



**SLAVERY, RACE, AND GENDER
DISCRIMINATION IN GERARD BUSH AND
CHRISTOPHER RENZ'S FILM SCRIPT
"ANTEBELLUM"**

A THESIS

**In Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for
S-1 Degree Majoring Literature in English Department,
Faculty of Humanities Diponegoro University**

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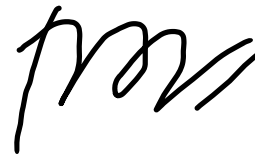
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PRONOUNCEMENT

I honestly state that this thesis is written by myself without taking any works from other researchers in any university, in diploma degree, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. I also ascertain that I do not take any material from other works except from the references mentioned.

Semarang, 11 July 2022

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Izaz Ahlanda Putra', written in a cursive style.

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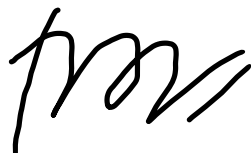
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Semarang, 11 July 2022



Izaz Ahlanda Putra

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ABSTRACT

This thesis analyzes the film script “Antebellum” written by Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz. The purpose of this thesis is to analyze the issue of slavery, race, and gender discrimination on the main character in the story. This study majorly aims at analyzing the social issues of the story through the perspective of the main protagonist, Veronica Henley. The writer uses sociology of literature as the research approach by using theories of slavery, race, and gender discrimination in writing this thesis. The results of the thesis indicate that the story of “Antebellum” covers the social issues of slavery, race, and gender discrimination. Slavery covers the issues of forced labor work, cruel restrictions and punishments for the slaves, malicious bond between slaves and slave masters, and arbitrary treatments from the extremist group called the Confederates. Race discrimination covers the issues of racial segregation, the act of silencing, and verbal abuse. Meanwhile, gender discrimination covers the issues of marginalization, sexual harassment, and sexual assault. The juxtaposition that the main character, Veronica Henley, is that she is a successful African-American woman in real-life by establishing a great career as a psychotherapist, a sociologist, and a renowned author; she has a luxurious lifestyle; and she lives happily with her family. However, when being enslaved in the plantation, she is treated inhumanely by the Confederates. The effect that derives from the juxtaposition which the main character experience is that she suffers many traumas, as she must deal with the horror of slavery and also other issues regarding race and gender discrimination.

Keywords: slavery, race discrimination, gender discrimination, juxtaposition

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of Study

Slavery has been the epicentrum of African-American history for the longest times. Africans were migrated by the English, Spanish and French colonies to United States of America to be their labor force in building also expanding their landmarks. The praxis of slavery in the United States of America begun specifically at the year of 1719 – when the French empire still reigned. Based on one of the chapters from the journal *Louisiana History*, the experience of African-American life in Louisiana (located in the southern region of United States of America) has the greatest number of initiatives, events, and movements of racial relations (Vincent. 2009:134).

In the core of its name, slavery has been the many sources of African-American oppression: from biological discriminations (e.g., racism) to institutional discriminations (e.g., inequality). Due to the rise of Black Lives Matter, a movement against African-American inequities and inequalities in the United States of America, more media have been trying to show the importance of acknowledging the legacy of Black people in hopes to educate the public masses. One of the examples that reflects the horror of slavery and describes the effects of race and gender discrimination is the film entitled “Antebellum” (2020). The term “antebellum” is an adjective that comes from the Latin words: *ante*, means before and *bellum*, means war (Merriam-Webster dictionary, last updated word 21

January, 2023). This term refers to the American Civil War period (1861-1865), especially its association to the history of American slavery.

The film script “Antebellum” is written by Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz. In larger context, it is a story about some kind of “performative” slavery that is orchestrated by an extremist group of White people called the Confederates, who abducts and enslaves specifically selected group of Black people that could potentially threatens them within the hierarchy system in real life. It could be implied from the story that all the Black people that got enslaved in the plantation are real-life people who are intentionally kidnapped by the Confederates because they could bring an unprecedented threat – the threat of overthrowing White people as the dominant race in the United States of America – and the extremist group must do anything to not let it happen. The screenwriters use the theme of slavery as a metaphor to expose the social issues upon marginalized people, in this case the discrimination on Black people. Even though the story is about slavery, the setting occurs in the 21st century, where it sets in an American Civil War re-enactment park in Louisiana. This could be counted as a major reason to why the screenwriters use the setting of place and time; it is because they want to emphasize on the emergence of violence on immigrants and racial discriminations in general. It is also worth noticing that the script mentions two names for the main character: Veronica Henley and Eden, both are the same person however one is a real name (Veronica Henley) and the other is an alias/slave name (Eden). To avoid any miscommunication, the writer of the thesis refers the main character with her real

name while analyzing the study, even though in the quotation it uses the alias name – this reason is to maintain the originality of the quotation.

The story focuses on the main protagonist of the story, Veronica Henley. She is a career woman who has a lovely family: her husband Nick and her daughter Kennedy. Veronica is about to go to Louisiana, promoting her book. Before she leaves, Veronica has a bizarre online meeting with a woman named Elizabeth, however, she immediately ends it. After her book presentation, Veronica goes to have dinner with her friends Dawn and Sarah. As they are finished with their dinner, and Veronica takes an *Uber* (an online taxi) separately from her friends, she realizes that the driver is Elizabeth and with the help of her husband, Jasper, they immediately abduct her. Veronica becomes a slave at a plantation in rural Louisiana with many other Black people that has no idea about the reason why they are abducted and then enslaved in there. The plantation is governed by the Confederate troops, whom the leader is General Dunn; and the plantation is being supervised by Lieutenant Jasper and his wife Elizabeth. Veronica must plan an escape without the Confederates knowing it. She also gets some help from another fellow slave, Eli, in executing the escape plan. Nevertheless, it is definitely not an easy journey to be able to get it done as there are many obstacles she must face first. In the end of the story, she manages to escape the plantation.

The importance of conducting this thesis, related to slavery, race, and gender discrimination, is to acknowledge the problematic legacy of Black people in the United States of America and shows the racial and gender discriminations which is rooted from the antebellum slavery era that is reflected in the story.

This study focuses on the topic of slavery, race, and gender discrimination from the perspective of the main character of the story, Veronica Henley.

1.2 Research Questions

The following are the research questions that correlate to the topic of the conducted thesis:

1. What is the portrayal of slavery, race, and gender discrimination based on the “Antebellum” film script by Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz’s?
2. What is the juxtaposition that the main character experience throughout the story of “Antebellum”?
3. How does that juxtaposition effects the main character throughout the story of “Antebellum”?

1.3 Objectives of the Research

The following are the objectives that answer the previous research questions:

1. To analyze the portrayal of slavery, race, and gender discrimination based on the *Antebellum* film script by Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz, are as follow:
 - 1.1.** Slavery covers the issues of forced labor work, cruel restrictions, and punishments for the slaves, malicious bond between slaves and slave masters, and arbitrary treatments from the group called the Confederates.
 - 1.2.** Race discrimination covers the issues of racial segregation, the act of silencing, and verbal abuse.
 - 1.3.** Gender discrimination covers the issues of marginalization, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

2. To analyze the juxtaposition that the main character, Veronica Henley, is that she is a successful African-American woman in real-life by establishing a great career as a psychotherapist, a sociologist, and a renowned author; she has a luxurious lifestyle; and she lives happily with her family. However, when being enslaved in the plantation, she is treated immorally by the Confederates: she must do labor work; she must serve under her master, General Dunn; and she must strictly obey the rules or she would be severely punished.
3. To analyze the effect that derives from the juxtaposition which the main character experience is that she suffers many traumas, as she must deal with the horror of slavery and also other issues such as race and gender discrimination.

