Chapter – V

CONCLUSION

The Masses of people are rising up.

And wherever they are assembled….

The cry is always the same:

“We want to be free.”

(King. Jr., Martin Luther)

The position of blacks in the American society is different. They were the captive of human tendency and they fought for acceptance within the frame of the society. (qtd., West & Mooney, 86-88)

American literature has traveled long and extensively from its colonial days to the modern times. It has exhibited its multiple dimensions in every sphere. It has brought a new era in the arena of world literature. It is a path breaking achievement for a young nation in the literary world. It has carried the conservative past to the modern times with a telling impact on culture, tradition, society, humanity and modern technology.

Contributions from varied cultural backgrounds have given newness to the American literature that projects a panoramic view of the society. It has a promising touch on humanities with all its radiance and its benevolence. However, it cannot be denied that black men bore the burden of restructuring America. But the status restrictions reduced them into nothing and prevented them from participating as equals. It created needless barriers and irrational obstacles.
African American literature narrates the horrors, pain and the degradation the Blacks experienced throughout their lives. The literature revolves around racism, tradition, culture, slavery and freedom. Modern American literature has got a separate channel called Black Literature. Writing novels has become the trend of the black Americans to exhibit their pains of racism to the whole world. The history of denial of equal treatment in the society carved dissatisfaction, and frustration among the blacks. The representation of the vexed mind, traumatic psyche and problematic life seem to be the major concern of the American Literature. Autobiographies of the black Americans played a vital role in throwing light on the dark pages of the blacks.

The early Negro writings sought the social recognition for blacks. It highlighted the inequality faced by them. Their writings conveyed the ambition of black men, and women, their cry for freedom. Blacks have repeatedly questioned the society how to handle their claim in the society as blacks, as humans, as well as blacks in the United States. All their requests to the whites are to let them breathe when they are alive. While attempting to answer this, black writers tried to assert their identity. During the cultural emancipation of Harlem Renaissance, African American literature thrived with unprecedented number of literary works, poems and fictions. Harlem Renaissance was viewed as the rise of black self-consciousness, as James W Johnson remarks, “…great Mecca for the sight-seer, the pleasure-seekers, the curious, the adventurous, the enterprising, the ambitious, and the talented of the whole Negro world.” (Johnson, James Weldon, 635)

Writers like Weldon Johnson, Langston Hughes, Henry James, Mark Twain, Richard Wright and Ralph Ellison produced a number of literary works in the same wave lengths. Literature enlightens and enhances the complete meaning of human predicaments of life. It
facilitates the readers to learn about mankind, the past culture and the way of life. Many black eminent writers brought to light the dejected blacks’ aspirations and their dreams.

