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**Escape in American Literature:
Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry
Finn."**

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Dedication

This work is affectionately dedicated to

our precious parents,

beloved sisters and brothers.

Acknowledgement

In the name of Allah, the Most Gracious and the Most Merciful.

All praises to Allah for the strengths and blessings he bestowed us to complete this thesis, this work would not have been possible without the will of his Almighty.

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Abstract

The present study deals with the escape theme in Mark Twain's Adventures of Huckleberry Finn which appeared with an astonishing frequency in the novel. Throughout this study, we aimed at detecting these themes focusing on its manifestation, significance and its varieties. Twain's original intention, was to show the way Americans were living by taking a boy of twelve and run him on through life in the aftermath of the war and the failure of Reconstruction. The book addresses the issue of freedom and slavery. It continues to thrive because of its original narrative style and its realistic subject matter. This thesis is divided into an introduction, three chapters and a conclusion. The first chapter is devoted to some historical and literal background including the American civil war and a look at the principals of Realism, illustrating that with an example from the most prominent writer of this era Samuel Langhorne Clemens best known with his pen name Mark Twain. The second chapter is about the escape theme in American literature in general; an introduction to it, some definitions and extracts. The third chapter is about investigating the theme of escape and its varieties in the selected novel Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

Key words: Mark Twain, escape, Freedom, Slavery, realism, varieties of escape, The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

المخلص

تتناول الدراسة الحالية موضوع الهروب في "مغامرات هاكل بيري فين" للكاتب "مارك توين" والذي يظهر بكثرة في الرواية. خلال هذه الدراسة هدفنا الى الكشف عن هذا الموضوع مع التركيز على ظهوره وأهميته وانواعه. كان مارك توين يهدف الى اظهار الطريقة التي كان يعيش بها الامريكيون من خلال اخذ صبي يبلغ من العمر اثني عشر عاما وتشغيله في الحياة في أعقاب الحرب. يتناول الكتاب قضية الحرية والعبودية. حيث استمر في الازدهار بسبب أسلوبه السردي الأصلي وموضوعه الواقعي. هذه الأطروحة مقسمة إلى مقدمة وثلاثة فصول وخاتمة. تم تخصيص الفصل الأول لبعض الخلفيات التاريخية والادبية بما في ذلك الحرب الأهلية الأمريكية وإلقاء نظرة على مبادئ الواقعية، موضحين ذلك بمثال من أبرز كاتب في هذا العصر للكاتب "صموئيل لانغورن كليمنس" المعروف باسمه المستعار "مارك توين". الفصل الثاني يتطرق لفكرة الهروب في الأدب الأمريكي بشكل عام. مقدمة لها وبعض التعاريف والمقتطفات. يدور الفصل الثالث حول "التحقيق في موضوع الهروب وأنواعه في الرواية المختارة "مغامرات هاكل بيري فين".

الكلمات المفتاحية: مارك توين، الهروب، الحرية، الاستعباد، الواقعية، انواع الهروب، مغامرات هاكل بيري فين.

General

Introduction

1 General Introduction

The demand for more freedom the western society had developed since the Enlightenment, and even since the reformation has evoked a dire demand for change that is followed by a strong urge to escape. Throughout the history of America, and beyond the beginning of the American nation the urge to escape has been an impetus in Europe which afterwards motivated the American spirit.

Perhaps we could trace back this impetus way to the pilgrims' flight from the old world, and the discovery of the new one, which marks the starting point for the first escape in the American history. This epochal flight made the pilgrims the first immigrants to ever flee to America. Although they were not the first to have discovered the new land nor were they the first to escape, but their flight was more of a moral escape which made it the first of its kind, and it is special because this kind of urge is motivated by set of trends that American values are built upon.

The pilgrims are bunch of separatists who broke from the church of England which according to them has catholic remains; They escaped the authority of the Catholic church over their religious freedom, and the spiritual oppression they suffered; They merely wanted to gain religious autonomy. The separatists' impulse is driven by the rejection of traditional values, which for them corrupted the Christian faith, and went for a desperate determination to adopt new ones that are most characterized, or revolve around one pivotal ideal which is freedom.

this determination has grown much stronger during the European enlightenment, which has been strongly influenced by the reforms. More emphasis has been given to free thinking, personal liberty, and the value of reason over faith, by revolting against all what is considered restricting. The newly adopted values have enabled the individual to question reality and develop new means to understand the world, thus freedom and self-fulfillment has become

nothing but an ultimate end, and people must rebel against whatever stands in the way of achieving such end.

This rebellious spirit has been inherited to Americans by their European forefathers; Escape emerged as a proclivity which is perceived in American culture, and it can be seen as the driving force that corresponds with that urge; However, the inclination to escape has turned into a national ethos or rather a paradigm in American life, and character, because of its subtle association with freedom, and also because of its relationship with the obstinate need for change.

As a subsequent result, escape has become a prominent theme that ran through the veins of almost all American novels. Such theme can be observed quite remarkably during the American realism due to the main characteristics of literature in that period which was the desperate attempt to simulate reality, by depicting the contemporary life, and culture, of ordinary people as it is; this attempt established the ground for this entranced mood to be successfully portrayed.

One of the most notable works written in that period was Mark Twain's famous novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn". Published in 1884, this novel shone brightly to demonstrate that theme in a very conspicuous manner; the novel is purely realistic; the author himself called it "a true book ". Besides, the writer Ernest Hemingway, famously asserted that "All modern American literature comes from one book by Mark Twain called Huckleberry Finn. American writing comes from that. There was nothing before. There has been nothing as good since".

Twain has both molded and inspired the American literary canon which millions still enjoy today. Twain's written works challenged the fundamental issues that faced the America of his time; an inaccessible American Dream, the callous disregard for countryside and, most notably, the hypocrisy behind a country that preached liberty yet practiced slavery. The novel

is considered a masterpiece of literature. It was ranked as his best works by means of presenting vivid portrayals.

Twainian characters quest freedom because of the individual responsibility they faced in a society that is dominated by conventional morality. consequently, the emergence of personal freedom, and the urge to escape is apparent in his works, notably in “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”. The novel serves as an archetypal escape novel which made Huck the first archetypal escaper. (Bluefarb 13). The novel mirrors a predominant tendency in American culture which has in turn become of a great persistence in American literature ever since. Such influential work will hence be an appropriate case study from which the selected theme will be investigated.

Our interest in investigating this theme is not because of its appearance as a main part of the plot per se, but because it reflects a prevailing propensity in American culture, that not only would take the form of an actual escape, but instead a psychological, emotional, spiritual, and an artistic one like the case with escapist writers, and also because the theme encompasses many other themes which can fall under it. Physical escape as a phenomenon can take place as a result of different motivations. Furthermore, the novel has inspired many authors in demonstrating this theme, which has reoccurred in an astonishing frequency in future novels to follow.

In the following pages we set ourselves to investigate escape, and its strong presence in American literature as well as its prototypal presence in our selected novel. We will display its rootedness in notable American works, and in the American paradigm, as we are going touch upon its varieties, its motivation and different manifestations. Escape is not constricted to one particular period or literary movement or even a particular author or to any kind of literary work whatsoever, and still appears in contemporary literature; The theme has always been present as a chief ingredient in American culture, and it would forever appear for it is, after all,

a human phenomenon. Although we will take a look briefly into some other works to demonstrate its strong presence, and its different forms, but there will be no attempt in our part to do a comprehensive study nor there will be some chronology to it, instead our actual study will focus solely on one novel.

2 Motivation:

The motivation behind our actual study is although escape is of a great persistence in American literature, but few studies have been conducted to investigate it. It is an umbrella for many other themes like freedom, poverty, injustice, guilt, and even love, and carry important American ideals that are the chief ingredients of their culture. the theme represents a rooted tendency, and a dominant mood in the American character. Escape however appeared as a major theme in Twain's novel " The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" or let's say appeared as the pivot theme around which revolved all other themes in the novel. The prototypal presence of escape in the novel makes it the ideal story through which the theme will be investigated, and this is why we've chosen this particular work as a case study.

3 Objectives of the study:

The main objective of the study is to investigate the theme of "Escape" in American literature, and particularly in our selected Twainian novel, and to reveal both its strong presence, along with its different categories, and manifestation in both literature and culture.

4 Research questions:

Our research aims at revealing the theme of escape in Mark Twain's "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" in an attempt to answer the following questions:

1- what are the historical events which paved the way for Escape as a cultural tendency and as a prominent theme in literature to be portrayed and how does it reflect a dominant mood in the American character?

2- What are the different categories of escape, how do they manifest in literature and how frequent is the theme in the American novel?

3- What are the elements of Escape in the novel, how did it appear and to what extent the urge to flight, and necessity of freedom are important for Mark Twain?

5 Hypotheses:

These hypotheses are formulated to answer to research questions:

1- It is hypothesized that the proclivity for escape is a dominant mood in in the Twainian piece “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”. It has become a paradigm which in turn appears (as a theme) in almost every literary work in an astonishing frequency due to its rootedness in the American mindset.

2- The push for escapees to run away is fleeing difficult and unpleasant situations, from a reality to another; it could be emotional flight, as it can be physical, in pursuit of material happiness, or even spiritual as to self-realize.

3- It is hypothesized that Twain’s novel points out strongly to the notion of escape and the urge to flight as a powerful desire for protection of the self from psychological issues, by preserving dignity and breaking loose from societal shackles in pursuit of happiness, and freedom.

6 Methodology:

The actual research adopts an analytical descriptive method; the main data will be extracted from the novel “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn”. We firstly collected data by going through what other people wrote about the topic under study. In the light of the available documentation (hard books, electronic books, magazines, and internet), we carried out the analysis and the interpretation of data, as we have selected new-historicism in approaching Escape both as a cultural component, and a theme in literature from a historical and intellectual perspective, and the Freudian Psychoanalytic Theory to analyze and interpret the characters’ behaviors and motivations, and to explain how and why they behave as they do.

Our work will hence be divided into three chapters:

Chapter one:

In this chapter we set ourselves to go through some historical, and literary background about our selected theme and the context out of which our case study was written.

Chapter two:

In the second chapter we will engage in defining escape as a theme, its broad scope, varieties, the different types and motives of escape and its different manifestations in different literary works. We will track its presence by providing instances from notable American novels. We are going to elucidate its relation with other different themes, and ideals like freedom, self-determination, independence, individualism and the concept of The American Dream ...etc.

Chapter three:

This chapter will be devoted to the practical side of our work in which we are going to analyze the setting, characters, and themes associated with escape as we are going to analyze its elements in the novel.

Chapter one:

Historical & Literary

Background

Chapter One: Historical and Literary Background

1. Historical background

1.1 Introduction:

Most historians believe that the European history is the heart of modern history, which spread its waves overseas to include both the new world and the old world. The transformation from the ignorance of the Middle Ages to the modern age was not at all an easy task nor was it coincidental. It came about after a grinding struggle and long battles that resulted in schisms, accusations of infidelity and heresy, series of murder, deprivation, and torture. The Renaissance therefore was not an accident, and did not come about without premeditation. It rather came as a result of those major movements which Europe has witnessed, and which has manifested in the literary renaissance.

