

Exploring the Issues and Challenges Faced by Female Characters in Tony Morrison's select Novels

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Abstract

Toni Morrison is a well-known Afro-American writer. She has received many Awards and Prizes for her thought-provoking writings. Adding another feather to her cap, she also received the Nobel Prize for literature. Most of her novels touch upon the current theme of social issues like harassment, slavery, suppression, sexual violence and so on. In America, the literary group appreciated her for her portrayal of the true suffering and pathetic condition of women. Because of her truthfulness, many young readers and research scholars showed interest to read and review her novels. Even some academicians and research scholars deeply analyzed the issues and challenges faced by black people. Though plenty of critical analysis and research outcome are available on Toni Morrison, there are certain areas which still need to be explored for further discussion. Hence, this paper explores how the women folk faced harassment and violence by upper class in her two novels 'Beloved' and 'The Bluest Eye'.

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Tony Morrison, in her novel, beloved, vividly pectoris's the brutality exercised on the black people by the white. The black people are submissive for some time and revolted certain things. So, there are some incidents where the Negroes oppose as well as fight back in rough manners. However, the white people excessively exploited them in the form of beating, whipping and ruining the skin of the dark slaves. So, the black people faced not only the physical torments but also sexual torments silently. The ace exploited the female bodies who were working under them. Indeed, the viciousness which was imposed against the dark ladies was more noteworthy than that of exercised against the dark men.

Sethe, the protagonist of the novel *Beloved*, slew her own girl since she understood quite well that to be a lady in the hours of subjugation was a cardinal sin. She herself was exposed to this ruthless ambush. One day, she was held somewhere around two little youngsters, one held her down while the other stole her milk. Further, Ella, an ex-slave, was also kept in a room for long time, and was abused by the dad and the child for a few days. Infant Suggs, the relative of Sethe, needed to bargain herself so as to guarantee that her third conceived probably won't be unloaded away from her. Not simply that, even Sethe's own mother, as Nan advised her, alongside her shipmates, was continually taken up by the group.

Again, other than physical and sexual assault, the white bosses imposed passionate savagery on their dark slaves. This is the way, the black people in America were additionally mutilated both physically and mentally. The rich or upper-class people played with the inner most feelings of their black slaves. To start with, the negroes were slowly isolated from their lands, their clans, their way of life, their kin and their language and afterward whatever network they had. Therefore, the Canadian writer Margaret Atwood said that the slaves in America are treated as motherless and bastard.

Actually, this novel is known for picturisation of many true events. That is why this novel portrays varieties of true incidents which massively humiliated the Africans at their bottom level. For example, though Infant Suggs had eight youngsters, she was not permitted to keep anyone of them with her. The one who stayed with her for long time was her eighth kid, Halle. Meanwhile she recollects that her initial two infants, who were young girls, were sold away from her during their early stages. She was not allowed even to wave her hands at them. Therefore, in this story, apart from racial and intra racial viciousness, one could see the self-coordinated violence in the novel. For instance, *Cherished*, the resurrection of Sethe's dead girl, is baffled when Seth hovers more on Paul D than on her.

Further, the repeated savagery activities have paved a way for a numerous unpleasant consequences. As a result, the good families are shattered very badly and the children are taken away from the other siblings for something else. And what is the height of their issue is that even the kids are isolated from their mothers in their earliest stages. There are some spouses who are taken from their husbands for their sexual pleasures. For example, the character Stamp Paid whose spouse was taken up by the ace's child for his own pleasure.

In this story, among many strategies adopted by the upper-class male, the method of distancing or isolating resulted in brutality dispensed on the characters. For instance, when Sethe murders her own little girl, she is excluded by the region of the dark. She lives alone by disconnecting herself from others. Thus, when infant phantom gets enraged and brutal, it shows its fury by breaking the mirror and putting the impressions on the cake. The outcome of

this is Sethe's two children, Howard and Buglar, who are so scared that they flee from 124. Sethe and Denver are again left and deprived of human organization.

Here, infant Suggs is another lady, who experiences a massive transformation. So, Sethe is exposed to many physical and sexual harassment. Further, there are some characters in the novel who are against savagery, face some negative impacts, since it devastates their ability to feel. For example, Paul D is a man who has seen such a large amount of destruction in his life. He has seen his own sibling sold away, another hanged and executed, and a companion consumed and shot, another going distraught, etc., Furthermore, during his walking, he has seen more dead than alive Negroes.

