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Racism in Tony Morison's Novels, *The Bluest Eye, The Beloved* And Doris Lessings *The Grass is Singing*'

By

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Abstract

The study deals with the racism as depicted in Toni Morison and Doris Lessing's novels. The racism, slavery, oppression and marginalization in the books were described. The objectives of the study were to identify how the texts bring out racism; to highlight the techniques, style and devices used in the context of racism; to highlight the signaled role of the reader in Tony Morison's novels, "*The Bluest Eye*", "*The Beloved*" and Doris Lessing's "*The Grass Is Singing*." The study was anchored on the Reader Response Theory and Critical Race Theory of which the latter was propounded in 1970 by Derrick Bell, et al, on which the concept of blackness was anchored. Critical Race Theory brings to light the human rights and values that promote coexistence among all people from all backgrounds and ethnicity. Reader Response Theory by Richard Beach propounded in 1967 which identifies the significant role of the reader in constructing textual meaning was incorporated in the study. The design used was qualitative in nature. Content analysis or textual analysis which is library based was employed. The study was based on only three novels; that is, Tony Morison's novels, *The Bluest Eye, The Beloved* and Doris Lessing's *The Grass Is Singing* as the sample size. The texts were purposively selected due to the thematic relevance. Analysis of data was done by selecting the data which contained racial discrimination in the narration, act, and verbal expression from the narrative description and dialogues in the novels. The technique of analyzing data was also involved using descriptive approach by categorizing the data, exposing the issue in details using reader-response theory and the supporting critical race theory. Conclusion was made to get the final results and using method from Miles & Huberman's (1994) approach of data reduction and display and the subsequent drawing of conclusions. Findings showed that the novel *Beloved, The Bluest Eye and The Grass Is Singing* show the role of the reader in bringing out the issue of racism, discrimination, segregation on the basis of colour. The untold and unvoiced plight of racism, slavery and sexism in the predominantly white society has made the novels unique. The researcher recommends that the field of literature in Africa should come up with literary works that portrays all races as equal. The oppression committed by whites against African Americans creates the feeling of frustration on African Americans who are often haunted by feelings of anxiety and fear when there are problems among African Americans which are caused by whites

Key Words: Racism, *The Bluest Eye, The Beloved, The Transcendent, Tony Morrison, Doris Lessing*

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Introduction

The problem in the relationship among various human races will always exist. Racial strains and disputes often occur, even in the United State, which is highly considered as a country that respects human rights. Wodak and Reisigl (2000) contend that until now we still see discrimination against colored people such as yellow, black, and red that is conducted by white people, especially whites upon African Americans.

The authors argue that the problem of racialism cannot be separated from effects of the immigration colonization, slavery etc. Wodak and Reisigl (2000) say that the term racism is often used to refer to negative feelings of one group or people toward another and the actions resulting from such attitudes. They say that sometimes the antipathy of one group toward another is expressed and acted upon with a single mindedness and brutality that go far beyond the group centered prejudice and snobbery that seem to constitute an almost universal human failing. The concept "racism" is much younger than the concept "race". The first scientific use of the concept of racism is often attributed to the German Jewish scientist Magnus Hirschfeld (Wodak and Reisigl, 2000: 43). He used it in the title of a book that was published in 1938 in which he criticized racial thinking. In Western Europe the term first appears in the dictionaries in the 1930s. Since then, racism has remained a contested notion.

Civil rights movement, the power movement and the black arts movement of the 1960s sought to address the imbalance of power on all levels of American society on racism. Racism has been one of the most widespread problems around the world since the beginning of creation. In fact, it is very difficult to trace the history of racism around the world. Moreover, the most known type of racism is the racism of the colonizer toward the colonized. The discrimination between white and black people in South Africa has started since the white's occupying the land of indigenous people so that they were left homeless. Other aspects of racism are that white people get better education, jobs, power positions and even the legal legislations are in favour of white people. Though poetry and drama were the primary modes of literary expression of the period, works such as John Williams, "The man who cried I am" (1967) also reflected African- American quest for equality. The movement toward the struggle for freedom to fully participate in American society was often fought with fear. The experience of fear had been less fully explored than the experiences of anger and rage. As part of the larger black arts movement, which was inspired by the civil rights movement and black power movement, African –American literature began to be defined and analyzed. Despite emphasis on human rights movements and respect for life, racism has continued to dehumanize humanity especially due to racialism.

