

3. THE FACTORS AND THE WAYS OF THREE CHARACTERS UNTIE THE SLAVES IN HARRIET BEECHER STOWE'S *UNCLE TOM'S CABIN*

This chapter consists of three subchapters. Each subchapter discusses the factors and the ways each of the characters untying the slaves. I will apply the theory of characterization and conflict to analyze the factors and the ways of the characters untying the slaves. The characters that I choose from the novel are Eva, Augustine St Clare, and George Harris. Eva is the daughter of Augustine St Clare, who is a master of many servants in their home. They are slaves in the plantation. Meanwhile, George Harris is a man who has a white father and a black mother. He is a slave that works in a bagging factory and also in a plantation. Therefore, he wants to get a freedom for himself and his family.

3.1 The factors and the ways Eva unties the slaves

This part contains of the factors and the ways Eva unties the slaves. Since, she was a child and a good Christian, her factors and her ways also influenced by his character traits as a girl and a Christian.

3.1.1 The factors Eva unties the slaves

Eva is the daughter of Augustine St Clare, the heir of her father's plantation. Eva also has many slaves that become her servants in her house. There are outer and inner factors that become the reasons why Eva wants to untie the slaves. The outer factor is the factor that comes up from the outside condition of Eva, in this case, the miserable condition of the slaves. Meanwhile, the inner factors are the factors that come up from Eva herself, such as, her kind hearted and her Christian beliefs.

Eva's outer factor is the miserable condition of the slaves. Living among the slaves makes Eva able to see the sufferings of the slaves. The first example is the bad conditions of the slaves who are together with her on the boat and ready to be traded to their new master.

"I can't tell you; but, when I saw those poor creatures on the boat, you know, when you came up and I – some had lost their mothers, some their

husbands, and some mothers cried for their little children; and when I heard about poor Prue – oh, wasn't that dreadful!" (p. 394)

Eva wants to untie the slaves because the slaves suffer when the family is separated from each other, such as, the children from their parents, the husband from the wife and also how the mothers cry because they cannot feed their children. The condition on the boat is very horrible because the slaves are chained to each other and they cannot stay with their family.

The other example of the miserable condition of the slave is Dodo's condition. Dodo is a slave whom her cousin, Henrique, tortures on the day when Eva visits him.

"What's this, Dodo, you little lazy dog! You haven't rubbed my horse down this morning."

"Yes, mas'r," said Dodo, submissively; "he got that dust on his own self."

"You rascal, shut your mouth!" said Henrique, violently raising his riding-whip. "How dare you speak?"

"Mas'r Henrique!" he began.

"Henrique struck him across the face with his riding-whip and, seizing one of his arms, forced him on to his knees, and beat him till he was out of breath."

"...What's the matter, cousin? – you look sober."

"How could you be so cruel and wicked to poor Dodo?" said Eva (pp. 381-382).

The conversation above proves that Eva is not comfortable Henrique, her cousin, treats Dodo very badly. Eva feels sad about her cousin's attitude to the slave. Henrique whips him because his horse is still dirty and Dodo says that he has already cleaned the horse but the horse is dirty again when he brings it into the stable. Therefore, the examples above become the outer factor why Eva wants to untie the slaves.

The inner factor that makes Eva want to untie the slaves is because she is a kindhearted girl. The proof that she is kind is when Eva meets Tom on the boat in the journey to New Orleans. Eva knows that Tom is a bond slave. Eva thinks if her family buys Tom, Tom will not suffer again. Eva promises to Tom that he will

have good times and be happy. “My Papa can buy you,” said Eva, quickly; “and if he buys you, you will have good times. I mean to ask him to, this very day (p.

216).” Therefore, Eva asks her father to buy Tom

“Papa, do buy him! It’s no matter what you pay,” whispered Eva softly, getting up on a package, and putting her arm around her father’s neck.

“You have money enough, I know. I want him.”

“What for, pussy? Are you going to use him for a rattle-box, or a rocking-horse, or what?”

“I want to make him happy.”

“An original reason, certainly.” (pp. 219-220)

Eva’s desire to make the slave happy shows that she is a kind hearted girl. Eva wants her father buys Tom to share her happiness to Uncle Tom because she wants to untie the slave from his oppression.

