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## VOICE FOR VOICELESS: A SUBALTERN STUDY OF HARPER LEE'S *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

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### Abstract

This research article is focused on the voice for subaltern in Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*. This research paper reveals the fact that Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird* goes around the trial of black boy named Tom Robinson who is accused of raping a white woman, Atticus Finch defends him. Lee showed the prejudice of the society to focus on the role of intellectual to make the subaltern people conscious. So also, Lee shows race subalterns who are marginalized and suppressed. But, the elite intellectual speaks for the right and existence of suppressed subalterns, which gives the glimpse of hope in hopelessness. A docile and obedient subaltern boy changes into revolutionary figure and silently speaks for equal right. Lee also presents the same voice in this fiction.

**Keywords:** subaltern, voice for voiceless, race, otherness, hegemony, discrimination

### Introduction:

This research article is about the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee from the perspective of subaltern studies. African American writer Nelle Harper Lee tries to show the real story of the contemporary society through the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She has used the same name of the place where she was born, also has taken the same situation and circumstances of her life in the novel *To Kill a Mockingbird*. She is best for writing the Pulitzer prize winning, bestseller *To*

*Kill a Mockingbird*, her one and only novel. For most of Lee's life, her mother suffered from mental illness, rarely leaving the house. It has believed that she may have had bipolar disorder.

Atticus Finch, the protagonist of the novel belongs to elite family of Alabama. He attempts to get rid marginalized person like Tom Robinson who belongs to race and class subaltern, accused of raping Mayell Ewell. Finch is sympathetic towards a black boy, Tom, in particular and black community as a whole. Subalterns were marginalized in the white dominated society during Nineteenth-century, and they are unable to speak for themselves. Even more, they ignore their situation and do not produce single word against cruel governing power that has false assumption that they are superior, intellectual, independent and talent by birth and subalterns are inferior, dependent, emotional, and weak. All the subaltern people are hegemonized and taken it as their fate. For instance, Tom Robinson is innocent and he knows about the reality that he has not raped a white woman, Mayella Ewell, but he is unable to revolt and become a victim of ignorant white court and sentence to the death. In the surface level, it seems that the protagonist of the novel, Atticus Finch, has respect and love towards Tom Robinson but in deeper level, the writer attempts to show her empathy towards subalterns.

Yet the book's setting and characters are not the only aspects of the story shaped by events that occurred during Lee's childhood but also an outcome of her deeper psychic of her trauma. When Lee was five, nine young black men accused of raping two white women near Scottsboro of Alabama. After a series of lengthy, highly publicized, and often bitter trials, five of the nine men were sentenced to long prison terms. Many prominent lawyers and other American citizens saw the sentences as spurious and motivated only by racial prejudice. It was also suspected that the women who had accused the men were lying, and in appeal after appeal, their claims became more dubious.

The novel is set against the background of the 1930s Southern American life. It portrays the story of black who has accused of raping a white woman and a white lawyer attempt to defend him by heart. Unfortunately, the trial ends with a tragedy of accused black boy, Tom Robinson. The novel directly depicts the brutal social discrimination of the inferior people in the Southern American society. The white layer's deep support into the issue of black boy's case surely reveals a subaltern subject matter through the novel. A white layer, Atticus Finch positions himself to save the innocent black, Tom Robinson, though there was hatred of his own community members. It shows the consciousness of intellectual towards subalterns; it is their duty to make them aware about their status and position.

A false accusation of blame was sufficient to alien him in the white dominated society. Informed by a long existing racial domination of white people and demonization of the black races, Tom being a black is supposed to be submissive to the white-skinned people. Tom himself discloses, "One day Mayella asked me to

come inside the fence and bust up a chiffarobe for her" (101). But, he cannot see a white woman even with a straight and daring look. When such a situation happens, Tom's rumored attempt to rape a white woman made worse his situation. Atticus is there for him defending him to the best of abilities when no one stands by him in such situation. Description to the subalterns here is cultural and runs a very deep in the town of Maycom.

