

# CHAPTER III

## RESEARCH PROCEDURE AND DATA PRESENTATION

This section deals with the procedure of analyzing the data, the research subject and the data presentation. Those points are presented in the following subheadings.

### **3.1 The Procedure of Analyzing the Data**

There were several steps carried out in conducting the research. First, the text of *The American Palace-Bless This House* was determined to be the focus of the research. Second, the formulated research question was concentrated on the representation of institutional racism in Evan H. Rhodes' selected texts. Third, the relevant textual evidence were selected from the texts. Fourth, the represented people and their attitudes were identified and analyzed from the textual evidence. Further, the data were interpreted by employing Postcolonial theory. Finally, conclusions and suggestions were drawn based on the research findings.

### 3.2 The Research Subject

The analysis of this research focused on the novel *The American Palace-Bless This House* written by Evan Harold Rhodes. It was the first of five volumes published by Berkley Publishing Corporation, USA, in 1982 and consisted of forty-seven chapters. The novel mainly narrated about the United States of America at the beginning of its historical period. The writer only analyzed the racism issues that were experienced by the Native-American or the Indian people and the Black people or the slaves as representatives of American life in 18<sup>th</sup> century. The research subject was about the Brand, the Breech, and the Connaught families, who were considered as the representation of the White Anglo-Saxon Protestants (WASP). White Doe, Circumstance (a half-breed child) and the Indian tribes; the slaves are Eli, Benjamin and Tanzy as the representation of the Non-White people.

### 3.3 The Data Presentation

The data presented are taken from *The American Palace-Bless This House* novel. These characters and their attitudes are presented in the form of tables.

### 3.3.1 Represented Attitudes of the White People toward the Indian People

Table 1 presents the White people characters and their attitudes toward the Indian people characters. The White people characters presented are Victoria Connaught, Sean Connaught, Rebecca Breech, and Meriwether Lewis. The Indian people characters are a brave (a call for an Indian man) from Algonquin tribe, a brave from Susquehannock tribe, White Doe, Circumstance (a half-breed child), and a troop of Mandan Indians.

**Table 1. The White people characters and their attitudes toward the Indian people characters**

No.	Re- presenta- tion of the White people	Re- presenta- tion of the Indian people	Represented Attitudes	Textual Evidence
1	Victoria and Sean Connaught	a brave from Algonquin tribe, and a brave from Susquehannock tribe.	Insulting	"I've never given up my dream that the colonies will one day rejoin the mother country." Said Victoria Connaught to her nephew. <b>"Who could possibly want this wilderness infested by savages?"</b> Sean Connaught asked, his eyes sliding to the two Indians who stood nearby. They were braves from the Algonquin and Susquehannock tribes, which considered this land theirs by right of prior occupancy. <b>One suspicious Indian leaned over the</b>

				<p>excavation pit, wondering what new crime against his people these white men might commit.</p> <p>"I know exactly what you mean," Victoria said, patting Sean's arm. "Still, the land does contain enormous riches." Victoria continued. (Ch.1,p. 7)</p>
2	Rebecca Breech	White Doe	Insulting	<p><b>"But how could you be married? How could such a thing happen in the wilderness?"</b> asked Rebecca.</p> <p>"Captain Lewis performed the ceremony, reading to us from the Bible." Answered Jeremy.</p> <p><b>"How could a heathen know what any of it meant?"</b> she asked and then continued, "And is your...bride one of those swarthy women with chief She-he-ke?"</p> <p>He shook his head and his eyes clouded with pain. "White Doe died before we reached St. Louis. Her delivery had been very difficult, and she weakened further and died." (Ch. 33, p. 262)</p>
3	Rebecca Breech	Circumstance	Insulting	<p><b>"Jeremy, what I'm about to say may sound harsh, and it tears me apart to say it, but I must, for our happiness. This child, a product of a mixed love, a half-breed—can't you see how difficult it would be for her in Washington? Look at the President Jefferson. He can't bring his own half-breed children to Washington, but must hide them at Monticello."</b> Said Rebecca. And then she continued, <b>"Jeremy, she's an Indian. Can't you see? She must go back to her own people. You tell me that chief She-he-ke is returning to the Mandan territory in the spring. Then let him take her with him. Jeremy, I beg you, do this for</b></p>

				the child's sake, as well as our own." (Ch. 33, p. 264)
4	Victoria Connaught	a troop of Mandan Indians	Arrogant, insulting	<p>"A decided improvement." Victoria said to Marianne. <b>"You see, the good lady in Washington decided that it was our duty as God-fearing Christians to civilize these savages."</b></p> <p>A troop of Mandan Indians, the braves sported frock coat that reached below their knees, trousers, and tall hats, while the squaws wore voluminous bright-colored cambric skirts and hobbled around in high heels.</p> <p>Victoria hid her laughter behind her fan. <b>"Oh dear, I'm afraid we shall never be able to make silk purses out of them."</b></p> <p>Jeremy felt his ears burn and shifted Circumstance on his back. "In their own territory, their clothes suit their life perfectly."</p> <p>Victoria raised her eyebrows. <b>"oh, Marianne, have you heard the latest sport among the young blades in town? Why, they will buy an Indian all the liquor he wants, just to see how quickly he will turn himself into a fool."</b> (Ch. 34, p. 278)</p>
5	Victoria Connaught	Circumstance	Arrogant, insulting	<p>Marianne said to Jeremy, "Your daughter is adorable. I don't think I've ever seen eyes as blue." Then she looked at Jeremy earnestly. <b>"I hope you'll forgive my aunt for what she said about .... Indians."</b></p> <p><b>"Of course. What really upset me was I suddenly saw how difficult Circumstance's life will be."</b> Said Jeremy. (Ch. 34, p. 279)</p>