According to Miles, (2013) Hitler invoked racist theories to justify his genocidal treatment of European Jewry, as did white supremacists in the American south to explain why Jim Crow laws were needed. The climax of the history of racism as put by Miles (2013) came in the twentieth century in the rise and fall of racist regimes. In the American south the passage of segregation laws and restrictions on black voting rights reduced African American to lower caste status, despite the constitutional amendment that had made them equal citizens.

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Themes of struggle and survival and self-discovery according to Bergren (2015) are important in American and African literature. Morrison tackles these issues as major themes in her novels beside those of love, freedom, and other problems that African Americans face in contemporary America. Her novels focus on the experience of black Americans and their struggle in such communities. Morrison's novels aim to show the severity of alienation and teach the world how African Americans suffer and struggle by showing the nature of this struggle.

This research also highlights white supremacy and racial discrimination which is prevalent in the relationship between black and white people as well as the racially discriminative acts of the characters in Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*. The concepts of white supremacy and racism are ideas that will be used to unravel the issue in Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*. The analysis focuses on the conception of white supremacy and racism. The aim of this study is to seek to understand white supremacy in the relationship between the black natives and the white people which leads to racial insulting acts that are apparent in the story. It is against this background that the researcher intends to make an analysis of racism as reflected in Tony Morrison's novels, 'the *Bluest Eye*, the *Beloved* and Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*.

Statement of the Problem

Racism has long been a part of human history. At its extremes, this has included genocide, slavery, and the colonization of indigenous people. While we readily recognize and widely condemn overt acts of racially motivated hate racism continues to permeate the society. It is not only seen through personally mediated acts but also embedded into institutions, disguised in daily interactions, and etched into people's subconscious. Racism is trauma that affects all people across the world, especially those of colour who have historically experienced oppression. American civil rights movements made a powerful impression on black writers during the 1940s 50s and 60s. Just as black activities were pushing to end segregation and racism and create a new sense of Black Nationalism, so too were black authors attempting to address these issues of racism with their writings such as Toni Morrison among others.

Considering the tide of overt expressions of racism of recent times especially "the black life matter" movement, addressing racism is a critical need for those of us who care for and about all human races. The current study is therefore out to analyze literary depictions of these social ills. The central concern of the study is the critical examination of the race question as treated in Doris Lessing's, *The Grass is Singing*, and Tony Morrison's *The Bluest Eyes* and the *Beloved*. The study therefore is timely and strives to analyze Tony Morrison's novels, *the Bluest eyes*, the *Beloved* and Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*.

Objectives

The study sets out to achieve the following:

- i. To identify how the texts bring out racism
- ii. To critically assess the techniques, style and devices used in the context of racism
- iii. To examine the signaled role of the reader in Tony Morrison's novels, "*The Bluest Eye*", "*The Beloved*" and Doris Lessing's "*The Grass Is Singing*".

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Theoretical Framework (Critical Race Theory (CRT) by Derrick Bell 1970) and Reader Response Theory by Richard Beach propounded in 1967

Critical Race Theory has its underpinnings in the philosophical writings of Derrick Bell in the 1970s and early 1980s. It was born out of the realization by legal scholars, lawyers, and activists that many of the advances of the civil rights era had stopped and in some circumstances were being reversed. According to Cooper (2004) Critical Race Theory (CRT), is a theoretical and interpretive mode that examines the appearance of **race** and racism across dominant cultural modes of expression.

According to Ladson (2013) intellectual movement and loosely organized framework of legal analysis based on the premise that, race is not a natural, biologically grounded feature of physically distinct subgroups of human beings but a socially constructed (culturally invented) category that is used to oppress and exploit black people. Critical race theorists hold that the law and legal institutions in the United States are inherently racist insofar as they function to create and maintain social, economic, and political inequalities between whites and nonwhites, especially African Americans.

