

## Speech of Obama's "Dream From My Father"

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### Abstract

This powerfully moving memoir was published by Barack Obama nine years before he ran for Senate and thirteen years before he ran for president of the United States. When it was reissued in 2004, it became a #1 New York Times bestseller. Obama's struggle to comprehend the forces that shaped him as the son of a black African father and a white American mother is the subject of *Dreams from My Father*. This struggle takes him from the heartland of the United States to the ancestral home of his great-aunt in the tiny African village of Alego.

**Key words:** *Dreams from My Father*, Obama's speech

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### INTRODUCTION

Obama opens his story in New York, where he hears that his father a figure he knows more as a myth than as a man has died in a car accident (K. Sari & Pranoto, 2021). The news triggers a chain of memories as Barack retraces his family's unusual history (Suprayogi, Puspita, et al., 2021), (Nindyarini Wirawan, 2018), the migration of his mother's family from small-town Kansas to the Hawaiian islands (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020a); the love that develops between his mother and a promising young Kenyan student (Kuswoyo & Siregar, 2019), (Gulö & Nainggolan, 2021), a love nurtured by youthful innocence and the integrationist spirit of the early sixties (Istiani & Puspita, 2020); his father's departure from Hawaii when Barack was two, as the realities of race and power reassert themselves (Pranoto, 2021), (Suprayogi, Samanik, Novanti, et al., 2021); and Barack's own awakening to the fears and doubts that exist not just between the larger black and white worlds but within himself (Nababan & Nurmaily, 2021), (Yulianti & Sulistyawati, 2021).

Propelled by a desire to understand both the forces that shaped him and his father's legacy, Barack moves to Chicago to work as a community organizer (Mertania & Amelia, 2020). There, against the backdrop of tumultuous political and racial conflict, he works to turn back the mounting despair of the inner city (Al Falaq et al., 2021). His story becomes one with those of the people he works with as he learns about the value of community (Nurmalasari & Samanik, 2018), (Kuswoyo et al., 2021), the necessity of healing old wounds, and the possibility of faith in the midst of adversity (Pranoto & Suprayogi, 2020). Barack's journey comes full circle in Kenya, where he finally meets the African side of his family and confronts the bitter truth of his father's life (Kardiansyah & Salam, 2020b). Traveling through a country racked by brutal poverty and tribal conflict, but whose people are sustained by a spirit of endurance and hope, Barack discovers that he is inescapably bound to brothers and sisters living an ocean away and that by embracing their common struggles he can finally reconcile his divided inheritance (Fadilah & Kuswoyo, 2021), (Afrianto & Gulö, 2019). A searching meditation on the meaning of identity in America, *Dreams from My Father* might be the most revealing portrait we have of a major American leader a man who is playing the nation's most prominent role in healing a fractious and fragmented world (Iriawan & Fithriasari, 2018).

From the theoretical point of view of "new historicism," the autobiographical memoir of Barack Obama is the subject of this research paper. The paper begins with a brief introduction to *Dreams from My Father*, connecting it to the research topic "History from Below" and locating the book's context (Amelia & Daud, 2020). The study then tries to determine whether Obama's experiences of racial prejudice are comparable to those of his father and forefathers and whether they can be included in the collective experience of marginalized people. The paper makes sense of how Obama's self-portrayal gets significance as a component of the bigger African American community's story in white ruled society that overwhelms dark individuals' set of experiences and its racial past (Suprayogi & Pranoto, 2020). The author's motivation for recalling his racial past in the memoir is actually an attempt to learn more about his family's history and the roots of racial prejudice in America.

## LITERATURE REVIEW

This research paper examines Obama's 1995 autobiography *Dreams from My Father*, which is a story about race and inheritance. Through narratives, Obama celebrates his autobiography (Suprayogi & Eko, 2020). The neglected history of ordinary Africans is brought to light and unearthed in the novel. It will in general understand antiquarians "history without individuals". *History from Below* asks why the so-called most educated, socially affluent, and civilized Americans protect human rights as guaranteed by the Constitution but fail to address the real problems of racism (Kuswanto et al., 2020), (Suprayogi, Samanik, & Chaniago, 2021). This study asks, "Why is it unable to address the proper history, which is history from below itself?" as its central question. In order to uncover the actual history of black oppression, which is a history from below, and his ongoing resistance against racism, Obama reports the realities of his past struggles, turmoil, experiences of oppression, exclusion (Handayani & Aminatun, 2020), and lack of origin, including his father's similar experiences of racism (F. M. Sari & Wahyudin, 2019), (Yudha & Mandasari, 2021). His collection in narrative form accurately depicts the social and cultural context of the time, when racial discrimination was widespread in the United States (Fithratullah, 2019), (Sartika & Pranoto, 2021). We are able to observe, through the narrative of the narrator's life, how, despite being half-white, his exclusion in a society dominated by white people causes him to become confused about his own identity. Since marginalized people are the target of racial discrimination, everything appears normal from his presidential position (Asia & Samanik, 2018). The author's social position prevents him from comprehending the entire racial reality of society, which is why he supports racial discrimination (Suprayogi, 2019). Because he was also a commoner at the time he wrote this memoir, he uses his memories and childhood experiences to look at the history below from their point of view (Nuraziza et al., 2021), (Oktaviani & Mandasari, 2020). He later accepts his blackness as his identity, as the autobiography reveals, and his acceptance by writing *Dreams from My Father* makes him an even more authentic source for examining the history of common black people.