Richard echoes his experiences of alienation, exploitation and suppression and his urge to seek identity with a social conscience. It is based on a particular cultural, political and social milieu. Wright has exposed the human predicaments of his individualism through his characters, the black people in general. The African-American writers have successfully dealt with the themes of alienation, identity, insecurity in their novels. In the same context, Richard too has emerged as a novelist during the 1940s and exposed the reality by bringing out the hidden pain of the blacks. A societal alienation based on color had pushed the blacks backward in the American society, Wright has voiced for the blacks who were crucified for not their sin but for the sins of the whites. He has dealt with the characters and their sufferings that they underwent due to their color. They were segregated in every public places, the sign “For colored” board became a part of life of every blacks for generations together until great leaders like Abraham Lincoln, J.F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr took the initiatives of abolishing such heinous acts. The acceptance of segregation became so monotonous that it eventually made them to search involuntarily for the sign “For colored” boards, which could be considered as the success of the racist society over blacks. It became an accepted practice and blacks never dared to question the wisdom of this racial isolation. This disparity and the effect of alienation on the individual can be traced from the story ‘Down by the Riverside’, from Uncle Tom’s Children. The lovable husband’s efforts and an affectionate mother’s prayers to save a pregnant wife, at a time of her labor go in vain due to the ‘white-man-supreme’ attitude of the white soldiers of the Red Cross. They make the husband, Mann to wait for hours together at the shore to let him through the ‘for colored’ way into the labor ward of the hospital. By this time, the helpless black women, Lulu, wife of Mann breathes her last. Even then he is not allowed to mourn the death, but is called to work to get the other stranded whites ashore, who are more precious than the
blacks. At the end he too dies while rescuing. Similarly, the ill effects of alienation in a society can be traced through the novels of *Black Boy* and *Native Son* vividly. In *Black Boy*, the protagonist goes through harassment in multiple ways when he searches for employments and is placed in jobs. Identity gives recognition for a man for what he is. When a person is in need of recognition his existence becomes meaningless, therefore, it is natural that identity is crucial for any mankind. Blacks, who were suppressed in the society, longed to swim against the tides of over powering racial currents. While some of them tried to attain their identity by using the positive forces, like utilizing their creativity to sustain them in the society, others traveled through different channels by rebellious attitudes. Unfortunately, few ended up committing crimes to gain identity and release their pent-up emotions. When Bigger Thomas in *Native Son* killed Mary, it was not intentional. Only when the crime creates big commotion, his inner-self fells elated for having been identified. He feels as if he has achieved something, as a black, who was condemned by the society as a ‘yet another black.’ This incident makes him feel prominent. Tyree Tucker from *Long Dream* stands apart from the others. As a man with never ending spirits, he works hard to get an elevation in the society, though his activities are not morally sound and acceptable. But the white police make use of his service and at a time when trouble brews, they desert him to tend by himself, and also try to victimize him. Richard portrays Tyree as a responsible father, who wants his son to be an achiever. He teaches him how to handle the crisis and how to be resolute and self-determinant. Fishbelly, his son lives up to his expectations, even though Tyree does not live to witness it.

Richard throws several questions to the whites on the oppression, and exploitation by the dominant society, through his novel *Native Son*. The court room arguments offer a greater ideology on the views of the whites, and also the answers for the attitude of the blacks. Max, the lawyer of Bigger Thomas complains that the reason, why Bigger is accused of, is the creation and cause of the whites’ racist attitude. Hence he wants the white society to realize what they
have done than accusing the blacks for every crime. Richard received accolades and criticisms on this viewpoint. Education was seen as a tool for improvement and realization. Whites, understanding its significance, denied the educational and employment opportunities to blacks, the stepping stones to any individual’s growth.

Among the African American writers Richard Wright came into prominence, with his creative expression concerned with the social complexities of the United States and the reality of African Americans as oppressed minority. Wright wrote his reactions against the inadequacies of blacks in the American society. His writings gave a turning point to the cultural explosion of African American literature. It paved the way for new theories with the significant support of Harlem Renaissance, where the interest of many black intellectuals were patronized for the up-liftment of artists and for the effective social reforms.

Richard urged that the literature by black authors should reveal the social disenfranchisement of black people and achieve the goal of social equality. Stoneberg supports this by stating,

“Wright, as an African American writer, frustrated by the lack of social gains of the 1920s and 30s and influenced also by Marxism falls into this category of adopting naturalism in his novel Native Son, to reveal the social structures that disadvantages black people.” – says Michael Richard Stoneberg (Stoneberg M.R., 2, 3)

The main objective of this study is to examine the works of Richard Wright, on alienation, identity, suppression and oppression and exploitation, insecurity, the major predicaments of blacks in the matrix of inter and intra continental and racial setup. It echoes the background of the slavery days till the period of 1940s. The period of Richard’s novels clearly regard the cultural constraints and therefore the behaviors of his protagonists portray the entire
society in which they live in. He has demonstrated the contrasts of innocence, fear, love, anger and frustration. As a communist sympathizer in his early days, he supported the ideology of Communism in Native Son and fought for the equality of blacks in the color conscious white dominant society for their identity. In a similar fashion, Cone argues that “God is black” (Cone, James Hal, 112) in an effort to demonstrate the idea that God always identifies with politically oppressed people.