Depenbrock (2017) opines that Critical Race Theory (CRT) was officially launched in 1989, at the first annual Workshop on Critical Race Theory, though its intellectual origins go back much farther, to the 1960s and '70s. Its immediate precursor was the critical legal studies (CLS) movement, which dedicated itself to examining how the law and legal institutions serve the interests of the wealthy and powerful at the expense of the poor and marginalized. (CLS, an offshoot of Marxist-oriented critical theory, may also be viewed as a radicalization of early 20th-century legal realism, a school of legal philosophy according to which judicial decision making, especially at the appellate level, is influenced as much by nonlegal—political or ideological—factors as by precedent and principles of legal reasoning.) Wakesman (2021) adds that like CLS scholars, critical race theorists believed that political liberalism was incapable of adequately addressing fundamental problems of injustice in American society (notwithstanding legislation and court rulings advancing civil rights in the 1950s and '60s), because its emphasis on the equitable treatment under the law of all races ("colour blindness") rendered it capable of recognizing only the most overt and obvious racist practices, not those that were relatively indirect, subtle, or systemic. Quinn (2020) says that liberalism was also faulted for mistakenly presupposing the apolitical nature of judicial decision making and for taking a self-consciously incremental or reformist approach that prolonged unjust social arrangements and afforded opportunities for retrenchment and backsliding through administrative delays and conservative legal challenges. Unlike most CLS scholars, however, critical race theorists did not wish to abandon the notions of law or legal rights altogether, because, in their experience, some laws and legal reforms had done much to help oppressed or exploited people.

Gillborn (2014) argues that in their work *Critical Race Theory: An Introduction*, first published in 2001, the legal scholars Richard Delgado (one of the founders of CRT) and Jean Stefancic discuss several general propositions that they claim would be accepted by many critical race theorists, despite the considerable variation of belief among members of the movement. These "basic tenets" of CRT, according to Gillborn, include the following claims: (1) Race is socially constructed, not biologically natural. (2) Racism in the United States is normal, not aberrational: it is the common, ordinary experience of most people of colour. (3) Owing to what critical race theorists call "interest convergence" or "material determinism," legal advances (or setbacks) for people of colour tend to serve the interests of dominant white groups. Thus, the racial hierarchy that characterizes American society may be unaffected or

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even reinforced by ostensible improvements in the legal status of oppressed or exploited people. (4) Members of minority groups periodically undergo "differential racialization," or the attribution to them of varying sets of negative stereotypes, again depending on the needs or interests of whites. (5) According to the thesis of "intersectionality" or "antiessentialism," no individual can be adequately identified by membership in a single group. An African American person, for example, may also identify as a woman, a lesbian, a feminist, a Christian, and so on. Finally, (6) the "voice of colour" thesis holds that people of colour are uniquely qualified to speak on behalf of other members of their group (or groups) regarding the forms and effects of racism. This consensus has led to the growth of the "legal story telling" movement, which argues that the self-expressed views of victims of racism and other forms of oppression provide essential insight into the nature of the legal system.

Murrey (2020) notes that CRT has influenced scholarship in fields outside the confines of legal studies, including women's and gender studies, education, American studies, and sociology. CRT spin-off movements formed by Asian American, Latinx, Muslim, and Native American scholars have also taken hold. In the early 21st century, critical race theorists addressed themselves to a number of issues, including police brutality and criminal justice, hate speech and hate crimes, health care, affirmative action, poverty and the welfare state and immigration

Review of Related Literature

The Extent to Which Racism is depicted in Tony Morison's Two Novels, *'The Bluest Eye, and The Beloved*

In her study entitled 'An Intersection of Racism and Sexism' in Toni Morrison's *Sula*, Thaka (2021) demonstrates that the author addresses the confusing mystery of human emotions and relationship and ultimately concluding the social conventions. Throughout the novel, the narrator depicts these two female characters to apply the diametrically opposed terms of good/evil, right/wrong, black/white, self /other among other sets of binary oppositions. It claims that the two marginalized African-American female personages in the novella, Nel and Sula are noteworthy and influential characters as they are shown a critical position which undermines the predominantly masculine enterprise. Trudier Harris appeal to African-American folk traditions as basis for Sula.

Morrison's novel scrutinizes the issue of relations between black and white in America. Sula is marginalized in two folds, she goes to college, sleeps with white man, does not marry and rejects to be mother. Morrison has created a black community of bottom linked strongly with its past values and beliefs so any attempt to posit a new ethic will set the entire community in a whirlwind of disbelief and fear. The text, *Sula* examines the constructions of Black womanhood and manhood, particularly through the character of Sula, who rejects the conventional black female role. Sula determined to introduce herself outside of the traditional role of domesticity and must find an identity deeper than the standard identities of wife and mother. She seeks to find an internally defined identity rather than one informed by the paradigm of family. Yet, by refusing these expected, so-called natural roles, she is rejected by the community and strengthens their own enactment of traditional gender roles in the face of her unconventional attitudes. Sula leaves the village and returns with different experiences; now she can no longer live by the old rules. Sula's activities, after her return, engender all kinds of responses and accusation. She sleeps not only with her best friend's husband and her neighbors' husbands but also with white men.