In the novel subaltern's inability is presented where black and white society exists. Mayella Ewell, a white woman waits for months for a chance to get some true affection. Being a Negro (subaltern), Tom cannot yield to Maella without getting the blame of her actions. At this situation, Tom does not dare to push her in order to get away by the desires. When he denies and dismisses any such possibility, he has accused of rape and left alone to struggle for justice. This is the bad fate of hypocrite society, Tom is a marginalized, and low classed Negro in white community, he found no voice for safety whatsoever; in Maycomb, townspeople always of a white person (so called elite), no matter how arguable.

Her own community member ridicules Scout, a little girl just because her father Atticus has appointed as lawyer to defend Tom, a Negro. The white community laughs at him by saying "Negro lover" because as educated and white man he is ready to help a poor, uneducated black boy. Moreover, the novel explores white people's feeling towards socially backward especially Negro. On the other hand, Atticus Finch is worried about the backward and dominated Negro community. He appoints Calpurnia as cook; she take cares his children after the death of his wife. The children, Scout and Jem have taken her as their mother, "She gave a dime to me and

dime to Jem... you are my company" (64). Scout finds the shadow of her mother in the face of Calpurnia because she has lost her mother at the age of two.

White society is badly polluted and hypocrite in general but particularly Finch and his children are there who are always in favor of the subaltern group of the black people. They are representative of white community, disobey the community construction of subaltern people as non-humans, "a mob always made up of people, no matter what. Mr Cunningham was part of a mob last night but he was still a man" (83). They love and perceive subalterns on the ground of human values and fight for social equality and justice. They represent love and humanity.

Around 1950s and 1960s discrimination and prejudice against subalterns especially black and poor people was very common in the southern status of America. The earning of high strata people was double then lowers one. This discrimination in earning and wage created the big gulf between subalterns and elite. To Kill a Mockingbird has been enormously popular with reading public raising such issues. It has much appreciated for its author's ability to weave together the vivid eccentric characters of a small town, the observation of a small but sensitive child and a plea for social justice. The novel has accumulated a variety of criticism since its publication in 1960. The novel has viewed from different perspectives. Many reviewers lauded the book as an insignificant expose of social reality of the South, and a powerful rendering of modern heroism.

Critic, Donald F. Roden, views the novel, as "a story of experience", analyses how children learn the evils of the adult world as they are about to enter it." (54)

They find the world of adults full of injustice. As he writes:

The theme of the novel may extend even .....about the adult world until finally each child has own reaction to it. (55)

Stephen Lubet in his attempt to reconstruct the major character, Atticus Finch, a lawyer, who despot being a white defends a black man, and a much adored figure for his belief in humanitarian causes, argues on "the possibility that Atticus Finch was not quite the heroic defender of an innocent man wrongly accused" (1340). Hegenerates several questions and sets them as premises of his arguments that has generated after a deep concentration on the trial scenes of the novel.

From the above -mentioned critics have focused their views on different aspects of the novel, but not on the voice for voiceless. So, this paper deals this novel from the perspective of subaltern.

### **Theoretical Framework: Subaltern Voice**

The term 'subaltern' refers to the marginalized or oppressed people, in terms of class, caste, age, religion, ethnicity and gender. The subalterns are thinking that they are marginalized and cannot speak though they are aware of the suppression or marginalization. They lack the language of their own, which can express their pain and sufferings. So, it is the duty of intellectuals to unite and make subaltern aware of freedom who are just serving the elite in the condition of history less, wordlessness and powerless.

The very word 'subaltern' was used in medieval period for the vassals and farmers. In 1700 too, the term 'subaltern' has used to denote the lower rank people in military because they are from peasant

family. By 1800, some intellectuals like writers and historians are dissatisfied on this trend and they have written novels, histories from the subalterns perspectives about military campaign in India and America. When Antonio Gramsci adopted the term 'subaltern' to refer those group who are 'othered' in any society, got an authentic voice to refer those groups "who are subject to the hegemony of the ruling classes" (76). Peasant, workers and other groups may fall under the term subalterns, who are denied access to hegemonic power. These subaltern classes have forced to stay away from the hegemonic power and suffer the exploitation of the ruling classes. The idea of Gramsci is appropriate here, it is accepted that subalterns are hegemonised and denied to speak against hegemonic power but it is easy to speak for powerful person in favor of subaltern people who are not mercy of power.