Afro-Americans have been denied power and privilege. The blacks were deprived to operate on equal terms with the whites. The social structure relied on the core of American racism. Most of African American writers were concerned with the need to express fundamental honesty. Particularly, Richard was more honest in accurate portrayal of the social forces and their effect on his characters and on humanity.

Richard’s forthright language unveils the social implications of being a black; further his work bears witness to the importance of the black imagination in shaping of African American as well as American literature. The power and influence of language in defining the destiny of a race or a nation is commented by Richard, “The first to cut their way into the dangerous jungle of ‘the enemy’s language,’ uprooting the taboo of silence around the entrapped Blacks… how it really feels to be black and asserting the creative terrain that they thereby gained as “a language within a language.”” (Wright, Julia 5)

Native Son as such was a highly influential book, which moved deeper into the harsh naturalism. Richard was the first black writer courageous enough to expose the harshness of veracity. His descriptions were on sociological revelations, on race relations brought up the individualized emotions and relationship of characters. Baldwin recognizes Wright’s influence in his works: “His work was an immense liberation and revelation for me. He became ally and my witness and alas! My father”. (Baldwin, James, 191)
Richard explored the ground realities of the societal life of blacks and revealed their disadvantages in the United States. It was his urge that Negro literature should have a positive effect on race relations and should act a reasoning factor behind the social developments and eliminate the negative attitude.

Richard argued on the racial problems in the United States. He illustrated, in his writings, not only of personal experience but also different experiences of black people. It mooted the high cultural value and bridged the gap between the races while arguing against the social discrimination. Richard Wright authored in his writing to assert the self as well as to search for identity and equality. He portrayed the self-determined blacks as his protagonists who expected to gain more privileges and opportunities, despite their backlash. The real purpose of revolt and rebellion was for social betterment and acceptance.

His realistic novels *Native Son* and *Black Boy* achieved in classifying the multi-facets of social-tragedy. His works inter-related the race, the impact of slavery, the politics of prejudice, racism, and examined the understanding of African-American, and depicted the individual behavior, and the social struggle. The society crippled them in every respect. As the story has a complex plot, Richard reveals the anxiety of the father and at the same time links the society to demonstrate the vulnerability that drags them to social anomalies. The use of colloquial language is a way of application where Richard tries to inter-relate the circumstances and reality.

John Reilly explored the social causation of America’s racial conditions revealed in Wright’s work, which shocked white readers. Kelley observes, “... when Wright challenges the racial discourse by tapping into an alternative racial discourse in his fiction, he presents us with the complexity of African-American subjectivity.” (Norman, Kelley, 1)

Indeed, works of Richard propagated his personal opinions that were clear, pragmatic and frank with his persuasive tone. It set down the authenticity without sugar-coating to disprove the
preconceived notion that everything was well with blacks. Richard’s influence had an impact on self-expression and self interpretation in analyzing the life of blacks and portraying their struggle and lives in the American society. His works aimed to prepare his community for human reforms and he has attempted to picture the efforts of the individual in gaining the human dignity, while he was pressed from all sides to project that a black to be considered more a human than a rebel.

His book, *Eight Men* comprising of eight short stories, illustrated a variety of social contexts and undercurrents that reflected in their lives. He explicitly carved the attitude and back-ground that determined their struggle. Richard’s character intensely portrayed the personal tragedy. He used different narratives to reveal the personal and emotional aspects with different dimensions and behavior. They reflected on a larger social issues at the same time enacted violence and trauma. The victims suffered from great psychological impact and racism of the dominant society. Another famous work, *Long Dream* was an expression of a father’s agony and his dream of a prospective future of his son. Perhaps the dream of the father is a dream of every black in the American society.

Fear, implanted in the minds of the blacks, leads them to develop submissiveness towards whites. The feeling of insecurity erupts in their minds, when they are deprived of education, job opportunities, and better housing than the ‘black belt’, the segregated area for the blacks. They had to live only in this area allotted by the whites.