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Ayida (2015) conducted a study on 'Black Feminism: What Women of Color Went Through' in Toni Morrison's Selected Novels. This study examined two of Toni Morrison's novels, *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved* in the lights of black feminism, racism, realism and naturalism. It attempted to reflect the powerlessness, inhumanity, and pains that women of color went through. By using a feminist racist and naturalist filter, the researcher used a descriptive-analytical method of study and by analyzing the situations; the characters and themes, the status of women of color in Morrison's selected novels were revealed and represented. The findings revealed that Morrison very well describes how different women characters react and respond differently to the injustice and the inhumanity imposed on them for example the contrasting nature of Sethe in *Beloved* and Pauline in *The Bluest Eye*. She depicts the bravery and courage in Sethe, the self-absorbedness in Pauline and the passiveness in Pecola all of which raise powerful questions regarding black-women's self-identity, self-concept, and struggles to achieve freedom as a human being. This path deepens our understanding of women issues in general. The researcher believes that womanist and racist study of the selected novels would broaden our views of humanity. The researcher selected women of color because she thinks the sorrows of black women, and the pains and toils they went through have always been deeper than those of the white ones.

Depiction of the Theme of Racism in Tony Morrison's Novels, '*the Bluest Eye, The Beloved* and Doris Lessing's '*The Grass is Singing*

Lessing's *Under My Skin* (1994) engages a special place and great interest for the current study. It is a first-hand account of the author's experiences and memories which form the essence of her fiction. It discusses her life from childhood until 1949, the year she left Zimbabwe to England. She talks about her life in detail which emphasizes her identity as a writer. Then they make use of these details as the raw material for their work. She also talks about her addiction to reading because she believes that reading is very important for the development of minds and personalities which finally leads to the development of countries. Then, she talks about her first novel which was published in 1950 as a work that attracted the attention of readers and critics to Doris Lessing's achievement. Lessing's own comments on her own novel are very helpful and illuminating.

Greene (1997) examines one of the most dominant figures of the 20th century. He investigates Lessing's works and life. He explores different works from different angles in order to familiarize the reader with her themes and style. Greene states that Lessing encounters issues that were not common in the 1950s, such as sex, race and class. These issues were prohibited from being discussed since her society is very reserved about these problems. Nanthini (2021) portrays *The Grass is Singing* perhaps as the most interesting when the author describes the ideology of white colonists in Africa. The reflection of racial discrimination is highly noticed. The wealth of natives has been swindled and the natives almost felt that they are stripped by the swindlers economically, socially and morally. They have created a myth that they were under the mercy of the white invaders. Nanthini quotes;

People over the country... felt a little spurt of anger mingled with what was almost satisfaction as if some belief had been confirmed... when natives steal, murder or rape, that is the feeling white people have (Lessing 1)

Hamilton (2001) explains *The Grass is Singing*, takes place in Rhodesia. The writer talks about apartheid in South Africa through illuminating the tense relationship between black and

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white people. This book gives some examples of the cruel treatment that certain people face because of their race. One of the examples of inequality presented in the book is the inequality between black and white people in front of the law. Hamilton indicates that people from different races were not equally treated by the legislative rules.

The Racist Treatments Experienced by African Americans as Portrayed in Tony Morrison's Two Novels, 'The Bluest Eye, The Beloved and Doris Lessings 'The Grass is Singing'

Toni Morrison is an American writer who was born in 1931. She addresses, as Bloom (2005) states, issues of racism through her works especially the consequences of racism upon the race being discriminated against. According to Bloom (2005), Morrison's works shed light upon four issues. First, she focuses on the impact of racist practices upon African Americans. Second, she talks about the feelings of Africans about being different from other African American races. Third, she describes black people's suffering as being considered inferior to other races. Fourth, she recaptures some humiliating and inhumane experiences that suffer from. Her famous novels that discuss these issues are *The Bluest Eyes* and *Beloved*. In her novel *Beloved*, the protagonist still has the marks of whipping upon her back. Morrison is interested in the impact of racist acts upon Afro-Americans and how they feel about this discrimination and about their own identity.