Subaltern Studies was started since 1970s to provide history and voice to the subaltern people. It encourages writing the historiography of the people who are ignored by the colonialist as well as bourgeois nationalists. It works to establish the subalterns as an autonomous body. Subaltern discipline is started from Asian country India and it questions the academic history in South Asian historiography by calling it "elite culture" resulted as "the consequences of British colonialism" (Guha VII).

Subaltern Studies can define as a theory of change, which sustains vigorous political commitment. Subaltern studies recently deals with the issue of representation, critical theory and cultural studies from subaltern politics. Gayatri Chakravorty Spivak writes, "The Subaltern Studies [...] perceive their task as making a theory of consciousness or culture rather than specifically a theory of change" (330). Spivak here is very much concerned

about consciousness and cultural dealing of the elite to the subaltern.

The goal of Subaltern Studies is to seek to rewrite and redraw the boundaries of history and recover the erased or missed history of marginalized people. Therefore, it focuses on the activities and the muted voice of the marginal's. The publication of books on Subaltern Studies itself proves as an important event in the writing of the history of subaltern. The subaltern people have their own identity, history and their own way to identify the culture and lifestyle. Despite the domination of the subaltern people by the elite group, they try to protest it. Subaltern Studies Group has tried their best to provide a platform to the dominated voice, which is supposed to get enough attention.

Subaltern Studies has become a global concern these days. It draws ideas from diverse discipline like history, culture, sociology, anthropology, literature and so on. Therefore, it is interdisciplinary in nature. It is a different way of writing historiography from the perspective of the marginalized mass. While writing, it has reinvented many terms, which are essential for such kind of historiography including subalternity itself. It is participated in contemporary critiques of history and nationalism. It deals with inferiority and dominating structures of every global society. The history of subaltern classes is a very complex issue, no doubt, as the history of dominant class.

There are two types of views related to the question that either the subaltern people can raise their voice by themselves or they need to be represented by others. There are some critics like Spivak who believes that the subaltern subjects have regulated to the position of subjects. They are made only the subjects. Therefore, they cannot speak. They have to be represented

by the elite intellectuals because only the intellectual elites can present interpretation of the subaltern voice filtered through the intellectual viewpoint. In another idea of Spivak subaltern cannot speak and elite intellectuals can represent them in filtered form. I argued that the intellectuals should create the platform to speak for subaltern not they present their voice in their own perception. If intellectuals try to present the voice of subaltern they will never come out from hegemony and scare forever.

The primary aim of Subaltern Studies is to understand the consciousness that formed and still forms political actions taken by the subaltern classes on their own, independently of any elite initiatives. It is only by giving this consciousness a central place in historical analysis that we see the subaltern as the history one lives out. In this way, subaltern consciousness has been always a critical point of subalternity. The peasants or subaltern groups tend to resist the elite domination. It comes as an invariant feature about subaltern group, which makes the discussion on the subaltern mentality fruitful. The subaltern people resisted the bourgeois nationalists as well as indigenous elite leaders by disobeying their orders. They would take part in the anti imperialist movements in their own traditionalist way. They would derive the terms from the idioms of their everyday life so that they could make these struggles their own. Hence, "defiance" is not the only characteristic behavior of the subaltern classes but also "submissiveness to authority" equally important feature of their behaviors.

The term 'subaltern' has been used to denote the people who are subordinate in terms of class, caste, gender, and office, or in any other way. The nature of power, exploitation and popular resistance in such a society is not therefore responsive to

adequate understanding in term of clarity is expressed in their inability to unite the people around themselves. For the subalterns, on the other hand, this very lack of clarity makes it important for us to realize the significance of every trace of their independent initiative, even though it remained fragmented in scale and distant from the core of articulate political society.

The way the Subaltern Study is marching ahead suggests that it is a rather creative as well as impressionable project. That is why it has been assimilating ideas from diverse disciplines: history, literature, anthropology, culture, sociology and so on. It is interdisciplinary. Tara Lal sherstha's reflection of the subaltern in literature is indeed appropriate in this regard, as for him, docile and silent 'subaltern speaks in literature.' It is a new way of writing historiography: a history from below. So, it has reinvented many terms including subalternity itself.