*Native Son* depicts Bigger as the soft hearted human being and he holds the society responsible for Bigger’s actions. In *Black Boy* he explains the journey of a black from the Jim Crow South to American North. Richard, as a character in the novel, portrays the discrimination he faces in the North. The real scenario of life for the black does not change either in the South or in the North, Richard voices. Reilly states, “Wright makes Bigger’s voice the emblem of his
novel signifying that through the brilliant complex of linguistic acts we know as Native Son freedom also comes to black writers.” (Reilly, John M, 60)

*Native Son* is a classic example of a man being projected as a beast. It pictures a society which has a biased opinion on a race. It was subjected to several maltreatments culminated with punishments. Their color kept them segregated and they were degraded, and seen as unworthy. With this background, *Native Son* by Richard Wright served as an eye opener in the literary world. It contained the rawness and ruggedness of both the character, the circumstances, more precisely even the society. He projects an image through his characteristics of a society which never believe the innocence of blacks but brand them as evil because of their color. *Native Son* explains the raw truth of the urbanite life of a black, their living condition in a dingy house, lack of job, poor economical status and reveals their real place in the society. Richard succeeds in his motive of portraying what a black was in America.

The elaborative description of Bigger’s meeting with Mary Dalton and Jan Erlone reflects the mindset of a black. When he comes across the situation of change either he is unable to accept because of his mooring or the disbelief. Richard artistically explains the emotional turmoil of Bigger while travelling in the car with Mary and Jan and also in the restaurant. He expresses the behavior of a reluctant black who is afraid of the dominant white society to identify himself amongst the whites and also before his girl friend. It reveals the melodrama of a person’s suppressed emotions where he has no-say over the happenings which over takes his expressions. Killing Mary is an accident but in the eyes of white it becomes a murder that too when a black is caught with a murdered white woman, it becomes a rape and murder. The fear of rejection and suspicion makes him helpless and to get away from the harsh reality. Further Bigger commits another mistake by killing Bessie. Wright juxtaposes two circumstances of an accidental death of Mary, a white woman and the killing of Bessie, a black woman, and how
these two incidents are judged by the white society. Being a black man, Bigger Thomas himself is well aware of the reaction of the white society towards the murders committed by him. The alarming disparity proves his point that the death of a white woman is taken more seriously than the death of a black. Mehravand describes in his essay how Bigger’s action was complimented for killing a black, “Bigger experienced no qualms about murdering Bessie… he knew that to the police Bessie’s death was not important and they would not bother looking for her killer. Bigger had even heard that “white people felt good when one Negro killed another”.

(Mehra\textsuperscript{vand, Ahad, 61})

Being a Communist for some time, he also creates opportunity to explain its ideologies in the court room sequences. Max, his lawyer, argues that the crime of Bigger was a cumulative effect of the society at large than the individual. He tries to prove that it was the making of the society which degraded a race for generations together, who were enslaved in a pitiable condition; hence he holds the society as guilty. The drama ends with Bigger bidding an emotional adieu to his lawyer and he says “Tell Jan, hello!” Thus Bigger finishes a full circle in his life, from being projected as a beast to be a human.

*Black Boy* is an autobiography of Richard Wright. It is his portrayal of life in the South and North of America. It is a life of a black in the white dominated, ‘Jim Crow’ South. He unfolds the novel with his father’s presence in the family and what he thinks of him. He speaks of his mother as God-fearing and a timid black woman. The protagonist’s father abandons the family and leaves them at the mercy of poverty. This takes the hard toll on Richard’s mother, who unable to withstand the pressure, becomes sick. The main character explains his traumatic life running between the families for his living as well as his love towards reading. The story nicely projects what education means for the blacks and what sort of education for the blacks was determined by the Whites. Unable to cope with events in the South, Richard moves to the
North hoping to find prosperity and better living condition. He realizes the harshness of truth after reaching North where he finds racial segregation, job discrimination and white dominance that prevails in the so-called liberal North. His contemporaries, Maya Angelou, James Baldwin, and Zora Neale Hurston have depicted their life experiences through their autobiographies on the various scenarios of life and expressions of what the life gave them. Richard too has brought out the realism of his life to the readers. He proves a point that if the opportunity is given, blacks can also become great writers and achievers.

