted or reversed and the terms are destabilised. It leaves a condition of undecidability. The second process attempts to establish a platform in a textual work to differentiate a work externally and internally. The third process in binary opposites is to analyse the rhetorical figures and figurative language in the usage of language for which it is strictly literal and logical arguments of philosophy. The main characters are analysed based on the binary opposites.

In Jacques Derrida theory of deconstruction, we study about the binary opposites (Derrida 354). This theory is adopted to analyse the statements, views, opinions of the main

characters like Atticus Finch, Jean Lousie Finch, Jem, Mayella Ewell, Bob Ewell and Boo Radley. The characters play a great role in a novel. The actions of the protagonist and the other characters give an idea about the plot of a novel, short story or drama. The characterisation of Scout, Jem and Dill show the development in their childhood experience to a matured state. The progression in other characters gives an idea about the main incident that is taking place in the novel. The perspectives of the child characters on racial issues and other themes are shown in an adult point of view. The moral, political, social and cultural progression of the country is discussed through three characters Jean Lousie Scout, Atticus Finch, Jem and other characters.

The study analyses two characters Atticus Finch and Bob Ewell based on Binary opposites in the theory of Deconstruction of Jacques Derrida. On one side, Atticus Finch represents Good and on the other side Bob Ewell represents Evil. It explores the innate moral nature of human beings. The presence of these characters reveals the facts about the coexistence of Good and evil. Great depression and world wars gave the writers the materials for existence of Good and Evil. These tribulations and difficulties can lead people in any direction. Lee as author observed and experienced the presence of both. She identifies divine presence from his father and evil presence from Bob Ewell.

Atticus Finch is Amasa Coleman Lee who is the father of Harper Lee. Atticus has become a national hero in the eyes of readers. He is a lawyer who has the courage to fight for good in the society. He fights against racism and segregation to provide Justice for everyone in an equal manner (Purnomofitriyani 1-2). The author mentions Atticus as, Atticus Finch in the text. He is the same person at home and in the public streets (TKAM 51). Atticus is shown as Maycomb's popular attorney. He is considered as the main moral figure in the novel. His life is a

true example for his children. He has the courage to defend a case for the black man Tom Robinson who is wrongly accused for raping a white woman Mayella Ewella. It is given as:

Atticus sighed. I am simply defending a Negro his names Tom Robinson. He lives in that little settlement beyond town dump..... For a number of reasons, said Atticus the main one is if I didn't I couldn't hold up my head in town, I couldn't represent this country in the legislature, I couldn't even tell you or Jem not to do something again (TKAM 85).

Atticus understands the situation of others. He is an intelligent man who does things with good reasoning. Tom Robinson is an example of his potentiality to take risk for others comfort and protection. This makes the character to show mercy and compassion to other characters as well. He treats everyone equally. When he has lost his wife, he has parented his children in a well-disciplined manner. He advises them and teaches them the taboos like racism in their society. Though he gives freedom to play and explore, his children are brought up in proper guidance with the help of Calpurnia. Calpurnia is a black servant who takes care of his children like mother. Atticus educates everyone without any racial discrimination. He has educated Calpurnia at one instance in the novel. This shows the broad mindedness of Atticus. Even at home, he gives book to Scout and Jem as gifts, encourages and inspires them to grow with true knowledge.

Atticus is a widower with a sense of humour. He fights for the good of his family and country. He is tall, reserved, civilised and belongs to an old local family. He is always an old fashioned man with revolutionary beliefs in wisdom, empathy, mercy to other fellow beings Atticus is a real example of goodness and shown as a moral character in the novel. Scout and

Jem are trained to think from the side of other person. It helps to understand others characters problems and situations. He appreciates well and forgives evil. This same quality is followed by his children. Atticus teaches this moral lesson to Scout and Jem. According to Atticus this idea can protect the innocent people from the evil. In the Novel, at various incidents Atticus is seen as a person accepted by all classes in the society. Even after the trial of Tom Robinson, everyone sees him in the same manner without any change.

When novel progresses, there is no growth on the side of Atticus. Atticus remains the same from the beginning till the end of the novel. This shows his consistency in leading a good life. The study analyses that this consistency is a factor for this character to realise American dream for his family and country (spark notes 6-7). Atticus is an admirable father figure who endeavors to achieve American Dream. Atticus understands the situation and solves the problems in a simple manner. The moral voice is embodied by Atticus Finch, who is virtually unique in the novel. He experiences and understands the evil without losing his faith in the human capacity for goodness. The important thing is to appreciate the good qualities and understands the bad qualities by treating others with sympathy and trying to see life from their perspective. He tries to teach this ultimate moral lesson to Jem and Scout to show them that it is possible to live with conscience without losing hope or becoming cynical.