### **Textual Analysis: Voice for Voiceless Subaltern in Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird***

Subaltern refers to the people who are subjugated in terms of class, caste, age, religion, ethnicity and gender. Subalterns have huge power in history making but it has unknown for them. Harper Lee's novel *To Killed a Mockingbird* presents the voice for subalterns as the resistance of the own dominant class ideology. The protagonist of the novel, Atticus Finch raises the voice against white community. The consciousness for subaltern has manifested in different part of the novel.

Actually, subalterns have been treated as second beings or like animals. No love, affection, sympathy has shown towards subalterns in the contemporary society of nineteenth century South America. At this complicated time, Lee has raised the issue of subaltern where she

is able to give the message the intellectuals should speak for the subalterns who are really unknown for their rights and no world to revolt for dominating power. She has shown that all human beings are born with equal right it is the man who has made the boundaries between people thinking one is superior to the other. Harper Lee has also shown the humanitarian value, love and affection through Atticus Finch, the white lawyer who is the protagonist of the novel.

Discrimination and biasness are not the gifts by the god in the name of religion, culture, ethnic, social status and so on. Domination for the blacks is spread all over the American society during nineteenth century but this does not mean that there is no segregation before that but it persists in different latent form. Family, society, culture, law, religion made subaltern speechless, right-less and existence-less. Most of the so-called elite treat subalterns as their enemy and offer no opportunities in every field like education, law, religion, and other social issue. The novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* is about subalterns in its many forms. The most prominent case is the sympathy for blacks.

In Maycomb, like most small Southern town, has a problem with widespread discrimination toward the subaltern black people. The novel focuses the Finchs' family where Atticus is lawyer and Scout and Jem are the children. Atticus is defending a black man in court, something that is not often done in the South America due to elite-subaltern system.

, Finches family undergoes the severe subalterns' intolerance of many of the townspeople and the extreme ostracizing. As niggers ask him works for "that generates bitter experience to the children" (102). Mrs. Dubose calls back

people "trash" without exception. But Atticus wants the children to understand that courage has to do with the fight for one's personal goals, no matter what the odds are against achieving the goal. He wants to see that though many of the town peoples are ignorant and subalternist they have personal strengths that keep them from being all-bad and give them hope for becoming better. Further Atticus explains to Scout:

Nigger- lover is just one of those terms that do not mean anything- like snot nos. It is hard to explain- an ignorant, trashy person uses it when they think somebody is favoring Negroes over and above themselves. (108)

Nigger is social tag of contemporary American society. It symbolizes the backward, uncivilized black community in 1930s. Atticus Finch, the white lawyer is not biased in terms of status and color. He says, 'Nigger-lover' does not have any meaning. He makes his daughter understand that nigger is just ugly term to label somebody.

Subalterns are strong enough and they have played vital role in history making but they have not well known about it and the history has interpreted in favor of power holders. We see such atmosphere throughout the novel and unifying effect over the neighborhood during the presence of mad-dog. Mad dog is the deadly dangerous to the community. Calpurnia, a black woman, is the one to recognize the serious nature of the rabid dog's situation; she makes the right phone calls and runs onto warm neighbors. She spares many people from death. Atticus shoots to kill the dog. After the death of the dog, doors open one by one and the neighbors slowly

come jointly. This is only the situation where all low class and high class, blacks and white, elite and subalterns come together and make everyone equal for a moment. At this very situation too, Atticus's kill with gun is remarkable but Calpurnia's action and knowledge has ignored. This is an example of how the woman's contribution has made secondary in Maycomb of Southern America.

