Zadie Smith's 'NW': A novel exploring restructuring of the meaning of race and class.

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Abstract

This paper is an attempt to research mainly the restructuring of the meaning of race and class in contemporary London in Zadie Smith's well known and critically acclaimed novel titled '*NW*'. This paper aims to study the change in power dynamics in the contemporary London where belonging to superior economic class is more important that the subject of race. Zadie Smiths NW is her most experimental novel till date. The novel is highly experimental in nature, making the use of various narrative techniques. This paper also aims to study the different narrative ways Smith has `used to tell about the changing social life of London as far as class and race are concerned. It will be studied about how rather using the straight narrative techniques she has used four character and their stream- of- consciousness shifting narratives to outline the fact that it no more matters of being of the inferior race and that now money rules the social life of London. The paper will outline the shift in the factor of discrimination, i.e. where earlier it used to be the race, now it is economic class. Novel not only includes the stream- of – consciousness style but also the screenplay style of dialogues and even the text message language is used to present the change in power structure of modern London. This paper will also put light over the polyphonic nature of the novel which Smith has employed to outline the chaotic nature of London life which is driven by coexisting tension between different classes and races. Smith's novel has NW has been bestowed by United Kingdom's most prestigious, Women's Prize for Fiction[previously also known as Orange Prize for Fiction and Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction].

A prominent American lawyer and associate justice on the Supreme Court of United States Louise Brandies once said, "*We may have democracy, or we may have wealth concentrated in the hands of few, but we cannot have both*." In NW, Zadie Smith expands more upon this idea suggesting that where there is any discriminating factor there cannot be a thing called democracy. She connects the factor of class divide with topic of racism which she has used in almost all her prominent works. She has been critically acclaimed author who can be based on the fact that she has been keenly aware of the types of discriminating factors that plague the British land. Zadie Smits is one of the most sought after novelist in the contemporary literature. She has been able to achieve the place of bestselling author for the fact that she has been responsible for penning down the work which give the unique perspectives over the topics most relevant and debatable in contemporary culture like race, class etc. Smith has been thus been awarded with the Fellowship of the Royal Society of Literature for her literary merit. Zadie Adeline Smith was born to the parents of the different origin, with white father and black mother. She was born Sadie Adeline Smith on 25th October 1957. Besides being well known as the novelist especially due to the success of her debut novel White Teeth, she has also been produced essays and short- stories as well. She has been the educationist in the Creative Writing Faculty of the New- York University as well. Smith's has always tried to show the reality she experienced in context with her mixed raced lineage, in her novels. Throughout her works she has kept the keen eye on the changing situations relating to the discriminating factors of society. In her debut novel White Teeth she had included the fact that being of the inferior race is the chief discriminating factor in Britain but she has changed her tone in novel NW. In NW she has used her experimental way of narration to outline Economic Class as the chief dividing factor of London society. Smith has been pointing at the fact it does not matter if the person is white or black or of any race if he is wealthy. Now it is the wealth that divides more than that of race. If one goes according to the words of Brandeis in context of Smiths novel, then one may deduce that London is not a democracy anymore and is controlled by wealthy few, regardless of their race.

