
RESEARCH ARTICLE

“The Other” In Tony Morrison’s The Bluest Eye Concerning the Female Characters

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ABSTRACT

Beauty is considered a concept that is certainly perceived by each individual differently. The novel, “The Bluest Eye,” provides values of the African Americans who used tools such as storytelling and music consisting of blues and jazz, much more effective than raising slogans like “Black is beautiful,” which could lead an individual to be confused about the perception of beauty. And thus, it won’t help in the process of gaining love and peace. Claudia, one of the main narrators of the story, finds love and peace by getting to know about the survival of her step-sister and by listening to the blues from her mother. This research paper is based on determining an understanding of the different female characters that are represented in the novel. This analysis is further developed to provide clear identification of the intensive nature of racism, incest, and child molestation, along with the existence of the poor living culture that was being followed in the name of religion. Moreover, it is focused on depicting the extended portrayal of the ways in which the presence of internalized beauty standards was being deformed into the lives of black girls and women.

KEYWORDS

The blues, beauty, racism, child molestation, insecurity

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1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Tony Morrison’s “The Bluest Eye” has been highly effective in depicting the nature of white beauty, and the presence of racism has always been causing an existence of deformation in the lives of black girls and women during the time of the great depression. The existence of racism has been highly integrated into the live sofa population, especially the women making them feel insecure about themselves leading to the feeling of hatred about themselves. This feeling of self-loathe and hatred often leads to hating their own bodies and developing hatred towards the children leading to a reduction in the ability of the children to have a normal childhood from the very easy stage (Donelli & Matas, 2021). The existence of racism also influenced different types of crimes and further made the children a victim of crime on multiple occasions, which not only damaged their childhood as black girls but also ruined their adulthood, causing disruption to their mental and physical growth.

1.2 Rationale

This research paper is a necessity in order to understand the importance and value of the novel leading to the clear identification of the wide range of activities that people tend to take on behalf of the beauty standards that were projected during the times of the great depression. It is often noted that racism has been a cause of the occurrence of different types of violence against children and women in society. The research will shed light on such identifications in order to draw a more significant understanding of the necessity to address considerations as has been depicted in the novel. The research paper will provide a more productive identification of the different types of incidents that enlightens the need to remove the presence of racism, especially among the female section of society.

1.3 Aim

The aim of the given research paper is to draw an analysis of the female characters that are present in the novel “The Bluest Eye” in contrast to the main character to depict the significance of the different themes projected by the book among the female society.

1.4 Objectives

The objectives of the given paper are stated as follows:

- To develop a clear understanding of the different themes projected by the book
- To discuss the female characteristics present
- To draw a discussion on the significant topic of racism as it has been projected in the book

1.5 Significance

The research paper is a necessity as it will increase the ability of the readers to gain information on the different types of necessary information projected by The Bluest Eye. The book has been highly productive in creating a major understanding of the wide range of consequences that are usually faced by society when deemed racist. The given research paper will be significant as it will bring insights into the issues that the female section of society faces due to the existence of the white beauty standards present in contrast to the developed black image.

2. Literature Review

2.1 Book context

The context of the book is based on projecting the harsh truths of the racist society that existed in American society in the 1940s. The book has been able to project an environment where the presence of a dysfunctional family led to the reinforcement of the notions of self-hatred and further led to the representation of a distorted perception of the entire reality that existed in that era during the Great Depression that was occurring. It is important to note that the story of Bluest Eye further depicted the false beliefs that individuals held at the given time and at the same time. It depicted the lack of sensitivity among the religious preachers in maintaining the belief of the individuals by indulging in negative activities that were again intertwined with the prospect of racism, making the black people a victim of the same. Another important theme that has been contested in the book is the oppression of women in American society of the given time (Ahmad, Chaudhary & Murtaza, 2020). The novel was successful in predicting that the women in the presented society faced the different horrors of racial oppression, which were further inflicted with violation of human rights and tyranny, leading to the presentation of miserable life that was being followed by them through the men present in their lives. The novel has been highly successful in presenting the different phases of a woman’s development in womanhood, leading to the identification of the necessity of obtaining a more standardized environment to obtain a more successful and presentable lifestyle.

