



**ACTS OF VIOLENCE AS REFLECTED IN BRUCE MCMARION
WRIGHT'S *THE AFRICAN AFFAIR*: THE STUDY OF POETRY BY
USING INTRINSIC APPROACH AND THEORY OF DISCRIMINATION**

A THESIS

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In English Department, Faculty of Humanities

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PRONOUNCEMENT

The writer states truthfully that this project is compiled by him without taking the results from other research in any university, in diploma, S-1, S-2, and S-3 degree. In addition, the writer ascertains that he does not take the material from other publications or someone's work except for the references mentioned in bibliography

Semarang, 25th July 2018

Hariyo Jati Waloya Darmo K

APPROVAL

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MOTTO AND DEDICATION

“If you want to rebel against society, don’t dull the blade”

- **Ian MacKaye**

“If you’re afraid to fail, then you’re probably going to fail”

- **Kobe Bryant**

“Losing is not in my vocabulary”

- **Ruud van Nistelrooy**

This thesis is dedicated to my beloved family and friends

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The writer realizes that this thesis is still far from being perfect. I will be glad to receive any constructive criticism and suggestions to make this thesis better. Finally the writer expects that this thesis will be useful to the readers.

Semarang, 25th July 2018

Hariyo Jati Waloya Darmo K

ABSTRACT

In this paper, the writer uses two elements to analyze this poem. They are intrinsic and extrinsic elements. In the intrinsic elements, the writer will analyze the diction, repetition, and imagery. After analyzing the intrinsic elements, the writer uses extrinsic approach which are discrimination and history of slavery to determine racial discrimination and its effects experienced by Blacks. In this analysis, it can be concluded that Bruce McMarion Wright is managed to express the injustice and reveal the dark past experience of his ancestors through this poem. The discrimination shows that Blacks' dreams and rights are always gone by the dominance of Whites.

Keywords : *Discrimination, slave, acts of violence, white people, black people*

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CHAPTER 1

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background Of the Study

Literary works have many forms to express and criticize the condition of society such as novels, short stories, poetry, plays, and so on. Poetry is the one of the most popular literary forms which are used by the writer to express their feelings and thoughts. The writer can express his thought about everything his mind by words, no matter other people do not like or not. Poetry expresses the sense and sound that contain the feeling of the writer. The feeling can be derived from his life experience, nature, or society. According to Perrine *“poetry might be defined as a kind of language that says more intensely than does ordinary language”* (1977: 3). Poetry has simple language, but it contains a lot of meaning. Poetry should express common human feeling and there should be no restriction in the expression of experiences through senses and sensibilities. Through poetry a person can deliver his feeling to other people without speaking.

In the world, the relationship among human races will lead a problem because they come from different nations and races. The discrimination towards colored people especially to Black people always exist until now. Pager and Sheperd state *“racial discrimination refers to unequal treatment of persons or groups on the basis of their race or ethnicity”* (2008:182). It is usually directed against a minority population, but may also be directed against majority population.

The discriminatory behaviors can lead into an act of violence which done by majority against minority or the other way around. Some definitions of racism also include discriminatory behaviors and beliefs based on cultural, national, ethnic, caste, or religious stereotypes.

Many Blacks were brought from Africa to America for being slaves for hundred of years. During the trip across the Atlantic Ocean, the Whites tortured the Blacks. At the beginning of their arrival, they are treated badly. They often receive rude and brutal treatment by Whites. They work without paying. They are depressed and do not have rights in their occupation and freedom. In short, they become an object of discrimination through acts of violence by the Whites.

Bruce McMarion Wright is the one of Black poets who express his idea through literary work. He expresses their ancestors suffering in his poem line by line. Based on the explanation above, the writer chooses a poem from Bruce McMarion Wright entitled *The African Affair*. Poetry can be studied from various aspects. Before reviewing other aspects, understanding the intrinsic elements in this poem will help in analyzing the poem as a whole.

1.2 Research Problem

The African Affair is a poem about discrimination towards Blacks and tells about how painful the torturing during the *Middle Passage* period. The writer found the problems to be studied. He has to analyze the term or the meaning of discrimination. Then he observes the kind of discrimination belong to the Blacks.

After observing the kind of discrimination, he examines how the author describe the Blacks' life that is reflected in his poem.

1.3 Objective of the Study

The main objective of the study is to understand and to analyze *The African Affair* by Bruce McMarion Wright. In order to understand and analyze the poem, the writer creates 3 points questions in the research problem, they are:

1. To analyze the intrinsic contained in Bruce McMarion Wright's *The African Affair*.
2. To describe the term of discrimination.
3. To understand the kind of discrimination through acts of violence that belong to the Blacks

1.4 Methods of the Study

In writing this paper, the writer uses contextual method coloborated with library research as the main source. The writer collects the data and information that are needed to analyze the objective of the study. Library research is used to obtain the data about the poem and theories that will be used in analyzing the poem. The data can be from written sources but also electronic sources such as e-book, e-article, and so on. The writer also uses internet to enhance the supporting data and references.

In using contextual method, the writer needs to analyze both intrinsic and extrinsic elements. The poem will be analyzed by using intrinsic and extrinsic

approach. Intrinsic approach is a theoretical approach that uses theories of literary study. It includes the analysis of diction, repetition, and imagery. After analyzing intrinsic aspect, the writer uses extrinsic approach which has relation to the poem. The writer uses theory of discrimination and history of black people coming to America and slavery in 15th century to identify discrimination experienced by Blacks.

1.5 Organization of the Paper

This paper contains five sections, they are:

1. CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

This chapter consists of five different points. The first is background of the study. It contains concise description about the object of the study. The second is research problem which contains the questions found by the writer. The third is the objective of the study which contain the purposes of the study. The fourth is method of the study which explain how the writer directing this study. The last is organization of the paper which describes the form of this study.

