

RACISM IN TONI MORRISON'S FICTIONAL WORLD SPECIAL REFERENCE TO THE BLUEST EYE AND GOD HELP THE CHILD.

Sadhana K. Patil Research Scholar, English. SRTMU Nanded. Dr. Varsha Suryawanshi

Research Supervisor, (English) Sharada Mahavidyalaya, Parbhani.



Abstract: Racial hatred, slavery, and ridicule are the main causes of misery in the lives of African Americans. The racial order destroys the confidence and self-confidence of the African American person in the United States. Morrison's novels are all about the problems of the human race and the tragedy of African Americans. At the very root of every novel written by Toni Morrison is a penetrating scene of a very heartbreaking conundrum that bothers people of all races. That is why she is known as one of the most important American writers for African Americans in the contemporary world. That is why man has drawn the attention of the readers from all her novels from *The Bluest Eye* (1970) to *God Help The Child* (2015), the injustice done to the people.

Keywords: Racism, color, slavery, oppression, exploitation. Toni Morrison is one of the foremost Afro-American voices. Morrison's ancestors were slaves and she herself has been the victim of racial discrimination. Morrison's writing is based on personal experience and observation. In her novels, she highlights the problems and issues of black Americans. Morrison not only describes the treatment of these people in the past, but also the oppression of the people in time. It also exposes the struggle and fighting spirit against the exploitative tendencies of white society. Morrison illustrates her struggle to recreate herself in her own words with a new interpretation of American history. Those who faced damages caused by blackness and someone with blackness prefers her writing, racial hatred is a kind of prejudice that is deeply ingrained in the minds of white people and cannot be easily cured.

"I don't want to speak for Black People, I want to speak to, and to be among them.....it's us. So the first thing I had to do was to eliminate the white gaze". (The Documentary Film: Toni Morrison: The Pieces I Am)

Through her research paper, a meek trial has been made on how Toni Morrison seeks to illustrate how African Americans in the United States cope with racial hatred. The hegemonic culture of American individuals and

communities living ethnically can lead to racial inequality as well as dissatisfaction and historical racial inequality. This research paper seeks to explore the various causes that plague African Americans who live their lives as slaves and discuss how their communities have rejected human rule and their development, as well as their migration from one place to another. They can't live without paying for their lives. Racism is a code of the social system and its consequences are studied from a sociological point of view because it not only defines rights and duties but also makes them aware of their responsibilities. In her writings, Toni Morrison portrays the experiences of all American writers, as well as the futility of racism in this society over time. Toni Morrison's works seem even more impressive because of the white people's experience of sticks in America and their multifaceted approach.

Toni Morrison's novels show that her creative vision not only reflects American social reality but also helps to transform it by shedding light on the current multifaceted nature of contemporary society. Her novels encourage American society to think long and hard about their future to help to change the way black and white Americans look at each other. Through her writings, Morrison studies black and white psychology in detail, how to survive in their home and married life, and how to help to save their children from the clutches of cruelty. That is why Toni Morrison's writings encourage a comprehensive and critical study of mental analysis in this imaginary society. Toni Morrison has tried to condition on various levels to style and portray the existence of characters drawn in the fictional world of her novels. It also demonstrates life in a social and cultural framework by focusing on their actions. Morrison has tried to present her experiences by describing time in her writings, which is why her writing is deeply rooted in this cultural tradition. African American people have always been considered second class citizens and have always been considered neglected. Morrison expresses her grief at being black herself and rebels against the other author's view on



women's experiences and the dominance of domestic parenting. She also portrays the woman's patriarchal experiences in the United States.

Morrison's work underscores racial discrimination and its negative and dire consequences, and explains how African Americans can build a new society through divisive power and determination. Toni Morrison's writing is based on her real-life experiences in the African American sub-continent, as well as her own childhood experiences and observations. Her novels provide insights into the plight of people like her. From the first novel to the last novel, it is clear that this is an attempt to break the deadlock of these people in America. She reaffirmed the unjustified rights of the people of her community to address racism and ethnic issues. Among many authors, Morrison has attracted the attention of everyone, especially because of her writings, as she has dealt with unwritten and neglected issues such as ethnic minority racism and slavery. That's why the main theme of Toni Morrison's novels is black American society and its identity. Morrison's novels explain how the traumatic experience of caste and racial domination have a negative effect on women.