2.2 Characters in the book

The book contains sixteen characters, and each character projects a significant role in addressing the actual scenario that was prevalent in the given society and further predicted the importance of maintaining the consequences of the same on the protagonist character of the novel. However, the focus of the book has been on the female characters that positioned a stronger reputation on the book structure and the overall chapters that have been developed. Even though the male characters in the book have been represented in a stiff manner in order to project the overall influence that is forced by them on the women in society, out of all the characters that are present in the given book, most of the women character plays an important role (Sofiani, Akhadijah & Emzir, 2019). It is effective in presenting the overall essence of the story depicted and projecting the consequences that black individuals often faced during the given time; it was noted that Pecola, Claudia, Frieda, Cholly, Pauline, Henry, Samuel, Miss Marie, Poland, and China were the major characters in the entire story that has been presented in the book. These characters were effective in presenting the actual theme of the entire book as they predicted the importance of maintaining the development of women in society through the downfalls that have been faced by the women through the men present in the given society. There has been a projection of a contrasting environment; however, with the deposition of the contracting environment, the characters have been able to present the existence of racism at a greater level (Shabani, 2017).

2.3 Female characters present

There are nine female characters present in the given novel that were effective in holding accountability to a wide range of female emotions, lifestyle, trouble, and possessions that they have faced by them. All nine characters defined a troubling understanding of the overall lifestyle that had been faced by the women in American society based on their gender and race. There has been a projection of difference in the overall authorities that they availed and the possessions that were presented to them based on their gender and their race. It further criticized that the women in the given section of society-faced troubles that were critically not based on any act of their own, especially the black women (Mohaisen, 2019). The white women had been represented to hold an

upper and superior presence in society that allowed them to conduct any action as they wished, and they were never judged or mistreated, as there was the prevalence of white beauty standards that helped them to enjoy the privileges as it came. The author, Toni Morrison, has been highly effective in showing the standards of the mainstream culture of fracture and suffering that persisted in the lives of the black female characters. The characters, especially the children, have been depicted in the given novel to project the prejudice of the white ruling class and further depict the uncomfortable feeling of invisibility that has been imposed on black people (Matas, 2017). However, the black woman is majorly depicted in the novel. There is a stronger representation of the white women in the entire novel that presents their condition due to the influence of society and the behavior that has been received by the black women on a regular note.

2.4 Social aspect representation

The female characters present in the book have been able to demonstrate a societal undertaking of American society in the given times by addressing the overall social forces that drove the cultural constructs. This led to the identification of the different types of themes and contracts that had been presented in the book and further projected the overall community differences that had been developed by racism and gender inequality. The desire of Pecola to have blue eyes based on the beauty standard that has been represented by the white society has been depicted to be highly toxic (Donelli & Matas, 2021). It allowed for maintaining a clear representation of the overall representation of beauty and happiness as it has been associated with the white, middle-class world.

2.5 Religion and racism

The author has been highly depictive of the different aspects of religion in the novel by depicting the statement, which was projected on marigolds and represented the baby of Pecola. It was a stillborn baby, and the representation of the marigold is presented as Claudia had grown a marigold plant indicating that it would be blooming if the baby survived. These represented a presence of God's will in the story that has been connected with the life of Pecola and her baby, which was not born dead. It can be noted from the characteristic present that the given book has been depicted to have been born during Christmas and was very loyal to the god, and their actions and activity presented the same. However, the depiction of some of the characters' activities and behaviors presented that despite being born on Christmas or during God's days, there was a lack of any presence of good deeds by them or through their thoughts (Morrison, 2019). The female characters in the novel have been deposited based on three aspects, which are Christians, faithful, and god-fearing. Some of the characters that have been presented in the novel that has been followed by the actual main characters as per the storyline were effective in addressing a recurring role of individuals who did not believe in religion and were bold enough to conduct their acts on their own without any differences being faced. However, it was noted that the presentation of the given roles of the female characters was mostly for white women, that further led to the development of racist identification in the entire story. The religious focus was further exerted on the notion that the children were subjected to more disadvantages in comparison to the adults (Ruggiano & Perry, 2019). However, it was further noted that the appearance of the interaction with the prostitutes under the prostitution condition and mass circulation of the female condition had been presented in a more negative manner in alliance with the attitudes of the people with who they have interacted. The issue of physical beauty has been intermixed with the entire situation that existed in the novel as it projected that the black women were not sure about the personal identity of the physical beauty that has been presented in the dark episodes that were further presented through Pecola for her birthday. It can be further noted that the prospects of racism have been depicted in the most common manner that is still followed in the current times. It allowed the readers to hold an image of reality on an easier pattern as the racial incidents depicted that the female characters were not strong enough to oppose the same (Ahmad, Chaudhary & Murtaza, 2020). However, a contrasting sight is presented by the ends of the white women presented in the novel depicting them to be more strong than the black women, where gender irrationality has been defined at the same time.