The movement was a sweeping revolution aiming to change the way of life that people got used to, as well as liberating it from the sterility and stagnation that befell it during the Dark Ages, as it sought to awaken the mind from its stumbling block and breathes into it the spirit of freedom, life and activity, to escape from darkness to the lights of wisdom, so it found inspiration in Greek, and Roman's literature, and philosophy, then people vigorously engaged in understanding, and studying this legacy, and revolted against Scholastic thought. Europe witnessed many intellectual, social, political, and religious changes that bred the western thought as we know it today, and strengthened the urge to escape. Many historical events in the western history in general and American history in particular paved the way for escape as a cultural component and as a theme in literature to appear, and made the ground for the novel to be written, and demonstrate this theme.

1.2 The reformation in Europe

This renaissance was followed by the religious reform, which sprout in Germany, and spread throughout Europe and ended with the call to revolt against the Church and its authority,

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and emphasize the necessity of freedom, and independence of the individual as it is for all historical stages of social transformation which seek to explore a new vision as opposed to the allegedly outdated worldview. Subsequently, many rebellious sects, and groups emerged, all of them rejecting like a destructive storm, the number of these groups increased, and the new reality began to impose its challenges through its confrontation with tradition, and the need to abandon the blind sanctification of those customs, rituals that people adhered to, and to the heritage that has been passed down from ancestors. An urge to an intellectual escape has emerged, so it was necessary to monitor reality and extrapolate its events, and understand reality from outside the scope through which their predecessors understood it. The European mind realized there is more to the truth than being confined within books and realized that there is a truth deeper than Christianity itself, which needs to be uncovered.

In the sixteenth century, Europe witnessed the birth of the protestant religious reform, which was marked as the greatest movement in the history of Europe; a movement that started from Germany under the leadership of Martin Luther 1483-1546, and then moved to Switzerland under the leadership of Ulrich Zwingli 1484-1531 CE, and to France and Geneva under the leadership of John Calvin 1509 AD 1564. The term religious reformation is used to describe the religious movements who called for reforming the Church, and ridding it of impurities, wrong practices, and to deprive the church from its sole right in interpreting the religious texts, and the prevention of others from this right, especially issues of faith, the practice of the sacraments, the church's control over the education of individuals, and its monopoly over indulgences. The reform movement resulted in the emergence of what are known as Evangelical Churches. Those churches that came up with a new interpretation which made the church lose its monopoly on the text, its interpretation, and its establishment of rituals that prevented people to understand and interpret the text, especially by insisting on keeping it in Latin, so that they are the only ones who interpret and understand it, this created a conflict

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between the Church and its opponents over the possession of what is the straight path; whether the liturgical or canonical religion, or faith as an individual religion based on conscience, and reason.

With the spread of this movement throughout Europe a number of protestant groups in England began to form opposing the church of England which was established by Henry VIII who was influenced by the reforms but he kept some of the old Catholic practices. One of the major groups called “Puritans” because its members wanted to purify the existing Anglican church, for they thought it has some catholic remains. A more extreme protestant group in England were called “Separatists”, as the name might suggest this group wanted to separate completely from the official Church of England, and become able to select their own leaders and church. The separatists were persecuted because of their believes and intentions, and they decided to escape from these persecutions and the time has come for this group, and some members of other protestant groups who will come to be known as the pilgrims to flee the spiritual oppression they suffered, and to establish their own religious community.

1.3 The pilgrims' flight to the new world

After several years of persecutions, and shortly after King James took the throne, the Pilgrims thought they might finally be able to ask for permission to establish their own church. But King James was not clear in his answer, and the Pilgrims decided to leave England. They first fled to Holland in which religious freedom was accepted. After spending several years in Holland, the Pilgrims did not feel comfortable. They did not find what they were seeking which is identity; for their children were adopting the new culture, and were obliged to speak Dutch, they wanted to stay English. William Bradford, John Robinson and some other leaders of the group decided that they better move to America to create their own autonomous church, and live freely and maintain their identity as English, their first escape was spiritual, while the second escape was in search of identity, all part of one escape with different motivation but

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still both escapes were for the sake of freedom, and the urge for change which is the motivation behind their displacement. Though the trip was expansive but they managed to make it successful. After many setbacks, the Mayflower, which was the name of the ship that carried the pilgrims in their historical flight, at last set sail to America on September 6th, 1620. The trip was uneasy and the ocean was rough and uncomfortable, but they believed that this trip will be an important event in history. On November 11, 1620, the Pilgrims arrived to the New World in Cape Cod where they didn't have the permission to settle, instead they had permission to settle in north Virginia which is New York nowadays, but they were compelled to turn south because of weather condition thus the ship took different course, and they decided to quickly turn the Mayflower south, to safer waters off the tip of northern Cape Cod.

The pilgrims had to decide whether to stay or take other measures to leave again. Since Cape Cod was not the area in which they are supposed to settle, a short time after the group wrote a "compact" to establish their own self-governing community. This agreement was the first act of self-governance in the new world, which came to be known as the Mayflower Compact, they had to elect a governor amongst them as suggested in the compact they signed. After signing the Mayflower Compact, the Pilgrims wanted to discover the place to settle by sending expeditions in the area. After a month of searching, it was decided they should settle in Plymouth. The settlement grew after experiencing many hardships, almost half the group died during winter, and as the Plymouth Colony grew, they returned to Cape Cod; the first land they saw many years back when they first arrived in the new world, it became their home colony where they permanently settled.

1.4 The American civil war (1861-1865)

A civil war broke out in the United States of America on April 12, 1861 AD, between the federal government, which was known as "the federations" against eleven southern states that support slavery. These states established the so-called Confederate States of America and

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declared their secession from the rest of the northern states. The president Jefferson Davis led the southern states, while the Union forces were led by President Abraham Lincoln, who opposed slavery and rejected any declaration of secession for the southern states. Despite the name of the Civil War, the Southern Confederate forces only wanted to secede and not control the central government. War began when Confederate forces attacked a Confederate force at the Battle of Fort Sumter. The war lasted 4 years and ended with the surrender of the Southern Army led by Robert Lee to the northern forces.

Most historians agree that there are many reasons for the American Civil War, and focus on the regional difference between the North and the South in terms of the economy, intellect, and the way of life. However, all interpretations refer to or revolve around the issue of slavery. The South depended mainly on the cultivation of tobacco on their fertile lands and their warm climate; Therefore, the black Africans were enslaved to do those tasks, while the North was industrialized, as the cold weather and the rocky land in the north prevented the expansion of agriculture. Northerners have been working hard and focusing on education, they believed that society has the right and responsibility to decide whether any action is ethically approved, and they were looking for modernization, change and a better future, while the Southerners were clinging to their status without change, surrendering to the feeling of economic prosperity they gained from agribusiness without thinking about changing their lifestyle. The war was not related to the attempt by one state or another to change the political system of the state, or to rebalance or to distribute power, but it was mainly for socio-economic reasons.

The majority of historians do not differ in considering slavery the main reason behind the outbreak of this civil war, and without it, this war would not have taken place. The American economic and social structure was different from its counterparts in the world. The powerful states of the North were mainly dependent on the industrial base and to a lesser extent agriculture, which contributed directly in creating a social and cultural environment different

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from the states of the south, which relied on agricultural economies in the first place. This pattern of development in the north has led to the creation of an intellectual and cultural environment that is significantly different from that of the south. The economies of the southern states were mainly dependent on agriculture, especially the cultivation of cotton, sugar, tobacco and other commodities that were of a great income. This resulted in direct dependence on labor that was not readily available among the members of the landowner class. A tendency to rely on slavery to cultivate land, as these crops require intensive labor, and the more southern countries expand agricultural economic development, the greater the need for more slaves.

This led to a social development for the south that is completely different from the north, as this society slid in its social and cultural orientations. It became a conservative society based on the similarities of the patterns of development in the European Middle Ages with a completely different social structure from the states of the North, which made the gap widen between the goals and interests in the North compared to the South.

The fact of the matter is that the seeds of the civil war began since the founding of the United States of America. The political and social structure prompted many thinkers, churchmen and politicians to try to eliminate the phenomenon of slavery, which is what the states of the South viewed as a direct attack on their economic and social environment, and the voices calling for the elimination of slavery began. Of course, among them were politicians and intellectuals who contributed directly to the drafting of the Declaration of Independence, headed by "James Madison" and "John Adams", but this movement did not go beyond the scope of abstract calls for the liberation and prohibition of slavery, and it was not surprising that this movement gradually erupted from The state of "Massachusetts", which was the source of the War of Independence and the most civilized and cultured state, and the land of the pilgrims; the first escapees who brought the spirit of freedom with them but this movement soon began to spread to other states, and then to the states of the South themselves, and a wide

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social movement began calling for the necessity of liberation, and soon the liberation fire broke out in the south as well, and it began to appear. Voices calling for an end to slavery, but the southern resistance began to appear, to the extent that many churches in the south began seeking to lay the appropriate justification for this social phenomenon on religious foundations, based on the fact that slavery is contained in both the Old and New Testaments without the prohibition, and that Christ did not end slavery. Thus, fighting became the only solution when the political scene turned into a disagreement between the North and the South over slavery, a political dispute that extended to the new way of life that the United States would pursue, and this was the core of the matter, as the civil war has become here a tool to change the way of life between the North and the South.

When Abraham Lincoln was elected to the presidency of the Republic, he issued a decision to free the enslaved people on September 22, 1862 AD after the victory of the Northerners at Antietam, because he was waiting for a northern victory to be announced after his decision. In the declaration issued in this regard, it was stated that all slaves in the anti-union states were free forever, beginning on January 1, 1863 AD. This decision did not include the states loyal to the Union, but on January 1, 1863 AD, he issued his final decision declaring the emancipation of slaves. But that declaration was a war decision. Thus, Lincoln was approved in 1865 CE by Congress passing the Thirteenth Amendment to the Constitution, by which slavery was permanently abolished throughout the United States of America.

1.5 The fugitive slave law

After the emancipation many slaves began to run away from their masters and homes to the northern states and to the states where slavery is abolished, this led to two constitutional acts to be passed by American congress which asserts that all citizens return runaway slaves, and those who help slaves to flee are imprisoned, and heavily fined. This law angered northerners especially free states where slavery was abolished, and made them feel accomplice,

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and supportive to slavery which led to many riots in these states including New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and Massachusetts, where slavery was banned. These states organized secret groups that helps runaway slaves in their escape to northern states. This encouraged many slaves to escape and many calls for escape were made even literature which had a great impact on encouraging slaves to escape and, worked on changing people's attitudes about slavery, and perhaps Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin was a first anti-slavery novel, it incited a wave of anti-slavery movement, and had influenced a great deal of people, and was successful in directing people's emotions against slavery.

2 Literary Background

2.1 The American Realism (1865/1914)

The US civil war was a watershed in the American's mind. This era has marked several problems including social and economic issues. In an attempt to present real life as a result to the post war miserable conditions, writers tend to capture the truth of their times. Family, social conditions, behaviors of the character are important for them. Characters appear in their real complexity conditions, obstacles, fears and desires.