Moreover, Eva knows that to live in slavery is very terrible. She feels that the slaves cannot feel the love of parents, whereas Eva has parents. Eva wants to share her love, care, and anything that she has if all of those can make the slaves become happier. Tom is one of the slaves that Eva meets on the boat, that is why, she wants her father to buy Tom so that he can be happier by living in their house and also will have good times. This event is an evidence of Eva’s kindness. It proofs that her kindness is her inner factor to untie the slave.

Another event that proves Eva’s kindness is when she helps Uncle Tom to write a letter to his family to let them know that he is well enough in St Clare’s house.

“I’m trying to write to my poor old woman, Miss Eva, and my little chil’en,” said Tom.... “but I’m feared I shan’t make it out.”

“What’s here?” said St Clare’s voice, coming in the door at this moment.

Tom and Eva both started.

“What’s here?” said St Clare, coming up and looking at the slate.

“Oh, it’s Tom’s letter. I’m helping him to write it,” said Eva; “isn’t it nice?” (p. 341)

Eva likes helping the slaves to be better; therefore she is enthusiastic to help Tom because she knows that this letter is very important. If this letter is sent to Tom's family, it will unify Tom's family, and will make Tom's family happy.

Besides her kind heart, the inner factor that makes Eva want to untie the slaves is her Christian belief. There are two points of her Christian beliefs that motivate Eva to untie the slaves. The first is to love each other and the second one is equality. 'Love each other' has a deeper meaning. It talks about accepting each other, respecting each other, sharing and helping each other.

The proof of this can be seen from the way Eva helps Dodo. Eva warns her cousin, Henrique, when he treats the slave badly.

"I don't want you to call me dear Eva, when you do so," said Eva

"You frighten him into deceiving, if you treat him so."

"Why, Eva, you've really taken such a fancy to Dodo, that I shall be jealous."

"But you beat him, and he didn't deserve it" (p. 382).

Eva knows that beating will not make Dodo become more obedient. Dodo will fight against Henrique as his master, if Henrique whips and humiliates him. 'He didn't deserve it' means Dodo is a human that God also loves and must not be treated badly. As a devout Christian, it hurts Eva's heart because whipping and beating are very contradictive with the law of love. Therefore, Eva's Christian belief to love everyone is her inner factor that motivates her to untie the slaves. She also tells Henrique to love Dodo.

"Love Dodo! Why, Eva, you wouldn't have me! I may like him well enough; but you don't love your servants."

"I do, indeed."

"How odd!"

"Don't the Bible say we must love everybody?"

"At any rate," she said, "dear cousin, do love poor Dodo, and be kind to him, for my sake!" (p. 389)

Loving each other is the basic principal of Christianity. Jesus died in the cross because He loves the world which is full of sinners. Eva learns how to love each other because she always reads her Bible and also attends the church every

Sunday. When Eva realizes that her cousin does not love the servant, she says that he must love the servant because the Bible says that he must love everybody. She always keeps her Christian belief of loving each other as her basic principle to untie the slaves.

Eva is a sickly weak girl but she knows that she must love the slaves. Therefore, when she is near to her death, she asks her father to gather all the slaves. She says to all the slaves, “I sent for you all, my dear friends,” said Eva, ‘because I love you. I love you all; and I have something to say to you, which I want you always to remember.....I am going to leave you. In a few more weeks, you will see me no more –“ (p. 412). Here Eva explicitly mentions that she loves all the slaves. This also proves that she is a devout Christian who wants to practice her belief in loving every one, even the slaves.

Equality as the manifestation of the Christian belief is the second factor that motivates Eva to untie the slaves. Equality is a state in which people have the same rights, advantages, opportunities with everyone. Eva believes that all people of every color are valuable. It is shown in Jesus’ life; He never treated different races differently. He loved everyone and treated every person equally. This is proven when Jesus was willing to socialize with a Samaritan woman, although at that time, the Jews did not make acquaintances with Samaritans, as stated in John 4. After reading her Bible, following Jesus’ example, Eva wants Topsy to know that Jesus loves her very much even though she is not white.

“Poor Topsy!” said Eva, “don’t you know that Jesus loves all alike? He is just as willing to love you as me. He loves you just as I do, only more, because he is better. He will help you to be good; and you can go to Heaven at last, and be an angel for ever, just as much as if you were white.” (p. 404)

In this case, Eva also tells Topsy about equality that Jesus did to people. Eva loves Topsy without considering her color or race. Eva understands about equality from her bible. That is why, equality as a manifestation of a Christian belief also becomes her inner factor to untie the slaves.