Matus (2018) notes that in the novel *Beloved*, at first, African Americans are at the hands of white people and they are slaves. They have not only "...been abused by white men..." but also they begin to lose their humanity. Even, the black people aren't given permission to learn writing and reading. It is clear that "...if African Americans could write they should not be treated as animals" (Rice, 1996: 103). The female characters in the novel, especially Baby Suggs is brave to mention the inhuman acts of white race in her community. "Those white things have taken all I had or dreamed," she said, "and broke my heartstrings, too. There is no bad luck in the world but white folks" (Morrison, 2004: 104-105). Baby Suggs utterances help one to visualize the hardness of the black life in a racist surrounding. In most parts of the novel, the racist thoughts and attitudes are displayed vividly. Knowing the truth that Sethe has killed her own baby daughter, Paul D insists to look over the newspaper pages.

The novel *The Bluest Eye*, begins with Morrison's comments "...on the movement's assertions of racial beauty" (Matus, 1998: 2). The political movements assertions of 1960s and 1970s, demonstrate that in fact the colored ones are beautiful. Likewise, Morrison aims to imply this thought by the help of her story. In the novel, "The self-hatred is often focused on the body as the most obvious indicator of race; hair and color, for example, are recurrent concerns" (Peach, 1995: 28). The real cause of the discrimination is color of people's skin in *The Bluest Eye*.

The Signaled Role of The Reader in Tony Morrison's Novels, *The Bluest Eye, The Beloved* and Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*

Jakobson (2015) suggests that in *The Grass is Singing* the author and the reader of the text are related to each other as the sender and the receiver of a message. The transmission and reception of any message depend on the presence of one or more shared codes of communication between sender and receiver. Reading consists, therefore, of a process of decoding what has by various means been encoded in the text. Such criticism is therefore both rhetorical and audience-orientated. A key notion will be that of the Implied Reader.

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Denise (2003) explains that the dehumanization of the slaves in *Beloved* extends beyond the denial of basic human desires which confuses the reader, such as motherhood, or the identification of one's own femininity or masculinity, and progresses into the categorization of slaves as animals. While Sethe is living at Sweet Home, she overhears schoolteacher during a lesson with his nephews. As schoolteacher instructs the pupils to list the characteristics of the slaves and sort these characteristics into categories, human and animal, he is teaching the children to ignore the humanity of the slaves and to use their social and racial group against them. 'No, no. That's not the way. I told you to put her human characteristics on the left; her animal ones on the right. And don't forget to line them up.' (*Beloved* 193) Overhearing this lesson upsets Sethe to the point that she does not mention this instance to anyone until she is explaining her past actions to her daughter, Beloved. 'Sethe recognizes schoolteacher's words and 'logic' as almost a greater threat to African Americans than the material conditions of slavery itself; she discerns that his instructions promote an unspeakable terror and violence' (Peterson 64). By teaching his nephews this 'lesson', schoolteacher is ensuring the racial attitudes of the next generation.

Methodology

The type of methodology that was adopted in the present research is a descriptive analytical method for all the works chosen for the purpose of investigation. The novels as the primary sources were thoroughly studied, analyzed and interpreted. The critical theories were applied to the discussion of African-American characters in order to arrive at an authentic interpretation. The secondary sources included critical books, research papers, and articles published in various periodicals. The library work involved study of the literary sources to be utilized during the study. Relevant websites were consulted in collecting vital information. So the research work on this thesis was majorly library based. A qualitative research was employed with a strand in content analysis of literary works. The textual analysis design was used to gather the data from the library sources which are from Tony Morison's novels, 'the *Bluest Eye*, the *Beloved* and Doris Lessing's 'the grass is singing'.

The sample size involved only three literary texts from Tony Morison novel "The Blue Eyes and "The Beloved and Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*. The texts were purposively sampled from the rest of the literary texts. They were first clustered into different themes they portray then only those addressing racialism was focused on. To collect data, a close reading of Tony Morison novel "The Blue Eyes and "The Beloved and Doris Lessing's *The Grass is Singing*" was done. Thereafter, relevant themes on racism were coded and different sections relevant to the theme analyzed in descriptions. This theme was reported in form of content analysis and quotations from the literary texts. The researcher gave elaborations of each datum that has been noted in detailed description to interpret the texts. After the data have been elaborated, the researcher analyzed each datum by applying critical race theory by Derrick Bell to find the representation of the racism that is apparent in the text. After that, the researcher selected the data which contained racism and verbal expressions from the narrative descriptions and dialogues based on qualities that were explained in the related theories. The researcher then made an explanation of the analysis and interpreted the texts. Furthermore, the researcher selected the data that represented the relation of racism, white supremacy and the act as the outcome of white hegemony that is perceptible in the novels.