Subalterns are happy even in domination and marginalization because of solidarity within variety. They have long history of their own culture. Without any discrimination, they celebrate the culture and the life pattern. Calpurnia, a black woman is a cook in the white family. She does not have any racial differences within her. She takes Scout and Jem, the children of the house where she works, in the black church that offers the only real window into the life and culture of Maycomb's black community. At the church, another black woman tries for the rejection to the entrance of Scout and Jem in the church, which belongs to black community. Lula further says:

I want to know why you bringing white chillum to nigger church. When Lula came up the pathway towards us Calpurnia said, 'stop right here, Nigger' Lula stopped, but said, 'You aren't got no business bringing white chillum here. They got their church, they got our's. it is our church, ain't it , miss call? Calpurnia said, it is the same god, ain't it? (119)

Though Lula exposes the racial hatred and discrimination, the entire crowd gives the Finch children welcome except Lula. It seems unified in a sense of solidarity in

black community. They have the common feeling of humanity. In black community, the needs of the poorest member felt from everyone else in the group. For instance, everyone in the community sacrifices a little more to help Helen Robinson. Helen Robinson is the wife of Tom Robinson. But cruel society never eyes the positive aspects of subaltern and always mistreats them. Alexandra, sister of Atticus is always against black woman Calpurnia even she does good or not and she asked Atticus to avoid Calpurnia and let her to leave the house. Says:

Atticus, it's all right to be .....as well be tonight. We don't need her now. (137)

Here, Alexandra tries to persuade Atticus to make Calpurnia out of the house as she thinks, Calpurnia is showing wrong direction to the children as Jem and Scout went to the Church with Calpurnia and met the black people. Alexandra is aristocratic lady owning the Finch's landing tries to impose her own moral virtues to be accepted by Scout and Jem and wants to do the thing according to her ignoring Calpurnia's idea.

Subalterns have been victimized not only because of gender, class, race but also by race. Child also has mistreated in South American society. Dill, friend of Scout and Jem who comes to Maycomb in every summer seasons, is innocent and loving child. His father mistreats him. Dill recites this narrative: "having .....help, Dill worked himself free by pulling the chains from the wall." (77)

In spite of the presence of his mother he has suffered from the cruel behavior of his stepfather. By that, he goes off to Atticus in Maycomb. Atticus is only the person with good conscience for all people whether he is black or white, male

or female, young or child. Dill is scare to get back and ask "Mr Finch, don't tell Aunt Rachel, don't make me go back, please sir! I'll turn off again!" (78) This shows his suffering and pain. Atticus is kind hearted and always ready to help as:

"Nobody's about to make  
.....bad  
enough as it is." (79)

Dill, a child is treated badly from his family member, father and mother. He escapes and come to Maycomb from home and pleading with Atticus not to send him in his home. This shows the pathetic situation of child. Atticus humanly treats which has shared the emotion towards children.

Like other, subalterns have treated wrongly in the name of race or in the name of skin. Racism is the constructed form in the name of religion, culture, social status, age, gender and so on. One has not born racist but family, society, culture, law, religion made one racist and knows their limited areas or boundaries. As aunt Alexendra enquires with the children, "Are you from Calpurnia's church that day?" (114) They just get back form church with Cal. In nineteenth century, white treat blacks as their enemy and offer no opportunities to them. Whites think, blacks become their competitor if they are given opportunity. So they made boundaries to save from that fair. If the blacks try to cross the limited boundaries, they are severely punished or given fatal punishments in the name of violating that which is also made by the whites. No voice of black has listened. Blacks are depended on whites because they have no job opportunities as whites are in higher post and the lower post is given to them which need more physical labor and serve white without wage. Tom does the work

without any words when Mayell asks him to do.

White community is against his family. So, Scout asks him why he is defending a Negro when she is mocked by her friends. From the rumblings of the Robinson case, the mantra Atticus instills in his children is "hold your head high and keep those fists down. No matter what anybody says to you, don't you let' em get your goat?" She asks:

Do you defend niggers.  
Atticus? Of course I do.  
Don't say nigger, Scout.  
.....She says they're  
clean-living folks. (75)

In above lines Atticus easily accepts that he is defending a Negro, who is falsely accused of raping by a white woman. He taught his children moral lessons that all human beings are equal and do not accuse others without seeing the things from their point of view. Ignoring community's reaction against him and his family, he has taken the case of Negro. For him this case is one that touched him because not all blacks are bad or dishonest and not all whites are good. Despite he is a Negro and he is well living and respected in his society and does not want to harm anybody.