1.4 Previous Studies

The following are series of previous studies that correlates to the conducted thesis.

The first previous study is an international article entitled “The Past and the Iceberg Black Horror Films, Then and Now.” This article was written by Clifford Thompson in 2021. It was one of articles published from Cineaste, Spring issue volume 46 number 2, and it has the aim to analyse the evolution of horror films that focuses on particular African-American (Black) narratives through the decades. In this article, several Black horror films are mentioned, including “Antebellum” (2020). It argues that the film tries to depict dark fantasies of modern Black people about slavery which seem becoming more into reality, as there are the increasing issues of hate crimes, immigration bans, White supremacy, etc.

The writer wants to emphasize on the social issues that the film “Antebellum” tries to handle, especially on the subject of slavery, race, and gender discriminations

that still may happen in real life. The writer also wants to explain how those social issues contrasts and affects the life of the main character, Veronica Henley, throughout the story.

The second previous study is an international article entitled “Representation of Racism in Antebellum Movie.” This study was conducted by Sakina Shepia Maharani, Ainal Mardiyah, Nur Fatihah, Arita Destianingsih, and Ari Satria in 2022. It was one of articles published from Journal of Pedagogy and Education Science (JPES) volume 01 number 01, and it has the aim to analyse the issue of racism on Black people in the film, “Antebellum” (2020). The authors of the articles use the semiotic approach of Roland Barthes to analyse the content of the film, and it can be inferred that the film tries to convey more on the act of raising awareness about self-conscious upon the oppression of marginalized people – in this case, Black people.

The writer wants to emphasize on the social issues that the film “Antebellum” tries to handle, especially on the subject of race discriminations other than racism, such as racial segregation, act of silencing, and verbal abuse (the using of slur).

The third previous study is an academic article entitled “Antebellum: Totalitarianism inside Weak Democracy.” This article was written by Domina Petric, MD, and it has the aim to explicitly analyse about the film’s message on totalitarianism. The author focuses on the socio-political domain of the story, where it is implied that the film uses the theme of slavery as metaphorical suggestion to show the savage system of socio-politics in terms of suppressing the marginalized people, specifically Black people. In the story, the ones who portray as the

totalitarians are the White-extremist group Confederate and the oppressed people are the Black people – who are selections of people that have major influence in real-life, then got kidnapped and forced to become slaves by the Confederates.

The writer wants to expose their totalitarian behaviour through the slavery method they apply in the main plot, however it is seen only in the social context.

The fourth previous study is a post-graduate thesis entitled “Sexual Violence in the Slaveholding Regimes of Louisiana and Texas: Patterns of Abuse in Black Testimony.” This study was conducted by Andrea Helen Livesey from The University of Liverpool in 2015. It has the aim to analyse the long history of sexual abuse that enslaved-African women experience back in the Southern antebellum period, mostly recorded in Louisiana and Texas.

The writer wants to focus on three cases of gender discriminations that the main character, Veronica Henley, has to experience in the story: marginalization, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

1.5 Scope of the Study

The writer limits the scope of the study into intrinsic and extrinsic analyses. The intrinsic analysis deals with the narrative aspects of drama: character, setting, and conflict. The extrinsic analysis focuses on the social issues about slavery, race, and gender discrimination which are reflected in the film script “Antebellum” written by Gerard Bush and Christopher Renz. It can be underlined that slavery, race, and gender discriminations in the story is very damaging to the African-American people, especially to the main character – Veronica Henley. The main character also struggles with the juxtaposition of being in two different situations: she is

essentially a successful Black woman in real-life, however she is miserable when she is held captive in the plantation as a slave. From her experience throughout the main plot, Veronica seems mentally affected by it.

1.6 Writing Organization

The following are the writing organization of the conducted thesis:

1. Chapter one contains background of study, previous studies, research problems, objectives of the study, scope of the study, research method and organization of the writing of the thesis.
2. Chapter two contains the theories, definitions, concepts and terms used to analyze the intrinsic elements of drama (1) character, (2) setting, and (3) conflict. Extrinsic aspects cover the theories of slavery, race, and gender discrimination that are implied in terms of analyzing the overall performance of the main protagonist in the film script “Antebellum”.
3. Chapter three contains analyses of intrinsic as well as the extrinsic aspects that focuses on slavery, race, and gender discrimination which are reflected in the film script “Antebellum”. The first analysis explains the issue of slavery, which contains: (1) forced labor work, (2) cruel restrictions and punishments, (3) malicious bond between slaves and the Confederates, and (4) arbitrary treatments. The second analysis explains the issue of race discrimination, which contains: (1) racial segregation, (2) restraint over freedom of speech, and (3) verbal abuse. The third analysis explains the issue of gender discrimination, which contains: (1) marginalization, (2) sexual assault, and (3) sexual assault.
4. Chapter four contains the summary of the analysis from previous chapter.

CHAPTER II

THEORY AND METHOD

2.1 Theoretical Framework

2.1.1 Intrinsic Aspect (Drama)

2.1.1.1 Character

Character is defined as the imaginary figure the writer creates in his/her works (DiYanni, 2001:55). Characters could be identified into two, main characters and secondary characters. A main character is often described as the most prominent and complex in the story, meanwhile a secondary character is described to have limited function to the story (Henkle, 1977:60). There are three dimensions in describing a person: physiology, sociology, and psychology. The first dimension is physiological, where a person's physical feature influences the fundamental understanding on how to evaluate that being. The second dimension is sociological, where a person is described from the environment that he/she lives. The third dimension is psychological, where someone is described through the mental/emotional aspect (Egri, 1923:33-34).

2.1.1.2 Setting

Setting is the background in which the characters live out their lives. Scenery or setting could be examined through exposition, where a character in the story is the determining point to decide which setting best fit the character's background (Egri, 1923:234-235). Setting could be classified into three: setting of places, setting of time and setting of atmospheres.

2.1.1.3 Conflict Theory

Conflict is a friction of desires, ideas, or actions from two opposing forces within a story (Holman, 1960:105). The role of conflict is as much important as other intrinsic aspects of narrative texts, where it constructs tension and driving the plot of the story. In addition to the theory, there are two types of conflict: internal and external conflict. Internal conflict is a situation where a character is conflicting with himself/herself, meanwhile external conflict is a situation where a character has a conflict with an individual outside his/her life or even larger forces, such as conflict against conflict against community/institutions, society and conflict against nature (Holman, 1960:105).

2.1.2 Extrinsic Aspect

2.1.2.1 Slavery

Slavery is essentially described by domination, even if a slave owner has been proven tolerant, his or her slave would still continue to be governed (Pettit, 1997:31-32). American slavery has three dimensions: racial, socio-political, and historiographical dimensions. In the racial dimension, it explains the impact of American slavery which could evoke the anti-racism movement in modern era. In the socio-political dimension, it is often associated to economy capitalism. In the historiographical dimension, it explains how historical evidence of slavery is prominent in exploring the daily lives, culture, and other events regarding the existence of African slaves in United States of America (Watkins, 2016:851-853).