In projecting a thematic expression on this research, a recall of the entirety of the characters from the novels would enlighten further support in propagating the ideologies of Richard Wright. While the individual characters are critically analyzed in this research, a global picture of the story line would prevail and aid on the intention of this research. Bigger Thomas in Native Son, Mann from “Down by the Riverside”, Silas and Big Boy from Uncle Tom’s Children, Tyree Tucker and his son Fishbelly in Long Dream are the genre of people who have faced hardships while they longed for care and personal respect. Richard describes the family background of these characters intertwined with ordeal. While Bigger Thomas gives a new leverage of an appraisal in the society because of his conduct, he tracks a sudden lime light from the society whereas, Mann, Silas, and Big Boy in the novel Uncle Tom’s Children project an altogether different scenario. Mann and Silas face the wrath of the whites because of their struggle to save their woman, but under two different circumstances. Mann struggles to save the life of his wife Lulu and Silas takes revenge on the white who had stolen the modesty of his wife. Black Boy is altogether a different story. It has the reflections of Native Son like Bigger Thomas being surrounded by his friends, Big Boy has also got a big circle of friends who discuss about their lives as blacks and share their feelings about whites. But at the end, Bigger Thomas becomes the victim of the circumstances, whilst Big Boy runs off. All these stories have a common ending where the character becomes lonely. In Long Dream, Richard nicely describes a
prospective black family and a principled father who wants to bring his son as a notable and respectable man among the whites and the blacks. As the story progresses, Tyree demonstrates the very nature of being dynamic. His inclination to compromise anything for the sake of his son is enlightened by Richard in a different kind of family drama. As Tyree Tucker falls prey to the crooked deeds of the police, his son Fishbelly does everything to take revenge on them and he succeeds in his attempt silently. The story goes on a different lineage from the rest of Richard’s novels to prove that, even under these circumstances, where the blacks are strangled can still prove their existence.

As many African American writers attempted their stories through their autobiography, *Black Boy* depicted the life of Wright. He narrated his childhood days spent in hunger, the plight of his mother, the character of a careless father. In *Native Son* too Richard pictures a fatherless family and echoes his personal tragedy. *Long Dream* is an exception because Tyree Tucker not only loves his son as a good father but also he does everything to protect his son, which in real life Richard actually craved for.

The whites never felt racism as a cultural segregation. At the same time, the blacks never positioned themselves to protest such a treatment. The entire story of *Black Boy* (his autobiography) is traced with alienating the protagonists whenever he gets a chance of realizing his potentialities. *Native Son* on the other hand is the outcome of alienation and exploitation. Richard argues through his character Max, who pleads for the case of Bigger Thomas. The characters in the three different short stories from *Eight Men* reflect the ill effects of alienation and its psychological impact on blacks. Fred Daniels in “The Man Who Lived Underground”, alienates himself from the rest of the world and feels happy to live in the underground sewage. Richard rather connotes to the society that the stinky, dark, suffocating underworld is much
peaceful to someone who is always at the receiving end and who wants to be away from the society.

Olaf the white man, though in a far away shore reflects the evil of racism and white supremacy, when he thinks the Big Black Man as a monster. He wants the Big Black man to be away from him but could not help himself. Had he been part of a dominant white society, perhaps in the American soil, Olaf, no doubt would have alienated and suppressed the Big Black Man. The various aspects of identity crisis run through the novels of Richard Wright and are well documented. *Black Boy* unfolds every opportunity that comes across him to gain identity whereas the same opportunities suppress him. But through hard work the protagonist succeeds in his attempt to gain identity. Bigger Thomas becomes a negative character because of the living condition, his poverty, more often the color and finally the crime. Hence he feels he was only a tool in harming the white society and not the reason for such a commotion.