3.1.2 The ways Eva unties the slaves

Since Eva is a little girl, she cannot literally untie the slaves by her own doings. She needs the help of other people and in this case her own father. Meanwhile, she does not physically untie the slaves, but she tries to untie the slaves from the slavery of their mind. It is because the slaves are bound by their thinking that prevents them from thinking as free people. Therefore, the ways Eva unties the slaves are by giving them example from her own Christian life; teaching about Christianity; giving education, such as, teaching them reading and writing; and asking her father to give freedom to the slaves.

Her first way is by giving them example through her life how she puts God's love and God's forgiveness into actions. God's love and God's forgiveness can make the slaves know that they are worthy in God's eyes so that they can enjoy life and are not frightened by their surrounding.

"Oh Miss Eva, I've been a bad girl; but won't you give me one, too?"

"Yes, poor Topsy! to be sure, I will. There – every time you look at that, think that I love you, and wanted you to be a good girl! "

"Oh, Miss Eva, I is tryin!" said Topsy, earnestly; "but Lor, it's so hard to be good! pears like I an't used to it, no ways!"

"Jesus knows it, Topsy; he is sorry for you; he will help you" (p. 414).

Eva gives Topsy an example that she can forgive her and so can God. The idea that she can be a good girl and God will help her in her process of becoming a nice girl is the way Eva uses to untie the slave from her bad habit.

The second way is teaching the slaves about Christianity. The proof is she teaches Topsy not to steal anymore. "Poor Topsy, why need you steal?" "You're going to be taken good care of now." "I'm sure I'd rather give you anything of mine, than have you steal it" (p. 354). In this event, Eva wants to teach Topsy how to be a good child. Topsy never has an idea of being good. Her master in the past always blames her and whips her. Nobody educates her about how to act politely and to be an obedient child. Eva knows that stealing is a sin and a Christian must not steal. Therefore, Eva teaches Topsy that she must not steal anymore. When Topsy stops stealing, it means she is untied from her bad habit and becomes a better person.

Another proof that Eva teaches the slaves about Christianity is teaching them about the freedom in their eternal life. Eva teaches the slaves to know not only about God's love but also about freedom in their life if they trust in God.

"I want you to remember that there is a beautiful world, where Jesus is. I am going there, and you can go there; it is for you, as much as me. But, if you want go there, you must not live idle, careless, thoughtless lives; you must be Christians....If you want to be Christians, Jesus will help you.

You must pray to him; you must read--" (p. 412)

Eva teaches them not to be idle, careless and thoughtless. It means they must do everything to improve their lives, such as, helping and loving each other, doing everything seriously. Besides, Eva wants the servants to be Christians because there is freedom in their lives, given by Jesus, and one day they will be free together with Jesus in the eternal life.

The third way Eva unties the slaves is by taking more pay attention about the slaves' education such as reading and writing also give them life lessons.

"Mamma," she said, suddenly, to her mother, one day, "why don't we teach our servants to read?"

"What a question, child! People never do."

"Why don't they?" said Eva

"Because it is no use for them to read. It doesn't help them to work any better, and they are not made for anything else."

"But they ought to read the Bible, mamma, to learn God's will."

"Come, come, Eva; you are only a child! You don't know anything about these things," said Marie.

Eva stole away; but after that, she assiduously gave Mammy reading lessons. (pp. 378-379)

Eva wants the slaves to be able to read because she wants them to know God's will by reading the Bible. Her effort is by persuading her mother to allow her to give all the slaves good education. Her mother has an opinion that it is useless to teach them to read and write because she thinks that the servants will be forever servants. They do not need to read and write. But Eva is persistent so that she herself teaches the slaves to read. In line with Eva's desire to make the slaves

Christians, here she wants them to read the Bible by themselves so that they can become Christians. By becoming Christians, they will be freed from their old selves and can become new, spiritually free selves.

Finally, she also insists her father to give freedom to all the slaves. She knows that she does not have the right to do it because she is still under age. Therefore, she wants her father to give freedom to all of the slaves, especially those in her house.