2.1.2.2 Race Discrimination

Race discrimination is categorized as direct discrimination. Racial or ethnic discrimination is an act of oppression done by an individual or group of people because of their perceived race, color descent, or nationality (Fibbi, 2015:14). However, inequality may still occur even though equal treatment has been implemented (Fredman, 2011:177). Race discrimination usually happens to minor people. There is a term called systematic racism, a foundational; wide-in-scale; and inevitable racial oppression which is fabricated by White people (Caucasians) toward minor/non-White people in United States of America (Feagin and Elias, 2016:936).

2.1.2.2 Gender Discrimination

Gender discrimination is a form of mistreatment where an individual is unappreciated, overlooked or humiliated solely because of their sex (Salvini, 2014). However, there is a difference between sex and gender. Sex is a biological construction where two sexes exist: male and female. Meanwhile, gender is a constructed perception that comes from social-cultural aspect, where society tries to control on how men and women should appear and behave (which is to be both masculine and feminine) (Stoller, 1984:9). Gender discrimination is usually characterized as multiple discrimination or intersectionality (Khaitan, 2015:137). Intersectionality is a critical method of analyzing the reasons behind the marginalization of Black (or African descent) women because of not only their racial heritage, but also their gender or sex (Carbado and Crenshaw, 2013:1).

2.2 Research Method

2.2.1 Data and Data Source

Fundamentally, data sources are divided into two categories: primary and secondary data (Douglas, 2015). Primary data is the main source for the research and it is authentic and factual, such as books/novels, poems, films and other objects related to the conducted research itself, meanwhile secondary data is the supporting source which is usually the interpretation from the primary data, such as journals, theses, dissertations, and other academical references (Mesly, 2015:70). The writer uses the “Antebellum” film script as the primary data source, and the secondary data source comes from international journals and dissertations that are relevant to the topic of the conducted thesis.

2.2.2 Method of Collecting Data

2.2.2.1 Library Research

Library research is a method of searching information by examining specified sources that corresponds to the related topic or study, despite the information may unidentified from the original sources (George, 2008:1). The writer collects relevant data from international journals and dissertations which contributes to the implementation of the research.

2.2.3 Method of Analyzing Data

2.2.3.1 Sociology of Literature

Based on the background of the research, the writer uses sociology of literature as method of this thesis. Sociology of literature is a branch of sociology that focuses on contextual concept of literary works, where the characters, settings, and the

narrative storyline represents many complex layers of social aspects in society (Ahmadi, 2021:130). Sociology of literature is classified into three groups: sociology of the writer, sociology of literature, and sociology of the reader (Wallek and Warren, 1956:95). In writing this research thesis, the writer analyzes the social aspect related to slavery, race, and gender discrimination which is reflected in the “Antebellum” film script.

CHAPTER III

SLAVERY, RACE, AND GENDER DISCRIMINATION IN GERARD BUSH AND CHRISTOPHER RENZ'S FILM SCRIPT "ANTEBELLUM"

3.1.1 Intrinsic Aspects

3.1.1.1 Characterization of Veronica Henley

1. Veronica as an Upper-Class Woman

The main character of the story "Antebellum" is Veronica Henley. She is an African-American woman in her mid-thirties. Before the plantation incident, she establishes a good life with her husband and young daughter, Nick and Kennedy. She has a good appearance, and by wearing decent apparels compliments her effortless beauty more. The following passage describes Veronica's financially stable lifestyle as quoted.

Veronica makes her way through the airport. We can now fully see her perfectly tailored suit and appreciate her commanding presence juxtaposed with her effortless beauty ... Veronica files into the first-class line to board (Antebellum, 2020:50-51).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica is an upper-class woman. She is an independent woman who strive for success from her hardships in life. Her successful life is reflected by having luxury lifestyle, starting from her comfortable home space to the fashions and cosmetics that she uses on daily basis. Her life is turned upside down when she gets kidnapped and enslaved by the Confederates, as she must live in the lifestyle of a slave: lowly and inappropriate. This sudden shift creates a big shock as she is used to the wellness from her achievements, then change to being treated as a working animal in the plantation.

2. Veronica as a Successful Woman

Veronica is well-known as a sociologist and a book author. In the script, she is seen giving a TED Talk while promoting her book, “The Coping Persona”, in Louisiana. The following passage shows while Veronica is doing her book tour.

VERONICA HENLEY PHD, LICENSED PSYCHOTHERAPIST, Author “The Coping Persona”, Sociologist & CNN Contributor (Antebellum, 2020:42).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica is a successful woman. She is well-educated, which is shown in the quotation that she has master degree, and she has several careers: a psychotherapist, a sociologist, and an author. She opens a pathway to show that Black people in the United States of America people have been and still fighting for equality within the society, therefore she could use this power as an act of representing the unjustified voices of the minorities. Her profession as both a psychotherapist and a sociologist really help her to cope with the unfortunate situation in the plantation, as she is already trained herself to keep strong-minded and full of focus to be able to reach her goal – and her goal is to escape the plantation at the time when she is enslaved.

However, her life suddenly turns upside down. When Veronica is hold captive in the plantation as a slave by the Confederates, she faces many horrible challenges and in order to survive, she must “play the game” that they orchestrate by obeying them while also planning an escape in secret.

3. Veronica as a Slave

Veronica must deal with the horrible condition where she is forced to become a slave. Her days in the plantation is excruciating, she is forced to work day and night while being strictly overwatched by the Confederate troops. Her lifestyle also

changes from good to worse. As a slave, she is given with limited facilitation that a slave supposed to have: from a small cabin to shelter to worn-off clothes that she must wear every day. The following passage proves that Veronica is struggling as a slave, which could be seen as a regression for the character.

Eden can be seen in her tattered, soiled dress, hair pressed back, skin clean — she is preparing the cabin for HIM’s imminent arrival (Antebellum, 2020:15).

From the quotation above, Veronica is stripped away from her comfortable life to be a slave for some extremist group of White people called the Confederates. Throughout the main event of the story, she cannot feel any good treatment like before her time in the plantation. Her status, career, and power influence are useless while being enslaved. Her family and friends cannot help her – even the other African slaves could not be able to be a major help to execute her escape plan (besides a male slave named Eli). She copes with herself most times, and this leads to the growing frustration she faces as the plot progresses. However, it does not affect her determination to reach her goal: escape the plantation/re-enactment park and reunite with her family again in the real life.

3.1.1.2 Setting

3.1.1.2.1 Setting of Place

The story sets in two different locations in the United States of America. The first setting of place is at Atlanta, Georgia. This is where Veronica and her family live. In the script, it is not much described about their comfortable living space, however one particular information that clearly shows the analysed setting of place is Veronica’s home office. Because not many people have this type of room in their

house, this is the only evident of setting of place that best describes her as an upper-class woman. The following passage shows the discussed setting of place.

INT. VERONICA'S HOME OFFICE – MINUTES LATER

Just as she sits down, her phone lights up from a text. Veronica picks up her phone and quickly replies with a simple “Thx” text. (Antebellum, 2020:42).