2. CHAPTER 2: AUTHOR AND HIS WORK

This chapter discusses the object of the study. It divides into two points which are the biography of the author and the poem which is the object of this study.

3. CHAPTER 3: LITERARY REVIEW

This chapter consists of all literature theories used by the writer in writing and organizing this study. There are two main aspect: they are intrinsic aspects and extrinsic aspects. The first theories which are used in intrinsic aspects are diction, repetition, and imagery. Then the theories used in extrinsic aspects are discrimination and history of slavery.

4. CHAPTER 4: DISCUSSION

This chapter consists of the analysis of the writer based on the object of the study. the intrinsic analysis contains the paraphrase and analysis of diction, repetition, and imagery. The extrinsic analysis contains the discussion of the meaning of slavery, discrimination, history of slavery, how Black's life during the slavery, how bad Black's suffer from torturing by using theory discrimination.

5. CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

The conclusion describes the result of the writer's study which the question in the objective of the study is answered.

CHAPTER 2

AUTHOR AND HIS WORK

2.1 Biography of the Poet

Bruce McMarion Wright was a jurist who served in the New York State Supreme Court. He was born in Princeton New Jersey 19 December 1918. He spent his adulthood in Harlem New York. In 1939 he won a scholarship in Princeton University but then being denied admission when the university learned that he was black. Finally he chose to become a doctor and registered at Lincoln University. In 1942 he graduated from college then entered the U.S. Army. He volunteered as a private in the 26th Infantry Regiment during World War II. After World War II, he met Senegalese poet Leopold Senghor, later he befriended with Langston Hughes. In 1944, Wright published his book of poetry entitled *From the Shaken Tower* which edited by Langston Hughes. Bruce M Wright attended Fordham Law School and obtained his law degree from New York Law School. After obtaining his law degree, he worked for the most eminent law firm in New York, Proskauer Rose, Goetz & Mendelsohn. In 1987, he wrote out his book *Black Robes, White Justice* which won American Book Award 1991. From 1970 to 1982, Wright worked as a criminal and civil lawyer. He retired from judicial career on the State Supreme Court in 1994. He suffered heart attack in 2000. At the age of 86, he died on March 24, 2005.

Biography of Bruce M Wright taken from

<http://biography.jrank.org/pages/2781/Wright-Bruce-McMarion.html>

2.2 The Poem

The African Affair

Black is what the prisons are,
The stagnant vortex of hours
Swept into totality,
Creeping in the perjured heart,
Bitter in the vulgar rhyme, 5
Bitter on the walls;

Black is where the devils dance
With time within
The creviced wall. Time pirouettes
A crippled orbit in a trance, 10
And crawls below, beneath the flesh
Where the darkness flows;

Black is where the deserts burn,
The Niger and Sassandra flow,
From where the Middle Passage went 15
Within the Continent of Night
From Cameroon's to Carisbrooke
And places conscience cannot go;

Black is where thatched temples burn
Incense to carved ebon-wood; 20
Where traders shape my father's pain,
His person and his place,
Among dead statues in a frieze,
In the spectrum of his race.

2.3 Paraphrase of the Poem

The author starts the poem in stanza 1 by stating “Black is what the prison are”. The prison is the representation of an entrapment and denial opportunities. The life of Blacks has no progress because the domination of Whites. Blacks tried to make a move but it means nothing because there are walls in front of them. In stanza 2, the author tells the ancient tradition of African natives. They usually gather and dance around the fire in front of their hut. Dancing is an ancient tradition embraced by native Africans. They create and develop their dance that become their identity. Further in the next stanza, the author writes the Niger and Sassandra flow. The slaves mostly are taken from villages on the fringers of Niger and Sassandra river. They will be used as slaves there. In the ship, they are treated badly. They are stuffed below the decks of the ship. They usually shackles together in pairs using chains or leg iron. The only way is to plunge into the sea, but soon they will surely die. In last stanza, the author tells that the Whites kidnapp Blacks and they burn their house. In stanza 4 line 3 explains the traders are responsible for his father or his race's pain. This incident certainly involves the internal emotions of the reader.

These white people have a kind of army whose job is to kidnap blacks. Blacks who have high physical shape, well-built, muscled and fairly healthy are more demanding. They have become a commodity that is potently contested by whites. They have a high selling price in the market. In kidnapping they often commit physical violence against blacks. They do it repeatedly over the hundred of times.

CHAPTER 3

LITERARY REVIEW

3.1 Intrinsic Elements

3.1.1 Diction

The poets have to be skillful in choosing words and mixing them to create a beautiful poem. Brooks and Warren state that “*diction is the choice of words in poetry or any other form of discourse*” (1938: 553). In poetry, diction becomes the main element because the readers can discover meaning, theme, and other intrinsic elements. Meanwhile Meyer states that “*poets are keenly aware of diction, their choice of words*” (2010: 375). Poetry is written by the poets to represent their thoughts, ideas, and feelings. When the poets want to express their thoughts or feelings, it is impossible for him to write in a long sentence, as Meyer states that “*the words in a poem must convey meanings gracefully and economically*” (2010: 375). By considering the words choice, it can steer the readers to carry that words into their imagination. The readers will also feel and experience what the poet feels and experiences. As a result, the readers can capture and determine what the poets want to say. Diction or word choice consists of two main aspects. They are denotation and connotation.

3.1.1.1 Types of Diction

3.1.1.1.1 Denotation

Denotations mean that the meaning of a word can be taken from dictionary and it does not have any other interpretation except from the dictionary. Further Meyer states “*denotations are the literal, dictionary meanings or meanings of word*” (2010: 377).