From the end of civil war to around the end of the 19th century like all literary movements American realism appeared, as a reaction to romanticism, which embraced individuality and subjectivity reacting against the sober style of Neoclassicism due to the excessive insistence on logical thought it employs. Authors started exploring various emotional and psychological states as well as moods. Poe proficiently put his print in this genre. He delved into accounts of madness and extreme emotion. The sense of horror was highly present in his stories. By contrast, realism is an effort to portray real life of ordinary people and events, it is "a mode of writing that gives the impression recording or reflecting faithfully an actual way of life" (Baldick 184), likewise, for Benardete, realism is "the record of life, the real, the true",

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subsequently, characters are the most important in ways that it extracts and detects the true meaning and value looking for change.

On one hand, local color or regionalism as a new style is closely related to realism. According to Roger Lathbury in her book *Realism and regionalism (1860-1910)* “One can write fiction from many perches, however; and in America a special group of writers called LOCAL COLORISTS or REGIONALISTS kept to their own immediate surroundings. Their work has the charm of a distinct place even while presenting the experiences that happen to all people, no matter where they live” (Lathburg57). It has been stated by Kathryn Vanspanckeren in her book *Outline of American Literature* color writings have flourished after the civil war although they appeared earlier than that. The aim of a regionalist writer is to share and mirror the lives of people intentionally to change the deep-rooted mindset of the past in their region “Many local colorists and regionalists are PROTEST WRITERS: they write to object to or expose a system (financial or social) that they feel is unfair and corrupt” (Lathburg 70).

Regionalism focuses on characters, their dialect and values, Mark Twain in his “*Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*”, is among the important figures who employ regionalism in their works. Twain wrote in the explanatory page of the novel, "In this book a number of dialects are used, to wit: the Missouri negro dialect, the extremist form of the backwoods South-Western dialects; the ordinary "Pike-Country" dialect; and four modified varieties of this last" he added “I make this explanation for the reason that without it many readers would suppose that all these characters were trying to talk alike and not succeeding” (THE AUTHOR). By this, the reader of the novel will be kidnapped to the region where the story has taken place, therefore, regionalists writers aim waylays here.

On the other hand, Naturalism and sometimes a synonym for realism, according to *The Penguin Dictionary of Literary Terms and Literary Theory* by J.A Cuddon “In literature naturalism developed out of realism”. It is originated in France around 1870 with the first

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novels of Émile Zola “Zola's influence has been very considerable and is discernible in many plays and novels of the last hundred years. It is particularly noticeable in the work of Maupassant and J-K. Huysmans, of George Moore and George Gissing” (Cuddon et al 538). Roger Lathbury in his realism and regionalism (1860-1910) states that “A writer who follows NATURALISM aims, like a realist, to describe life as it is lived, without false, sentimental or contrived “happy” endings” (70). Additionally, naturalism is a literary expression of —Determinism that principally refuses religion as a motivating power in the world and instead perceives the universe as a machine (Vanspanckeren).

As a movement realism refers to the birth of new set of ideas; it covers several domains including art philosophy politics and literature. William Dean Howells and Henry James have been considered as cofounders of this era, in addition to Walt Whitman, Mark Twain, Kate Chopin, and Stephen Crane who are regarded as prominent authors in the dominated American literature after the Civil War. W.D Howells was the first writer who approached realism “Howells used his editorial power to champion the virtues of literary realism, which he defined with characteristic simplicity as “nothing more and nothing less than the truthful treatment of material.” (Lathburg 12). In the same sense, Howells writes in his work *Criticism and Fiction* (1891): “Let fiction cease to lie about life, let it portray men and women as they are, actuated by the motives and the passions in the measure we all know; let it not put on fine literary airs; let it speak the dialect, the language, that most Americans know—the language of unaffected people everywhere” (114).

The realists opposed idealism, romanticism and sentimentality they claimed to represent life as it is. Marcus in his book asserted “he continued to speak out for realism, against romanticism and against a new enemy – capitalism. It costs him nothing, emotionally, to attack romanticism, which was merely the flimsy veil that hid the features of American life.” (Cunliffe 1991 p230) here the writer is addressing William Dean Howells opposing individualism which

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was one of the features of romanticism. Moreover, realism does not aim like romanticism, writers does not aim to amuse but rather convincing readers and focusing on everyday life issues. According to Lathburg “De-Forest and other realists focus their attention on the here and now, intent on describing things literally as they see them and know them to be, instead of treating them as symbols of a “higher” realm of spiritual values as the transcendentalists might have.” (Lathburg 8). In fact, both realism and romanticism were expressions of their time.

As a literary fact realism was the cleavage between the very rich and the very poor. Realists worked to outline the problem of America of their time. Twain had been widely regarded as the most celebrated late nineteenth-century American author to contribute to the realist movement. He tends to mirror real situations, he strongly believes in what the United States stands for such as freedom, equal opportunities, education, Cunliffe stated “like Mark Twain, he resented comment by Mathew Arnold and other Englishmen, to the effect that the United States was without distinction.” (Cunliffe 227).

As a well-known example of literary realism, Twain’s masterpiece “*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” 1884 has received a great attention and literary gratitude for tackling several themes including slavery racism social hypocrisy and escape, Harold Bloom writes in his book *Mark Twain’s Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” Huckleberry Finn’s story is primarily a record of feeling, not cognition, and as Twain once remarked, “emotions are among the toughest things in the world to manufacture out of whole cloth; it is easier to manufacture seven facts than one emotion.” (Bloom 9). He added “The book tells a story which most Americans need to believe is a true representation of the way things were, are, and yet might be” (Bloom 2). we can say that Mark Twain added a tasty flavor to American literature; he meant writing about people of his environment he was worried about his responsibilities as Americas most prominent realist as Vanspanckeren stated “For Twain and other American writers of the late

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19th century, realism was not merely a literary technique: It was a way of speaking truth and exploding worn-out conventions". (48)

2.2 Mark Twain

In order to decipher works of Mark Twain and be aware of what was he influenced with, it is a must to take a look on his biography; his family hometown and the environment he was raised in, so as to match the link between his writings and his own life.

Samuel Langhorne Clemens the son of John Marshall Clemens, was born in November 30, 1835, in Floria Missouri, this town inspired the setting in many of his books. He is known to the world by his pseudonym Mark Twain. When his father died, he left them very poor, Clemens had some schooling but he left at the age of 12 so as to provide money for his family. He got a job as a printer, writer and editor at a newspaper, then, he became a Mississippi river-pilot. He used the name Mark Twain, which was a term for 12 feet of water used by boats on the Mississippi river "He signed himself with a term borrowed from his river boating says; "Mark Twain" means two fathoms of water, safe for boating" (Lathburg 31).

Clemens was not a writer from the beginning, in fact he had a lot of experiences at first, At the age of 34, he became one of the most popular and famous writers in America. The first part of his life furnished the basis of some of his books. After the great success "*The Jumping Frog of Calaveras country 1867*" Twain travelled to Europe and middle east, he started writing newspaper about the countries he visited. He scored a great success with *The Innocents Abroad* (1869) which was a collection of satirical travel letters. In 1870 married Olivia Langdon, and soon settled with her at Hartford and had four children. After that he wrote a book based on his experiences called it "*Roughing It 1872*" "the he produced "The Gilded Age 1873" he Is well recognized by his two famous books: *Adventures of Tom Sawyer (1876)* and *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)*, the two brought him fame as he was ranked as best storyteller in the west.

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Twain wrote how real people spoke, he was the first American writer to use everyday language, he is considered as a prominent realist author; his masterpieces are admired by all. He deliberately succeeded and worked on himself to become an author whose graces would be recognized esteemed and revered by famous great authors of England. Twain died at the age of 74, on April 21, 1910, in Redding Connecticut. He is still remembered and still alive even after his death.

2.3 The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn (1884)

Twain's masterpiece " *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* ", which appeared in 1884 held a specific position, it is embedded in the American memory, it was a huge success and has been praised by others as the most celebrated historical fiction story in American literature. It is set in the Mississippi river town of St Petersburg. In this book he wrote with warmth and accuracy of the life which was most vivid to him, the life of his boyhood "Twain's style, based on vigorous, realistic, colloquial American speech, gave American writers a new appreciation of their national voice" (Vanspanckeren 48). Bloom added "Huckleberry Finn was published in England in 1884; coincidentally, Henry James published his famous essay "The Art of Fiction" the same year. Twain's novel passes most of the tests for the art of the novel that James proposes there—that it be interesting, that it represent life and give the very "atmosphere of mind" in contact with experience, that it "catch the color, the relief, the expression, the surface, the substance of the human spectacle." (Bloom 24)

Twain grew up in an environment where slavery and racism were normally practiced. That's what influenced him to make his protagonist character help the runaway slave man. The book is connected to *the Adventures of Tom Sawyer 1876*, it opens with a magical sentence "You don't know about me, without you have read a book by the name of The Adventures of Tom Sawyer; but that ain't no matter. That book was made by Mr. Mark Twain, and he told the truth, mainly. There were things which he stretched, but mainly he told the truth." (1) the

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quote exposes the message Huck wanted to convey, it aims to tell that his character is similar to the one of *Adventures of Tom Sawyer 1876*, otherwise, he will see unfamiliar to those who never read it. Huck leaves Miss Watson and the Widow Douglas when he hears his alcoholic father is back, he fears he will steal his money, he sells all what he owns to judge Thatcher. For a while he lives with his father in the woods when pap Finn starts to be violent, he runs away to Jackson's Island, where he meets the runaway slave, Jim. They both want to reach the same goal which is freedom; one from the overcivilized women and from violence he received from his father, and the other from slavery.

The Twainian character Huck Finn decides to follow the voice of his conscience and help the Negro slave 'Jim' escape to freedom, even though he thought that helping an escaper is considered as an illegal act. For Twain personal freedom and protesting against slavery is the main push for writing *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*. Huck lived in a complex reality searching freedom as it was stated by Harold Bloom in his book *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* "the freedom the freedom he must have, because he is that freedom, is a freedom that he wants for everyone else. It is the freedom of the storyteller, Twain's own freedom" (Bloom 4) Further, the book was banned when it first pops up, "Twain once astutely remarked that, unlike Tom Sawyer, *Huckleberry Finn* is not a book for boys but for those who used to be boys" (Bloom p17). parents thought it's not suitable for their children; for the violence, steals, and vulgar language it contains. However, the book reveals the past hidden events and historic roots; let's say what has been normal for them when people with black skin color were treated as inferior. It has been argued that the book is an opportunity to expose racism and without it "the history and long-term effects of racism cannot be fully realized (Telgen). Thus, *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is a detailed representation which unveiled what was deeply rooted and burdened, including; slavery, racism, violence and deprived personal freedom, all in a way or another connected to the theme under study. For Harold "The book tells a story

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which most Americans need to believe is a true representation of the way things were, are, and yet might be” (2)

2.4 Conclusion

Mark Twain’s *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* is seen as a best example of American literature after the civil war that has marked change in almost everything. This literary production has achieved all aims of realism, it was a detailed representation that detects people’s ordinary life.