Bob Ewell is father of Mayella Ewell. Ewell is unemployed and his family is very poor. They have lived near the Maycomb dump. They are a disgrace to the Maycomb town for past three generations. Though they have lived in the backyards, they have hated Afro Americans. They belong to the lower strata of the society. They are poor and he drank alcohol every time. He is represented as an evil character in the novel. He has not brought up his daughters in discipline. Bob Ewell has beaten his daughter Mayella Ewell. The testimony of Mayella proves that she has

been sexually abused on certain occasions by her father. Bob Ewell has unveiled this by blaming Tom Robinson for raping his daughter. At one instance, it is discussed in the novel: Calpurnia sighed. 'Old Mr. Bob Ewell accused him of rapin' his girl an' had him arrested an' put in jail' (TKAM 136). He has done it out of racial prejudice. He thinks that the trial can bring him fame but it is shattered by Atticus. Ewell is frustrated with the behaviour of Atticus. He challenges Atticus to disclose the facts. At the end of the novel, He reaches the state of paranoia where he tries to kill Atticus. Later he is killed by Boo Radley. Bob Ewell also represents the dark side of South America. South America was afflicted with poverty, racial prejudice, class system and squalor.

The study analyses that Bob Ewell is shown as a hindrance to achieve American Dream. Bob Ewell has been depicted as crooked, cunning and earned money by cheating others. He has become devilish due to the circumstances. Financial crisis, poverty, famine, hunger and other factors were the after effects of Great Depression, World War and Wall Street Collapse. Bob Ewell is not ready to accept the reality. He has blamed others for the mistake he did in his life. Bob Ewell does not give freedom and opportunity for his daughters to grow in the society. This has led Ewell Family to lose their status and respect in the society. He has always followed the evil ways to achieve prosperity. He is a hypocrite who always supported the formalist society. The Ewell family is ready to do anything for material success. Bob Ewell has lost their innocence due to evil behaviour. American dream cannot be achieved by selfish motives and it never supports the idea of being selfish. It is for the well-being of everyone in the country.

Jean Louise Finch and Mayella Ewell are the two characters who are attached to these themes in the novel. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a novel where most of the instances and

characters are studied based on innocence. The innocence of Scout is lost after some time by the attack of guiltiness. In the context of novel innocence can be understood as ignorance of main issues like racism, rape and other factors by the protagonist. The innocence of Tom Robinson is also discussed in the novel. Jean Louise Scout represents innocence in the novel and Mayella Ewell represents guiltiness. Guiltiness occurs when a person thinks more about his or her own mistakes. It creates a feeling in the mind of person that I have done the mistake. In the case of Mayella Ewell and her father Bob Ewell, they have committed the mistake. They are not ready to accept and their racial prejudice has helped them to condemn poor innocent Tom Robinson.

Harper Lee recreates herself through Jean Louise Scout. Scout has lived with her father Atticus, brother Jem and Calpurnia. The whole novel is narrated in first point of view or author's point of view. As we can see that, Scout grows as a child and reaches maturity along with the development of the story. The novel is seen through the eyes of Scout. Scout understands from her personal experience and life lessons. She asks many questions to her father about various issues like rape case, racism, court trial and education. She naturally questions the injustices in the case of Tom Robinson and his family. It is given in the text as: "My curiosity burst: why were you all takin' up collection for Tom Robinson's wife?" (TKAM 136). Scout is worried about the essential goodness and evil of human beings. Scout asks about rape and it is given from the text as:

What's rape?' I asked him that night. Atticus looked around from behind his paper. He was in his chair by the window. As we grew older, Jem and I thought it generous to allow Atticus thirty minutes to himself after supper. He sighed, and said rape was carnal knowledge of female by force and without consent (TKAM 149).

Jean Louise Finch narrates the novel from her point of view. She is an innocent character in the novel. She experiences the innocent people and wicked people in her life. Being an innocent person makes her to understand the evils of the society. Scout is oriented in a manner to appreciate human goodness without ignoring human evil (Enotes 81). The childhood innocence of Scout can be understood in all these cases. The query of the author is shown through Scout in these instances. Scout is intelligent because she learns to read before going to school. Lee suggests the readers that if we want to achieve American Dream we have to be innocent and truthful. Lee is depicted as a person who thinks wise and intelligent. She tries to be innocent, honest and sincere in their life. Lee has made herself pure as the character Scout and did well to others. This is the true symbol of a person being intelligent. Lee proposes this idea will help as to act intelligently for achieving American Dream.

Scout is a very unusual little girl, both in her own qualities and in her social position. Scout maintains innocence and sense of right and wrong throughout the book. She is an ideal observer of events in the novel. As an author, she reveals her good intentions about her nations through the character Scout. Scout has learned from her father's wisdom to become a good individual. In the end of the novel, she retains her conscience without any partiality in her mind. Scout's progress as a character in the novel is defined by her gradual development toward understanding Atticus's lessons, culminating when, in the final chapters, Scout at last sees Boo Radley as a human being. Her new found ability to view the world from his perspective ensures that she will not become jaded as she loses her innocence.