NW is the post- code in the North- West part of London. Smith has used this part as chiefly the part where the different happenings take place in lives of character, consecutively. It follows the lives of four characters mainly Leah Hanwell, Natalie, Felix Cooper and Nathan Bogle. These are the four Londoners who are shown dealing with the issues of class divide with that other dividing factors including that of race, as well. Smith has blended various literary techniques to bring up the chaos that is caused by people of different attributes living together. She uses brief dialogues to be able to jump from one scene to the next and thus is able to develop her all four chief characters and their reactions to economical and racial divide. Novel is constructed of the colloquial language. Such informal nature gave Smith the leverage through which she was able to give readers, the more intimate insight of the mind of the characters which are totally different from each other in terms of behaviours. They all see the subject of class and race that make them struggle but they differ in their perspectives or in other words the; the way they see the world. While Natalie is of black race her social position is higher than that of her white friend Leah. Smith has in this novel completely stayed away from her style of limited point of view. Limited point of view is also known as 'Omniscient narrator' point of view. Due to Smiths faithful readership, she has been able to more effectively experiment with the form and give her readers more deeper experiences of the chief characters and their changing behaviour according to their status in the society. Omniscient narrator is the one who normally narrates the plot and is able to see the thoughts of every character in the story. Omniscient narrator point of view has been the most used technique in the world of literature, by some of the great names in the field like Charles Dickens and many more. It has been also used in the other types of literary genres like poems and essays etc. The chief reason for this is that it gives the flexibility to the writer. But Smith here needs to be praised for experimenting with the form and straying away from the normal to give her unique take on the changing definition of race and class. Natalie is shown to be a black but behaves with Leah as though Leah belongs to the lower strata of the London society. 185 vignettes have been used for giving the socio- economic condition of Natalie. A vignette is a short and descriptive piece of writing which describes the brief period in time. Vignettes are more focused on vivid are more focused on vivid imagery and meaning rather than plot. They are used by Smith to give the picture of Natalie. Vignettes are more commonly part of a larger narrative like Smiths novel NW. Here Smith wants to tell us that Natalie/ Keisha Blake's life is so planned out that it can be sketched out in mere 185 points. Smith suggests that even if the affluent and rich circle of the London may seem very desirable to people like Leah, in actuality it is a disinterested life, so much so that it can be laid out in points and that there are no interesting spice of life in it. This lack of direction can be seen in the last 185th point titled: Onwards: "Frank sat on the bed with his back to her, hand over his eyes. Natalie Blake stood up and left the spare room and closed the door. An odd sense of calm followed her downstairs. On the ground floor, in the hall, she bumped into the Brazilian girl, Maria who regarded her with the same obtuse confusion of last week, when she'd arrived and discovered her employer to be several shade darker than she was herself. Past the hall where her laptop sat on the side table, the screen still open for anyone to read. Past her family who called out form her. She heard Frank running down the stairs. She saw her coat slung across the banister, keys and phone in the pocket. At the door she had another chance to take something with her (on the hallway table she could see her purse, an Oyster card, another set of keys). She walked out of the house with noting and closed the front behind her. Out of the bay window Frank De Angelis asked his wife, Natalie Blake, where she was going. '*Nowhere*' said Natalie Blake." In the last 185th point Natalie's husband discovers that she has been leading the double life because of the boredom caused by the affluent but disinterested lifestyle. Unbeknownst to frank De Angelis, Natalie is leading the rebellious low- life, which Frank comes to know when he sees the texts of her laptop. When she realises that now her secrets are open, she decides to leave the house and take nothing with her. She now completely goes away from the luxury because the real meaning of her life has been long lost, so much so that when her husband asks her where she was going, she answers 'Nowhere'. Smith in her other works have black characters who always stress upon the need of the black people to study hard and make it up to the social ladder, like Narrators Mother' in novel Swing Time[2016] and Kiki Belsey in the novel, ' On Beauty'[2005]. But here we see that Natalie Blake has got on to every milestone that is important to get the respect and money and almost every goal she had in her mind. She studied very hard to get enrolled into the prestigious educational institution and studied the law further. She then even married Frank De Angelis who is the investment banker and is wealthy man. She moves to the posh area also and always holds the affluent parties. She is happy that people do not care if she is black race or any other thing. She first thinks that if she is highly educated and rich no one