The chapter encompasses all what the era has witnessed both historically and literally (1860-1914). Historically embodied the reformation in Europe, the pilgrims' flight to the new world, the American civil war and the fugitive slave law. Literally provided an insight into the emergence of realism, naturalism and regionalism further a well-known example of this movement and the author’s biography.

**Chapter two:
Escape as a Theme in
The American Novel**

1 Introduction

Literature is one of the forms of human expression that expresses human emotions, ideas, thoughts, and concerns in the finest writing methods that vary from prose to structured prose to metered poetry to open up the doors for human being to be able to express what cannot be expressed in different ways. Literature is closely related to language, so the true product of the written language and the culture written in this language is preserved within the forms and manifestations of literature, which vary in different regions and eras and always witness diversities and developments over the course of time.

Literature, in its narrow sense, has its different patterns, you might read literature written in a language, such as French literature, we might study writings about people, such as Amerindian literature, we may often talk about the literature of a certain period of time, such as the literature of the nineteenth century AD, for example, and we can refer to literature dealing with a specific topic such as travel literature, or science fiction stories. American literature, like all literatures reflects the sociocultural, political, and even economic reality of its people.

At first, American literature was an extension of British English literature, but it soon became independent, taking on a new character that distinguished it from other literary trends. it is famous for its many novels and the depth of its stories. American literature began with a humble beginning, then soon took its place among the first literatures in the world. Among its distinctive characteristics is that it glorifies ideals, attributes of self-reliance and independence, respect for mankind, emphasis on democracy, love of nature and all western ideals that has been mostly adopted during the enlightenment, along with a departure from literary traditions for the sake of creativity. Sarcastic humor, and satire are also characteristic of this literature such as Twain's works. The American literature developed through several stages and

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witnessed many periods but each period reflected its reality keeping those ideals at the front, and this is what is most common in American literature; preaching its values via its fine novels.

American novels deal with many themes and perhaps one famous theme that the American novel is characterized by is the depiction of The American Dream for it represents the patriotic spirit" that embodies a set of "values" prevailing in America, along with different themes that goes under it. The most important of which are democracy, human rights, freedom, plurality, diversity, individualism, equal opportunities, and egalitarianism. These ideals all revolve around The American Dream or we can say they serve as subthemes to the major one. The portrayal of The American Dream is therefore quite observable in every American novel because it well mirrors those predominant values in the American life. This theme however is quite popular amongst novelists and it is strongly present in American literature. Furthermore, the theme is often associated with the desire to escape. Escape would most of the time serve as the underlying theme above which stands The American Dream along with the aforementioned subthemes. They work in correlation and make up the components of most popular American novels, and short stories. The American Dream itself is a hope to escape from reality to a better one; the hope that all Americans adhere to. Jennifer McClinton-Temple, in her book *The Encyclopedia of Themes in Literature* wrote "Within the whole of the American psyche, there lies an eternal hope that the nation's citizens will be afforded the opportunity for both monetary growth and social advancement." (Jennifer 8). That is why novels which portray The American Dream would most of the time or always contain some of the forms of escape which would not necessarily take the form of physical displacement but rather touches indirectly on some of the different patterns of escape, like emotional, or intellectual, or can be displayed as the hope for social change as described by Jennifer; some others would directly tell an escape story which emphasizes the character's actual movement as the case for a considerable amount of works especially novels that came after Twain's novel.

Chapter Two: Escape as a Theme in The American Novel

In this chapter we are going to define Escape, and divide it into three types or categories; and we are going to explore the theme, and its different manifestations in some known novels as we are going to highlight the theme in some notable works.

2 Defining escape (as a theme)

Escape in Oxford dictionary is “to get away from a place where you have been kept as a prisoner or not allowed to leave”, it is “to get away from an unpleasant or dangerous situation”, it is also “to avoid sth unpleasant or dangerous”. Escape is the liberation from, or avoiding something by vacating a place to exist in another place and it is a human self-defense mechanism to avoid a certain danger as a way of survival or to achieve certain goals which requires someone to be in that place.

Escape or flight is also a psychological mechanism that a person can do to leave something unwanted in order to gain the freedom he loses in the place from which he escaped. A person resorts to fleeing in many cases, one might flee to seek refuge from fear, hunger, or harsh weather condition, so escaping becomes a way of survival. A person may flee in order to achieve certain goals or to live a reality different from the one he left behind in the hope of finding things that he did not find in the place he left. Escape is a mean of survival as it is a mean to achieve goals, and dreams. Migration, for example, is an escape from one place to another for the sake of a better life by making more money or the like, it can also be an escape from death, such as escaping from wars and epidemics, but when hopes die, it can turn into an escape to an ultimate death as in suicides humans commit when escape proves unsuccessful; it is a kind of escape which resulted out of total despair. Escape is not always a positive thing which may materialize in the escape of a person from prison or the escape of the prey from a predator, they both could be positive and negative depending on how one views them.

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Escape is not always a physical process, but rather it may be a psychological or emotional process, or it may be a spiritual process. Humans always tend to escape, many of human activities can be viewed as nothing but patterns of escape like sitting and enjoying meal with friends or family could perhaps be nothing but an escape from loneliness, on the other hand isolation could be viewed as an escape from undesirable social environment.

In most civilizations, flight is associated with fear and cowardice, and it may take a heroic form, but that is rare, but in American culture, escape is a heroic act indicating the exceptional character who seeks to change his reality and who does not give in to restrictions. Escape in the American mentality was always associated with courage, as the American continent was originally established by people who escaped from the old world and were able in turn to constitute the infrastructure of the new world's values which are mostly centered on freedom.

The desire to escape, as it is called in literature, is terribly adopted by American novelists and occurs repeatedly in many literary works to reflect that desire buried in the American mentality. Escape or flight is reflected in novels by the desire of characters or the protagonist to escape, abandon and liberate the self from a miserable or restrictive situation which ties the freedom of the individual, it could be an escape from prison, escape of a child from his village, or an escape from a certain social class to climb the social hierarchy and gain a higher social position. Characters in American novels may flee from parental or domestic violence in which the escapee does not accept his or her current family situation, whether financial or moral. Protagonists in American novels may flee to search for love or to search for their identity on a journey that is less called spiritual, or the escape may be purely hedonistic escape to achieve material prosperity and financial success, or takes the form of a conflict against a patriarchal society which leads to the eventual escape of a female from parental authority to exercise her freedom.

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As we have already said, the escape may not be physical, but rather intellectual or moral as we have previously indicated, meaning that the hero does not move from one place to another, but their escape is embodied by that desire of changing reality through the mere desire, so escape takes place internally, or by adopting a certain thought or ideology in an attempt to change their societies. Our focus however, will be merely on actual escape stories that revolve around the characters' actual escape in which they move and flee from location to another, and leave behind the place that restricts their desires (with no regard to motivations that may change from one escape to another), like Huck's escape in our selected novel, and many other escape stories that came after it.

Thomas Austenfeld in his study divided the escape into three classes or types, and it is a division that we see somewhat logical, which is represented in actual, or physical escape, emotional or psychological escape, spiritual, or existential escape, and there is an overlap between the three types and they are sometimes shared in terms of nature and motives, which means that we may find some escapes in which all three types meet.

The types of escape are as follows:

2.1. physical escape (Flight as escape)

Physical escape, which is the typical escape that takes place through the evacuation and the movement of the person to another place. This is done in most cases for security purposes or as to survive, and it is a natural reaction resulting from fear or the desire to save the self or it can be escape from an inevitable death, or in order to gain freedom such as escaping from prison or from religious and ethnic persecution, or escaping from police chasing, or even escaping from war and seeking refuge in another country. The main feature that distinguishes this escape is that it is a forced escape, and in most cases, it is unwanted and is a defense mechanism that we humans share with other animals. Huck's escape for instance is a physical escape, but it is not necessarily just physical as it is possible for two types of escape to meet in

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one case, resulting in several motives behind one escape. Hack's escape is a physical escape, but it is also psychological, or it may be spiritual or existential to achieve self-realization and live under certain values.

This type of escape is demonstrated in many American novels such as Daniel Faulkner's *Barn Burning* (1939) in which escaping from paternal authority and running from the law takes place.

2.2. emotional escape (Flight as abandonment)

What distinguishes this type of escape is that it can be a metaphorical escape, which is not necessarily done by actual escape, which forces the character to move to another place, and it is also an escape that is not forced, but in most cases, it is out of pure will and intention, it is organized and the destination is defined here, and the character does not flee as a result of a menace that threatens his life, but it may threaten his psyche, belief, lifestyle, or perhaps his values. In case that the character's escape did not happen or failed, it may lead the character to commit suicide, and he flees to death instead of fleeing death.

There is always an escape from and an escape to, but the strength of the motives differs from one escape to another and whether it is an escape to or escape from depends mainly on motivations. In the psychological escape, flight is often an escape to the thing not from the thing, but it is not necessary.

This type of escape is often associated with the concept of "escapism" by escaping from responsibility or from the course of a normal life through abandonment, and running behind a life free of duties and stress which threatens the person's psyche. One of the manifestations of this escape is the escape from reality to fantasy, which is a metaphorical escape and is done by imagination or by reading, as the case with "Escapist writers", especially in the romantic era, during which this kind of literature emerged, and it's called "Escape Literature", so people move from the bitterness of reality to the sweetness of a virtual and extra-mundane world where

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everything is fine through reading fantasy novels, and this type of literature has spread widely in England and America.

In this type of escape, we think of Thomas Wolfe's *You Can't Go Home Again* (1940).

2.3. Existential, or spiritual escape (Flight as a self-realization)

This escape is not a cowardly escape and it is not resulted out of fear, and it is also not an escape from certain responsibilities, but on the contrary, it is an escape in order to adopt new and different responsibilities. Even if the escapee abandoned a certain responsibility during his escape, but it is in fact an escape from the nature of responsibility, not from the responsibility itself.

Regardless of whether the character is ready or the escape occurred suddenly, the character seeks behind this escape to build himself and develop his abilities or to search for a certain truth and often ends by returning to the starting point. In this kind of escape, the character flees from a normal or routined life style and sometimes boring, so the character goes into an adventure or lives in a place where he can live a unique life and to live somewhat strange and unnatural experiences, so the character is fully prepared for the journey, and he defies the odds in order to live that adventure.

Self-realization is an existential endeavor that Americans have always pursued, so self-realization is not only spiritual, but a combination of the intangible and the tangible. Self-realization may be embodied in profit and achieving material happiness or escaping from a specific social class and climbing the social pyramid and belonging to a higher social class. It is a common term among Americans, and it differs slightly from one person to another, each has his vision, but it shares a basic point, which is the fulfillment of the dreams that the escapee dreams about, whether they are material or spiritual.