3. Methodology

3.1 Research philosophy

The research philosophy that has been followed in the given research paper is categorically based on the intention of the research that will be followed throughout. This led to the application of the interpretive research philosophy. The given philosophy allowed the research paper to be developed by basing on the principles, which were based on the states that there is collective management of the research performed on a specific role in observing the social world as depicted in the novel. Since the given research paper is critically based on reviewing a novel that has been developed by basing it on the social issue of racism, women's oppression, and religion, the application of interpretivism has been highly productive in nature (Alharahsheh & Pius, 2020). It is further important to note that the interpretivist methodology has been positioned as a more productive manager that brought meaning to the human actors that have been represented in the given novel. The activities that have been taken into account in the given novel story were effectively presented in the given research paper by depicting an analysis of the overall human behavior attached to the actions present.

3.2 Research approach and design

In terms of the research approach that is essential to be followed in the given paper, it can be noted an inductive approach has been considered to produce collective reasoning in the research process. It is important to note that the inductive research approach is taken into consideration in order to present an observation that has been represented in the book (Sovacool, Aksen & Sorrell, 2018). The application of the inductive research process is a necessity as it will be effective in analyzing the overall qualitative data in the research paper that is to be derived from the different types of evaluative papers in the book *The Bluest Eye*. The application of inductive reasoning helped in presenting a general conclusion from the entire observation that has been made on the different female characters that are present in the novel. This further leads to the requirement of presentation and application of descriptive research design that helped in completing the entire research with ease. It can be noted that the presentation of the given research paper has been highly productive in managing the cause-effect relationship among the various variables that have been attained from the entire novel. The application of the descriptive research design is effective for the given research paper as it helps in bringing an uncomplicated description of the desired paper (Rahi, 2017). It further focuses on the details of the entire experience that has been developed after passing through a different research paper that has been developed on the given novel, majorly focusing on the female characters.

3.3 Research procedure

The given research paper has been further followed by means of applying the qualitative research process as it is effective in presenting important educational research. It is important to note that the prospect of managing the given research through the qualitative aspects of the research paper was a necessity in holding accountability to a deeper experience of the overall phenomenon and context represented. It is important to note that the given qualitative paper allows for presenting questions that would be easily put into numbers in order to hold a critical understanding of the overall experience that has been obtained after going through the novel and related research papers (Mohajan, 2018). Hence, the application of the qualitative research paper has been associated with presenting a successful human experience.

3.4 Data collection method

The given research paper is based on the presentation of the female characters that have been represented in the given novel '*The Bluest Eye*'. This helped in presenting a clear set of information that was based on a past experience and depicted an era of the past that could only be understood from the different exercises that had been developed at the time. This led to the application of a secondary data collection process in the research to gather information from the different existing theories and literature describing the book in a more precise manner (Ruggiano & Perry, 2019). The application of the qualitative data collection process through the secondary data collection techniques has been effective in maintaining a descriptive analysis of the given research paper as needed to meet the basic objective of the entire research as needed.

3.5 Data analysis method

The process of data analysis method that has been applied in the given research paper is based on the presentation of the data as needed. It is important to note that the research data obtained was even highly effective in holding accountability to the secondary information obtained. The application of the descriptive design in the research paper has been critically effective in holding accountability to the process of managing secondary data that further attempted to answer the research questions as needed. The analysis process using descriptive technique further represented the application of a content analysis technique in analyzing the presence of certain words and themes that has even been depicted in the novel along with either theoretical paper from which the data has been collected (Williams & Shepherd, 2017). Hence, the presence of the relationship between the variables in the novel has been easily depicted using the content analysis technique.

