

UNIVERSIDAD INTERNACIONAL DE LAS AMÉRICAS
VICERRECTORIA ACADÉMICA

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION AND FOREIGN LANGUAGES

ANALYSIS OF THE BOOK UNDERGROUND RAILROAD
BY COLSON WHITEHEAD FROM A NEW HISTORICISM
APPROACH

Thesis Submitted to Obtain the Bachelor in English

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AUGUST, 2022

Abstract

The book *Underground Railroad* written by the American writer and novelist Colson Whitehead, is a novel about the 19th-century underground groups that helped enslaved people flee to the free states of the northern United States and Canada. Furthermore, it is a book that guides the reader on an epic journey to freedom for Cora on a subway train. Given that slavery has existed for centuries, it is essential to mention that slavery is something that cannot be ignored, since Afro-descendants suffered from human trafficking, forced marriages, and rape by their masters, among other situations that make them vulnerable in society. Therefore, the research question is how slavery has affected millions of people over time and how people continue to be victims of it today. The analysis of the book was eye-opening to realize that 19th-century slavery was not as different as it is today. It was concluded that this book shows the impact that the slavery of African Americans had on society and demonstrated the people's struggle in the abolition process.

Resumen

El libro “El Ferrocarril subterráneo” escrito por el escritor y novelista estadounidense Colson Whitehead, es una novela que trata sobre los grupos clandestinos del siglo XIX que ayudaron a las personas esclavizadas a huir a los estados libres del norte de Estados Unidos y Canadá. Además, es un libro que guía al lector en un viaje épico hacia la libertad de Cora en un tren subterráneo. Dado que la esclavitud existe desde hace siglos, es importante mencionar que la esclavitud es algo que no se puede ignorar, ya que los afrodescendientes sufren trata de personas, matrimonios forzados, violaciones por parte de sus amos, entre otras situaciones que los hacen vulnerables en la sociedad. Por lo tanto, la pregunta de investigación es cómo la esclavitud ha afectado a millones de personas a lo largo del tiempo y cómo las personas continúan siendo víctimas de ella en la actualidad. A través del análisis del libro, fue revelador darse cuenta de que la esclavitud del siglo XIX no es tan diferente como lo es hoy. Se concluyó que, este libro muestra el impacto que tuvo en la sociedad la esclavitud de los afroamericanos y demostró la lucha del pueblo en el proceso de abolición.

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CHAPTER I

Introductory Framework

The present study seeks to analyze the novel *Underground Railroad*, written by the American writer and novelist Colson Whitehead, from the new historicism approach. A clandestine 19th-century group helped enslaved people flee to free states in the northern United States and Canada, making explicit a cruel, infernal, and wildly imaginative account of one of the darkest periods in history. Moreover, the researcher will take the reader on an epic journey towards the freedom of Cora, an enslaved person from Georgia who flees to the north of the United States on an underground railway. According to BBC News, "This fictional plot is based on a true episode of nineteenth-century American history that, although it is taught today in schools in the North American country, remains a mystery to many (Prasad, 2019)".

The present research work consists of the design of a literary analysis and a historical approach to American slavery from the 19th century to the present with the purpose of inquiry and investigating how it has harmed people over time. Therefore, this inquiry aims to provide students and teachers with an instrument that contributes to the development of critical thinking about the current situations of the slave population, such as sexual slavery, forced begging, and households under domestic servitude. With this, through the visualization of multiple scenarios, compare the timeline of the past and the current one to acquire better alternatives to prevent more people from being under threat and for which they have not freely given their consent. Likewise, provide a new historical vision of the differences between the present and the antiquity of slavery.

This thesis arises from the interest in investigating the book *Underground Railroad*, which refers to the nineteenth century and investigates how modern slavery is that millions of people suffer today. This interest in the African American “new historical approach,” as manifested in the literature, revolves around the question of how slavery arose, its events, cruelties, and how it remains today. Likewise, it will be proposed to analyze the differences in slavery over the years in Canada and the United States, such as the construction of a framework of symbolic meanings that enables us to give a possible solution to the problem. Likewise, to have a greater perception of the people victimized by slavery over the centuries and their current permanence. The cruelty and marginalization of the masters towards the enslaved people led them to create escape plans to liberal states in an underground railway with direct tracks to the north. That is why it is considered essential to continue with an analysis of slavery and thus raise awareness of how, since the nineteenth century, slave populations sought their freedom.

1.1 Problem Statement

According to BBC News, "400 years ago, in 1619, the first African victims of slavery landed in the United States (Prasad, 2019)." From there, it was triggered that more than 40% of African Americans remained in South Carolina, where they were sold and forced to work to death. However, although it was said that slavery was "a choice," there are events that show the opposite both in antiquity and today that more than 45 million people are living in this condition. Since slavery has existed for centuries, it is important to mention that slavery is something that cannot be ignored since afro-descendants suffer from human trafficking, forced marriage, and rape by their masters, among other situations that make them vulnerable in society. Agree with Pew Research Center “59% who say the legacy of slavery affects the situation of black people a

great deal (Menasce, 2019).” Therefore, they are people who cannot defend themselves since they usually trust innocently in the intentions of others and who can be easily disappeared without leaving any trace or having the opportunity to be searched and defended.

Additionally, the cruelty and inhumanity of slavery caused the masters to take advantage of the vulnerability of these people and profit from this type of crime. According to The CNN Freedom Project, "In Europe, criminals pocket 2.5 billion a year through sexual exploitation and forced labor" (Muñoz, 2011). Although the mistreatment of enslaved people was generally horrible, the Americans captured and traded them to make a profit based on the enslaved person's skills. However, despite the mistreatment and threats, the Americans secretly chose to keep the slave alive, protect them and make them useful; they focused on the intimidation of their workers with the long-term vision of their usefulness.

What is needed to fix slavery in both the United States and Canada is the will of governments to stop these acts. Firstly, in the countries where people are kidnapped or forced to work. Currently, slavery continues to exist, affecting millions of people worldwide, including children who are sent into slavery because their families are too poor to support them. Therefore, one of the solutions to this problem is to acquire a superior knowledge of how this is harming people and thus raise awareness, acting on how they can be helped. Another solution is to support organizations against slavery by providing them with resources with cultural and personal knowledge necessary to transition from enslaved people to freedom. However, child sponsorship can be another way to prevent more children from growing up as enslaved people. Although it is known that children are not the only ones enslaved in the world, they are the most vulnerable and at-risk, especially in countries with the highest increase in human trafficking in the United States

and Canada, where slavery has taken root. Child sponsorship can ensure that enslaved children have access to education and their basic needs. Thus, prevent children from suffering psychological damage from modern slavery since, in most cases, it is usually irreversible due to child trafficking, child recruitment in armed groups, forced prostitution, forced labor, and servitude.

Therefore, according to 50 for freedom, "It is for governments to enact and enforce legislation, protect their citizens and ratify the Protocol " if enslaved people become aware and spread through a comprehensive approach, they may be able to be free and join society without any prior prejudice and with total freedom to do with their lives the best that suits them. In addition, to prevent new generations from suffering violations and unfair treatment and leading a more enjoyable life. Indeed, slavery has harmed and harmed millions of people over time and continues to this day. However, it continues to deal with the implications and impact of racial differences, although it is in the hands of the government to raise public awareness and campaign against slavery and tell the stories of those who rose against their oppressors and honor. In addition, to provide them with both work and personal education for their integration into society and their just resistance to prevent future generations from continuing to suffer unfair treatment.

1.2 Objectives of the Investigation

1.2.1 General Objective

To analyze the book *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, particularly the American slavery and the quest for freedom from the 19th century to the present from the new historical approach.

1.2.2 Specific Objectives

- To determine the issue of slavery and treatment of enslaved people in the United States and Canada from the 19th century to the present
- To identify the coping mechanisms of people enslaved and subjected to the cruelty of their masters
- To examine how slavery harmed people from the perspective of the book through
- To compare the 19th-century slavery present in the book to the present situation

1.3 Justification of the Study

It is considered that the detailed analysis of the book *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead from a historical point of view can reflect how slavery has affected millions of people over time and how people continue to be victims of it today. However, this research aims to investigate what American slavery was like, the slave trade, marginalization, the cruelty of their masters, and the search for freedom. In addition, it highlights issues such as myths and realities of modern slavery that go unnoticed by most people and the differences between the present and the antiquity of slavery. On the one hand, becoming known as *The Underground Railroad* was his escape route, with secret roads and safe houses established in the United States in the early and mid-19th century, where enslaved African Americans used them to escape slave states in the United States and Canada. Because of their departure to other lands, they are challenged by their masters, who persecute them to find no way out but to surrender to them or suffer the consequences of their rebellious acts.

Then, raise awareness of the apprehension of slavery, the crimes, and their repercussions throughout the centuries. The results of this work will allow students and teachers to reason about the effort and superhuman determination of slavery to change their destiny in approaching the new historicism. This will lead to it not only remain as a topic of the past but also as a reflection of the reality of thousands of people today. According to the UN, "It should be remembered that the United Nations headquarters in New York inaugurated in 2015 a monument called "The Ark of Return," as a permanent tribute in memory of the victims of slavery and the Transatlantic trade" (Saakyan, 2019).

The results of this work, in the new historical approach, are focused on the literary criticism of the 19th century and the struggle of black people to free themselves from their slavery. Consequently, it will raise the functioning of societies and human relations and the reality of slavery and freedom. In addition, the cognitive process that will allow educators to consider the theory of the colonial regime of enslaved people will be analyzed so that they develop programs that allow reporting on it. It is intended to make the population aware of how human trafficking and slavery, both ancient and modern, have adopted new forms of current attitudes. Therefore, it is necessary to internalize the term slavery as the condition to which a slaver subjected a person to develop from it.

It is essential to make people aware that slavery still exists today. The most important thing is to

be aware that it is everyone's responsibility to fight against it. Additionally, creating awareness and preventing slavery and its different forms, practices, or political servitudes that effectively eradicate slavery nationally since states must also invest in sustainable development,

protection, promotion of human rights, and integration of enslaved people into society. According to the UN, 1.2 million are victims of trafficking; in addition, "Trafficking is accompanied by commercial exploitation of children. A million of them, mainly girls, are forced into prostitution every year (Martinez, 2015)".

Finally, the analysis of the book *The Underground Railroad* aims to investigate and delve into ancient and modern slavery through a historical approach that allows retaking countries' commitment to the abolition and integration of enslaved people into society. Educators and students will look at the resources, values, and obstacles that reside in enslaved people and uphold the principles of equality and human dignity for those who have been victims of slave labor. Through these analyses, the articles contribute to the historiographical discussion that gives visibility to the presence of slavery and Afro-descendants in the United States and Canada, expanding the study period from the study of the nineteenth century to the present.

1.4 Antecedents

Colson Whitehead (2017) wrote *The Underground Railroad*, intending to deepen the 19th-century underground abolitionist group that helped enslaved people flee to free states. He carried out correlational explanatory historical research with a descriptive design. Two variables shaped the literary event. The first variable is slavery based on a cotton plantation in Georgia. The second is clandestine freedom—underground abolitionist groups of the nineteenth century. The analysis of the book determined what slavery was like at that time. Likewise, the truncated illusions of the enslaved people were observed, and the analysis concludes that the underground railway was their escape route to freedom (Whitehead, Colson, 2017).

Ros Laia (2020) developed the research "The history of slavery in the United States" the objective was to investigate how slavery in the United States was not completely prohibited until the nineteenth century. She carried out exploratory research with a non-experiential design. The study consisted of one variable. The first variable was the slave trade. She applied a type of analysis to people registered in a state of slavery at that time. The investigation results indicate that the United States trafficked enslaved people on the American continent. The investigation concludes that thanks to the work of civil rights activists, blacks obtained rights through the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which ended racial segregation (Ros, Laia, 2020, June 12)

The background of the student Alonso Mora, when analyzed, meets some characteristics concerning the historical approach to slavery. When beginning to examine the student, he mentions a brief introduction, "In 2015, the VIII Report on the State of the Rights of Children and Adolescents in Costa Rica was given, which serves to give a general idea of how the current panorama of Costa Rica is compliance with international obligations on this issue..." (Mora, 2018, p. 20). It can be noted that it is related to the main objective, which is the investigation's intention. At the end of the introduction, he mentions what has been noted in the investigations, "it respects the Rights of Children and Adolescents since it has signed and ratified various instruments in favor of this population, but even so, many of them are still only letters on paper, since they are not expressed (Mora, 2018, p.20).

