

ANALYSIS OF THE CONCEPTS OF COLOUR AND POWER DISCOURSE WITH SPECIAL REFERENCE TO “THE BLUEST EYE” BY TONI MORRISON

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ABSTRACT

Pecola Breedlove is the protagonist in Toni Morrison's first novel, "The Bluest Eye," which explores the standards of beauty held by a young African American girl. Despite her efforts to find acceptance and love in her community, Pecola finds herself despised within her own race. As a result of Claudia's voice, it is clear that Pecola yearns for feminine beauty such as a light complexion, blonde hair, and blue eyes, all of which are highly admired in American society. Pecola pleads for blue eyes since she considers that life would be a better place if she were blessed with blue eyes. Pecola is used as a scapegoat by the Black Community for her own anxieties and emotions of unworthiness, which she has absorbed. Pecola is finally left alone, and she begins to dwell in an imaginative world with blue eyes.

KEYWORDS: *Black Girl, Society, Family, Violence, Exploitation*

INTRODUCTION

Female authors of the twentieth century, such as Toni Morrison, have courageously depicted the cultural production of a disenfranchised group of African American folktales in their works. Morrison has had a significant impact on the development of African American literature on the creative, historical, and political levels. Her works are restricted to the specific customs and cultures of African American society that she is familiar with. She has focused her attention on the incomprehensible elements that have been left unresolved in the Afro-American effect on American literature, and that she has done so admirably in doing so.

Toni Morrison is regarded as a brilliant African-American author and social commentator with the release of *The Bluest Eye* (1970). The Nobel Prize-winning Afro-American novelist is a distinguished literary critic, professor of literature, and Nobel laureate. Her other titles include author, journalist, playwright, essayist, and children's writer. A culture that has been indoctrinated with the intrinsic goodness and beauty of whiteness, and the ugliness of blackness, is revealed in Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* through her critical vision and ideology.

Men have been dealing with exploitation, harassment, torture, etc. for a long time. Some of it can be found in American Literature, particularly in the work of Toni Morrison. An African American girl in the early 1940s is examined in *The Bluest Eye* for the terrible implications imposed by white, middle-class American beauty norms. This is the *Bluest Eye* Pecola, a black girl, is the protagonist of Morrison's debut novel. Physical and psychological ruin is clearly depicted in Pecola's story. As a result of Pecola's classmates and the community at large, she has been portrayed as ugly.

In Pecola's heart and intellect, this harsh truth has caused disquiet. 'Long hours she spent staring into the mirror, attempting to discover the secret of her ugliness' - Morrison, in *The Bluest Eye*. Pecola falls victim to racism in this tale,

which depicts the town as a whole. Pecola was especially impressed by Shirley Temple's photos. Because she was influenced by the beauty, she longed to be physically attractive so that she could re-establish herself as a member of her family and community.

It tells the narrative of Pecola, a little black girl from Lorain, Ohio. Pecola, the novel's protagonist, is often informed that she is an ugly, black girl. As a result, her young heart begins to yearn for the most beautiful blue eye. Pecola reflects the genuine hardship of Black Americans, while the bluest eye represents the white folks. Many black people in the novel respect white ideals and their system. When they see someone they admire, they always try and imitate their appearance, behavior, speech and actions in an attempt to emulate them. It's possible, however, that they'll overlook the fact that it's merely an imitation. The same is true for educated people as well as rural, barbarian and uneducated people.

The character Geraldine, for example, is fond of her blue-eyed cat, but not of her son, whom she rejects, in the novel. His mother didn't even allow him to cry as a baby. He yearned to play rough with the dark lads, but was forbidden to do so by his mother. As he grew older, he concurred with his mom that he was superior to the black boys in the neighborhood. He bullied young kids or girls when he became bored. In the episode where he kills the family cat, his hatred and destructiveness are the outcome of suppressing natural love and emotion.

A man who could not be loved would not allow his cat to be loved or cared for. Upon his mother's arrival, he blamed Pecola for the crime, and she accepted him because Pecola was so dark-skinned. Similar attitudes are displayed by Pauline Breedlove, who views herself and her child Pecola as ugly/black. Incredibly, Pauline Breedlove finds delight and comfort in the company of her employer's tiny white girl, yet she refuses to show her own daughter compassion or warmth. This is a good example of how black people disregard their own identity and attempt to resemble white people in a variety of ways.

Pecola's story focuses on the Breed loves family's experience with a calamity. Her parents really aren't successful financially, and because of racism, her family is deficient in love and family ties. Her household is devoid of joy. Pauline, Pecola's mother, has experienced a financial and intellectual setback. An adolescent boy's racist experiences had left Cholly's father psychosexually saturated. Pecola's family, on the other hand, is harmed by a lack of love, care, and support, and their daily routine is negatively affected.

