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**SENSE OF MELANCHOLY AS A VEHICLE TO RESILIENCE
AGAINST THE PHALLOCENTRIC IDEOLOGY IMPOSITION
PRESENT IN ISLAND UNDER THE SEA WRITTEN BY ISABEL
ALLENDE**

Thesis Submitted to Obtain the Bachelor in English

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Abstract

This investigation project aims to analyze from a feminist approach how the sense of melancholy becomes a vehicle to resilience that the protagonist of the novel in question Zarité uses against the phallogocentric ideology that has been imposed to her in the novel *Island Under the Sea*.

Based on the feminist approach that will be implemented, the main questions that needs to be made and that will be responded later is how do Zarité's attitudes and confrontation against the difficulties of her life as a black slave woman lead her to succeed against the phallogocentric oppositions of the men who want to possess her and control her.

For this individual investigation the qualitative research will be used to understand how the characters in *Island Under the Sea* perceived the world and how close their perception is to the real world.

This project mentions and acknowledges the most important events that marked the history of the Caribbean and how Caribbean literature to emerge.

This paper also describes from a literary perspective the role of women how important was that feminist approach that was committed to perform a full analysis of *The Island Under the Sea* help to develop the main topic.

Resumen

Este proyecto de investigación tiene como objetivo analizar desde un enfoque feminista como el sentido de melancolía se convierte en un vehículo hacia la resiliencia que utiliza la protagonista de la novela en cuestión Zarithé frente la ideología falo- céntrica que le ha sido impuesta en la novela *La Isla Bajo el Mar*.

A partir del enfoque feminista que se implementará, la pregunta más importante que se buscará responder es como la actitud ayuda a Zarithé enfrentar las dificultades que se presentaron en su vida como una mujer afrodescendiente esclava y que finalmente la llevan a triunfar ante la oposición falo- céntrica de los hombres que quieren poseerla y controlarla.

Para esta investigación individual, se opta por utilizar el método cualitativo, el cual se utilizará para comprender como los personajes de *La Isla Bajo el Mar* perciben su mundo y que tan cercana es esa percepción al mundo real.

Se mencionan y reconocen los eventos más importantes que marcaron la historia del Caribe y como a raíz de esto surgió la literatura caribeña. También se describe desde una perspectiva literaria el rol de la mujer y la importancia del enfoque feminista que se utilizó para realizar un análisis completo de *La Isla Bajo el Mar* para poder desarrollar el tema principal.

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Chapter I

Introductory Framework

Caribbean literature works are fascinating because of all the elements it contains and that at the same time makes it unique. When thinking about Caribbean works, it is common to reflect about islands in the Caribbean, afro-descendent people and their life experiences, coasts, among others; however, it is important to mention that this type of literature is characterized largely by the plurality and juxtaposition of colonial and folks' cultural elements. To comprehend more Caribbean literature, it is important to know what elements can give us a hint that we are reading this type of literature. In the first place, the need to possess the land, the sense of identity, melancholy, exaggerations, food, religion, and family connections will be key when it comes to distinguishing a Caribbean literature work. Whether it has been written in Spanish, English or Creole, these elements are part of the Caribbean literature. In addition, there are other elements such as the setting (Caribbean zone or territory) the plot will be carried on, the carnivalesque feature, the use of Creole, the weather, political power and events on the islands or countries in Latin American with Caribbean influence. Besides those, feminism and immigration are other elements to be taken into consideration in this study.

The works that can be found in Caribbean literature are commonly written in Spanish, French or English, which are the languages that are spoken in the countries in the Caribbean that were colonized. The most important exponents of this literary movement are mostly poets like Luis Pales Matos (Puerto Rico), Nicolas Guillen (Cuba), Aime Cesaire (Martinique), Jeon Damas (French Guiana) and Jacques Roumain (Haiti). According to Braithwaite (2011), Jean Price – Mars a Haitian ethnologist (*Ainsi parla l'oncle* 1928) is one of the most important figures

under this movement since his purpose was to “restore to the Haitian people the dignity of their culture”. This contribution helped to construct poetic forms, rhythm and elements that characterize the islands among ritual, speech patterns utilizing symbols and surrealist elements. As mentioned previously, Caribbean works are mainly found written in Spanish, therefore, this investigation will be based on one of Isabel Allende’s books named *Island Under the Sea*, which contains several characteristics that make it part of the Caribbean Literature.

Isabel Allende is renowned worldwide for being a writer that creates strong and convincing female characters, that allows her to reinforce her points of view about the role of women in society. Her female characters are never weak, manipulated, harassed, or beaten women who suffer the strikes of a chauvinistic society. On the contrary, her female characters tend to be strong, decisive, and real fighters that look for their real and unique position in a society that tries to deny them their position, but they always succeed to impose their views and to triumph in a patriarchal and phallogocentric society. Her characters stand in the centralism of a phallic ideology and from there they move into a female latitude that creates a female center of power. The main character of the novel *Island Under the Sea* possesses all the characteristics that have been used negatively against a human being: black, woman, born in a society that thinks that women are less than men, inferior being, born between the 18th and 19th century which means that the woman will end up serving the practical and sexual desires of men (sign of total subordination), and the worst born as a slave.

With this emotional, social, and cultural backload on her shoulders, Zarité must confront life, survive, fight against the injustices of white women and the designs of unfair white men and no less unfair black men. Her main quality during her life is her sense of resilience against adversity to succeed as a woman. So, the sense of melancholy that turns into resilience in Zarité

becomes a symbol of struggle against the injustices of the phallogentric society and the main social construct of feminism in the novel.

1.1 Problem Statement

Caribbean literature is particular because of the way it is written. There are so many characteristics that distinguishes it from others, that this study will highlight some of the most important ones that are also present in the novel of study. The sense of melancholy that personifies its character soon becomes resilience as a feminine weapon against the phallogentric society, being the main characteristic that can be analyzed in this Caribbean novel; therefore, this sense of resilience in the main character is going to be studied in the investigation. *Island Under the Sea* is the object of this investigation and after extensive research, the previously mentioned characteristics will be explored and developed individually with a feminist approach.

Once reading and becoming engaged into the events of the story, the main problem would be: How do *Zarité's* attitudes and strife against the difficulties of her life as a black slave woman lead her to succeed against the phallogentric oppositions of the men who want to possess her and control her? This investigation and development of historical, international, and national antecedents will be key to peruse these important topics.

1.2 Objectives of the Investigation

The following objectives (general and specific) will be reinforced through an investigation about historical and cultural background related to slavery when sugar plantations spread in the Caribbean and created a need for workers around the 18th century, and how this influenced the Caribbean literature movement to focus on specific characteristics that will be

analyzed in this paper: the sense of melancholy as a vehicle to resilience against the phallogentric ideology imposition.

1.2.1 General Objective

To prove through the feminist approach that Zarité, in *Island Under the Sea*, uses resilience to succeed as a strong and free woman who has suffered, confronted, and overcome the opposition and control imposed by a white phallogentric society.

1.2.2 Specific Objectives

- To mention the most important events that took place when slaves were brought to the Caribbean to work on the sugar plantations and how this becomes part of the Caribbean literature history.
- To describe the role of women and how this is another leit- motif in the Caribbean literature.
- To explain how and why the sense of melancholy becomes one of the most important aspects in Caribbean literature and how can it be related to *Island Under the Sea*.
- To develop a feminist approach regarding the full analysis of *Island Under the Sea* to provide to readers an extended vision of the Caribbean literature novel in focus.

1.2 Justification of the Study

This work analyzes the appearance of the different events that occurs in *Island Under the Sea*. The study will be based on characteristics and the relationship between culture as well as its

antecedents, the European Conquest and Colonization in the Caribbean, the sugar plantations that were recipients of most slaves at that time to work the lands, the role of women, the sense of melancholy that is present in the book, the segregation among the political classes (black and white people) and other Caribbean elements that conceived under this type of literature. After taking into consideration all important facts about history, culture, and background of Caribbean territories, understanding Caribbean literature will undeniably become captivating and will, of course, allow readers to be more conscious about all events experienced by certain population that lived slavery back in time. Caribbean literature is not only a type of literature since it is accompanied with cultural and historical facts that impacted specific time and places. For example, sugar plantations were firstly established in Barbados in the 1600's where owners decided to work their lands and bring workers from Africa that were already slaves. Back in the time, sugar was the most important product produced in the Caribbean; therefore, plenty of Europeans saw the opportunity and decided to invest in these islands. Hence, this background information is very important to be developed to learn more about history related to this sort of literature.

Though there is already knowledge obtained regarding historical and cultural background in literature written by Caribbean authors, the analysis of a book written by a South American author will even be more enriching and enlightening to readers since the point of view of a novelist that is not considered a Caribbean author could broaden their position concerning Caribbean literature. Contrastingly, women's participation in Caribbean literature is one of the most important aspects that can be found in this literary work. According to Powell (1984), the role of women in society has been always associated not only when it comes to reproductive functions, but also when it refers to raising of children, performance of multiple tasks (a host of

domestic tasks). The participation of women in Caribbean literature is not the exception. The sense of resilience is another element that is going to be studied in this investigation project. This characteristic is not only represented by the need to achieve freedom but in the sense of recovering the good times and glory in life.

1.3 Antecedents

Back in history when the Caribbean was first conquered by Spain in the 15th century, sugar plantations grew and consequently, enslavement. Along with colonies in America and the Caribbean, these lands became European sugar empires. This territory was known as West Indies because when Christopher Columbus arrived for the first time in 1492, he thought that he had sailed into the Indies. Europeans had no idea that besides their continent and Asia, which they intended to arrive to, America existed (Lambert, 2017). Most territories in the Caribbean were taken by Spain back in the 16th century.

By the 17th century, French and English settled in the area and conquered many regions. France established in Martique and Guadalupe. Growing sugarcane became the most profitable and valuable product for the economy at that time, thus it was vital to acquire labor to work the lands. These Europeans who grew sugarcane became wealthy and at the same time converted Caribbean colonies in valuable lands. The sugarcane plantations created a necessity of getting people to work the fields. As a result, owners of these lands acquired enslaved men, women and children that were brought from Africa.