3.6 Limitations

The major limitation that is present in the given research paper is based on the application of only qualitative research methods. The understanding of the female characters in the identified novel could be characterized in a more productive manner by holding accountability to the development of a primary analysis by obtaining data from individuals who have studied and reviewed the book thoroughly. It would have provided others' perspectives in a more observational manner.

4. Results and Discussion

The organizational setting within the aspects pertaining to *The Bluest Eye* adheres to the development and implementation of a little black girl who is hindered and destroyed by the feelings and perceptions about the self-loathing and rejection aspects around the girl's respective communities (Kochitty & Virgin, 2021). The aspects pertaining to the facilitation of the context of this study adhere to the development of the effective notion that the aspect of subjective beauty is often determined as a form of positive universal value and the portrayal of *The Bluest Eye* adheres to the development of such aspects where such notions are opposed through the organizational setting of the little black girl that has been portrayed in the novel (Kochitty & Virgin, 2021). One of the key aspects that can be facilitated within the organizational setting of the aforementioned context of the study adheres to the

development of the notion that the novel was portrayed in the 20th century, where the members of the global communities adhered to a form of the subjective notion that the aspect of physical and tangible beauty aspects are incrementally facilitated in the long run via which the organizational setting of colored individuals and groups of individuals cater to the facilitation of various forms of criticisms for the same (Donelli&Matas, 2021). The eleven-year-old little black girl, facilitated by the name of Pecola, lives with her family in the organizational setting of Ohio, and when her father burns down their house; the latter spends some of the days with the MacTeer family, and the story is narrated by the organizational setting of Claudia who is the youngest member of the MacTeer family in the novel (Donelli&Matas, 2021). The narrator of the effective story pertains to the development of the notion that the organizational setting of the little black girl is often subjected to aspects of bullying processes and notions of mistreatment processes by the teachers and classmates as the girl aims to think that she is ugly in the long run and the aspect of her physical appearance notions acts as a facilitator for the bullying processes (Araújo & de Luna, 2019). Such aspects cater to the facilitation of the notion that the organizational setting of the little black girl aims to develop the fact that nobody would have effectively dared to mess with her if she were beautiful enough via which the aspects of various forms of nervousness for the same has been depicted in the portrayal of the novel for the same (Araújo & de Luna, 2019). The traumatizing aspects of the study also adhere to the development of the notion that the organizational setting of Pecola has been raped by her father and gets pregnant, which she loses her sanity aspects in the long run, and the notions portrayed by Claudia adhere to the depiction of the story and everything that has been implemented to the youngest Breedlove and to their organizational community for the same (Araújo & de Luna, 2019).

One of the incremental and alarming aspects that can be outlined within the organizational setting of the aforementioned novel adheres to the depiction of the notion that the aspects of organizational race, gender, and identity factors are facilitated within the context of the novel, whereas the subject of beauty has been portrayed as a self-loathing process for the same and raises questions about the notions pertaining to the effective beauty standards for the development of the protagonist of the story (Tine, 2018). The author of the organizational context of the study has outlined the development of the fact that the political climate aspects of the economy of the United States of America adhere to that of a form of agitation, turmoil, and aspects of great upheaval in the organizational lives of the members of the respective communities within the economy as the depiction of the aspects of the African Americans adhered to be subjective in those times for the same (Tine, 2018). The narrator of the story adheres to the portrayal of aspects of identity and pride within the organizational setting of the American scenes, which were prominent in the 1960s, where the advancements implemented by the community of the African American political actions are often minimized and mitigated in the long run (Araújo & de Luna, 2019). Such aspects of the portrayal of the novel adhere to the development of the organizational settings of sexism and racism factors via which the protagonist of the novel caters to the facilitation of the fact as to how the lives and dreams of the colored individuals and groups of individuals can be subjected to aspects of ineffective processes of independent treatment processes where they are constantly undermined in the long run thereby outlining Morrison's effective declarations made in the 1960s with her novel (Araújo & de Luna, 2019). The organizational setting of the author; Toni Morrison, adheres to the portrayal of the fact that her organizational setting within her respective communities enables her to be recognized as a black woman novelist who adheres to the facilitation of a target audience who are from the origins of African American contexts via which the aspects of the innate organizational cultures and language aspects are portrayed within the context of *The Bluest Eye* in the long run (Araújo & de Luna, 2019). Hence, the cultural aspects of the same have been facilitated within the context of the novel, where the author has adhered to the development of the fact that the organizational setting of Pecola adheres to be black and has catered to the facilitation of a female figure as the same depicts to be a vulnerable character in those subjective times of the setting portrayed in the United States of America; as a black female has been implemented which can be a delicate member of the society in those times (Araújo & de Luna, 2019).