3.1.1.1.2 Connotations

Connotations refer to the emotional, psychological, or social overtones that words carry beyond their denotations. It is strengthened by Meyer that connotations derive from how the word has been used and the associations people make with it (2010: 378).

3.1.2 Repetition

Many poets use repetition in to create meaningful poem according to their reflection about a life around them. Repetition is the way to creating rhythm to emphasize an idea, as Holman states that *repetitions is a rhetorical device reiterating a word, or phrase, or rewording the same idea, to secure emphasis* (1972: 376). Repetition emphasizes to the reader whatever it is repeated. It can be a prominent and effective device in poetry. An example of repetition can be found on the last stanza of *Stopping by Woods on Snowy Evening* by Robert Frost (adapted from Lathem, 1972: 224)

And miles to go before I sleep,

And miles to go before I sleep.

At the end of the poem, Robert Frost repeats *and miles to go before I sleep*. It may indicate that he wants to enjoy something new and invent a new adventure in his life. On the other hand, it can be interpreted that he need deeper place for peace.

3.1.3 Imagery

In composing a poem, the poets use images to share their feeling and thoughts to the readers. According to Perrine, "*imagery may be defined as the representation through language of sense experience*" (1977: 54)

According to Perrine "*imagery can be divided into seven imageries, they are visual imagery, olfactory imagery, kinesthetic imagery, organic imagery, tactile imagery, auditory imagery, and gustatory imagery*" (1977: 54). By understanding imagery, the readers can feel and imagine the experience based on the actual situation that show in it.

In poetry, there are seven kinds of imagery that related to our body. They are visual imagery, tactile imagery, auditory imagery, gustatory imagery, olfactory imagery, organic imagery, and kinesthetic imagery. From the seven kinds of imagery mentioned before, the writer only concern four of them, they are visual imagery, olfactory imagery, kinesthetic imagery, and organic imagery.

3.1.3.1 Visual Imagery

Visual imagery is associated to sight. Visual imagery describes a setting's colors, size, shape, physical features that the readers detect with their eyes. The example of visual imagery below is taken from Yeats, (1920: 79)

Night and morning with my tears

This line called visual imagery. The words “night” and “morning” are the representation of a sense of sight. By using their sense of sight, the readers can imagine that “night” always dark, and “morning” always bright.

3.1.3.2 Olfactory Imagery

Olfactory imagery is related to a sense of smell, it may include odors or fragrances. For instance in *Harlem* by Langston Hughes (taken from Hughes, 1995: 426)

What happens to a dream deferred?

Does it dry up
like a raisin in the sun?
Or fester like a sore-
And then run?

Does it stink like rotten meat?
Or crust and sugar over-
like a syrupy sweet?

Maybe it just sags
like a heavy load.

Or does it explode?

The word *stink* appeals to the sense of smell of the readers. It makes the readers imagine the horrible smell, like a rotten meat.

3.1.3.3 Kinesthetic Imagery

Kinesthetic imagery is a broader term used to describe the sense of movement or tension. Kinesthetic imagery can be further divided into: sense of

touch, temperature, movement, and feelings. Here is the example of kinesthetic imagery from *The Eagles* by Alfred Lord Tennyson (taken from Perrine, 1977: 5).

He clasps the crag with crooked hands

3.1.3.4 Organic Imagery

Organic imagery involves the emotions and feelings of the reader. It relates to senses inside of human body, such as thirsty, hungry, tired, sad, happy, anger, pain etc. The example of organic imagery can be seen in Langston Hughes' *As I Grew Older* (taken from Hughes, 1995: 93)

My hands!
My dark hands!
Break through the wall!
Find my dream!

Those lines above are an expression of anger expressed by the poet for the conditions encountered. The poet emphasizes *his hand* that must destroy *the wall* and then finding his dream. *The wall* that was blocking his way in fulfilling his dreams. The exclamation marks are used to emphasize on the point issued by the poet.

3.2 Extrinsic Elements

3.2.1 The History of Black People Coming to America

African is a rich continent. As Olaudah Equiano states in his memoir that “*Our land is uncommonly rich and fruitful*” (2006: 7). They have abundant natural

resource potential. Besides, he also claimed that they are a nation of dancers, musicians, and poets (2006: 4). Further he wrote that their community believed that the Creator lived in the sun.

Since ancient times, the blacks have established trade relations with the Europeans. All kinds of relationships have been established by them. Then finally the Europeans brought the practice of colonialism and imperialism. Considering from the potential that exists, the Europeans with all the advantages of mastering science and technology were keen to see the opportunities of slave trade. It took a short time to make this slave trade into a massive and systemic system. This system was originally a form of punishment for people who committed criminal acts and violated the law. The persons who were convicted in law by being forced to do anything told by his master or ruler. When Europeans visited and entered into trade relations with local African rulers. Europeans began to ask local authorities to make slaves a medium of exchange with weapons, alcohol, cotton and various kinds of tools that Europeans brought in exchange for slaves.