The background of the student Chiara Marinelli, when analyzed, meets some characteristics concerning the historical approach to slavery. Starting to examine the student, she mentions a short introduction, "The adoption of a multilateral agreement on the abolition of the slave trade was only possible in 1815 during the Congress of Vienna" (Marinelli, 2015, p.15). It

can be noted that it is related to the specific objectives, which is the investigation's intention. Finishing the introduction mentions what has been noticed in the investigations as historical antecedents, "In this way, on February 8, 1815, the Declaration on the Universal Abolition of the Slave Trade (hereinafter, Declaration of 1815) was adopted, which constitutes the first international instrument that condemns this practice (Marinelli, 2015, p. 15). According to Save the children (2014): in the 19th century, the trafficking of women had significant relationships in America. They were based on current national surveys. As Russian or French women, they were kidnapped to get married in South American countries to increase their social status. Means of transportation such as the underground railway was used the communication of the sexual trafficking of women. (p.62)

1.5 Scope

Although slavery has been commented on for centuries and is still seen today as modern slavery, more than 45 million today are harmed by it. This research aims to analyze, through the book "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead, the slavery in the nineteenth century to the present in the United States and Canada to compare how slavery has harmed these people over the centuries through a historical approach. This research will be developed in the analysis of the book "Underground Railroad" to raise awareness of both educators and students about slavery along with its abolition. In addition to raising the functioning of societies and human relations, the reality of slavery and freedom; and investigating the process of integration of the peoples towards independence—the development of programs that allow reporting on it, both ancient and modern. Additionally, programs that provide tools in the labor and personal area to enslaved people for their integration into the population.

1. Raise awareness about modern slavery: The research aims to compare ancient and modern slavery and thus make people aware of how this affects people and how they can be helped.
2. Analysis of the book: With the help of the literary analysis of the book "Underground Railroad," it is expected to investigate what slavery was like in the 19th century and investigate clandestine abolitions.
3. Identify the issue of slavery: It is expected to analyze the treatment of enslaved people in the United States and Canada from the 19th century to the present.
4. Identify coping mechanisms: It is expected to find out how enslaved people were subjected to the cruelty of their masters.
5. The difference between American and Canadian slavery: Comparing these countries will help the investigation have a greater breadth of slavery through the years.

Chapter II

Theoretical Framework

The analysis of the book "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead refers to different historical-critical points that show how slavery has affected millions of people and the new historicism approach. However, to claim each of them, it will be important to define and teach some key concepts in the research topic. Among these are American slavery, underground abolitionist groups, *the Underground Railroad*, and cotton plantations.

2.1 American slavery

For centuries, slavery has been relevant in history since millions of people of African descent were kidnapped from the African continent and forced to be enslaved people in the American colonies. In addition, to being exploited to work domestic work and labor in plantations to produce crops such as tobacco and cotton. Due to the plantations for the economic and political growth of the country, hunters from the United States insisted on kidnapping African people by boat to be dispossessed of their families and forced to work without payment (History.com, 2021).

The history of slavery takes place in the southern United States, where because of the production of cotton plantations, Africans were taken to live on large plantations or small farms. Because of this, the masters made the enslaved people dependent without the right to speak. Over time, they were allowed to learn to read and write for the benefit of the plantations, not as an act of self-improvement, since if this was demonstrated, they were cruelly punished. In addition,

being violently taken outside to work under unbreakable orders, the slavers took advantage of some female victims since they raped them, prostituted them, or worked in domestic tasks and artisans (History.com, 2021). The 16th century was the beginning of the slave trade. Millions of Africans, both free and enslaved people, were subjected to this cruel business that generated great benefits in the economy for many governments, putting the practice of kidnapping Afro-descendants until the 19th century. The researcher investigates the history of slavery of European settlers who turned to enslaved Africans as the main source of cheap labor that poor Europeans did not provide (Miloró, 2019).

The United States is one of the countries with the most incarcerated inhabitants in the world, with the most weapons, and where it competes for the position of social inequality due to being one of the countries with the greatest economic power. So much so that it chains millions of people with the idea of the American Dream as the land of opportunities. They take advantage of the free market, competition, and privatization to produce welfare for their states without any rest. So that their interests are to defend themselves on the international scene, exerting pressure on the enslaved people to form blocs with their allies (ORTEGA, 2021).

States and how they lead to Canada looking for their freedom. The reason for buying enslaved Black people or capturing them in the United States was to work mainly in agricultural plantations of rice, tobacco, or cotton, where they would benefit from their economy and social status. Meanwhile, (GYASI, 2016) shows how slavery is a wound that never heals. Furthermore, the unexpected transcendence and unknown secrets of ancient enslaved people provide an inexhaustible reservoir of material as their stories of woe, hope, and overcoming is a series of historical events central to slavery research across the United States.

Due to this, many enslaved people were forced to marry their masters, fulfill forced mandates, or prostitute themselves. Inevitably, the fight for civil rights as fugitive slaves cost them their lives, and they would never prove their independence. However, these acts of rebellion opened the doors for a new generation to leave a mark on history. Consequently, allowing future generations not to be cruelly enslaved as in past centuries and to live a better life away from the mandates of American masters or governors.

From the beginning, the captured or sold enslaved people who arrived in the United States from Africa were violently seized and transported to the American continent in slave ships to places of no return and where they were abruptly and definitively separated from the families disintegrated by slavery. The value of the prisoners depended on two factors: their position in society and the performance they showed at work. Because of the transportation of the enslaved people on the slave ships, many lost their lives on the way due to famine and the spread of diseases in transit. The Africans traveled crowded together as if they were merchandise.

Briefly, what was slavery in the United States that benefited the governors or their masters? Although it is known that slavery was a condition for which millions of people were and are subjected to forced labor losing their freedom, it is worth highlighting some of the reasons why it is wrong. Which are: that slavery increases unhappiness, enslavers treat enslaved people to a higher status, and not as an end to grow both; In addition, violating human rights (BBC, 2014).

2.1.1 Clandestine abolitionist group of the 19th century

The underground abolitionist groups of the 19th century arose intending to help enslaved people escape their slavery through routes in the United States and Canada. According to BBC News, "Because freedom is both the act of leaving and the journey to get somewhere else (Blasco, 2021)." Due to the risk of the enslaved people fleeing from their fields, it was kept secret how many routes this railway had, and even board it was done through codified languages. In the United States, slavery prevailed more than 150 years ago. Whites had about 1860 enslaved people in their service, where racial resentment stood out. Thanks to the underground abolitionist groups of the 19th century, five generations of Afro-descendant's experience slavery differently as white people in the southern United States faced political and economic incentives to increase human rights for enslaved people.

The national history of American slavery and freedom influenced several historians to investigate how enslaved people who were runaways and anti-slavery defied the law to help them gain freedom. Although, after the American Revolution, several of the northern states abolished slavery, it was still allowed. New York was the state where runaway black slaves were housed and sought refuge. However, although the enslaved people fled to the northern states to achieve their freedom, they remained chained to their masters since they could not integrate into society. Slave catchers and kidnappers roamed the city looking to capture black children for slavery in southern states (Foner, 2015). Because of the hunters, the blacks who lived in New York worked with white abolitionists to protect themselves from the kidnappers. Vigilance committees were created to defend fugitive slaves coming from the south. This spread throughout Philadelphia, Syracuse, and Canada as anti-slavery resistance networks known today as the Underground

Railroad. Likewise, they were forced to operate these routes in secret before the law and politicians (Foner, 2015)

2.1.1 The Underground Railroad

According to the analysis of the book and his research, the so-called Underground Railroad was a clandestine network organized by the abolitionist movement to help enslaved people from the southern United States escape through a series of routes and border connections, such as Canada. However, an act such as deciding to risk everything to live an independent and free life gives the reader an intimate sense of what happened in the fight against slavery in the United States, the complexity, and the violent task that that undertakes. Achievement and sacrifice (Whitehead, 2016). Following New York's vigilante and underground anti-slavery residency groups, where Underground Railroad brokers recorded in detail how they secretly helped more than 300 runaway slaves to freedom. Likewise, memorable characters are marked national history since the 19th century. Eventually, after a civil war, he facilitated the undoing of American slavery and left as a valiant effort through the abolition and clandestine practices in the fight against slavery (Foner, 2015).

David Ruggles is said to have started the black underground movement in New York City. Author Fergus Bordewich claims that Issac Hopper and Levi Coffin were the ones who built the Underground Railroad to help enslaved people escape across the United States, risking their lives to be caught by the law or black trappers. However, the heroic act of railway construction and underground abolitionist groups began six decades before the civil war, when white people helped black freedom seekers save thousands of lives as the first acts of racial

integration for social change (Bordewich, 2009). Therefore, the surviving enslaved people, through the secret code of the underground railway, managed to escape and flee from the nightmare of being brutally driven to places full of diseases, where they lived in fear and hunger, all thanks to clandestine routes. As recently as the 19th century, these abolitionist networks began to consolidate into multiracial networks, where whites and blacks from the North came together to free millions of enslaved people. Through the researcher's analysis, the underground railway allows him to pose some problems that lead him to deepen the fear and courage of these people. Therefore, to agree that slavery should be stopped and that slavery should not be practiced. In addition, to the historical events that led black people to work together with white people for its abolition, he makes a powerful argument about the challenges of collective action in social movements.

2.1.1 Cotton plantations

The cotton plantations arose because of an economic crisis in the south that the country faced at the time. At the end of the 18th century, due to the tobacco crops that were about to break, the United States received from England demand for goods which caused a great demand for American cotton. For that reason, crop producers in the southern states were incentivized to look for cheap labor. To maintain the cotton plantations, they resorted to countries like Africa, where they kidnapped people to turn them into enslaved people. They benefitted from the fear of these people so as not to pay them and profit from these plantations (History.com, 2021).

Meanwhile, (Smith 2021) benchmarks where he offers historically show how slavery has shaped the nation. He recounts how more than four hundred people were enslaved in Virginia on

plantations used to grow wheat and tobacco. However, one of the old plantations in the history of the plantation where enslaved people were preserved today became a maximum-security prison where black men worked to maintain the crop without receiving any payment. However, the researcher deeply explored the legacy of slavery from the beginning of American history to the present, where possibly were places where previously men, women, and children were cruelly enslaved.

The researcher, through the analysis of the book "Underground railroad," affirms that the cotton plantations in the book are the most predominant in history. Through the cotton plantations, some enslaved people escaped from the South to the North to reach freedom through the Underground Railroad (Whitehead, 2016). As mentioned above, these plantations provided and benefited both the owners and the United States economically. As a result of this trade, many people were violently enslaved in the fields without allowing these people to have human rights or a fair salary.

During the first decades of the 19th century, the southern states of the United States began to depend on cotton exports to European countries while taking advantage of what the plantation economy came from slave labor and cotton fields. Because of this, the North of the country, which had abolished slavery, began to have conflicts with the southern states for maintaining slavery within their states (JACKSON, 1998). In the 19th century, many enslaved African Americans were disenfranchised. Therefore, for eight decades, the slaves of the cotton plantations suffered and lived slavery violently with fears because if they found a foreman and the enslaved people did not harvest the cotton correctly, they would be cruelly punished until their blood ran

through their veins. However, slavery rejects workers' rights, of course, in addition to the fact that if their masters were violent, they murdered them without mercy (Street, 2015).

