# Existentialism and Cultural Materialistic in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and *The Bluest Eye*

R. Lavanya
M.Phil. Scholar,
Vels University,
Chennai-600117.
lavansai2@gmail.com
&
P. Moby Samuel
Assistant Professor,
Vels University,
Chennai-600117.
mobinisha91@gmail.com

## **Abstract**

This paper focuses on existentialism and cultural materialism in Toni Morrison's Beloved and The Bluest Eye. Morrison examines the life of black people through existentialism that means a man who believed to be a creature born with the capability to think and analyses his freedom of existence. This deals with cultural materialism to influence it on the cultural aspects and elements of the literary texts. This leads to face the issues like race, gender, sexuality, discrimination, and the marginalised people in the black society. Throughout this paper, the protagonist of the novel Beloved and The Bluest Eye has been as an example for existentialism and cultural materialism. This paper concludes on the conflict of two novel Beloved and The Bluest Eye in which the protagonists grew up in between presence of the society but to the end developed without the presence of human toxics, especially racism and sexism.

**Keywords:** Racism, sexism, class discrimination, gender, Existentialism and Cultural Materialistic etc.

#### **Introduction:**

African American literature merged out in America then followed by the African people. This genre was known as slave narrative during the nineteenth century later sooner it got universal to observe. After American civil war slavery came to an end and Afro American writer started to write literature it is called as a post-slavery era. The writers of the post-slavery era were W.E.B., T. Washington, etc.... then they began to produce non-fictional work. This is including themes like racism, slavery, gender inequality and social equality.

Toni Morrison is an inspired writer who acknowledges the racial inheritance of black people's lives in sharp and lucid prose. Morrison is a very most important American novelist and one

Vol. VII, Issue IV, Oct. 2018

U.G.C. Journal No. 44829

of the intellectuals in the twentieth century. She began her writing as a way to combat her loneliness and segregation. Morrison's texts explore critical issues in post-colonial imperialist cultural history: identity, essence, marginalisation and assimilation For Morrison the political involvement is significant. The central theme of The Bluest Eye is the author experienced in her own life at her elementary school level. One of the Morrison classmate that she concedes to her that she wants a blue eye. The adventure left Morrison angry and astonished. The word of Morrison classmate said that word never went in her mind; she decants her annoying towards "racial self-loathing" into her enslaved black minorities in abnormal communities. She has written many novels some of her book influenced by existentialism. Both the book Beloved and The Bluest Eye fully embodied with the dominant theme of cultural materialism and existences.

Morrison has taken care of with the subjects of savagery, abuse and forfeit in the entirety of her books. The conflict among the dark and the white networks, the exploitation of the blacks by the prevailing whites, the viciousness and slaughter inside the dark systems have been exhibited no place so adequately in the whole American fiction. Even though every one of her works is suffused with brutality, Morrison has managed viciousness in every novel exceptionally. As an author, Morrison treats the official dark involvement in the novel from The Bluest Eye and Beloved as a regularly mentally real venture, to a great extent in light of the bondage of race and shading, yet also on class and sexual orientation political issues. She mirrors and features, in her seizure of farce, history's endeavour to shape the lives of dark Americans a deciding and sadness that her intense characters especially her maternal champions oppose during extension others.

Social Materialism is a social, and theoretical hypothesis begin since crafted by the left wing pundit, Raymond Williams and depends on original premise (the belief system that evaluates society and social through examination) in the 1980's. Raymond Williams work laid the base for the field of social considerations and social realism methods for sentiment. Both new historicism and social realism analyse the social pecking order. Not at all like new historicism has that taken a gander at the highest point of the social chain of command. Social realism looks at the base progression in another word the outside. For the benefit of social realists, servitude is an outstanding issue to be thought about precisely in artistic writings. Existentialism is a movement in reasoning and writing this is accentuated substance presence, opportunity and abundance. The existentialism hypothesis started in the between the nineteenth century yet came to in tip in the twentieth century. This is widening sense a logic that is focused upon the examination of the manner in which individuals wind up existing on the planet. The rule that presence takes need our pith and holding that man is free and in charge of his demonstration. This risk is the wellspring of fear and misery that incorporate humanity. The term authored by French thinker Gabriel Marcel around 1943 and embraced by Jean-Paul Sartre in 1945.