“Poor old Prue’s child was all that she had; and yet she had to hear it crying, and she couldn’t help it! Papa, these poor creatures love their children as much as you do me. Oh, do something for them! There’s poor Mammy loves her children; I’ve seen her crying when she talked about them. And Tom loves his children; and it’s dreadful, papa, that such things are happening, all the time!”

“And promise me, dear father, that Tom shall have his freedom as soon as –“(p. 397)

Eva looks after every one of the slaves and she cannot keep silent with all of the bad things that might come to them. She wants the slaves to get their physical and spiritual freedom soon. The separating families can be unified again and their sufferings will end. Although she is still a child and thinks as a child, she knows that the slaves need warm love, as she does. Thus, through the analysis of Eva’s inner and outer factors to untie the slaves it is proved here that Eva has tried with all of her strength as a child to untie the slaves.

3.2 The factors and the ways Augustine St Clare unties the slaves

This part consists of the factors and the ways of Augustine St Clare untying the slaves. His character trait also influences his factors and his ways to untie the slaves.

3.2.1 The factors Augustine St Clare unties the slaves

There are outer and inner factors that become the reasons why Augustine St Clare wants to untie the slaves. The outer factor of Augustine St Clare is the miserable condition of the slaves in his father’s plantations, in Vermont and Louisiana. As a man who lives in a farm; St Clare always sees the bad condition

of the slaves living there. This bad experience is horrible and distressing to a sensitive child like him.

“In many cases it is a gradual process on both sides – the owner growing crueler and crueler, and the servant more and more callous. Whipping and abuse are like laudanum, you have to double as the sensibilities decline. I saw this very early when I became an owner; and I resolved to begin, because I did not know when I should stop; and I resolved, at least, to protect my own moral nature.” (p. 356)

The cruelty of the masters to the slaves becomes a haunting memory so that from early time he has resolved to stop it and protect his conscience.

Another example of the masters’ cruelty is seen in this quotation: “I was tired of hearing her screaming and them beating and swearing at her,” said St Clare (p. 345). The sounds and voices of the child become the external factors of Augustine St Clare to untie the slaves.

“The everyday screams of a beaten little slave girl in a restaurant belongs to a couple of drunken people reminds him of his mission that he wants to give freedom to the slaves. He also sees when the child is whipped with a poker and knocked down with the shovel or tongs” (p. 355).

Therefore, it makes him want to untie Topsy, the slave girl and also becomes his inspiration to untie the other slaves and end this miserable condition.

The other outer factors are his mother’s Christian belief and also his daughter’s Bible. The first is the influence from his mother. His mother always reminds him that the kingdom of God will come and all men will be free and happy. It becomes his strongest motivation to untie the slaves, that is, giving the freedom and happiness for the slaves.

“My mother used to tell me of a millennium that was coming, when Christ should reign, and all men should be free and happy.” And she taught me, when I was a boy to pray, “Thy kingdom come”.

“But who may abide the day of His appearing?” (p. 335)

“I don’t know what makes me think of my mother so much, tonight,” he said. “I have a strange kind of feeling, as if she were near me. I keep

thinking of things she used to say. Strange, what brings these past things so vividly back to us, sometimes!” (p. 449)

Those two quotations about the memories of his mother show the deep influence he gets from his mother. The Christian teachings about the Kingdom of God and eternal life arouse his desire to speed its coming. He wants the Kingdom of God to come sooner because only in the Kingdom of God, the bond slaves can be free and happy. It makes him unable to stay doing nothing for the slaves. He thinks that the slaves’ life is very terrible and should be ended. He wants all the slaves to be free and happy in their real life. Therefore, the memories of his mother also become his outer factor to untie the slaves.

Besides the memories of his mother, the other outer factor that motivates him to untie the slaves is the messages in Eva’s bible. During her life, she gives him a bright example about how to be good to the slaves. He calls Eva an Evangelic child. After Eva is gone, he tries to know deeper about the factors that motivate Eva as a child to be good to the slaves. He is never serious about God but then he reads Eva’s Bible seriously and wholeheartedly. When he reads Matthew 25:41-45 in the Bible, he becomes afraid. It is because God will punish those who do not live righteously such as oppressing other people. Moreover, doing something bad to the oppressed people is the same as doing it to God.

