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A Gynocritical Study of *the Color Purple* by Alice Walker: A Corpus-based Analysis of Adjectives

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Abstract

From the beginning of the scholarly work on the women, most of the research have been carried out by opposite gender. Therefore, there have been limited work done to see how a woman portrays another woman in her writings. Moreover, there have been limited research conducted utilizing corpus tools for the analysis of gynocriticism. Thus, the present research aims to examine *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker by employing the corpus-based approach to investigate the representation of female character by the author in the novel. The positive or negative portrayal of women by the author in the novel was investigated through author's usage of adjectives. Showalter's (2009) *Theory of Gynocriticism* was used as a theoretical framework for the current research. Further, corpus-based methodology was employed to analyze how Alice Walker has portrayed the female character in her novel through the use of adjectives. An in-depth analysis has shown that Alice Walker has depicted woman as a helpless and sidelined being who can be turned as a resilient after suffering from frightful circumstances. The current research also opens new gates for the researchers to analyze the text from Gynocritical perspective along with corpus techniques.

Keywords: Adjectives, Corpus-based analysis, Gynocriticism, The Color Purple, Woman

Introduction

Feminist movement encompasses those social movements or campaigns that seek to resolve the gender issues created due to the inequality between the sexes. This movement breaks gender normative stereotypes and builds equal opportunities for both men and women. Feminist literary criticism is informed by feminist theory and ideology. It investigates the condition of

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women in literature and the politics of female authorship (Fitriana & Tolla, [2019](#); Guo, [2019](#)). The feminist approach tries to investigate and showcase the ways through which authors of literature portray gender roles and relations. It also explores the political, social, and economic inequality embedded in literature. The current study works under the insight of Elaine Showalter's "gynocriticism" which is a study of women's writing (gynotexts), language, and literary career. This term was introduced by Showalter ([1979](#)) to refer to a form of feminist literary criticism whose basic purpose is to analyze the women's writing and their subjective mode of experiences. This form of literary criticism studies literature written by women writers as a logical field of hypothetical investigation and established various methods and approaches to study the women's writing. Showalter's gynocriticism refers to a form of criticism in which woman as a writer of textual meaning is examined against woman as a reader. The main concerns of gynocriticism are female subjectivity, female language, and female literacy career. It constructs a female framework to analyze a literary text (Nouri & Mohammadi, [2015](#)). Therefore, this theory aims to highlight feminine subject matter in woman's writing to disclose the history of female literary tradition and to uncover feminine subjectivity and perception, mode of experiences, and the language used by women.

The current study is a corpus based study of the language used in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. Corpus analysis tool is used to examine the adjectives given in the book. Corpus analysis etymologically analyzes a corpus. It is a type of linguistic analysis which allows you to examine a textual object with 'real life' language. Corpus linguistics utilizes computer applications to quickly search and analyze databases of 'real world' language (McEnery & Wilson, [1996](#)). Collectively, these databases are called corpora and can involve any ethical accumulation of composed or transliterated spoken language. Some of the well-known corpora are the American National Corpus and the British National Corpus (BNC). Traditionally, less attention has been paid to adjectives as compared to other parts of speech. According to Leech ([1989](#)), adjectives are the largest open word class in English after nouns and verbs, which are grammatically and semantically significant in a language just like other content words. Since adjectives modify nouns and supply more detail about events or elements,

this category plays an important role, especially in specific types of discourses, genres and generally in English language.

Therefore, the current study was a corpus based analysis of the language used in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*. It aimed to examine how Walker has portrayed the female subject in her novel through the use of adjectives.

Statement of Problem

Many studies have been conducted to see how female authors portray the female subject in their writings, but there has been no significant corpus based study that examines language using gynocriticism. Hence, this study has examined the language used in Alice Walker's *The Color Purple* in the light of gynocriticism through a corpus based analysis of adjectives.

Research Objectives

The following are the objectives of this study:

- i. To explore how Alice Walker has portrayed the female subject in her novel *The Color Purple* through the use of adjectives
- ii. To scrutinize whether the connotations used by Alice Walker in her novel *The Color Purple* are positive or negative.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to achieve the research objectives:

- i. How the female subject has been portrayed by Alice Walker in her novel *The Color Purple* through the use of adjectives?
- ii. Which connotation, either positive or negative, has been used by Alice Walker in order to describe the female subject in her novel *The Color Purple*?