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Results and Discussions

The Theme of Racism

In the *Bluest eye* African Americans have been associated with ugliness; that is, the blacker a person is the uglier he/she becomes, and such a flawed relation is prevalent and accepted without questioning it. Pecola in *The bluest Eye* is seen as poor and black. She represents many migrants who are believed to be ugly and that they have each accepted it without question. The migrants are seen to be distanced from beauty on the basis of their possession of a black skin, curly hair and flat noses. These features describe the migrants as essentially possessing constructions of 'difference', 'abnormality' and 'ugliness'"(pg, 7). In other words, being a black is a pretext to be marginalized and spotted as a different, abnormal person and thus ugly. Likewise, Pecola grabs this attitude by being exposed to the whites' dominant attitudes and taking them for granted. So, the image of beauty becomes always attached to whites' features and facial appearance and distanced psychologically from African Americans', because the former are glorified and depicted in positions of power and superiority and their whiteness is a privilege, while the African Americans who are the marginalized group are often framed as inferior or less than the group in power.

A close reading reveals that *Beloved* reflects the tension between protest and transcendence, between suffering and strength, between collective and individual identity. From a close reading, the major themes include violence, racialism, sexism, capitalism, the victimization and subjugation of black female slaves. This means that *Beloved* is the story of black female who suffers racialism, violence and rape. It represents the millions of blacks who have been enslaved, tortured and perished. In the text for example, Stamp Paid, another slave also undergoes an extreme experience of emasculation like Halle under the cruel system of slavery. *The Grass is Singing* mainly talks about racial discrimination in relationships of African American natives and white people who live in Southern Rhodesia. Racial discrimination in this novel is very apparent. It can be seen from several quotations which come from the white masters' perspective that they do not want to acknowledge the black natives' presence as human beings just like them. Quotations also reflect the whites' behavior in dealing with the black natives' existence. This case can be categorized as a practice of white supremacy which refers to the behavior of the whites as a form of segregation that leads to domination.

Techniques, Style and Devices Used in the Context of Racism

The findings of the study established that following the plurality of consciousness the characters in Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* are free to express their inner conflicts and consciousness without being influenced by the authors' dominance. Through dialogue, they impart their message to readers even though they might have different and contrasted points of view. In the prologue, the tone is cryptic and tragic. Claudia has an awful story to tell us, but will tell it on her own terms. Thus, heading into the autumn chapter, the mood is warily anticipatory. In *the Beloved* parallelism is expressed in the sense that Toni Morrison depicts the horrible treatment of slaves and the consequences that slavery leaves in the mind of characters. She successfully demonstrates it throughout her writings *Song of Solomon, Beloved, The Bluest Eye*.

The Signaled Role of the Reader

According to the reader, Morrison's work is not only about slavery, about history or about the people's sorrow now and then, it is also about love. What makes the novel so special is not

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only its lyrical language, its trapping suspense and the mystery in it but its multi-perspective. Therefore, the reader is able to see the action through the eyes of the various characters like Denver, Sethe, Beloved, Paul D. or Baby Suggs. Especially striking is the fact that in the text, women and their particular situations and problems dominate the plot. The reader's attention is drawn to the triple burden enslaved women had to carry: they had no control over their children, husbands or own bodies.

The reader views *The Grass Is Singing*⁶, a remarkable piece of work by Doris Lessing (1950), as a high-tension story of a woman whose life was changed by a few careless words. This novel is a powerful, psychological portrait about the bleakness of existence as opposed to living, tension (master vs. slave, white vs. black, female vs. male, that alternately repulsed and attracted), isolation, disillusionment, fear, prejudice, and madness. At times it is as violent and harsh as the brown earth and arching blue sky of the veldt in South Africa. At times, too, it is angry at the festering question of black against white which broods over the land like thunder. But above all, it is the story of Mary Turner as we watch her fall into an increasingly severe depression. It is the story of the powerlessness of women in a society that prescribes certain roles for them, and that places the real power of decision making with male/ men. If we analyze the story, we find that set in South Africa under white rule, this novel is both a riveting chronicle of human disintegration and a beautifully understated social critique.