With the passing of time, the population of African- descendants grew in such a way that they turned out to be the majority in these Caribbean territories. St. Domingue was one of the territories conquered by France and had the largest enslaved population in the Caribbean. This

was one of the richest colonies in the area due to the increasing production of sugarcane, which was over 30% of the world's sugar (Lambert, 2017). As part of the enslaved population, women have always performed a prominent role in society, as to where they were positioned to run their homes, support their families, work their masters' lands, but they were excluded from all political or economic roles. Women worked as maids, dressmakers, and higglers. Enslaved women or Creole women as they were called were essential during the slavery period in the history of France. (Blanks, 2018).

As part of this investigation, melancholy is another feature that can be found in this type of literature and that will be studied too. Its origin is not related to a pathological feeling to express sadness or pain, but instead it is part of the longing of survival of oneself and others, which embodies the meaning of real freedom to be achieved someday as a gift of glory (Kaplan, 2007). Melancholy is not only represented as a need to achieve freedom. Costa Rican Caribbean area is a clear example when it comes to the feeling of melancholy, but in this case for the past and the good times. The first inhabitants of the province of Limon in Costa Rica were afro-descendants that were brought from different islands of the Caribbean, especially from Jamaica, to work on the railroad to the Atlantic and to work on banana plantations back in the 1800's.

Each immigrant whether from Jamaica, St. Kitts, or any of the islands in the Caribbean that lived in Limon for any of the reasons mentioned felt the desire to go back to their homeland and loved ones. That feeling of melancholy is typical to find in situations in which people were separated from their loved ones and from things that are simple and normal within their very own existence. This feeling was also accompanied by being homesick and that is a clear manifestation of melancholy that characterizes Caribbean Literature, no matter the physical setting in which the story is developed (Montout, 2013).

1.4 Scope

This investigation project will include research about the significant elements that characterizes Caribbean literature, especially the ones that are relevant to this paper and the ones presented in *Island Under the Sea*. The study will also include historical background that could reinforce general knowledge and that will allow future students of English to work on a literary analysis to obtain a bachelor's degree and to have more options to explore when choosing a topic and a literature movement.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

Caribbean literature is characterized for its unique elements that make it special and that allows it to outstand in literature. For this reason, it is important to provide a significant amount of information to the readers so all can familiarize with the reliable sources in which the current investigation is grounded. In this section of the theoretical framework, a conceptual guideline through background definitions, concepts, investigations, and theories from well-founded sources will be presented to support the current research.

2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

Caribbean literature is a combination of different elements collected in different works inspired in events and that also occurs in the Caribbean locations.

In consonance with Mwinzi (2016), the Caribbean is the home of the primitive man and therefore the home of the noble savage. These islands are conformed by small pieces of land completely apart for the rest of the world, which allows writers onboard themes that are related to this culture. The landscape is one of the most important aspects that are representative of this type of literature. The problems and events that are used to raise these pieces of literature are similar among authors since all describe economic, political, and historical background in their works. These themes are presented in these works because authors reflect the problems of society in their books. Some of the issues that are brought to life in Caribbean texts vary from discrimination, racism, role of women, violence, family connections and disillusionment.

In Latin America, Caribbean literature has been developed through Magic Realism, that has its origins in Latin America since 1930s. Arturo Uslar Pietri, a Venezuelan writer, conceived

the name of Magic Realism to this literary movement. Magic Realism is a type of narrative that presents an ordinary and normal event. It is a narration based on the observation of the reality where singular, peculiar, and strange things happen. The realism that is part of this movement portrays a context in which Latin America has suffered certain ailments regarding political issues, cultural juxtaposition, symbols, mixture of races, among other factors that are very similar to the movement observed in Caribbean literature.

This Latin American movement has been described as an existential phenomenon to which Arturo Uslar has called extraordinary. In accordance with *Imaginario* (2021), some of the characteristics of Magic Realism can be described as reality observation where symbolism is incorporated and normalizes all quirks presented in the stories, instead of substituting real events for fantasies or alternate world situations. The author does not provide any explanation regarding extraordinary events taking place. On the other hand, all extraordinary events are lived without any surprise by the characters at the unusual phenomena and the sensory perception of reality is valued, because it breaks with the temporary lined up events of the story, and this exposes juxtaposed realities which tends to develop metafiction extensively.

The Real Wonderful was introduced into Latin American literature by Alejo Carpentier as a new movement. For this movement, magic realism has a more pictorial meaning, and it refers to the combination of different events taken from the reality in such way it does not adapt to life. In the case of Surrealism, it is defined as pre-meditated creation that is based on the tenets of psychoanalytic literature, which objective is to build the feeling of uniqueness. There is an important and ongoing debate regarding the relation between Real Wonderful and Magic Realism to determine if one is the equivalent of the other. As reported by Llarena (1993) there is a difference between both concepts which is that a is that phenomenological perspective

predominates under Magic Realism while an ontological perspective predominates under Real Wonderful. The first describes the plurality and the second reflects one being inscribed in that plurality of the first. After taking into consideration these concepts some critiques have proposed to merge both Magic Realism and Real Wonderful under one as Magic Realism or Wonderful Magic Realism, however the debate is still open.

Among the main exponents of Magic Realism, the following can be mentioned:

Miguel Angel Asturias: Guatemalan writer born in 1899 and died in 1974) who was a diplomat, and journalist as well. He highlighted Latin American indigenous cultures in his works. Two of his most important works are *Hombres de Maiz* (1949) and *Señor Presidente* (1946).

Alejo Carpentier: Cuba (1904- 1980). Journalist, writer, and musician. Introduced the Real Wonderful notion into Latin American literature. *El Reino de este Mundo* (1949) and *Los Pasos Perdidos* (1953).

Arturo Uslar Pietri: Venezuelan journalist, writer, lawyer, philosopher, and Venezuelan politician who was born in 1906 and passed away in 2001. He embraced the concept of Magic Realism as part of the new Latin American literature of the twentieth century. *La Lluvia* (1935) and *Las Lanzas Coloradas* (1931).

Gabriel García Márquez: Colombian journalist, scriptwriter, editor and awarded with the Nobel Prize of Literature in 1982 who was born in 1927 and passed away in 2014. His novel *Cien Años de Soledad* is considered the best reference of Magic Realism. Other works of the Colombian author are *Crónica de una Muerte Anunciada* (1981), *El Coronel no tiene quien le Escriba* (1961) and *Amor en los Tiempos del Cólera* (1985), (Llarena,1993).

Going back to the object of this research, even though it is considered a Latin American literature work (Magic Realism), it presents all characteristics related to Caribbean literature as mentioned previously.

Besides analyzing Caribbean literature elements, the main features of this study are the sense of melancholy that will lead Zarité, the main character, to her resilience that will fight against the phallogocentric ideology that was imposed in the novel.

Melancholy

As per Merriam Webster dictionary, melancholy is the suggestive or expressive sense of sadness or depression of mind or spirit. It is also defined as the cause or tendency of sadness or depression of mind or spirit. This is a silent illness that can also be manifested physically; however, throughout this investigation, melancholy will be analyzed from an emotional perspective only and not physically. Conforming to Tettenborn (2006), in African American literature there are characters constructed with different melancholic minds, not pathologically speaking, but characters who must be taken into consideration as subjects engaged in political resistance to dominant version of collective memory and in history.

In the time, melancholy has been understood traditionally as a personal, disabling mental or emotional condition; however, African American literature has claimed this as a mental condition and source of political empowerment which will simultaneously hold a white racist system that will be responsible for causing this sense to become an emotional condition. There is a connection between melancholy, sexuality and race which will lead to think that melancholy has become one of the most impactful features when it comes to sexuality. It is a combination of Freudian ideas of melancholy and their relationship with Caribbean literature.

Traditionally, theories related to mourning and melancholy define melancholy as an emotional or mental condition that can lead a subject to death, more precisely suicide. Afro-descendants were permitted to access to certain emotional expressions and this behavior becomes a prelude to the reality that can be perceived in African American literature and of course in Caribbean literature, in which this can be seen as one of the most important characteristics. When the emotional economy of slavery is taken to be analyzed, it can be determined how the twentieth century in African American literature has rendered black melancholy as a productive and effective expression of resistance to racist oppression, and in the case of this study a vehicle for *Zarité* to achieve resilience.

To continue with Tottenborn's argument regarding melancholy in African American literature, melancholy denotes mental attachment to and yearning for a lost object or time. Melancholy and mourning can be considered as two possible reactions to the experience of losing something significantly, however melancholy can be seen as the opposite of mourning, and it has been deemed as a pathological, mental, and emotional disabling because of its potential infinite duration. While Freudian theories and models identify melancholy as loss of an object or event, contemporary African American literature catalogues it as the absence of citizenship experienced by black slaves, as a way of insisting on the contested existence of the antebellum black self and as a way of rejecting the status of slavery assigned to African Americans in its wounded form (Tettenborn, 2006).

Another factor that will be analyzed within this investigation is the resilience presented and perceived within *Island Under the Sea*.

Resilience

American Psychological Association professionals (2012) define resilience as a process of adapting in the best way possible to adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or stress like in the case of family and relationship problems, health problems or work and financial stressors. Resilience relates to “bouncing back” from difficult life experiences that can lead to a profound personal growth. Adverse events do not have to determine the outcome of life. There are several aspects of life that can be controlled, modified, and that can help to grow. This is the main role of resilience. Being resilient not only helps to overcome difficult circumstances, but it also empowers people to grow even more and improves quality of life along the way.

When it comes to women, resilience is not synonym of experiencing difficulties or anguish only. Emotional pain and sorrow are commonly seen in individuals who have suffered in life traumatic situation, and this becomes the vehicle to obtain resilience, which will probably meet a path full of adversity and traumas that will affect the emotional estate. Women who have been involved in adverse situations or exposed to risks have the capability to use protective factors to overcome those traumatic events, grow and develop accordingly, despite against all unfavorable forecasts. Although resilience is not an intrinsic characteristic of women, it is important to mention that it is related to behaviors, thoughts, actions that can be learned and developed by anyone. This is another factor that enriches this study and that will be analyzed via Zarité's character.