Significance of the Study

The current study was a significant contribution to the existing body of literature in a number of ways. It explored the concept of Gynocriticism in Alice Walker's novel to showcase how a female writer portrays the female subject in her writing. Previous studies have not conducted corpus based analysis using gynocriticism. The results of this study opens up new

avenues of research, which can be utilized by future researchers to explore the use of feminist approach in texts through corpus analysis. Corpus based study provides authentic and valid results quickly and easily. Therefore, it will help in the examination of more data in less time. The results of this study will also add to the existing literature about feminism and gynocriticism.

Delimitation of the Study

The present study was delimited to only one novel of Alice Walker i.e., *The Color Purple*. Furthermore, in this study, only adjectives were used for the corpus analysis using gynocriticism framework.

Literature Review

Since the absolute starting point of the artistic history for the most part, male authors have portrayed the female figure as the focal point in their scholarly works. There are numerous works which depict the issue of women's liberation. However, due to the limitations of this study, a number of works could not be evaluated.

Armitt and Duchamp (1992) investigated ghost stories created by female authors as a medium to pass on mental issues of the women in a lighter and hid way. They conclude that women and men concerns of investigating ghost stories are sharply distinctive (Armit & Duchamp, 1992).

In *Perils of the Night*, DeLamotte (1990) described the gender inequalities in the English society of the eighteenth and nineteenth century,. Additionally, this ideological concern is not restricted to Gothic writing which discusses woman's rights in a lighter and disguised way. Moreover, Allende's epic is not completely a ghost story where she has taken up the women's activist issue considerably more truly, straightforwardly and seriously. According to Magnarelli's (1986) point of view, "The females who are not middle of everyone's attention as is Esteban, still mark a noteworthy commitment to the course of history. Indeed, every single character of female from the family were innovative; Rosa weaved legendary animals consolidated of dissimilar parts, and Blanca formed them of earth, similarly as Alba makes the content we read" Magnarelli (1986) underpins the

destinations of this examination that is to shallow voice of the females is the bogus idea of man centric world.

When we investigate the history of women's activism in Latin American, we see that Latin American women have been actively working towards a singular goal, that is, gender equality. For instance, in the seventeenth century, Juana Inés de la Cruz was considered the torchbearer of women's freedom. She endeavored to achieve equal rights for women in each aspect of their life. She had fighting for women rights in the seventeenth century Latin America, when the concept of women's liberation was not even created. Thus, it can be seen that women had been fighting for gender equality for many years. Mexican writer, Paz (1962), expressed that women in Latin America were viewed as animals without rights, and their sole purpose was to perform household tasks. In his paper, he explained that it was a man dominated world that was extremely bias toward women.

Cisneros (1994), the Mexican poetess and author, denounces the deeply rooted chauvinist values of the Mexican society in her poetry by bluntly stating that women are not sex objects and have equal rights as to men. In her collection of poems 'Loose Woman', she wrote about similar themes to uncover how women with different proclivities are treated. She also explored various other feminine experiences and subjectivities such as sexual abuse.

In this study, *The Color Purple* is analyzed using concepts of gynocriticism. Furthermore, corpus based analysis in this paper. The focus of this study is the use of adjectives which are specifically evaluative adjectives by Alice Walker. As indicated by Kerbrat-Orecchioni (1980), evaluative non-axiological adjective infer a subjective or a quantitative assessment of the modified thing and do not reflect any enthusiastic trade off with respect to the speaker/essayist, aside from having a slow nature. Evaluative axiological descriptive words are completely emotional and, as indicated by Sánchez-Portal et al. (2002), they give a subjective assessment, including either a positive or a negative judgment to the modified thing. In result, they reflect the speaker's/author's good or troublesome position with respect to the modified thing. Kerbrat-Orecchioni (1980) proposed that an "interpretative hop" upheld by the speaker's/author's social and ideological ability will be required when going from the identification of the target

