

## **The Violation of Ethnic Identity to the Black Women by White Community through the novels of Toni Morrison's (Paradise & Love)**

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**Abstract:** The Black women were sexually exploited by both the black & the white men , they confronted all sides of racial & sexual discrimination , they have no friends but only the liabilities & responsibilities . The study aimed at giving some certain information about the temporary American society . Paradise is an attempt to set a goal beyond the civil right movement & to discover the social , cultural & legal reform even , in Love , there is a trauma in the plot through the suffering of the women of the novel in the past , those women have previous experiences including poverty , racial oppression , sexual assault & enlarged identities . they were neglected & abandonment by their families .

**Keywords:** violation , racism , Sexual Discrimination

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### **I. INTRODUCTION**

Toni Morrison is a contemporary African American female writer . Between 1970 - 2015 , she was published eleven novels the first one "the Bluest Eye : 1970" & the last one "God help the child : 2015 " . She was in middle age when she was started writing novels. She was born on February ,18, 1931 & she was given the name of "Gloe Anthony Wofford " , born in Lorain in Ohio. She was graduated from Lorain public schools & entered Howard University , She got B.A . degree in 1953 , then after two years , she got M.A. in English from Cornell University . In 1967, she became a senior editor at Random House<sup>1</sup>. Her mother's name is Ramah (nee willis ) & her father's name is George Wofford . She got the Nobel prize in literature in 1993 , the National Endowment for the humanities , Us Federal Governments highest honor for achievement in the humanities , the National Book Foundation's Medal of Distinguished Contribution to American letters, even she got the pen / soul Bellow Award for achievement in American fiction .<sup>2</sup> Morrison's grandfather is a worker in a mine , he left the region of racism & poverty in Greenville in Bringham & established a family in Ohio , while her father came from Georgia's the racial state , she got a strong sense from her its own , As a consequence , this sense made her feel of her own worth & helped her writing about the American African community . She was dealt with black communities in Ohio , she discussed the black identity in her writing because no one can know the history of the literature in the United States without knowledge of the presence of the African Americans . The social issues that she mentioned in her writing are : the relationship between racism & the class exploitation , sexual liberation , imperial , hegemony , authority , values , folk & mythical legends , the distinction between good & evil & the sense of citizenship identity . She is treated with literature not as a beauty & imagination but also as a power full way in treating with social & political issues that concern with individual & community . Her writings are connected to the socio – cultural emotion & the deep emotional involvement requirements between the writer & the readers<sup>3</sup>. From her grandfather "George Wofford " & her grandmother "Ardellia Willis " Morrison inherited the love of ghost stories that became intimate with miraculous at an early age & till this days , she believes in the world of spirits .Her special interest in spiritual being is like a subversive symbolic trick in which the writer's creativity used it as a means of reviving memory & here the dialogue occurs between paralyzed characters with traumas to enhance the local community , even through fiction Morrison's novels

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<sup>1</sup>) Leroy Staggers , 1989 , the critical reception of Toni Morrison : 1970 to 1988 , pp: 1 - 2

<sup>2</sup>) from Wikipedia , the free encyclopedia .

<sup>3</sup>) Elza Fatima Dissenha Caste , 1999, Unspeakable (un) spoken the representation of black women in Toni Morrison's Beloved , pp: 9 - 11