Dave Sanders, in the “Man who was Almost a Man”, symbolizes the cravings of an aspirant man who wants to establish his manhood in the white dominant milieu. But his stupidity draws him to near disaster. However, unable to face the punishment, inability to succeed in gaining identity, Dave runs away from the family. Almost all of his writings are indistinguishable in one aspect of expressing how the blacks are oppressed by the whites. Bigger Thomas feels desperate and suppressed on various grounds. His dreams and ambitions are suppressed when he goes for studies. His economic conditions remain suppressed as he is denied of any job. His career is suppressed because he is refused of suitable job but provided with a demeaning position. This attitude of the whites makes him helpless and he becomes frustrated. In the case of *Black Boy* too, Richard is deprived of his parental affection, forced to shift from place to place. The only solace he gets from reading his favorite books. Even when he goes in
search of jobs, he is forced to quit everywhere because the other white workers restrain him from learning the skills.

The Introductory Chapter elaborates on the growth of literature with an American identity. It narrates the importance of American literature in the world of literatures, being young how it has gained its prominence and acclimation. As African-American literature has a role in the development of American literature, an extensive study has been made to trace the arrival of the blacks, their status, their struggle as slaves, the resolve of blacks to gain a place in the society combined with the growth of Harlem Renaissance in detail. The emergence of ‘Harlem Renaissance’ kindled the literary quest in the minds of the Americans and brought a phenomenal growth with a new approach to cultural ideals of American society, its values, identity and the difference it has achieved from the main stream literature. The Black American literature was written to oppose racism and oppression in all its ramifications and also to gain self pride and uniqueness. The important milestones in the History of the Blacks and their achievements are projected. A period of almost three centuries has been covered as a curtain raiser in the African American history and the evolution of its literature. Subsequently, the importance of the Novelist “Richard Wright” is attempted in a comprehensive manner to project his life and the importance of his works in the literary arena and his accomplishments as a writer and also as a social reformer. The impact of Richard Wright on American literature and the contemporary culture has been radical and forth-right. The complexity of racism has been a matter of question in the United States and Richard shows the mindset of such a society. His works dramatize the psychological impact of race logic in African American society. The Introductory chapter has been completed with a mention of the approaches and the methodology followed together and undertaken to complete this study.
The Second Chapter with the title “Alienation” is on the meaning of alienation and the consequences of the scenario in greater society. The burden of feeling loneliness and meaninglessness of life are discussed in this chapter. Alienation is a traumatic experience. An in depth study has been made from the view point of Richard as a victim of alienation and his protagonists who were victimized at different stages and status of life. As sufferers of alienation, the blacks were entrapped under racism because blacks carried a big burden of slavery. Slavery was an institution of multi dimensional factors: it was commerce for some people, and it was economy for some others. But for the slaves, it was the life of no escape. This scenario is aptly described by Shelby as, “to be black was to be a victim; therefore not to be victim was not to be black”, (Shelby, Steel, 58).