will see her blackness. People, suggests Smith, do actually care more about the economical position of the person nowadays rather than his or her race or ethnicity. In short moneyed individuals have become the unique race in itself. But still Natalie Blake leads the double life because she knows that she is running away from her pride which is her black colour and her African roots and trying to cover it up by the show-off of wealth in which at the end she definitely fails. The main characters are sketched out differently five parts namely: Visitation, Guests, Host, Crossing and Visitation. While, to show the regularity and boredom in the life of the rich class Natalie's chapter is lined out in 185 points, on the other hand character Leah's chapter titled 'Visitation', is written in regular form. Leah is totally opposite to Natalie Blake, not just in terms of colour but also class. Her mother and father both are from Ireland. She is happily married to her black French husband named Michel. Smith shows that she never allowed the difference in colour come between their happy marriages. Where Natalie thinks that in the country where majority of the population is white, she as a black women will have to ambitiously chase her dreams of raising her social standards but on the other hand Leah is happy in the way she lives. Leah has one problem i.e. she does not want the children with her husband Michel, although she loves him. She all along the story continuous to take the birth control pills and avoid pregnancy. Leah is never jealous of anyone but when she finds that the black friend of her has now the higher status that her, she starts to become jealous. While Leah is ok but always uneasy around her now wealthy school day friend Natalie, her husband is very much ambitious like Natalie. Smith wants to suggest that almost all the young black kids and teenagers have been instilled with the thought that to survive in land which includes the majority white population, one has to work and be ambitious of making the place in society. Racism has long instilled the fear in blacks and suppressed them and hence the fear of suppression still lies in them. Leah thinks that Michel her husband is a good man and she faithfully loves him and never ever thinks of his colour. But she thinks that he is too ambitious and that he should live life calmly instead of worrying about their weak social class. Michel is black but he thinks that his own people do not work hard enough and that he sees no point in helping them with any money or getting them the job or any other kin d of help. She thinks that they will be good and everything will work in their favour. This can be seen in the following paragraph. He says, 'look: You know what true difference between these people and me is? They don't want to move forward, they don't want to have nothing better than this. But I am always moving forward, thinking of the next thing. People back home they don't get me at all. I am too advanced for them. So when they try to contact me, I don't let this – I don't let drama in my life like that. No way. I've worked too hard. I love you too much, this life... From the first day I was stepping into this country I have my head on correctly; I was very clear: I am going up the ladder, one rung at least. In France you are African, you are Algerian, who wants to know? There's no opportunity, you can't move! Here you can move. You still have to work! You have to work very hard to separate yourself from this drama below! This is my point: I don't like to let it in... Of course your skin is white, it's different, it's more easy, you've had opportunities I didn't have. The redder ones don't taste so good. We are all trying to take that next, that next, next, next step Climbing the ladder. If we have a little boy I want him to live somewhere – to live proud – somewhere we have the free hold. Right! This grass it's not my grass! This tree is not my tree!' Michele thinks that he should help himself first before he helps any of his Black people. By his word, Smith is suggesting that black people like Michel know that in the white cities like London, people first care how rich is the certain individual and then see the race of him or her. In Smith's novel London often make the way and she has always depicted the multiculturalism of London. In the novel NW she might be suggesting that now London is soup of cultures, which is by now blended in each other. Hence in the new London, the society take Class [Economic] as a discriminating factor to decide who is superior and who is inferior. People like Michel and Natalie think that they can climb up the social ladder only by getting the higher positions economically, by any means possible, either like Natalie who married the rich white man or like Michel who bets in the share market. Michel further gives justification to Leah that he is not paying attention to her and is paying attention at the laptop for building the future for the possible mixed-raced child they might have in future. He also says that Share market is the only place where the colour/ race are not seen and there is equal opportunity for all to become rich. He says, ' This is why I'm on the laptop every night , I'm trying to do this – because it's pure market on there , noting about skin, about is your English perfect, do you have the right piece of university paper or some bullshit like this., I can trade like anyone. There's money to be go t out there you know? Market is so crazy right now. That's what nobody tell you, I keep thinking what Frank said at the dinner: *the smart guys get right back in the game.* It's crazy not to try to get some of it. I am not like these Jamaicans – this new girl,

Gloria, whatever is her name, up there, she still has no curtains. Two babies, no husband, taking benefits. I' m married, where's my benefits? When I have children, I knew, I said it to myself: I'm going to stay by this women that I love, that I really love so much, I'm going to always be with her. Come here. The bottom line is like this: I was never just OK to sit on my Laurens and take charity; I never was interested in that. I am an African. I have a destiny. I love you. I love where we are going together! I am always moving towards my destiny, thinking of the next achievement, the next thing, taking it higher.'