The second setting of place is at a plantation in rural Louisiana. It is worth remembering that the actual existence of this particular setting is inside an American Civil War re-enactment park in 21st century, however it still preserves the 19th century plantation architecture. Based on the script, there are many facilitations provided by the Confederates for the slaves however they are far from decent living, one setting that accurately describes the awful condition is Veronica's cabin. Veronica is forced to live in slavery, which means equal to being imprisoned. She is stripped away from her lavishness and must live in a secluded life. The following passage describes the interior condition of Veronica's cabin in details.

INT: CABIN – LATE AFTERNOON

Eden is methodical in her preparation of the cabin. Setting the table just so... the bed made up to military standard. Eden then moves over to the door, vigorously slathering butter all over the door's hinges. Once finished, she gets up, catching her reflection in the non-glass mirror and caresses the small of her back. There is a knock at the door (Antebellum, 2020:12).

Based on the two previous evidences about the setting of places, it can be analysed that Veronica has to go through a traumatic experience that could change her life forever. When she lives in Atlanta, she seems to live happily with her lovely family, supportive friends, and great career. Unfortunately, her life is stolen from her when she is kidnapped and enslaved inside a plantation at a rural Louisiana. She must experience the terror that the Confederates do to her and she gradually succumbs to the madness.

3.1.1.2.2 Setting of Time

The actual setting of time is in the 21st century. In reality, Veronica Henley is a Black woman who lives in modern time where she is depicted as a successful career woman with fortunate life. She lives with her lovely family and has great friends that supports her. She has a tremendous career as a psychologist, a sociologist, and a renowned book author. However, her life shifts into nightmare when she is abducted and then forced to become a slave by the Confederates. She is enslaved for approximately six months by the time the story begins. She is treated like a farm animal, work from day to night. Not to mention the many mistreatments she receives from the extremist group.

3.1.1.2.2.1 Day

The first setting of time is at day time. Most times, the event occurs in day time, where activities are usually done. Based on the story, the slaves are working under the surveillance of the Confederates throughout the day, starting from harvesting cottons to doing daily tasks for them. The following passage shows that the slaves are picking cottons from the cotton fields at sunrise.

EXT. COTTON FIELDS – SUNRISE, NEXT DAY

The cavalry of boy soldiers makes their way past the cotton fields where the slaves are already fast at work liberating cotton from stalk. The stoic band of overseers, led by Jasper's eagle eye, stand guard. Eli walks among the rows collecting baskets – he looks to Eden for any sign, any update, but nothing (Antebellum, 2020:12).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that day time has prominent role to the progression of the story. The reason is because the slaves must be actively working even before the soldiers awake from their sleep. Through the perspective of Veronica, she must not only harvest cottons in the cotton field, but also do daily

labor work. It shows the extremely strict environment that the Confederates establish in order to intimidate the slaves and make them working tirelessly.

3.1.1.2.2.2 Night

The second setting of time is at night time. The same as the previous setting of time, most events occur in the night time as well. The writer will highlight one of the events that explains the setting of time based on the related analysis, that is the time when the Confederate soldiers comes back from the battlefield after their victory. The following passage shows the time when the Confederate soldiers march back from their triumphant battle.

EXT. PLANTATION – NIGHTFALL

As a soldier raises the Confederate flag, an impressive caravan of tall, thin torches lights up the night sky. It is the Confederates' triumphant return from the battlefield. The sound of boots marching, in concert with the collective baritone chant "Blood and Soil" provide an eerie, menacing soundtrack to the otherwise quiet plantation (Antebellum, 2020:22).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that night time also has a prominent role to the progression of the story. The reason is because the slaves must be actively working from day/dawn to night. Through the perspective of Veronica, she must not only harvest cottons in the cotton field, but also do daily labor – in this case, she must also serve dinner for the Confederates. It shows the extremely strict environment that the Confederates establish in order to intimidate the slaves and make them work tirelessly.

3.1.1.3 Conflict

3.1.1.3.1 Internal Conflict

The main character – Veronica Henley or Eden – is struggling with her inner self. She has an internal conflict where she must cope with her growing frustration, sadness, and eventually fear. One time, a young slave named Julia confronts Veronica to help her escape the plantation, however, Veronica cannot risk her escape plan also life, thus she convinces Julia to be patient. Unfortunately, Julia's recklessness defeat Veronica's argument. The following passage describes the aftermath of their argument, where Veronica becomes frustrated.

Eden stands back up expressionless; placing her hands on her face in thought, inhaling, exhaling. Then suddenly, with one violent motion, she swats away all the tin plates, candles and cups from the table, clearly frustrated, she pounds her forehead with the palms of her hands (Antebellum, 2020:21).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica has reached the point of devastation. The reason it happens because she is conflicted with the situation where on the one side, she desperately wants to escape with other slaves however, on the other side, she cannot be reckless with her decision or it would end in disaster – not to mention the unexpected situations ahead of her plan. She is already in the state of frustration, and the issue about Julia makes her even devastated. In the end, she finally relishes her anger by violently swatting away the utensils on the table. Her mental state gradually weakens from the overwhelming trauma she suffers from the horrible events at the plantation.

3.1.1.3.2 External Conflict

1. The conflict between Veronica and Elizabeth

The first conflict appears between Veronica and the lieutenant's wife, Elizabeth. Their conflict begins when Veronica meets Elizabeth in an online meeting. At first, Elizabeth admires Veronica's work on the topic of lack of inclusivity. However, Veronica disapprove Elizabeth's statement and tries to explain the misunderstanding about her field of work in detail. The following dialogue shows the conflict between Veronica and Elizabeth.

ELIZABETH: Oh, I saw you on one of those legacy media networks. It was a roundtable discussion on lack of "inclusion". Anyway, I found your position quite interesting, but it was more how you carried yourself that caught my attention.

VERONICA: I must politely disagree. My work focuses on the intersectionality of race, class and gender. I wrote "The Coping Persona" as a supportive tool for historically marginalized people. (Antebellum, 2020:44-45).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica has a contradictory relationship with Elizabeth. Veronica has an unpleasant feeling toward Elizabeth from the moment she feels the uneasiness of the conversation. The intention is to manipulate the rising tension and create an unexpected threat. It is worth noticing that this is the first step of Elizabeth's devious plan to eventually kidnap Veronica. Even though their conflict is only shown prior to the main event of the story, the lingering fear still fills the atmosphere as Elizabeth watch over the plantation with her husband, Lieutenant Jasper. In the end, their conflict is resolved when Veronica successfully defends herself and kills Elizabeth while trying to escape the plantation.

2. The conflict between Veronica and General Dunn

The second conflict appears between Veronica and general Dunn. Their conflict begins when Veronica fails in attempting to escape the plantation and General Dunn punish her by torturing her with a branding iron. Veronica tries to beg forgiveness because of her disobedient, however General Dunn does not respond and continues to interrogate her. The following dialogue shows the moment before the conflict between Veronica and general Dunn occurs.

HIM: ... Now. What's your name? Say it girl! What's your name?

WOMAN: Please! Stop!

HIM: What's your name, girl? Say it! I'm losing patience with you – say it!

WOMAN: Eden? My name is Eden? It's Eden! My name is Eden!

(Antebellum, 2020:8-9).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica has a contradictory relationship with General Dunn. Among many mistreatments she experiences, nothing compares to the horrible treatments she receives from him. If she disobeys her master, she will suffer from awful punishments. Veronica literally cannot do anything about it. She could only succumb to the wrong deeds that General Dunn has done to her. After all the mistreatments she has to endure throughout the main event of the story, the resolution of their conflict is when Veronica finally kills General Dunn while attempting to escape the plantation.