Especially her first novel The Bluest Eye illustrates the racial and gender discrimination. In this novel she tries to focus how black women have to face double discrimination. In Afro-American culture in those days' women had to endure discrimination and oppression for being women and for being black. According to Toni Morrison this kind of discrimination has left these women traumatized. The narrator Claudia, of this novel The Bluest Eye presents the tragedy of the life of the heroine Pecola, of this novel. The protagonist Pecola of this novel wants blue eyes related to the quality of American beauty standards. Because of her grace, she is seen ugly and being neglected and oppressed by society. She thinks she will have blue eyes and be accepted by the American community with love and respect. At the end, Pecola's desire drives her crazy, thus she has become a victim of caste discrimination and male domination. According to her, the rape by her drunken father caused her many side effects. Is it because of her mistake that she was tortured? Is it because of her mistake that society hates her because of her grace? She believes that if she had beautiful blue eyes like white people, she would have been loved by her community and family and would not have been abused by her father.

"If she looked different, beautiful, maybe Cholly would be different, and Mrs. Breedlove too. Maybe they'd say, 'why, look at pretty-eyed Pecola. We mustn't do bad things in front of those pretty eyes' ". (*The Bluest Eye*)

In the novel, The Bluest Eye Toni Morrison sheds light on the shocking experience of one of these women. In this novel, Pocola's parents quarrel with each other. Both Pecola and her mother Pauline want to live in a white culture. They think white society should accept them. In white American culture, blue eyes, blonde hairs and white skin are symbols of beauty. But these are all false criteria of beauty and that is why it is frustrating to find blue eyes. And that's why she's frustrated when she's madly looking for the blue eyes. The false criteria of this racial norm does not give her a chance to grow freely. Her mother also considers whites superior and she loves blindly to her owner's daughter more than her own daughter. When Pecola goes to her mother's master's house and spills something and makes the white clean floor dirty, her mother shouts with anger at her daughter Pecola and scolds her. This is how Toni Morrison portrays how women have to endure discrimination on two levels, both as women and as black women in community and as well as in their own family.

The Eleventh novel by Toni Morrison, God Help The Child, is a masterpiece novel on racism. Toni Morrison described how a lady character frequently suffers from dilemmas as well as religious, social, historical and cultural issues. Toni Morrison has tried to present to the reader the recurring dilemma of the protagonist girl as well as the religious socio-historical and cultural parameters in different voices and characters. The novel begins with the birth of the main character Lula Bride. Her mother also hates her because she is black, and according to her mother Sweetness, Lula her daughter is, "Midnight black, Sudanese black". She also despised touching her daughter and unlike other mothers she did not even hug her daughter. According to Sweetness's husband Louis, he is very unlucky to have such a daughter like Lula Bride. He doesn't even love his daughter because of her dark skin and he blames his wife for being black and treats his daughter like an enemy. Lula's childhood is shamefully filled with hunger because her mother does not take care of her. Her abandonment by her parents makes it difficult for her to live in the community. Morrison thus portrays the central character of a very brave girl who struggles with a lost destiny and a lost identity.

The protagonists of her writings find a new way of life by overcoming all the differences of color, race and gender, and prove themselves in a world of injustice and partiality. Black women fight terrorism so they are



excluded from American society. They are considered inferior to men. They are not considered smart and capable of doing anything. Such prejudices can lead to strife in their family life also. They want the support of their family and the respect they need from them. Black women are also responsible for the oppression of white people because they consider themselves inferior and accept their oppression. According to Morrison blacks themselves have for some time been responsible for the oppression of white society, but also highlights the fact that society is innocent sometimes. It also becomes clear how black people make up their own minds to fall unconscious and fall victim to racial discrimination.

References:

- 1. Arya, Kavita. Balckhole in the Dust: The Novels of Toni Morrison. New Delhi: Adhyayan Publishers & Distributors, 2010.Print.
- 2. Bjork, Patrick Bryce. The Novels of Toni Morrison: The Search for Self and Place Within the Community. New York: Peter Lang Publishing, 1992. Print.
- Christain, Barbara. Community and Nature: The novels of Toni Morrison. Journal of Etenic Studies 7.4, pp.65-78.
- 3. Morrison, Toni. The Bluest Eye. 1970. New York: Penguin; New York: Plume, 1994. Print.
- 4. Morrison, Toni. Beloved. 1987. New York: Penguin; New York: Plume, 2005. Print.