The Blacks were kidnapped from their homeland, in a riverside of Niger and Sassandra river. Then the traders take them to the ship headed to America crossing Atlantic Ocean. Slaves were kept living in abominable conditions in the prisons along the coast of western Africa until the time that they were sent out to sea on large boats headed to Americas. They were abused, slaughtered, and treated like an animal. Both the slave forts and slave ships kept people in dark, dirty rooms with little to eat or drink and no room to move. They were kept in chains, leg shackles or handcuffs and left to lie on their backs on slave ships while crossing the Atlantic

Ocean. Horrible smell was emerged because the lack of air and there is no sanitary inside. This situation triggered a disease. The disease also contributed the number of the death beside suicide and dying in ship crew hand. This long and treacherous journey has become known as the Middle Passage. According to Jeremy Ball in *The Atlantic Slave Trade* asserts that “over the length of the trade, the average mortality rate on the Middle Passage was about 20%, from the mid-fifteenth to the mid-nineteenth centuries” (2000: 20). Many slaves were die during the trip because its terrible treatment and condition in the ship. During the trip several of them tried to escape by jumping into the sea, but soon they will come to death because the ferocity of Atlantic ocean.

III.2.2 Slavery

Slavery is often interpreted as the repression conducted by the possessor towards minorities who usually live in poverty. H.J Nieboer in *Slavery as an Industrial System: Ethnological Researches* defines slave as “a man who is the property or possession of another man, and forced to work for him” (1900: 7). The slaves are in lower condition as compared with freemen. The slaves have no political rights to choose their ballot to government. They cannot attend the public councils. They are socially marginalized. The oppressed must be servants to the authorities by doing what they are commanded. The possessor can master the minorities because their ability. They have special ability such as higher position in society and wealth. Further Nieboer states that “the basis of slavery is always economic because with it emerged a kind of aristocracy which lived upon slave

labour” (1900: 4). Slaves do not have plentiful property. They even do not have anything, and they are considered in a lower class of society. They have very limited ability, inline with their helplessness against the authorities. The discriminatory behaviors usually directed against a minority population, but may also be directed against majority population. The discriminatory behaviors can lead into an act of violence which done by majority against minority or the other way around. However slavery has played a great part in the social history of mankind. Social life among most of the ancient nations was based upon slavery.

III.2.2 Theory of Discrimination

According to Allport, there are five-point hierarchical scale to describe how prejudice could be expressed. They are (1) Antilocution, (2) Avoidance, (3) Discrimination, (4) Physical Attack, and (5) Extermination (1954: 14).

(1) Antilocution

Antilocution happens when people making jokes, disparaging comments about another group like Jews, Blacks, Irish etc.

(2) Avoidance

Avoidance occurs when the individual moves beyond just talking about certain groups to conscious efforts to avoid individuals from these groups. The individual expressing avoidance behavior will tolerate inconvenience for the sake of avoidance..

(3) Discrimination/Segregation

Segregation occurs when people make distinctions and choices which have an adverse impact on members of one group. It will led to segregation in education, employment, social privileges, etc.

(4) Physical Attack

Physical attack occurs as a form of rising emotional level. Then it will trigger into the acts of violence. People or groups are the victim of vandalism, the burning of property or violent attacks on someone's physical integrity such as lynchings, pogroms etc.

(5) Extermination

Extermination is the highest level of violent expression of prejudice. It refers to mass killing, genocide, and ethnic cleansing.

CHAPTER 4

DISCUSSION

4. Intrinsic Analysis

The intrinsic analysis in *The African Affair* poem will be divided into three parts. The first is imagery. It will cover the visual imagery, olfactory imagery, kinesthetic imagery, and organic imagery. The second is diction which are denotative and connotative in the poem. The last is repetition.

4. 1 Diction

The writer considers that “**The African Affair**” by Bruce M. Wright contain some connotations.

4.1.1 Connotation

In the first stanza the writer found some connotation:

Black is what the prisons are (line 1)

The word *Black* represents a literary meaning as the part of a colour, as same as white, red, blue, green and so on. The color of *Black* sets a variety of impressions in people's minds based on the readers’ imagination. At one time black creates the impression of mystery, darkness, and fear. In connotation meaning it belongs to the race which has black skin. Due to this skin color they accept discrimination by white people. In literal meaning, the word *prisons* means a building where criminals are forced to live as a punishment. In this line the writer interprets the word *prison* not

as a real meaning. The author wants to convey to the reader that black people were living under oppression and their freedom was taken from the whites.

Creeping in the perjured heart (line 4)

In this line, the author wants to convey that people created by God with their own destiny. God has conceived various races in the world, such as black people and white people. Unfortunately, the black people particularly in this period seem to be fated to oppress by the white people. It can be said that it is like a forlorn hope to the Blacks.

Bitter on the walls (line 6)

In denotative meaning *the walls* signify a vertical structure which divides or encloses something, but in connotation *the walls* represent an obstacle to the blacks' freedom. The obstacles are racism, discrimination, torture, and slavery. The *wall* stands very sturdy. Blacks just like scream which was described their endless suffering.

Stanza 2

And crawls below, beneath the flesh (line 5)

Where the darkness flows; (line 6)

These two last lines from second stanza explains how black people's suffering is not only hurt their physics but also hurt their soul or their conscience. The word *darkness* indicates the dark past experience of the slavery. This suffering flows for a long time.

The writer found two connotation in the third stanza

Within the Continent of Night (line 1)

“*the Continent of Night*” represents the Africa itself which is also well known as the Black Continent is not because mostly the inhabitants of Africa continent are blacks, it because the European colonization. Most of Africans were living in poverty and slavery. The Africans have no choice but to provide their services as slaves to the whites. Living in agony for some centuries made Africa is called dark continent.

Stanza 3

From Cameroon’s to Carisbrooke (line 5)

And places conscience cannot go (line 6)

In this line, the word *places* has connotation meaning as a period of enslavement which occurred above the Atlantic ocean. The author wants to express to the reader that blacks people who were suffering from the Middle Passage trip they can’t even think about where they are. The phrase above also means their fate and their dreams were trapped in the ship. Many of them who committed suicide by jumping into the sea because they did not want to face a torture given by the whites. Slaves who survived on the long journey will be sold to conglomerates or landlords then to be employed as workers in the plantation industry, agriculture and so on. In fact, many blacks were mistreated by white people. They were working hard without any appreciation at all the part of their life. Black people often ran

away to that condition, but landlords can immediately recognize it because of their skin which easier to identify.

