

**ABSTRACT**

Langston Hughes's poems "I, Too", "The South", and "Let America Be America Again" describe the oppressions received by the black people. By using these poems, Hughes encouraged African Americans to be proud of who they are. They must not hate themselves because they received racial oppressions. To analyze the way Hughes encourage African American through these three poems, the writer uses the voice of color in African-American criticism by Delgado and Stefancic. The theory explained that the oppressed race is able to communicate about racial oppressions what white people did not feel about the oppression. The theory has a contradictory aspect with African-Americans Criticism's anti-essentialism, because people of colors were born with natural insight into oppressions which received by their race. However, the theory is not contradicting the anti-essentialism's philosophy; the enhanced ability to speak and write about race and racism due to their experience is socially acquired, not biologically. The aim of the study is to elaborate on how Hughes expressed the pride of being black in each poem. Later, this study analyze the voice of color in these three poems. The study finds the three poems have different figurative language in performing black pride: passionate, miserable, and upset. This study also finds Hughes perspectives towards racism experienced by African American is because of the slavery history African Americans had. Although African Americans received racism because of their history as slaves, Hughes encouraged African Americans to keep loving who they are and keep pursuing their rights and freedom as Americans.

**Keyword(s):** *black pride, equality, racial injustice, slavery, voice of color*