Mayella Ewell is the daughter of Bob Ewell. She is abused, gloomy and expected pity from. Bob Ewell is always treated in harsh manner. She is one among seven daughters of Bob. She invites Tom Robinson for a help to take things from the shelf. This incident turns to a rape case

by her father. Mayella is depicted as a character that is not aware about her rights. Bob Ewell condemned Tom Robinson for raping her daughter, but she does not have the true conscience to say that he has not done it. It is her father Bob Ewell who has abused his daughter Mayella Ewell. In order to save her father, she has made Tom Robinson the victim. This led Mayella to have a guilty feeling in her mind. It can be understood from the text as:

You say you asked Tom Robinson to come chop up a – what was it?’ ‘A chiffarobe, old dresser full of drawers on side.’ ‘Was Tom Robinson well known to you?’ ‘Whaddya mean?’ ‘I mean did you know who he was, where he lived?’”
(TKAM 203)

It makes her stumble with the questions of Atticus Finch. In the court session, it is understood that Mayella is an arrogant lady who has disclosed her mistake for the sake of her own survival, ‘Do you love your father, Miss Mayella?’ was his next. ‘Love him, whatcha mean?’ (TKAM 202). Atticus Finch asks her repeatedly and she is nervous and consciously hiding the truth to save her father. The study analyses that Mayella Ewell has not cooperated in achieving American Dream with true conscience. Lee has depicted characters like Mayella Ewell to show the problem in people’s attitude against the Afro Americans. Since, it is a semi – autobiographical readers will understand that the problems presented in the novel are factual. Lee focuses the idea of guilty feeling through Mayella Ewell. As most of the Americans had lost their innocence and they are not ready repent for the mistakes they have committed. The guilty feeling has controlled the real life of people in profound manner. They are dishonest, narrow minded in accepting the fellow beings. This depicts that they have not been following the qualities like freedom, equality optimism, and flexibility as mentioned in the concept of American Dream.

On the other side, Mayella also represents the women in America. Mayella Ewell is abused by her father. It is asked by Atticus in the novel as: 'Do you remember him beating you about the face?' (TKAM 204). The arrival of Tom Robinson is misused by Mayella Ewell. Mayella Ewell is only suppressed by her father. Tom Robinson is innocent and trapped in the name of race and class system. Tom Robinson is a family man who has represented the Afro Americans in the novel. Mayella is in need of a companion in her life. She has worked for her siblings. Tom Robinson has occasional stops to help Mayella with heavy chore. She has tried to seduce him but he was unwilling. Later Bob Ewell by seeing this accused Tom of raping his daughter. This shows that Mayella is not having any guilty feeling about her mistake. In a way, she takes revenge upon both her father where an innocent soul like Tom Robinson falls into her trap. The guiltiness of Mayella Ewell is seen in the text as:

I have nothing but pity in my heart for the chief witness for the state, but pity does not extend so far as to her putting a man's life at stake, where she has done in an effort to get rid of her guilt. 'I say guilt gentlemen, because it was guilt that motivated her (TKAM 223).

Mayella is portrayed as a dishonest lady without a good intention in her mind. She has lied in the court. It leads to the death of a poor soul like Tom Robinson. The study analyses that the Mayella represents the whites who has suppressed the blacks for a longer period. They have no guilty feeling about their mistake. They are not ready to show any human concern to the Afro Americans (spark notes). The same attitude is seen in the character Mayella Ewell. She maintains this attitude for her survival and benefit.

During 1920's, women were treated as commodity for sexual pleasure by men. They were suppressed and their voices were unheard in the society. The situation of women is not much noticed in the country. They are repressed and seen as a commodity for sexual pleasure. In certain cases, women have misused such cases to take advantage over the male community. Especially, the white women take advantage over black men. Families are deteriorating in every aspect and as a result of women lost their husbands. Women are searching for true love and care from the men. Mayella Ewell is married but her husband left her. This frustrated situation of women can be seen in Mayella. Her father used to hurt her physically and it shows pathetic situation of families in Maycomb. Bob Ewell discloses his mistake and condemns Tom Robinson. The case was taken to the court. She is questioned and her reply is not sincere. Mayella was afraid to reveal about the father. This shows how women are treated and suppressed by the dominant male community.

Arthur Radley is also called as Boo Radley. Boo Radley is a character who become reclusive and introvert due to the over strictness of his father. His life is in solitude for years. The country people in Maycomb have isolated and alienated him due to many reasons. It is believed that Boo Radley is presented with many gossips. They believe that he stabbed his father's leg with a scissors and confined himself in the house. Miss Crawford spread the news on him that Boo Radley roamed around the Maycomb and in the night peeped into people's windows. In the beginning, Boo Radley is depicted as a coward. At the end of the novel he becomes courageous and bold to face the society. Jem, scout and Dill play a fundamental role in the transformation of Arthur Radley. When the novel begins, Boo is an object of fascination for Jem, Scout and Dill. They imagine that he is a morbid figure who eats the animals in the night.

Late when they understand that he is an innocent person, they started loving him. He has started giving gifts in the knothole. It is described in the novel as:

We went home. Next morning the twine was where we had left it. When it was still there on the third day, Jem pocketed it. From then on, we consider everything we found in the knot – hole our property (TKAM 65).

Boo Radley has loved the children. He has kept the gifts in the knot hole which is a true symbol of his love. This shows that he is an innocent figure who protects these children. The people in Maycomb are discordant with him and confined him from all incidents. Scout, Jem and Dill tried to socialize him and gave him prolific courage and strength to face the society. It makes him to understand the society.