This line shows a place that is the country of Cameroon and Carisbrooke. This country is very rich in plantation products. Conclusively the Europeans who were pioneered by Portuguese came to carry out an expedition. After the exploration, other Portuguese traders flocked to Cameroon since the 16th century to trade black slaves and open sugar plantations.

Incense to carved ebon-wood (stanza 4 line 2)

In this line, ebon wood has connotative meaning. The author of the poem wants to express to the reader that ebon-wood is referring to the black people. It means that the incense or the aroma of ebon-wood is the aroma of the black people which was burned to death, because the Whites did ethnic cleansing or genocide to separate the men and their family. After the kidnapping, the traders set fire to their home. Their house was made of woods and thatches. It does not take long to burn out. Traders wipe out everything. During suffered discrimination by whites or the traders, the blacks could not do much and could not resist.

Where traders shaped my father's pain (stanza 4 line 3)

This line explains the traders are responsible for his father or his race's pain. The blacks were bought and sold by white people like goods back then. The traders are white people who make black people as a commodity and can be sold. Blacks who have high physical shape, well-built, muscled and fairly healthy have become a commodity that is strongly contested by whites. They have a high selling price in

the market. Because one day they will be employed as slaves, black people who have fit the above criteria are desirable by whites.

In the spectrum of his race (stanza 4 line 6)

In real meaning, *the spectrum* reflects the various kinds of colour. Meanwhile in this line refers to the extreme difference of race between white people and black people. This extreme condition leads into a discrimination which done by Whites. Most countries in Africa are poor, poor in terms of mastering science. Later the European nations came to do the exploration, exploitation and colonization.

4.2 Repetition

The writer found four repetitions in this poem. Every first line in each stanza is a repetition. They are:

Black is what the prisons are (stanza 1 line 1)

The author starts the first stanza line 1 with phrase **Black is**. The poet has repetitively used the refraining line in this poem to emphasize his idea and create a sequence. In this line the poet tries to convey that Black people is like a prison which living under the oppression of the White

Black is where the devils dance (stanza 2 line 1)

In second stanza line 1 the poet has repeatedly **Black is**. In this line he wants to express that Black is associated with the place where the devils dance. In this

context *the devils* is white people who abuse black people while enjoying it. Black people become a victim from white people. White people seems enjoy or have fun with their position in abusing the blacks. In other interpretation, this line can be interpreted as an ancient tradition embraced by native blacks. They still believe in things that do not make sense or unreasonable and associated with mystical things. They worship the spirits of their ancestors by performing dances, singing, while around the campfire.

Black is where the deserts burn (stanza 3 line 1)

Black is where thatched temples burn (stanza 4 line 1)

In the last two stanza, the poet writes **Black is** as the final repetition. The word **black is** can be interpreted as an expression of sadness revealed by the poet. By using this repetition, poets draw attention to the readers that blacks suffer a genocide experiments with the burning of their home by the whites. The words *deserts and temples* are refer to the shelter of the blacks. Majority of the African continent is a desert area. The desert has a very hot air temperature. In addition, blacks also lived in a thatch. Thatches are made of hay. In the days of slavery, many blacks were kidnapped, separated from his family, and their houses were burned.

4.3 Imagery

4.3.1 Visual Imagery

Stanza 1 line 1 **Black is what prison are**

This line above contains visual imagery. The color of *Black* creates a variety of impressions in people's minds, depending on the perception and mood of the person who saw it. At one time black creates the impression of mystery, darkness, and fear. On the other hand *black* creates an elegant and luxurious impression. Based on the history of slavery, the word *black* will bring the reader's imagination that blacks' fate is bad and misfortune. They always imprisoned by the domination of white people.

Stanza 2 line ***Black is where the devils dance***

In this context, the word *black* refers to the time when darkness come. Based on ancient traditions typical of African black people, they often do dances while surrounding a bonfire to worship their ancestral spirits when darkness came. They still believe in mystical things beyond human reason. Meanwhile the word *dance* ignites the visual senses of the reader, dance shows the movements performed by the body by following music or rhythm. They still believe in magical or unreasonable and associated with mystical things. They worship the spirits of their ancestors by performing dances, singing, while around the campfire. They believe it can bring supernatural power. Ethnic groups and African tribes have customs that are unique to their culture. They strongly adhere to the customs and beliefs of their ancestral heritage. Those kind of things that make Africa so unique and culturally diverse.

Stanza 1 line 4 ***Creeping in the perjured heart***

The word includes visual imagery because it affects the sense of sight. Creeping is moving on the hands and knees, with the body lying face down on the surface, then the hands and feet are moved forward together, then the feet push the body forward, and the head is slightly raised to look forward. This word gives the reader a visual sensation that there is slow movement. In this context, the word *creeping* shows the effort of the blacks moving slowly and trying to resist from the white oppression. Slave hunters from Europe and America mostly had soldiers and had firearms. They were feared by anyone at that time. Besides, the syndicate and the mafia of the slave trade were too strong.

Stanza 2 line 3 ***The creviced wall. Time pirouettes***

The writer considers that this line contains an example of a visual imagery. The word *wall* can be considered as the representation of obstacle. The underlined words show that a barrier wall that begin to crack because of the resistance of blacks. During that time, they are always oppressed by the whites.

