

Paul and Jemima in Elizabeth Alexander's "Race" and "Ladders" represent the life of African-Americans in 1900s. These two African-Americans are illustrated as the White's workers in purpose to support their financial needs. As the effect of mingling among the White, Paul and Jemima experience double consciousness in their life. In "Race", Paul's double consciousness is represented by living-in-stealth in purpose not to be classified as an African-American by the company where he works at. In "Ladders", Jemima's double consciousness is represented by her loyalty to the White and her dialect in speaking to the White. The theory that is used to analyze the poem is African-American Criticism related to Du Bois' criticism of double consciousness. In purpose to support the theory, the historical approach of America in 1930 and 1953 are also included this discussion. The result of this study will be divided into three discussions. The first one is discussing the illustration of poems. The second is discussing about the poems meaning conveyed. The last one is discussing about the portrayal of African-Americans through the characters Paul in "Race" and Jemima in "Ladders"

Keyword: African-American, double consciousness, the White.