Wright has signifiCantley documented the family drama of blacks who were the silent victims of alienation, who sought a face in the society, to be identified as an eligible individual, not to be segregated because of color. He has exposed the oppression forced by the whites how they were exploited and the circumstances led them to feel insecure. Each protagonist provides a classic example of self-affirmation and makes a better understanding of human relationships at different circumstances with compromises and sacrifices made willingly. The isolation from the main stream society has carved a deep dent in the souls of the blacks. The dominant society demark them to do what they are expected and how they are supposed to be. Their living condition being very poor, they are at the mercy of the white masters for every need. They lead a life with no answers and none to question what their life is. The prevalence of discrimination and disharmony is described in Native Son (the Court room scenes), Black Boy (Optical Stores), Long Dream (Thursdays earmarked as for ‘Colored Day’ for the blacks to visit the fair) Uncle Tom’s Children: Down by the River Side (death of Lulu) and Black Boy (Richard’s mother being taken through a ‘for colored’ entrance in the hospital) speak the enormity of alienation and bring out the shocking truth.
The third chapter “Identity Crisis” puts forth the expression of self-realization and self-consciousness of African Americans. This chapter has attempted in focusing the ideologies of identity and its psychological implication on the individual. Individual identity is the essence of human life. Living without identity is but a death. Blacks are suppressed and crushed until they become nothing. Due to the ill-treatment, they show their opposition by indulging in crimes such as murder, robbery or rape. Here it is evident that the dominant white society is the vicious and wicked force which pushes them to commit the crimes. “Life is to live and let live”. The Blacks try to break the barriers of racism in an attempt to shatter the hatred of whites to attain peace at least for their future generations. Characters like Silas from “Long Black Song: Uncle Tom’s Children”, Tyree from Long Dream, Richard himself from Black Boy have adorned with resolved fighting spirit. Their constant struggles in life prove their dictum that one is not failed until he stops his attempts in spite of the failures. Education, employment and recognition are the means of perfect freedom for any human being. Being aware of this, the prejudiced whites prevent the blacks from attaining this. This study has made an attempt to focus on the black’s various social forces and entanglement in life. Richard Wright brings out this crisis in a sarcastic manner through his characters Bigger Thomas, Mary Dalton and Jan Erlone. His autobiography, Black Boy projects how he toiled to find a place and how he was recognized. He narrates explicitly that on every occasion he was looked down for being a black. The color prejudice played the havoc for generations together on the life of Blacks. He argues about the devastation that racism forces on the self image of blacks. He shows the vulnerability of the poor blacks becoming a shade of evil. His story, Black Boy, was a living proof of the suffering and brutality that was common on Black Americans by whites in a time when racism was rampant.

For those who were oppressed by the racist policies, literature became a powerful tool of resistance. Fourth Chapter of the study, ‘Oppression and Suppression of Black People’ elaborates on the misery of being entangled by the white supremacy. African American used
literature as a means of conveying their dream and determination. They stood firm against their oppressors since they could put forth their views and feelings on the injustice they underwent.

Richard stands unique in his representation of the life of his protagonists and the story that revolves around them, when compared to the other writers like Toni Morrison, Maya Angelou, who portray the burden of slavery, the hell of miscegenation and the cry of black womanhood through the direct expression of their women characters. Richard tries to describe the suffering of women through the male protagonists. Wright’s characters, Bigger Thomas from *Native Son*, Richard himself in *Black Boy*, and Tyree Tucker in *Long Dream*; have been dealt with in a comprehensive manner. His protagonists can be divided into three different categories; primarily, a submissive and timid character like Fred Daniel from *The Man Who Lived Underground*. The second type like, Silas from *Long Black Song*, Mann from *Down from the Riverside* and Tyree Tucker from *Long Dream*, take law in their hands and project themselves as rebellious. Tyree though dies miserably he struggles till the end to prove himself worthy but succumbs to the wickedness of the whites. The third category is Richard himself from *Black Boy* who struggles and emerges victorious as a writer. Apart from this he becomes a creator of life into fictions. He has focused on the fear psychosis and psychological injury of Blacks.

Chapter V entitled ‘Exploitation and Insecurity’ discusses the economical deprivation as the culmination of poverty and hunger which lead to exploitation and fear of insecurity. For the dominant society, racism was the social justification for the act of economic exploitation.

Fear, sowed in the minds of the blacks, leads them to develop submissiveness towards whites. The feeling of insecurity erupts in their minds, when they are deprived of education, job opportunities, and better housing than the ‘black belt’, the segregated area for the blacks and they can live only in this area allotted by the whites. Being poor, the black man living in the ghetto, is
subjected to exploitation by non-ghetto businessmen. As a black, he lacks mobility to reside in other than the black ghettos.