2.1 Literary Theories and Approaches

2.2.1 Critical analysis of literature

The book *The Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead tells the story of a daughter and granddaughter of enslaved people named Cora, who is also a runaway slave from Randall's land in Georgia. Through Cora's harrowing novel, Colson leaves the reader with a devastating understanding of slavery in the 19th century with terrible and cruel acts toward enslaved people. The events read allowed the researcher to have a greater breadth of the subject of investigation of slavery in the 19th century, leaving, in turn, a greater understanding of how this caused even people of color to join with enslaved people to build and direct clandestine networks to help enslaved people find freedom.

It took Whitehead more than 16 years to finish the book as he had much research. What led him to make this literary novel arose from making a book that would detach from that childish notion of seeing that the underground railway studied in history classes was not a real railway. The author mentions a realistic portrait of a plantation in Georgia that is the type of plantation recognized in the story. He then takes *the Underground Railroad* into South Carolina, where a progressive government is dedicated to capturing and holding black people. Because blacks wanted to escape, Whitehead shows in history how white people take advantage of the vulnerability of these people to carry out sinister plans where they are dedicated to defrauding people of color who have come to South Carolina with abolitionist programs.

It seems to the researcher that the underground railway gives a new focus to the narrative of slavery, showing how a great historical event that remains today was marked from the 19th century. This also allowed Whitehead to develop technology and jargon not used in 1850 to play around with time, bringing in things that did not happen in 1850: skyscrapers, forced sterilization, and the Tuskegee syphilis experiment. Presented in the book as if it were a fact since the 19th century. The author's sources were based on personal stories, learning from academic education, family stories, and research. In addition, in the book, it can be seen that it contains several advertisements for runaway slaves offering rewards for them. These are real newspaper classified ads, which are advertising real estate masters. The author took from the University of North Carolina newspapers digitized with fugitive slave classification in the early 19th century. Whitehead mentions five of them, the first four being mostly verbatim from newspapers. And then the fifth is from Cora, which he created for her, faithful to her story.

However, this book, published in the late 19th century, can be difficult for modern readers to understand and appreciate. However, it shows us a series of literary events that gave basis to the novel where since 1850, slavery has been lived brazenly and cruelly. Seeing any historical literature through a modern mind can be nostalgia and impotence. Many historical writers do not anticipate contemporary society. However, Colson Whitehead adapted it to a more modern and understandable language for readers. However, that does not prevent modern readers from being able to understand, know or reflect on the problem of slavery today. *The Underground Railroad* was a literary-historical novel of slavery life in plantation camps in the 19th century. Indeed, its nostalgic and epic subject matter makes the modern audience more expansive and knowledgeable about the subject as it was in the past and today—the present. The novel allows new generations

to learn about cruel acts that marked the nation in past centuries. It gives a realistic approach to how enslaved Black people had to submit to superhuman efforts to achieve freedom and change their destiny.

2.2.1 Historical approach to slavery

Since before the 19th century, slavery and the slave trade were a historical part of the United States. This arose from the needs of the imperial powers. Therefore, over time slavery was presented as a unique form of forced labor, whereas over time, it continued with other forms, such as servitude, forced labor, and convict labor. These narrative critiques of an emphasis on slavery require two elements: first, the part of labor in the 19th century as forced labor that was mostly unpaid or only attributes of food or stabled accommodation as an act of payment. Second is the public slavery in which they work in the political and governmental system, where citizens' freedom is restricted.

The historical perspective on slavery and the slave trade concerning the current state since its abolition. However, research on slavery in different traditions and modern, historical thinking about slavery remains. Although citizens have taken it upon themselves to abolish slavery, women and men are currently in conditions of slavery. Historiography on ancient and modern slavery, American plantation slavery, and proposes a focus on "slavery" and the committee of male and female slaves, their human rights.

Due to the fear of a race war between Europeans and Africans, I raised concerns about slave rebellions since slavery from its beginning, and slavery was intended to be a support for the economy. However, the historiography of black slavery keeps extermination a secret as a

category of analysis. In addition, shortly after the abolition of slavery, the black perspective on extermination that shaped American politics, culture, and commerce from the 19th century to the present is questioned (Lewis, 2019). The survival of millions of people throughout the history of wars between Europe and other countries highlighted an important form of resistance for African peoples in America. However, for African Americans, enslaved and free, the actions taken against them for the survival of the government or masters were always there for them and deeply traumatic. Lewis drew on newspapers, political treatises, correspondence, and court documents to develop and describe the persistence of racialized fears from the early 17th century to the 20th century (Lewis, 2019).

The theories of historical work are analyzed through ideas about the death and integrity of people. The cultural impact of slavery over the centuries provides insight into slave societies worldwide. Just as it was and is about the integration of social identity after slavery for Afro-descendants, the new historicist approach to slavery, the rituals of slavery, and servitude awaken the reader's feelings of anguish and importance about human beings' rights that Afro-descendants have should have. In slavery, the argument can be made between two interpretations of what abolition was. On the one hand, the first argument offers a chronological way of what slavery was to abolish slavery: this practice was pushed to stay in the past. At the same time, it encouraged the punishment of the use of slavery since it was seen from a largely moral point of view by the abolitionists. The investigation of slavery allows the researcher to consider itself in context with history, recognizing it and allowing and being in favor of avoiding it.

2.2.2 Comparison of ancient slavery to the present

Throughout history, enslaved people have been exploited in different areas worldwide. In which only five generations were genuinely enslaved. Historian Sir Moses Finley examines the comparison of genuine and non-genuine slavery. Author Moses I. Finley invites new readers to reflect on ancient slavery. In addition, he analyzes how slave societies arose in ancient times and the moral, social, and economic considerations that allowed the abolition of this act to prosper. Therefore, Sir Moses' research affected the historical interpretation of it. His comparison of ancient slavery with its modern counterpart opens up a new perspective on the history of slavery (Finley, 2017).

Ancient and modern slavery systems have had to be cultured to understand each context better to determine practices to move forward to challenge modern slavery systems. Since ancient times slavery was allowed and was exercised unfairly based on forced labor such as prostitution and plantation work. Currently, some laws or committees fight against this tradition for their benefit and support people who are victims of kidnappings and unwanted acts (Rice, 2019).

In slave antiquity, blacks worked in rich and high-power properties where they were subjected to the population to create a powerful socioeconomic system. To take advantage of cheap labor that would improve their social status, states in the southern United States were motivated to consolidate that system until they faced clandestine abolitionist groups. When speaking of modern slavery, reference is made to the critical inhumane working conditions in which millions of people are exposed, for example, sex work, human trafficking, forced marriage, and child labor. In other words, it is the act of recruiting, sheltering, transporting, and

capturing a person to force them to perform forced labor or acts of commercial sex. All of them involve taking advantage of people's vulnerability and obtaining profits from enslaved people, dispossessing victims of society or their human rights.

2.2. 3 New historicism approach

The new historicism created by an English professor named Stephen Greenblatt formed the word when he put together a bunch of essays. For this reason, after analyzing the book *Underground Railroad*, the researcher recapitulated several concepts, stories, and ideologies. I have useful information for creating a deep analysis of cotton plantations, slavery, and the railroad that helped thousands of people change their destinations. In addition, it will focus on detailed topics transcending socio-cultural and historical borders. Certain experiences in modern political history do not seem to come from the equality of humans. Where it includes the central history of the United States given by the ideological and institutional forms with which it was differentiated racially and culturally. The objective is to provide the researcher with greater knowledge, both ancient and current, of the human rights of enslaved people and how they defended themselves in court to achieve their independence and integration into society.

The new historicism is interpreting reading through historical and cultural approaches from a critical point of view. In American life, they require an attempt to reveal something that can be learned about the culture of the United States. To come to know and understand American culture, both past, and present, exploration of American identity is in demand. Therefore, this investigation of new historicism aims to investigate and analyze American culture through literature (Bonilla, 2018). Inquire into the aspirations, fears, and vision in the 21st century.

From the point of view of the new historicism, the book *The Underground Railroad* will specifically analyze the issue of slavery in the United States and how blacks fled from their enslavers to achieve their freedom and thus encompass the original context of the novel. Likewise, the knowledge that the researcher can acquire about the historical and cultural reality in which the novel was produced will also organize the critical analysis. For example, The pranks and injustices of Cora shortly after fleeing from the plantations and the land of the Randall where the events correspond to the nineteenth century. However, this knowledge is key to understanding the novel's various messages and its portrayal of the railroad, cruelty, and American values.

As part of a broader field of literary analysis of history than Cultural Studies, New Historicism seeks to emphasize history and the role of the literary text in cultural and historical contexts. The New Historicism is to speak through the culture a subjective view of the researcher. However, the new historicism focuses on specific literary events such as narratives and historical events. In other words, a literary analysis is considered valuable knowledge for history and society. The researcher hopes that the reading of the new historicism will provide an idea of what slavery was like in the 19th century as the analysis shapes the perspective of slavery through the society, history, and culture that has been carried from past centuries to the present day. Therefore, to investigate and understand both the slavery of the past and that of the present.

2.3 Themes, Symbols, Motifs

2.3.1 Themes

2.3.1.1 Slavery

The enslaved Black people on the cotton plantation are constantly driven to seek their freedom by the impossible choice between enduring slavery and racism, risking everything in a likely attempt at rebellion. Since ancient times, the United States has made a mark on history. However, its cultural background ensures that the country's sin was the approval of slavery. Since the nation desired to expand and complete the work carried out by effective practice concerning the slave trade and slavery. Through several essays, the book "Project 1619" reframed the knowledge and understanding of American history. Furthermore, by developing slavery as part of American history, it furthers learning of the legacy of slavery in America today by narrating key moments of oppression, struggle, and resistance (Hannah-Jones, 2021).

According to the extent to which people stayed in northern states, it was possible to observe that people who came from southern states had difficulty getting used to northern customs. As a result of these migrations, there was a change that took time to accept. It was the demand of the Pennsylvania law requesting that enslaved people be freed. However, the abolition and freedom of enslaved people would not come without costs. When the opportunity to escape to freedom presented itself, it became intense persecution by politicians and slaveholders (Dunbar, 2017).

The systems of race, politics, music, and traffic have been contextualized in the new construction of the nation. However, how the legacy of slavery shaped American history allows

researchers a broad understanding of what was part of the terrorism of these people. As the masters tried to keep their slaves, a style of fighting developed that was increasingly familiar to both black and white. Also, it was part of a conflict without borders that spread from the United States to the world. Even as part of the struggle and the revolution's views on black lives, they came to inspire courage and strength (Brown, 2020).

After investigating the knowledge about American history through collective, cultural memory, and public history, the author Ana Lucia shows how current citizens, social groups, governments, and institutions compare the past of slavery with today and the relationship of the Atlantic Slave Trade. This is to provide the notion of how and why, in the last five decades, debates on slavery have been spread that today have become relevant in societies where slavery and the Atlantic slave trade exist (Araujo, 2020). Research on social groups in America with a slave-owning past leads researchers to debate past and modern slavery. In addition, the investigation of how slavery resonates more today than in past eras argues the social, public, and official memory of racial and general slavery. Above all, this leads to disputes over the racial inequalities, racism, and dominance of white people that still shape societies where slavery existed.

Through various investigations, it comes to light that today, almost more than half of the people who were enslaved did not even know what "human trafficking" was before being victims of it. For this reason, it is disclosed that the phenomenon with the greatest historical significance of slavery was the enslavement of millions of African people, exposing them to shame for the entity of the Africans who were transferred to America, where they were forced to work and live as enslaved people (Puig-Samper, 2021). However, in the book *The Other Slavery* by Andrés

Reséndez, he breaks with the idea that enslaved people did not have the opportunity of abolition or that it was kept secret in many past centuries. Furthermore, he claims that no abolitionist movement protected black people who were captured and enslaved by slavers. During the last two centuries until today, African American slavery has been fought, abolished, and tried to be confronted (Reséndez, 2016).

2.3.1 Symbols

2.3.2.1 The cotton plantation

This research allows us to study the history of cotton's social implications and economics in the United States during the period of slave plantation growth between about 1800 and 1900. First, the researcher will analyze the two problems involved in maintaining the economy and the growth of plantations. Second, the impact of plantations from the arrival of slave plantations to different states will be explored. Finally, the researcher offers an approach to slave participation in the cotton industry.