When exploring female characters in literature, and especially the ones created by Isabel Allende as the author of study, all of them were victims of harsh situations in life they had to face and that at the end led them to resilience. Isabel Allende explained during an interview granted to journalists Giselle Garrote and Romina Poblete (Vergara 240, 2017), that her female

characters of her books are not invented and that really existed somehow and that are part of her life. These are strong, feminist, and empowered women that at some point overcame difficulties in their life and that inspire her to write her stories and how to carry out her life along the way. Feminist resilience has been a feature that Isabel Allende has used throughout her career as a writer in each one of her works, consequently this will lead as well to an analysis of our feminist character in which our investigation is based on. Lastly, another element that will be studied deeply in this investigation that will allow readers to understand the main points highlighted and related to the main topic and title of this investigation, which is the or phallogentric ideology imposed in *Island Under the Sea*.

Phallogentricism

The word phallogentric is an adjective and the meaning behind this word is that it refers to a centered or emphasizing the masculine viewpoint (Merriam-Webster, n.d.). Phallogentricism refers to searching in the phallus the center of all psychic and sexual explanations that constitutes man and in certain way society. This search or exercise has been presented in many scientific and philosophical theories developed and as well in our social organization. This was conceived as a concept within the first half of the twentieth century to critique different practices and overall knowledge related to philosophy, science, and psychoanalysis. Phallogentricism tends to position the “phallus” as the center of all explanations. Men’s pennis, used as a symbol, emerges from Freud’s psychoanalysis that will be hardly judged by different groups within philosophy and by feminist theories and movements that claimed a different understanding of the psyche and sexuation.

This term previously mentioned was elaborated back in 1965 by the French philosopher Jacques Derrida. The Phallogentrism was a word or term created by its creator to criticize the psychoanalytic theory. This word reminds us about Sigmund Freud's theory who was a psychoanalytic medic that developed in regard of the feminine sexuality, and that according to it the libido or sexual energy present in the unconscious is masculine in character. This theory is centralized the "phallus" or penis as a sexuality reference, meaning that it revolves around it. The starting point is the phallus and here is where the differentiation of sexes between men and women occurs, and through which an asymmetric relationship takes place between them (Lifeder, 2019). Based on the differentiation, these thoughts evolve around the idea that women are inferior and that men dominate them. Taking into consideration this perspective, women is seeing as an object and has the chore of satisfying man desire. This is how women learns to feel, know herself and sees herself through men gaze devaluing and despising her own body (Cajal, 2019).

As claimed by Herrera (2002), in literature phallogentrism is interpreted as the law of the father or the phallus is not exclusive to man, because it expresses a relationship of power and domination of which woman can be an aggressive defender and bearer. It can also become into a more phallic ideology than something related to man to be imposed. This extends the definition of power of the phallus beyond the limits of masculinity and femininity. The author of the essay even contributes more by stating that characteristics of this toxic masculinity not only belongs to men, but also to women that under different circumstances lived they develop this behavior.

2.2 Themes, Symbols, Motifs

In regards of this study, among other themes that will be mentioned when analyzing the novel, family connections, the role of women/ feminism and sense of melancholy and other characteristics related to Caribbean Literature.

To start off with these themes, the role of women is one of the most important elements to study when reading a Caribbean literature work. The life of the female characters in literary works corresponds to a symbolic moment in history when it comes to slavery, their experiences lived under traditional patriarchies and political events of the time. The dreams and small achievements of the female characters reveal the dissatisfaction with the world around them and the gradual awakening to another way of conceiving the world by itself.

In the case of the sense of melancholy, many authors project the image of the islands in the Caribbean and characters. These characters and lands portray how valuable immigrants and people in exile from the different island in the Caribbean are. This nostalgia reminds people the moments of childhood, youth, or the return to the place of origin by revealing the feelings of the characters about their homeland and their dreams. The act of abandoning the place of birth or homeland brings to life the sense of melancholy. Several moments in history where they were characterized by wars, revolts, massive immigration journeys political persecution and more, allows people to live the feeling of nostalgia, especially when they are far away from that place that gave them something in life. Sometimes the known “heart illness” that European medics used to treat back in the 18th century with opium has become one of the most untreatable nowadays.

These days, melancholy can be translated into the wide gap that racism, cultural differences, and religion disputes have caused. Boym and Fernandez (2008) argues that the circumstances that cause melancholy are more related to the sense of intimacy that is establish with the world. It is not the time that has gone, but the moments in the past which were the ones that made people feel saved, loved and where uncertainty was not present. This sense of melancholy becomes a defense mechanism to confront the loss, displacement suffered due to a historical event in most cases.

Further themes, symbols are very important in literary works. A symbol is any element that will stand out. It could be a song, a letter, etc. in literature a symbol can be a character that represents something specifically, a place and other elements that can represent bigger ideas. Most of the time, authors use symbolism to give to their work more character or to make it more relevant to readers and to give to it a meaning, like in the case of music in slavery. Music represented freedom and a way to escape from reality and to travel to better place where there was no place for pain.

In regards of the motifs that can be found in a literary work, these are recurring elements that show up in the narrative that means something. This implies that if there is any symbol that repeatedly comes up in the text, most probably its related to a motif. These must be tight to the central idea of the story and will always reinforced. In other words, motifs strengthen the theme through the repetition elements within the literary work.

2.3 Isabel Allende

Isabel Allende is a Chilean writer who was born on August 2nd, 1942, in Lima Peru. She has worked tirelessly as a journalist and writer since she was seventeen years old.

Allende's well-known works include "La Casa de los Espíritus" published in 1982, and since then success has never abandoned her. This author has written over twenty books which have been translated into more than thirty-five languages. (Allende, I. (n.d.)). Isabel Allende's parents were Tomas and Francisca Allende. She is related to Salvador Allende, who was first socialist president of Chile. Isabel was his goddaughter, and her father was his cousin. Her father was a diplomat, therefore he moved with his family (Isabel, her sibling and mother) to Chile to her grandfather's house. When General Augusto Pinochet, the Chilean military coup back in 1973, this event became one of the incidents that changed Isabel Allende's life forever. During one of the several attacks during this time, one impacted the presidential palace once and, unfortunately, Salvador Allende was shot and killed.

During Pinochet's regime, Isabel was already married and had two children. She was so affected with what had happened to her godfather, that she decided to help by aiding victims that were endangered under Pinochet's, but after realizing how dangerous it was to stay in Chile she decided with her husband and family to leave the country back in 1975 and lived in exile in Venezuela for more than a decade.

Allende began writing when she composed a letter addressed to her grandfather, who was very ill and dying in Chile in 1981. This letter was never delivered to her grandfather; however, it became the basis for her first novel *The House of the Spirits* in 1985, known as a best seller worldwide and that launched her career as a literary writer. *The House of the Spirits* (1985) tells the story of two Chilean families between 1920s and 1973, where elements of magical realism and politics surrounded them. Some of her works include *Of Love and Shadows* and *Eva Luna* (1987), *Two Words* (1989), *The Infinite Plan* (1991), *Daughter of Fortune* (1999), *Portrait in*

Sepia (2000), Zorro (2005), Ines of My Soul (2006), Island Under the Sea (2010), Maya's Notebook (2011), Ripper (2014) and The Japanese Lover (2015). (Allende, I. (n.d.)).

The Chilean author calls her writing style “realistic literature” since that often she brings to life remarkable and mystical characters and events. In accordance with what is published in her official website, Allende explains that her writing “equally informed by her feminist convictions, commitments to social justice and the political events that have shaped her life”. This author throughout her career has portrayed in her writing her personal experiences like the loss of her daughter. To commemorate her loss, she wrote *Paula* back in 1994. *Aphrodite: A Memoir of the Senses* (1998) is an ode to sex and food; *My Invented Country: A Nostalgic Journey Through Chile* (2003) is inspired in her early life back in Chile; *The Sum of Our Days: A Memoir* (2008) is book written in regards of her life after losing her daughter. Allende has received numerous awards during her career including the Chilean National Prize for Literature in 2010 and the Library of Congress Creative Achievement Award for Fiction the same year. In 2014, President of the United States Barack Obama awarded Isabel Allende with the Presidential Medal of Freedom. (Biography, 2014).

Since *Island Under the Sea* is the novel that this investigation will be based on, it is important to mention that it published in 2009, and it tells the story of a slave named Zarité in the 18th century in Haiti. Regarding its protagonist, the author states that of all the characters she has created until then, Zarité / Tete is for her one of the most touching and important characters (Vergara 240,2020).

2.4 Plot

Island Under the Sea is a sprawling historical novel. It tells the story of a young lady named Zarité known as Tete who was born into slavery in St. Domingue. She is the daughter of

an African woman, who she never had the opportunity to know and of one of the white marines who brought her into slavery. Although Tete lived a very tough childhood filled with brutality and fear, she finds hope in the traditional rhythms of the African drums, voodoo lwas she learned to believe in from her fellow slaves.

In 1770 at the age of twenty, Toulouse Valmorain arrives to the island with his head filled with dreams of empowering himself and becoming wealthier, since he was going to manage his father sugarcane plantations in St Lazare; however, he realized that this was not going to be easy. Valmorain purchased young Tete for his former fiancé to help her in her new duties of a wife, but at the end Toulouse is the one who becomes dependent of Teté. On the sugarcane plantations, Teté and Toulouse become closer. Consequently, Teté gives birth to their daughter, and afterwards a complicated and somewhat troubled relationship develops. After the beginning of the slave revolts that would lead to the Haitian Revolution, Valmorain and Zarité moved to New Orleans, where he got a new plantation, and where she longed for the freedom, her master has promised her.

Chapter III

Methodological Framework

This chapter describes the methods, techniques, and procedures used by the researcher to collect, analyze, and interpret the data. *Island Under the Sea* is the literary work in question that will be studied thoroughly with the intention of highlighting all the elements that are considered part of Caribbean literature, in addition to accent how the sense of melancholy becomes a vehicle to resilience against the phallogocentric ideology imposition presented in the book. Furthermore, it is important for this study to reinforce the historical and cultural background that influenced the creation of Allende's book.