Tom Robinson's trial begins with the testimony of the Sherrif, Heck Tate. The Finch children, Jem and Scout find themselves welcomed and even thonred among blacks when Reverend Sykes invites them to the balcony, and chairs are vacated in the front raw on their behalf where black people sit. Reverend invites all of them "There's not a seat downstairs. Did you all recon it'll be all right if you all come to he balcony with me?"(164). The prosecution's attorney Mr. Glimer proceeds the cas and asks Heck Tate about the events surrounding Tom Robinson and Mr Ewell come to get him because "some

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Nigger'd raped his girls"(167). He says that he finds Mayella on the floor, very beaten up and that she says that Tom has taken advantages of her and beaten her. Atticus questions him next asking whether anyone calls a doctor or not we find Tate's response which is 'no' but Tate mentions about the entire right side of Miss Mayella's face which is bruised and sees all scratches all around her face.

Similarly, next witness is Mr Ewell, and claims that he hears Mayella screaming when he is coming in front the woods with kindling, and he runs to the highly offensive language pointing his at Tom Robinson "[...] I seen that black nigger yonder ruttin' on my Mayella" (173). This quote sets the court in fervor. Further, he explains about the scene and retorts to judge:

I run for Tate quick as I could I know who it was, all right, lived down yonder in that nigger-nest, passed the house every day judge I've asked this country for fifteen years to clean out that nest down yonder, they're dangerous to live around sides devaluin' my property. (175)

Here we find that Mr. Ewell's manner is of one who seems beyond the law. He has described as a bantam cock that struts around arrogantly, yet ridiculously and he tries to invoke the good humor of the audience, whines to the judge about being asked to prove his ability to write, and offends everyone with his language, putting he court into five minutes of uproar. This scene depicts him as brutal, insensitive and confident of his ability to get away with his perjury.

After Mr. Ewells, Ms. Mayella is next witness. Her life is one of miserable

poverty and deprivation, and she shows that she is accustomed to being treated without respect when she thinks Atticus is deliberately mocking her by calling her 'Miss'. She seems hopelessly immature for nineteen years old and her whiney or tearful attitude suggests a subtle sly manipulation of her audience. And her actions in the court seem motivated by cowardice: her initial reluctance to say Tom's name when asked to tell the court that her rapist is points toward her hesitancy to accuse him when he is innocent.

Her short comments about "what her pap do to her don't count," shows that he is probably abused in some way by her father" (179). Tom's crippled state is more than that, but also serves as an emblem for his disadvantage in life a black man. Tom's arm has injured in cotton fields. His legacy of slavery cripples Tom in the court and in his everyday life, just as his actual injury is a constant burden for him.

Black life is tough to be, by nature, inferior to white life, than his own, subverts everything that the town's social fabric is based upon. As Jem explains every class looks down upon the class below it, so black people should not feel pity for anyone. Atticus points out the case that comes down to the word of a black man against the word of the white people. The Ewell's case depends upon the jury's assumption that "all Negroes lie, that all Negroes are basically immoral beings that all negroes men are not to be trusted around our women, an assumption one associates with minds of caliber" (204). Atticus reminds that there are honest and dishonest black people just as there are honest and dishonest white people. He tells the jury that in court of law all men are equal. However, a court is, no better than the members of its jury, and he urges he jury to do their duty. Atticus appeals to the

jury's sense of dignity and in putting together the facts of the case, he stresses on the simplicity of the evidence and shows that the facts of the case, that facts point out towards Tom's innocence.

Atticus' treatment of Mayella tells us that in spite of being a victim of many cruelties, she has chosen cruelty upon Tom, and she must not excuse for this. He writes, "she was white and she tempted a .....on her afterwards" (204). Mayella wants to protect herself by placing her guilt onto Tom, knowing that her action will bring his death because the jury will believe her not him. Thus, she manipulates the unfairness of the society towards her own ends.

Another white character, Mr. Link Deas who is the master of Tom Robinson shows sympathy towards Tom and his family. Tom has worked eight years for him and given no chance to complain. He is sincere and faithful toward his work and a helpful person. Therefore, he says Tom Robinson is most trustable and honorable person. When Tom is crossed-examined by the opposite side saying things that are not true he would not sit quietly hearing all those words. So, he stands up from the audience and announced:"I just want the whole lot of you to know one thing right now. That boy's worked for me eight years an' I an't had a speck o' trouble outa him. Not a speck". (195) He is aware of the situation that Tom is not guilty but court treated him that he had done a big crime. His only crime is to help the white woman seeing her poor condition.