3. The conflict between Veronica and Lieutenant Jasper

The third conflict appears between Veronica and Lieutenant Jasper. Even though it is not clearly shown about the conflict between Veronica and Lieutenant Jasper, there is a little friction in their interaction. Their conflict begins when Lieutenant Jasper commands her to prepare herself before her master's arrival, General Dunn, in the evening, however Veronica is hesitant to answer him because

she is prohibited to speak without permission. The following dialogue shows the only conflict between Veronica and lieutenant Jasper.

JASPER: You have my permission to speak, girl? Do you understand me?

EDEN: (in a whisper) Yes.

JASPER: Yes, what?

EDEN: (hesitates) Yes, Sir.
(Antebellum, 2020:10-11).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica has a contradictory relationship with Lieutenant Jasper. Even though this small dialogue does not show a fully realized conflict, it clearly describes a very high tension between the two characters. The slaves are not supposed to do things without the permission from their supervisor, or else they will be punished. Veronica is shown to be hesitant to respond Lieutenant Jasper, because he does not give her permission yet. In the end, their conflict is resolved when Veronica traps Lieutenant Jasper and burn him alive in the burning shed while escaping from the plantation.

3.1.2 Extrinsic Aspects

3.1.2.1 Slavery

3.1.2.1.1 Forced Labor Work

Slavery is quintessentially a form of forced labor work. The story of “Antebellum” tries to create a tragic tale through the implementation of slavery with a twist in hope to appeal to modern audiences. For the full understating on the context, the story revolves around an African descent woman, Veronica Henley, who gets kidnapped then enslaved within an American Civil War re-enactment park by an extremist group called the Confederates. Veronica is described as a woman who is successful and a figure who campaigns against the oppression of Black people. This is the main reason why she, and other Black people that got enslaved

in the plantation, is enslaved by the group – the group believes that she could be a huge threat that could overthrow the domination of White people in the United States of America.

Veronica and many other African slaves in the plantation must harvest cottons from day to night. Extreme labor work makes the slaves growingly tired and frustrated, nevertheless they must obey the Confederates. The following passage shows the situation at the cotton field when the slaves are harvesting the cottons.

About a dozen or so slaves pepper the cotton fields of the plantation in absolute silence. We find Eden among the other slaves, fingers bloodied from liberating cotton from stalk (Antebellum, 2020:11).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica must suffer from the intense labor work when being enslaved in the plantation. It is shown that Veronica, and many other African slaves in the plantation, must pick out cottons until their hands bleed. Despite of that, they are prohibited to show both verbal and emotional expressions in the presence of their masters. Her struggle to keep working while being watched by armed soldiers makes a lingering feeling of fear and this is the main purpose of the Confederates from the start. They want the slaves to fear them, that way they could gain power and respect. This is a clear depiction of how slavery system is uncivilized and it tends to dehumanize a particular community, specifically for the people with the background of African origin in this particular case.

The juxtaposition based on the perspective of the main character, Veronica Henley, is that she is stripped away from her happy and liberated life to be tormented as a slave. She has to be separated from her family and friends - also her professional life that lift her up as an important figure in the society - just to suffer

as a slave in a plantation at rural Louisiana. Before Veronica got abducted and enslaved, she has a good life and manage to become an influential person that wants to defend marginalized people especially for the Black community. Then, all of a sudden, she becomes miserable as she is forced to serve under the vicious Confederates from day to night at a plantation area deep within an American Civil War re-enactment park.

Deriving from the analysis above, the possible effect from the juxtaposition Veronica experience throughout the story is that she feels devastated when in enslavement. The feeling of being forced as a slave is dreadful, because not only it is dehumanizing but it could risk also their lives. The work ethic that the Confederates imply to their slaves are extreme and cruel. When a slave is caught misbehaving in their presence, they will not hesitate to punish the slave savagely on the spot – this is a clear example to show domination from a superior group by suppressing the lower group directly through the act of disciplinary. Despite the extreme labors, Veronica manages to survive until she could escape the plantation.

3.1.2.1.2 Cruel Restrictions and Punishments

The story of “Antebellum” successfully reflects the horror of slavery by creating fear as a way of showing domination. The Confederates has established very tough restrictions for the slaves, to keep them under surveillance and work efficiently during daily activities. However, if a slave violates the restrictions, a brutal punishment awaits. It clearly explains why they treat their slaves as malevolent as possible. Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned. She experiences a brutal punishment once, where she gets caught

attempting to escape the plantation. Later, she receives a brutal consequence from her master, General Dunn. The following passage shows the situation when Veronica receives a punishment after she fails to attempt on escaping the plantation.

... Eden squirms, trying to locate her tormentor but it's no use. HIM lands the branding iron just at the small of her back – the skin sizzles as Eden's guttural scream pierces the air (Antebellum, 2020:8-9).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica has to succumb the brutality of the Confederates. In the film script, the punishments depend on the master's decision and those punishments could happen spontaneously. Without that acknowledgement, the slaves may often be seen fearful and devastated toward the Confederate adjutants – including the main character, Veronica. The only possible way to remain safe is to obey. Veronica once fails in attempt to escape the plantation. Thus, she must suffer the consequence from her master as she is stamped with a hot branding iron onto her back torso. The suspenseful description of that situation shows how serious and severe the effect of slavery to the oppressed people.

In this case, the juxtaposition that the main character experience is about the system of slavery that could leave a possible life-long trauma for the people who involves with it – this is directed to the marginalized people, specifically the African descent people whom struggles the most with their past on slavery. Veronica has to accept the painful truth because of the past of Black people with enslavement. Before the plantation incident, she is seen never encounter any savage treatments from people as she is in an environment that any form of discrimination or oppression will be judged no matter the gender, race, nationality, religion, etc. During her time in the plantation, the condition is opposite. Veronica does not feel safe under the constitution of the Confederates because they create rules to

fundamentally suppressed her and other African slaves in the plantation. The punishment leaves a painful scar to both of Veronica's physical body and mind.

The impact that affects Veronica Henley based on her time during the entirety of the story is that she is absolutely traumatized by the phenomenon. She is devastated by the condition she get entangled in it; however, she cannot do anything but to keep all her emotions to herself. This is the most logical reason for her to cope with the madness that she experiences because if she is seen overwhelmed or struggled by the situation at the plantation, she must take the consequence for her action. The Confederate troops are always ready to punish their misbehaving slaves. This portrayal implicates that the people who experience enslavement are highly risked to receive savage treatments, with strict regulations and cruel punishments as the way to maintain the slaves under the control of their masters. However, those punishments could not easily break her mentality as she is a strong-minded woman.

3.1.2.1.3 Malicious Bond between Slaves and the Confederates

Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. The most obvious – and malicious – type of slave-bond reflected in the story is the relationship between Veronica and the leader of the Confederates, General Dunn. A slave master needs to create a bond to govern over his/her slave. It is clearly shown that the Confederates build their bond over their slaves based on fear, from establishing an intoxicating work environment to ruthless restrictions. The following dialogue explains a glimpse of how deeply malicious is the bond between Veronica and General Dunn is.