The message from the Bible gives him a warning because as the one of the so-called good people, he thinks that his life is perfect and appropriate. But now he knows that he does not do his duty. He does not pay attention to the poor miserable people such as the slaves. The message does not let him feel peaceful until he decides to give freedom to the slaves especially to Uncle Tom. In short, Eva’s Bible influences St Clare to untie the slaves.

The inner factor that motivates him to untie the slaves is that he has a compassionate heart. He hates the ways his father keeps his horrible plantations by exploiting the slaves to get as much money as he can. He says, “I was a little fellow then, but I had the same love that I have now for all kinds of human things – a kind of passion for the study of humanity, come in what shape it would” (p. 326). His love for his family, friends, is the same as his love to the slaves.

“Well,’ said Miss Ophelia, ‘how came you to give up your plantation life?’”

“The fact was, it was, after all, the thing that I hated – the using these men and women, the perpetuation of all this ignorance, brutality and vice – just to make money for me!” (p. 333)

The reason why St Clare hates this condition is because he is compassionate and not money-oriented. He does not want to treat the slaves just to obtain money for his life. For him the people are more important than money. It proves that St Clare has a heart of compassion, even to the slaves in his father’s plantation.

Furthermore, his heart of compassion leads him also to have a mission to give freedom to the slaves.

“My duty, I hope to the poor and lowly, as fast as I find it out,” said St Clare, “beginning with my own servants, for whom I have yet done nothing; and, perhaps, at some future day, it may appear that I can do something for a whole class; something to save my country from the disgrace of that false position in which she now stands before all civilized nations” (p. 447).

His desire for his servants proves that unlike other white people’s mind, his mind is not all occupied with money, but with how to give the best for the poor people. Racism, oppression, and humiliation are what he calls as some disgraces that he wants the white people to remove from his country. In short, his compassionate heart is one of his inner factors to untie the slaves.

3.2.2 The ways Augustine St Clare unties the slaves

The ways St Clare unties the slaves are by giving them good education, care, and physical freedom. Similar to his child Eva, St Clare also wants to untie the slaves by freeing them from the cruel master and giving them a safe place to live in and also good education. First of all, St Clare gives good education to the slaves. That is why he buys Topsy, a little slave girl about eight or nine years of age. He always hears her screaming because she has been beaten and whipped by her master everyday. Actually a girl of her age needs a warm touch of being loved, being taught, and being guided by someone; therefore he wants to give

Topsy a comfortable place to grow up and good education that she never gets from her former master.

He thinks about giving good education to the slaves many times. He does not only want to set them free by giving the free papers. He wants the slaves also to know how to be better persons.

“How many merchants would take Adolph, if I wanted to make him clerk; or mechanics, if I wanted him taught a trade? If I wanted to put Jane and Rosa to a school, how many schools are there in the Northern States that would take them in?” (p. 448)

St Clare tries to help the slaves one by one. He wants all of them to become useful persons after they get their freedom. Therefore, educating the slaves is one of the ways that he does to untie the slaves.

The other way is by taking care of the slaves and giving them freedom. Here is his conversation with his wife when he tells the way he treats his father's slave.

“What in the world did you do to him?” said Marie.

“Well, it was quite a simple process. I took him to my own room, had a good bed made for him, dressed his wounds, and tended him myself, until he got fairly on his feet again. And, in process of time, I had free papers made out for him, and told him he might go where he liked” (p. 338).

St Clare does not only learn how to be good but he really does it with his action. When he takes the slave to his own room, it means he already becomes a caring person. Not only does he do that, but he also dresses his wounds. It proves that St Clare really cares and also humanizes the slave, and the evidence is the free papers he gives to him. By giving the papers, it means St Clare unties the slave. He gives back the slave his human right as a free man.

3.3 The factors and the ways George Harris unties himself and his family

This part consists of the factors and the ways of George Harris to get his freedom for himself and his family. Because he is a mulatto slave, so that is why, his factors and his ways will be different with the other master characters.

3.3.1 The factors of George Harris unties himself and his family

George Harris is different from the characters already discussed because he is a slave. That is why; he wants to get the freedom for himself and his family. There are outer factors and inner factor of George Harris untying the slaves. The first outer factor is the miserable condition of his family. George Harris is a bright and talented mulatto man. He is a child from a Negro mother and a white father. He works for his master in a bagging factory. His father is a Kentucky gentleman who does not prepare for his children and his wife so that when he dies, they are sold to the slave trader. While Harris is sold together with his mother, her other six children are sold one by one to different masters, and the traders do it in front of his mother. Later, the trader also buys his oldest sister. He hears a whipping to his sister and one day, his sister is chained and ready to be sent to a slave market in Orleans. This scene becomes one of his outer factors that push him to get his freedom for his family.