Vol. VII, Issue IV, Oct. 2018

U.G.C. Journal No. 44829

Even though ends of subjection somehow enhanced difficult circumstance of slaves, they were not acknowledged in the general public. Since much of the time African Americans did not get an equivalent status like different individuals from society, they generally had a sentiment of being ousted and isolated while battling for equity. Even though there are various types of servitude, when we consider it, the figure of dark individuals strikes a chord naturally. Be that as it may, here the focal point of our consideration is on female slaves, whose anguish is twofold in Morrison's fiction. Not exclusively does their skin shading push them toward the edge, yet additionally, their sexual orientation causes their being doubly underestimated. In this way, it appears that female slaves, from the beginning of time, have turned out to be some way or another subtle and quiet.

Morrison's first novel spotlight on a troubled youthful African American young lady, Pecola Breedlove who trusts that her overwhelming world will gaze upward extensively if no one but she can wish and ask sufficiently hard to make her eye turn blue. The novel begins from a short story Morrison had composed amid the mid-1960s of every a composition gathering to which she has said she looked for asylum from her stressed marriage and told the vast majority of the perspective of the two other youthful dark young ladies Claudia and Frieda MacTeer. Through the relating this is, for the most part, Claudia's the novel makes surprising recognise including the occasionally distressing yet continually cherishing MacTeer residential and that of the Breedlove family which is quick removal. Edge by the Dick and Jane story of a clear presentation, this story looks at the uneasiness including a definitive and the genuine in American culture.

The MacTeer monetary sadness of their own their reasonably stable environment turns into a little sanctuary for Pecola when her family loses its home. Amid Pecola remains at the MacTeer home, she shows her interest with blue eyes, to some extent through her soft spot for consumption drain in a container with the picture of Shirley Temple. In the meantime as there multi-year old Pecola being discharging a circumstance that makes a tremendous impact on Claudia and Frieda. Thus Pecola returns home to her folks, Cholly and Pauline Breedlove alongside her more established sibling Sammy who generally flees. Pecola's family life is segregated and forceful, and every individual from the Breedlove family is sure of their irrelevance and resentment. Such discouragement causes Pecola to wish to leave or pass away or to have blue eyes, which she considers will forestall such terrible events as her folk's fierce battle from appealing spot before her. In collection to venerate Shirley Temple, Pecola cherishes blue looked at Mary Jane confections again plainly demonstrative of her hopeless disguise of a wrap white esteem framework.

In actuality, the United States of America does not go to one race, network or gathering. Americans have been ceaselessly trying to rethink their national character from the snapshot of their first contact with the virgin land. In Toni Morrison's novel The Bluest Eye, is, however, uncover the layer of truth underneath such announced. The books explore into the idea of social clashes between the dark Africans and the white locals of the landmass.

Vol. VII, Issue IV, Oct. 2018

U.G.C. Journal No. 44829

Morrison in the novel there scorns this theory and upbraids the possibility of physical excellence as maybe the most horrible thought ever of thought. Besides the proposition of physical magnificence urges one to joy the other establishment of her physical attributes just as though she doesn't have a place with humanity. The Bluest Eye raises the robust and intense challenge to both the social wonder the height of the white race and the belittling and dehumanisation of the blacks. The novel analyses the idea of the devastation caused by even causal racial hatred and racial self-hatred. The book performs the strategy of going into disrepair of an entire race that rejects' its very own specific social personality and is astute by the material normal for another run which, they blame, is commendable and better to their own. Pecola a social untouchable distance herself from her family and one of a kind African social character wants to be an essential individual else which she could surely not move toward becoming.

Toni Morrison's novel shows how the characters are endured in the general public. In her novel, The Bluest Eye Morrison demonstrates the hero as crazy, revolting for this sort of character how they are suffered from by the other individuals. Pecola is the hero of the novel The Bluest Eye even though she is the focal job in nature. Pecola is a dormant and bizarre character in the novel. Pecola Breedlove is the dark young lady whose avaricious should be adored is showed in a craving for the blue eye that inevitably gets her into craziness. The novel's lead of some dreadful extents of dark life, for example, interbreeding and destitution, and the more prominent radicalized setting from which a portion of this catastrophe springs mirror Morrison's craving to welcome her peruser to take a gander at the family esteems, sex legislative issues and society mystery that shape substance and shared character. In The Bluest Eye, the separation of uniqueness is nearly related to the racial preference that the typical white culture spreads among blacks and how it influences their self-peculiarity. The current social arrangement has prevailed in the movement of African Americans' psychological migration. The minority subject has disguises the standards of the domineering gathering, the whites.

