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Racial Violence and Prejudice as Sites of Insecurity in William  
Faulkner's "Dry September" (1931)

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**Abstract**

This paper investigates the theme of racial violence and prejudice in William Faulkner's short story "Dry September" along with the narrative technique of multiple narrators. In the story, black-white relationships are in a constant straggle whereby blacks are badly mistreated and unjustly accused of crimes which they do not commit. Faulkner evokes this struggle through multiple voices in which each voice is in confrontation with another one, this leads us to hear different opinions and multiple truths. This multiplicity of voices contributes to what Mikhail Bakhtin called 'dialogism' and 'polyphony;' and in this context they help in further understanding the effects of rumors in generating violence and deteriorated racial relations in Faulkner's short story. Besides, with the help of the setting and the atmosphere, Faulkner reveals the way the tension unfolds. This paper concludes by showing that focusing more on the white community's attitudes rather than the black man's tragedy, the story critiques the manner in which the Southern behavior and white supremacy are constructed on a foundation of violence, injustice, wrong judgments, and intolerance. It becomes difficult for the blacks to live in an insecure and hostile society dominated by oppression, discrimination, and racism; therefore, Faulkner has demonstrated how the unresolved pain and violence of the past still haunts the present. In addition, Bakhtin's dialogism shows that Faulkner is a master of multiple voices and conflicting dialogue. The struggling views in the story indicate that the South is a place of tensions and racial problems when one group maintains its power over another one.

**Key words:** Racial Violence, Prejudice, William Faulkner, Dialogism, Polyphony.