properties of a thing to its emotional assessment. This idea is broke down in this paper from the point of view of evaluative descriptors utilized on inn sites. "Assessment", as Hunston and Thompson (2000) expressed, is a dangerous and complex thought, which has gotten a few distinct names relying upon the creator (Martin & White, 2003) favored the term examination, (Biber et al., 1999; Conrad & Biber, 2000) utilized the term position, Barton (1993) utilized evidentiality, though in Hyland's (1998) see mentality markers and a few fences can be viewed as evaluative markers. While assessment can be accomplished by a wide assortment of phonetic methods, a significant and successive method for assessing is using evaluative descriptive words. In the line of the previously mentioned variety in the expression "assessment", descriptive words with an evaluative job have likewise been allotted various terminologies including "evaluative" descriptors (Hunston & Francis 2000; Samson 2006), "abstract evaluative modifiers" Kerbrat-Orecchioni (1980) or "attitudinal appellations" (Halliday 1985), among others. All through this examination, we have utilized the term assessment connected to modifiers in its broadest semantic sense, as comprehended by (Hunston & Thompson, 2000).

"[...] assessment is the wide spread term for the outflow of the speaker or essayist's frame of mind or position towards, perspective on, or emotions about the substances or suggestions that the individual is discussing" (p.5).

All the more explicitly, the thought of evaluative descriptive word embraced here would be a blend of semantic, logical and practical criteria. Subsequently, starting now and into the foreseeable future in this paper, evaluative modifiers will allude to those descriptive cases joining the Hallidayan idea of "attitudinal appellations" (communicating the speaker's abstract frame of mind towards the referent) and Kerbrat-Orecchioni's (1980) thought of emotional descriptors (counting passionate and non-axiological and axiological evaluative examples).

Assessment is a "tricky idea" (Hunston & Thompson, 2000), which is now and again called "evaluation" (Martin & White, 2003) or "position" (Conrad & Biber, 2000; Hyland, 2005). The variance in wording is a consequence of a plenitude of parameters used to lead assessment. As indicated by Hunston and Thompson (2000), assessment alludes to

decisions, sentiments, or perspectives about something. They additionally portray three elements of assessment:

Communicating a sentiment, looking after connections, and sorting out talk. Communicating an feeling is an approach to comprehend the esteem arrangement of the speaker. Also, assessment goes about a connection among essayist and pursuer. This relationship can be utilized for control, supporting, furthermore, graciousness. At last, assessment goes about as a talk coordinator. As such, assessment manufactures connections and passes on qualities, yet additionally helps intelligence (pp. 6-9).

As Hyland (1998) trusts, assessment is significant for relational metadiscourse. As metadiscourse improves cognizance in a section (Aidinlou and Vafae, 2012), the utilization of assessment plays a noteworthy job in the viability of a content. Evaluative descriptive words are likewise significant in talk (Samson, 2006).

There are some recent studies conducted on gynocriticism and Walker's *The Color Purple*. For instance, Islam (2020) conducted the research on Rupri Kaur's *Milk and Honey* by using the concepts of gynocriticism and feminist criticism. Similarly, Eyvazi et al. (2017) done gynocritical study on the works of Iranian female Novelists. Furthermore, there are various studies conducted on *The Color Purple* to explore the woman behavior and feministic aspect in this peace of literature (Abood, 2016; Amir, 2020; Haritha, 2019). Therefore, the survey of previous literature suggested that there is limited research done by using corpus tools and gynocritical framework collectively in Alice Walker's work. So, the current research is concerned with the corpus based analysis of the Alice Walker's novel, *The Color Purple* by using Showalter's (2009) gynocritical framework.