3.1 Research Approach

According to the aspects raised in the present investigation, it is framed within the qualitative approach, which analyzes data taken out of observations, discussions, and written articles. Qualitative researchers engage in exploring realistic experiences to produce rich descriptions and create important data bases. This type of research includes collecting and analyzing non-numerical information to understand concepts, points of view, opinions or experiences lived. (Patton, 2015). For this investigation the qualitative research will be used to understand how the characters in *Island Under the Sea* perceived the world and how close their perception was to humanity. There are different approaches to qualitative research, as they tend to be flexible, and they mostly focus on the retention of rich meaning when the data is being analyzed. The research approach that will be used includes grounded theory and narrative research, and they share some similarities and at the same time emphasize unlike perspectives and intentions (Bhandari, P. 2020).

The grounded theory is basically referring to researchers to collect valuable data on a topic of interest and evolve new theories. Besides the grounded theory, the second approach that will be used is the narrative research and it refers to act of researchers to examine how stories, literary works are told to understand how participants take in and make sense of their experiences (Bhandari, P. 2020).

Each of the above research approaches gathers one or more data collections methods. For the specific work the following will be used:

- Secondary research: this method allows researchers to collect existing data in the forms of books, texts, pictures, audios, videos, among others. For this investigation, books and texts will be used.
- Observations: after collecting certain data and reading the literary work on which this investigation will be based on, the researcher will record what have been observed, read, and written on detailed notes.

In reaction to the above, the approach will be combined with the data collection methods and techniques that are used to analyze literature to complement the general study, so that the data obtained will ensure a broader view.

3.2 Research Design

The qualitative research design involves the establishments of answers to the why and the how's of the phenomenon in questions. Qualitative research designs are subjective, and the different findings are gathered in a written investigation format, which means that the data that has been collected can only be analyzed qualitatively and not quantitatively. The main reason why qualitative research is carried out is to gain a valuable and rich understanding of some topic,

meaning on first-hand experience or problem. This type of research is achieved by conducting a small but focused sample of data. The qualitative research design should not be based on only what is said or done, but also the way something is said or carried out by the researcher.

When researchers use the qualitative research method, they are considered the instruments that will carry out the investigation since all the observations, interpretations and analysis are crossed among their own eyes.

As mentioned before in the research approach section, the qualitative research will scrutinize written documentation related to the main topics this investigation will be based on (sense of melancholy, resilience, and phallogocentric ideology), taking into consideration several references that will help elaborate this study. Along with this, a perusal of different elements that are used to analyze literature like novels and short stories will be part of this whole. This formalistic approach to study *Island Under the Sea* will examine the plot, setting, title analysis, incipit, characters, point of view, presence of irony, style and ending.

It is important to bear in mind that a literary analysis is an interpretation of the work done by the author, and it is also an argument based on the text, which means that this is not a summary or a review.

3.3 Information Sources

For this study, a deep literary formalistic approach will be performed to analyze, and each detail presented in *Island Under the Sea*. This formalistic approach along with the exploration of important feminist Costa Rican authors that will contribute with the investigation evolution. The formalistic approach will function as a tool to determine each character's position, especially

when it comes to Zarité which is the protagonist of the novel in question and of this investigation, the plot, settings, themes, among other elements. Emilia Macaya and Yadira Calvo, Costa Rican feminist authors will stimulate and help to develop all conclusion related to this topic and to determine the final course of this investigation. In the case of Emilia Macaya, analysis and reviews regarding her book called *Cuando Estalla el Silencio* published in 1992 will be taken into consideration for this study, and from Yadira Calvo, her essay *La Mujer, Víctima y Cómplice* published in 1982 will be key to shape even more this investigation project.

3.4 Analysis Categories

The qualitative data that is being used is taken out from texts, books and in the case of videos and audio are only as reference.

For the investigation, the organization of information will follow certain order as follows:

1. **Preparation and organization of the data collected.** This is basically to transcribe the formalistic approach that will be completed and that will be used as a base.
2. **Revision and exploration for the data collected.** This will allow to examine the data thoroughly for different patterns or repeated ideas that will appear.
3. **Develop the data coding system.** The formalistic approach will establish a set of codes that can be applied to categorize the data gathered.
4. **Assigning codes or categories to the data.** This means going through each detail gathered and categorizing each piece of information. This will help to create new codes or categories to the system of data collection that will shape the investigation too.
5. **Identification or recurring themes.** This action considers linking categories or codes into overarching and cohesive themes.

When performing a data analysis in a qualitative research approach like the one that is being developed, it is very important to consider certain concepts when organizing all ideas and information (Bhandari, P. 2020):

1. The content analysis: This is mainly to describe and categorize phrases, words and ideas found.
2. Thematic analysis: This allows to interpret and identify the different patterns and themes presented.
3. Textual analysis: This concept, same as previous ones, examines the content, structure, and the way the novel was written, and this is important since it puts together all sources that will shape this investigation accordingly.

Considering the above, and when designing the research tool (formalistic approach), a list of concepts with definitions of what details will be analyzed to complete this study will be provided next.

Title: This is one of the first elements to study. This is done even before reading the entire book and understanding what the literary piece is about. The title will help to determine what could be the main topic of the book.

Incipit: The incipit will be built up once the first lines of the first paragraph are read. By doing this, it will give us a hint of what the story we are reading is about and will open a new vision of the literary piece.

Plot: The plot is the summary of the whole book that can either be done like a synopsis or paraphrase. All relevant details will be included in this plot. The purpose of the plot is to orient readers to know what they are about to read and to understand.

Theme: The themes or themes (it can contain several) are important ideas that authors comment throughout the entire book utilizing historical background, context, characters and when the story is developed. Some themes are more obvious than others and most of the time as mentioned, there could be many of them presented like feminism, slavery, racism, love, family, human rights. By identifying the theme or themes the author has given to the work the necessary information to start the investigation.

Characters: Characters are one of the forces that develop a story. Within the characters that can be found in a story, some can be major and some others minor, and depending on each, the author will communicate their messages accordingly. In this section, it is important to firstly analyze the character personally and then consider why he or she was conceived in that way, why did the author give the character in question those traits, roles, morals, ethics, the relationship between the characters and the reason why the author established those relationships between those characters.

Setting: When it comes to the setting, when and where the story has been developed can significantly and profoundly impact the plot. It is important to take into consideration when analyzing a book where the story is placed and the reason why the author decided to evolve the story in the specific location. These settings can be psychological, physical or both.

Point of view: This is the level in which readers and researcher view the setting, analyze the characters, actions and hear conversations. Depending on the power the author has given to the narrator, sometimes it is possible to feel, think and see through the character's mind and soul. The point of view could either be first person, second person, third person, third person omniscient, third person witness or third person limited.

Symbols: When doing a book analysis, places, objects, actions are used to represent a specific connotation from its literal meaning. When studying symbols, it is important to take into consideration the context.

Irony: This is one of the most important elements to be analyzed in a book. Irony can be presented in different ways like in the case of verbal, structural, situational, and dramatic.

Style: This refers to how the author describes events in the book, ideas, experiences, etc. This feature is critical for writing.

Ending: for writers, adding an ending to their stories can be complicated. Sometimes it happens that the end is something known by the author even before starting to write. These endings could either be open or closed, and this is exactly what is going to be analyzed during this study.

3.5 Data Collection Instruments

Collecting the data appropriately is an important step to complete a research process task. The correct instrument that is being chosen to collect the data will depend on the type of information that is planned to gather and how it is going to be collected. There are several data collecting instruments that can be used doing research like questionnaires, interviews, observations, archival documents and governments sources, experiments, scales, etc. In the case of observations, this becomes a systematic data collector that involves watching other individuals within their environment. The situations and events that will be observed are related to individual cases through groups and whole communities. This is very closed to what is going to be done throughout this investigation, since the observation will not be exactly the instrument that is going to be implemented, but very close to it.

The individuals that are going to be analyzed and observed are the characters of *Island Under the Sea* along with the circumstances each character lives, faces and develops according to their position within the plot and how same could be transfer to reality. This observation which will be completed through the formalistic approach, the act of reading the novel in Spanish and in English to see if language defers and studying different authors that have completed similar studies to the one in question will provide a highly detailed form of information that will provide a better understanding about the natural processes that occur within the plot of the novel. The data collection is a time-consuming task and laborious at the same time, since that it might be necessary to repeat certain like reading the novel to ensure the liability of same. The data or information can be collected as mentioned previously through notes mainly, videos or audios that will work as complements that can be analyzed easily.

3.6 Collection data process and data analysis

Referring to the collection of data process, different elements will be considered to complete this task. The literary formalistic approach tool will help discover other themes and details related to the main topic of this work and that at the same time will enrich this project. Studying important Costa Rican authors like Emilia Macaya and Yadira Calvo will help to compare their theories against the ones that will evolve during the development of the study in course, and of course the fact of reading two versions of the novel (Spanish and English) will ensure understanding of the most relevant events that will shape the theories that will rise during this investigation. The correct order of gathering all the main information to shape this investigation goes in the following way:

- a. To read *Island Under the Sea* in Spanish and English versions.
- b. To collect the most important words, phrases and ideas that are related to the topic that has been chosen to be developed throughout the investigation.
- c. To take notes that will help define the concept and develop the topic. This is mainly related to the protagonists, how they relate, their behaviors, environment, and vocabulary.
- d. To elaborate a formalistic literary approach analysis that will help to put together main ideas, concepts and elements that are important to consider when analyzing any literary work, and especially in this case when it comes to a Caribbean literature book.
- e. To gather literature related to the feminist topic. Emilia Macaya and Yadira Calvo will be the main authors that will be studied.
- f. To compare notes that were previously gathered with the theories found in previous steps.
- g. To work on the findings and give final recommendations.

Below is the literary formalistic approach (key point d) that has been done after reading *Island Under the Sea* and taking important notes from book that will work as base to this investigation project to develop the topic behind it. This formalistic approach opens discussion about the most important aspects related to the main topic and will enhance the final analysis with elements and characteristics that will enrich this investigation project.

3.7 Island Under the Sea- Formalistic Approach

Title analysis

Taking into consideration title of this book, *Island Under the Sea*, allows to think that there is a piece of land under the sea that with the passing of time submerges.

On the cover of the book there is a picture of an afro-descendent woman that make us believe as well that the title is related to the life of millions of slaves that were brought to different islands in the Caribbean in which they suffered so much pain and that carried them to a place that sank just as the title suggests, an island under the sea.