The reader of The Bluest Eye provides an extended depiction of the ways in which internalized white beauty standards deform the lives of black girls and women. Implicit messages that whiteness is superior are everywhere, including the white baby doll given to Claudia, the idealization of Shirley Temple, the consensus that light-skinned Maureen is cuter than the other black girls, and the idealization of white beauty in the movies. Pecola eventually desires blue eyes in order to conform with these white beauty standards imposed on her. However, by wishing for blue eyes, Pecola indicates that she wishes to see things differently as much as she wishes to be seen differently.

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Theme of Racism

From the findings, the study concludes that racism is depicted in all the three texts that were sampled for the research. The theme of racism runs through all the novels. Looking at Doris Lessing's *the Grass is Singing* we find that the author tries to demonstrate the effect of racist treatment on both white women namely Mary Turner and black man namely Moses who is the representative of the black natives oppressed class.

In *the Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison has created two thoroughly racialized communities. Both communities are crippled by racism but in different ways. The novel illustrates how racism which exists within African-American communities can be seen as an effect of the oppression and racism its members have been subjected to by whites. The racism, oppression and marginalization have corroded the characters' self-esteem and sense of self-worth. Most of the African Americans portrayed in the text feel contempt for their own blackness

In *Beloved* her work offers a fresh perspective on black life and their history. Through her work, she focuses mainly apartheid, slavery and racism and their psychological and social effects on the blacks over the ages. She revises the past which is a dark reality in the form of racism, slavery, subjugation of women, the destruction of cultural identity of the African-Americans and various other cruelties.

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The Techniques, Styles and Devices used.

The study concluded from the second research question that the texts had several styles in common. Some of the styles, techniques and devices used included dialogue through which authors impart their message to readers even though they might have different and contrasted points of view. In *The Bluest Eye*, and *the Beloved* Morrison uses multiple voices and narrators who interact with one another to convey their life experiences. Through these multiple voices, Morrison highlights the way in which black females are affected by race and discrimination. They lose their identity in their search to be accepted by the white society. In Doris Lessing's *the Grass is Singing*, the study concludes that the author uses third person narrator mostly from the point of view of Mary Turner. Tone and mood is also used to portray desperation, hopelessness and nervousness. In *The Grass is Singing*, Doris Lessing uses an omniscient narrator, flashback, symbolism of the character's dreams which helps in the analysis of the psychic life of her characters. Parallelism is also highlighted in the texts.

The Role of the Reader in the Texts;

The reader of The Bluest Eye provides an extended depiction of the ways in which internalized white beauty standards deform the lives of black girls and women. Implicit messages that whiteness is superior are everywhere, including the white baby doll given to Claudia, the idealization of Shirley Temple, the consensus that light-skinned Maureen is cuter than the other black girls, and the idealization of white beauty in the movies. The finding revealed that the novel *Beloved* begins with a series of sentences that seem to come from a children's reader which proves that the reader has a role to play in the texts. The sentences describe a house and the family that lives in the house – Mother, Father, Dick, and Jane. The brief narrative focuses on Jane.

The Grass Is Singing asks the reader to resist the common perspective toward women even in the way women are represented in a literary work. She asks them to avoid the male view which also exists in literary works where women are portrayed as the catalyst behind the brutal treatment inflicted on them. For example, a woman may be killed or tortured but the readers may justify this cruel act by saying that they were treated like this because of their attitudes or ideas.

Recommendations

From the findings, summary and conclusions made, the researcher recommends that the field of literature in Africa should come up with literary works that portray all races as equal since all complement each other. The oppression committed by whites against African Americans creates the feeling of frustration. African Americans are often haunted by feelings of anxiety and fear when there are problems associated with whites. They cannot do much because as a minority they cannot get a clear legal assistance because all members of administration in the social system are whites. The study also recommends that the ministry of education comes up with literature books that promote racial equity to be learnt by students in order to change racial discrimination that is deep rooted in the Society in the West. The study also recommends that concern for any human being who calls for bringing equality between people from different races and genders should be highlighted in all literary works in future.

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