Kenya is where Barack Hussein Obama, a black writer, was born on August 4, 1961, in Honolulu, Hawaii. On November 4, 2008, he became the 44th president of the United States. He wrote two books: *Dreams From My Father* (1995) and *The Audacity of Hope* (2006). The hope that seeks to transcend identity crisis and racial discrimination as an African American is the subject of both books (Amelia, 2021). When *Dreams From My Father* was republished in 2004, it became a *New York Times* bestseller and was written by Barack Obama (Aminatun et al., 2021). As the first African American president, Barack

Obama won the election. After his speech at the Democratic National 3 Convention in Boston, *Dream from My Father* gains popularity. The book's immediate recognition can be largely attributed to President Barack Obama's position. Many academics, including Michael Gledhill, discuss the memoir from the perspective of Obama's successful life as a black man. The world's attention is drawn to his long struggle, from the oppressive racism atmosphere to his peak as president. During its most recent years of publication, the book was simply viewed as a personal success story (Qodriani & Wijana, 2020). However, little research has been done into Obama's gradual discovery of the causes of the pervasive racism that has existed for generations. Also, very little is said about how Obama's backward narrative about his father and grandfather will help him find the long-lost root of black history that can help him find his own original identity (Qodriani, 2021), (Fakhrurozi & Adrian, 2020). The entire memoir is about his quest to unravel the mystery of his father, whom he had never known (Oktavia & Suprayogi, 2021). His conscious efforts to symbolically identify the entire myth of his black history mark his return to Kenya from America, his home country, to learn the truth about his father and ancestors.

## **METHOD**

The writers utilized library research techniques and subjective depiction. This study utilized a subjective methodology zeroing in on story understanding, portrayal, and examination. Subjective means examination dependent principally upon a constructivist viewpoint with respect to a singular's encounter that has been by and large or socially built. The information hotspot for this study was a speech of Obama's "Dream From My Father". Information assortment strategies were performed by exploring or perusing sources in books, the web, as well as in past exploration reports, and others. Most understudies can find their assets in the library, information on the main libraries, experience with the chapter by chapter guide and other reference works, about complex is surely a fundamental apparatus for pretty much every understudy of writing. The information examination procedure utilized in this study is clear investigation. To help this information, the specialists looked for important information from different sources. Information investigation is the methodical course of considering and orchestrating information from meetings, perceptions, and records by coordinating the information and concluding what is significant and which should be contemplated. also, make determinations that are straightforward.

## **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

In the same way that black history is identified, my research tries to analyze this book using a theoretical idea of history from below derived from new historicism, which tries to look at historical events through the eyes of people. The history from below, which is a component of new historicism, contributes to the investigation of how literary works utilize the perspective of ordinary people. The theory of New Historicism places literature in a broader historical context, looking at both how the writer's time influenced the work and how it reflects the writer's time. In the same context, my paper tries to investigate the claim that Obama's narrative in *Dream from My Father* represents marginal voice because it is written from Obama's pre-presidential perspective, when he was also a common citizen who was subjected to racial prejudice in the United States.

Another major draw is the idea of culture as text: It significantly broadens the range of objects that can be read and understood. Significant show-stoppers remain halfway

significant, yet they are jarred now by a variety of different texts also, pictures. A portion of these elective objects of consideration are scholarly works viewed as excessively minor to merit supported interest and thus underestimated or rejected altogether from the ordinance. In discussing Obama's autobiography, it attempts to document and investigate the cultural context of slavery and black identity in the racial and reveal marginalized people's racial suffering. This means that Obama's narrative is a written representation of the abstract racial culture of the time. Even though it wasn't very popular when it first came out, the book gained a lot of popularity when the author became president of the United States. Because the author of *Dreams From My Father* projects time and experiences when he was a common man, and the majority of his narratives deal with the suffering and plight of being a common man, history from below is a core subject of this autobiographical work. It examines without bias a wide range of people and topics while adhering to contemporary historicism. It particularly "includes the voice of ordinary, voiceless, marginalized, oppressed, subaltern, and common man, local history, forgotten people history" (2) of any society, nation, or literary work. Writer Sabyasachi Bhattachary refers to Rodolfo Stavenhage's history from 5 below as "de-elitization" of social science as part of the process of intellectual decolonization in his journal. *Dreams from My Father* also supports the idea of de-elitization because it advocates African American people who are from below, common, and marginalized (Representation 239). The term "slavery from the slave's point of view" (8) is also proposed by James Barrett for the history of the common man because the author of this memoir is an African American man who has lived his own life. This memoir plays a crucial role in highlighting the difficult history of African Americans because Obama was a common man before becoming president. The author uses the same old perspective when he was a member of the grassroots black population, as opposed to using it after he changed his social status. Every personal instance of racial suffering that is discussed in the book is reminiscent of experiences that black people who are of the same race have gone through.

