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Nanny's Slave Narrative in Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God: A Black Feminist Reading

Parmis Tasharofi¹ and Shahram Afrougheh²

¹Faculty of Humanities, Department of English Language and Literature, ²Department of English, Arak Science and Research Branch, Islamic Azad University, Arak, Iran E-mail: ¹Parmis6485@yahoo.com>, ²<Sh_Afrougheh@yahoo.com>

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ABSTRACT Black women's literature is of significance for Black feminist literary criticism for its focus on women's experiences of racism-sexism. The intersection of racism and sexism doubly victimizes the African-American women especially the slaves as they try to break out of this two-fold oppression. While racism decreed Black women would be enslaved, it was sexism that determined the lot of women harsher. Nanny living in the slavery era was oppressed as a worker on her white master's plantation, raped victim and then as a mammy working for a white family. These three images of Nanny stands for her racist-sexist oppression while purporting to her archetypal slave narrative. Indeed, her narrative is that of the many Black slave women in history and of their plight.