During the 19th century, cotton plantations were in demand for the expansion of slavery. For this reason, the researcher decided to take the main symbol of literary analysis as a reference to the enslaved people who worked in cotton cultivation from South Carolina to Texas, which even extended to neighboring countries. The researcher will investigate how the cotton plantations transformed the US economy since, in the 19th century, there was little industrial activity (Khan Academy, n.d).

The definition of slave plantations emerged in the 19th century. Here the researcher learns how the American agricultural economy of exporting products with great demand was used by enslaved people who allowed the development of a nation with products such as sugar, indigo,

cocoa, and coffee. Therefore, this term is better known as the demand for successful natural plantations run by slave owners and Afro-descendant workers. This shows that at the beginning of the industrial revolution, agricultural plantations were considered high-value land since the productions sold as high-quality products were paid in gold. They were only low due to the exploitation of enslaved people (Vilaboy, 2020). On the other hand, before the 19th century, the largest forced migration marked history was unleashed since, for three centuries, the Americans were dedicated to the trade and retention of Africans to benefit from the growth of global capitalism. Consequently, many who were transferred to work on plantations were subjected to living in tragedy and fear in the hope of being free again by enduring the resilience and survival of American oppression (Rediker, 2021).

2.3.2.2 The Way of Freedom

Through the analysis of freedom as an ideal for enslaved people, the researcher will investigate how, throughout American history, it inspired countless clandestine groups to confront the power of their masters and the domination of the government. In addition, to emphasize that freedom was the signal for many Afro-descendants to flee to achieve freedom. Not to mention that in the 19th century, black human rights revolutionaries fought for the development of democracy in the name of freedom. In contrast, progressives fought to end the economic domination of black workers (DIJN, 2020). The history of freedom allows the researcher to deepen the expectations and hope that enslaved people had to find their freedom and inspire them to resist or escape from their workplaces. However, the researcher, through analysis, intends to expose how freedom is not about collective control over the government. If not, which

consists of the pleasurable enjoyment of life. From this perspective, the researcher intends to preserve freedom as the right of every human being to lead his life independently with his own decisions. The researcher aims to analyze how the enslaved achieved freedom in marginal states in the nineteenth century. Specifically, the researcher observes through previously analyzed sources and studied books the change of legal status from enslaved to free people. The inquiry of freedom is explained by exploring the processes of abolition and the characteristics of the escape routes generated in a context in which ideas of clandestine abolitionist groups arise.

2.3.2.2 The underground railroad

The researcher seeks to understand the nature of slavery processes throughout the United States. In addition to the need to know and analyze the ways, the roads, and the transport by which the enslaved people fled to achieve their freedom. Next, submerge the historical analysis that white and black people took for abolition since the 19th century. Likewise, recapitulate the anti-slavery groups that fought for the approval of the social rights of enslaved people. The analysis will be approached through the development of the history of the underground railway as a central theme in reaching the expected freedom in the liberal states of the United States and Canada. The investigator will focus on the other possible paths enslaved people created to achieve freedom. This leads the researcher to fit the investigation into two analytical categories: to provide a broader reading of enslaved black people and to investigate the nineteenth century as a whole period in the growth of the United States. This allows the researcher to broadly analyze local political history from a social and cultural perspective.

As mentioned before, the creation of the underground railway allowed millions of people to escape from slavery and their slaves to obtain a full life. However, it is important to mention that it was the first defense movement against slavery, which functioned during the 19th century. Of course, it had a codified secret structure, where railway terminology was used, and it also had the help of clandestine abolitionist groups that contributed to the escape of enslaved people to the North or Canada (GONZÁLEZ, 2017). Indeed, the Underground Railroad was a pillar for the escape of many enslaved people since the 19th century and throughout history, which allowed them to seize and coexist with terrifying moments in possible liberal opportunities. However, in the larger context, this fostering impact of the anti-slavery movement opened the doors to free black history and the generational conflict of free black activists (Kashatus, 2021).

2.3.2 Motifs

2.3.3.1 The grounds at Randall

On Randall's ground, it became a symbol of fear and contempt for that place both Cora and Mabel, slaves of the plantation, who for several months dedicated themselves to maintaining the relentless plantation and with good harvests to finally flee through it without leaving any kind of trace. This becomes a symbol of possibility, future, and freedom for them and the enslaved people who did not dare to disobey their masters and have the courage to leave the plantations.

2.3.2.2 Sexual violence

Through the analysis, the researcher wants to emphasize the victimization of black women through serial rape by their masters. First, Ajarry was raped on the slave ship that brought her to America; Moses, a fellow enslaved person, raped Mabel; and finally, Cora was raped by a

group of men behind the school. This allows the researcher to question the aggravated traumas of women from the 19th century to the present. For example, Cora's trauma due to the wake she suffered from her adolescence prevented her from feeling confident to join the dance of her classmates since men surrounded her.

2.4 Biography of the Author

Colson Whitehead is a black man, born in 1969 and raised in Manhattan. He graduated from Harvard University. After finishing his degree in English Philology, Whitehead began his professional career starting to work at the Village Voice, where he wrote reviews for television, books, and music, which were quite successful for his start. His work won the Pulitzer Prize, the National Book Award, the Carnegie Medal for Fiction, and a bestseller positioning it at number 1 in the New York Times (Augustyn, n.d). *The Underground Railroad* has been one of his best novels to date, this was published in the summer of 2016, and the work was even translated into Spanish in 2017.

With the release of *The Underground Railroad*, Whitehead received more respect, attention, and critical acclaim in 2016, thanks to the success of his work. This novel took 16 years to make because of the complexity of the subject and the adaptation made with jargon that would be attached to the story that was understandable today. As a person of color, he felt identified and moved to bring this story to the world of *the Underground Railroad*. In the novel, Colson was based on a slave catcher who ruthlessly pursued an enslaved girl named Cora, who escaped via an

underground railroad. He wanted to explore a character who only knows the tragedy of the plantation where she finds herself and is driven to take the first step to freedom (Winfrey, n.d).

2.5 Plot

“The Underground Railroad”

Colson Whitehead's book *The Underground Railroad* creates a narrative story of the life of a teenage enslaved person named Cora, the daughter and granddaughter of enslaved people, who flees the Georgia plantation where she was born and raised, risking everything in search of freedom as her mother called her Mabel, she did its years before and for a long time, she was not heard from. On the run with her friend Caesar, Cora is pursued by a fanatic Javert-like slave catcher named Ridgeway, whose failure to find Mabel has made him even more determined to hunt down his daughter and destroy the abolitionist network that has aided her (Kakutani,, 2016).

Cora traveled from Georgia to South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee to Indiana, Cora trying during her travels to avoid not only Ridgeway but also other bounty hunters, informants, and lynch mobs, with the help of a few workers from the " railroad," both black and white, who were willing to risk their lives to save hers. Although the narrative about the escape moved some readers by the horrible situations Cora had to go through, this novel jumps in time and space, giving the story a fractured look and modernist feel and reminds the reader of the inventive storytelling from Whitehead's earlier novels, such as "The Intuitionist" and "John Henry Days" (Kakutani, 2016). One of the important things about this novel is how Mr. Whitehead found an elastic voice that suits both raw realism and legendary allegory, directness, and poetics, a voice that allows him to convey the historical horrors of slavery. It conveys its

emotional consequences: fear, humiliation, loss of dignity, and control. Furthermore, it conveys the daily brutality of plantation life, where Cora is gang-raped, and whippings are routine. (Kakutani, 2016).

Chapter III

Methodological Framework

This literary analysis aims to investigate the history of the book "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead from the point of view of the new historicism approach from the 19th century to the present. This methodological framework will investigate the ancient and modern slavery of American slavery and its abolition. In addition, the historical compilation to know the facts and the processes in which African Americans were subjected through the centuries impact modern slavery.

3.1 Research Approach

The researcher will use the qualitative method to carry out the literary analysis of the book Underground railroad. Through reliable sources, books, and interviews, the researcher was informed about the ancient and modern situation of slavery. Therefore, the researcher will focus mainly on the methods: ethnographic research, case study research, record keeping, and qualitative observation. On the other hand, qualitative research is the discipline that focuses on social sciences such as psychology, sociology, and anthropology. Therefore, the researcher uses qualitative research methods that allow a broader analysis and deep questioning of the subject. The researcher tries to understand the reasons and the insensitivity over time with enslaved people. In addition, understanding how slavery has been changing from the 19th century to the present can help you make comparisons and draw your own opinion in the investigation.

This ethnographic research method aims to understand the culture, challenges, motives, and circumstances that occurred in the 19th century. However, for them, a deep observation of events and the collection of information about past slavery and modern slavery is required. To analyze the behavior of both African and American people to understand the context in which the events were experienced (Anderson, 2009). In this case study research method, the researcher

uses it to compare the development of past and modern slavery, including terms and history of abolition and domestic abolitionist underground groups and the border country of Canada. However, this type of research allows the researcher to analyze in-depth events that have occurred from the 19th century to the present and with an analytical approach to business, law, and political events (Crowe, 2011). Then, together with the record-keeping and observation process, the researcher, through both methods, will use documents, sources, and books like the book under analysis "Underground Railroad," to collect relevant information for the analysis from a new historicism approach as a complement to the investigation project on the underground railway and the clandestine groups that emerged in support of Afro-Americans in the 19th century (Schreier, 2006).

3.2 Research Design

To deepen the research design, it is essential to understand the definition of descriptive design, which can be defined as "describing a population, situation or phenomenon in a precise and systematic way" (McCombes, 2019). Concerning the literary analysis of the book "Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead, answers to questions of what, where, when, and how will be extracted, according to the thematic analysis of the story of a 19th-century slave girl through detailed notes and relevant observations of American history to understand the context of the book deeply. This means that it will give the reader a greater perception of slavery in the 19th century and how this situation persists today. It also determines the beginning of the story of Cora with the problem of slavery and the treatment of enslaved people in the United States, where the experiences are described, the treatment, the relationships with other people, and the historical situations of slaves in society.

3.3 Information Sources

The researcher took the research source from the book "Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead. However, because of the analysis and thesis research, the researcher was tasked with using several books and sources related to the main theme of the railway. Using sources, it seeks to investigate American history along with enslaved Africans kidnapped to work as enslaved people. In addition, he focuses on the historical approach that encompasses various cultural concepts through purposive sampling.

3.4 Analysis Categories

The literary analysis of the book "Underground Railroad" is to have an approach to the new historicism from the 19th century to the present. Likewise, as its definition says, what is expected from the work research is to delve into the history of Cora as an enslaved person in the 19th century and how this remains today. With this, it is essential to understand the meaning of literary analysis. According to (Best-Custom-Essays, n.d), "a literary analysis definition is a subjective interpretation of an essay that involves expressing an opinion. This makes it different from most essays in which you are expected to present your findings objectively".

3.4.1 Slavery

According to the Cambridge Dictionary, slavery is " the activity of legally owning other people who are forced to work for or obey you "or "the condition of being legally owned by someone else and forced to work for or obey them." It is important to know the meaning of slavery in this research since the topic focuses on slavery from the 19th century to the present.

3.4.2 Cruelty

Cruelty is “behavior that deliberately causes pain or distress to people or animals,” to Collins Dictionary. Through the anecdotes and experiences lived by Cora as an enslaved person, she recounts how cruelty stands out at every moment of her life, both for her and towards all black people who lived in the United States. Therefore, it seems essential to the researcher to have a clear definition of cruelty.

3.4.3 Freedom

According to (Gammon, 2012), freedom is the power or right to act, speak or think as one wishes without hindrance or restriction and the absence of a despotic government. As one of the secondary topics of the investigation, it is convenient to know the definition of freedom since the development of the history of Cora and the black population they have fought through the years.