The other outer factor is the injustices he experiences when he works as a slave. The first example is the injustice and the bad condition in his factory. Because his master rejects his invention, he loses his job. When he invents a machine for the cleaning of the hemp, his master does not like him. Because in his master's mind, he is a slave and he thinks a slave never becomes a useful person. His master does not accept his invention because he thinks that a slave will use that machine to save himself from working hard.

“Dare say he may be; never was much adapted to anything that I set him about, I’ll be bound.”

“But only think of his inventing this machine, interposed one of the workmen, rather unluckily.”

“Oh, yes! A machine for saving work, is it? He’d invent that; I’ll be bound; let a nigger alone for that, any time. They are all labour-saving machines themselves, every one of ‘em. No, he shall tramp!” (pp. 28-29)

He develops the factory facility and makes a thing that can give a great contribution to the factory. However, his master rejects his invention and directly fires him. His master thinks that a slave is always selfish and decides that Harris cannot work in his factory anymore. This injustice he experiences from his master becomes one of his factors to untie slavery.

After that, he works in a plantation. Working in a plantation also makes him experience the master's injustice and cruelty. There are two examples of his master's cruelty. The first example is when his master's child reports to his father that Harris fights him.

"Oh, dear! What shall we do?" said Eliza, mournfully.

"It was only yesterday," said George, "as I was busy loading stones into a cart, that young Mas'r Tom stood there, slashing his whip so near the horse, that the creature was frightened. I asked him to stop, as pleasant as I could, he just kept right on. I begged him again, and then he turned on me, and began striking me. I held his hand, and then he screamed and kicked and ran to his father, and told him that I was fighting him; and he tied me to a tree, and cut switches for young master, and told him that he might whip me till he was tired; and he did do it! If I don't make him remember it, some time!" (pp. 34-35)

When Harris asks little Tom to stop frightening his horse, his young master blames him and reports to his father. That is why his master lets the young master whips him very hard. This cruelty and injustice become his factor to want to be free.

The other of his outer factor because of his master's cruelty is his master's throwing his dog into the pond and flogging him because he does not obey him.

"You know poor little Carlo, that you gave me," added George: "the creature has been about all the comfort that I've had. He has slept with me nights, and followed me around days, and kind o'looked at me as if he understood how I felt. Well, the other day I was just feeding him with a few old scraps I picked up by the kitchen door, and mas'r came along, and said I was feeding him up at his expense, and that he couldn't afford to

have every nigger keeping his dog, and ordered me to tie a stone to his neck, and throw him in the pond.”

“Oh, George, you didn’t do it!”

“Do it! – not I; but he did. Mas’r and Tom pelted the door drowning creature with stones. Poor thing! He looked at me so mournful, as if he wondered why I didn’t save him. I had to take a flogging because I wouldn’t do it myself. I don’t care; mas’r will find out that I’m one that whipping won’t tame. My day will come yet, if he don’t look out” (p. 35).

Carlo is his loveliest dog because his wife gives it to him so that he can have something to love. However, his master does not like if a slave feeds his pet. Therefore his master commands Harris to tie a stone to his dog and throw it in the pond. Harris does not want to do it because he knows that it will kill his dog and this dog is the only thing he has in the plantation. Then, his master punishes him with flogging because he does not obey him and also keep his action to throw away the dog into the pond. Obviously, this cruelty has made him want to untie the slaves.

The other outer factor is the injustices of the laws of the country. One of the law is the master can separate the slaves from their family. One day his master tells him that he must take Mina for his wife although he has Eliza as his wife. Based on the law of the country where he lives, the master is allowed to separate the husband from his wife. Eliza protests to her husband because they have already married.

“Why – but you were married to me, by the minister, as much as if you’d been a white man!” said Eliza simply.

“There is no law in this country for that; I can’t hold you for my wife, if he chooses to part us. That’s why I wish I’d never seen you –“(p. 36)

The injustice of the law that might separate him from his family becomes his outer factor to get freedom for himself and his family.

