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## REVIEWER'S REPORT

**Manuscript No.: IJAR-57935**

**Title: Power Reversal in Sweat by Zora Neale Hurston.**

**Recommendation:**

- Accept as it is .....
- Accept after minor revision.....
- Accept after major revision .....
- Do not accept (*Reasons below*) .....

Rating	Excel.	Good	Fair	Poor
Originality	...			
Techn. Quality	...			
Clarity		...		
Significance	...			

**Reviewer's ID: JPR- 180**

### *Detailed Reviewer's Report*

The paper "*Power Reversal in Sweat by Zora Neale Hurston*" presents an insightful feminist reading of Zora Neale Hurston's short story *Sweat*. The study focuses on the themes of patriarchy, oppression, female resistance, and the emergence of the "New Woman" through the character of Delia. By examining Delia's transformation from an abused and submissive wife into an independent and self-aware woman, the paper effectively highlights Hurston's critique of gender inequality and male domination in early twentieth-century society. One of the key strengths of the paper is its clear contextualization of women's oppression within patriarchal structures. The author draws attention to the historical marginalization of women and connects Delia's experiences to broader feminist concerns. The discussion of Delia's role as a hardworking washerwoman and primary breadwinner effectively challenges traditional gender expectations, demonstrating how economic contribution does not necessarily translate into social power or respect within a patriarchal marriage. The paper provides a compelling analysis of the abusive relationship between Delia and Sykes. By examining Sykes's physical, emotional, and financial exploitation of Delia, the study reveals the extent of patriarchal control exercised over women. The discussion of the rattlesnake as a tool of intimidation is particularly effective, illustrating Sykes's cruelty and his perception of Delia as powerless and voiceless.

Another notable contribution of the paper is its interpretation of Delia as the embodiment of the "New Woman." The author argues that Delia's refusal to save Sykes after he is bitten by the snake symbolizes resistance rather than revenge. This transformation from submission to self-realization is convincingly presented as a reversal of power, where Delia finally frees herself from years of oppression and emotional dependence. The symbolism of the rattlesnake is also well explored. The paper effectively demonstrates how the snake, initially introduced as a symbol of male dominance and terror, ultimately becomes an instrument of poetic justice. Through this symbolic reversal, Hurston dismantles patriarchal authority and emphasizes female empowerment and individuality.

However, the paper could be strengthened through deeper engagement with feminist literary theories and more extensive textual analysis. While the arguments are relevant and coherent, the discussion tends to be descriptive at times. Incorporating additional scholarly perspectives on feminism, race, and gender dynamics in Hurston's works would enhance the analytical depth and academic rigor of the study.

Overall, this paper offers a concise and well-structured analysis of power reversal in *Sweat*. It successfully demonstrates how Hurston portrays Delia's journey from victimhood to empowerment, thereby challenging patriarchal norms and celebrating female resilience. The study contributes meaningfully to feminist interpretations of the story and underscores the enduring relevance of Hurston's exploration of gender, power, and resistance.