Pecola's disaster is because of her detachment from family companions and the dark network if Lorain, Ohio. The called as like the little dark town either jabs fun at Pecola or gets barbarous joy from her destroyed state. Indeed, even Claudia and Freida don't near Pecola when her dad, Cholly Breedlove assaulted her. The obliging cordial match of her sister is separate from Pecola. Frieda and Claudia see Pecola here and there after Pecola slips into a frenzy. Pecola's isolation is finished when she withdraws into her very own universe of excitement, in which she betrays herself that the tipsy dad had not assaulted her. In this fantasy land, a fanciful companion is her only solace and consolations. She cherishes this recently won partner who guarantees her that she has the bluest eye on the planet. Pecola's bothered nerves say a great deal in regards to the financial and political suppression of minimal dark young ladies as they get isolated from high contrast America.

Claudia and Frieda, Pecola's friends, too were blacks and poor but could distinguish their uniqueness as they valued their identity. Spot on since establishment their approach was firm towards white beauty. But Pecola on the other hand dissimilar they went blindly behind white logos stamped such as outcome in her intellect that she even in her instantaneously, remembered them. And again when Pecola was significant the whole black constituency wanted the baby to die because they claimed it would be as "Black" and "Ugly" as its parents. But Claudia asserted blackness in assenting terms that saved her from being separated. The attitude and temperament of beloved are more or less similar to that of Claudia's. In Beloved Morrison attempts to move her focus outside the area of influence of the white logos by centre her novel on the black community. By continuously removing these white eyes, she brings into focus a world which revolves around a black community which is governed by black mythology.

Morrison has uncovered in her the majority of her novel into the impact of mental injury on the female, young person selfhood Pecola in The Bluest Eye, the separations of the minor female personality, originate from the colonisation of blacks by regular culture and disguises of its standard of magnificence when induced self-loathing. Morrison's most powerful novel was so far Beloved welcome its perusers to recognise as its title soul a spooky lady who is the fragile living creature and blood diversion of Sethe's killed baby young lady. In having Sethe murder her little girl, Morrison was motivated by the overcome evaluation of a recorded oppressed lady Margaret Garner, who picked passing over subjugation when she and her youngsters were going to be caught in Cincinnati after on the keep running from Kentucky. Morrison translates this practically Sethe's rough's activity spring from the force of her protective love. Morrison gives Beloved a role as the main bit of what she has pictured as a set of three of chips away at outrageous love with this underlying section epitomising pounding maternal love. Darling with numerals as opposed to explaining certainties, it was my goal to give the house uniqueness isolate from the road or still the city to name it the way "Sweet Home".

Dearest investigates the physical; feeling and otherworldly decimation created by servitude an obliteration that keeps on frequenting those characters who are previous slaves even an opportunity. The most unsafe of subjugation's impacts is its adverse effect on the earlier slaves feeling of self, and the novel contains various precedents if self-estrangements. Paul D, for example, is so distanced from himself that at one point he can't tell whether the shouting he hears is his own or somebody else's. Slaves were told they were subhuman and were exchanged as items whose value could be communicated in dollars. In like manner, Paul D is exceptionally tentative about regardless of whether he could maybe be a bona fide "man", and he frequently ponders about his incentive as a person.

It is rash to consider sex jobs in this novel without charming into account the impossible to miss custom of servitude as the diagram. Morrison is concerned with the torment delivered upon both genders; the mastery or enduring under bondage has no sexual orientation

tendency. The damage to slave men and fathers like Paul D or Sethe's better half Halle is similarly as offensive as the blasphemy to slave moms, and little girls like Beloved the one little girl Sethe figures out how to kill when instructor comes to recover the got away mother and kids. The well-assembled Morrison female focal character, Sethe withstands the butcher to her and still survives. Urged on by teacher's nephews' plunder of her maternal drain, Sethe is set out to see that her youngsters discover well-being and opportunity. On the finish of the story all the harmed moms alive and deed dispose of apparition of Beloved, emissary of every single lost youngster, and deal with any feeling of offense for their prematurely ended parenthood by join in sacred profound association and tunes, the express of which contradict any white male-centric structure speak to by the detail.

