

The Systematic Power of Anti-Black Racism in *Heart of Darkness*, *To Kill a Mocking Bird*, *The Underground Railroad* and *Beloved*

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Abstract

Racism plays a prominent role in maintaining the whites' dominance throughout history. Racism depends on power and difference to violate, exclude, and deprive the blacks of their rights and identity. This study focuses on the racist policy against black people in Joseph Conrad's *Heart of Darkness* (1899), Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mocking Bird* (1960), Tony Morrison's *Beloved* (1987), and Colson Whitehead's *The Underground Railroad* (2016). Some of these works are based on real stories and experiences and although their writers belong to different cultures, they share the perception of blacks' reality and shed light on racism and its pervasive effects. The study highlights the oppressive practices of the whites and the possibility of resistance by the blacks. It also shows how racism is institutional in the white western society and it develops mechanisms to guarantee its forever-lasting existence.

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