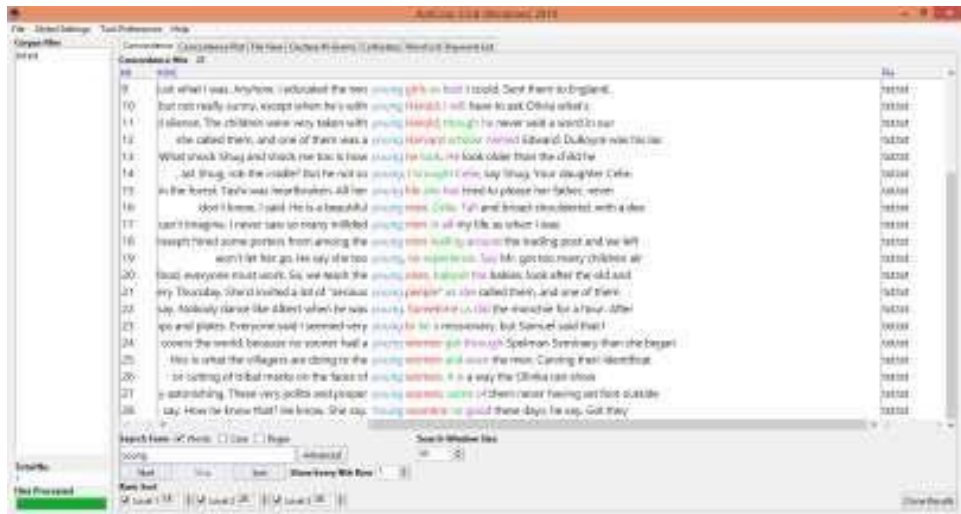
Research Methodology

The data was taken from the novel, *The Color Purple* written by Alice Walker due to its easy accessibility in the soft form to be run in the corpus tool. The other reason to collect this text for the analysis was the Walker's treatment of character in such a way that it gradually developed from a weak character of women to a strong one. This feature of the text helped in conducting an interesting gynocritical study.

scope of this study, due time and length limitations, so from the list of adjectives, only top 100 adjectives were selected that were relevant to the research questions and problem highlighted in the research problem. Then, after the identification of these adjectives, only 10 adjectives were examined manually through feature of concordance tool of AntConc 3.5.8 keeping in view the scope of the study.

Figure 2

Screenshot of Concordance in AntConc 3.5.8.



Theoretical Framework

This research was built upon the insight of gynocriticism in order to see that how Alice Walker has portrayed the character of female in her novel *The Color Purple* by using corpus-based methodology. Corpus-based methodology typically utilizes the corpus to scrutinize a hypothesis or theory or concept in order to confirm, disaffirm, or redefine it. Therefore, in the current study, the theory of gynocriticism was explored and validated in Walker’s novel through examination of adjectives by using corpus tools.

According to Showalter (2009), gynocriticism is the examination of the female as a sexual introduction status just as the *hidden awareness* of the female. The significance of a female subculture and work of a female model is the desire for gynocriticism. Showalter believes that masterful history has

been three unquestionable times of gynocriticism until the twentieth century:

- i. The female composition custom was created of pictures and estimations of the romanticized elegant; which worked from the male driven abuse that endeavored to recognize the woman as *other*.
- ii. In the midst of the twentieth century, the ladies' extremist improvement saw a reaction to the man driven of past events and disagreed the conviction arrangement of the genteel.
- iii. The most recent headway is the *female* investigation, where a female identity is searched in vain from the masculine definitions and protections.

So, the current study was drawn on the corpus-based methodology in light of the theoretical framework of Showalter's concept of gynocriticism that how a woman portrays another woman in her writings. It is a female framework for the analysis of the literature.

Data Analysis and Discussion

From the corpus of the Alice Walker's *The Color Purple*, after the application of selection criteria and securitization, following is the list of top 100 adjectives. The detailed qualitative analysis of all these adjectives was not possible in the scope of this study, so from this list, only 10 adjectives were selected for the detailed analysis. The study is delimited to the analysis of only 5, 5 positive and negative adjectives due to time and length constraints of the current research paper.

Table 1

Wordlist of Adjectives Generated by AntConc. 3.5.8. with Quantitative Distribution of Positive, Negative, and Neutral Adjectives with Rank in the Wordlist

Adjective	Frequency in the corpus	Ref. no/ Rank in wordlist generated by AntConc.	Type (+/- /N)	Adjective	Frequency in the corpus	Ref. no/ Rank in wordlist generated by AntConc	Type (+/- /N)
Good	157	79	+	Slow	9	742	-
White	142	88	+	Ugly	9	760	-