The purpose of this escape is not performed out of sense of danger, unlike the first type, and it is not related to a psychological factor nor it is an act of avoidance, this type may not

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force the character to flee a long distance or disappear completely, as the character may flee from home and return to it again, or he may flee from his village not with the intention of desertion but with the intention of returning back again, therefore, the escaper may not return again, but not out of prior intention. The difference between the third and second types inevitably lies in the intentions of the escaper. Many novels in fact demonstrated this type of escape and perhaps F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*, Sherwood Anderson's *Winesburg Ohio* (1919), and Willa Cather's *Neighbor Rosicky* (1930), are adequate examples.

3 The persistence of Escape in the American novel:

Many novels besides Twain's piece have tackled the topic of escape. In spite of Huckleberry Finn's prototypical value, countless novels occurred dealing with the same theme; with the characters' desire to escape and reject their reality, it sometimes appears as a major theme in the story and falls into the category of physical escape and sometimes appears as internal conflicts between individuals and their society. Characters in American novels always tend to escape from something; there is always struggles for something they need to obtain or something they want to rid themselves of, or else there will be no meaning to the story. Many novels deal with the characters' quest for self-realization and freedom, and countless others emphasize self-determination for it seems to be one important characteristic than defines the American character, some characters quest for freedom and take a journey of hope; a hope to live a better life much like Finn's escape, others search for new identity like Theodore Dreiser's *Sister Carrie* (1932) which is about a young woman who escapes to the big city and realizes her own American dream who later, after a lot of struggle and conflict against her surrounding, escaped from her past, and became a famous actress. This novel has been one of the greatest urban novels with an obvious pattern of escape, with the character's urge to change, and escape societal constrains. Some characters in American novels depart in a hopeless

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attempt to find nothing and end up with eventual death or suicide. These types of stories that end up with an ultimate escape tend to appear frequently in American stories, we might think of *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin, the story revolves around Edna's rejection of marriage and motherhood. It contains feminist themes and depicts the conflict of women against society's prejudice to women. Like all stories of this type when Edna failed to live the life she wanted, she committed suicide. This shows how Edna escaped to death when her desired escape went to a total failure. Edna's suicide was her last solution, and was simply a different way to escape from the unhappiness she felt with her life. We could feel that American novelists try to portray suicide as a way of freeing the self, and it is most of the time depicted as a heroic act that displays the character's unwillingness to submit to constraints. In fact, many novels deal with the theme of suicide which is usually committed after a desperate attempt to escape, suicide is therefore simply viewed as nothing but one of the escape mechanisms, that well portray that American proclivity. The frequency of escape in American novel is astonishing like Faulkner's *Barn Burning* in which escape from paternal authority takes place. This type of stories with this distinct pattern of escape is quite observable in American novels, and seem to deliver clear message which often symbolizes the revolt against paternal authority as the revolt against social norms. Daniel Defoe's *Moll Flanders* pursues his American dream through escaping from prison to the colonies, which they long represented a sanctuary for those who want new lives, and who want to be self-made. Many characters escape for self-fulfillment or to realize themselves like in the 1919 novel *Winesburg Ohio* by Sherwood Anderson. Written by A. B. Guthrie Jr. in 1947, *The Big Sky* is an adventure novel set on the Western frontier. It tells a story about a seventeen-year-old boy Boone Caudill who, at the beginning of the novel, is living with his family in Kentucky. Boone's father is a bully who physically abuses him, his mother, and his brother. One day, Boone's father was beating him, and as a retaliation Boone hits his father on his head. His father was seriously injured, or perhaps has even died, Boone

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takes his father's rifle and escapes from home. some characters in American novels flee from mundane life and take off for a new adventure. In this category we might think of Christopher McCandless in John Krakaur's *Into the Wild* (1996). The story tells about a son of rich parents William Hurt, and Marcia Gay Harden. Christopher McCandless graduates from the university of Emory as a best student. Nonetheless, instead of pursuing a prestigious and profitable career, he chooses to give his savings to charity, and rid himself of his possession, and went out for an adventurous journey to the Alaskan wilderness. The list of novels with patterns of escape can go on. Edith Wharton's *The House of Mirth*, "The Age of Innocence" and "Twilight Sleep", and "Neighbor Rosicky" by Willa Cather, "Grapes of Wrath" by John Steinbeck, and Carson McCullers' "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter" all portray this inclination, each with its different pattern of escape, and it occurs "as a kind of obsessive accompaniment, a counterpoint to, or even a part of the main structure of the story". (Bluefarb 3). Many notable American writers produced escape novel and their characters display a desire to escape, like Earnest Hemmingway especially in his two famous novels, *A farewell to Arms*, and *The Sun Also Rises*. We might also think of Jay Gatsby in F.Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* in which the Character escapes his social class, and *Native Son* by Richard Wright in which Bigger Thomas, the protagonist, flees from his crime. All these novels that we have mentioned are merely simple instances for almost, all American novels, when we consider the concept's broad meaning and different manifestations, contain some aspects of escape in a way or another.

3.1 Escape in slave narratives

Slave narratives, is a narration of the lives, or a large part of the lives of former or fugitive slaves, whether written or verbally told personally by slaves. Slave narratives constitute one among the foremost influential traditions in American literature, shaping both the form, and themes of a large number of the foremost controversial, and famous writings in the history of the United States. The most popular American slave narratives were written by

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black African Americans, but also the African-born Muslims, the Cuban poet Juan Francisco Manzano, and a handful of white American sailors captured by North African pirates penned accounts of their slavery during the 20th century. From 1760 until the end of the Civil War in the United States, nearly 100 biographies of fugitive or former slaves appeared. After slavery was banned in the United States in 1865, a minimum of 50 former slaves wrote or dictated accounts of their lives. During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the WPA Federal Writers' Project collected verbally-narrated stories from 2,500 former slaves, whose testimony eventually filled 40 volumes. With the rise of the abolitionist movement came in the early nineteenth century the demand for powerful eyewitness accounts of the harsh realities of slavery in the United States increased. In response, the novels of Frederick Douglass (1845), William Wells Brown (1847), Henry Pape (1849), Sojourner Truth (1850), Solomon Northup (1853) and William and Ellen Craft (1860) garnered thousands of readers in England and also in the United States. American slave narratives typically focus on the narrator's rituals of transition from slavery in the South to freedom in the North. Slavery has been documented as a condition of extreme deprivation, which necessitates increasingly violent resistance, "Usually the antebellum slave narrator portrays slavery as a condition of extreme physical, intellectual, and spiritual deprivation, a kind of hell on earth" (Andrews). Slave narratives "address vehemently or sometimes diplomatically the injustices towards slaves by their owners specifically and the white supremacist society generally" (Andrews). After a horrific and disturbing escape, the slave gains freedom not only by reaching the Free States in the North but by taking on a new name and dedication to anti-slavery activism. The narrative of the life of Frederick Douglass, "an American Slave", which written about himself (1845), represents an epitome of a slave novel, it connects the pursuit of freedom to the quest for literacy, thus creating an enduring ideal of the African American hero who is committed to both intellectual and physical freedom.

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In the wake of the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850, American slave narratives contributed to the rise of the national debate over slavery. The most widely read and controversial American novel of the 19th century, Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1852) was heavily influenced by the author's reading of slave novels, which she owes to the many graphic incidents and models of some of her memorable characters. Frederick Douglass wrote a review of his original life story and its expansion of *My Bondage and My Freedom* in 1855, partly to narrate his ongoing struggle for freedom and independence against northern racism. In 1861 Harriet Jacobs, the first African-American maidservant to write her own novel, *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*, depicted her resistance to the sexual exploitation of her master and her eventual achievement of freeing herself along with her two children. *The Bondswoman Story* published in 2002 but was written in the mid-1850s, on what it appears by a self-signed African American woman by Hannah Crafts presumably a résumé of a fugitive slave from North Carolina. However, this unique manuscript is also very fictional, making it an important contribution to the embodiment of the slave narrative indicated by the complex author voice in Douglass's *My Bondage and My Freedom* and the intense use of dialogue in Jacobs's *Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*. The truth is that black citizens, or as they were called "slaves" before, suffered a great deal in the medieval period and the beginning of the modern era, especially in European countries, and during the American Civil War. Black Americans did not obtain their rights until few decades ago, where they were later able to gain total rights, and among them emerged the forty-fourth, and the first black president in the United States of America, Barack Obama.

Many stories, and slave narrators talked about the suffering and persecution of black-skinned people, whether in America or Africans who had tasted bitterness of slavery from white-skinned or European people because of their color, including:

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Harriet Ann Jacobs which was the first woman to write a slave narrative. She was a slave in Edenton, in 1813. After her mother died, Jacobs was sent to live with the mistress of her mother, Margaret Horniblow, where she learned to sew, read and write. After years of slavery there, she escaped and then gained her freedom. Jacobs became an abolitionist after publishing her one-and-only most influential slave narrative (Harriet Ann Jacobs Biography.com).

The novel "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, based on a true story, tells about the brown-skinned Sethe who escaped from slavery to the north after she was one of the slaves in the American South, and after Seth settled in a free zone in the North, a group of men came to her to return her to her master because her escape from him was illegal under the Fugitive Slave Act which orders to bring back run-away, and black fugitive slaves, Seth was not alone, she was accompanied by her two-year-old daughter.

The novel "Twelve Years a slave" by Solomon Northup, which is also considered an autobiography, tells a story of a brown American lawyer who was kidnapped by slave hunters to be sold in the states of the American South to work on a master's farm. Solmon, the protagonist who wrote the novel after his liberation, tells of the harsh lives of slaves, their difficult and deadly food habits, and the human and even sexual abuse they are subjected to. Solmon is freed by his friend after being found nearly 12 years into slavery. These notes contributed to a wide resonance and societal debate against slavery and with the liberation of mankind from slavery.

"The Underground Railroad" is about Cora, a slave who worked on cotton plantation during the pre-American Civil War in the 18th century. The novel depicts how slaves lived a cruel and painful life. Cora's suffering was not just because she was a black slave, but because slaves also used to insult her because of her shame that followed her because her mother fled from the farm they were working on, and left her by herself.

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The novel "The Book of Negroes" by Lawrence Hill tells a story about the little girl Amianta Diallo, who was kidnapped from her town in Mali by gangs kidnapping Africans to be slaves of the masters in Europe, specifically in Britain. The novel was given that name to resemble the name of the official African slave registration document written by British naval officers in 1783, before the end of the American Civil War.

The novel "Uncle Tom's Cabin", which is considered one of the landmarks in international and American literature, and its name was immortalized because of its story and its hero, Uncle Tom. The novel tells a story about a black slave named Tom, who is sold by his master due to debts. Tom refused to flee loyal to his master, and his journey began from one master to another until he reached the hand of a cruel person who treated him harshly. The son of his first master will try to search for him to bring him back, but he died before he could reach him, and because of that the master freed all his servants in loyalty to Uncle Tom, considering his hut, in which he lived, as a symbol of freedom.