The aforementioned discussion of the context of the study portrays the development of the notion that aspects pertaining to the factors of gender, race, and identity is essential for the organizational setting of Pecola; the little black girl in '*The Bluest Eye*'. Such aspects can be analyzed through the development of the depiction of the fact that the author of the novel has effectively outlined the alignment of the aforementioned character with the aspects of the New Negro Movement, the Black Arts movement, and the notions about the facilitation and implementation of the Black feminism aspects as well (Lahiri, 2020). The effective arguments towards the facilitation of the novel can be determined in terms of the fact that the subject of the organizational setting of white individuals and groups of individuals can aim to pose an effective threat to the members of the African American communities (Donelli&Matas, 2021). Such aspects are developed primarily due to the notion that the organizational setting of traditional Americans aims to think that the facilitation of various forms of colored individuals can aim to become a form of problem statement in the long run; since the aspects of cultural diversification, processes was a farfetched notion in those times (Donelli&Matas, 2021). The effective biases of the same can be confirmed by the development of the series of protests and organizational movements, such as the depiction of the Reconstruction period after the end of the Civil War, where the organizational setting of African Americans adhered to the protests of implementing their effective rights to vote and mitigate segregation processes within the community of transportation and educational practices and the portrayal of such aspects can be aligned with the effective character of Pecola as she acts as a form of intermarrying figure towards the aspects of feminism and black protests for the same in the long

run (Donelli&Matas, 2021). Such aspects are also facilitated through the effective development of the fact that various key events portray the importance of the presence of colored individuals and groups of individuals in the sphere of American political and economic affairs via which the story outlines an alignment of the migrations of the blacks from the organizational setting from South to North, the facilitation of the Great Depression of 1929 and the incremental rise in the African American communities in the organizational settings of the industrial unions who were on the federal payroll for the same (Donelli&Matas, 2021). Hence, the context of the study can aim to adhere to the development of the notion that the facilitation of the black female character within the organizational setting of the novel depicts various forms of organizational movements that can be aligned for the same and thereby adhere to the development of incremental forms of protest movements against the effective discrimination processes facilitated by the community of whites in the organizational setting and the economy of the United States of America (Araújo & de Luna, 2019).

5. Conclusion

Both the writers, Cheng and Morrison, do not consider the white concept of beauty as a measure for defining the original beauty which was initially excluded. Morrison was wary of the slogan "Black is beautiful," which further aligns with Cheng's viewpoint.

The concept of beauty can only exist where the concept of ugliness exists simultaneously, putting no harm on someone and including someone from society. Cheng and Morrison both consider that the concept of white beauty is depicted in society in a mistaken manner; furthermore, individual living in society has perceived the concept of white beauty in the wrong way, and the value of the concept has misguided and deceived many. Morrison's major concern about "Black is beautiful" is not subtle at all in all circumstances. Among them, the most explicit one is when the narrators of the writings talk about physical beauty. Therefore, the novelist does not consider that referring to the blackness of beauty is a tradition in American culture. Adjusting the ethical values of white is more important in the process of valuing beauty. Morrison considers that storytelling and music, such as jazz and blues, were more effective tools that connected with the roots of African Americans and carried racial pride. There is no surprise that one of the female characters of "Bluest Eye," Claudia, gets to know about the traditions through the music that her mother used to play and through the story of her sister's survival. Whereas another female character Pecola was only exposed to sophisticated white values and did not get the opportunity to explore the African American tradition. The novel holds an important role in giving lessons about tradition and culture, which is considered one of the most effective tools to heal someone who is suffering from such consequences.

After all, beauty is a concept that cannot be truly achieved by anyone. Every individual is unique and is a person of their own choice, but the pursuit of true beauty never stops and will continue to be desired by every individual, which will ultimately end up in self-loathing. Finding out the true values of tradition through music, storytelling, etc., are the only ways to achieve self-dignity and seek out self-love in the end.

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