intertwine in a regular mode with memory & saturated with past demons & fantasy desire on one hand besides remind people of their cultural heritage & show to them as it they were in a social connection . Indeed , Morrison was traumatized because of overlooking of the white community & she felt that she was as a foreigner in her homeland under the American patriarchal community . This marginalized situation made her write in linguistic heritage like other black women writers about the male white culture dominate the black society<sup>4</sup> . Morrison is a fictional character & literary critic , she has a role in partial revising the history of African Americans . In her novels , she discussed the main issues such as the trauma , slavery , racial prejudice that suffered by African Americans , the effects of this experience on cultural traditions , the sense of identity & the means that used by African Americans to maintain their history & culture .Morrison has used a strong historical & cultural base to write her novels , even she used her imagination to express literary tradition of the African Americans . She transformed strategies through the use of African American novelists , she used an unconventional listing techniques by collection between the vernacular symbolic poetry & modern language , Morrison used an innovative dialogue in writing , she gave voice to multiple characters who have created themselves in multiple settings of time & space . There are many elements that made Morrison's writing ideal as follows : the exodus & alienation , positive relationship between the author & the reader , the oral quality of the text voice & the quality music in writing , these elements continued together expand the imagination of the reader & make him contribute in the text & this is what Morrison's aims in her writing<sup>5</sup> . Morrison describes herself as a black novelist & all her novels from the *Bluest Eye* "1970 " to *God help the child* "2015" deal with African American characters , she focused on tradition as the other African American writers such as "Maya Angelou , Tode Code Bambara , Alice walker , Gloria Naylor , Zora Neale Hurston , & Paul Marshal " , they are writing as a part of a subversive strategy & artistic mode of self - expression . Her writings are fictional that treat the contemporary issues & problems which used the African Americans such as : racial discrimination , sexual , classical , cultural , religious "Bias" , slavery , freedom , equality , seeking for identity , retail , aspiration& frustration . Even , her novels are fabulous because it is directly influenced by African Americans folk tales & she believes that reality is ambiguous & that the truth is difficult to understand it . Morrison presented herself as a branch of an old tree to assert her blackness , self – identification & her ability to adopt the power of life & her creativity in the middle of oppression , eventually she has written about regional literature which is specific & universal but in the same time she has gotten published in all over the world<sup>6</sup>.Her father " George Wofford " spent his life in Georgia . When he was 15 years old he saw the white people killed two black businessmen . This accident left a trace in himself so he left racist state " Georgia " & settled in Lorain " Ohio " looking for securing gainful employment their . When Morrison was two years old , two of the landlord set a fire in her house for not paying the rent . She reads about famous authors such as Jane Austen & Leo Tolstoy . she became catholic & taking a nick name " Anthony " after Saint Anthony that led her nickname<sup>7</sup> . She is considered one of the best African American writers that has got more than 20 awards in literature . In 2012 , she received the presidential Medal of freedom from US resident Barack Obama for her worthy contributions as follows : 1 – National security & National interests of the United States of America . 2- World Peace 3 – Her cultural endeavors by expanding the reach of Americans to important resources in the humanities . 4- her struggle for the scale of the American society through the women who are the heroes of her novels , nevertheless ,she does not consider her self " feminist " & she refuses to be a feminist , taking in to consideration that she supported president" Barack Obama" in the 2008 presidential election<sup>8</sup>

## II. PARADISE : (1998)

Paradise is an attempt to set a goal beyond the Civil Right Movement even , discover the social , cultural & legal reform , hence ,the Critical Race Theory emerged & revealed the criminal acts of racism . It pointed out that all the discourses were racist including gender , classification & exaggeration .

The Critical Race Theory has been linked to the novel paradise by Morrison , taking in to consideration that their thoughts have been translated from global idea exceeded the race, the class, the nation & gender to more locally & mini- idea to be dominated<sup>9</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> )Wagna Lei , 2011 , the uncanny objet a in Toni Morrison's fiction , pp : 3 – 4

<sup>5</sup> )Veiva Bernatonyte – Azukiene , 2012 , traumatic experience in Toni Morrison's novels " Amercy " & "Jazz" pp: 71 – 72

<sup>6</sup> )Sayed Mujahid , 2015 , Toni Morrison : the Icon of African American literature , pp; 54 – 55

<sup>7</sup> ) From wikipedia , the free encyclopedia

<sup>8</sup> )Bc . Veonika Dostalova , 2015 , the feminity aspects in Toni Morrison's works , pp: 6 – 8

<sup>9</sup> ) Richard L . Schur , 2010, Locating paradise in the post – civil Right Era: Toni Morrison & Critical Race Theory , p: 276

Paradise draws a vitality picture of the women who lived in the convent at small town called "Ruby" in Oklahoma. The conflict are between these women & men who controlled the convent. The women who living in the convent are "Consolata, Grace, Mavis, Pallas, & Seneca". These women were lived under the control of a patriarchal society that restricted their freedom & choices<sup>10</sup>.