4 The American Dream

The "American Dream" is a term associated with the dream of immigration and living in America, associated in the minds of many with the marketing of a set of American "values" and incentives that support the individual's chances of personal success with his hard work, regardless of any social, racial or other differences. The American Dream is described as the "patriotic spirit" that embodies a set of "values" prevailing in America, like "democracy, human rights, freedom, plurality of opportunities and equality." This concept has been interpreted according to multiple variables. After the transformation of America during the 1950s into a global political and economic power, some associated it with achieving "happiness" through the material success represented by getting a job, owning a house, a car, and starting a family. A second vision linked it to the individual's enjoyment of freedoms, considering that as long

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as a person has freedom and the ability to live in any place he chooses and do whatever work he wants, and there is equality before the courts between the rich and the poor, the strong and the weak, this will provide a person with decent livelihoods. The roots of the concept of "The American Dream" goes back to the American Declaration of Independence issued in 1776, which contained the expression, "All human beings are created equal," "every creature has indisputable rights," and "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness." The term "American Dream" was first coined by the American historian and writer James Truslow Adams in his book *The Epic of America* (1931), in which he stated that The American Dream is "that dream of a land in which life should be better and richer and fuller for everyone, with opportunity for each according to ability or achievement." Adams added that what he called The American Dream "is not a dream of motor cars and high wages merely, but a dream of social order in which each man and each woman shall be able to attain to the fullest stature of which they are innately capable, and be recognized by others for what they are, regardless of the fortuitous circumstances of birth or position." (415).

The American Dream in American literature and novel is embodied in the characters' desire to pursue the dream of wealth and material success, and the competitive sense of the characters in climbing the social hierarchy to obtain a better life, or in the struggle for freedom as embodied in the characters' individuality and their dependence on themselves and perseverance for the sake of financial independence, even if it is necessary for them to flee in order to achieve this.

The American Dream contains most of the American values, and this concept proves its strong presence in American literature. Most of novels which contain the concepts of individualism, materialism, competition and equality of opportunity between all classes, and the pursuit of success, are nothing but a depiction of that dream that all Americans go after.

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The American Dream, as portrayed by novels, is everyone's dream; it is a dream for the poor similar to the rich, because The American Dream represents an opportunity for the poor to gain wealth. Novels that revolve around poor characters who transformed, with their perseverance, into rich characters (which is often done through the characters' escape to achieve this) are novels that embody The American Dream which is a sought-after to all Americans and non-Americans alike.

Here it is up to us to say that most of escape stories fall under this concept, and that there is a close relationship between them. the escapee who wants to change his reality flees in order to have a better life and to rely on himself in order to achieve that goal, is similar to characters who flee to achieve their American dream, even the escape of slaves during the civil war is an escape in order to embrace this dream and live under the shadow of American values.

We can see that there is a strong relationship between the desire to escape and western values in general, and to live under those values (which were considered a product of their times, and received a strong opposition at the time) it was necessary to escape in order to achieve them, so that the desire to escape becomes a beating heart in the American chest.

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Corpus Analysis

1 Introduction

Twain wrote a novel that embodies the search for freedom. Since the novel was written after the American Civil War, when the reaction of whites was violent against blacks, Twain was trying to vividly criticize racial discrimination, increasing segregation, and the popular view that blacks are only good to be slaves. “Twain’s original intention, as he stated to William Dean Howells, was to take “a boy of twelve and run him on through life (in the first person).” In the aftermath of the war and the failure of Reconstruction, however, the work quickly bogged down as the book began to address the issue of freedom and slavery; it was not a path that Twain was eager to take” (Bruce 13). Through Jim's character, he explained his lofty human qualities and deep affection, and how much he longed for freedom. Through Huck’s character, he endeavors to shed light on the very urge and the desire to escape and emphasized the necessity of freedom by taking adventures willing to be safe and comfortable. The high incidence of violence around the major character Huck Finn is the foremost reason for wanting to flee this difficult situation heading for the river, in addition to social hypocrisy and the over-civilizing restraints of the Widow and Miss Watson. This chapter will be based on the thematic analysis of the corpus; its characters, setting, and themes, and precisely on the theme of escape and its manifestations.

2 The corpus

2.1 plot

The novel starts with the narrator of the book Huckleberry Finn. Huckleberry was adopted by Mrs. Douglas, and her sister, Miss Watson, they were striving to change his character and make it more civilized and more refined. Huck appreciated their efforts, but that was too much for him, he saw this as a limitation in his life, he tried to find a way to live simply as he wants. Huckleberry Finn and his friend Tom sawyer had made a good sum of money

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from their previous adventures (*The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*). Having this amount of money made Huck's father searching for him to steal his money. Huck's life changes upside down upon the sudden appearance of his helpless father, Pap, an unethical, drunken man. Despite Huck's success in preventing his father from obtaining the money he earned, Pap takes Huck to be under his care and moves him to a part of the woods and locked him in a cabin where he treated him miserably. He tried many times to escape the hut and heads toward the Mississippi River.

Huck met the servant who used to work for Miss Watson, Jim, on an island called Jackson Island, and tells him that he has run away from her after hearing that Miss Watson will sell him to a family near the end of the river where the conditions of the slaves there are much worse. Jim was trying to go to an area of Cairo, Illinois, which has no slavery. Huck was initially opposed Jim wanting to become a free man, but after they moved in with each other and chatted deeply, Huck knew a lot about Jim's life and his past, and that helped change some ideas that Huck thinks about people, slavery, and life as a whole.

Huck and Jim resort to a cave on a hillside on Jackson Island to hide from a strong storm, and they would go towards the river whenever they were able to bring some food, firewood, and other items that they might need, and one night they found a wooden raft, which they took and later used to travel across the Mississippi River. Then they find an entire house floating on the river, and they enter that house to take what they can of it, but when Jim entered one of the rooms, he saw Huck's father dead and lying on the ground, and a bullet appeared on his back. What Jim is doing at this moment is to prevent Huck from looking at the man's face and not tell him that his father has passed away.

Huck and Jim go astray and head toward Illinois and the raft sinks when a steamboat passes by, separating the two from each other. Huck takes refuge in the Grangerford family,

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one of the wealthy families, and has a relationship with Buck Grangerford, a boy of his age. There will be enmity and revenge between this family and another family, the Shepherdson family, for 30 years. The bloody conflict reaches its greatest climax when Buck's sister flees with a member of the Shepherdson family, and the conflict kills all the men and boys in the Grangerford family, including Buck. Huck was deeply touched and describes how he escaped the inevitable killing. Huck then meets Jim and together they go south on the Mississippi River.

On their way south, two insidious men who were rescued by Huck and Jim rise to the raft, one of whom identifies himself as the son of an English Duke (the Duke of Bridgewater) and the other man is old and says he is the most deserving king to the throne of France. Huck knew that these two men were frauds, and nothing of what they said was true, but he remained calm just to keep Jim safe. Huck and Jim are forced to leave with. The Duke and King talked with them some adventures in which the Duke and the King played a cunning role. Huck and Jim knew about the story of the wealthy Peter Wilks. The pair of aristocrats went to the Wilks' mansion pretending to be their English uncles and took Huck as a servant boy. Later, Huck felt guilty for the Wilks' three nieces and planned to reveal the scam. Huck's plan was about to unfold when the Wilks 'real brothers arrived (Roberts).

The four flee southward, and when Huck goes to a nearby village, the king restricts Jim and sells him. Huck became furious when he saw the treason committed by the king, but his conscience was telling him that if he helped Jim to flee again and regain his freedom, he would be stealing the property of Miss Watson, but he resolved and said: "It's okay, let me go to Hell." And he went to untangle Jim.

Upon arriving at Jim's house, Huck learns that the King has sold him in a wine bar for \$40. In a strange coincidence, Huck discovers that those who bought Jim are Mr. and Mrs. Phelps, who are relatives of Tom Sawyer, and they were expecting Tom Sawyer to visit them.

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Huck arrived at the Phelps 'farm in search of Jim, he was joined by Tom who agreed on helping him. When Mr. and Mrs. Phelps see Huck, they think he's Tom and he goes into the house and plays and tries to find a way to break Jim's family. Soon, Tom Sawyer arrives home, but pretends to be "Master," Tom's younger brother, and completes the trick with Hack.

After that, the story unfolds rapidly, as Aunt Polly comes and reveals the true identity of Hack and Tom, and tells Tom that Jim had been at liberty for many months and that Mrs. Watson before her death released him. Jim told Huck of his father's death and that he can return to Pittsburgh without problems. In the end, Huck tells of his happiness that he has completed writing his story, and despite the attempts of Aunt Sally Tom's family to adopt him and attend him, he is determined to go west towards the Indian regions.

2.2 Characters

The piece of writing must contain characters to play roles and perform the actions. These characters contribute in the plot progress and serve to demonstrate themes the writer choose to tackle. The prominent characters that represent the escape theme and search personal freedom in Twain's novel "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" are as follows.

Huck Finn is the thirteen-year-old kid of the drunken father pap Finn; his mother has left at a young age. Huck is the protagonist and narrator of the novel. His father is a town drunkard, cruel and a greedy man who never took care of his child, instead he was always violent and had no responsibility toward his child. Pap was absent In Huck's life, consequently he became a street child, he never knew the family notion, he never experienced paternal relationship as he never had a stable life. He has been adopted by widow Douglas; she was willing to civilize him yet Huck didn't accept it and runs in his way seeking freedom, he rebels against his brutal father and against the hypocritical society, he always felt that he is an outcast and fears he will remain a stranger. He got influenced by his friend Tom as they both participate

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in the life of others by witnessing theft, corruption and moral decay. Huck rejects education and religious teachings, though he never had schooling like any white boy, he is thoughtful, intelligent and willing to contradict social norms. He refuses the principles of his society one of which slavery and racism when he said “when Jim got sold —I would go to work and steal Jim out of slavery again; and if I could think up anything worse, I would do that, too” (203). By this we understand the author’s main point which is contradicting the southern society that it treats blacks as inferiors and encourages slavery.

Pap Finn is the fifty-year-old father of Huck. He is an immoral, uneducated, corrupted drunken, abusive, and irresponsible father who has never been a true father even for a moment in huck’s life. he always beats his child and tortured him like he does in the cabin when he kidnaps and imprisons him, he does all what takes him go get what he craves for, when he wants Huck’s money is the simplest example “Looky here—mind how you talk to me; I’m a-standing about all I can stand now—so don’t gimme no sass. I’ve been in town two days, and I hain’t heard nothing but about you bein’ rich. I heard about it away down the river, too. That’s why I come. You git me that money tomorrow—I want it”. (Twain 22). He abhors educated people and never wants huck to be amongst them” And looky here—you drop that school, you hear? I’ll learn people to bring up a boy to put on airs over his own father and let on to be better’n what HE is. You lemme catch you fooling around that school again, you hear? Your mother couldn’t read, and she couldn’t write, nuther, before she died. None of the family couldn’t before they died. I can’t; and here you’re a-swelling yourself up like this. I ain’t the man to stand it—you hear? Say, lemme hear you read.” (Twain 21). Pap Finn never plays his role as a father. The novel was a representation of a bad relationship between father and son.