HIM: Among my concubine, you are my greatest prize. The Northern aggressors will never take you away from me. You know that, don't you?

EDEN: Yes, Sir.

(Antebellum, 2020:16-17).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica is treated poorly at her time in the plantation. As a slave, she is governed by her master and she must serve him and his folks alike. Based on the film script, Veronica is “exclusively” bound to the leader of the Confederates named General Dunn and as the quotation suggests, they have a close relationship with each other. However, their relationship is not built out of mutual feelings or even respect, instead their relationship is made out of total dominance and greed. This type of bond could be inferred to a symbiosis called parasitism, a toxic bond between two beings where one being takes advantage the other being and could gradually harm it. That is why Veronica is afraid of her master toward the end of the story. This is because of not only General Dunn is a ruthless master, but he is also perverted man.

The juxtaposition based on the perspective of the main character, Veronica Henley, is that she must face terrible treatments while being enslaved inside the plantation. Prior the plantation incident, she feels supported by the people who follows her work and belief. Her husband, Nick, and her daughter, Kennedi, fully supports her as a career woman; a good wife, and a great mother for the family. She also has a terrific relationship with her friends. Basically, nobody governs her at that time. However, she is treated unjustly while being enslaved in the plantation. Veronica is controlled by her master, General Dunn, and must serve without resistance. In the film script, she has to make him dinner every time he visits her cabin at night. After she serves him meals, she is obliged to satisfy his pleasure by

having intercourse with him. This malicious bond ties her up like a puppet and General Dunn is the puppeteer who controls her.

Deriving from the analysis above, the possible effect from the juxtaposition Veronica experience throughout the story is that she feels tainted from the mistreatments that General Dunn has done. At that point, she only accepts her devastating fate because she feels like she could not escape the suffering. From many mistreatments that she receives from the Confederate troops, the most humiliating treatment she receives is from her master where she is only seen as his precious item that no one claim and then he could things he pleases to her. It is a clear depiction of how toxically the slave master treat his/her slave. Despite of the countless humiliations, Veronica never loses her determination to escape the plantation and, in the end, she manages to get away from the American Civil War re-enactment park with high hopes to be able to reunite with her family again.

3.1.2.1.4 Arbitrary Treatments

Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. In the film script, Veronica is often seen being ordered around by Lieutenant Jasper to complete a specific task from him. As the ones who have full control over the slaves, the Confederates make sure that they have to obey every command – even to the minor issues – also they tend to show arbitrary manner towards the slaves. It shows the awful nature of the Confederates. The following monologue explains the time when Veronica is ordered to go to Julia's cabin by Lieutenant Jasper with arbitrary tone of speech.

JASPER: Go fetch her. Right now, girl! ... With some pep in your step, girl!

Veronica begins a jog straight toward cabin row, somewhat visible from their position in the field (Antebellum, 2020:84-85).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica is treated poorly when being enslaved by the Confederates. The Confederates are essentially the ones who have higher authorities in their hands and with that power, they could simply order the slaves to do whatever they desire. It shows the reason why Veronica and the other African slaves in the plantation experience terrible treatments from their masters. This type of behaviour shows the cunning and ignorant nature of the group itself. As for Veronica, she has no choice but to obey their commands even if it does not necessarily have to be done.

In this case, the juxtaposition that the main character experience is about the way Veronica is treated by people throughout the story. Before she got abducted and enslaved, the people around her radiates positivity. She has her family that supports her, friends that makes her feel safe, accepted, and empowered; not to forget the people who believes in her work toward justice for the marginalized people. Meanwhile, in the plantation, she is often ridiculed by the Confederates. The rest of the African slaves there does not even dare to help each other because it would cost them to get beaten or worse – get them killed. It is not because they are self-centred people but it is because they cannot risk themselves to get hurt because of others' reckless acts to rebel against the troops. This is also what Veronica has in her mind, she could not simply risk her life even though she wishes to escape with her slave comrades as well which is why she tends to contemplate

with herself inside the cabin – the purpose is to cope with her spiralling emotions while strategically planning her escape.

The impact that affects Veronica Henley based on her time during the entirety of the story is that she experiences horrendous treatments from the whole Confederate troops, just as other African slaves in the plantation. As it is mentioned many times previously, the extremist group have full power upon the slaves and this is the reason why they can treat them whatever they want. This behaviour is intended to crush the slaves from both mental and physical capability. Even though Veronica is described as someone with strong physique, she could break down to tears from things that could harm her internal self - just as other people. This leads to her growing frustration. However, she manages to pick herself up emotionally and stay focus to execute her escape plan. In the end, she finally escapes the plantation with raging determination.

3.1.2.2 Race Discriminations

3.1.2.2.1 Racial Segregation

Racial segregation is one of many issues that emerges from the effect of slavery. In this particular matter, segregation is intentional to create a border between the African slaves and the slave masters. Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. Based on the story, the Confederates are seemingly depicted as White people and as for the slaves, they are depicted as the African people. The following passage shows a condition where Veronica and other slaves have to serve dinner for the Confederate soldiers and the matriarchs.

A dozen or so Confederate soldiers, none over 30, are seated at a communal table in the plantation's packed mess hall ... The slaves serve them, with faint, seemingly forced smiles and not so much of a whisper – Julia and Eden among them (Antebellum, 2020:22).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica feels segregated because of slavery. Veronica and the rest of the African slaves are only seen as servants to the Confederates, because they are powerless against them. The only possible way to avoid their savage treatment is to escape. However, even if they could escape the plantation, they would either be recaptured then punished by their masters or even executed. No matter what the circumstances, the slaves cannot escape from the grasp of the Confederates. Essentially, in this particular case, the issue of racial segregation comes from domination of the Confederates toward the African slaves.

In this case, the juxtaposition that the main character experience is about the slavery system that tends to separate people based on the color of their skin. Slavery use this praxis to set boundaries between the slave masters and the slaves, most apparent reason is to differentiate the established socio-economy classes. It is worth to notice that American slavery often relates to the slavery of African descent people by White people. Veronica is described as Black woman who is widely known for her contribution for the Black community. In the film script, she does seem to experience some treatment that could be categorized as racial segregation. For example, she once encountered a man in the airport who rudely implies that she does not deserve to be seated in the first-class airline. Meanwhile, when she is being enslaved, she receives many discriminations that actually against her belief in life. In the plantation, she receives more frontal and upsetting treatments as she is

enslaved and poorly treated by the extremist group. This clearly shows that Veronica feels even racially segregated than before, and she must endure it if she wants to survive.

The impact that affects Veronica Henley based on her time during the entirety of the story is that being treated differently based on her skin tone is excruciating. As mentioned above, she is abducted then enslaved because her presence in real-life could threaten the power status that White people have. While in the plantation, the Confederates could control her - or possibly eliminate her if necessary. Veronica feels trapped for something that she thinks are fair and humane. Because of her race, she feels like she is destined to be degraded by White people. However, it does not shake her belief to resonate the voice of justice for the marginalized people, especially Black people.

3.1.2.2.2 Act of Silencing

Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. There is one of unequal treatments that Veronica receives when being enslaved by the Confederates, and it is about the restraint over freedom of speech. Based on the film script, the slaves are prohibited to speak anything and if they do, they will receive ruthless punishment. Veronica is often find being silent while the Confederates are nearby, this proves how Veronica is afraid of expressing her feelings and must hide it in order to not get herself in trouble. The following dialogue shows Veronica is hesitant of answering Lieutenant Jasper.