Boo Radley has got this courage due to his socialisation with the children. He is not given an opportunity by his father and the society. American dream can be achieved by giving opportunity to other fellow beings. In this sense, it is given to him by the children. Later he saves the children from the hands of evil formalistic society. This shows that Boo Radley has transformed into a good human with courage. This courage has helped him to save the children and he became the killer of Bob Ewell. The study analyses the fact that the courage is necessary factor in achieving American dream. In the context of Boo Radley, it is clearly depicted by the author. It is said that Boo Radley has the courage to pursue the American dream for him and others.

Boo Radley represents the life of common people. The common people always suffer in the society when they try to save their life. He appears as a symbolic figure. He is the symbol of the downtrodden and discriminated people in the society. He is alienated by the people in Maycomb. The creation of the character Radley is noticeable representation of social realism in

this novel. He is not ready to trust others. It talks the people who are sidelined during the crisis. In a fictional narrative like *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the author presents this character as one who craves for true love, acceptance and mercy from the society. He acts in the right situation and mysteriously presented by the author. This mysterious act is connected in questioning the mentality of people in declaring an innocent person as insane.

The society declares an honest man always as a culprit and it is clearly visible in the case of Atticus Finch. This remains a 'Mystery' for the readers and society. In the end, Boo Radley arrives in an extraordinary manner to show the emergency of the situation. He saves the children from the hands of Bob. This incident means that people should awake from their deep slumber and consciously work for American Dream. Lee points out that it is the time for people to save them from all kinds of tribulations. It can be accomplished if people are ready to change their attitude, thinking, and behaviour. Boo is one of the mockingbirds in the novel who tries to win over the evil in the society with great effort.

Tom Robinson is another main character in the novel. He represents the Afro Americans or blacks in the novel. Helen is his wife in the novel. They have a young child. Tom Robinson is very kind, handsome and respectable person. Tom Robinson is not a courageous man but he lives with all good intention. One day when he was coming after his work Mayella Ewell called him for a help. Bob Ewell has taken this opportunity to disclose his mistake and has condemned him for raping his daughter. Atticus defended Tom Robinson's case in the court. He tried to give him justice but it was denied to Tom Robinson. Later he is imprisoned in the jail. He escapes from the jail and later he is killed by the officials. It is the death of an innocent man.

Tom Robinson lacks courage in the crucial moments of his life. He has inferiority complex of being an Afro American as a result of decolonization of their mind. They are repressed to forget their original culture followed in America. The Afro American characters presented has worked for the American Dream. It is not accepted by the majority of people in the society. Tom Robinson becomes a coward when he escapes from the jail. He escapes to save to his family. This shows that he is honest in his duties. The whites have forcefully made him cowardice. He has a great insight for achieving American dream in his life. When they have killed him, they have stopped him from achieving his dream. Otherwise the court must have judged without any partiality. In the court session, he is not courageous enough to say truth in the court. He knows the truth but he is afraid by thinking about the response of the white people. The whites deny freedom to the Black families. This makes them coward in their life. It is understood from the example of Tom Robinson. Even if they try to overcome these obstacles, they are subjugated and dominated by the whites.

The portrayal of Tom Robinson in the novel depicts the real situation of Afro Americans in America during 1920's. They have faced racial discrimination by the whites. Tom Robinson is also made a coward by the society due to the domination of whites in Maycomb. Lee brings out this fact in her novel to open the eyes of the people. The death of a Negro is considered as a normal event by the people in Maycomb. As we can see it in the novel:

Maycomb was interested by the news of Tom's death for perhaps two days; two days was enough for the information to spread though the country. To Maycomb, Tom's death was typical of a nigger to cut and run (TKAM 265).

The society has seen negroes in a very menial manner. The hypocritical attitude of people has led them to an artificial life. They have digressed from the truth. As a result, the

cowardice of Tom Robinson is considered to be typical behaviour of Afro Americans. The cowardice of Tom Robinson in materialistic world is the result of suppression of blacks for aegis. They do not take the time to understand Tom. They have hated and are afraid of him unfairly. In the same manner, stories like black men spoiling the white ladies are the practice over several centuries. These bad remarks about the blacks are perpetuated for the benefit of formalist society in America. The white people represent the formalist society in Maycomb. Blacks are treated with their prejudice. The people is found lacking tolerance and they have started blaming others for their mistakes. This trend was a result of world war, great depression. In America, blacks were the victims of prejudice of Whites. Since Tom Robinson represents the blacks in the novel, he is the victim of white in Maycomb. The victimization of Tom Robinson takes place in different steps. First they are condemned for grievous faults. Later they are treated as inferior by the whites and this result in assimilation of qualities like cowardice, suffering and discrimination. These ideas are inculcated into their minds through their speech, discourses, court system to suppress the blacks in the society.