Stanza 3 line 1 ***Black is where the deserts burn,***

The word *burn* provides a visual picture when a fire burns a particular object. Flames will be lit and devoured what was burning and the reader will be able to see the flames with his own eyes. By the writer's interpretation, *the desert burn* means Africa is a continent that is very dry and has many deserts. That is why Africa has very hot temperatures. The desert area stretches from the northern plains to the southwest.

Stanza 3 line 2 ***The Niger and Sassandra flow,***

The author categorizes this line into visual imagery because the word *flow* gives the reader the imagination that there were Niger river and Sassandra river flows. Rivers flow from high points to lower ones, where on the edge of the river there were black people who were abducted by white people. The Niger River is the longest river after the Nile and the Congo River. The river flows through Guinea, Mali, Niger, on the border of Benin and then through Nigeria, passing through a very large delta, known as the Niger Delta, to the Gulf of Guinea. Meanwhile Sassandra river is located in western of Cote d'Ivoire. It flows south-southeast to empty into the Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean. The Niger river valley is a fertile area. The Niger river flows in a valley bounded by sand dunes. This delta gradually extends to the sea with the addition of mud carried by rivers, with mangrove swamps on the outer edge.

Stanza 3 line 4 ***Within the Continent of Night***

The writer puts this word into visual imagery. The word *night* can be interpreted as the time at sunset and before sunrise. The word *night* will bring the reader visual imagination about the black continent. Substantially it can be explained that the condition of the indigenous people of the African continent were all black and came from the same race, the Negro race. Furthermore, there are many reasons why Africa is called the black continent, including the following

Africa contains a lot of mineral wealth and various natural resources, but very poor when viewed from the income of the population. Many valuable mineral materials found on this continent. Diamonds, gold and uranium are mined in South

Africa; gold and diamonds in Ghana and Tanzania; and extraordinary copper deposits found in Zambia and the Democratic Republic of Congo. However, many resources on this continent are rarely developed. Mineral wealth is very easy to find on this continent. The largest diamond world record found in the Sierra Leone by a priest. There is still a lot of natural wealth buried underground, waiting to be discovered. In addition, Africa also produces many agricultural products, such as coffee, cocoa, tea, cotton, cloves and tobacco.

The lack of experts has become a problem in every developing country. The lack of experts to make the natural resources owned by African becomes useless. Although they are rich in mineral resources availability, they are faced with problems of poverty. The low level of investment is one of the causes. All kinds of help and support has been given to them, but unfortunately they are less proficient in processing incoming aid. This low investment is caused by a lack of adequate infrastructure. Infrastructure development costs will rise and are very expensive by looking at the geographical and demographic conditions of the continent. Unfortunately, it is compounded many wars and conflicts in Africa with messy law enforcement. Every tribe confiscates each other, police funds are corrupted and inter-village conflicts develop into an inevitable war.

Education level and health problems become the next issue. In Africa, the quality of human resources is the worst in the world. The number of children who carry out basic education is very slight. Many residents do not realize the importance of better education so that the children put to work to help parents rather

than education. One of the health problems that arise is the problem of malnutrition, reproductive health problems, and sexually transmitted diseases.

The writer described above is the reason why the poet wrote *continent of night*. It is not solely because the majority of the African population is black, more because of misfortune, the pain of life in the past, and the various problems that befall up to now. The diversity of Africa's peoples results from its diverse geography and long prehistory.

Stanza 4 line 1 ***Black is where the thatched temples burn,***

The writer classifies this line into a visual imagery because in this line gives a mind's eye to the readers about the events of the burning house. The underlined words refer to the incident of burning houses by white people after kidnapping the blacks. The readers can see when the fire starts burning houses by their visual. Because the majority of their house made of combustible materials such as woods and thatches, then visually the readers can imagine the huge blazing fire all around it with black smoke billowing into the sky.

Stanza 4 line 3 ***Where the traders shape my father's pain,***

In this line tells about the white people are responsible for his father or his race's pain. The blacks were bought and sold by white people like goods back then. The traders are European white people who manage black people as a commodity and can be sold. These white people have a kind of army whose job is to kidnap blacks. In kidnapping they often commit physical violence against blacks. Blacks who have high physical shape, well-built, muscled and fairly healthy have become

a commodity that is strongly contested by whites. They have a high selling price in the market. Because one day they will be employed as slaves, black people who have fit the above criteria are desirable by whites. White people are very short of energy to work on their land. With the ability to be above-average owned by black people, of course it will provide many benefits for white people or the land owners.

Stanza 4 line 5 *Among dead statues in a frieze,*

This line is included in visual imagery because it describes the dead statues. The word in *a frieze* also implies visually because the reader will imagine the shape of the statue, how the carvings carved on the statue. Africa has a rich tradition of arts and crafts. African art and crafts find expression in a variety of woodcarvings, brass and leather artwork. African arts and crafts also include sculptures, paintings and so on. Fine arts in Africa have an emphasis on sculpture. African artists tend to prefer three dimensional works compared to two dimensions. The statues mostly in the form of individual figures or faces that will later be used in religious ceremonies. African art decorations have unique characteristics. African arts and crafts from particular regions have distinct characteristics depending on beliefs, values, and customs.

4.3.2 Olfactory Imagery

Stanza 4 line 1 *Black is where the thatched temples burn*

The underlined words indicates the current events of the thatched houses and temple where they pray begin burned by the white people. As thatches and woods are including a combustible material, then in the combustion process

produces smoke soaring into the sky. This burning can stimulate the sense of smell of the reader to feel the burning aroma of woods and thatches.