Mavis was suffered from her husband, she would not prevent her children from constant fear of her husband, so she escaped from her house & eventually she went to the convent in Ruby. The second character "Grace" who called herself "Gigi", she rejected a name that her mother had called her, she depends on a gaze approved to reduce herself from sexual courtship. While the third character "Seneca" was left by her mother as consequence, she cuts off her arms with sharp tools silently, in stead of. she takes the sense of her body using the physical sensation to replace emotional pain. Even, the fourth character "Pallas" She was eventually became (God), she was shocked by her mother because of committing adultery with her lover "the lover of Pallas".

The black women that I mention above are from different cultures & regions. But interestingly, they lived together down the roof of convent under the care of spiritual healer "Consolata" the woman who taught the oppressed women to exchange experiences & suffering with each other. Consolata "Dream loudly" do not encourage women to confront & organize the trauma only, furthermore, allowing them to perceive the similarities between their experiences & the other experiences. She taught them to transfer pain in to mutual understanding & care<sup>11</sup>.

The story of paradise "Utopia" began when the men of Ruby attack the women in the convent at the city, arrested & killed them. The convent is devoid from racism & ideal white society, they were found in this place because they were escaped from race, racial, sexual & social discrimination.

Those women have a house, but they do not have a Home, so the ideology of racial discrimination has reached to the convent "the promised city".

The novel began by shooting the white girl first, a question comes out to the surface "why shoot the white girl first? Perhaps, there may be not a white girl at the convent at all. The shooting means killing the human being who representing the white community through it's cultural practices & identity, here, they do not destroy the body but even, killing the human spirit & the body of convent's women became the fears of the people in Ruby "Oklahoma"<sup>12</sup>.

Paradise focuses on the importance of the females guidance & sisterhood, the healing of trauma & the injustice of African American women. The novel shows that the power of love among black women & their dependence on each others & through the discovering of the healing woman "Consolata". She has a magical ability to multiple Gods, reading the minds & raising the dead bodies. She was portrayed as a charming woman in the novel, look better in the dark. "she has the vision of bats"<sup>13</sup>.

**I conclude** that Paradise shows that this "promised land" is free from racial & sexual discrimination & may be not exist on the earth at all. Morrison departed "Utopia" although the title "Edenic" paradise, she used "the war" as the title of this novel, but it changed in to paradise by the editor of the magazine. As a whole, the line of the novel moved from cultural war, racial & sexual discrimination to the promised land "Utopia"<sup>14</sup>.

### **III. LOVE : (2003) :**

The one of the most important features of Love novel is betrayal of the characters between each of other, even, there is a trauma in the plot through the suffering of the women of the novel in the past, those women have previous experiences including poverty, racial oppression, sexual assault & entangled identities. They were neglected & abandonment by their families. These women adopted heterosexual as a means of dealing with trauma, abandonment & a path to gain power. They allowed the patriarchal society to become the main formation in shaping their identities. Even, the family standard are controlled by patriarchal society, so these women have failed to over the repression because their identities were connected to the roles that repress them, even they were exploited by Cosey through adhering the patriarchal standard & harming the three women "Heed, Christine & Junior". They were connected to individually to Bill Cosey as a triangle of sexual identity, consequently, they had problems of sexual & racial discrimination & class destruction to achieve self –

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<sup>10</sup>) Zanyar Kareem Abdul, 2014, the silence of women in Toni Morrison paradise, pp: 1277 – 1296

<sup>11</sup>) Zeng Na, 2015, the healing power in Toni Morrison Paradise, pp: 7 – 9

<sup>12</sup>) Richard L. Schur, 2010, Locating paradise in the post – civil Right Era, Toni Morrison & Critical Race Theory, pp: 277 – 296

<sup>13</sup>) Zeng Na, 2015, the healing power in Toni Morrison's paradise, pp: 6-7