As indicated by Michel Foucault "Talk isn't just that which deciphers battles or frameworks of control, yet is the thing for which and by which there is battle, talk is the power which is to be seized". In the case of this book, Obama's racial discourse only gained traction once he became president of the United States. His speech has a lot of value among people ever since he gained power. The narrative of Obama's book, "*Dreams from My Father*," which follows a son's search for his father's inheritance and his own racial identity throughout the entirety of the novel, perfectly conveys the historical perspective. The memoir's multiple perspectives are further emphasized by the subtitles. It depicts the racial history of Obama's Kenyan father, who leaves his family and children behind. Through the text, Obama seeks his past life, family history, and father's history his father was one of the marginalized and 6 suppressed black people in a white-dominated society which is the history of black people. Throughout the book, Obama's narrative contributes to showing the contemporary picture of black people's lifestyle and their struggle to survive in a society dominated by white people. His act of discovering his original identity and racial heritage gives him ample ground to investigate the history of common black people. There are three sections in the book. The first section, titled "Origins," is a meaningful account of his ambiguous identity, including his upbringing in a world where he is defined by his blackness and raised by the white side of his family and with a distant African father, white mother, and maternal grandparents. The story of American society can be found in the book's second section, "Chicago". He writes about how poor people struggle in life and how humanity is part of a single moral community.

He also talks about the Islamic nation and how important religion is to black people. In the final section, titled "Kenya," he describes how visiting his father's side of the family helped him realize his own racial identity.

Obama tries to keep the connection between his racial life story, his current status, and his family's past heritage in the book's introduction. He describes the narrative as an autobiography, memoir, and family history in his own words. He believes that his book is more than just a retelling of his family's history. Rather, it is a deeper exploration of his identity as a black American and an illustration of his family's struggle within racial society. Obama proceeds: As a result, what started out as a more private effort on my part to comprehend this struggle and figure out where I fit in it has become entwined with a larger public debate, one in which I am professionally involved and one that will shape our lives and the lives of our children for many years to come. All of this has policy 7 repercussions, which are the subject of another book. Let me conclude on a more private note instead. The majority of the characters in this book continue to be a part of my life, albeit in varying degrees due to factors like work, children, location, and fate.prefacexi) This portion of the preface to *Dreams from My Father* emphasizes the author's awareness of the country's and people's circumstances. This line indicates that he has not forgotten the roots of his origin and that the historical experiences from his previous life continue to reverberate in his mind. He remembers how poor the area where his family was born was. These lines in the introduction establish Obama's credibility as a person with racial experience who understands the pain of other racial minorities. The author uses a number of narratives in *Dreams from my Father* to illustrate the struggle and racial history of his own family. He describes his grandfather as: In fact, because he was such a good farmer, he was respected. Alego was home to one of the largest compounds in the region. He could grow anything because he had such a green thumb. You have to understand that the British had taught him these methods.when he was a cook for them. I had no idea he was a cook. He had his land, but he worked as a cook for wazungu in Nairobi for a long time. He held positions of considerable authority. He was the British army's captain during World War II.370) The preceding excerpt makes it abundantly clear that the book is not merely the story of a single black boy who went on to become president; rather, it is the story of a boy whose grandfather worked as a cook and servant for the British. Despite the fact that his grandfather was never a slave to a white person, he ties his family history to slavery.

## CONCLUSION

The fact that shows a lot of tendency of makes it furthermore proof 8 individuals of color for their territory. They commit it for patriotism which is covered up history of America that Obama needs to appear through his diary. Obama's memoir also aims to institutionalize the marginalized black people's history, which has always been told from the perspective of the mainstream. If the same history had been told by a humble author, it would not have gained much credibility. However, Obama represents the history as an academic, and when he became president, this book and its content gained social acceptance and became the true history of black people.Foucault's concept of power and reality production applies here. He composes: We must stop describing the effects of power in negative terms forever:it 'prohibits', it 'quells', it 'controls', it 'abstracts', it 'veils', it 'hides'. Indeed, power results in; It brings about reality;It creates object domains and truth-telling rituals. This production includes both the individual and the information that can be gained about him. Foucault, 194) According to Foucault, power can also be used to

uncover buried histories instead of suppressing them. The prior historiographer utilized their white power and strength to cover the dim history of bigotry in America. And now that he still holds the same amount of power, Obama is attempting to uncover the buried past from the perspective of marginalized people who do not have access to power. His narration serves as a powerful voice that speaks loudly about the racial experiences of marginalized and powerless commoners.

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