Stanza 4 line 2 **Incense to carved ebon-wood;**

The writer consider this line contains olfactory imagery. The underlined word can be interpreted by the reader that the smell of burning incense can be smelled. The native African usually use this thing to call their ancestors, praying, and asking for a trance. Besides, incense can also be used to clean houses, places of worship, and village ceremonies. The purpose of communicating with ancestors is to receive guidance and direction. Communicating with ancestors forms a spiritual relationship with them. Therefore they can move forward and have strength from within. For African indigenous people, burning incense is very important and highly recommended. Burning incense can relieve disease from the body or as a traditional healer.

4.3.3 Kinesthetic Imagery

Stanza 1 line 3 **Swept into totality,**

This line contains kinesthetic imagery. It shown by the word *swept*. The readers can imagine the movement. Sweeping movements are carried out by one hand or two hands. In this context, the author means that blacks are incarcerated by the colonization of white people for a certain period of time. The time period continues to spin. Finally in 1955 a civil rights movement emerged in America which aimed to restore their civil rights and prohibit social discrimination practices.

Stanza 1 line 4 **Creeping in the perjured heart,**

The underlined word can be considered as the kinesthetic imagery. Creeping is an act of moving by the hands and knees and the body resting on the ground. In this poem, it shows the effort of the blacks moving slowly and trying to resist from the white oppression. What they did was useless because white people were too mighty, on the other hand they had a weapon to wipe out all of them.

Stanza 2 line 1 **Black is where the devil dance**

This line above contains kinesthetic imagery that catches our sense of movements. It is shown by the words *dance*. Dancing is an ancient tradition embraced by native Africans. They create and develop their dance that become their identity. They still believe in unreasonable things and associated with mystical things. They worship the spirits of their ancestors by performing dances, singing, while around the campfire. Africa has a rich tradition of arts and crafts. African art and crafts find expression in a variety of woodcarvings, brass and leather artwork. African arts and crafts also include sculptures, paintings, pottery, religious ceremonies and dressing. In Africa, dance, music, and song become an inseparable unity. Dancing is a form of energy distribution, as well as the beauty of the flowing music rhythm. Dancing can be done during wedding ceremonies, religious rituals, honoring kings and queens and son. In other interpretation, *devils dance* is white people who abuse black people. Black people become a victim from white people. White people seems enjoy or have fun with their position in abusing the blacks.

Stanza 2 line 4 **A crippled orbit in a trance,**

This underlined word contains a kinesthetic imagery because the word *trance* shows the movement of the body that is difficult to control and they are in an unconscious condition. The word *trance* is related to the previous line which tells about the tradition of ancestral spirit worship. African population still believes in good spirits and evil spirits. Good spirits will bring good luck for them such as abundant harvests, rainmaking ceremonies and others. In good spirits, they will collaborated with ancestral spirits to bring good to all. While evil spirits will bring disaster to them, such as crop failure, disease, natural disasters and so on. At that time they still embraced animistic beliefs, believed in superstitions and supernatural powers.

Stanza 2 line 5 *And crawls below, beneath the flesh*

In this line, the writer considers the underlined words as kinesthetic imagery. It shows a movement when the white people tortured the blacks. It can lead to the reader's imagination when the whites commit physical violence against blacks.

Stanza 4 line 2 *Incense to carved ebon-wood;*

Incense comes from tree resins which have some aromatic fragrance. The underlined word shows that an incense was sculpted and shaped by the native for religious rituals, to bringing the gods, and to cast out evil spirits.

4.3.4 Organic Imagery

Stanza 1 line 5, 6 *Bitter in the vulgar rhyme,*

Bitter on the walls;

Two lines above contains organic imagery. The word *bitter* does not mean bitter as a taste, but rather tends to the internal emotions of the lives of blacks who suffer from the colonization of white people. The African continent is one of the richest continents. They are rich in plentiful natural resources, having a variety of cultural arts, and the wild life that characterize their identity. This peculiarities distinguish him from another continents. After some time, Europeans came to extract the natural wealth they had. They are looking for raw materials to be processed into useful items. Because they are retarded in science and technology, they had become slaves in their own homes. That is why their fate is so horrific. Meanwhile *the walls* represent an obstacle to the blacks' freedom. The obstacles are racism, discrimination, torture, and slavery. The *wall* stands very sturdy. They were unable to break the wall. Blacks just like scream which is described their endless suffering.

Stanza 4 line 1, 2, 3 ***Black is where thatched temples burn***
Incense to carved ebon-wood;
Where traders shape my father's pain

The writer considers this lines contains organic imagery. This stanza tells the story of the moment when the traders burned down the blacks' dwellings. This incident certainly involves the internal emotions of the reader, especially for the writer because he is of black descent. The burning houses and the torturing that occurred for many years certainly leave scars for them. It leaves a deep wound in the heart of the poet.

4.4 Discrimination

According to the theory, discrimination occurs when white people directly abuse and enslave black people. Slavery was practiced throughout the American colonies in the 17th and 18th centuries. Enslaved people usually worked from early in the morning until late at night. During this period, the black people have experienced so much suffering, such as the Middle Passage.

a. Physical Attack

Black people have suffered and been tortured directly. They get it by physical attack. We can find it in stanza 3 line 3,

From where the Middle Passage went. (stanza 3 line 3)

Middle Passage is a horrible trip where the black people were taken to the new land of hope, America. It was called a terrible trip because the ship which was used to carry the black people was dirty, stinky, and very crowded and they had to stay there for two or three months. Equiano describes the journey that was a horror of a slave ship (2005: 16). On the ship, black people wore chains that fastened them. Sometimes they gave up and tried to starve themselves to death, but the armed officers prevented it because these slaves were valuable commodities. Because of being treated poorly and the conditions on the ship were very disgusting, inadequate, and outbreaks of disease, many slaves died in the middle of the journey.

