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

Dr. Ramesh Prasad Adhikary

Assistant Professor

Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu

M.M. Campus, Nepalgunj, Nepal

rameshadhikary29@gmail.com

Abstract

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

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

Introduction:

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

Kill a Mockingbird, her only book. For most of Lee's life, her mother had a mental illness, rarely leaving the house. It has been believed that she may have had bipolar disorder.

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

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

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

A false accusation of blame was sufficient to alien him from the white-dominated society. Informed by the long-existing racial domination of white people and the demonization of the black races, Tom, a black, is supposed to be submissive to white-skinned people. Tom himself discloses, "One day Mayella asked me to come inside the fence and bust up a chiffarobe for her" (101). But, he cannot

see a white woman even with a refined and daring look. When such a situation happens, Tom's rumored attempt to rape a white woman made worse his case. Atticus is there for him, defending him to the best of his abilities when no one stands by him in such a situation. Description of the subalterns here is cultural and runs a very deep in the town of Maycomb.

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

Her community member ridicules Scout, a little girl, just because her father Atticus has appointed a lawyer to defend Tom, a Negro. The white community laughs at him by saying "Negro lover" because as educated. The white man is ready to help a poor, uneducated black boy. Moreover, the novel explores white people's feelings towards socially backward, especially Negro. On the other hand, Atticus Finch is worried about the back and dominated Negro community. He appoints Calpurnia as cook; she takes care of his children after the death of his wife. Scout and Jem's children have taken her as their mother, "She gave a dime to me and dime to Jem... you are my company" (64). Scout finds the shadow of her mother in

the face of Calpurnia because she lost her mother at the age of two.

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

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

Critic Donald F. Roden views the novel as "a story of experience," which analyses how children learn the evils of the adult world as they enter it." (54) They find the world of adults full of injustice. As he writes:

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

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

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

Theoretical Framework: Subaltern Voice

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

The very word 'subaltern' was used in the medieval period for the vassals and farmers In 1700 too, the term 'subaltern' has used to denote the lower rank people in the military because they are from peasant family By 1800, some

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

Subaltern Studies was started in the 1970s to provide history and voice to the subaltern people. It encourages writing the historiography of the people whom the colonialists and bourgeois nationalists ignore. It works to establish the subalterns as an autonomous body. Subaltern discipline started in the Asian country India, and it questions the academic history in South Asian historiography by calling it "elite culture," which resulted in "the consequences of British colonialism" (Guha VII).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The term 'subaltern' has been used to denote the people who are subordinate in terms of class, caste, gender, and office, or in any other way. The nature of power,

exploitation and popular resistance in such a society is not responsive to adequate understanding in terms of clarity is expressed in their inability to unite the people around them. For the subalterns, on the other hand, this very lack of transparency makes it essential for us to realize the significance of every trace of their independent initiative, even though it remained fragmented in scale and distant from the core of articulate political society.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I want to know why you are bringing white chillun to nigger church 1When Lula came up the pathway towards us, Calpurnia said, 'stop right here, Nigger' Lula stopped but said, 'You aren't getting any business bringing white chillum here. They got their church; they got our's it is our church, ain't it, miss call Calpurnia said, it is the same God, ain't it (119)

Though Lula exposes racial hatred and discrimination, the entire crowd welcomes the Finch children except for Lula. It

seems unified in the sense of solidarity in the black community. They have the familiar feeling of humanity. In the black community, the needs of the poorest member felt by everyone else in the group; for instance, everyone in the community sacrifices a little more to help Helen Robinson. Helen Robinson is the wife of Tom Robinson, But cruel society never eyes the positive aspects of subalterns and constantly mistreats them; Alexandra, the sister of Atticus, is always against black woman Calpurnia even she does good or not, and she asks Atticus to avoid Calpurnia and let her leave the house Says:

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

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

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

Despite the presence of his mother, he has suffered from the cruel behavior of his stepfather. By that, he goes off to Atticus in Maycomb Atticus is only the

person with good conscience for all people, whether he is black or white, male or female, young or child Dill is scared to get back and ask, "Mr. Finch, don't tell Aunt Rachel, don't make me go back, please sir I'll turn off again!" (78) This shows his suffering and pain Atticus is kind-hearted and always ready to help as:

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

Dill, a child, is poorly treated by his family member, father, and mother. He escapes and comes to Maycomb from home and pleads with Atticus not to send him to his house. This shows the pathetic situation of the child Atticus humanly treats, which has shared their emotion towards children.

Like other, subalterns have treated wrongly in the name of race or in the name of skin Racism is the constructed form in the name of religion, culture, social status, age, gender and so on One has not born racist but family, society, culture, law, faith made one racist and knows their limited areas or boundaries As aunt Alexendra enquires with the children, "Are you from Calpurnia's church that day?" (114) They just get back form church with Cal In the nineteenth century, white treat blacks as their enemy and offered no opportunities to them Whites think, blacks become their competitor if they are given opportunity So they made boundaries to save from that fair If the blacks try to cross the limited boundaries, they are severely punished or given fatal punishments in the name of violating that which is also made by the whites No voice of black has listened Blacks are dependent on whites because they have no job opportunities as whites are in higher post and the lower center is given to them which need more physical labor and serve

white without wage Tom does the work without any words when Mayell asks him to do.

The white community is against his family So, Scout asks him why he is defending a Negro when her friends mock her. From the rumblings of the Robinson case, the mantra Atticus instills in his children is "hold your head high and keep those fists down. Don't you let them get your goat?" She asks:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

After Mr. Ewells, Ms. Mayella is the next witness. Her life is one of miserable poverty and deprivation. She shows that

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Ewell, He called.

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

Mr. Link sees Helen coming to work in the wrong direction and wants to drag out the reason. Still, she denies But later, when he follows her, he knows the problem of Helen that it is Bob Ewell who creates the difficulties in her way to work. Then he yells at Ewell not to disturb her because it is not his private way. If he does so anymore, he will be put in jail soon. She is not alone; I am here to stand for her. In this way, he proves his deep affection toward Tom's family and thinks it is his responsibility to do so for her.

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

aware of their right and speaks for subalterns.

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

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

Conclusion

To sum up, Harper Lee's novel *To Kill a Mockingbird* presents the issue of

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

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

References:

- Desai, S.K. "To Kill a Mockingbird: Harper Lee's Tragic Vision," *Indian Studies in American Fiction* The Macmillan Company of India Limited, 1974, pp. 311- 23
- Gramsci, Antonio. "On the Margins of History." *Prison Notebooks* New

York: Colombia University Press,
1992. 72-88.

Guha , Ranjit, ed. *Subaltern Studies I*.
Delhi: OUP, 1982.

Lee, Nelle Haper, *To Kill the Mockingbird* United States, J.B,
Lippincott & co, July, 11,1960.

Roden, Donal "The Racializing of the World." *Racism* Eds. Martin Bulmer and John Solomos. New York: Oxford University Press, 1999.45-49.

Shrestha, Taralal." *Shakti Shrastha ra Subltern*". Kathmandu: Nepalaya. 2011.

Spivak, Gayatri Chakravorty "Can the Subaltern Speak?" *The Post Colonial Studies Reader* Ed Bill Ashcroft, Gareth Griffiths, and Helen Tiffin New York: Columbia, 1995.28-35.

"Subaltern Studies: Deconstructing Historiography." *Guha*, Vol, IV. 330-363.