By encoding dark ladies' voices recounting the account of the unspeakable history of bondage in America, Morrison's novel Beloved scaffolds the break between simply authentic portrayals of reality and the portrayals of shocking mental injuries and enduring. In both the novel The Bluest Eye and Beloved have outstanding issues concerning the issues of race, bigotry, sexual orientation issues. The prejudice, underestimation and abuse are these dispensed with the dignity and confidence in Morrison's books character. In the general public dark individuals are dealt with as a slave by the white individuals not similarly as white individuals treated among the dark individuals itself it has a shading variety because the light cleaned dark individuals overwhelm the dim cleaned shading individuals. For this situation, the light cleaned dark individuals had some great position in the general public while looking at dark cleaned ones. These issues proceeded and went through from one age to people to come. It demonstrates that prejudice and mistreatment are endless in that life.In the dark individual's society the female is likewise regarded as slave story it shows up as an introduction as their body. The woman who has a place with that society they didn't have the security of themselves.

Ladies are needed to do all sort of diligent work in their slave opportunity. Morrison centre on existentialism in her novel The Bluest Eye and Beloved she discusses how the African American individuals are enduring under the mastery of white individuals. At that point, we can find in the Morrison novel how the characters are survived and battle against the white skill. The heroes of the novel they had a feeling of inadequacy about their shading and race. The general population are endured a great deal in the time of mastery. So these books consider as existentialism yet the dark individuals regarded as a slave. The dark individuals are tough to lead in that period because the white individuals dependably overwhelm, annoying and viewed as creatures; particularly the ladies' are endured significantly under the white mastery and inappropriate activities. Their life condition is hard they can't ready to ensure them.

## **Conclusion:**

The endurance of black people is under white people society. But in the novel The Bluest Eye the Pecola's mother loves white children she hated Pecola because she was ugly. Pecola

believes in god always she asks a blue eye because she thinks that if she had blue eyes she looks beautiful, so she needs blue eye but Pecola didn't get the eye she never worried about the nomination, she didn't raise her voice against white people. But without opening a mouth or raising the voice against the domination, we never get freedom without fighting with who dominates us. Pecola should take effort for liberty without putting the effort she never get her freedom life. She is responsible for her self-respect, and self-dignity. She must make her own life in her hand to protect herself. But Pecola didn't mind about the respect, freedom always she worried about the blue eye. In the Morrison novels, The Bluest Eye and Beloved are establishing the Existentialism and Cultural Materialism. The people suffered a lot during the nomination period. Social class, slavery, race, and sex these are the elements included in Toni Morrison's novels, existentialism and cultural materialisms and critics show interested in the cultural issues explores in Morrison's novels. Her books make the reader understand, and analysis of black people live, how they are suffered in her life, and the readers had awake of crisis that the problem is facing by African American people.

### **Works Cited:**

- "New Historicism and cultural materialism" new historicism and cultural materialism N.P.n. d web 13 Sep-2012 http://cultural materialism and new historicism blogspot.ca/
- 2. Andrews, William. "African American Literature" the University of North Carolina Press, 2006.
- 3. Drew. A. Benard, 100 most popular African Amercian authors, united state of American @2007.
- 4. Drummond Mbalia, Dorothea. Toni Morrison's developing class consciousness. United States of America: Associated University Press, 1991.
- 5. Hansberry Lorraine, A Raisin in the Sun. New York: Vintage Books, 1958
- 6. Harris, Trudier fiction and folklore; the novel of Morrison Toni, Knoxville TN University of Tennessee Press.
- 7. https://www.scipress.com, ILHS.30.17.
- 8. Morrison Toni, Beloved. United States: Alfred knops, 1988.
- 9. Nelson, Emmanuel. "The Greenwood Encyclopedia of Multiethnic American Literature" vol-3, Greenwood Press, 2005.
- 10. Parini, Jay. "The Oxford Encyclopedia of American Literature" Oxford University Press, Newyork, 2004.