Incipit

On the first page of the novel, the name of Zarité's is pointed out on the first of the book, which embraces the thought that she is the main character of the novel and that all that will happen within *Island Under the Sea* will evolve around her existence.

The first nine lines of the first chapter, it can be perceived that Zarité is talking about herself and that this book is about her life experiences. She clearly states that she is forties, and that she is or was a slave. Besides this, she speaks in a language that seems to be French.

In certain way, Zarité speaks about love, that she became mother and even grandmother, that she enjoys freedom and that dancing to the beat of the drums became her happiness.

Isabel Allende provides a clear hint of what the story will be about and gives the opportunity to think about what can be expected throughout the entire reading.

Plot

The story takes place back in 1771 in Saint- Domingue a French colony which is now known as Haiti. This novel is about Zarité's life, a slave owned by one of the sugarcane farmers in the island. This novel also talks about the rebellion of slaves, political tensions, the day to day at the sugarcane plantations and the exile of the white landowners and most of their slaves. Zarité known as Teté was born in Sanit Domingue. She was daughter of an African woman who died right after she was born, and one of the white marines who took her mother to slavery. Although Teté's childhood was filled with brutality and fear, she finds hope and comfort in music produced by traditional drums rhythm and in voodoo she learned through other slaves. Teté was raised by Honoré another slave who was like a grandfather for her. They belonged to Madame Delphine, who was given Teté as a newly born. Teté was separated from Honoré when she was sold to a white man as a slave.

Toulouse Valmorain, a twenty-year-old man arrives to Sait Domingue in 1770, and dreams to achieve financial success, however he learns when taking over the responsibilities of his father's sugarcane plantation called Saint Lazare that this will not be an easy task to accomplish. He purchases Teté as a gift for his bride, a Spanish woman named Eugenia Garcia del Solar that he met in Cuba in one of his trips to the island. To purchase Teté, he asked his friend and at some point, his lover Violette Boisier to arrange all wedding details, home decoration, and because of this Violette advises Toulouse that an appropriate wedding present for his bride will be to get her a maid that will help her run with their home and in raising their children in a future. Teté was perfect since that she was very young and therefore, they will be able to raise her according to their needs. Along with the story, Teté becomes one of the most important individuals in Valmorain's life, since that she takes care of his ill wife, the child his

wife gave birth to, his personal needs and the person that gained his confidence and trust in many aspects in his life.

Teté grew into a beautiful woman who suffered sexual assaults from her master Toulouse, sexual harassment from men in Saint Lazare, especially from Cambray Valmorain's foremen, raised Valmorain's son with Eugenia and gave birth to her own children with Valmorain as well. Zarité's role in the house was very important, up to the point where she oversaw everything. In the middle of chaos at the sugarcane plantation where employees were mistreated, Teté found the love of her life named Gambo, who she had to let go because she decided not to leave her children and Valmorain family. Gambo joined the revolution commanded by Toussant Louverture, and due to these events, Toulouse along with his children and Teté abandoned they exile the island and commence a new life in New Orleans.

In New Orleans, Zarité is no longer a slave, since that Valmorain gives her what she longed for so many years, freedom. Even though she lived a new life with her daughter Rosette, the journey was filled with difficulties that they overcame. She was able to find happiness, she fell in love again and finally lived the life of her dreams with her family.

Themes

Slavery. Product of inequality and insatiable human ambition, which generates a false ideology of racial superiority of the white above any ethnic group, along with the lack of recognition of African - descendants as humans. African- descendants were treated as objects and animals given or bought according to their availability to work sugarcane plantations, punished in the worst ways possible. These humans that became slaves were ruthlessly separated from their homes and left to their devices when they no longer mattered.

Society order. Society was organized according to the skin tone.

Clandestine love affairs. This can be seen in the main characters of the book who overcome the differences of age, skin tone, hierarchy, and even family bonds to live passionate, pure, long, and furtive love.

Routine sex. This element is presented throughout the plot, firstly with Violette Boisier a disguised prostitute, desired by many men and a true master of the art of sex with or without feelings involved. It is important to mention that multiple sexual assaults performed by Toulouse against Tété became a routine when he stopped wanting her and started needing her in his most intimate environment.

The Rebellion of Freedom. This because of impunity against violence of which African descendants were victims. This feeling nested in the hearts of those who wanted freedom in exchange of their life, achieved with weapons little by little in means of hatred and revenge.

Characters

Main characters

Zarité Sedella: Mulatto woman, born into slavery who considered herself lucky because her star shone even in cloudy nights. She loved drums, music, and the movement of her body when dancing. As a little girl she was skinny with beautiful eyes. Little by little she grew into a beautiful who worked a lot in the house of her masters, very loving with her children, into a body resigned to be used by her master, bronze kin tone, long and firm curves, generous hips, and sensual lips. She was woman, mother, heroin, conspirator, owner of great intelligence and with a heart filled of resistance, courage, and tenacity. Zarité is a round character who evolved throughout the plot and the protagonist.

Toulouse Valmorain: French, businessman who arrived at Saint Domingue in 1770 when he was twenty years old, filled with dreams and a man who enjoyed good conversations. He changed the type of person he was because of the environment he developed himself in and that converted him in a man who dedicated hi life to his plantation. He became also in a possessive master when it comes to Teté, a mediocre father, generous but dependent too.

He married twice without success, he never related love with sex, but he always enjoyed the company of a woman. These characteristics converts Toulouse into a round character and protagonist beside Zarité.

Rosette: daughter of Zarité and Toulouse who was born same day Gambo disappeared. She was Maurice half-sister who was raised with white people privileges due to her skin tone and because she conquered her father's heart and her brother's love. Rosette was extroverted and the center at all parties. She was sent to study at a nun's school and maintained a secret, forbidden and clandestine love with Maurice, with who she plans to marry camouflaging this event with the fact of becoming a wealthy white man mistress. Despite all obstacles, Maure and Rosette marries, but she dies when she gives birth to their child. Rosette a round character.

Maurice: son of Toulouse and Eugenia. He was shy and felt a huge and passionate love for Rosette, who he protected and considered equal despite the racial status gap between them. Maurice was sent to Boston to study where he grew and developed his slavery abolinist soul.

He married with Rosette ignoring the fury of his father and ended up wandering aimlessly after his beloved outcome. Another round character.

Secondary characters

Prosper Cambray: mulatto, free who dedicated his time to hunter slaves. His skin had a yellowish tone due to the smallpox he suffered sometime, red hair and green eyes.

He possessed a brutal and terrible character, he demanded servility from the slaves and used his power given by his superior to hurt inferior. Cambray was a bloodthirsty foreman who worked at Valmorain's plantation who imposed punishments such as amputations and lashes to which he added salt and lemon. Cambay can be considered a flat character and the antagonist.

Violette Boisier: the most popular cocotte in town. Beautiful woman whose sensuality was very noticeable, with a "good" reputation for being healthy and clean, with afro descendant roots that looked like a white person. At some point she was Valmorain's mistress until she fell in love with Étienne Relais and marry him. She became good friends with Valmorain until the point where Toulouse gave to her the son, he had with Zarité and did not want anybody to know especially Eugenia who was conscious still before plunging into madness. Violette is a round character.

Loula: a full-figured African slave, who acted as Violette's maid and bodyguard. She loved, protected and. She was considered her master's friend and even though she looked like she had no feelings, she used to hide her tenderness that only came out in rare occasions like when she used to see Honoré who she was in love with. Flat character.

Étienne Relais: French office, middle class, who was firstly one of Violette's clients and at the end fell in love wither since the first time they met. He was brave, a devoted loved and a loving and patient father. At the end he decides to leave his family, the one he formed with Violette. Flat character.

Eugenia García del Solar: Spanish, Valmorain's first wife, beautiful, delicate and member of a low noble family with a pompous surname. Her brother Sancho García was the one responsible to present her to Toulouse. She abandoned her vocation as a nun, remaining in the care of her Sancho who made the marriage arrangements, however the climate change at Saint Lazara drove her crazy and her mind little by little was shattered. She gave birth to a son with Toulouse named Maurice who at the end was raised by Zarité, since that Eugenia was not able to do so.

Madame Delphine: businesswoman who owned only two slaves including Zarité who was sold to Violette. Flat character.

Monsieur Pascal: Madame Delphine's husband. He gave Zarité to his wife when she was a baby only.

Macandal: he used to be a slave who escaped and took revenge against white men sowing death among them and forever marking in the air a breath of rebellion for all slaves. He was mythologized by legends, since it was said that before dying burned by white men, he fled converted into a mosquito and still roamed. Round character.

Tante Rose: St. Lazare's healer/doctor and Zarité's godmother. She was a very wise woman, knew a lot about plants and remedies for all kinds of diseases from sadness to gangrene. She was known for her abilities throughout St. Domingue and earned respect and appreciation of many slaves. Flat character.

Doctor Parmentier: forty-year-old doctor, thin, female featured. He was the white man henchman in the island, discrete and a doctor who preferred natural remedies instead of serums

and infusions. He used to enjoy talking with natural medicine doctors like Tante Rose because he used to observe her to learn about plants and methods to cure. Flat character.

Adelé: Dr. Parmentier's wife. She was a mulatto woman, full figured and without much appeal, but very sweet and caring towards her husband and children. She worked as a seamstress and a woman who resignedly accepted that her husband would not introduce her and her children in society, however her selfless love was reciprocated by the doctor. Flat character.

Tante Matilde and Celestine: they were the cooks at Valmorain's plantation in St Domingue and in New Orleans. Flat characters.

Gambo: a man who was kidnapped from his community in Guinea and taken as a slave to Saint Domingue and desired freedom. He was purchased by Cambray and worked in St Lazares kitchen at the age of fourteen. He could not speak French, but this was not an obstacle for him and Zarité to fall in love with an overflowing passion in several encounters in which Zarité experienced pleasure for the first time. The desire of freedom grew in his heart so much, that one day he ended up fleeing, and after a hard journey he became the right hand of the rebellion and ended up being a legend. Round character.