The discordance with the blacks and whites remained for centuries. Blacks are treated harshly so that they have tolerated the white's dominance. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a novel which is able to resist the attitude of white's dominance for years which has been persisting for centuries. They are reprimanded for the benefit of whites. Mayella Ewell and Bob Ewell are the correct example shown in the novel. Afro Americans are targeted by the whites. During 1920's, the whites became reluctant in achieving the American Dream. They have looted the lives of blacks for their survival. The whole world and America have suffered from financial crisis, poverty, famine, disease and other issues. At this time, Lee has sensed the pulse of his country to

write her novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She has written the novel to bring out social reformation in the American Society. Americans has been misled in garnering American dream. Certain ideas like racism, suppression, prejudice and hatred towards blacks make them to live a good life. Even in this troublesome period the blacks have remained conscious in pursuit of American dream. Their tolerance and innocence are the testimonial facts presented by Lee in her novel. Lee has become successful in leading the Americans by depicting the true qualities which are essential in fulfilling the American Dream. The novel has become a part in the history of America, because Lee was able to change the attitude of many whites about the blacks. This transformed the American society to contemplate on achieving their dreams.

Chapter 5

Conclusion

To Kill a Mockingbird is a novel which focuses on the sentiments of the author and the Americans. The study is analysed to depict the importance of American dream in the life of every Americans. American dream becomes the platform for all writers to create their works in American Literature. James Truslow Adam in his book *Epic of America* discusses the American dream. It explains the idea of freedom, individualism, mobility, flexibility, optimism, hard work, progress and patriotism. It is essential for all the writers to speak about any particular issue or subject to motivate the readers and their life. Harper Lee writes the novel to create an anti-racist, classless society. In reality, Lee influences the minds of many readers. Practically, it is a difficult task to make an ideal society. She plays a greater role in forming a society based on American dream. As their former president Abraham Lincoln said, “The best way to predict the future is to create it.” (News Flicks). Harper lee and other writers were part of forming a new America. American Dream is an integral element in the history of America. It helps in creating a separate history for America.

As a country, America desired to become an independent country. They create a new identity for them. They delineated themselves from the path of the British imperialism. America as a country aimed big in every citizen’s life. The contemporaries of Lee crafted the novels based on themes like destruction, loss, external conflicts and adventures. Some novels are self-referential. The southern tradition, family, community, the land and history were the other themes inculcated in the novels produced during the nineteenth century. These themes show that it was an auspicious time for the American writers, because many incidents took place during

this time. In the world history, nineteenth century was eventful. There were both negative and positive events that took place during this period. The catastrophes had an adverse impact on the life of human beings around the world. In America, the lives of people are disturbed. They could not do many things because they are baffled. Americans has division among themselves. The division of America is based on money, class, race and gender. The scope of historical study of the novel is found from this study. This novel can be read and studied specifically to know about America in 1920's. At the same time, it has a further scope of study based on the application of theories like deconstruction in the novel. It helps other scholars to know the behaviour of people, their attitude and situation during nineteenth century.

The first chapter of the dissertation discusses Great depression, Wall Street collapse, World war, as the backdrop of the novel. The novel has become a great discourse in the study of human life during nineteenth century. The study analyses the contribution of Lee's contemporaries, their works and themes of their work. Their works are analysed to have a profound idea about the nineteenth century in American literature. Lee has focused on the themes like race, class, innocence, justice. It gives the readers basic idea about the life situation of people across different parts of America. It is not only America which is suffering from all tribulations. Across the World, there was a great depression which immersed everyone's life into a great trouble. The study analyses that the root cause for the problems are the two world wars which has shattered everyone's dream. In this circumstance, the least affected were the first world countries, but mostly the second world countries and the third world countries which were afflicted by the wars.

In this study, two concepts have been followed to provide a new dimension to the novel. The whole novel can be studied based on the concept of American Dream. It aims at an egalitarian society. James Truslow Adams has popularised this concept in America. James explains individualism, flexibility, mobility, freedom, hard work, optimism, progress and patriotism. He has even suggested that these ideas are significant in pursuit of American Dream. America has a strong history of the arrival of the immigrants in their country. The immigrants are generally from Europe itself and the blacks who are brought to America from African countries. The blacks are brought as slaves to the country. These immigrants have been looking for a new land with hope.

The study shows the novel is analysed based on the concept of American dream and Binary opposites from the deconstruction theory of Jacques Derrida. The study discusses how different characters are trying to acquire American Dream. The study is divided into three different areas social realism, narrative techniques and binary opposites. It has not applied social realism as a theory as such; instead the study has discussed the main social events which make readers understand the reality. This is articulated based on different views from political, social, economic and religious fields. These fields are the factors in studying the novel and the American society. In narrative techniques, the study explains the semi- autobiographical elements, first person point of view fictionalising, language, and title of the novel, symbols, setting and gothic element in the novel. Finally, the characters are analysed by the application of theory binary opposites. Each character is analysed in supervening to different themes. The study finds that each character depicted is different in the novel.

Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* transforms the attitude of people towards the marginalised people. The marginalised people are the immigrants, especially the blacks who fight for their basic rights. It is found that characters like Tom Robinson, Boo Radley and other characters endeavor to accomplish their American Dream. When many characters like Mayella Ewell, Bob Ewell and other characters fail to achieve the American dream. Atticus and his family have tried to achieve the dream. In this context, the racial discrimination is neutralised and all human beings are considered equal. A generation gap was created by the social events that took place in the world. This confuses the mind of Americans by inverting the established ideals into a false belief. They find difficult in achieving the American dream. As a reader we can find this gap which is created among the characters meant prolifically to the literarians. The space occurs as a result of the gap in the form of various problems like race, class, money and injustice. This generation gap is found among the characters as well.