<sup>14</sup>) Richard L. Schur, 2010, Locating paradise in the Post –Civil Right Era. Toni Morrison & Critical Race Theory, pp : 267 – 299

actualization<sup>15</sup>. Through the novel of Love Morrison pointed out to the impact of the Civil Right Movement that affected the life of the normal men & women of black society. The novel referred to the black community before & after the world war II. Morrison pointed out in an article (Rediscovering Black Community) "We have abandoned the past & a lot of facts we have relied on the west instead of the treatment of cancer of slavery & its real consequences & the novel of Love is the background of the affecting story of the complex network of relationship"<sup>16</sup>. One of the most important character in the novel is L who played a number of roles in the Cosey family. She is the cooker for Bill Cosey as well as a protector & peacemaker, even she worked as a narrator for Cosey's tragic life, she is an attentive observer of the family of Cosey, she is the key of the novel, an important element in the development of the plot, she is considered an ancestor that is an important feature in American African writing, they are not parents, they are a kind of immortal people & their relationship with the characters is useful experience, protection, but L in Love embodied protection, she narrates & prepares the missing link of the information & her duties such as the course in the Greek tragedy, she has the truth about Cosey family more than any other character<sup>17</sup>. Love is the eighth novel by Toni Morrison. It is the story of the slaves who settled in the city that was built by them. Bill Cosey is the owner of the hotel. He lived for complex women who have problems among them. Their names are "Heed, Christine & Junior" because of their inheritance. With Love, those women lost parental affection, they expect that Bill Cosey will compensate that tenderness, but they are disappointed. Morrison demonstrates the importance of global communication of human self – respect, even, the relations & human nature that transcend sex & race. Morrison looks for the survival of female characters as the themes free of parenthood, maternity & sexual identity because of the inability of families to bear their consequences. She declares the females characters seeking for love, "Heed & Christine" even, the theme of class is essential to sexual identity. Black women also deal with slavery to get a false sense of security. Furthermore, Morrison pointed the failure of the Civil Right Movement to give the black women the civil right to improve the life of African American women. The African American writer "Morrison" brought the terms of the dilemma which faced the black African American society in white America, through their fixed the facts on papers. Accordingly, the black society are suffering a psychological crisis & the crisis to conquer the black race, sex & class. As a matter of fact, every novel is a true story of painful reality. It reflects the injustice of racism & cultural conflicts which are the basis of the problem. Eventually, Morrison believes that political action & brotherhood for gender, solitary & class struggle against capitalism are the only solution to solve the problem of African American in America<sup>18</sup>. Taking in to consideration that the novel also pointed out there are African American men who did not treat their women fairly but, injustice & this negative treatment affected the lives of these innocent women who were victims of the patriarchal system where the psychological trauma suffered by their families & consequently they adopted the sex life to escape from the painful reality they lived in adolescence. It is the most difficult stage that on them. So, the escaping took place in the formative stage before the adolescence where the development of women's sexual psychology about their composition in the establishment of the family. In the light of this research & as we have mentioned above there is a connection between what we said & the actions of the novel & Morrison talks about real story narrates by the narrators. The three women "Heed, Christine & Junior" in the novel deprived from care & protection against racism & sexual discrimination which was not provided by the family establishment. Before the adolescence as the sexual psychology of the women develops, they became a mature women & create families, Furthermore, there is apparent false interest by the African American women in the class, they consider it as a central issue in the novel of Love. In other words, their love for sex reaches the stage of bondage to the other side "the men" to feel a false sense of security for all African American women, even, the theme of patriarchal system that dominated the lives of the African American women in the white America is to strengthen their sexual identity through their relationship with men, nevertheless, the reality shows the opposite, they are victims & restrictions & insult. Thus, sexual relationship with male sex is a false sense for African American women to reach their strength by relying on sex behavior & psychological development, for example, the story of Heed's marriage at the age of eleven with Bill Cosey for the exchange of psychological comfort & social advancement. Ironically, she explained that the marriage made her living better life, but in fact, she did not recognize that her marriage at the age of eleven led to the development of senses of hatred & malice with Cosey's new family because she belongs to lower class while her husband belong to high ones. Consequently, she explained that she married Bill Cosey to protect herself from class discrimination,

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<sup>15</sup>) Katharine Lynn Fulton, 2009, Female Sexuality in Toni Morrison's Love pp: 2-3

<sup>16</sup>) (Elizbieta Rokosz . Piejko, 2009, Toni Morrison's(Hi) storytelling- the use of history in Paradise, Love & a Mercy, pp:79 - 80