While in the most of the novels of Smith often the black characters or other immigrants are shown as the suppressed characters, but in the NW, Leah finds herself to be working in the place where all the good positions are acquired by the blacks and the immigrants. She sees that the power dynamics have changed. Smith writes to make the point. She writes, 'As joke you can make if you are not Leah. If you are not the only white girl in the fund distribution team. In the corridor women spill out of every room, into the heat, cocoa- buttered, ready for warm night out on the Edgware road. From St Kitts, Trinidad, Barbados, Granada, Jamaica, India, Pakistan, in their forties, fifties, sixties.... open to the early summer in the manner that the women of Leah's family can never be. For them the sun is fatal. So red, so pale. Leah is wearing long white linen everything. Look like minor saint. She falls in step.' Leah is aware of the fact that the definitions of majority and minority are not the same as they used to be. Another character is that of Felix Cooper. Felix Cooper was also the child who played with Natalie, Leah and Nathan Bogle but due to the changing social conditions, he too like other kids has gone the different path when he grows up. Smith wants to show that more than the race, being of the same class is the factor that keep the person connected to another. While Leah and Natalie are connected to each other , they have long lost their connection with their childhood playmates who afterwards grew up to be poor and went on the decadent pathways of life like addiction and other bad things which are often caused due to the poverty. Felix Cooper struggles with the drug addiction after getting engulfed in poverty but he is struggling to get back into the life. He has his lover and she also is drug addict. He wants to cut every relation with his bad past but it is very hard for him. Cooper has found the new love of his life in the form of Grace, who motivates him to sever all the ties with a bad drug addiction and start a new life with her. He goes to meet his drug addict lover and says to her that he has no option but to leave her if he wants to lead a good life further. Cooper wants to get into the film making business. He again sees the ray of hope in his girlfriend Grace. Grace gives him the hope that despite being in any situation, one can always try to get better. But as it turns out, Felix before starting the better life is murdered by the two armed robbers. Founded in 1995, Foundations Recovery Network [FRN] which is the leading organization for addiction, there is a strong correlation between the Class and the drug addiction. Poverty and Drug addiction often are found together. FRN says, 'How wealthy you are has very little to do with your propensity toward addiction. The reason that these stereotypes form is because substance abuse is in fact more common among individuals living in poverty or of lower economic status... Substance abuse is more a by product of lifestyle led by people of limited financial means.' FRN has said that one of the common associated links between economic status and substance abuse is the conflict in the tow classes i.e. Poverty versus Wealth. Further the FRN report says: "Overall substance abuse is more prevalent among the families living in poverty, as are most of the risk factors for drug and alcohol abuse listed above. Someone who makes less than $20,000 annually is about one third less likely to recover from ... addiction than someone who makes over $ 70,000. Even employment has a discernable effect on the likelihood if substance abuse. Poverty is a factor the likelihood of kids trying drugs and alcohol. That being said, some reports attest to children in poverty level households being more likely to smoke' Felix Cooper is the character who belongs to the weaker class and thus is dependent on the drugs to escape the frustration of the life of poverty but he meets the sad end and is murdered by the people who know him from his drug addict past.

In the first part of the novel white character Leah is scammed by the scammer. She is named Shar and lives poorly on the streets. She, as a result of her poverty uses drugs. Leah thinks that Shar is very desperate but when she comes to know that she had been scammed for the money, she loses her trust in people of her society. She starts to ask herself that if such is the case, how one will be able to help the people who are really in need. In the start Smith writes the line, 'on the radio: I am the sole author of the dictionary that defines me. A goof line. - write it on the back of a magazine. In a hammock, in the garden of a basement flat.' In the start Smith makes it clear that although the novel is related to the discrimination because of class and race, one cannot define anybody by calling the higher class or of lower class or by