6	Meriwether Lewis	White Doe	Irresponsible/ indifferent	<p>Jeremy wanted to marry White Doe, an Indian woman from a Shoshones tribe, during the Lewis and Clark expedition.</p> <p>“What?” Lewis exploded.</p> <p>“Jeremy, for God’s sake, <b>she’s an Indian. Think man! How will she fit into your world?</b>”</p> <p>“We’ll make our own world,” Jeremy said resolutely. “You see, I’ve got to marry her. She tells me she’s conceived.”</p> <p>“Don’t be a fool! How can she know that? You’ve only known her two weeks.”</p> <p>“Indians know these things,” Jeremy said stubbornly. “But that doesn’t matter. If she is going to have a child, I don’t want it being born a bastard.”</p> <p><b>“Jeremy, practically every one of our men has fathered a child on this expedition. And if that’s happened to you, then why not take it in your stride?”</b></p> <p>Jeremy shook his head vehemently. “You don’t understand. I love her. You’ve a right to perform a marriage ceremony, don’t you?” (Ch. 27, p. 215)</p>
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Based on the data presented in table 1, the White people characters are presented as **the colonizers**, because of their attitudes that are reflected from the way they think and talk toward the Indian people. In line with Joseph’s statement (1990) that the native are treated as second class citizens in their own land. The discussion that is elaborated in Chapter IV further explains how the White people characters are connected to their attitudes.

### 3.3.2 Represented Attitudes of the White People toward the Black People

Table 2 elaborates the White people characters and their attitudes toward the Black people characters. The White people characters mentioned are Zebulon Brand, Rebecca Breech, Mathias Breech, James Hoban, Governor James Monroe, Victoria Connaught/the Connaughts, and the subcontractors. The Black people characters are Eli, Benjamin, Tanzy, Gabriel, and other slaves.

**Table 2. The White people characters and their attitudes toward the Black people characters**

No.	Representation of the White people	Representation of the Black people	Represented Attitudes	Textual Evidence
1	Zebulon Brand	Eli	Cruel, torturing	<p>a. Eli said to Jeremy, <b>“If the masters allow one person to escape, then there’s hope for the rest of us. So every run away got to be brought back or killed.”</b> Eli opened his thin cotton shirt so that Jeremy could see the old whip scars. “Twice I ran away and get this for my troubles. (Ch. 2, p. 16)</p> <p>b. <b>Eli got punishment. He got 10 lashes from</b></p>

				<p><b>Blutkopf, as Zebulon ordered him to do it, and became the public whipping.</b></p> <p>“You could stop this if you wanted,” Jeremy said.</p> <p><b>“He broke the law. If we give them an inch, we encourage rebellion.” Explained Zebulon.</b></p> <p>Jeremy helped Eli to his feet. He paid no mind to the angry mutterings from the crowd about a white man helping such a black. Eli managed to say something to Jeremy, “Blutkopf found me with four other slaves under the dock. We’d been bartering for some tobacco one of them filched, but Blutkopf accused us of unlawful assembly, though he knew otherwise. He told Zebulon I was the ringleader. Someday, Blutkopf and I,” he said grimly, “we’ll face each other as equals.” (Ch. 10, p. 77)</p> <p>c. <b>“Now follow me close by, Eli, and don’t get lost in the dark, because if you’re found alone on the streets, you’re liable to be shot.”</b> Zebulon Brand said. (Ch. 31, p.247)</p> <p>d. Really, the man, Eli, was incorrigible; his manner hadn’t improved one whit in the three years Zebulon had been away. <b>He’d have to do something to tame his spirit – a diet of bread</b></p>
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				<b>and water, or maybe the lash.</b> (Ch. 32, p. 248)
2	Rebecca Breech and Zebulon Brand	Eli	Arrogant, cruel	<p>“No matter how much money I spend on Eli’s clothes, he still looks like he’s just come out of the jungle.” Zebulon said.</p> <p><b>“You should get rid of him. Why harbor somebody who hates you so? One day he’ll do you harm.” Rebecca replied.</b></p> <p>“Nonsense. I’ve got to protect my investment. It’s taken me this long to train him. He’s the best and strongest slave I own. And though he has been rebellious in the past, I’ve broken him. He’ll give us no trouble.” (Ch. 37, p. 304)</p>
3	Zebulon Brand	The slaves	Immoral	<b>Zebulon had become involved in the slave trade. He imported Negroes from the West Indies and sold them to the planters and merchants in the Chesapeake Bay area.</b> (Ch. 1, p. 9)
4	Mathias Breech and Zebulon Brand	The slaves	Immoral, greedy	<p>a. “It’s come to me that we’re fools to deal with the West Indian middlemen. <b>Why not take a ship directly to Africa or the Levant? Slaves are far cheaper there, and our profit margin will be that much greater.</b>” Mathias Breech said to Zebulon.</p> <p>“You’re right. One such successful voyage could make us all very rich men.” Answered Zebulon. (Ch. 9, p. 65).</p> <p>b. Mathias Breech and Zebulon Brand soon revitalized their shipping ventures. On the wharf at Georgetown, <b>a number of slaves Zebulon had brought in from the West Indies were put on the auction block.</b> All the states of Maryland had</p>