Furthermore, another injustice of the law of the country is that the masters can use the money from the slave trading for paying their debts. He knows that his child, Harry is sold because their master wants to pay their debts. It means that his

wife is going to be separated from her child. When Mr. Wilson asks him about his wife, he tells the detail.

“Where is your wife, George?”

“Gone, sir – gone, with her child in her arms, the Lord only knows where...”

“Is it possible! Astonishing! From such a kind family?”

“Kind families get in debt, and the laws of our country allow them to sell the child out of its mother bosom to pay its master’s debts,” said George bitterly (p. 168).

This injustice from the law of the country that scatters George Harris’s family makes George Harris want to find a way for him and his family so that they can become together and free.

His inner factors also become his reasons to untie himself and his family. The first reason is that his heart is full of bitterness and difficult to be reconciled.

“That’s easy to say for people that are sitting on their sofas, and riding in their carriages; but let ’em be where I am, I guess it would come some harder. I wish I could be good but my heart burns, and can’t be reconciled, anyhow.” (p. 35)

Harris thinks he cannot trust in God anymore because whenever he tries to do it, it always becomes harder and harder. He has tried to be good but it does not work. Furthermore, his heart full of bitterness because there is nobody loves him. His heart has been hurt for a long time and it is difficult to reconcile his bitterness. Therefore, his bitterness has become his defense to get his freedom in his own ways.

His other inner factor is the loneliness that he will suffer when he is separated from his family. He has ever experienced this when he was a child and now he is afraid to be alone and lonely once more.

“Well, I grew up – long years and years – no father, no mother, no sister, not a living soul that cared for me than a dog: nothing but whipping, scolding, starving. Why, sir, I’ve been so hungry that I have been glad to take the bones they threw to their dogs; and yet, when I was a little fellow, and laid awake whole nights and cried, it wasn’t the hunger, it wasn’t the

whipping, I cried for. No, sir; it was for my mother and sisters – it was because I hadn't a friend to love me on earth. I never knew what peace or comfort was." (p. 167)

Harris wants to get his freedom and also his family because he does not want to lose his family and becomes lonely. He feels that scolding and whipping are not as hard as being separated from his parents and his wife and child. Therefore, he wants to untie his family so he can live together with his family and reach the peace and love he has desired all the rest of his life.

The other inner factor is that he is a persistent man. He will never change his decision to run away from the bondage place, as seen in this quotation: "A little walnut bark has made my yellow skin a genteel brown, and I've dyed my hair black; so you see I don't answer to the advertisement at all" (p. 162). He has made a plan to disguise himself so that the white people will not recognize him as a mulatto by changing his skin and hair colors. His friend, Mr. Wilson, actually has warned him of not taking the risks.

"You see, George, you know, now, I always have stood your friend; and whatever I've said, I've said for your good. Now here, it seems to me, you're running an awful risk. You can't hope to carry it out. If you're taken, it will be worse with you than ever; they'll only abuse you, half-kill you, and sell you down river."

"I'm ready for 'em!" (pp. 164-165)

Yet, Harris is ready to take the risks. There are many high risks; such as, his master will abuse him, half-kill him, and also sell him down river but Harris keeps on doing his plan. The quotation above proves that Harris is a persistent man and this becomes his inner factor to get freedom by running away from his country.

The last of his internal factor is his rebellions against the ideas of his wife that he must be patient, obey his master, and trust in God. On the other hand, Harris thinks that he cannot be patient if he wants to get freedom for himself and especially for his family.

“Oh, now, dear George, that is really wicked! I know how you feel about losing your place in the factory, and you have a hard master; but pray be patient, and perhaps something –“

“Patient!” said he, interrupting her; “haven’t I been patient? Did I say a word when he came and took me away, for no earthly reason, from the place where everybody was kind to me? I’d paid him truly every cent of my earnings; and they all say I worked well.”

“I have been careful, and I have been patient, but it’s growing worse and worse – flesh blood can’t bear it any longer.” (pp. 32-33)

Harris rejects the idea to be patient because he has tried to be patient but it does not help him to get a better condition. He thinks that if he only becomes patient, the condition will not change. The condition always becomes worse and worse. His master is still cruel to him. So he rejects his wife’s idea.

The other reason is in his master’s point of view; which always thinks he is always wrong or makes mistakes. He wants to improve his ability in his works, but his master always underestimates him.