The novel takes place in a small town called Maycomb. The study reveals that Maycomb is the representation of small towns which have suffered from famine, poverty and diseases. These small towns can be seen as small colonies formed as a result of British imperialism. It can lead for the postcolonial study of the novel. It is observed that during this time still some of the countries, under the rule of Britishers or they have waited for freedom. Freedom is their basic necessity because they want to emancipate themselves from the hands of British. In the case of Alabama or the fictional town Maycomb they are not emancipated from certain things like race, class, prejudice, financial crisis, poverty and other issues. The study says that the novel is fighting for the freedom of equal status in an independent country. America became independent in early seventeenth century, but even in modern period there are a lot of disparities among the citizens. It is shown through the characters.

Lee has included all her semi- autobiographical incidents in the novel. The incidents were Scottsboro rape case which took place when she was a child. When this case is taken to court, the court is pejorative and the Afro American is condemned. It shows that the court is survived based on the mode of partiality and injustice which is shown to the Afro Americans. Atticus Finch has taken the case of Tom Robinson which is a representation of Scottsboro rape case. Though the mistake is on the side of whites, blacks are condemned. The intensity of racial prejudice and hatred is at its peak during this time. It is tough task taken by Lee. The main theme of the novel is polemical. In the case of *To Kill a Mockingbird*, the readers accept the controversies. The novel is not purely a fictional; it is a mixture of facts and fiction. To an extent, this novel is realistic and successful among the readers. This shows the readers response that they are expecting realities even in the art and literature. They expect the explication of ideas in simple and clear manner. Readers are not expecting the romanitising of real situations. The fact behind this response is that the people are suffering from many issues. This changes the attitude of people to be always real in their life.

The novel questions different conventions which are followed in the society. The small town experience can be seen in two different manners. On one side, it talks about the suffering, pain, sacrifice and human values. On the other side, it discusses the narrow mindedness, deceiving, discrimination and other evils in the society. Lee has portrayed inequality and loss of innocence by showing class in the Maycomb town. This same location is the representation for the study of pluralistic culture and society. Maycomb acts as two side of a coin where it talks about the subjective and objective experiences. The subjective experience is the experience of the main characters and minor characters. It can be viewed mainly in the main protagonist Jean Lousie Finch. It is the author herself sharing her experience. The objective experience is the

common facts and events that happen in the society. The small town life of people in Maycomb shows that life of people in nineteenth century was filled with sacrifice and pain. They have to adjust and adapt to the situations and this narrowed their lives. This is the objective experience of the people. The study analyses that the experience of people is proved in the novel through the characters.

The small town Maycomb becomes a global village, compared with other towns which have suffered from the effects of World war and Great Depression. It is understood that Maycomb has fallen in pursuit of the American Dream. Lee focuses on the small town and the issues discussed are global. In society, families belonging to different classes are affected. They have lost serenity in their life. Everyone is ready to do anything for their survival. It is found that the survival of different classes took place by repressing other families, class or race. Subjugation of their fellow being is the means of dominating one on the others. Later it focuses only on Afro American community. This community is marginalised and alienated from the society. This situation is not favourable for the development of nation. The novel clearly mentions such racial issues at various points. Lee is not aiming for a utopian society, but she worked for a realistic and practical society. The transformation of America into a super power nation takes place through various discourses which has been produced during this time. Lee's novel has become a testimony to the whole world. She is genuine and sincere in depicting the social realities of nineteenth century America.

Social realism can be studied in connection with the American dream. It is the time of chaos in the country in political, spiritual, economic, cultural areas. The study illustrates that though America is a developed country, they lacked human values. The Afro Americans are not

shown love by anyone. The whites are selfish and followed the subverted justice, truth, and other qualities. The pursuit of American dream is in the wrong path. The African American is denied to have equal access to voting, education and employment opportunities. They have played a great role in acting as a model to present America. Afro American opposed to the inequality shown by their resistance. Resistance is in the form of endurance and sacrifice. It is the first step taken by them. In the novel, it is done by Atticus for Tom Robinson. Lee has explicitly shown the agitation of Afro Americans in the novel. The agitation takes place in a peaceful manner as it is shown in the novel. The readers can understand that they get the power to react from their faith in God. This has helped them to fight against the hegemony of whites. It is in the beginning stages where the Afro Americans have fought for their rights. It has been taken up by great people like Martin Luther king and it ended with the civil rights movement in 1960's.

In the contemporary situation, all these movements have eradicated the discriminations and injustice. The American dream is achieved with all its factors in the society. The government in America has a clever political and economic strategy to make people have community spirit and social responsibility. It emerges as super power and its impact can be seen all over the world. The impact of the novel is high and it is the second best seller after the Bible in America. The novel contradicts the community spirit of people by reminding them about their social responsibility to care, share and bear their fellow beings. At this juncture, novel focuses on the American dream. The literarians focus the idea of impartiality where everyone will be treated equally. The chaos during the nineties lost the innocence of many people in America. Americans were unclear about the American dream during this time. It may be the reason for people to give more respect and importance to the individuals. Each and every individual live and work for a main cause that is the American dream. This ideology of Americans is spread and now followed

in the contemporary society. Students prefer to study across the world. They mingle with different people from different class, race and nation. Everyone is ready to endure for a quality life. In this manner, American dream disseminates the good news of equality, enduring with optimistic mind, better life across the world. It is prescribed for the people who aim at a great life.