				<p>already abolished slavery, though New York and New Jersey were phasing it out gradually. <b>But the South still clung to the system. So Zebulon passed around a few small bribes and the authorities judged that these slaves were native-born, and therefore able to be sold.</b> (Ch. 34, p. 271)</p>
5	Governor James Monroe	Gabriel and other twenty four Black people	Immoral, abusive	<p><b>In August 1799, a freed Negro named Gabriel had incited a band of slaves to revolt near Richmond. Governor James Monroe had reacted with an iron fist; he called out the militia, quashed the revolt, and hung twenty five Negroes.</b> (Ch. 10, p. 78)</p>
6	James Hoban	Eli	unfair	<p>Eli shifted his weight from one foot to the other when he was entering Hoban's cabin. <b>He could be severely punished for becoming too familiar with a white person, even a boy,</b> but his fear evaporated in the face of his curiosity. "And how do you come to be bound to Mathias Breech? He's got a mean temper, that one."          "My brother sold me as an indentured servant," Jeremy said glumly. (Ch. 2, p. 20)</p>
7	The sub-contractors	The slaves who worked to build the American Palace	disgraceful	<p>A gang of Negro men carrying lumber tramped into the entrance hall delivered their load to Jeremy, then left. "Who are those people?" Abigail Adam asked. "Why, they're slaves, ma'am," Jeremy said. "They work here." Her sallow complexion grew even paler, "Slaves? Here? How can this be?"  <b>"Well ma'am, you see, the subcontractors are allowed to use their slaves to help build</b></p>

				<p>the palace, and then they charge the government for their time.”</p> <p><b>“Disgraceful! Building a free society on slave labor.”</b></p> <p>Jeremy didn’t know what to think of that. <b>But since slavery was an ingrained way of life in the South, he couldn’t conceive of what it would be like without it.</b> (Ch. 11, p. 89)</p>
8	Victoria Connaught	The slaves	arrogant	<p>“We must all work for the abolition of slavery,” Abigail was saying.</p> <p><b>“But the slaves are my private property, bought and paid for,” Victoria Connaught exclaimed. “Who will reimburse me? Anyway these Negroes are little more than savages.”</b> (Ch. 12, p. 100)</p>
9	Zebulon Brand	The slaves	arrogant	<p>“A small sop to throw to the masses! It’s yet another example of Jefferson’s deceit,” Zebulon said. “Never was a man more an aristocrat. His estates are grand, and he owns as many slaves as Washington did. How paradoxical for him to claim that all men created equal, and yet to own slaves.”</p> <p>“You own slaves,” Jeremy challenged him.</p> <p><b>“Of course, but I don’t believe that men are created equal. Some are born to rule, others to serve, and if God hadn’t willed it so, then it wouldn’t be. The Negro is lazy and shiftless, and wants only to be taken care of.”</b> (Ch. 14, p. 112)</p>
10	The White people	Tanzy	prejudiced	<p>Tanzy tried to quash any gossip about her and Jeremy. Any slave woman was considered fair game for her master, and with her youth and beauty, every body believed she served Jeremy in ways other than the kitchen. Yet it wasn’t so; in the months she’d</p>

				been with him, never once had he made a demand. (Ch. 34, p. 276)
11	The Connaughts	Eli and Benjamin	Sly/ Telling a lie	<p>“All we have to do is revolt,” Benjamin said. “Then we join up with the British. They set up a place for us on Tangier Island in Chesapeake Bay and we all be free men.”</p> <p><b>“Don’t be a fool,” Eli interrupted. “Can’t you see you’re being used again? If there’s freedom for us anywhere in this country, then it will come from the North.”</b></p> <p><b>Eli studied Benjamin; the slave could neither read nor write. Somebody must have drilled these thoughts into his head. That somebody must have been owner, the Connaughts, the British people.</b></p> <p>“Benjamin, if you think that any white man will willingly give us our freedom, then you’re a worse fool than I thought. One day when we’re stronger, better organized, we’ll fight for it. But that day isn’t now.” Eli said. (Ch. 41, p. 339)</p>

Table 2 shows that the White people in the text are represented by seven characters. The characters are classified as follows.

1. the masters
2. government officials
3. the subcontractors

In various contexts, the seven characters are assigned with different attitudes. The more detailed explanation about these characters and their attitudes are elaborated in Chapter IV.