Morrison has done a fantastic job of contrasting the seasons in the narrative with the personalities. In Pecola Breedlove's persona, fall and spring are compared. In addition to being unrecognized by the world because of her appearance, she was devastated by her mother after being raped by her father. This encounter had left a lasting impression on her heart and soul, and she now seeks affection in other ways. In spite of her best efforts, she is unable to win the affection of her parents, friends and neighborhood.

Pecola's most important concern is her mother's persistent rejection of her appearance, which she finds deeply upsetting. Consequently, her neighbors, friends, and society in American society ignored her. According to her, the connection between mother and daughter in this work is grossly underrated. Due of the fact that she can see her own reflection in Pecola, Pauline finds Pecola repulsive when she gives birth. The baby's skin is dark once again. As a result, Pauline failed to recognize Pecola's requirements and failed to provide her with the adequate care she deserved. Pecola's life has been filled with various diversions as a result of this love-hunger.

While Pecola is oblivious to this, she begins to investigate the core source of all detestation. After comparing her life to that of Claudia and Frieda, she realizes that their way of living is completely different from that of Breedlove's family members. Two sisters share their joyful and sorrowful moments with Claudia's mother, but Pecola has no one with whom to express her feelings and no one accepts her for who she is just because of her looks.

African cultural norms do neither encourage Pecola's individualism nor offer her a sense of belonging. As a girl, she was not safeguarded by African ethical behavior because she was not regarded to be a member of her society. Culture and spiritually, Pecola was not free to leave her society since black Americans were fighting against whites. Without their identity, their entire community was oppressed and ignored. Black Americans were denied their basic rights in every aspect of their lives.

Pecola is the sad victim of racial ills that cause havoc in a society. She failed in every one of these areas due to white dominance in her society. Born into a world wherein black people are viewed as nonentities, while white people are viewed as everything, she has a unique perspective on race. Cholly's assault on Pecola's apartment complex has ceased, but violence still plays a key role in her life. The separation of her mother and father is the result of her actions. In Pecola's instance, her father's behavior is unimaginable.

He has no idea how and when to take care of the kids because he has never seen anyone else raise their children. "Cholly was actually free," Morrison writes in *The Bluest Eye*. The boy's mother had dumped him in a junkyard, and his father had turned him down for a craps game. The only thing that intrigued him was his own perspective and appetite". Cholly was prevented from doing his duties by the dominant western rulers due of their intervention in his society. It was the challenge of not being able to provide his family with affection, care and comfort that was the most difficult for Cholly, who was often overlooked by society, had little respect in his personal connections, and had no money or a voice of his own. Cholly's behavior is also a result of the community's lack of education, morals, morality, and ethics, all of which have contributed to her ruining her own daughter's life.

Pecola's yearning for love has led her to believe that outer attractiveness is what attracts people, and she has a constant desire to have a lovely appearance. Finally, she was abandoned in the chaos after being assaulted by her father, assaulted by the universe, and ignored by her appearance. She wanted her kid to have blue eyes like Shirley Temple, but now that Pecola's baby has died, she has to deal with yet another setback.

After being raped a second time, Pecola spirals into a state of madness, not only because she is hated and ugly, but also because her society is hiding a horrific mystery underneath of the Shirley Temple cup, which is driving her to lose her mind. The glass cup, which represents the appeal that is placed on the young black females in the story, represents the beauty that is forced on them. Pecola is a bleak, dark underbelly to that story, but by virtue of its existence, it lends weight to it. Consequently, Morrison portrays Pecola as a woman who has been falsely convicted in her community, and through the portrayal of the heart wrenching narrative *The Bluest Eye*, Morrison uncovers the unappealing truth that is prevalent in her African American culture, as well as the thought processes and emotions of individuals.

As far as this novel is concerned I think the concepts like Power and Color Discourse have been reflected aptly through this novel. Apart from all these things we should not forget that the author of the novel is Toni Morrison who is known as the black woman novelist. She portrays a realistic depiction of American culture during the 1940s, as well as the process of cultural transformation. The novel delves into a variety of ethnic issues and societal changes that were taking

place at the time. The historical backdrop is the movement of Black People to the northern hemisphere and their integration into the society that has followed. As they relocated, they took their culture with them, which resulted in disagreement and even bloodshed among white and black cultural traditions. Indeed, these two notions (Color Discourse and Power) are extremely important in postcolonial writing, and this novel is one of the best illustrations of how they work together in reality.

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