Jean Martin: son of Zarité and Toulouse as a product of one of many undesired sexual encounters Zarité had with her Master. Jean Martin did not have the opportunity to grow with this biological mother, because Toulouse gave him to Violette and her husband to raise him. She showed an interest in joining the army due to his father's influence although his mother Violette did not agree with the profession chosen. Flat character.

Hortense Guizot: ambitious woman who married to Toulouse and mother of two of daughters along with Toulouse. They were happily married due to the quality of sex they had;

however, she gave up her figure and sexual potential because of all the failed attempts to give her husband a son who was going to compete against Maurice for Toulouse's fortune. Flat character.

Erzuli: Lwa, mother, lwa of love and lwa of pleasure. She was the goddess of voodoo and adored by Zarité.

Settings

Physical setting

Island Under the Sea was developed in St Domingue and the plot started back in 1771 when Toulouse arrived at the island to take over his father's sugarcane plantation.

St Domingue which is known as Haiti nowadays is an island located in the Caribbean and part of the West Indies. Most of the story takes place in St Domingue, particularly at Saint Lazare.

There are other physical settings like in the case of Cuba where Toulouse met his first wife and New Orleans where Zarité was finally set free and was able to be happy.

Psychological setting

Psychological settings are mostly the same as the physical settings due to several reasons that will be explained.

Firstly, St Domingue represents a sad, wicked, and raw psychological setting due to the circumstances characters had to face, no matter if they were slaves or white people. For afro-descendants it was synonym to slavery, to suffering and where it was better to die to descend to the Island Under the Sea which they believe it was a gate to Guinea and where they will finally be free and where no whites will be at. St Domingue is the place that saw Zarité grow as a slave,

as an abused woman and a place in which she found the love of her life and had to choose between him and her children and master when they had to abandon the island.

On the other hand, St Domingue represented hell to Eugenia Solar. Her melancholia and madness suffered was due to the believe that slaves will kill her and poison her food. The only person besides her husband that she trusted was Zarité, however, this was not enough for her to live a normal life in Saint Lazare.

New Orleans was another is another phycological setting due to the meaning within the story since this is the place that sees Zarité free finally. Although her suffering as a constant in her life, finally she can find freedom and happiness, and this is the reason why New Orleans becomes this setting.

Symbols

Voodoo: the religion allowed characters to remain stable, alive, and hopeful for a bright future. Voodoo in this case is the symbol of hope for slaves.

Drums music: Zarité enjoyed dancing to the music of drums and tell readers and the beginning and at the end of the book that music makes her happy and allows her to forget her problems and sadness. Music becomes the freedom that Zarité wished throughout the story and that made her wait for so many years real freedom to be given to her.

The Rebellion: this is an important event that indicates what the outcome of the plot will be.

New Orleans: The Freedom Mecca for Zarité and other slaves of the plot.

Erzuli: This is the Goddess of Love, the goddess of pleasure, a mother and woman that was given to Zarithé as a doll. Honoré gave this to Teté so she could feel protected in many ways. Basically, Erzuli represented all that was missing in Teté's life and that was filled with the doll so she would not feel abandoned.

Point of View

First person: Zarithé tells her story at the very beginning (right before the first chapter), in the middle on several occasion and at the end. It is known throughout the plot how the protagonist felt and what situations she experienced due to the opportunity that the author of the books gives the protagonist. Zarithé is the only character that speaks during the entire plot.

Third Person Omniscient: in each chapter there is a section in which the common form of third-person narration where the teller of the tale, who often appears to speak with the voice of the author herself, assumes an omniscient (all-knowing) perspective on the story being told: diving into private thoughts, narrating secret or hidden events, among others.

Irony

The ironic situation presented in *Island Under the Sea* is related to the fact that Toulouse Valmorain who owned Zarithé and treated her as an object and enslaved her for so many years, will be the one that finally sets her free at the end of the story.

Style

Forms of speech: narration, description, dialogues are presented, and historical and personal chronicles are part of the style.

Vocabulary: the plot maintains a colloquial style that adapts to all social groups that are part of the story. Slaves had their own way to talk, and mulatto and white people had their own.

Ending

Closed ending: when it comes to this element, Zarithé finishes her quest and makes designed the end of her journey. She achieved her goals and fails as well, and therefore this is a closed ending. This type of closing does not have to be happy, which is not the case of *Island Under the Sea*, but the main objective of a close ending is that it is needed to make reader feels that characters have wrapped up their experiences during the plot.

Characteristics of Caribbean Literature in *Island Under the Sea*

Slavery: One of the themes in the book. The story is based in the life of a slave surrounded by slaves who suffered the injustices of life under their master's command and because of their color of their skin.

Melancholy for the past: even though the island under the sea was a place they dreamed when they had no hope to become free and wished to die to go to that place and that did not exist, can be translated as an element that conducts characters to dream of going there, since that this is the place where they will forever be free, happy and where no whites will be at. This island under the sea, Guinea became a place symbol of the good times and glory.

Religion: Voodoo is key in *Island Under the Sea*. This religion allowed slaves to keep their feet on the ground and at the same time maintain their sanity to overcome the hard times at the plantations as slaves.

Exaggerations: Since that this book can be classified under Magical Realism movement, many events can be considered as exaggerations, but the most remarkable moment is when Macandal dies and transforms into a mosquito.

Caribbean zone: St Domingue located in the Caribbean.

The Carnavalesque: presented in many ways throughout the plot.

It can be firstly mentioned all the sexual violations the protagonist suffered in hands of her master Toulouse Valmorain, since that he had this believe that slaves were objects only and therefore could please his sexual desires without the consent of the victim. Secondly, the sex parties St Lazare's neighbor used to host in his farm, especially when it comes to sexual assaults where little girls were victims of.

As a third event it can be mentioned that the voodoo ceremonies that ended in orgies are part of the carnivalesque characteristic along with the forbidden relationship that existed between half siblings Maurice and Rosette.

Use of creole: Since that French were established in St Domingue, slaves learned to speak their master's language, however, slaves decided to introduce some changes in the language so they could communicate among them without whites understanding what they were saying.

The weather: this is another factor that classifies this plot as Caribbean. This element determines characters reactions and how they feel throughout the story. In the case of Eugenia this factor provoked her mental illness, since it created a sense of desperation, desire to rest or even a sense of moral and physical breakdown.

Political power: this is presented in the plot when the Rebellion takes place in the island taking inhabitants (whites and their slaves) to exile. The abolition of slavery in France and in the United States are part of this characteristic.

Feminism: starting off with the feminine protagonist of the plot, the different female characters within the book, and the evolution of Zarité throughout her life in *Island Under the Sea*. Her position in society, the way she suffered physically, sexually, and how she was exploited by men.

Immigration: in this case, exile is one of the main reasons to leave the country and conducting characters to move to another like in the case of United States, creating a sense of nostalgia even though the hard experiences lived.

The formalistic approach has provided a broader view when it comes to symbols, themes, Caribbean characteristics, among other elements that will contribute to start an argument regarding main topic. What follows next, is the full data analysis, comparison, and own theories development.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

Chapter III reunites all tools, important concepts, procedures, research approach and design and the information sources that are key to shape this investigation. All this information will be triangulated with experts' opinions (literature review), book analysis, and researchers' theory to come up with a deep study of the main topic.

4.1 Approaches to the investigation

An approach in an investigation project is a plan and a process flow that provides proper steps to create a topic from the broad theories to the most meticulous methods of collecting data that will also be explained. The approach involves decisions, not necessarily in order but that makes sense to researcher and readers. The final findings will determine which approach should be taken into consideration to improve the topic accordingly. The main characteristics of these findings are that these should be philosophical assumptions or speculations, generated after a detailed data collection, a specific research method (qualitative) and a proper analysis interpretation of the information. This investigation- approach selection is based on problem statement; researchers experiences and readers expectations (Busetto, 2020).

For this investigation project, a qualitative research approach was used to explore and comprehend the overall problem proposed. Within this process several components will be involved like the different questions that will emerge on the way, procedures that will be established, data collected, the analysis of the data that inductively builds general themes; the interpretations that experts will have about themes that are like the one exposed in this investigation and the one the researcher is offering on the paper. The outcome should remain flexible in its structure, meaning that those readers that will engage into reading it will identify

themselves with the style, the experiences lived by the characters and the observations that will lead to the final comments (Busetto, 2020).

Concerning the main topic related to the analysis of the novel *Island Under the Sea*, the sense of melancholy that drives the protagonist to resilience that will be used against the phallogocentric ideology imposed in a slavery society is the overall problem that has been proposed and that will be explored to be comprehended. At the end, a triangulation between the novel, experts' opinions and researchers' findings will be given accordingly.

4.2 Theories vs Literary work

In this section, several parts of the novel will be analyzed and supported by outlining Theories from literary works used during the study. It is important to mention some key events that took place in *Island Under the Sea*, which will be considered during the analysis in this section.

Island Under the Sea, a Caribbean literature novel is the eighth novel written by Isabel Allende, which is a historically-based romance that takes place in an era of slavery and when the Afro-descendants were treated as objects and forced to comply with subhuman and degrading obligations related to harsh field duties, physical and emotional abuse, and sexual assaults. This novel is set in the Caribbean Island Saint Domingue and on the Vieux Carré in New Orleans between the years of 1770 and 1810, period in which French Revolution occurs along with important events like Toussaint's Freedom Rebellion, and Louisiana's purchase. The author explores history throughout the plot. Zarité known as Teté is a female heroin, mulatto slave who was sexually assaulted at the age of eleven by her master, Toulouse Valmorain, and who bares mistreatment, injustices, and who fortunately by her indomitable character and unshakable faith

in voodoo, persists. Allende's novel presents a filled with debauchery, injustices, brutality, and events at a sugarcane plantation. These elements can mark readers as the discover scenes that, unfortunately, happened in real life or at least very close to it.

In the following book quote, it is evident how humans had to find ways to survive the most painful moments in their life; therefore, melancholy becomes part of daily experiences. For the main character, music is a synonym to relief and a road to resilience to be able to face all inconveniences in life as a slave. Music is freedom as Honoré taught Teté. It is happiness and a way to go on. Honoré instilled in Zarité that life as a slave was not going to be easy that that there had to be reasons to continue along the way. This is a way to becoming resilient or preparing to become so.