JASPER: You have my permission to speak, girl? Do you understand me?
EDEN: (hesitates) Yes, Sir (Antebellum, 2020:3).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica is unable to freely speak because she is prohibited to speak by the Confederates, unless they permit her. Also, it is shown that Veronica is forced to keep silent through the entirety of her daily routine and when she is permitted to speak by Lieutenant Jasper, she could only answer to what he wants to hear. Most of the answer that she has to make is either an agreement or any expression that could satisfy him and any member of the Confederates. If she says the opposite of what they want, she will be threatened and even punished until she begs for mercy.

The juxtaposition based on the perspective of the main character, Veronica Henley, is that she is forced to remain silent by the Confederates in order to show that she has no power in the plantation. From Veronica's point of view, this type of inequality makes her incapable of defending herself from the mistreatments of the Confederates, both physically and even verbally. Before she got abducted and enslaved, she has the freedom to speak whatever she wants. Her words only speak the truth as she is described as an honest and caring person in the film script. She also uses her public speaking skill to forefront the issue about Black people discrimination. She gladly never gets badly credited for her work as shown in the film script. Until the Confederates kidnap her and make her one of their slaves. When she is enslaved in the plantation, she is silenced from everything that is against her rights and principles. It happens because she is controlled to not speak a single word while in the presence of the Confederates – she cannot even scream out loud. She could only speak or interact with other slaves freely while in her cabin.

Deriving from the analysis above, the possible effect from the juxtaposition Veronica experience throughout the story is that she is terribly uncomfortable with the rule that the Confederates made, especially the rule to not entirely speak while they around her. It reflects the inhumane treatments they create for the slaves in order to maintain power and status. She is basically forced to work and act like a robot, a lifeless and monotone being. Even though she has to fake some smiles if she is told to do it, she is broken and sad from the inside. Despite her devastation, Veronica tries to maintain her focus to achieve her goal – escape the plantation.

3.1.2.2.3 Verbal Abuse

Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. This section will explain a racial discrimination that Veronica receives when being enslaved by the Confederates, in the form of insult. This is only a minor type of racial discrimination that happens unexpectedly because it is a form of universal discrimination, which means it could happen anywhere at any time. At one point of the story, she is called as a *nigger* by general Dunn. The following monologue shows a moment where Veronica is humiliated and threatened by general Dunn because of her disobedience.

HIM: ... your *nigger* friends are dead because of you. You know that, right? (Antebellum, 2020:9).

From the quotation in the previous page, it can be analysed that Veronica is insulted because of her origin. Use the slur *nigger* to an African descent people is considered one of the most offensive acts of communication, especially if the

person is White. In the film script, the Confederates uses the term *nigger* as an act of showing intimidation over the slaves.

The juxtaposition based on the perspective of the main character, Veronica Henley, is that she must face the bitter truth that she has to endure many mistreatments from the Confederates when being enslaved in the plantation, including being disrespected by the term *nigger*. In reality, she never encounters this kind of situation. She happily lives her life without anyone blatantly tries to suppress her with verbal abuse (in this case, she never gets called the slur *nigger*). Her professional life seems to also not the type of environment where such thing easily happens, because she is surrounded by people who fully aware of the prohibited slur and they would not use the term in any possible way. However, it is possible for ignorant people to use the slur like the Confederates. It is a different experience when she is enslaved, where Veronica and other African slaves in the plantation are often being called with the slur by the Confederates.

Deriving from the analysis above, the possible effect from the juxtaposition Veronica experience throughout the story is that she feels humiliated during her time as a slave in the plantation. Even though this kind of verbal abuse is not quite alarming for her, it is not too painful compare to the many other discriminations that she faces throughout the story. Her experience while being enslaved will definitely leave big scars in her life. Despite that Veronica has a quite strong mentality, it is natural for her to feel torment because she is still a human being. However, her determination leads her to freedom then reunite with her family again.

3.1.2.3 Gender Discriminations

3.1.2.3.1 Marginalization

The significant evident of the analysis is how the film *Antebellum* portrays the issue of marginalization. Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. Every day, she must serve them from day to night. The following passage shows a condition where Veronica and other slaves have to harvest cottons under the heat of summer.

Eden continues liberating cotton from stalk, her bale brimming with cotton ... the cruel monotony of cotton picking is only amplified by Louisiana's Indian Summer – the heat stifling, stubborn; the sun wicked in its unrelenting scorching (Antebellum, 2020:11-12).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica experiences marginalization in the plantation. Veronica's experience when being enslaved clearly explains why she feels marginalized just as other African female slaves within the plantation. She is essentially penalized for being marginalized because of the controlling image that says African women are unfeminine. This stigma emerges due to the fact of their major involvement in labor work, which is often associated to the work only men could do.

In this case, the juxtaposition that the main character experience is about her existence that could harm her identity within the society. In the film script, exactly prior plantation incident, she is seen to establish a good career and people who follows her work seem to support her despite her being a Black woman. The 21st century setting of time appeal as an important element. Because in this period of time, feminism become widely supported and it is a reason why Veronica feels accepted for her contribution, especially to the marginalized women of color. Her

career field also becomes wider and more diverse in opportunities. There is a moment where she is criticized for her profession. For example, when Veronica is having an argument with a Hoover Institution representative in a CNN segment, she is heavily criticized over her work in furthering the voice of justice to the Black community. Other than that, she continues to be the messenger for the oppressed African-American people. Unfortunately, it does not last long as she is then abducted and must serve as a slave at a plantation inside the American Civil War re-enactment park. She must harvest cottons and do daily chores (such as laundry, cleaning, and cooking) for the Confederates. Her identity as a woman will not affect her service as a slave. With the stigma of both being a woman and an African, Veronica surely has to work even harder than any Black men or White people in general.

The impact that affects Veronica Henley based on her time during the entirety of the story is that she feels marginalized, by facing the consequence of both the social stigma of both a woman and an African. She has to endure the exhaustion of daily labor, not to mention the emotional burden of being enslaved. It implicates that no matter the situation that befalls her, Veronica is still not liberated by the misjudgement of social construction that tries to discriminate women – especially women from a different ethnical background. Despite this toxic stigma, she manages to overcome it and succeed to survive the madness within the plantation.

3.1.2.3.2 Sexual Harassment

Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. Because

of the bond between master and slave, Veronica only belongs to General Dunn and she must serve him everything he needs. Based on the film script, she is often seen being harassed by him when he comes to visit her at some nights. The following passage describes the sexual harassment that Veronica receives from General Dunn.

Him starts licking Eden's neck while sticking his dirty hands under her reeking and tattered dress (Antebellum, 2020:16).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica suffers from sexual harassment from General Dunn. In this case, Veronica has to succumb from sexual harassment from her master, one of them is being molested. Even though she feels humiliated and devastated by the condition, she is basically restrained to do anything or otherwise she would get severe punishment from General Dunn. In the film script, Veronica is seemingly terrified every time the general comes to visit her even though she already knows what will happen next.