In stanza 4 line 1 also contains physical attack. According to Allport, one form of physical attack is burning property. It can be seen in the line below:

Black is where thatched temples burn (stanza 4 line 1)

By using this line, poets draw attention to the readers that blacks certainly suffer from an genocidal experiments with the burning of their home by the whites. It does not take a long for the house to burn because the majority of their house made of combustible materials such as woods and thatches. The burning houses and the torturing that occurred for many years certainly leave wounds for them.

In stanza 4 line 3 contains another physical attack which done by white people,

Where traders shaped my father's pain, (stanza 4 line 3)

The word *shaped* in this line means that the white people has done slaughtering the black people. For the Black Africans, the journey from their homeland to a new continent which are America and Europe was a ruthless experience. African slaves were treated viciously aboard slave ships and crowded into cramped, dirty quarters during their long journey. The white people treat black people like an animal. Slaves consisting of men and women, adults or even children, transported by wooden ships with legs or neck conditions tied to five kilograms of iron balls so that they cannot easily escape, like plunging into the sea.

b. Segregation

In the fourth line of the third stanza, the author wrote

Within the Continent of Night (stanza 3 line 4)

Based historical background, the line above means that the black people was taken from their hometown which is represented by the *Continent of Night* that represent the Africa which is also well known as the Black Continent. It means that most of them who become slave in North America were from Africa, especially West Africa. Because they are taken and abducted from their homeland, surely they have no right to live, to gather with family, and they have no chance to love each another. In economic privileges, they can only work in the lower sectors such as labor and they were treated as slaves. Black people who become victim of Middle Passage absolutely separated from their family. They do not get equal education and health care, meanwhile education plays important role in human life. We can obtain the benefits of science, technology, art, and culture in order to improve the quality of his life and for the welfare of mankind. Due to the theory above that what they have got are a kind of explicit discrimination which called segregation.

Further the author wrote in third stanza line two

The Niger and Sassandra flow (stanza 3 line 2)

Niger and Sassandra are rivers that belong to West Africa's region. Based on the historical background, the writer concludes that most of the slaves were from West Africa. It takes place which are The Niger and Sassandra rivers. Sassandra river is located in West Africa, precisely in Cote d'Ivoire. The river empties into the Gulf of Guinea which is also part of the Atlantic Ocean, while Niger river is also located in West Africa flows through Guinea, Mali, Niger leading to the Gulf of Guinea. This line is referring to the event back in time where the blacks live in a

riverside of Niger and Sassandra rivers. Then the traders came to kidnap and take them to the ship for sale as slaves. The black people were collected by the trader in a ship where black people were abused, slaughtered, and were treated like inhuman. They were separated from his family and they do not have rights for living.

In the third line of the fourth stanza, the author writes

Where the traders shaped my father's pain

The traders in this line represent the white people who enslave the black people. The traders have armed soldiers to kidnap blacks. The blacks walked along the village, with their feet chained to the shoreline. In this line the author wants to explain the traders are responsible for his father or his race's pain.

c. Extermination

The writer considers that this line below contains extermination discrimination. It is because the white people tried to annihilate the black by burning their house and killing them.

Black is where the thatched temples burn, (stanza 4 line 1)

Incense to carved ebon-wood; (stanza 4 line 2)

After the kidnapping, the traders set fire to their home. Their house is made of hay and it does not take long to burn out. Traders wipe out everything. During suffered discrimination by whites or the traders, the blacks could not do much and could not resist. They are kidnapped with their legs tied to avoid running away. Arriving in America, they are sold to the owner of the plantation or factory. A

healthy, strong, proportioned slave will have a high selling point. This slave trade is transformed into a lucrative commodity because of the low cost and superiority of black slaves in terms of energy, strength, and endurance when compared to white slaves. With the above-average capabilities of black slaves, it will bring a high profit to the landlords.

The writer understands how the authors feels about the suffering of the black people. The writer can see how the author puts a lot of emotion into this poem. By writing his poem, the author hope that someday there would be someone who could change the way people see and treat the black people and obliterate the slavery in the world.

CHAPTER 5

CONCLUSION

Bruce McMarion Wright poem entitled *The African Affair* is a poem that tells about the acts of violence toward Blacks. It can be found from the intrinsic aspect analysis that based on diction, repetition, and imagery. By analyzing the intrinsic aspect, the writer can understand the great effort from the author in order to highlight his poem about discrimination through acts of violence toward Blacks which done by Whites back in time, particularly during the enslavement period.

From the Blacks' life depicted in the poem, the writer finds conformity with the concept of theory of discrimination. In this poem the author uses diction, repetition, and imagery to depict the fate of the Blacks during enslavement, also their freedom that always blocked by *the wall* and *the prison* which will always preclude them to achieve it. The Blacks also receive segregation. When they tried to use their quality time with family and gathered in the hut in which they live, the whites came to kidnap adult black males. Then they are taken to a ship for further traded in the market. In his poem, the author reveals the dark ages, especially in the era of slavery. While the crops of coffee, cotton, and sugar are overflow and obtain its golden age, African slaves also obtain their glory. African slaves begin to be a star, if compared with the slaves from Latin America or from the descendants of Indian tribes. African slaves have a high stature, stocky, and have better endurance. That is why the African slaves are highly sought in the market to fulfill the demand for land owner, in this case the whites. The blacks always get physical attack during

the enslavement period. During the events *middle passage*, ships which carried slaves have become witness journey of African slaves and then sailed the Atlantic ocean to the American continent. It implies to the life of Blacks that certainly suffer. They cannot enjoy freedom. Through his poem Bruce McMarion Wright conveys his feeling about their race and uncover the darkest side in the history of slavery.

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