Later also, Mr. Link Deas provides the job for Helen, Tom's wife, because society avoid her and did not offer her work though he did not really need her. Mr Link is not only a good master but also a good person who goes against wrong things and work for fairness but also he is

unable to do anything for Tom to free him from false accusation. He said he felt right bad about the way things turned out. He also helped Helen when Ewell "chunked at her" while she tried to use the public road coming to work from her way. He threatens Bob Ewell:

Ewell? He called.

I know every last of you'd there a-layin' on the floor! ..... Mr. Link spat in the dust and walked home. (249)

Mr Link sees that Helen comes to work from wrong direction and wants to drag the reason but she denied. But later when he followed her, he knew the problem of Helen that it is Bob Ewell who makes the difficulties in her way to work. Then he yells Ewell not to disturb her because it is not his private way if he does so any more he put him in jail soon. She is not alone I am here to stand for her. In this way he proves his deep affection toward Tom's family and thinks that, it is his responsibility to do so for her.

In spite of the community's misbehavior toward Atticus and his family, they have sympathy with subalterns though discrimination and differences to subaltern prevailed in Alabama. The trend of cruel behavior toward subalterns (woman, black and children) block the sympathetic feelings because the power holders do not want to see the things from marginalized point of view, so they cannot understand the real situation, suffering, problem, feelings and wishes of subalterns. It has become the big disease of contemporary nineteenth century society of Southern America. At the same moment Lee shows one elite intellectual white character who is worried about voiceless and want to make them

aware in their right and speaks for subalterns.

Atticus defends the case of black, going against his community. He does not care what the people think about him and listens to his conscience. As an intellectual, he wants to make aware the subalterns like Dill, Tom, Cal in their rights and duties. He knows the truth of Tom and he wants that the people and the court hear it too. He tries his level best to defend Tom ignoring his community and professional rituals because he is touched physically and emotionally with the condition of Tom and his family. They are strong and hardworking in every part of the life but their silence blocks whole reality and their importance in history. So, intellectuals, educated people and good wishers should speak for them, awake them and create the platform for them in the mainstream.

However, generally, we think that the novel has written to show racial ambivalence, segregation, domination of subalterns but in the ground level, the writer shows love, support, and compassion for the dominated people in terms of gender, race, class, and age. In the contemporary society whites has taken as superior, intellectual, talent, moral, educated and honest but African American writer Lee shows the dark side of dominant white people by the face of Ewell family. Again, she highlights the conscience and responsible white who sees the society by humanitarian eyes and she makes feel her intellectual character, Atticus Finch that it is the duty of intellectuals who understand reality of marginalized and suppressed people and speaks for them.

### Conclusion

To sum up, Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* has presented the issue

of segregation and domination of subaltern, especially race subaltern in the American society. *To Kill a Mockingbird* is based on realism as it shows the picture of discrimination of subaltern prevailed in Alabama. During that period race as subaltern is taken as major issue, which spreads all over America. Racism is constructed form of society, which becomes the main cause of social disintegration and destruction. The legal system is also biased for whites and blacks. Because of prejudice, the jury convicts the subaltern boy who has not committed crime. The novel ends in tragedy of subaltern character, Tom Robinson, but it creates sympathy and empathy towards subaltern community.

However, the writer Harper Lee tries to arouse voice for subaltern, through the protagonist, Atticus Finch. Atticus attempts to defer the execution and defend Tom Robinson, a black, who has falsely charged of raping a white woman, Mayella Ewell, going against the deep-rooted racial discrimination and his own community who despise him. Even though, he knows that it is impossible to win the case like that "black-on-white sexual assault", for which death penalty has given directly. But he tries his level best to defense Tom and makes him aware of rights and existence. Even, he fails to free Tom from the accusation because it is a white case against black or elite case against subaltern. But, he raised the voice for voiceless.

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