The *Bluest Eye* (1970) is Tony Morrison's first novel. In this novel, she deliberately pictured the real life lived by the Afro-Americans during the 1940s. This doesn't imply that the life of Negroes in the USA was not liberated from torments and miseries. The white, the bosses, despite everything viewed themselves as bosses and still proceeded the way toward oppressing the black people. The *Bluest Eye* looks at the whole procedure of oppression and concealment of the dark by the white. For example, Cholly's wife, Pauline, encounters the racial discrimination and tortures while working for a white courtesan as a house-keeper. Plastered Cholly shows up there to request cash. At this, the maddened paramour takes steps to call police. Afterward, she tells Pauline to neglect her better half. She also denies Pauline her eleven dollars, which she owes to her. She is inflexible in her interest that until Pauline leaves her spouse, she won't get the cash. Subsequently, Pauline needs to leave the work, shattered. Along these lines, the white fancy woman perpetrates financial injury additionally on the black woman, Pauline Breedlove.

Some black characters in the novel are continually spooky by their own grotesqueness. They hunger for to be delightful. They long for acknowledgment and affirmation by the white, yet they fizzle since they are not organically white. For example, Pecola Breedlove, the focal character of the novel, implores much of the time to God consistently without disappointment for the blue eyes. She feels that she had blue eyes, things would have been unique. She would have been brought up by Sammy, her sibling, adored and perceived by her friends and her folks would not have squabbled before her. She is considered revolting by everybody she experiences.

Actually, *The Bluest Eye* tells the tale of Pecola Breedlove, who, loathing her dark self, longs for blue eyes in order to smother her situation as outcast, and give her the affection and security that are urgently absent from her life. So as to get the blue eyes, Pecola goes to Soap Head Church and is prepared to perform the ceremonies recommended by him. Pecola, however the whole Breedlove family believes itself to be terrible.

As the white people targets the dark community, so do the dark consequently. They execute brutality on the white, however in lesser degree. As has been referenced before, the Africans are prohibited from the more extensive culture. They don't claim power. Consequently, their response or reprisal isn't all the time express and open. That is why, very few negroes are delineated in the novel as responding viciously. Truth be told, a large number of them acknowledge their destiny quietly. Be that as it may, there are a couple of characters like Claudia and Frieda who display a soul to revolt. For instance, when Frieda and Pecola are behind the shrubs, and Rose Mary, a white young lady yells for Mrs. Mac Teer, grumbling against the young ladies. At this, Claudia gets irritated and scratches Rose Mary's nose. Thus, Claudia displays her soul of addressing against the guidelines set by the white when she is given the white child dolls as Christmas present. So as to see where lies the magnificence of the white child dolls, she dissects them. Moreover, Frieda passes on to Claudia that when Rose Mary disclosed to her that her dad would be brought to prison, she beat her hard. In this way, the black people also retaliated the white up to certain level.

Furthermore, The Bluest Eye, also exhibits the dark coordinating savagery on different blacks. It appears to be shocked that in a general public where the Negroes are as of now persecuted by the prevailing society, rather than helping one another. The Africans are seen harming their own brethren. As has been referenced before, the black people were blocked from the primary layer. They were powerless or on the other hand frail before the white who weakened or emasculated them figuratively. So, the dark could do nothing before the them. As a consequence, Cholly was subsequently crushed by two white men that he was unable to withstand against them since they were white, incredible and equipped whereas he was dark, appalling and poor. Therefore, the Africans convey such dissatisfaction and defenselessness' to home where they see the individuals from their family who remind them of their own darkness and of their own prohibition, defenselessness' and disappointment, which sprout in them a sentiment of self-hatred.

As far as the novel Beloved is concerned, one can affirm that it is a novel in which the theme of violence and brutality is portrayed in all its angles. It is not that only the white, the Europeans; the masters are portrayed as inflicting violence on the black. Even, the Negroes in their own turn redirect violence back on the masters. The scale of the novel is clear enough to present the white as inflicting injustice on the members of their own community. at the same time, a group of black people involved in atrocities and brutal activities on their own race. So, self-directed brutality is another form which gets manifested in the novel. To sum up, Tony Morrison through her novels The Bluest Eye and Beloved has succinctly pictures all the violence and brutal incidents faced by all Black peoples at the hands of the so-called Whites. Every African character in these stories exposes their sufferings caused by their owners mercilessly. So, these novels become a standing example of imperialism and how white characters impose torment and agony on the black race even today.

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