any other racial annotations. Leah hears the line on the radio but immediately makes ironical remark of it by calling it a good line. Smith never takes side and always observes things with all the aspect to reduce the writers' bias. She suggests that although the line is good, it is not followed in the discriminatory society. Smith has for depict the racial conditions has shown the event concerning Black Madonna or Virgin Mary. According to the book The Cult of Black Virgin and other sources the term refers to the depiction of Virgin marry in the dark colours in the statue or the paintings or frescos. Smith in chapter 37 gives the series of questions. These questions are asked by the statue of Black Madonna to her. The statue asks, 'How have you lived your whole life in these streets and never known me? How long did you think you could avoid me? What made you think you were exempt? Don't you know I have been here as long as people cried out for help? Here me: I am not like those mealy -mouthed pale Madonna's, those simpering virgins! I am older than this place! Older even than the faith that takes my name in vain! Spirit of these beech woods and phone boxes, hedgerows and lamp posts, fresh- water spring and tube stations, ancient yews and one stop shops, grazing land and 3D Multiplexes. Unruly England of real life, the animal life! Of the old church, of the new, of a time before churches.' In his book The Cult of Black Madonna, Begg has used the recurring line form the Song of Solomon, ' I am Black, I am Beautiful' one can deduce form the 35th chapter, the thoughts of Smith on Black Madonna. She wants to suggest to the readers that the statue is telling her that her facial feature has lost but she still is erect. Statue tells her that she was in the world before any kind of discriminations came into the being. There was no black human or white human, no rich no poor but only humanity existed. Statue tells that in the modern times, people have made different kinds of classifications and thus created the problem. Smith might be using the statue of Black Madonna as the statue of humanity or of unity. One can also see that Smith has suggested in the novel that those who come in the pursuit of more money in the developed countries fall prey to the divide that is caused between them and their parents. The immigrants parents often belong to the poorer countries and come in search to increase their economic class ion developed wealthier countries like Britain and America. There in such countries they face also the discrimination based on other factors like their Ethnicity and Race as well. Smith includes the monologue which outlines the divide that takes place between the parents and the youngsters who come for increasing their Class in the society. She writes, 'Meanwhile parents have become old and ill at the very moment children want to have their own babies. Many of the parents are immigrants – from Jamaica, from Ireland, from India, from China- and they can't understand why they have not yet been invited to live with their children, as is the custom in their countries. Technology is offered as a substitute for the impossible request. Stair lifts. Pacemakers. Hip replacement. Dialysis machine. But nothing satisfies them. They work hard so we children might live like this. They 'literally' will not be happy until they've moved into our houses.'

There in the television headlines which tell of the murder of Felix Cooper? 'The `television says: The young man named Felix Cooper, was thirty- two years old. He grew up in notorious Gravy House Project in Holloway but had moved with his family tom relatively quiet corner of Kilburn, in search of better life. Yet it was here in Kilburn, that he was accosted by two youth early Saturday evening moments from his front door. It is not known if the victim knew- he was murdered. Why does it matter where he grew up?' Smith asks the question of why the news channels had to say that he grew up in the poor economic class. This question from the side of the author suggests that class is more of the discriminating factor than that of his race and it continues even after he is murdered. Another extract that depicts the class divide is the words of the character call Phil Barnes. He says, 'they always say "Youth" don't they said Phil and stopped once more, halfway down the stairs, in a thoughtful pose. Felix leant against the handrail and waited, though he had heard this speech many times. ' Never the boys form the posh bit up by the park, they're just boys but out lot are "youth", our working class lads are youth, bloody terrible isn't it? They come round here Felix- I was trying to tell your dad, but he wasn't bothered, you know him, usually thinking more about the ladies than anything else- the police come round here asking for our kids (not our kids, literally, obviously our kids are long gone but the community kids), looking for information you know. Save their big houses form on the park form our kids!' Phil Barnes is a left – wing neighbour of Felix's father Lloyd is concerned about the issue of the economic divide in the modern London. Barnes is depressed that London's city has sunk into the economic decline. Lloyd is also the man who has been the victim to the racial discrimination as well as sometimes the economic one but he does not and cannot relate with Barnes. He asks why Barnes wants to jump into the struggle, 'when it aint even his struggle' Felix Cooper is the dark man and also is the

subject to the racism. But he thinks that the world has changed drastically in the 21st century and like in the other economy driven societies, it is the poor class that is used more frequently to discriminate than his black skin colour.