3.4.4 Historical approach

According to the Oxford University Scholarship, “the historical approach to policy analysis is the telling of a story based on credible sources.” Based on the research topic, the new historicism is focused on investigating slavery from the 19th century to the present, reliable sources that affirm, inform and expand greater knowledge of the current situation of many Afro-descendants in the United States and Canada.

3.4.5 Master

According to (LEXICO, n.d.), a master is “A man who has people working for him, especially servants or slaves.” The meaning of master is mentioned repeatedly in the book and in the investigation since the masters are the owners of the enslaved people who were in charge of

abusing black people. Therefore, their meaning must be known to understand what they do and their authority over African Americans.

3.4.6 Enslaved person

According to Cambridge Dictionary, an enslaved person is "a person who is legally owned by someone else and has to work for that person." The researcher believes it is essential to know the meaning of enslaved person since, based on the investigation of slavery, she considers it essential to know it, to understand the situation and position of the protagonist of the book "Underground Railroad."

3.1 Data Collection Instruments

To provide more information on the new historicism approach in the book "Underground Railroad," the researcher considers it appropriate to use six tables as an instrument for such investigation. According to the literary analysis, the table instrument will be divided into excerpts from books, themes, motifs, and symbols, along with the themes of freedom, slavery, a comparison of slavery in the 19th century with the current one, and due explanations. This will be done through data collection and thus provide the research topic with a greater focus on the new historicity of slavery. Table example 1.1.

Extract from the book	Themes	Explanation

The other table will include the motifs related to the themes found in the book about slavery in the 19th century. In this table, several of the motifs in the book will be developed, a quote that supports the theme and explains why it reflects those specific motifs in the analysis of slavery. Table example 1.2

Extract from the book	Motifs	Explanation

Equally important, this table will show the book's different symbols, the book's excerpt, and its explanation. Table example 1.3

Extract from the book	Symbols	Explanation

Then, the other table will attach the topic of slavery along with excerpts from the book related to the topic. In this table, the main theme of the book slavery will be developed, an extract from the book that supports the theme and explains why that part of the book is relevant to the mention of the theme of slavery. Table example 1.4

Slavery	Extract from the book	Explanation

Next, this table will cover the topic of freedom, followed by excerpts from the book related to Cora's and many African Americans' quest for freedom. In this table, the secondary

theme of the book, freedom, will be developed, an extract from the book that supports the theme and explains why in that extract from the book Cora mentions her search for freedom and how other African Americans have achieved it and others continue to be enslaved until of his freedom.

Table example 1.5

Freedom	Extract from the book	Explanation

Finally, this table will compare slavery in the 19th century and today and will cover the complete analysis of slavery. Next, the reason for comparing Cora's stories as a 19th-century enslaved person and the researcher's research on events in contemporary slavery will be explained. Table example 1. 6

19 th slavery	Today's slavery	Explanation

3.6 Collection Data Process and Data Analysis

Based on the collection of information for the due analysis of *The Underground Railroad* book, this research will be carried out with the support of the instrument tables and the collection of information on American slavery. However, it is essential to know that for the researcher, the design of the tables is to provide the reader with a broad understanding of the subject. In addition, through analysis, it seeks to compare ancient slavery with contemporary slavery through extracts from the book and research via the internet.

Thanks to the author Colson White who allows us to have a completely realistic and detailed version of slavery in the 19th century through the story of a slave girl observing the difficulties of the slave era. In addition, by writing the novel in modern language adapted for both the current and the 19th century, he allows for a deeper insight into the issue of American slavery. On the other hand, fictional books tend to modify reality or the real situation; therefore, most readers do not usually take this book seriously and investigate the topic and the real situation.

Through the tables, fragments of the book and the themes, motifs, symbols, and topics within the book can be carefully analyzed. As another point, using a table can facilitate the order of the information and the topics to be analyzed and compared. It also helps the reader make the information easier to read and delve into. Moreover, in the tables, you can see the explanation of several topics mentioned in the research and the book that are a fundamental part of the analysis in question. Finally, these six tables will explain the themes, motifs, symbols, and topics represented in the book *Underground Railroad* and the historical approach that allows the reader a broad knowledge and perspective of ancient American slavery along with the current one.

Chapter IV

Data Analysis

4.1 Approaches to the investigation

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.), an approach means "to come near or nearer to something or someone in space, time, quality, or amount." On the other hand, "literary criticism" is "the formal study and discussion of works of literature" this leads to better clarity of the developing theme (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). Certainly, this literary approach allows the researcher to complete the analysis from a moral and investigative point of view influenced by the book's content. It should be emphasized that the focus is the New Historicism Approach with the help of research and comparison tables of American slavery from the 19th century to the present. Additionally, historicism is "the conduct of any inquiry in accordance with these views," according to Collins Dictionary (n.d.). However, the new historicism approach is a movement of literary criticism. This means that the researcher will analyze and interpret the book "Underground Railroad" within the time and social circumstances of both the author's story and the researcher's information.

4.2 Themes, Motifs, and Symbols

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.), a Theme means "the main subject of a talk, book, film, etc.". On the other hand, motifs are " an idea that is used many times in a piece of writing " (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). In addition, the meaning of symbols is " a sign, shape, or object that is used to represent something else "having the meaning of these words allows both

the reader and the researcher to have greater clarity of the literary analysis of the book *Underground Railroad* (Cambridge Dictionary, n.d.). Additionally, the researcher will analyze and extract sections of the book "*Underground Railroad*" to explain them with their respective subject, motifs, themes, and symbols.

4.2.1 Themes

Slavery

As the main theme of the investigation, it is essential to know the definition of slavery correctly. According to (Lively, 2021), "Slavery is a system that includes forced labor in which people are held against their will ."On the other hand, the analysis carried out, Afro-Americans were humble people with low incomes, but their characteristic black skin color made them directly destined for slavery. In addition, because they were people of color, they were forced to work only in rural areas to maintain a high economy for their masters.

Book's Excerpt 1

“but not everyone has the character we do. We’re not all going to make it. Some of us are too far gone. Slavery has twisted their minds, an imp filling their minds with foul ideas. They have given themselves over to whiskey and its false comforts. To hopelessness and its constant devils. You’ve seen these lost ones on the plantations, on the streets of the towns and cities— those who will not, cannot respect themselves. You’ve seen them here, receiving the gift of this place but unable to fit in. They always disappear in the night because deep in their hearts they know they are unworthy. It is too late for them.”

Explanation

In this fragment, the researcher wants to rescue the idea that slavery permanently affects the lives of Afro-descendants. In addition, because of their skin color, they are forced to live without hope, the right to express an opinion, and only to obey orders. However, in their citizenship, hope is not an option and leads them to have depressive thoughts. According to (Carten, 2015), "For blacks descended from slaves, the subject evokes feelings of shame and embarrassment associated with the degradations of slavery." Here it can be reaffirmed that living in slavery brings with it the mental affectation of enslaved people.

Book's Excerpt 2

"Picking broke her body. Her joints were swollen and stiff, making her crooked, and it anguished her to walk. When Jeer could no longer work, she looked after babies when their mothers were in the fields."

Explanation

Slavery consequently affects physical health. The cruelty and injustice of their masters make the slaves live in agony. Due to labor exploitation, many workers are required to work in any type of physical state. This leads to slave children replacing their parents on the plantations, working overtime, or if they are in a state that does not allow them to take advantage of their skills on the plantations, they are killed.

Book's Excerpt 3

“The patroller required no reason to stop a person apart from color. Slaves caught off the plantation need passes, unless they wanted a licking and a visit to the county jail. Free blacks carried proof of manumission or risked being conveyed into the clutches of slavery; sometimes they were smuggled to the auction block anyway. Rogue blacks who did not surrender could be shot. They searched slave villages at will and took liberties as they ransacked the homes of freemen, stealing hard-earned linens or making licentious advances.”

Explanation

Slavery is designed to persecute and remain in the daily life of Afro-descendants. As seen in the book's fragment, the enslaved people must go through manumission processes; if they do it without authorization, they are killed. On the other hand, if they manage to be independent, they are crudely affected in their adaptation to society, which leads them to be slaves even to their skin color.

Death

On the other hand, fear was sown to the slaves; since procuring the feeling of fear in Afro-descendants was the hook to be manipulated. According to (Sharples, 2018), "Masters erected legal and policing apparatuses whose wellspring was their fear, and that permitted them within the confines of their homes to terrorize enslaved individuals with impunity." Fear is "a natural and primitive emotion that everyone can experience to some degree. It alerts us to the presence of dangers, whether real or imagined, (Olivia Guy-Evans, 2022)." Some excerpts from the book will be mentioned below, along with his analysis of the book "Underground Railroad" concerning the fear suffered by enslaved people in the 19th century

Book's Excerpt 1

“America has imported and bred so many Africans that in many states the whites are outnumbered. For that reason alone, emancipation is impossible. With strategic sterilization—first the women but both sexes in time—we could free them from bondage without fear that they’d butcher us in our sleep.”

Explanation

The researcher wanted to extract this fragment as a point to mention that not only is it enough to have a dark skin color, but Afro-descendants live in constant fear of being killed. Since there is an overpopulation due to their social status and value as human beings, they are devalued before society, specifically by their masters. Therefore, they and their relatives suffer the deadly consequences of social sterilization.

Book's Excerpt 2

“Look outside as you speed through, and you’ll find the true face of America. She could not see it but she felt it, moved through its heart. She feared she’d gotten turned around in her sleep. Was she going deeper in or back from where she came? She trusted the slave’s choice to guide her—anywhere, anywhere but where you are escaping from. It had gotten her this far. She’d find the terminus or die on the tracks.”

Explanation

They were used to working on plantations and thus improving their status, sales, and profits before other countries. Indeed, the United States was the main promoter of slaves. For the same reason, he has been an activist for millions of murders of enslaved people.

Book's Excerpt 3

“Teach them to obey her and maybe they’ll obey all the masters to come, and they will survive. Two died miserably of fever. One boy cut his foot while playing on a rusted plow, which poisoned his blood. Her youngest never woke up after a boss hit him in the head with a wooden block. One after another. At least they were never sold off, an older woman told Ajarry. Which was true—back then Randall rarely sold the little ones. You knew where and how your children would die.”

Explanation

On the other hand, in this fragment, it can be appreciated that the slaves were obliged to follow orders. Otherwise, they were killed. Unfortunately, the enslaved people knew what their fate was. They constantly live with the imminent fear of being killed or seeing their relatives die. In this fragment, she sees herself as a slave mother, having no economic opportunities or human rights. They see their children die one by one.

Clandestine group

To better understand the underground abolitionist groups, you must first consider the meaning of abolition. According to (EDITORS 2019), "An abolitionist, as the name implies, is a person who sought to abolish slavery during the 19th century. More specifically, these

individuals sought all enslaved people's immediate and full emancipation". Thanks to the people who encouraged the abolition, clandestine groups emerged to help enslaved Afro-descendants to fight for their freedom. On the other hand, clandestine abolitionist organizations are "composed of groups of people who keep their affiliations secret and conceal internal and external organizational activities" (Stohl, 2016). Because of these secret organizations, many enslaved people managed to find their freedom.

Book's Excerpt 1

"His parents believed in the dignity of the honest trades, envisioning the generations of their family branching into the future, each more accomplished than the last. If the North had eliminated slavery, one day the abominable institution would fall everywhere. The negro's story may have started in this country with degradation, but triumph and prosperity would be his one day."

Explanation

This is one of the fragments where the initiative of creating clandestine groups can be seen. Slaves are known to be humble people with the same rights as white people. In addition, the free slaves were looking for a way to prevent future generations of Afro-descendants from being enslaved. This means that the beginning of abolition was the triumph of freedom for future enslaved people.

Book's Excerpt 2

For a voice in Congress, if not a representative, a strong alliance with liberal-minded whites. How to undo slavery's injury to the mental faculties—so many freedmen continued to be enslaved by the horrors they had endured.

Explanation

“Some of the abolitionists took advantage of liberal-minded white Americans to carry out their clandestine abolitionist actions. In this fragment, the theme of how clandestine abolitionist groups worked is represented. They were looking for people who understood and supported the slaves to secretly fight for their rights and therefore their freedom.”