When I still didn't walk, he made me dance sitting down, and when I could barely stand on both legs, he invited me to lose myself in the music, as in a dream. Dance, dance, Zarité, because a slave who dances is free... while he dances", he told me. I have always danced. (Allende 2009, p 11)

The above reflects one of the reasons why music was so important for enslaved people. Music is hope and reason to continue the journey, since it was a way for slaves to express how they felt, sorrow, joy sometimes, hope and even inspiration. This music was passed along from one generation to the other throughout slavery. The songs that slave used to sing and that were influenced by African religious traditions, later will become the base for what is known as "Negro Spirituals". Singing and dancing is a form of deep communication, which roots are

connected to African descendant's culture. This started with African slaves who were kidnapped and shipped across the Atlantic during the middle passage. Slaves who found themselves during the voyage, found in singing a way of communication and to accompany themselves. Men and women used to sing and answered one and other this way. Although the crew could not understand what they were saying, they understood the dynamic and that there were moments full of sorrow due to the tone with what they sing (Berry, 2017).

The music of the drums was so powerful that gave strength to the people who used to dance to it. There was a time in the book where drums were taken away from slaves because the owners of the farms thought that these could be used as weapons to build communities and incite rebellion. The music was so powerful and touching that some landowners were touched by it. Sometimes literary authors classify this as magical realism, but it is just faith and hope that filled the hearts and souls of the slaves. Following the same line of melancholy and resilience, which are very important elements within the main topic of the investigation and are present in many passages of the book, the following quote reflects how voodoo becomes a symbol of melancholy than can be seen as a vehicle to achieve resilience.

I also took my doll that was sacred, like the saints were to Madame Delphine, but more powerful as Honoré taught me while he carved her. Honoré always spoke to me about Guinea, the lwas, voodoo, and he warned me to never reach out to the gods of white people because they are our enemies. He explained that in his parents' language voodoo means divine spirit. My doll represented Erzuli, lwa of love and motherhood. (Allende 2009, p 54)

When reading this book quote related to voodoo in *Island Under the Sea*, it can be perceived that voodoo is used as resource to humanize enslaved people. Practicing voodoo gave them freedom and the possibility to own their world, minds, hearts, and lives for a while. Voodoo is a private religion since someone who was not part of their world would not understand it; therefore, it became a code for enslaved people and a bridge to achieve peace and hope for a better future. Voodoo, in certain way, routed Teté to resilience because if it was not because of voodoo, especially for Erzuli, Teté would not have achieved what she longed for in the plot.

Voodoo is a way for slaves to humanize themselves since they were considered objects for their masters only. Voodoo is not only a religion, but it is a system of thoughts that people use to reconfigure their world. This religion became very convenient because there is no written registry of it which makes it inaccessible to their owners. It converted itself in a way for slaves to mobilize and besides this, the religious figures became their political figures too (The Choices Program, 2017).

The above supports researcher, since voodoo was only understood by the enslaved, it was the symbol of peace, hope, privacy, and a tool to achieve resilience. In the specific case of Zarité, this practice maintained her down to earth throughout her life. The music of the drums is related pretty much to voodoo as well, and as previously mentioned, music represents a moment of liberation for people, and this was an act that on many occasions were not allowed by the landowners since they felt that these acts besides allowing them to vent, it gave them strength and power. Unlike other plantation owners, Toulouse Valmorain understood what these ceremonies meant for the plantation slaves, so by approving the celebration of these rituals,

slavery was somewhat more bearable for Zarité, which makes it another point to support the idea that resilience was Zarité's ally.

She was the mambo, the officiant of ceremonies, to which the enslaved from other plantations attended, and Valmorain did not oppose to that either, despite that his chief foreman had warned him that these ceremonies ended in sexual orgies or with dozens of possessed lying on floor with their eyes rolled. "Don't be so severe Cambray, let them vent, so they return to work more docile", said the master with good humor. (Allende 2009, p 67)

The previous quotes were samples of how Zarité achieved resilience during the years as a slave and to which she was destined, however, below we will analyze the aspects of her life she had to face and try to overthrow the phallogocentric ideology imposed by one of the most important men in her life, who despite taking away so many things from her, gave her what she longed for the most. Zarité arrived at St Lazara when she was only nine years old, and the main purpose of having her at the Valmorain home was for her to be the housekeeper; however, Valmorain started seeing in Teté more than this. She was a cute little girl who grew into a beautiful woman, who change the way Toulouse used to see her. At this stage, the phallogocentric ideology was imposed to Zarité, and this is exactly what she had to fight against with the resilience achieved. The base of this investigation is what she had to fight throughout her life until the very end of the plot where she could obtain what she wished for: happiness and freedom.

My poor Eugenia. She spends the night tormented by her nightmares and in the day tormented by reality – murmured.

Yes, master.

You don't understand what I'm saying, don't you?

No, master.

Better this way. How old are you?

I don't know, master. Ten or so.

Then you still need to become a woman, right?

I guess so, master.

His gaze swept me up and down. He put his hand to his intimate part and held it, as he was thinking about it. (Allende 2009, p 74)

After analyzing the previous quote, Zarité owned an aspect that put her in that uncomfortable place: being a woman and being enslaved. As mentioned previously, most white people during slavery considered African descendants as objects and not human beings but chattel properties, and therefore Zarité was considered a resource to satisfy Valmorain's needs, along with the fact that women were silenced due to the condition of being a woman. It is not a secret to anyone that silence has been part of women's life in history, and even for Afro-descendant women it has been worse. We read about this in history books; we have seen it in movies and series too. Taking as reference what has been read in the book, all women were silenced, but especially the "black" ones. Enslaved women had no civil rights or voice to demand

human rights to be respected, but they were human enough to face situations related to sexual assaults that they had to put up with without being able to say “No.”

Zarité was just a child and only because Valmorain’s wife was in bed ill, for a second, he saw Zarité as a woman and wanted to satisfy his needs with a child, but because of her age and certain considerations he had, he did not abuse her in that very moment. The above said by the researcher is supported by Calvo (1982), who states that the numerous injustices that women have suffered systematically throughout history due to the construction of patriarchal societies. Humanity has constructed strategies to naturalize female subordination that has also been transferred to literature. Calvo’s theory supports this research’s point when she suggests that this subordination of women topic has acquired certain centrality in studies on power: the relationship between ethnic subordination and gender. The author shows the metaphorical dimension that co-exists between enslavement, female subordination and the colonial subjects which is this will be white men. Both ways of domination are in constant interaction and building one another.

Teté, wait. Let’s see if you can help us resolve a question we have. Doctor Parmentier says that black is human as white, and I say the opposite. What do you think? – Valmorain asked in a tone that the doctor found more paternal than sarcastic.

She remained speechless with her eyes on the ground with her hands clasped.

Come on Teté, don’t be afraid, answer. I’m waiting...

The master is always right – she murmured at last.

I mean, you think that black are not completely human...

A being that is not human has no opinions, master. (Allende 2009, p 105)

When reading the above, we understand how double standards can play such an important and negative role in society, since it makes us think about how ironic human can be like in the case where Zarité was not considered human to be respected, loved, and treated with dignity; however, she was human enough to tolerate being harassed by Cambray, and to serve her master sexually, being abused and silenced. The silence that has accompanied the abuse that Afro-descendant women suffered for many years as slaves for centuries was a practiced silence that was used as defense mechanism to survive. This is due to the absence of legal protection for slaves in general, but even more for female. In the novel, many of the enslaved victims used strategies like resist to this sexual victimization, escaping from the plantations, engaging in activism like in the Rebellion or like Zarité, developing a culture of silence to achieve the resilience stage needed to succeed someday.

To reinforce the above, Calvo (1981) states that the constructors of human rights confirms that the feminine subordination is one of the worst values that identifies humans that condemn women to silence. This imposed phallogentric ideology relegates women to become a second-rate citizen. Calvo coined the phrase “the male only in certain moments is, and female will be female throughout her entire life” (p 141). With this sentence, the author basically underlines that women are animals permanently, opposing to men that are animals when they indulge to sex. This clearly reinforces the phallogentric ideology that has been applied for so many years in society.

In the case of Zarité and previous quote from the book, the investigation argument confirms that her natural condition of female inferiority makes it necessary for her to submit to Toulouse and fulfill his needs and destiny by serving him and the child he had with Eugenia and that Zarité had to raise. The entire plot affirms that feminine subordination was part of the protagonist's life, but contradictorily opens a space to the organized struggles and at the end will bring to her life freedom and happiness. To touch-base with the main topic, the following quote will help to build up what finally constructs the whole point of this plot and argument that the researcher wants to point out and rescue, which is the moment Zarité is able to look at all she has been through, digest all tragic and traumatic moments that she has carried out on her journey to finally be able to find peace and happiness. This at some point is part of the melancholic sense that helped her develop the sense of resilience that took so long to come by, due to the terrible moments lived and helped her overcome the slave patriarchy (physically, mentally, and emotionally) under which she lived for so long.

Four years have passed and its 1810. I have lost my fear to freedom, although I will never lose my fear of white people. I no longer cry for Rosette; I am almost always happy...

... As for me, I am always busy with my children, with my home, the remedies for Dr. Parmentier, which I now prepare at home, but in the afternoons, I take time I give myself a break to drink a coffee with milk at Adele's backyard surrounded by bougainvillea, where we meet to talk...

... but I would like that one day all my descendants get together: Jean Martin, Maurice, Violette, Justin and Honoré, my other children and grandchildren that I will have. That day I will invite friends I will cook the best creole gumbo in New Orleans, and there will be music until dawn...

... Zacharie and I have history. We can look back and count the days that we have been together, add moments of sorrow and joy; this is how love is made without haste, day by day. I love him as always, but I feel more comfortable with him than before...

... Just yesterday I was dancing with the magic drums of Sanité Dédé. Dance and dance. From time-to-time Erzili, lwa of love, lwa of motherhood comes and ride Zarité, and we gallop together to visit my dead friends to Island Under the Sea. That's how it is. (Allende 2009, p.507, 510, 511)

Family and religion became the center of Zarité's life after slavery. When slavery was abolished, she preferred to be a homemaker though poverty pushed many back into the workforce. She continued to dance as a personal spiritual renewal and communal worship and provided herself a time for learning, socializing with her neighbors and living the life she wanted together with Zacharie, her beloved husband. It can be deduced that she took hold of her rights (not many of them, but more than before) and her responsibilities as a free woman. It can also be perceived in the quotes on pages 48; 49;50;51;52;53;55 and 56 of this study that at a certain point she was still be afraid of that phallogentric ideology that not only Toulouse Valmorain

represented, but white men in general, and somehow made her uncomfortable with her husband even when she loved him very much.