Part 3 of novel NW, which deals with Natalie Keisha Blake offers the unique perspectives as far as the restructuring of the meaning of the class and race are concerned. Natalie has married a rich French man and regularly hosts the party to make friends with all the people of Brayton regardless of their race. But still she is unable to be friends with some white people, whom Smith ironically calls 'the hopeless cases'. She writes, 'Within Brayton she befriended everyone without distinction or boundary, but the hopeless cases did not alienate her form the popular and vice versa and how this was managed Keisha Blake had no understanding. Before becoming rich Keisha Blake had always the desire to own the expensive things. Smith writes the vignette no 14, in which she talks about the shoe brand technology which uses the air filled pockets to increase bounce and make the product look aesthetic. "14. That Obscure object of desire: The red and white air technology of the Greek Goddess of victory. Keisha Blake put her hand against the shop in front of a glass. Separated from happiness. It had been everywhere, the air, free for the taking, but had come to desire it only now that she saw it thus defined, extracted, rendered visible. The infinitely available thing, now enclosed in a sole of a shoe! You had to admire the audacity. Ninety- nine quid. Maybe at Christmas." This suggest the satirical remark of Smith on the giant companies which make the people believe that they are not in happy and that they belong to the economically inferior if they cannot even afford the shoe with the air. Smith makes the remark on the companies which also used the free things like air and make it expensive. Smith has also used the literary example of Jane Eyre , a novel by Charlotte Bronte, to show how Natalie Keisha Blake, discovers her own power and remedy to getting bullied for her colour, in Jane Eyre about white heroines. She discovered that she was being bullied because her colour was superior. Jane Eyre is strongly independent and quickly becomes the example for Keisha to follow and become strong. But Smith makes the ironical remark on her role-model saying the same white people who have enslaved and bullied her if she exited back at the time of novel. Here Smith ironically restructures the meaning of race and wants modern readers to read correct literature before being swayed away by the hype. Smith includes in part 21 of novel, 'When being bullied Keisha Blake found it useful to remember that if you read the relevant literature or watched the pertinent movies you soon found that being bullied was practically a sign of a superior personality, and the greater the intensity of bullying the more likely it was to be avenged at the other end of a life. , when qualities of the kind Keisha Blake possessed – cleverness, will-to-power- became –'their own reward', and that this remained true even if the people in the literature and the movies looked nothing like you, came from the different socio-economic an historical universe, and – had they ever met you – would very likely have enslaved you or, at best, bullied you to precisely the same extent as Lorna Mackenzie, who had problem with the way you acted like you were better than everyone else.'

Zadie Smith in NW has restricted the meaning of the class and race but she has not dealt with the two subjects separately but rather has used them both simultaneously in her polyphonic style of narration. Before marrying Franco De Angelis, Natalie Keisha Blake is in the relation with the black boy called Rodney Banks but later marries Frank solely for the purpose of money and higher class. In one instance when she asks him the question of why he does not speak in the class, Smith writes , ' Rodney Banks highlighted so many passages in the Machiavelli's *The Prince* it became one block of yellow and didn't dare return it to the library. 'The difficult situation and the newness of my kingdom force me to do these things, and guard my borders everywhere.' Smith use the words like 'Changing Situations' and 'The Newness of my Kingdom' to simply suggest the change in the meanings of discriminating factors like race and class. Further Keisha Blake is aiming to become the great black women lawyer and the Vignette no 55 named very aptly as '57: Ambition: They were going to be lawyers, the first person either of their families to become professionals. They thought life was the problem that could be solved by means of professionalization.' Smith in this point no 55 of Natalie Blake, suggests that the whole black race now knows that what their pervious belief that the problem of the racial discrimination could be solved if they only became the lawyers is wrong. Even though Natalie becomes the good lawyer she is still not able to win the cases in the court. When Natalie is in the class she hears Frank De Angelis, who is also her co-student , say something which explains why she keep losing the cases for the blacks in the her later life. 'What is the lesion here for the lawyer? Asked Kirkwood. The notable young man's hand went up. Even from where the Natalie Blake was sitting she could see the jewellery on his fingers, and an elegant watch with the crocodile skin strap that looked