Widow Douglas and Miss Watson the sisters who tries civilize Huck. The widow Douglas adopted him and thought him the right manners, religious beliefs, how to behave and

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be disciplined; she is regular, decent and religious woman “The Widow Douglas she took me for her son, and allowed she would civilize me; but it was rough living in the house all the time, considering how dismal regular and decent the widow was in all her ways; and so when I couldn’t stand it no longer, I lit out” (Twain2). she insists to be on time for supper and reads book for him “The widow rung a bell for supper, and you had to come to time.” “After supper she got out her book and learned me about Moses and the Bulrushers”. (Twain 2). She doesn’t allow him to smoke and describes smoking as a mean practice “Pretty soon I wanted to smoke, and asked the widow to let me. But she wouldn’t. She said it was a mean practice and wasn’t clean, and I must try to not do it anymore. That is just the way with some people. They get down on a thing when they don’t know nothing about it.” (Twain 2). Her sister miss Watson as Huck describes her “a tolerable slim old maid, with goggles on came to live with them, she does same as the widow Douglas by trying to learn him how to behave properly Miss Watson would say, “Don’t put your feet up there, Huckleberry;” and “Don’t scrunch up like that, Huckleberry—set up straight;” and pretty soon she would say, “Don’t gap and stretch like that, Huckleberry—why don’t you try to behave?” (Twain, 3). She as well takes the role of teaching Huck how to behave and pray to get what he asks for (Roberts).

Jim is Miss Watson ‘s slave. At the beginning of the story, he is described as very gullible because he believes in in myths and superstitious, he is a naïve person who masters telling stories about witches and predicts other’s future. He runs away and joins Huck on the raft down the Mississippi river ” For Jim, the river is simply an impediment that must be dealt with in a manner that will not betray him” (Bloom,45), he left seeking freedom when he discovers that Miss Watson is selling him and he won’t be able to meet his lovely family again, he is loyal and faithful to the ones he loves and fears losing them, his friendship with Fuck and tom thought him that human beings life has nothing to do with race, he is seen as a loyal friend.

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In the novel he owns that voice of slaves that shows and depicts the truth of twain's life that time. He was a caring father who shows love and care to his non real son Huck Finn, he opens his heart to him and shares all about his life and family. By this, he made Huck change his mind on the stereotypical thoughts of blacks. They take same risks, share the same boat, feeling, and aim which is freedom as Huck mentioned "Git up and hump yourself, Jim! There ain't a minute to lose. They're after us!" (Twain, 62). This shows their unity and the mutual love deeply rooted in their hearts.

Tom Sawyer is Huck's childhood best friend, in the beginning of the novel Tom organizes a group of robbers known as 'Tom Sawyer's Gang' "Now, we'll start this band of robbers and call it Tom Sawyer's Gang" (Twain, 7). They enjoyed extravagant adventures together such as corruption robbery and burglary "Now," says Ben Rogers, "what's the line of business of this Gang?", "Nothing only robbery and murder," Tom said. "But who are we going to rob? —houses, or cattle, or—" "Stuff! stealing cattle and such things ain't robbery; it's burglary," says Tom Sawyer. "We ain't burglars. That ain't no sort of style. We are highwaymen. We stop stages and carriages on the road, with masks on, and kill the people and take their watches and money." (Twain, 9). Indeed, the young Tom achieves what we call leadership skills, he has influenced Huck in many terms.

The Duke and king are people that Huck and Jim travel with. The king is a seventy-year-old bald man with a gray moustache. He claims to be "the dauphin", Huck describes him as a filthy trouble maker. Duke is a thirty-four-year-old man, Jim and Huck indulge his game by calling him "Your Grace." The two are greedy and deceptive as they lack respect for human life and dignity. They risk Huck and Jim 's lives just for the sake of money, They care less for others' lives especially slaves and treat them as property as they sell Jim to the Phelps for forty dollars (Roberts).

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Judge Thatcher a guardian to Huck at the beginning of the novel, he safeguard the money he found with Tom, when he hears his father is back, he sells all what he owns to judge thatcher, so that pap Finn cannot steal it from him, at first, he didn't accept the money but later on he tried to comfort him and saved it for him. At the end of the novel, he gave the money back to him.

2.3 Setting

The story takes place before the civil war. The story happens in several places. It starts in the real town of St. Petersburg, Missouri, precisely it takes place in the Mississippi River where Huck and Jim the major characters of the story were at, and ends in the town of Pikesville. As Huck and Jim moves, the setting changes as well, but since Huck and Jim spend more time along the Mississippi river during their journey, it is considered as the main setting of the story. For both Jim and Huck, the river is a symbol of freedom, it is the place where they feel safe and comfortable at. It was the place where they had fun discussing never ending stories. The Mississippi river provides Huck and Jim with a great sense of life and liberty where they get to live many adventures. Twain's name is a direct reference to the river which meant 12 feet of water used by boats on the Mississippi river "He signed himself with a term borrowed from his river boating says; "Mark Twain" means two fathoms of water, safe for boating" (Lathburg 31). In many of Clemens books the river is important "In these three books, the Mississippi River is as essential as any character: it serves as a playground for children, a highway to freedom for one man, and the road to a living hell for others." (Schilling 127), "these three books" refer to "life in the Mississippi", "adventures of tom sawyer" and "adventures of Huckleberry Finn".

3 Escape in Huckleberry Finn

The masterwork of *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* examines the issue of freedom as a major theme. This section of the study intends to provide an insight to the presence of escape in the novel which is closely allied to freedom; subsequently, when we are addressing escape, we are pointing out to the term freedom; when the escaper deserts his hometown heading somewhere else, he is seeking the needed personal freedom. Jennifer McClinton-Temple in her book *Encyclopedia of Themes* refers to the law of escaping danger or difficult situations as natural laws engrained in every human person, laws that respond to reason and protect the equal and independent nature of human beings (Jennifer 36). She believes “Each person must determine his or her own freedom by acting as he or she chooses, apart from the constrictions of family, religion, time, or even reason” (37). As a consequence, the human psyche produces a defense mechanism to protect the self from mental disorder, John Killinger writes in his article “Existentialism and Human Freedom,” “Man’s nature is not ‘fixed’ as a stone’s or a tree’s is; he is a creature with the ability to choose, and decides what he shall become” (304). Humans have no created essence, but they must create their existence by free actions” (Jennifer 37). Escape therefore, appears with astonishing frequency in the 19th century literature beginning with adventures of huckleberry Finn, as it is considered the prototypical modern novel of escape. Bluefarb asserts that “For *Huckleberry Finn* contains all of those ingredients that have gone into the escape novels that have come after it: violence, the difference between the uses of rhetoric and the contrasting realities, conscious and unconscious hypocrisy, gratuitous cruelty—all are included in this novel” (13). Hence, Mark Twain’s “*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*” is the suitable case study to explore and analyze escape as a theme, it’s different manifestations and motifs; that’s exactly what is going to be dealt with in the following pages.

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3.1 Huck's Escape

Escape in Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* seems to be dominant; the whole novel is about escaping from one thing to another. Throughout the novel we can see characters searching a place to flee to, it was obvious in the beginning where the major character Huck is not feeling at ease with all around him and the type of life he has. Huck's first escape was from the two sisters who he was adopted by, since he has no family to take care of him except a neglectful father who was never there when needed, a fake alcoholic aggressive brutal father. Miss Watson and the widow Douglas were trying to civilize Huck thought him how to be regular and be disciplined "The Widow Douglas she took me for her son, and allowed she would civilize me; but it was rough living in the house all the time, considering how dismal regular and decent the widow was in all her ways; and so, when I couldn't stand it no longer i lit out." (Twain 2), they were trying to pressure him; telling him religion stories "After supper she got out her book and learned me about Moses and the Bulrushers, and I was in a sweat to find out all about him" (Twain 2), not allowing to smoke as she describe it as a mean practice "Pretty soon I wanted to smoke, and asked the widow to let me. But she wouldn't. She said it was a mean practice and wasn't clean, and I must try to not do it anymore. That is just the way with some people. They get down on a thing when they don't know nothing about it. Here she was a-bothering about Moses, which was no kin to her, and no use to anybody" (Twain 2), he was told to go to school and to live the way that they believe is right for him. But Huck doesn't want any of this, he hates doing what he is told to do all time "Miss Watson would say, "Don't put your feet up there, Huckleberry;" and "Don't scrunch up like that, Huckleberry—set up straight;" and pretty soon she would say, "Don't gap and stretch like that, Huckleberry—why don't you try to behave?" (Twain 3), he felt like he is not being himself just following instructions, he feels trapped and constrained by these

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boundaries. By this, we understand that Huck is no more willing to live that way “Miss Watson she kept pecking at me, and it got tiresome and lonesome.” (Twain 3).

By and by, Pap Huck’s aggressive father is back, he took Huck with him and locked him in a cabin, at first Huck enjoyed being with him; no Miss Watson and the widow nor school. Day after day, Huck hated staying all time imprisoned inside waiting Pap to open up, even when he returns, he is all time drunk and not aware of what he is doing “He chased me round and round the place with a clasp-knife, calling me the Angel of Death, and saying he would kill me, and then I couldn’t come for him no more.” (Twain 31) here Huck started thinking of the life he is living, he thought leaving him and not coming back. He added “I begged, and told him I was only Huck; but he laughed SUCH a screechy laugh, and roared and cussed, and kept on chasing me up.” (Twain 31). He thought him nothing except how to be violent” Pretty soon he was all tired out, and dropped down with his back against the door, and said he would rest a minute and then kill me. He put his knife under him, and said he would sleep and get strong, and then he would see who was who.” (Twain 31) he never played his role as a father instead he thought how to be cruel, nasty and brutal “By and by I got the old split-bottom chair and clumb up as easy as I could, not to make any noise, and got down the gun. I slipped the ramrod down it to make sure it was loaded, then I laid it across the turnip barrel, pointing towards pap, and set down behind it to wait for him to stir.” (Twain 31).

Huck had that desire to go somewhere else to get rid of all of the restrictions, that escape notion was very clear right in the beginning of chapter 6 as he said” I thought it all over, and I reckoned I would walk off with the gun and some lines, and take to the woods when I run away. I guessed I wouldn’t stay in one place, but just tramp right across the country, mostly night times, and hunt and fish to keep alive, and so get so far away that the old man nor the widow couldn’t ever find me anymore.” (Twain 27), he added “Sometimes I’ve a mighty notion to just

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leave the country for good and all.” (Twain 28). Huck is the kind of a boy who likes to explore and be himself, do things that he wants to; he thought of living the life he wants, the life very child is living; not being locked down. Now Huck is thinking of a way to flee, after he headed to the river to bring some food for breakfast and found a small raft floating down ” I noticed some pieces of limbs and such things floating down” (Twain 32) he wanted to calculate an effective plan for escaping “I got to thinking that if I could fix up some way to keep pap and the widow from trying to follow me, it would be a certainer thing than trusting to luck to get far enough off before they missed me; you see, all kinds of things might happen.” (Twain 33) “I says to myself, I can fix it now so nobody won’t think of following me.” (Twain 33).