Book's Excerpt 3

“She never got Royal to tell her about the men and women who made the underground railroad. The ones who excavated a million tons of rock and dirt, toiled in the belly of the earth for the deliverance of slaves like her. Who stood with all those other souls who took runaways into their homes, fed them, carried them north on their backs, died for them.”

Explanation

The researcher extracted this fragment to mention the importance of keeping the underground abolitionist movements secret. In this book section, abolitionists moved through the underground railway to help slaves escape and, on occasion, to supply food. This organization was mainly directed from the South of the United States to the North and even to Canada to bring enslaved African Americans to liberal states where they were allowed to live on their own and completely independent.

Table 1. The themes found in the Book Underground Railroad

Extract from the book	Themes	Explanation
<p>Caesar already knew this.</p> <p>In Virginia, you could smuggle yourself into Delaware or up the Chesapeake on a barge, evading patrollers and bounty hunters by your wits and the invisible hand of Providence. Or the underground railroad could help you with its secret trunk lines and mysterious routes.</p>	Freedom	<p>As one of the main themes of the investigation, freedom is mentioned from the first chapter in the fragment seen in the left column. As can be seen in the section, Cesar is the one that encourages the idea of going and going through the underground railway.</p>
<p>The survivors from her village told her that when her father could not keep the pace of the long march, the</p>	Death	<p>This excerpt reflects the theme of death as a devastating act of coldly killing enslaved people. In the excerpt, you can see the inhumanity and ferocity of the enslaved people towards</p>

<p>slavers stove in his head and left his body by the trail.</p>		<p>the blacks, in addition to allowing greater knowledge of the daily life of enslaved people concerning death.</p>
<p>Antislavery literature was illegal in this part of the nation.</p> <p>Abolitionists and sympathizers who came down to Georgia and Florida were run off, flogged, and abused by mobs, tarred and feathered.</p>	<p>Abolition</p>	<p>The theme of abolition was mentioned in the middle of the story as an obstacle for many slaves to achieve their freedom; since in the 19th century, the abolitionist groups were completely unaccepted, which led many slavers to put up more resistance, persecution, and surveillance of the enslaved people.</p>
<p>In war—and to put down a slave rebellion was the most glorious call to arms—the patrollers transcended their origins to become a true</p>	<p>Rebellion</p>	<p>Here it is reflected how the theme of the rebellion was an intolerable act that could lead the slavers and slaves to war. However, in Cora's story, despite going against</p>

army		her masters as an act of rebellion in honor of her mother for achieving her freedom, she is subjected to persecution and deception to retain her as an enslaved person and punish her for her act of rebellion.
Their fear called after them even if no one else did.	Fear	This excerpt leaves the researcher with a reflection on the reality of many of the Afro-descendant people of the time. Fear was the main reason for their slavery since the torture, ferocity, and death of other blacks prevailed, so they preferred to bow down to blacks to live atrocities among themselves or their relatives.

<p>Cora was well-accustomed to the screams of colored babies in torment, hungry, in pain, confused by the mania of those charged to protect them.</p>	<p>Impiety</p>	<p>The ruthlessness of the slavers in this excerpt reflected the suffering that black mothers had to endure. Consequently, some of the slave mothers abandoned their children or lived miserable lives not to see their children suffer, as in the case of Cora's mother, who decided to abandon her to seek freedom and no longer be a slave.</p>
<p>Cora spoke of her mother, Mabel, who absconded one day and left her to the inconstant mercy of the world</p>	<p>Abandonment</p>	<p>The researcher considered that one of the topics to mention was abandonment, given that in the story's development, Cora was abandoned by her mother when she was little. Because of this, it made Cora curious and want to</p>

		follow in the footsteps of his mother and seek his freedom.
<p>The boy yanked Cora to the ground. She rolled over and bashed her head against a stump. He scrambled to her, pinning her. Her blood was hot—she reached out and came up with a rock that she slammed into the boy's skull. He reeled, and she repeated her assault. His groans ceased.</p>	Self Defense	<p>This event marked Cora's life. It was the first time that Cora defended herself from an attack by her pursuers. In addition, to having murdered in self-defense. This led her to have many feelings of regret, tranquility, and anxiety attacks. The subject of self-defense in enslaved people was not allowed. As mentioned above, enslaved people had no right to anything, not even an opinion. However, Cora crossed the line, leading to more persecution and even death threats.</p>

<p>The last scene depicted the slave on his master's doorstep, having once again run away, this time from the false promises of the Free States. He begged after his former position, lamenting his folly and asking for forgiveness.</p>	<p>Dignity through Labor</p>	<p>The researcher finds it interesting to extract this situation from the book since, on many occasions, when the slaves managed to flee from their masters, they were unable to integrate into society. Because of their skin color, they could not get a job and were constantly attacked or ignored. In addition, they did not know how to fend for themselves outside the countryside, which led them to rethink their decision to continue living for their masters to have a little more stability.</p>
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Table 1 shows the themes found in the book Underground Railroad and the researcher's explanation. Source: Researcher's creation.

4.2.2 Motifs

Dance

Certainly, the dance for the enslaved people has a meaning beyond an action. According to (Mackrell, n.d), dance is "the movement of the body in a rhythmic way, usually to music and within a given space, to express an idea or emotion, release energy, or simply take delight in the movement itself." The slavers incited the dance to the slaves, which became a liberating cultural motif over time. At the end of a harrowing day on the plantation, the enslaved people often relaxed and expressed themselves through dance (Allen, 2001).

Book's Excerpt 1

“The proctors arranged the socials to foster healthy relations between colored men and women, and to undo some of the damage to their personalities wrought by slavery. By their reckoning, the music and dancing, the food and punch, all unfolding on the green in the flickering lantern light, were a tonic for the battered soul.”

Explanation

This section of the book shows the reason for the dance. This action was allowed by the slaves so that the enslaved people would be distracted and relax a bit from their work. Although the slaves organized the dances, this reflects a primary motif for analysis in the story. According to (Drum, 2018), "Slavers did the dancing into a form of entertainment for personal enjoyment." The dance stimulated the happiness of Afro-descendants. Their chains, voices, and body parts

produced the music they danced to. From an African American point of view, these spaces were liberating and artistic.

Book's Excerpt 2

“In any event, the music would soon cover their talk of the underground railroad. Cora hoped the musicians wouldn't think them rude for their inattention. It was unlikely. Playing their music as freemen and not chattel was probably still a cherished novelty. To attack the melody without the burden of providing one of the sole comforts of their slave village. To practice their art with liberty and joy.”

Explanation

On the other hand, the researcher extracted this fraction as a reason for distraction. Generally, the slaves did not have time or the opportunity to live together, so they used these meetings to organize and discuss their future escapes with their co-workers. Furthermore, thus kept the slaves informed of the clandestine groups in case one intended to escape.

Book's Excerpt 3

“She picked him out that first day and decided: him. When he grinned it was the moon shining down on her, a presence in the sky blessing her. He scooped her up and twirled her when they danced. I'm going to buy our freedom, he said, hay in his hair from where they lay down. Old Randall didn't go in for that, but he'd convince him. Work hard, be the best hand on the plantation—he'd earn his way out of bondage and take her, too. She said, You promise? Half

believing he could do it. Grayson the Sweet, dead of fever before she knew she carried their child. His name never again crossed her lips.”

Explanation

In addition, in this section of the book, the dance is shown as a motif for the sexual exploitation of the enslaved Black people by the enslaved Black people. The slavers used these meetings to observe the enslaved people and thus select their victims. The slavers mocked, abused, and deceived the slaves for their benefit through these dances. The researcher reflects that even though the dance was allowed and created with the distraction motif for the slaves, it was also part of a dark motive with a meaning of exploitation.

Sexual violence

Without a doubt, sexual violence was a reminder of the oppression experienced by slave women. According to (uOttawa, n.d), "Sexual violence means any sexual act or act targeting a person's sexuality, gender identity or gender expression, whether the act is physical or psychological in nature, that is committed, threatened or attempted against a person without the person's consent." Next, the researcher will extract fragments from the book where sexual violence is mentioned in the novel "Underground Railroad" with its explanation as a motif.

Book's Excerpt 1

This was man's work. In a grove outside Richmond, Betsy made a lewd proposition in exchange for freedom, pulling up her dress with slender fingers. Her hips were slim, with a wide mouth and gray eyes. He made no promises. It was the first time he lay with a woman. She spat

at him when he fastened her chains and once again when they reached her owner's mansion. The master and his sons laughed as he wiped his face.

Explanation

Although sexual violence occurs due to inequality among women, in this excerpt, sexual violence by white and black men towards women is mentioned as a motif for slavery. This is a reminder of the oppression black women face. As another point, the servitude of women of color was so desperate that they even participated as pimps for their masters.

Book's Excerpt 2

Caesar had seen Cora stripped naked for her whippings, the blood pouring over her skin.

Explanation

The investigator took this excerpt from the book as a motif for sexual assault. As observed in the quote, as a way of punishing black women, they were forced to undress and be whipped while other black men and slaves watched. This event occurs because of the denial of the protagonist Cora; she will not accept sleeping with one of her masters anymore.

Book's Excerpt 3

Like Cora, Nag had been relocated to Hob over politics. For years she had been Connelly's preferred, spending most nights in his bed. Her mother had consorted frequently with white men and tutored Nag in licentious practices. Nag was haughty for a nigger gal even before

the overseer bestowed his slim favors upon her with her pale gray eyes and roiling hips. She became insufferable. Preening, gloating over the ill-treatment that she alone escaped. She bent in dedication to the task even as he swapped their offspring.

Explanation

This fragment by a mother represents the motif of sexual violence. Here it is appreciated how the sale of a slave mother causes sexual abuse. Many enslaved women were sexually exploited. The researcher interprets through the analysis that women were so normalized to serve their masters without any type of opposition among mothers, grandmothers, and daughters who participated in prostitution as a natural act to obtain benefits such as freedom or money in exchange.

Journeys of freedom

During the novel, Colson shows newspapers where captures or searches for slaves with their due rewards are mentioned. This leaves the researcher with a reason for freedom diaries and the hope of being able to combat slavery. According to (Britannica, n.d), "Freedom's Journal printed editorials against both slavery and advocates of colonization who called for repatriating Blacks to Africa, and it challenged racist attacks against African Americans that appeared in other newspapers."

Book's Excerpt 1

THIRTY DOLLAR REWARD

On the fifth instant, a negro girl named LIZZIE ran away from the subscriber living in Salisbury. It is supposed that said girl is in the vicinity of Mrs. Steel's plantation. I will give the above reward on the girl's delivery or for information on her being lodged in any Gaol in this state. All persons are forewarned of harboring said girl under penalty of law.

W. M. DIXON

JULY 18, 1820

Explanation

The researcher finds it interesting to know that the news, well known in the book the freedom diaries are excerpts from real news from newspapers of the 19th century. Therefore, it is considered a slavery motif as evidence of the continuous escapes and the beginnings of rebellion against their masters and work destiny.

Book's Excerpt 2

RAN AWAY

from her legal but not rightful master fifteen months past, a slave girl called CORA, of ordinary height and dark brown complexion; has a star-shaped mark on her temple from an injury; possessed of a dynamic nature and devious method. Possibly answering to the name BESSIE. Last seen in Indiana among the outlaws of John Valentine Farm. She has stopped running. The reward remains unclaimed.

SHE WAS NEVER PROPERTY.

DECEMBER 23

Explanation

Next, in this piece of news, you can see another example of the freedom newspapers and how the slaves were constantly persecuted by their masters.

Book's Excerpt 3

30 DOLLARS REWARD

Will be given to any person who will deliver to me, or confine in any gaol in the state so that I get her again, a likely yellow NEGRO GIRL 18 years of age who ran away nine months past. She is an artfully lively girl who will undoubtedly attempt to pass as a free person. She has a noticeable scar on her elbow, occasioned by a burn. I have been informed that she is lurking in and about Edenton.