The study on the narrative techniques of the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a factor in understanding the author's aim to achieve the American dream. The analyses of narrative techniques includes semi - auto biographical element, fictionalising, first person narrative, symbols, language, title of the novel, setting and gothic element. The study finds that the novel is explained to the readers in first person narrative. The life, family, neighbours and events experienced by the author have been incorporated in the novel. This semi- autobiographical novel can also be studied by applying the method of autobiographical research. This method is possible only when a research is done by focusing only into the life of an author. It is semi-autobiographical because of the fictionalising of certain facts given in the novel. It has both the element of fiction and autobiographical text. In addition to this, certain features like memory, personal experience about the human beings are found in the novel. It makes the novel an excellent work. The social scenario and other conditions of nineteenth century American life is been clearly presented in the novel. Lee's novel is specimen for other writer to produce a new work.

The plot is written in a paradoxical manner with anecdotes given from author's personal experience. Anecdotes are included in the novel by Lee. These anecdotes are expanded and formed the plot in a factual manner. The fictionalising of the setting, characters, and main

incidents in the novel brings credibility to the readers. The novel is created based on the Scottsboro rape case. It is found that it was not the only rape case takes place in the America. In this case, the convict is allegedly condemned by the women. The setting is fictionalised. Maycomb is the setting where it is shown as an imaginary land. The courthouse in Maycomb follows Greek design and the Victorian design. The utopian theory of Thomas Moore can be applied in studying deeply about the setting and its relation with the themes. Each and every setting has its own specialty. The power structure in this novel can be studied in connection with different classes in a location.

The novel is divided into three parts. First section consists of historical and literary information. The second section deals with sensitive discriminations like race, religion, time, class, sex, tradition and politics. The final section discusses the literacy and communication of people in the Alabama. The novel is narrated in a linear manner. A clear difference between the author and the portrayal of author as a character is depicted in the novel. As a writer, she presents the tribulations of her 'self' and 'others' in her novel. Lee narrates the story in a simple manner and straightforward style to avoid all the complexities in language. The title is intriguing to the readers. It gives a vague idea about the novel and there is a chance of creating curiosity on the minds of readers. The Title of the novel is self-explanatory. *To kill a mockingbird* can be considered, a bildungsroman novel as Scout the protagonist develops through her experiences and understanding of the world.

Mockingbird represents innocence and the author has focused on the life of common people like Tom Robinson and Finch family. Lee symbolises herself as a mockingbird to accomplish the American Dream. Boo Radley and Tom Robinson are also considered, the main

symbols. He is the symbol of the downtrodden and discriminated people in the society. Tom Robinson is a symbol of equality. Lee symbolises the tree house as a place where all Americans equally work hard for achieving American Dream.

Lee has used modern American English to narrate the novel. She has used American English for narrating the story and different dialects to show different communities. The dialogues between the characters are presented in a conversational manner. Dialects and slangs used in the language show the style in which people spoke during that time. The style of speech, attitude of people, regional dialects can be detected in the novel. The African American dialect is different from the White. Lee has contributed to English language a new dialect which can be used by everyone in the world. The novel can be read in a smooth-flowing manner. The response and appeal of the readers are positive. The inclusion of gothic element in the novel depicts the terrifying situation of the different parts of world. Lee incorporates the fear and pity on the mind of readers to make the novel realistic.

The study shows these characters are analysed based on the concept of American Dream. There are no stereotypical characters. The characters are analysed in relation to the themes like good and evil, innocence and guilt, courage and coward. It gives a vivid picture about different characters consistently working for the American Dream. The characterisation of Scout, Jem and Dill show the development in their childhood experience to a matured state. The perspectives of the child characters about racial issues and other themes are shown in an adult's point of view. Atticus Finch represents Good and on the other side Bob Ewell represents Evil. It explores the innate moral nature of human beings. The presences of these characters reveal the facts about the coexistence of Good and evil. Atticus is considered, as the main moral figure in the novel.

Atticus is a widower with a sense of humour. Atticus endures these problems with optimism for the existence and survival of everyone in the Maycomb town. He appreciates well and forgives evil. In the novel, at various incidents Atticus is seen as a person accepted by all classes in the society. Atticus remains the same from the beginning till the end of the novel. This shows his consistency in leading a good life. The study analyses that this consistency is a merit for the character to achieve American dream for his family and country.

Bob Ewell is shown as a hindrance to achieve American Dream. Bob Ewell is crooked, cunning and earned money by cheating others. He has become devilish due to the circumstances. Bob Ewell does not give freedom and opportunity for his daughters to grow in the society. This has led Ewell Family to lose their social status. They make themselves lose their respect in the society. He follows the evil ways to achieve prosperity. He is a hypocrite who always supports the formalist society. The Ewell family is ready to do anything for material success. Bob Ewell has lost their Innocence due to evil behaviour. In postcolonial sense, Bob Ewell can be regarded as the representation of a coloniser. He behaves like coloniser by dominating Tom Robinson. He condemns Tom Robinson for raping her daughter Mayella Ewell.