<sup>17</sup>) Wen – Ching Ho, 2006, I'll tell- The function & meaning of L in Toni Morrison's Love ,pp: 651 - 675

<sup>18</sup>) Dr . Pallavi Banerjee, 2014, The Bluest Eye to Love : Thematic & Structural Evolution in the Fiction of Toni Morrison . pp: 312 - 320

motherhood & fatherhood as well as financial need & opportunity to get good learning & go walking out side the house whenever she wants , eventually , sleeping in a real bed , On the other hand , she did not recognize that her marriage to Bill Cosey made her lose her innocence . Outwardly , she tries to raise her image in front of the black society , even , increasing her financial wealth & feeling that she was happy with her new belonging . Like wise , this dilemma made the second woman in the society "Christine " to create a conflict among the other women in the Cosey family &the past trauma to Christine made her feel that her friends abandoned her at the difficult circumstances by playing the roles of the two women there " Heed & Junior " . At the mean time , there are previous symbols in their families affected their new life as they were deprived from parenthood as follows : Heed , the first woman did not feel any contact with her family because her parents abandoned her to Bill Cosey owing to their poverty & could not afford to pay the daily expenses for her daily life . In contrast , I think , she pretends that she was happy with Bill Cosey , but in fact , I can consider that her parents sold her to Bill Cosey for the sake of money , they received only 200 dollars & a pocket book from him . I will shed light on the second female character " Christine " who was neglected by her parents, she tried to please the patriarchal society at that time . At the mean time , Junior's mother failed to protect her from her uncle who was always abused her & she continued to endure the trauma of the previous experiences until she fled from her house . In the light of this research I can say the unity among the three women in Cosey family has not been achieved . On the contrary , there is a tangle unit among the triangle women were accomplished because of Junior's betrayal of her friends " Heed & Christine " , hence , she chose her relationship with Bill Cosey instead of the two women to get self – awareness because she was still living the affect of past trauma & she could not get out against the patriarchal system . Through the novel, Morrison was able to rewrite a tragic end to the novel of Love between Bill Cosey & Junior with the reunion of Head & Christine . Hence , the novel ended with brutal treachery among the three characters . Interestingly , Junior has become a sign to the complex division of unity & the divisions among the three women to gain the inheritance of Cosey family . But unfortunately , the death of Head changed the victory of the women in to tragedy . **I conclude** that this novel shows to some extent the problems that occurred among the black African American women in the sixties & seventies because of their dependence on the patriarchal system , even , values going according to heterosexual identity that are higher than the strong social ties & these affects are still alive to the present .Last but not the least , Accordingly , Morrison intended to study gender & race issues & prevent women from forming a strong sense of self – dependence because of the influence of the society & abandoning the self – identity because of the influence of the society . Here love become a tragedy for African women but not subvention or help to them . Eventually , love in the novel of Love has become a tragedy for women & it's impact on the micro - society that is the family leads to a betrayal among the black African women in America<sup>19</sup> .

ملخص البحث باللغة العربية

" أنتهاك الهوية الاثنية للنساء السود من قبل المجتمع الأسود من خلال روايات توني موريسون ( أجنة , الحب )  
البحث مسئل من أطروحة دكتوراه

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كلية اللغات

المستخلص : النساء السود أستغلو جنسيا من قبل الرجال السود والبيض كلاهما وقد واجهو جميع أنواع التمييز الجنسي والعنصري . هم لا يوجد عندهم أصدقاء ولكن فقط معوقات ومسؤوليات . الدراسة هدفت الى إعطاء معلومات أكيدة عن المجتمع الامريكي المعاصر . رواية الجنة هي محاولة لوضع هدف خلف حركة الحقوق المدنية واكتشاف الإصلاحات القضائية . الثقافية والاجتماعية . في رواية الحب يوجد صدمة في الحكمة من خلال معاناة النساء في الرواية في الماضي والذي لديهم تجارب سابقة تتضمن الفقر . الاضطهاد العنصري . الاعتداء الجنسي والهويات الموسعة . هم أهملو وتخلت أسرهم عنهم .

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