After being a free woman, Zarité suffered many losses in different ways; however, resilience, which is one of the most important abilities in life, helped her to overcome them. This power within her to overcome adversity brought her to the very long-awaited end, despite the pain experienced (like when Rossette passed away and left her newborn orphan). Zarité was able to reborn to joy through the ability of reinventing herself. It is very important to mention that her resilience achieved before becoming a free woman helped her to destroy the “phallocentrism” that did not allow her to be happy before. The writer of this investigation is supported by Macaya (1992) when she proposed in one of her works that the gender hierarchy, the determination of male and female roles within society, the division of labor assigned to men and women within the framework of production; the tonality of human duties, art in general and in literature, particularly as in this case when analyzing *Island Under the Sea*, has caused what Zarité and many women experienced through their lives with negative outcomes in the majority of the cases and in some others, moments of joy.

Throughout history, the figure of women has also been molded from that gender hierarchy and an elaborate patriarchy, which builds an image of the creation of life an exclusively male act. This dominant masculine element in a hierarchy plays by its very condition a role of center, and therefore the deconstruction of the severe masculinity establishes a mechanism of action and puts in evidence the harmfulness of this system that has been imposed. This deconstruction helps society to reinvent itself so that women can eradicate everything that hurts her integrity.

4.3 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

It is necessary to mention that these themes, motifs, and symbols have been analyzed before and can be located at the end of chapter III under Formalistic Approach; however, the most relevant details will be briefly analyzed in this section.

Slavery is one of the most important themes and motifs in the events of the story. It has been the product of inequality and insatiable human ambition, which generate a false ideology of racial superiority of the white over any ethnic group. African descendants, for instance, were treated as objects and animals given or bought according to their availability to work sugarcane plantations. They were physically and mentally abused, evening punished in the worst way possible. These humans that became slaves were ruthlessly separated from their homes and left to their devices when they no longer mattered.

Another theme and motif to mention is the way the society was organized. It was structured according to the skin tone and, of course, this determined a hierarchy that placed the enslaved as inexistent beings within that organization. A prevailing element during most of the plot is the routine sex. This component is presented firstly with Violette Boisier, a disguised prostitute, desired by many men and a true master of the art of sex with or without feelings involved. It is important to mention that multiple sexual assaults performed by Toulouse against Teté became a routine when he stopped wanting her and started needing her in his most intimate environment.

The Rebellion of Freedom is another important motif and theme because of impunity against violence of which African descendants were victims. This feeling nested in the hearts of those who wanted freedom in exchange for their lives. Most achieved it through the usage of weapons to express their hatred and revenge. Regarding symbols within *Island Under the Sea*,

there are several that could be mentioned, but in this section only the most relevant are reviewed as follows.

The religion of Voodoo as an important symbol allowed characters to remain stable, alive, and hopeful for a bright future. Voodoo in this case is the symbol of hope for slaves. For Zarithé, the music of the drums symbolizes happiness and allows her to forget her problems and sadness. Music becomes the freedom that Zarithé wished throughout the story and that made her wait for so many years real liberty to be given to her. Rebellion is another important symbol since this event conducts reader to the possible outcome of the plot and will help enslaved characters to reach out to what they have longed for. New Orleans is for Zarithé and most enslaved characters that were able to exile the “Freedom Mecca” where the future seems brighter and far away from the past they left in St. Domingue. Erzuli, the goddess of love, of pleasure, who was also mother, and woman was given to Zarithé as a doll is another important symbol in the novel. This doll made Teté feel protected in many ways since she represented all that was missing in Teté’s life. This lwa shaped in a doll will prevent her from feeling abandoned and would made her know that she was accompanied during the whole plot. Erzuli was the feminine power that reminded Zarithé to stay still and that all was going to be alright.

Chapter V

Conclusions and Recommendations

In this section the researcher gives the last comments about the entire process of the investigation for the topic that has been developed and offers recommendations in conjunction with final findings to future researchers who are interested in developing research related to Caribbean literature.

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

The purpose of a conclusion for this type of investigation must be focused on how through a feminist approach the protagonist uses resilience as a powerful resource to become a strong and free woman who faced struggles almost her entire life and overcame opposition and control imposed by a white phallogentric society, and consequently, gaining freedom that she would enjoy the rest of her life. Of course, this will be supported using historical and cultural background related to slavery lived in all territories in the Caribbean, and in this case, Saint Domingue, now known as Haiti. The conclusion will determine if the research approach and method, the sources consulted, and the literary analysis done to the plot from a feminist perspective has complied with the objectives set at the beginning of this investigation.

5.2 Conclusions

This investigation mentions and acknowledges the most important events that took place when enslaved people were brought to the Caribbean to work at the sugarcane plantations that belonged to White European that were established in these lands and how this part of history has become an inspiration for Caribbean literature to emerge.

This paper also aims to describe from a literary perspective the role of women, like in the case of Zarité and other female characters, that were briefly mentioned and how this role is a leit-motif in Caribbean literature and subsequently, from there, developed in Latin American literature. It is important to place emphasis on the questions words “how” and “why” resilience becomes the most important aspect in Caribbean literature and in the entire plot of *Island Under the Sea*. Lastly and most importantly, the feminist approach applied was committed to perform a full analysis of *Island Under the Sea* help to develop the main topic.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

The initial question that impels the topic to be developed to look for a specific result and in relation to the main topic, addressed the inquiry to know how do Zarité’s attitude and the way she decided to confront the difficulties in her life as an enslaved woman led her to succeed against the phallogocentric oppositions of toxic men who wanted to possess her and control her. During this entire investigation, it can be determined that Zarité in her condition of being an enslaved woman, suffered of many circumstances that made her cling to life through voodoo, Erzuli, join the other enslaved characters of the plot and dance to the beat of the drums that during her existence helped her overcome any setback. Zarité became a resilient person. This enabled her to fight challenging events such as being taken away from Honoré, the person who taught her values and traditions of Africa, a place she knew she belonged to but would never know. It also taught her to overcome being a slave woman which meant that she had to face fight and defeat the giant monster of toxic masculinity and white “supremacy.”

The protagonist of *Island Under the Sea* was always exposed to this ironic idea that a slave female was not human so she could be victimized, harassed, and sentenced to live under a racist and enslaving regime, but human enough to satisfy the needs of a white man who owned

her and needed her to run his home, take care of his family and serve him sexually. Although this toxic White man was not a tyrant who abused her physically and verbally sometimes, as others did to their females' slaves, he hurt her and scarred her for life in such an extent that even after being free, she still felt fear towards white people like many who owned plantations in Saint Domingue and who wounded and murdered their slaves. Toulouse Valmorain is the symbol of the phallocentrism that was imposed to Zarité since she was only a child. He was the man who purchased her, the toxic man who took away her first child, who did not prevent their daughter Rosette and Maurice to commit the aberration of falling in love and having a son which took another child away.

Valmorain stole her essence and the one who ironically set her free in a new land. Without knowing, Zarité defeated that toxic masculinity represented mainly by Toulouse Valmorain, Prosper Cambray and even Gambo, her first love, who silenced her and put her at the bottom of an absurd hierarchy because she became a resilient person who overcame all difficulties. Luckily enough, Zarité was able to embellish as a free woman, who was able to achieve all what other enslaved people wished and hopefully ended in the island that was under the sea, where they happily lived forever without pain, suffering and where no white people lived.

5.4 Unexpected Results (If any)

The so-called friendship or cordial relationship that Zarité and Toulouse maintained at the end of the story (since they had children and grandchildren in common) somehow interrupted this researcher's final theory or argument for not knowing how or when to locate this event in the whole paper. Although this novel was read before doing the whole analysis and development of the topic, forgiveness was not a theme that was used to extend this investigation because the

Zarité that was studied was the one before freedom. Zarité, notwithstanding her pain caused mainly by the life under slavery that Valmorain took her to when she lived in his farm, she still forgave him, and this is something that in the end was not included within the spectrum of the investigation.

5.5 Recommendations

As recommendations, there are many that can contribute to the choice of analyzing Caribbean literary works that other researchers can pick up from here. Expected and unexpected results emerge, and because of this there are several recommendations that can be mentioned in this chapter. Caribbean literature contains so many contrasts, and therefore many characteristics can be indicated. That is why taking into consideration this same novel *Island Under the Sea*, the sense of melancholy as a way for survival can be explored deeply. In addition, the role of women in Caribbean literary works can also be explored not only taking into consideration enslaved women, but the ones that were politically free but enslaved in an undesirable world like white women introduced into the Caribbean.

The nostalgia that they suffer is another factor that can be studied from a very feminist point of view and in which the toxic masculinity is the main protagonist since these women were also silenced in certain way. Considering that there was an unexpected result in this investigation, forgiveness along with resilience are elements that could widely be explored as well to enrich the Caribbean literature field. Caribbean literature is fascinating because of all its elements, characteristics, historical and cultural background that it contains, therefore, Magic Realism and the Real Wonderful are two types of exaggeration that can be found in this type of literature and from which Latin American literature derives from; thus, these are aspects that can also be explored for future investigations due to the usage of “magic” that can be discovered in

characters and the supers powers possessed by different creature or special people that are part of these type of plots. Lastly, another way of exploring this novel and Caribbean literature movement is by performing a phycological approach. This could be done by analyzing the novel from a “white perspective”. As mentioned previously in this investigation, there was a political class division between white and black people, and because both ethnic groups shared same location, atmosphere, and experiences, exploring the life as a white person between the 17th and 18th century will be a good option. As we all know, racism is not a good human value, however, at the moment this novel was developed, people were formed and educated believing that white were better than black, and so enslaved were treated as objects and not as people. Taking into consideration how both at the time (white and black) suffered about the same situations differently, this white and psychological perspective will be an interesting topic to develop in Caribbean literature.

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