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INFLUENCE OF NATURE ON HUCK IN MARK TWAIN'S
HUCKLEBERRY FINN

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ABSTRACT

This paper explores the influence of nature that serves the purpose of transforming psychology of Huck, who is a child protagonist in this novel which has been acknowledged all over the world and is also considered helpful in abolishing the slavery from the America. Slavery has been witnessed by the author during his childhood.

Key Words: Transformation, Development, Psychology, Nature, Influence and Environment

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Mark Twain is a very prolific writer. He contributes almost in every genre except drama. He served as an influence in American literature very much. He is so powerful and extempore in expressions which help him in catching American conscience in his works. By using realistic colloquial speech to reveal what America really is in his masterpiece *Huckleberry Finn*, has sky rocketed his reputation. It has inspired multiple interpretations. So it is also one of the reasons that it has really appealed to William Faulkner and Earnest Hemingway to call Mark Twain the father of American literature. Twain's realism tinged with humour is not merely a technique but, a way of speaking truth. He was the first author to come from the interior of the country, and captured its unique, humorous slang and iconoclasm. Maximum portion of the referred novel is set in the lap of nature. In *Huckleberry Finn*, Huck as a white boy, brought up in a countryside, where slaveholding system was a matter of course. Huck is influenced by the public view of racial prejudice and discrimination. Like the rest of society that surrounds him, he always derides, teases and deceives the blacks. He does not want to see black people as equal and he refers to Jim as merely a piece of property. Something wonderful occurs under the influence of nature that the raft journey takes him towards freedom and his growing process begins. During the process, Huck is tortured by the conflicts between the individual and the society, between the "sound heart and the deformed conscience". As an individual, Huck pursues the freedom; he is not going to subject to the conventions and restrains. As far as the issue of slavery, he sympathizes with Jim and he is brave to break the established law. Standing alone against the society is both challenging and painful. People have the tendency to be in the mainstream, following blindly what they are taught to believe in. However, Huck being as a child, his ideas conflict with the social conventions he dares to make his own decision. So under analysis this particular novel depicts that nature has been given due importance which has lead transformation to the

character like Huck. So directly or indirectly nature serves the same purpose to influence Huck and shapes him in its own way. So here influence of nature is responsible in moulding or transforming an individual in this particular novel. In the case of Huck his development consists of the establishment of his self-governing personality, his moral growth and the different social roles he plays. During the process of Huck's development, both the inner as well as outer influences play vital role in bringing out the naughtiness from him. Nature has done great job in transforming Huck. It is because, nature provided him pure and sweet environment for his augmentation. Nature clarifies and purifies his mind. It is without greed, deceit, hypocrisy and cruelty. The life on the river makes a clear contrast with the life on the bank. The raft is the symbol of freedom, and it takes Huck and his fellow Jim to freedom. The life on the raft represents harmony, tranquillity, friendship and freedom. By remaining in nature Huck gets highly acquainted with it. Compared with the tedious life in the civilized society, Huck thinks that "there wasn't home like a raft, after all. Other places do seem so cramped up and smothery, but a raft doesn't. You feel mighty free and easy and comfortable on a raft." (108) The raft is the home of Huck. He feels warmth and responsibility. This is a free life he pursues. What's more significant is that, when confronted with the dangers together with Jim, he makes friends with Jim and knows the real meaning of friendship. In pure nature, there is no slavery, no discrimination and bondage now. Huck now feels that there is no inequality between a white and black human being. Now nature has taught him to cooperate with fellow Jim to deal with the hardships. Nature has provided him the thought-provoking environment. Therefore the great pure nature clarifies Huck's conscience, which has been ill trained by the deceitful civilized world. The return to nature arouses his instincts of truthfulness which is also the slogan of Rousseau, Emerson and Wordsworth. When Huck and Jim face any trouble on the shores, they return to the river. The river not only serves as an association of adventure, but also symbolizes the freedom, equality and brotherhood that Huck and Jim are seeking. The river is calm and peaceful where Huck can return to examine any predicament he might find himself in. On the river, Huck is as free as wind. The floating on the river provides Huck with a healthy environment for his psychological transformation, and it records his outline of escalation. River is his destination, and only on river he can breathe the fresh air and enjoy freedom. The endlessly flowing river symbolizes a life journey. It brings up Huck, and his thought elevates. He began to grow into an independent youth from a naughty child. The civilized nature endows Huck with instinct of pursuing freedom and justice. It also trains in forming his sound heart and mind. As a homeless child, nature is Huck's beloved home, and it is like a mother caring for Huck. In the lap of nature, Huck comes into real human being and his psychological transformation occurs healthily under its influence. Thus Influence of nature plays a pivotal role in transforming psychology of Huck and bonding him to his fellow Jim. In their relationship we find care, sweetness and dedication in its bloom. There is no doubt that Jim is not as clever and intelligent as Huck, but he is sincere, trustworthy, and honest. He is always ready to help others. Such good qualities enable Jim to be an encouraging guide of Huck. He teaches Huck what a friend means and what loyalty is. Jim's sincerity is established in quite a lot of ways. The most persuasive example is his joy at seeing Huck alive again after the fog separates them. Jim gets upset with Huck for tricking him into believing it was all a dream in particular because he has invested a great deal of emotional content into the journey. It also starts to become obvious that Jim would be willing to sacrifice a great deal to make it certain that Huck is safe. Huck is now willing to sacrifice part of his life to ensure Jim's wellbeing and thus leads Jim from one adventure to another, be it on the wrecked steamboat or during the fog. This is important because it is Huck's loyalty to Jim that is worthy to mention. Nature has made Huck so patient that age factor does not become hurdle for them. In chapter 20, of the novel it is Huck's duty to be on watch, but he was pretty sleepy, so Jim said he could stand the first half of it for Huck. In Huck's eyes, "he was always mighty good". (119) In addition to it Jim loves his family and he makes Huck find a family. When Jim discusses his family, Huck comments that he is surprised to find that Jim is almost as concerned about his family as any person should. This prevailing outlook, which often is invoked, to justify breaking up slave families, is an attitude that Huck is overcoming.

On the position of a friend, Jim tells Huck his feelings. Jim's self-esteem gains the return of Huck's respect. Lastly, his spirit of revolt arouses Huck's sense of justice. Jim is an image of rebellion. He is not subject

to the control of his owner. He wants to get the independence and liberate his family members. Although, from the perspective of white people, it is illegal and unacceptable for Jim to escape, his love for his family and his pursuit of freedom and happiness gets Huck to know that black people are also human beings, and they are equal to white people.

The above aspects apply for nature's role as transforming influence. Here nature not only acts as parents to Huck, but also provides Huck with the opportunity for moral growth and development. Its good qualities have a positive effect on Huck. As a child, Huck's moral ideology is not completely sound. He tends to be influenced by the nature. The corrupted society pains him. Nature as a moral influence on the way of Huck's growth can lead him to the right way. So Huck's sense of morality directly comes from Nature. He establishes intimate relationship, with nature sometimes like friend. The establishment of such relationship is on the pure and selfless basis. Nature's influence is like a driver on the journey of Huck's growth and makes Huck drive in the safe as well as in right direction. We readers are left to believe that Huck has truly found a guardian in the case of nature

CONCLUSION

On analysing we came to know that nature has such an influence on Huck in moulding him in such a way to prove as a selfless human being. In this situation his discriminatory attitude is replaced by moral values. The inculcation of these values in Huck seems the prime duty of nature.

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