Adjective	Frequency in the corpus	Ref. no/ Rank in wordlist generated by AntConc.	Type (+/- /N)	Adjective	Frequency in the corpus	Ref. no/ Rank in wordlist generated by AntConc	Type (+/- /N)
Big	109	109	N	Cute	8	776	+
Old	80	136	N	Dirty	8	778	-
Long	71	152	N	Loving	8	803	+
Real	67	160	N	Dark	7	856	-
Black	63	167	-	Hungry	7	875	N
Mean	54	195	-	Pleasant	7	897	+
Hard	49	210	N	Pregnant	7	898	N
Sure	42	237	N	Wild	7	925	-
Dead	38	259	-	Worst	7	928	-
Sick	36	279	-	Afraid	6	929	N
Fine	32	300	+	Excited	6	957	+
Crazy	30	318	N	Oldest	6	992	N
Mad	30	320	-	Rotten	6	1009	-
Bad	28	331	-	Safe	6	1010	N
Nice	28	333	+	Thoughtful	6	1021	+
Young	28	336	+	Weaker	6	1032	-
Happy	25	361	+	Drunk	5	1065	-
Hot	25	362	N	Lucky	5	1106	+
Funny	24	372	+	Perfect	5	1120	+
Poor	21	401	-	Pitiful	5	1122	-
Smart	18	459	+	Proud	5	1134	-
Sweet	18	460	+	Thin	5	1169	-
Tired	18	462	N	Worse	5	1185	-
Alive	17	464	+	Ashamed	4	1192	-
Best	17	466	+	Concerned	4	1221	+
Glad	16	503	+	Dull	4	1236	-
Tall	16	510	N	Dumb	4	1237	-
Strong	15	527	+	Fit	4	1252	+
Wrong	15	531	-	Healthy	4	1271	+
Bright	14	533	+	Polite	4	1333	+
Fresh	14	538	+	Prepared	4	1335	+
Short	14	548	-	Lean	4	1336	-
Weak	14	555	-	Serious	4	1361	N
Busy	13	561	N	Sharp	4	1364	+
Fat	13	565	-	Shiny	4	1366	+
Naked	13	573	-	Smooth	4	1372	N

Adjective	Frequency in the corpus	Ref. no/ Rank in wordlist generated by AntConc.	Type (+/- /N)	Adjective	Frequency in the corpus	Ref. no/ Rank in wordlist generated by AntConc	Type (+/- /N)
Sad	12	605	-	Steady	4	1383	N
Cool	11	621	+	Upset	4	1410	-
Great	11	626	+	Younger	4	1423	+
High	11	627	+	Angry	3	1429	-
Nasty	11	636	-	Boring	3	1449	-
Quick	11	639	+	Empty	3	1520	-
Soft	11	645	+	Happier	3	1573	+
Brown	10	653	N	Honest	3	1582	+
Skinny	10	685	-	Nervous	3	1631	-
Small	10	687	-	Rich	3	1674	+
Beautiful	9	702	+	Satisfied	3	1679	+
Bloody	9	705	-	Unhappy	3	1756	-

Positive Adjectives

The writer Alice Walker in her novel *The Color Purple* used positive adjectives such as *good, white, quick, beautiful, nice, loving, happy, fresh, young, smart, glad, good* etc. for the woman. In the following section, a detailed qualitative analysis of 5 positive adjectives has been done.

Good as an Adjective

In the selected corpus, the adjective *good* has occurred 157 times but the manual analysis of concordance has showed that writer used this adjective in the context for women in order to show that she is good at domestic chores. The writer is appreciating as well as normalizing these abilities of the women. For example, in the following examples the writer has portrayed female as purely household lady who do all household works very well.

1. “.....*But she sweet and she sew good and us need something to haggle over while us work.....*”

2. “.....*I'm sick of her too, say Kate, letting out her breath. And you right about Celie, here. Good housekeeper, good with children, good cook.....*”

However, on the other hand, Walker displayed woman as a figure who is trying to become good in all matters but still treated as miserable creature. As in following examples,

3. “...It more like patting another piece of wood. Not a living tree, but a table, a chifferobe. Anyhow, they don't love me neither, no matter how good I is. They don't mind...”

Being a woman, Alice Walker portrays another female as a silent and under pressure being. Walker's writing seems to display woman like she is use to tolerate oppression and she never know her rights at all.