“I thought I could do my work well, and keep on quiet, and have some time to read and learn out of work hours; but the more he sees I can do, the more he loads on. He says that though I don’t say anything, he sees I’ve got the devil in me, and he means to bring it out; and one of these days it will come out in a way that he won’t like, or I’m mistaken!” (p. 33)

He wants to improve his ability by spending his time to read and his master adds the load of his works. His master thinks that a slave always has a devil in his heart. Therefore he burdens Harris with loads of work to let out the devil. However, this bad treatment backfires, since it only makes Harris desperately want to rebel.

His wife’s second idea is that he must obey his master as a Christian virtue. Harris refuses this idea because he thinks that his master always tortures him.

“Well”, said Eliza, mournfully, “I always thought that I must obey my master and mistress, or I couldn’t be a Christian.”

“But I have been kicked, and cuffed, and sworn at, and at the best only let alone; and what do I owe? I’ve paid for all my keeping hundred times over. I won’t bear it – no, I won’t!” he said, clenching his hand with a fierce frown.” (p. 34)

Eliza thinks that a Christian must obey his master or he cannot become a good Christian. On the other hand, Harris thinks that following the rules of his master only results in being kicked, cuffed, and experiencing many bad things but he does not get anything. For him it is enough to live under pressure. It means that he has endured it until he cannot bear them anymore. Instead of following Eliza’s idea, Harris rejects it. He does not become obedient, instead, he becomes rebellious. Therefore, I assume his wife’s idea has become his inner factor to untie slavery.

His wife’s last idea is that he must trust in God. However, he also rejects this idea because he thinks that God has let him suffer.

“What are you going to do? Oh, George, don’t do anything wicked; if you only trust in God, and try to do right, he’ll deliver you.”

“I an’t a Christian like you, Eliza; my heart’s full of bitterness; I can’t trust in God. Why does He let things be so?” (p. 35)

Eliza thinks that God will give him the way to get his freedom. On the other hand, Harris thinks that he cannot trust in God because God does not help him. So I see that ironically his conflicts with his wife’s ideas have made him more hateful toward the master so that he is determined to untie the slaves.

3.3.2 The way of George Harris untying himself and his family

The way Harris gets freedom for himself and his family is by running away from the South to the North Country. It means he is running away from the bondage place to the free place.

“So, Eliza, my girl,” said the husband, mournfully, “bear up, now; and goodbye; for I’m going.”

“Going, George! – going where?”

“To Canada, said he, straightening himself up; “and when I’m there, I’ll buy you – that’s all the hope that’s left us. You have a kind master that won’t refuse to sell you. I’ll buy you and the boy – God helping me, I will!”

“Oh, dreadful! – if you should be taken?”

“I won’t be taken, Eliza – I’ll die first! I’ll be free, or I’ll die!” (p. 37)

George is sure that running away from the South will free himself and his family. Canada is the North America where there is no slavery. George’s reason to run away from the plantation to Canada is that later he can buy Eliza and his child Harry.

He understands the dangerous risks he takes but he wants to save his wife and his child. He gives his friend, Mr. Wilson a message for his wife that Harris loves her and he wants her to bring up his child to be a free man.

“I shall be kicked out and buried like a dog, and nobody’ll think of it a day after – only my poor wife? Poor soul! She’ll mourn and grieve; and if you’d only contrive, Mr. Wilson, to send this little pin to her. She gave it to me for a Christmas present, poor child! Give it to her, and tell her I loved her to the last. “Tell her one thing,” said George; “it’s my last wish, if she can get to Canada, to go there. No matter how kind her mistress is – no matter how much she loves her home; beg her not to go back – for slavery always ends in misery. Tell her to bring up our boy a free man, and then he won’t suffer as I have. Tell her this, Mr. Wilson, will you?”

“Yes, George, I’ll tell her; but I trust you won’t die. Take heart, you’re a brave fellow” (pp. 171-172).

Harris hopes that Eliza and Harry, his child can get their freedom and they will live together again because both of them are the only family that he has and loves.

In short, after I analyze the three characters in this novel, I find out that they all have outer and inner factors and ways to untie the slaves. They may have different factors and different ways untying the slaves because they have different character traits. Nevertheless, I find out that they all in some ways have been successful in untying the slaves.