In this case, the juxtaposition that the main character experience is that she faces terrible treatments that cost her dignity to get tainted. Veronica is an honourable and intelligent woman. Before she got abducted and then eventually become enslaved, she has perfect life and people respect also admire her. She dedicates herself to pave the way for equality and marks herself as influential figure for her community. And fortunately, in the film script, she is never explained to encounter sexual harassment while she is working. All is well until she is inside the plantation, where she is forced to become a servant for the Confederates and gets discriminated to satisfy the extremist group – especially from her master, General Dunn, who often sexually harassed her during his visit to her cabin. This is the first time that Veronica is shown to experience sexual discrimination, and that is when she

becomes a slave. She is forced to surrender herself to the terrible situation. In reality, she is a respectful as an influential Black woman, meanwhile she is disrespected as a Black female slave in the plantation.

Deriving from the analysis above, the possible effect from the juxtaposition Veronica experience throughout the story is that she feels humiliated by the horrible experience. With many sexual harassments that she experiences, Veronica grows depressed until she feels emotionally numb. It shows that no matter how sexual harassment could frequently occur, it is inevitable for the victim to feel scared because it is a traumatizing experience.

3.1.2.3.3 Sexual Assault

Veronica has to experience the horror of slavery when she gets kidnapped and imprisoned in a plantation by an extremist group called the Confederates. At some points of the event, Veronica has to succumb to the mistreatments of her master, General Dunn, where she is forced to please him while he visits her cabin during night time. The following passage indicates that Veronica has to endure sexual assault from her master, General Dunn.

**TIME PASSES, MAYBE AN HOUR
INT. CABIN IN BED. SAME NIGHT**

We see Eden's face on HIM's side shoulder – expressionless; vacant of emotion. They both lay silent for a moment. She succumbs to exhaustion, closing her eyes and pushing out a lonely tear (Antebellum, 2020:37).

From the quotation above, it can be analysed that Veronica has to face the pain and humiliation of sexual assault. In the film script, she is often forced to have intercourse by General Dunn. She could only surrender to the condition that she is entangled in, because she is only seen as property to him. She must put up with his despicable behavior even if it causes her pride to be damaged. Unfortunately, she

cannot allow herself to be vulnerable in front of her overseers or she will get punishments for her incompetence.

The juxtaposition based on the perspective of the main character, Veronica Henley, is that she faces troublesome moments during her time in the plantation than in her real-life. Before the plantation incident, she seems to have not experience of any kind of sexual discrimination. In the film script, the argument is supported with evidence that she lives happily with her family and also has a healthy lifestyle. She is also a loyal person. For example, when she leaves her family in Atlanta, she frequently messages her husband romantically. And fortunately, in the film script, she is never explained to encounter sexual harassment while she is working. However, everything becomes the opposite for her when she becomes a slave for the Confederates. She is treated as property to General Dunn, which means he has the authority to make her do whatever he pleases. She is both molested and forced to do intercourse with him. Veronica must succumb to the situation, even if it shatters her dignity in order to survive. As a slave, she must serve the Confederates obediently however it only causes her torment from the wrong deeds they have done to her when she is still in the plantation; however, as a woman, which is often overlooked as weak and dependent by society in general, she would be easily exposed to many discrimination – especially on the issue of sexual assault.

The impact that affects Veronica Henley based on her time during the entirety of the story is that she must experiences severe emotional breakdown because of the effect of being sexually assaulted. It is mentioned that she has been a slave for approximately 6 months, and this is the reason why she is already in the state of

numbness from all the mistreatments she receives. She is able to cope with that many savage treatments from the extremist group are somehow amazing yet tragic at the same time, because this could be a direct reference that shows the strength of the African slaves in order to survive the harshness of slavery days back in the antebellum period of American Civil War. Her determination and intelligent manages to become her strong will to survive. Eventually, her hardship is paid with the freedom she seeks as she escapes the wretched plantation to be able to reunite with her family once more.

CHAPTER IV

CONCLUSION

The story of “Antebellum” tells the terrible tale of slavery from the perspective of the main character, Veronica Henley. Before the plantation incident, Veronica is an African-American woman who works as a sociologist and a book author. She lives comfortably with her husband and daughter. However, everything changes when she is kidnapped and then enslaved by the Confederates. She is treated inhumanely and feels unsafe because of the way the extremist group sees her as inferior. The majority of the story takes place in the plantation at rural Louisiana. In the story, Veronica has conflicts with three characters: Elizabeth, Lieutenant Jasper and General Dunn.

It tries to convey the social issues of slavery, race, and gender discrimination. The main character experiences the hardship of slavery through forced labor work; the cruel restrictions and punishments; malicious slave-bond; arbitrary and vicious treatments by the Confederates. There are three prominent racial discriminations that the main character faces, that is, she is racially segregated, she is restraint over freedom of speech, and she is verbally abused (specifically on racial labelling) by the Confederates. Veronica also suffers from gender discrimination, such as marginalization, sexual harassment, and sexual assault.

The main character, Veronica Henley, struggles to survive when she is enslaved by the Confederates. She faces many tribulations at her time in the plantation, she is forced to obey and serve them with high level of tension. When

Veronica is under the pressure of enslavement, she has no access beyond the plantation because she is secluded to the outside world. Even if she could make an escape, it is impossible due to the fact that she and her fellow African slaves in the plantation is monitored by the soldiers through day and night. In relation to that matter, the punishments for a misbehaved slave are severely intolerable and they could end up being executed at the exact moment it happens. Veronica is often seen being mistreated by the Confederate adjutants there. She feels segregated because of her identity as an African descent woman; she is restrained to speak freely; and she is labelled as a *nigger* by them. Veronica also feels marginalized because of her status as a female and a slave that often contributes to the stereotype of being unfeminine. Not to mention the mistreatments, General Dunn, Veronica's master, has done terrible things to her – she is both sexually harassed and assaulted by him. At this point, she is traumatized by the horrible incident.

Throughout her journey in the main plot, Veronica experiences a tremendous yet terrible shift on her life. In reality, she is depicted as a successful Black woman in her career with lots of contribution on social justice. She is able to build a good life with her family and friends that encourage her to be the person that she becomes. However, there are some oppressive forces that tries to silence her from her ongoing campaign against oppression of African-Americans. The Confederates are among them. They abduct Veronica and then enslave her in a plantation at rural Louisiana. The reason is to not let her proceed her agenda and to “remind” her that they – and the rest of White people in the United States of America – are still the

superior race among others. Veronica suffers both physically and mentally when she is enslaved.

The effects Veronica feels from that experience are pain and trauma. She is situated in an unfortunate event. She never expects something very terrible could happen in her life. She feels like she relives the nightmare of her ancestors. When being enslaved in the plantation, Veronica faces many savage treatments from the Confederates; from the vicious labor work to the arbitrary behaviours of the extremist group. She also suffers other discriminations, specifically that are related to race and gender discrimination. With the number of mistreatments she receives, the growing pain and the spiralling emotions haunts her then eventually crushes her soul. However, the depression luckily never make Veronica let herself into the deep of despair as she manages to keep being strong-minded and conscious that someday, she will reunite with her family again by planning an escape from the plantation inside the American Civil War re-enactment park.

The research thesis opens a small pathway to acknowledge that men and women, specifically from the minor group of people, have long been the victim of many oppressions that co-exist within the society. Furthermore, related studies could be conducted to expand the topics with more discovery on other social issues and deeper explanations that the story of “Antebellum” has to offer.

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