4. “...I can't fix my mouth to say how I feel. I'm a good prisoner, she say”

So, the positive adjective, *good* has been used to appreciate the purely domestic work of the female characters as well as sometimes writer used this adjective sarcastically to indicate the oppressed nature of female figure in the novel.

Young as an Adjective

Young as an adjective has occurred in the corpus 28 times and manual analysis of the corpus revealed that this adjective is used by the writer to describe woman in miserable connotation. As in the following example, a female character is describing her own self as ugly, dark and dull. She is underestimating and discouraging herself. It shows lack of confidence of female.

1. “.... Nothing special here for nobody to love. No honey colored curly hair, no cuteness. Nothing young and fresh. ...”

Therefore, positive adjective, *young* has been used in the negative sense. Writer used this adjective for creating contrast and highlighted the dejected treatment of female, even by her own self too.

Smart as an Adjective

The word *Smart* occurred 18 times in the corpus. After analysis, it is revealed that female in the male dominant society is treated as a source of money making. For example in the extract from the corpus below shows that how male used a women to earn money for him.

1. “...She sing every week-end now at Harpo's. He make right smart money off of her, and she make some too...”

Also *smart* is used for the males by the Alice Walker to indicate dominate and cool nature of men. Such as;

2. “...*One thing he learned is that he cute. Another that he smart. Plus, he can make money...*”

The analysis of concordance lines of the word *smart* showed that it has been used for both male and female but for female it has been used in negative connotation while for men it has been used in positive connotation.

Fresh as an Adjective

There were 14 hints of the word *fresh* as an adjective in the corpus. Mostly, it was used to objectify a woman. Man considered woman as an inanimate and lifeless object. As in the following example, the step father of the heroine Celie describes her as an old and dull thing.

1. “...*She ain't fresh tho, but I spect you know that. She spoiled. Twice. But you don't need a fresh woman no how. I got a fresh one in there myself and she sick all the time.....*”

The concordance analysis of *fresh* revealed that man want fresh and lively woman but he do not treat her in a way which makes her happy and energetic.

Glad as an Adjective

After analyzing 16 hints of the *glad* as an adjective in the corpus, it was revealed that Alice Walker tries to portray female as sad and dejected figure who pretending to be happy in front of others but actually she is not. For example,

1. “...*Daisy try to act like she glad to see us, but she not...*”

Overall, being a female writer Alice Walker depicts another female as isolated, sad, oppressed, lifeless and feeling less entity who never know her rights and is continuously being oppressed by the male dominant society. She displays woman as less self-confident. For example,

2. “.....*The most beautiful woman I ever saw. She more pretty then my mama. She bout ten thousand times more prettier then me.....*”

Woman in the novel also considered male as more smart and confident than female, such as in following example,

3. “...*Just a sweet, smart, cute, innocent little baby boy, say Miss Eleanor Jane. Don't you just love him?*”

Hence, the analysis of positive adjectives showed that Walker used these adjectives mostly in a negative prospect to highlight the pathetic condition of women treatment in the society.

Negative Adjectives

The analysis of negative adjectives also shows the portrayal of female in *The Color Purple* by Alice Walker. We have analyzed the negative adjectives with their contexts and compared them with positive adjectives which made us able to reach the conclusion that adjectives either negative or positive, have been more used for portraying the suppressed female status in the society. Only some of the adjectives would be described in this paper in order to delimit the data.

Black as an Adjective

The word *black* has occurred with the frequency of 63 in the corpus. The detailed analysis of the concordance lines revealed that *black* has been used to discriminate white and black woman. It was used in the sense of discrimination on the basis of skin color.

For example,

1. “...*She black as tar...*”
2. “...*say hey black girl Lord...*”
3. “...*specially did not admire black skinned black women...*”

So, the negative adjective, *black* has been used to indicate that how people discouraged the woman who has tanned complexion. Walker used this adjective to show the prejudiced nature of man towards dark colored woman.

Rotten as Adjectives

The word *Rotten* has occurred with 6 frequency hits. The detailed analysis of the data showed that *rotten* as an adjective used by Alice Walker

in association with Celie who is the main character of the novel. She has been raped and beaten so many times that she has become a rotten girl who has no power to resist and to take step against her rapist who is her stepfather.