Jean Louise Scout represents innocence in the novel and Mayella Ewell represents guiltiness. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is a novel where most of the instances and characters are studied based on innocence. Scout understands from her personal experience and life lessons. She asks many questions to her father about various issues like rape case, racism, court trial and education. She naturally questions the injustices in the case of Tom Robinson and his family. The innocence of Scout is lost after some time by the attack guiltiness. The novel is seen through the eyes of Scout. Scout is oriented in a manner to appreciate human goodness without ignoring

human evil. It suggests the readers that if we want to achieve American Dream we have to be innocent and truthful. Lee proposes that this behaviour will help us to act intelligently for achieving American Dream.

Mayella is depicted as a character that is not able to claim for her rights. The study analyses that Mayella Ewell has not cooperated in achieving American Dream with true conscience. Lee shows Mayella's attitude against the Afro Americans. Ewell has been abused by her father, but in order to save her father, she condemns Tom Robinson. Mayella lacks true conscience which leads to guiltiness. The guilty feeling has controlled the real life of people in profound manner. They have been depicted dishonest, narrow minded in accepting the fellow being and make them not to follow the American Dream. Mayella also represents the women in America. During 1920's, women were treated as commodity for sexual pleasure by men. They were suppressed and their voices were unheard in the society. In certain cases, women misuse such cases to take advantage over the male community. Especially, the white women took advantage over black men. Families were deteriorating and as a result of women lost their husbands. Mayella was afraid to reveal about the father. This shows how women are treated and suppressed by the dominant male community.

Arthur Radley is also called as Boo Radley. Boo Radley is a character who become reclusive and introvert due to the over strictness of his father. In the beginning, Boo Radley is depicted as a coward. In the end of the novel, he becomes courageous and bold enough to face the society. Jem, scout and Dill play a fundamental role in the transformation of Arthur Radley. Boo Radley has got this courage due to his socialisation with the children. American dream can be achieved by giving opportunity to other fellow beings. Boo Radley has transformed into a

good human with courage. This courage helps to save the children and he became the killer of Bob Ewell. He saves the children from the hands of Bob. In the end of the novel, Boo Radley arrives in an extraordinary manner to show the emergency of the period. This emergency is nothing but the necessity for basic needs. This incident makes people to be awakening from their slumber and consciously work for American Dream. The study analyses the fact that the courage is a necessary factor in achieving our dreams. Boo Radley represents the life of common people. He is the symbol of the downtrodden and discriminated people in the society.

Tom Robinson is another main character in the novel. He represents the Afro Americans or blacks in the novel. He lacks courage in the crucial moments of his life. He has an inferiority complex of being an Afro American as a result of decolonization of their mind. The society has seen Negroes in a very menial manner. They have been repressed to forget their original culture. This has resulted in the assimilation of qualities like cowardice, suffering and discrimination. These ideas are inculcated into their minds through their speech, discourses, court system to suppress the blacks in the society. It is a troublesome period for the blacks but they have remained conscious in pursuit of American dream. Their tolerance and innocence are the testimonial facts presented by Lee in her novel. The novel has become a part in the history of America, because Lee was able to change the attitude of many whites about the blacks. This can also lead to the postcolonial study of the novel.

The time of the incidents shown in the novel is very crucial in the study of the novel. Nineteenth century had lot of controversies, chaos, wars. It was the result of colonization of Britishers. They colonized to exploit the colonies economically. They did it with frequent violence. The offspring's of this violence are race, class, subjugation and slavery. Colonisers

have colonized the mind of people in the colonies. They have decolonized the minds of slaves through the discourses. In this manner, Lee has subverted this idea to free the Afro Americans from racial discrimination through this book. She has declared and proclaimed that everyone is equal and has the right to live according to their freedom of choice. This novel can be taken for further researches in three different areas. It can be studied to know the colonial influence, nationalism and subjugation that have taken place in the life of Americans along with the concept of American Dream.

The novel changes the attitude of many whites about the blacks. This transforms the American society to think in a great manner for achieving their dreams. The discordance with the blacks and whites has remained for centuries. *To Kill a Mockingbird* has ended this behaviour for creating a new modern America. This novel has a scope to study and analyse the modern America. At the same time, it can be approached by the application of modernist theory. The title of this novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* has its importance in the context of past and present situation. In the context of past America, the title says about killing the innocent people in the society. It is been followed in the contemporary society. The title also conveys the information that the truth and justice are subverted by the people. The study finds that the title conveys the information that an American must be consistent in achieving the American dream.

This study will be more suitable with the sequel *Go to Set a Watchman*. It helps the critics to check the existence of social inequality and importance of moral education. A great insight is essential for achieving American dream in his life. This novel is an output of people's true desire for achieving their dream. It is not only for the people but also for the author who craved for a peaceful country. She has fought relentlessly for achieving American dream. American dream can be applied in study of the feminist liberation. It talks about the certain

values like freedom, mobility, hard work, and other qualities. In the contemporary society, the American dream is being followed by many people. This trend has become global. Especially the youngsters follow this idea in their life. The American dream has become part of people's life across the globe.

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