BENJ. P. WELLS

MURFREESBORO, JAN. 5, 1812

Explanation

Finally, as the last example of reasons for the freedom diaries, it is observed how the masters even offered rewards to recover their slaves, either to punish them and take them back to the plantations or to kill them.

Table 2. Motifs found in the book Underground Railroad

Extract from the book	Motifs	Explanation
<p>The proctors arranged the socials to foster healthy relations between colored men and women and to undo some damage to their personalities wrought by slavery. By their reckoning, the music and dancing, the food and punch unfolding on the green in the flickering lantern light, were a tonic for the battered soul."</p>	<p>Dance</p>	<p>Even though Cora's story did not participate in the dances, the researcher considers the dance as a motif; Generally, on the plantations, they used to do dances on holidays to be able to distract themselves and rejoice a little. The masters took advantage of these dances to mock and take advantage of women. However, the masters saw it as an act of humiliation.</p>

<p>“Cora crept on Calvin after supper: I need help. He waved her away. Mabel had said that she never discovered to what purpose he used those instruments. Not soon after Blake made his intentions known, Cora woke one morning to the violation.”</p>	<p>Sexual violence</p>	<p>Rape repeatedly occurs in Cora's story. Cora, her grandmother, her mother, and Ajarry, among others... were sexually violated. However, the rape she suffered traumatized Cora. Therefore, she did not allow anyone to get close to her, and because of that, she did not even participate in the dances. This motif of sexual violence allows readers to reflect on how black women face anguish that prevents them from integrating smoothly into society.</p>
<p>50 REWARD. LEFT my house on Friday evening the 26th about 10 P.M. (without</p>	<p>Journeys to Freedom</p>	<p>Before each chapter, the book shows advertisements from different newspapers searching for several escaped slave women. The</p>

<p>provocation whatever) my negro girl SUKEY. She is about 28 years of age, or rather a light complexion, has high cheekbones, is slender in her person, and very neat in her appearance. Had on when she went away, a striped jean frock. Sukey was lately owned by L. B. Pearce, Esq. and formerly belonged to William M. Heritage, deceased. She is at present (from appearance) a strict member of the Methodist Church in this place and is no doubt known to most of the members.</p> <p>JAMES AYKROYD</p> <p>OCTOBER 4</p>		<p>freedom diaries are a reminder of slavery, their life as prisoners, and the effort they had to make not to be captured again.</p>
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Table 2 shows the motifs found in the book Underground Railroad and the researcher's explanation. Source: Researcher's creation.

4.2.3 Symbols

Ajarrys Garden

As previously investigated, the slaves were destined to work on plantations. However, within the plantations, the masters allowed the slaves to take a small part of the land for themselves. The slaves used the land to cultivate plants for their harvest and consumption or to take care of their gardens. Despite the restrictions of the slavers, gardening is the main symbol of struggle, mostly towards freedom and independence. According to (Eisnach, 2019), "Gardening was an integral part of life for many slaves in the antebellum South and the many purposes to which the activity and produce it cultivated benefited slaves and owners alike."

Book's Excerpt 1

Larry kept watching over her garden through prosperity's transformations.

Explanation

It is essential to know that Ajarry's gardens are of great importance for the novel since, through them, Cora's mother managed to escape from the plantations and set out to find liberal states. In addition, Mabel, the mother of Cora, inherits this garden due to the death of Ajarry, leaving the garden as a symbol of inheritance between mother and daughters.

Book's Excerpt 2

Mabel had packed for her adventure. A machete. Flint and tinder. She stole a cabin mate's shoes, which were in better shape. For weeks, her empty garden testified to her miracle.

Explanation

Due to the inheritance of the garden, Mabel took charge of taking care of it. When Mabel runs away from the plantations, no one notices until the days go by and the garden stops having crops and is completely dry. This allowed slavers and their fellow slaves to notice their absence. Therefore, the garden is also a symbol of freedom.

Book's Excerpt 3

“NOW in the thin moonlight, her head throbbing, Cora appraised her tiny garden. Weeds, weevils, the ragged footprints of critters. She had neglected her land since the feast. Time to return to it.”

Explanation

Finally, this fragment of the book symbolizes the importance of the land. After Mabel's inheritance to her daughter Cora from her, Cora has an appreciation for the land, so she decides to take care of it and keep the garden watered as appreciation for the hard work that her grandmother and mother once did.

Declaration independence

To understand this symbol, the researcher considers it essential to know what a declaration of independence is. According to (Mayer, 2019), "The Declaration of Independence was the first formal statement by a nation's people asserting their right to choose their government." This allows us to imagine the situation of the time. The analysis reflects how the slavers took advantage of the little understanding of the enslaved people to use the declaration of independence as a symbol of humiliation. Therefore, the researcher will extract some examples of this elemental symbol for slavery from the 19th century.

Book's Excerpt 1

"Georgina's classroom revealed the smallness of her accomplishments. She didn't recognize the Declaration of Independence the day she joined them in the meeting house. The children's pronunciation was crisp and mature, so distant from Michael's stiff recitations back on Randall. Music lived in the words now, the melody asserting itself as each child took their turn, bold and confident. The boys and girls stood from the pews, turned over the paper where they'd copied the words, and sang the promises of the Founding Fathers."

Explanation

The researcher interprets the Declaration of Independence as a symbol of improvement, educational effort, and discipline for the slaves. It can be seen that after the lack of education of many Afro-descendant children, the recitation of this statement is part of a small but great achievement for its time concerning access to documents or some type of knowledge outside the workplace.

Book's Excerpt 2

“I should have been told,” James said, his displeasure plain. Michael’s recitation had been a novel diversion the two times he trotted the nigger out for guests.”

Explanation

This fragment mentions how the American declaration of independence's recitation symbolized humiliation towards the slaves. This was considered entertainment for the whites. They saw that by memorizing a document with intellectual words, the real meaning of what the document said by a slave was a badge of ridicule.

Book's Excerpt 3

“Then I recollected James telling me about a nigger he had down here,” Terrance said, “could recite the Declaration of Independence. I can’t bring myself to believe him. I thought perhaps tonight he can show me, since everyone is out and about, from the sound of it.”

Explanation

In this book section, the idea that an enslaved Afro-descendant would recite for his masters was unimaginable; the slaves were forbidden to learn to read, be close to legal values, or have any academic knowledge. This news quickly spread among the plantations; thus, this act emerged as entertainment for the whites. In effect, the document is a symbol of the United States that excludes Afro-descendants, turning them into objects of entertainment instead of people who deserve freedom as a human right.

Underground Railroad

As mentioned previously, "The Underground Railroad was a network of African American and white people offering shelter and aid to escaped enslaved people from the South. It developed as a convergence of several clandestine efforts, according to (HISTORY.COM 2022)". Undoubtedly, the underground railway symbolizes hope, effort, and struggle for many slaves who went after their freedom.

Book's Excerpt 1

"Some people never left the counties where they were born, he said. Like a railroad, the museum permitted them to see the rest of the country beyond their small experience, from Florida to Maine to the western frontier. And to see its people."

Explanation

It seems essential to the investigator to extract this fragment from the underground railway as a symbol of freedom. As discussed above, the Underground Railroad allowed millions of slaves to see the world and even helped direct them to the path of freedom.

Book's Excerpt 2

The silence from the railroad was complete. The gazettes printed reports of raided depots and station agents brought to natural justice, but those were common slave-state fables. Previously, strangers knocked on Martin's door with messages concerning routes and, once, news

of a confirmed passenger. Never the same person twice. No one had come in a long time, Martin said.

Explanation

As the underground railway symbolizes freedom for Afro-descendants, all the people who were part of the railway's transportation management were affected. This led the researcher to consider that in the 19th century, the railway was seen as a symbol of freedom and used to deceive and capture more slaves. Even though clandestine groups kept secret the existence of routes to liberal states, this reached the ears of whites who took advantage of this information to defraud or force Afro-descendants to reveal the location of the routes and the people who organized all the movements in the underground.

Book's Excerpt 3

“Royal scouted the city jail for runaways the lawyer might defend, ran messages between enigmatic persons, and distributed funds from antislavery societies to relocated fugitives. By his official induction into the underground railroad, he had been its instrument for some time.”

Explanation

On the other hand, the researcher considers this fragment substantial for the analysis. Certainly, when the slavers found out about the underground routes, the fury of the hunters of Afro-descendants was kindled and thus prevented the escape of more slaves. In any case, the underground railway also became a symbol of hope, where the slaves knew and understood that taking the risk of using the underground railway as a route to their freedom could cost them

death. For this reason, in the course of the novel, it is mentioned that those who took this means of transport were an act of suicide, but completely hopeful to one day have the means to defend their rights and end the help of liberal states to the slave states.

Table 3. Symbols found in the book Underground Railroad

Extract from the book	Symbols	Explanation
<p>Mrs. Garner had sown the seeds of Caesar's flight in many ways, but one instruction, in particular, brought him to the attention of the underground railroad.</p>	<p>Underground railroad</p>	<p>Based on the words of Mrs. Garner, the researcher takes the underground railroad as a symbolic representation of an opportunity for freedom for all American slaves of the 19th century.</p>
<p>For weeks, her empty garden testified to her miracle.</p> <p>They call this road the Freedom Trail now,"</p> <p>Martin said as he covered the wagon again.</p>	<p>Ajarry Garden</p>	<p>This Garden, the researcher, takes as a symbol of ownership; on repeated occasions in history, it is mentioned how many of the slaves fought to have pieces of land within the plantations as a small</p>

		symbol and hope of freedom.
Cora had heard Michael recites the Declaration of Independence back on the Randall plantation many times, his voice drifting through the village like an angry phantom. She did not understand most of the words, but created equal was not lost on her.	Declaration of Independence	The declaration of independence document is mentioned in the novel as an act of fun for the slavers. They force a slave to memorize it and recite it for them. This leaves the investigator to think that the slavers took this US document to humiliate Afro-descendants since they did not understand what the speech meant and the value of said declaration.

Table 3 shows the symbols found in the book Underground Railroad and the researcher's explanation. Source: Researcher's creation.

4.3 Theories vs. Literary Work

According to the Cambridge Dictionary (n.d.), a Theory means " a formal statement of the rules on which a subject of study is based or of ideas that are suggested to explain a fact or event or, more generally, an opinion or explanation. " On the other hand, literary work " means any kind such as books, pamphlets, writings, printed matter, lectures... " (Law Insider, n.d.). These

words' meanings will help you understand each topic to be analyzed. Along with the theories and literary work, the researcher will extract fragments from the book for a broader historical approach according to the literary analysis of the book *Underground Railroad*.

Table 1. Theories of slavery in the book *Underground Railroad*

Slavery	Extract from the book	Explanation
Labor exploitation	They flogged the wayward niggers before bringing them to the jail or directly to their owner if they were in the mood and it was not too close to quitting time.	The researcher took this excerpt from the book to delve into the subject of labor exploitation suffered by slaves. In history and the novel, the slaves were exploited by their masters. However, when slaves did some minimal act that would lead to the fury of the slavers, they were mostly exploited on the plantations or taken to jail to continue their work as slaves while being cruelly punished.