For example,

1. “...*She on the road somewhere for weeks at a time, come home with bleary eyes, rotten breath, overweight...*”

The concordance analysis of *rotten* revealed that after gone through the terrible circumstances of her life, Celie was helpless, hopeless and depressed. She considered herself as unpleasant, ugly and useless girl.

Bloody as an Adjective

In the corpus *bloody* has occurred 9 times. Alice Walker used a phrase to portray female character and her worth in this world, “*Womanhood is bloody and painful*”. This showed that how a female member is helpless and marginalized creature in this earth. Walker's tale utilizes winged animal and blood symbolism to recommend Celie's transformation not from human to subhuman, however from injured individual to craftsman courageous woman.

A progressively developed Celie utilized the shading of bloody red as a positive component in her life, and particularly sewing. Changing from the shade of torment to a shade of joy. For example, she sewed purple and red jeans for Sofia, blue and red jeans for Shug and even she painted her own room red and purple. The blood red color that marked Celie turned into a positive image of her aesthetic inventiveness, as opposed to a negative image of how she is accursed in ceaselessness by herded.

Ugly as an Adjective

The word *Ugly* has occurred 9 times in the corpus. Alice walker used an adjective “ugly” for Celie to present her appearance and inner condition. Her stepfather talked to Celie’s future husband in order to convince her to marry her and used an evaluative adjective *ugly* he said she is ugly however she can do hard work. Her father inculcates this fact of ugliness about her in her mind and she started believing in it. Therefore Celie is a lady who

trusts she is appalling, and she fixates that conviction on her obscurity. For example,

1. "...Don't love old dumb Celie, I said. She ugly and skinny..."
2. "...Hard, glittery, ugly metal the women..."
3. "...You black, you pore, you ugly you a woman..."

Thus, the analysis showed that woman herself considered herself as nasty and useless. She considered herself ugly physically as well as mentally that resulted in more wretched and miserable condition of woman.

Pitiful as Adjective

The word *pitiful* has occurred with 5 frequency hits. This adjective has also used to portray miserable and pathetic condition of female character, especially Celie.

For example,

1. "...Dear Celie, from a pitiful, cast out woman...."
2. "...Too sad a story to tell pitiful little growing girls..."

The overall analysis of the data through the lens of gynocriticism and corpus based techniques showed that in Alice Walker's novel *The Color Purple*, the female figure has been portrayed as the alone, dejected and miserable creature. Most of the times in the novel women has been portrayed in negative connotation but as the story progressed a woman helped another woman to fight for her rights and stand for herself in the male dominated society and then she became strong and confident.

Conclusion

The analysis of adjectives revealed that Alice Walker has showed the figure of woman as suppressed, alone and dejected, either positive or negative adjectives. Even where she has used adjectives with positive connotation ironically and sarcastically to portray the miserable condition of woman. However, as the story progressed she paid praise to the women's activists by depicting a lady who battles through affliction to stand up for herself against practically unimaginable chances. She pays tribute to the women empowerment by depicting a connection between two ladies who pursue their glad goals. She pays tribute to dark patriots by contradicting

imperialism, and to Pan Africanism by proposing that truly, without a doubt, a dark American does comprehend and identify with the predicament of her dark siblings and sisters a great many miles over the sea. Also, she includes a couple of different obeisance's-to profession disapproved of ladies in the characters of Mary Agnes and Shug, to conceived again male women's activists in the character of Albert, and to dark culture for the most part in the utilization of the blues and the society figure of speech.

In a nut shell, it can be said that in *The Color Purple*, Alice Walker portrayed the abuse, neglect, and oppression that a black woman had to face in the early twentieth century, but she also depicted that how a female must fight back for the self-esteem and confidence. *The Color Purple* is a story of continuous struggle for survival, growth and fight for basic human rights for woman.

Recommendations

In the light of current research, an extended research can be conducted by increasing the data. The study can be done on compare and contrast with other works of the same author or with different authors keeping in view the theoretical and methodological framework of the current study. Further in depth analysis through the lens of feminist literary criticism and feministic discourse analysis can be conducted by using corpus tools. Moreover, by combining gynocritical concept and corpus based methodology further detailed studies on woman literature can be conducted in the future.

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