older than Kirkwood. He said, 'Although you may turn up in court armed with reason, we live in an unreasonable world.' Frank can be looked at as the racist character when he jokingly used the word 'slave' for Natalie. Although he calls her the 'slave for salary' by which he means that now slaves still exist but in economical sense. Smith sketches out the whole incident in the point number 90. She writes, '90*: Difficulties in Context*: Natalie Blake turned form flirting with Francesco De Angelis to listing all her academic achievement to Dr Singh. Dr Singh looked tired. She poured some water into the Natalie's glass. 'And what do you do for fun?' Frank leant over. 'No time for fun – sista's a slave to the wage.' Frank may here be also, besides being offensive, telling the reality that the black people are still working mainly under the whites and are kept the slave only under the cover of wage. Natalie also faces the racist remarks when she is standing in the unorganised line. Smith writes, 'You in this line?' Natalie looked at the feisty old lady at her elbows, clutching her little red book. She raised her own red book vaguely: 'I think so.' But the line was amorphous crowd of noisy NW people holding pocket books and shouting and pushing. Someone said: 'We need a system in this queue man! Always chaos in here! These people don't know what British queue is. The aluminium poles which should have been planted at intervals in the filthy carpet had not been set out. Natalie could see them piled up in corner. By the cashier's desk. 'You now. Go said the old lady, and Natalie Blake, uncertain whether justice had been done or no, walked up to the desk indicated, had a disturbing conversation with a teller called Doreen Bayles made her way out of scrum to Kilburn High Road, leant on a bus stop and wept.' Here in the following passage it is not cleared who passes the comment but it is clear that it is both related to the difference in the class as well as race. Many people in the queue are dark hence it could be racist and since the whole area NW is also included it could also be to differentiate the poor NW people from the proper mannered British people. Further Theodora whom Natalie considers her mentor comes to meet her, have food ns give the advices related to her problem. Natalie is facing the problem that she is losing the cases of the Black clients. In the point 122 titles *Theodora's advice,* Smith gives us the example of how the black people who are supposed to be supporting black are ignoring them in the developed countries like Britain, for socio-economic success. Theodora says, 'When I first started appearing before a judge, I kept reprimanding form the bench. I was losing my cases and I couldn't understand why. Then I realised the following: When some floppy haired chap from Surrey stands before these judges, all his passionate arguments read as "pure advocacy". He and the judge recognise each other. Very likely went to the same school. But Whaley's passion, or mine, or yours, reads as "aggression". To the judge. This is his house and you are an interloper within it. And let me tell you, with the women its worse: "aggressive hysteria". The first lesson is: turn yourself down. One notch. Two. Because this is not neutral.' She passed a hand over her neat frame from her head to her lap, like a scanner. It's never neutral.' Theodora tells her that racism still exists in the thoughts of the white judge who is still more lineament towards the white advocate and white convict, hence the reason she loses the cases of black people. She suggests that to be a woman on top of being black is really problematic for Natalie's further career. When Natalie is really concerned about her career as a lawyer, Theodora says to her. "Avoid ghetto work". Theodora straight away tells Natalie to avoid poor black clients if she wants to be called a successful lawyer. Thus Black no longer fights for poor blacks leading to hopelessness. Smith further writes about the change that takes place in Natalie in relation to the rich African heritage she has been bestowed upon naturally which she no longer considers her own. Smith writes, ' In Africa, presumably, the images that give shape and meaning to a life, and into whose dimensions the person pours themselves – the journey from son to chief, from daughter to protector- are drawn from the natural world and the collective imagination of the people. (When Natalie Blake said 'In Africa' what she meant was 'at an earlier point in time'.) In that circumstance there would probably be something beautiful in the alignment between the one and the many. Pregnancy brought Natalie only more broken images from the great mass of cultural detritus she took in every day on the number of different devices, some hand-held, some not. To behave in accordance with these images bored her. To deviate from them filled her with old anxiety. She grew anxious that she was not anxious about the things you were meant to be anxious about." Natalie on the one hand does not want to relate with the images of the Africa and stops taking the cases of the black people but on the other hand when she sees on the different devices, the condition of the black people [images] she feels guilty and thus she gets addicted to smoking and drinking in spite of being pregnant. Her friend Leah has arranged for the young black women and she wishes that Natalie would speak to all of the black women but when Natalie comes to know that the hall she was going to speak in was on the sound side, she says ' I don't go South'. By this Natalie meant that she was not interested to speak for black women, who in are all the

descendants of slaves. Natalie Blake did not consider herself, the descendant of poor black slaves and rather looked at herself in the high social status. In the last part of the novel named Visitation, Michel discovers that Leah no longer desires to have the children with Michel. Natalie after realising that her marriage with the Franco will soon be finished comes to meet Leah. When they both see on the news that a man looking like Nathan might be involved in the murder, Natalie says to Leah that Nathan might actually be the murderer of Felix Cooper. They both decide to inform the police. Smith thus ends the novel with the fact that no matter how much the society and its way of discrimination change, it will never tolerate the crime.

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