

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **CONCLUSION**

Having read this novel, I find that the author, Alice Walker, has successfully conveyed the theme, which is: 'oppression towards women which is embedded in the familial and marital institutions can only be ended when women adopt a new paradigm about women's values'.

The theme is revealed through the protagonist, Celie. In this story Celie is described as a passive and submissive woman. When Celie was 14 years old, she was raped by her stepfather, who also often beats her. Celie does not have the courage to tell anybody about what her father has done to her, because her mind has been molded about the dominating role of the father in the family.

After she gets married, her husband also beats her often, and Celie simply allows this to happen to her. Again, Celie does not have the courage to fight against her husband because she thinks that she must obey her husband at all times and it is fine if her husband beats her. Then, one day she meets Shug. Shug helps Celie realize that her husband does not have any right to beat her. She helps Celie to escape from the oppression, and suggests to her that she should leave her husband.

At the end of the story, after Celie comes to her realization, she can show her anger and she is brave to fight against her husband and leave him. Celie changes from a passive submissive woman into a brave woman. Celie also proves to her husband that she can be a successful woman without him; she opens her own business sewing pants, and she can finally live together with her sister and her children again.

I find that the theme is also related to feminism, especially when the novel talks about the oppressed woman, how she faces the oppression, and how she can finally find release from the oppression. The protagonist in the novel lives in a country which adopts the patriarchal system of culture. In the patriarchal system, men and women have been taught since childhood that men are stronger and more powerful than women. Because of this, a woman often passively accepts it when her husband beats her or is rude to her. For example, when Celie's husband beats her or treats her badly, Celie does not have any courage to fight him because she thinks that her husband has the right to do it. Celie does not realize that her husband does not have any right to treat her like that, or that she could report her husband to the police when her husband is violent.

I assume that no woman wants to be passively submissive; they just do not realize that they can have a better life and that all women can be successful if they have the courage to change their life if they realize that they have in fact experienced oppression. Celie is a good example for every woman who still lives under oppression. Therefore, I conclude that oppression towards women which is embedded in the familial and marital institutions can only end when women adopt a new paradigm about women's values.

After analyzing the novel, I find that this novel is an excellent work of Alice Walker because she has succeeded in portraying a woman who experiences oppression and how she can face it. Walker is also successful in describing how the protagonist changes from a submissive woman into a person who has courage to fight against her husband. This novel also gives a new vision to women that destiny lays in their hands, that no one can change the condition except women themselves. Moreover, I believe that every woman can overcome the oppression and they can also change their life, if they want to and if they have the courage to start a new life.

Alice Walker uses the first person point of view in her novel The Color Purple, with Celie as the narrator of the story. By using the protagonist as a narrator, it makes the novel easy to understand and it makes the readers truly feel what has happened to Celie. The readers know the events through Celie's perspective. That is why Celie's speeches are mostly used to reveal the theme of the novel. Walker also writes her novel in a Diary form. By using this form, it is easier for the reader to understand about Celie's feelings, and it makes the reader become sympathetic to her. The Diary also becomes a symbol of Celie's oppression. Diary becomes the symbol of how Celie cannot show her feelings openly, except in her Diary, although she suffers so much in her life. When Celie lives with her stepfather and her husband, Celie cannot show her feelings or utter what she wants to say. But by using a Diary, Celie can reveal all of her thoughts and feelings. Walker has skillfully created such an interesting story that it is worthwhile reading and analyzing this novel.