Richard makes his characters to rebel against the white with all their limitations. The rebellious nature of these characters and their actions reflect the boiling inner fury and wrath of Richard’s mind set. As a socially conscious writer, Richard has directed his creative energy towards the black oppressed society for their unsolved problems with a view to find solution for predicaments. He has made the white society to turn their heads towards the ordeal of blacks. Some of his works like “White Man Listen” try to speak directly with the white man to express not only the agony of black men but also to change the attitude of whites towards blacks. Native Son, as the title says that the Black has got every right to live in this land. Black Boy metaphorically projects not a single black boy but the whole race. Long Dream symbolically laments that every black man’s dreams and desires are unfulfilled. Similarly Long Black Song cries over the darker side, the exploited life of the blacks. The blacks lose their land, money, wife and finally life by exploitation. “The Man Who Lived Underground” from Eight Men, describes the traumatized life of an innocent black, Fred Daniels who was forced to live under the sewage. It portrays that every black’s life is like sewage, with no fresh air to breathe. “Big Boy Leaves Home” from Uncle Tom’s Children, pitiable narrates the son of the soil leaves the land not for his crime but for the whites. The surface meaning may be Big Boy leaves his land, but indirectly it connotes that he was chased away. To put it in a nutshell, the study concentrates on the social and economical predicaments of blacks in the white dominant world.

The final chapter “Conclusion” recapitulates the history of American literature, the arrival of blacks, the significance of Harlem Renaissance, its importance in the growth of African-American writers and the progression in the literary arena. This chapter expresses the globalized view on the entirety of this study to make quick glance on the research work of the
scholar. An attempt has been made with an earnest desire to analyze the works of Richard Wright. The works of Wright were considered as unique because it represented the African-Americans who went through the pain and sufferings of slavery and discrimination. Blacks in general had to put up with violence and threats, to live in fear of their lives and not being able to achieve equal status. By the turn of the century, however, there were dramatic changes in the political scenario in America. Barack Obama becoming the President of United States and occupying the ‘White’ House and reaching the highest status have turned a new page in the political history of America. In a true sense of recognition and appreciation of the generations of blacks, the African-Americans, and as a tribute to their tenacity, their determination to stay free, and to be a part of the greater society of America, the verses of James Weldon Johnson’s song stand as proof of dreams of like-minded writers like Richard Wright and his contemporaries,

Lift Ev’ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev’ry voice and sing
Till earth and heaven ring.
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;
Let our rejoicing rise
High as the list’ning skies,
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us.
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,
Let us march on till victory is won.
Stony the road we trod,

Bitter the chast'ning rod.

Felt in the days when hope un born had dies;

Yet with a steady beat,

Have not our weary feet

Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?

We have come over a way that with tears has been watered,

We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,

Out from the gloomy past,

Till now we stand at last

Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.

God of weary years,

God of our silent tears,

Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;

Thou who has by Thy might

Led us into the light,

Keep us forever in the path, we pray.

Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where we met Thee,

Shadowed beneath Thy hand,

May we forever stand,

True to our God,

True to our native land.

(Words by Johnson, James Weldon) (Lomax, Louis .E. 49)
In recent decades, Blacks have made advancements in all social stratum. A further study is suggested on the social disparities that are emerging in an era of modernization. Generations of blacks have made tremendous contributions in health services, as nurses, housemaids, and matrons etc., but were seldom recognized properly. Hence it is suggested that these characters as depicted in the works of notable writers like Richard Wright and his contemporaries can be analyzed and studied. Wright has given importance to the male characters in his novels. Invariably, they play and undergo the strain of both the sexes, it is suggested that a comparative study can be made on his male characters with the female characters of other writers, which will bring academic value in literature. The scope of this study can be extended in the field of linguistics too as Richard Wright has used the native language of blacks in his works. The arguments, discussions and illustrations of chapters help the researcher to establish that Richard Wright is more a humanist than a writer, or a rebel, for his creations are intended for social, racial and individual betterment. He has without doubt championed for the cause of black American’s issues.