After he fakes his death and everybody thought he is gone, and when they have found his shoes, Huck fears pap will chase him before he gets a good head start; he thinks going where no one can find him and nobody will stop him “I says to myself, they’ll follow the track of that sackful of rocks to the shore and then drag the river for me. And they’ll follow that meal track to the lake and go browsing down the creek that leads out of it to find the robbers that killed me and took the things.” (Twain 36). He floated down the river and pondered in the sky how life will be without pap, miss Watson and no more school. He thought Jackson’s island is the suitable place for him “Jackson’s Island is good enough for me; I know that island pretty well, and nobody ever comes there. And then I can paddle over to town nights, and slink around and pick up things I want. Jackson’s Island’s the place.” (Twain 36).

After all the disorder, the fear and unrest, the boy felt happy and relieved the time he reached the island “I laid there in the grass and the cool shade thinking about things, and feeling rested and ruther comfortable and satisfied.” (Twain 39). He enjoyed being calm yet at the same time he got bored willing to discover the town “When it was dark I set by my camp fire smoking, and feeling pretty well satisfied; but by and by it got sort of lonesome, and so I went

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and set on the bank and listened to the current swashing along, and counted the stars and drift logs and rafts that come down, and then went to bed; there ain't no better way to put in time when you are lonesome; you can't stay so, you soon get over it. And so for three days and nights. No difference—just the same thing. But the next day I went exploring around down through the island. I was boss of it; it all belonged to me, so to say, and I wanted to know all about it; but mainly I wanted to put in the time.” (Twain 41), though he escaped what he can't stand he is still looking for more adventures willing to taste the beauty of freedom by doing things he loves.

As the time passes by, one night Huck catches a glimpse of fire he went there discovering what it is until he sees it was Jim laying on the ground “But by and by, sure enough, I caught a glimpse of fire away through the trees. I went for it, cautious and slow. By and by I was close enough to have a look, and there laid a man on the ground. It most give me the fantods. He had a blanket around his head, and his head was nearly in the fire. I set there behind a clump of bushes in about six foot of him, and kept my eyes on him steady. It was getting gray daylight now. Pretty soon he gapped and stretched himself and hove off the blanket, and it was Miss Watson's Jim!” (Twain 43) that time huck is not alone, he felt so happy meeting Jim “I bet I was glad to see him.” (Twain 43) and knew it's a new beginning for new adventures.

From Huck's escape we understand that family and paternal relationship played a significant role in the child's life, if Huck finds them by his side, he wouldn't become a street child, he wouldn't be adopted by others and feeling restricted, so his attitude escaping and seeking freedom is a normal practice. The violence around him led to his alienation and the protest against the life he is having. His escape is smart and meaningful in terms of human freedom (Bluefarb 22), we see that he finds his happiness in the smallest things he was deprived

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from such as fishing, smoking, and floating river on a raft; If he found all of it, he wouldn't take any attempt to escape.

3.2 Jim's Escape

In the novel we noticed Jim's escape in chapter 8 where Huck met him In Jackson's island, Huck knows Jim in town, where they lived together. Jim fears Huck will hurt him "He bounced up and stared at me wild. Then he drops down on his knees, and puts his hands together and says: "Doan' hurt me—don't! I hain't ever done no harm to a ghos'. I alwuz liked dead people, en done all I could for 'em. You go en git in de river agin, whah you b'longs, en doan' do nuffn to Ole Jim, 'at 'uz awluz yo' fren'." (Twain 44), but Huck made him feel a bit comfortable by telling him his escape story and saying he is glad meeting him, and he is no more lonely as before "Well, I warn't long making him understand I warn't dead. I was ever so glad to see Jim. I warn't lonesome now. I told him I warn't afraid of him telling the people where I was. I talked along, but he only set there and looked at me; never said nothing." (Twain 44).

They enjoyed together cooking "I caught a good big catfish, too, and Jim cleaned him with his knife, and fried him." (Twain 44). Then Jim wandered who got killed in the cabin since it was not him, he told him all of his escape story, Jim admitted it was a smart plan "Then I told him the whole thing, and he said it was smart." (Twain 45), but again he feared he will tell so he wanted him to promise, Huck asked him for the reason why did he run away ""Well, dey's reasons. But you wouldn' tell on me ef I uz to tell you, would you, Huck?" "Blamed if I would, Jim." "Well, I b'lieve you, Huck. I—I run off." "Jim!" "But mind, you said you wouldn' tell—you know you said you wouldn' tell, Huck." "Well, I did. I said I wouldn't, and I'll stick to it." (Twain 45). After he was asked for the reason, he answered that it was Miss Watson willing to sell him, he hates being a slave and life becomes being tough and unbearable ""Well,

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you see, it 'uz dis way. Ole missus—dat's Miss Watson—she pecks on me all de time, en treats me pooty rough, but she awluz said she wouldn' sell me down to Orleans.” (Twain 45). They continued to discuss Huck's escape experience and all what he faced. Huck and Jim decided that they both needed a new life letting behind the old.

Huck and Jim had a strong relationship as they are drifting down the river. Jim took care of Huck. He opens his heart to Huck and tells him all about his family. Accordingly, Huck realizes how human Jim is unlike the stereotypical thoughts that he has been taught about slaves. He even humbles himself to apologize to Jim many times. They have shared the same boat taking same risks and adventures, Huck says —Git up and hump yourself, Jim! There ain't a minute to lose. They're after us!!(62). This —us! indicates the unity of this pair. Jim's escape is closely allied with that of Huck, but It is more dangerous for Jim if he will be caught; they have different pushes but they share the same goal which is freedom. Huck decided to help Jim in his flight from slavery to freedom, Huck tells himself “It would get all around, that Huck helped a nigger to get his freedom; and if I was ever to see anybody from that town again, I'd be ready to get down and lick his boots for shame” (Twain 269-70). “Gradually, Huck begins to see Jim as a man deserving of his freedom instead of a fugitive” (Jennifer 1083), the boy struggles with his conscience knowing that it's an illegal act helping a slave to run away. In spite the fact of that he did his best to save him and not to tell of him.

The problem of race and social injustice have been considered as important for Mark Twain. Twain shows an intense sympathy to the struggles of humanity by means of jokes, since he was a humorist. We see that the novel is revolving around slavery. In fact, Twain was not a supporter of slavery, His attitude towards slavery and racism was clear through Jim's character. In Twain's point of view, slavery and racism were mean practices which should not have a place in the American nation and white Americans .

4 Conclusion

The problem of freedom is obviously a central theme in the novel. Huck's desire to escape from the widow is considered as a psychological escape when he can't afford being told how to behave. Physical escape as well is present when the boy fled from the violence he receives from pap Finn. Everyone who reads adventures of Huckleberry Finn understands that it is not only Jim who is looking for freedom, but Huck as well; though Huck is not a slave, he still feels trapped by the restrictions that society has placed upon him. At the end of the novel Aunt Sally wants to adopt Huck officially and "sivilize" him, but Huck says he "... can't stand it. I been there before." (Twain 79). The whole novel reveals Huck's resistance to conformity in a culture filled with hypocrisies. The book sheds light on the necessity and importance of freedom in human's life as well as encouraging not taking things for granted instead protesting against social norms "the defining moment in Chapter 31, Twain empowers Huck with compassion, and, in doing so, establishes the philosophical possibility that both Huck and Jim can gain freedom." (Bruce 13), Bruce added "The testament to human perseverance, loyalty, and faith is embodied in the work through Huck and Jim's gestures of sacrifice. This is not to say that Huck and Jim are able to fully overcome the social obstacles that are placed before them. But the fact that the two nineteenth-century characters—an orphaned boy and a runaway slave—establish a bond that overcomes the boundaries set up by society, even for a brief, fleeting moment, is testament to the heroic truth of *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* (13).

General

Conclusion

5 General Conclusion

In conclusion, it is worth saying that escape is of great importance in the formation of American literature, especially contemporary literature. We note that most of the novels that embody the theme of escape are novels written in the modern era which have been influenced by Mark Twain's novel. The escape has a tangible impact on western history and on western culture, especially American, because it stems from a set of recognized values that were strengthened in the enlightenment that began with the western renaissance movement and religious reforms that had the greatest merit in perpetuating those values and making them sacred, especially the concept of Self-reliance, individuality, democracy and freedom. The desire to escape had therefore a clear presence in American literature, which was evident in its novels, which in turn promoted a set of values which fall under that desire, and because also the contemporary literature, beginning with the era of modernism, was the era in which those values managed to capture people's minds.

The European historical events of the new world that moved to the American continent formed a suitable atmosphere for the emergence of these values and their development in a more significant manner than they were in the past, and if we are to compare the historical events starting from the renaissance and the escape from the darkness of the Middle Ages to the era of enlightenment and science and the escape of the puritan pilgrims from the old continent and then the American war of independence to the industrial revolution, and from the events of the civil war and the great displacement that the United States witnessed or as historically referred to as The Mass Migration with the development of the desire to escape, we will find that these events created a suitable atmosphere for that tendency to appear, which in turn allowed literature to portray it, because literature is nothing but a vessel that reflects a cultural, historical and religious reality, for example, the post-civil war events and the pre-civil

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war rise of Abolitionist movement influenced many writers to write pieces known as slave narratives in which the theme of escape was dominant.

Slave narratives had a wide impact in promoting this tendency associated with freedom and spreading the meanings of freedom to pave the way for the era of modernism which rejects all manifestations of oppression and promotes humanity and acceptance of others. The slave narrative also had an impact on some famous novelists, for whom slavery became a cause worth fighting for, so they wrote many works depicting the escape of slaves as a heroic matter and encouraging them to do so, and also for whites to see that blacks are as bent on freedom as other human beings. These events had a great impact on the soul of Mark Twain, which led him to write his famous novel.

Modern writers were influenced by these events as well and by previous novelists, so they wrote novels which embodied escape, and not only the escape from enslavement, but the escape from customs, traditions, norms and restrictions that prevent any human being from his freedom. Although slaves were freed in America, some of its manifestations remained and its forms varied, so the narrators had to promote another type of escape and to revolt against ideas and to rebel against another type of enslavement, which is represented in intellectual and ideological enslavement and all forms of rebellion which history attests that they are their pioneers. The novels continued to embody that desire. We can also note that most of novelists, which most of whom were modernists, were also influenced by liberalism and were predominantly humanists, which explains the relationship of the proclivity of escape with the tendency of liberty.

Mark Twain wrote his novel to embody that desire and condemn slavery by praising escape. In his novel, he fought slavery, reinforcing the desire to escape and its importance as the first step to freedom. Through the novel, we can see his reverence for the cause of freedom

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and his mockery of some of the social phenomena prevailing at the time. Escape was not an escape from enslavement only, but rather to break the shackles of some blind traditions. Mark Twain was encouraging escape through sarcasm because he was very aware of its impact on people and the matter was so, his novel won wide fame and inspired many writers and played a prototypal role as the novel contained all the components of escape, and its types and motives, so his character Huck represented a model of the rebellious spirit against traditions and the flight from society's constraints and the pursuit of self-realization. His character Jim also had an exemplary role in presenting escape from slavery and self-emancipation. This brought together all kinds of escapes, and put them under a single humanitarian template. Although Mark Twain's novel *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* was subjected to many criticisms for being racist, its message was far from that as it depicted reality as it is.

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