Forced labor	Her master had been a terror, Sybil told Cora, a tobacco man who competed with the neighboring planters yearly over the biggest crop. His poor showing stirred him to malice. "He works us hard," she would say, her thoughts lighting out to old miseries.	In this excerpt, due to the competition between the masters and their crops, Afro-descendants lived the torture of forced labor. The blacks were captured and forced to work for these plantations without the right to anything to make them work until they died.
Human trafficking	The slave catcher shared rumors of a new branch of the underground railroad said to be operating in the southern part of the state, as impossible as it sounded.	Because of this fragment of the text, slavery is reflected through human trafficking. Since by sharing the rumor of the existence of an underground railway, the slavers find out about the abolitionist groups and decide to take advantage of it. Slavers began to hire slave hunters to capture them before escaping or capturing

		them to sell and send them to work on the plantations.
Domestic servitude	<p>They had gone to bed believing themselves free from white people's control and commands about what they should do and be. That they managed their affairs.</p> <p>But the women were still being herded and domesticated.</p>	<p>Women were constantly deceived by slave men, making them believe that they would turn them into wives when they sought to tame them. The novel generally shows how women are taken to plantations to do housework without any kind of pay. The only purpose of the slavers was for women to do work in the home.</p>
Sex trafficking	<p>When you saw your mother sold off, your father beaten, your sister abused by some boss or master.</p>	<p>Certainly, sexual exploitation is unacceptable. The author Whitehead in small fragments, reveals situations of trafficking of women led to being sexually exploited as part of the daily life of being an enslaved Black woman. In</p>

		addition, to being destined to be forced to work in prostitution.
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Table 1 shows the theories of slavery found in the book Underground Railroad and the researcher's explanation. Source: researchers' creation.

Table 2. Theories of freedom in the book Underground Railroad

Freedom	Extract from the book	Explanation
Freedom	The treasure, of course, was the underground railroad. Some might call freedom the dearest currency of all, but it was not what Martin expected.	In this extract of the book, freedom is mentioned as something longed for by slaves, but for this, they have to pay dearly. This means that to achieve freedom, a slave has to pass several obstacles, such as those mentioned above in the investigation. These can be not being captured again, living with inequality, rejection, persecution, and lack of adaptation in society.

<p>Quest for freedom</p>	<p>The whip was the standard punishment for disobedience. Running away was a transgression so large that the punishment enveloped every generous soul on her brief tour of freedom.</p>	<p>During the search for freedom, fear invaded them. In the fragment, this means that when a slave seeks freedom, he knows in advance that if they are discovered, death awaits them. The text on the right side mentions that a whip was the minimum punishment they could receive, and before facing those consequences, most of the time, they preferred not to seek freedom.</p>
<p>Equality</p>	<p>Her new life required a different sort of strength. She was meticulous in her posture, a walking spear, in the manner of those who had been made to bend and will bend no more.</p>	<p>Slaves who achieved freedom faced a great mental effort in adapting to society. Equality in the 19th century was nonexistent for African Americans, leading them to strive to act white to</p>

		feel part of society and live their freedom.
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Table 1 shows the theories of freedom found in the book Underground Railroad and the researcher's explanation. Source: researchers' creation.

Table 3. Comparison of 19th-century slavery vs. today's slavery

19 th slavery	Today's slavery	Explanation
Servitude	Servitude	Servitude in slavery has remained over time. According to (Helmore, 2018), " in the US, a condition of servitude broadly defined in a new study as forced and state-imposed labor, sexual servitude, and forced marriage." This means that servitude currently exists even though the United States is one of the most advanced countries. Slavery was modernized compared

		to ancient slavery; the oppression was only for people of color, whereas today, it can be anyone in any circumstance.
Human trafficking	Human trafficking	Human trafficking is continually mentioned in the history of Cora and for centuries making this act permanent to the present. According to (Anti-slavery, 2017), "men tricked into accepting risky job offers and trapped in forced labor in building sites, farms or factories; and women recruited to work in private homes only to be trapped, exploited and abused behind closed doors with no way out." Sexual exploitation is rarely

		<p>mentioned in the novel the underground railroad, which is undoubtedly a subject to compare. One of the most notorious comparisons for the researcher is that sexual abuse is mentioned in the novel as a natural part of his destiny of slavery. At the same time, today, this type of forced labor can be the victim of both men and women.</p>
Forced marriage	Forced marriage	<p>After a search for forced marriages and their comparison with the 19th century and today, the researcher remains with the same purposes. According to (U.S: Citizenship and Immigration Services, n.d),</p>

		<p>"Forced marriage can happen to individuals of any race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sex, age, immigration status, or national origin. It can happen to individuals from any economic or educational background."</p>
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Table 1 shows the comparisons between the 19th century and today's slavery along with an explanation from the researcher—source: own elaboration of the researcher and supporting citations.

Chapter V

Conclusions and Recommendations

5.1 Purpose of the Conclusion

This thesis aimed to investigate and learn more about American slavery as it was in the 19th century and still is today. The book *Underground Railroad* allowed an analysis of the new historicism approach to slavery. The 19th century and today's slavery were analyzed and compared, allowing a greater understanding and information necessary to carry out the investigation. Without a doubt, this book shows the impact that the slavery of African Americans had on society and demonstrates the struggle of people in the process of abolition. Therefore,

through the collection of information, it is valuable to show the results of the investigation throughout this chapter.

5.2 Conclusions

To carry out this research, the support of the specific objectives was used to obtain a guide and a better understanding of the book. On the other hand, the approach to the new historicism both in the novel and in its inquisition helped the researcher to expose the conclusions obtained from the analysis of the book *Underground Railway* during this chapter, together with the conclusion of the research question and the recommendation from the book.

5.2.1 To determine the issue of slavery and treatment of enslaved people in the United States and Canada from the 19th century to the present.

As the first specific objective, the researcher focused on determining the issue of slavery and the treatment of enslaved people in the United States and Canada from the 19th century to the present since the author internalized the issue of slavery so that it would be understandable to the public today. Colson Whitehead, the author of the book, reveals the racial, gender, and social class inequalities experienced at the time through the story of a girl named Cora, the novel's protagonist.

The analysis of the novel “*Underground Railroad*” made it possible to reflect on the daily life of Afro-descendants in the 19th century. This allowed the researcher to observe Cora's history in detail, to understand why most of the enslaved people traveled to Canada or liberal American states to find their freedom, and determine the treatment of the masters towards the

enslaved people that led them to escape from the plantations. Thus, make a brief comparison of current slavery vs. that of the 19th century.

The researcher could conclude from this point that the mistreatment and injustices the masters had with their slaves not only exhausted them physically but mentally as well. As a result, the enslaved people created suicidal thoughts in the enslaved people or encouraged the desire to flee to other states to find happiness finally. Consequently, the enslaved people sought and passed the information on possible states and liberal countries in which they would become free people.

5.2.2 To identify the coping mechanisms of people enslaved and subjected to the cruelty of their masters.

Along with the second specific objective, the researcher found it essential to consider the coping mechanisms that enslaved people had to obtain towards their masters to be people free from cruelty and suffering. The book recounts how in Cora's first escape attempt, she is chased by one of the plantation's kidnappers and bounty hunters and is destined for death because of self-defense to avoid being caught. Due to this, repeatedly in the novel, it is described how the enslaved people used strategies such as escape and avoidance, distancing, or suicide as a coping mechanism for their slavery and for the benefit of trying to escape from their oppressors' move to liberal states. Furthermore, as part of the response mechanisms, it was found that both fugitives and anti-slavery activists who defied the law to help them gain freedom were constantly persecuted and threatened with death. Nevertheless, thanks to the bravery of the rebellious Slavs, today, slavery is experienced differently since political and economic incentives were created to

increase the human rights of enslaved people. As a result of this, five generations ago, people lived outside the customs related to slavery.

Identifying coping mechanisms helped make the research richer in insights into the daily lives of enslaved people, their struggle, and their strategies to escape the atrocities of their slaves. In short, the researcher concluded that slavery is a serious issue affecting millions of people today, both children and adults. Some coping they take as a way out suffering or physical and mental exhaustion is not the most suitable. Certainly, there are psychological and legal help centers to get out of this harassment. However, in Cora's case, her only support was the clandestine abolitionist groups that helped her escape and herself.

5.2.3 To examine how slavery harmed people from the perspective of the book through.

As mentioned above, slavery is an issue that has affected millions of people over time. Cora, the book's protagonist, was the daughter and granddaughter of enslaved people. When she was only eight years old, she was abandoned by her mother, leaving her on one of the Georgia plantations in the United States. From the book's perspective, Cora and her neighboring slaves were brutalized by their masters. Although Cora and her neighbors tried to escape her fate as enslaved people, they sadly failed. Immediately, investigating the defense mechanisms, coping, and how this harmed millions of Afro-descendant inhabitants of the 19th century, from Afro-descendants to servitude, led the researcher to project all possible external situations to the history that people lived. Even their unfortunate situation led them to evaluate if it was worth taking the risk of escaping from the plantations or not. In the same way, a possible solution to this

treatment was exposed by raising awareness of slavery in its different forms, such as investing in sustainable development, protection, and human rights. In addition to resuming the commitment to integrate enslaved people into society, defend the principles of equality and human dignity for those who have been victims of slave labor.

What the researcher concluded from this was that thanks to clandestine abolitionist groups, many of the enslaved people managed to flee the plantations and found their freedom. However, the traumas that the slavers left to the Afro-descendants were so great that they affected their liberation since most of them did not manage to adapt to the city. The enslaved people had no idea how the world worked; they did not know what life was like outside the plantations. This affected them so that although they gained their freedom, they were still slaves to their past.

5.2.4 To compare the 19th-century slavery present in the book to the present situation.

Finally, for the last point of the specific objectives, the researcher compared slavery in the 19th century and today from the point of view of the book and its opinion. The comparison of both centuries enriched its research and analysis. Similarities between the two were even determined. In addition, the idea of comparing slavery between centuries was carried out through extracts from the book that made it easier for the researcher to reflect on the possible differences in slavery today, which were reflected in the tables in chapter 4. Even servitude, sexual and labor exploitation, and human trafficking were useful in anticipating future consequences.

Through Cora's harrowing stories on the plantations, African Americans' psychological and physical effects were revealed in depth. An example is that Cora was physically exhausted from the abuses by her persecutors and masters, to such an extent that when she was somewhere away from her masters, she thought about what her sentence would be. However, after studying the book and researching, external similarities were drawn between ancient and current slavery, leading the researcher to resolve how people continue to be victims of slavery today.

The researcher concluded that there is a slight difference between the two centuries of slavery. To do this, she used some of the characteristics covered by the subject of slavery to make a proper comparison. With the help of previous information and extracts from the book, it was observed that the difference between the 19th century and the current slavery is that today it is generalized. This means that an enslaved person can be of any age, skin color, ethnic group, state, and so forth, to what was previously directed only to Afro-descendants. Furthermore, one of the differences between centuries is the technological evolution, so today, technology influences the slave treatment in this generation.

5.3 Restatement of the Research Question

Bearing in mind the research question on which this literary analysis was based was how slavery has affected millions of people over time and how people continue to be victims of it today. Exploring the topic successfully resolved the question, so it was not necessary to make any changes to it. On the other hand, the question is answered adequately since, throughout the investigation, the book highlights notable aspects where the affectation of slavery on millions of people and the researcher's investigation of its current affectation are mentioned.

5.4 Recommendations

The main recommendation of the researcher is to read a book with a topic of interest to satisfy and enrich the topic to be investigated in the future. On the other hand, in this deep analysis of the book *Underground Railroad* by Colson Whitehead, it is necessary to read the book several times and highlight important themes, questions, names, and places regarding your approach. In this way, it will be much easier for you to carry out the process and coverage of the reading topics, which will lead you to your paradigms.

In addition, a second recommendation is to choose an approach of interest. This will help keep you interested in researching and learning about your chosen approach and arouse interest for those who read it, the approach that can influence and connect the researcher and its readers. However, determining the approach will be essential for understanding the development of the investigation. It was useful for the researcher to focus on the new historicism approach as an orientation to what she wanted to make known in her writing.

As a third recommendation, pay meticulous attention to each situation and character by chapter. With this, the researcher wants to let future readers know that this novel is rich in scenarios and characters, which will keep them interested in the obstacles of each chapter with each state that then leads Cora to seek her freedom. Therefore, to empathize more with the plot and the psychological and historical approaches of the story, it will be essential to pay attention to it and annotate the reading process.

Finally, the last recommendation will be to delve into the book *Underground Railroad* from a new perspective. It could be based on a completely psychological approach, helping all

who were or are victims of slavery, or a social approach, considering the emergence of social classes, the lack of their rights, and the privileges of high society. In addition, the humanistic or evolutionary approach can also be used to understand the book itself better.

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