



St. Joseph's Journal of Humanities and Science

ISSN: 2347 - 5331

<http://sjctnc.edu.in/6107-2/>



Toni Morrison's Racial Discrimination in *Bluest Eye*

S. Freeda^a

J. R. Kewin Anten Raj^{b*}

ABSTRACT

In this novel had given the women's sufferings. Then how can this society disturb them. A women had reached many disturbances in between the society. Then each and every person do wrongly. But this society blame that women only. If they do any faults, the women only suffer and punished in that place.

Keywords: Appearance, Love, racism, sex, Femininity, injustice, society and class.

Toni Morrison was born on Feb 18, 1931 Lorain Ohio. Her Famous works are Sula, Song of Solomon, Jazz, A Mercy, and Paradise. The bluest eye published in 1970 was the first novel written by Toni Morrison. According to this novel Morrison talks about African American girl name Pecola. She get many depression based on her color and appearance. Her desire is to get bluest eye because it equates to "Whiteness". Set in 1941, it reveals her mannerism and dark skin. She is consistently regarded as "Ugly". The novel illustrates how the racism which segregation with in African American community can be seen as an effect to the oppression and racism members has been subjected to by whites. There is difference between black and

white, but also between dark skinned African American and light skinned African American. There is no color difference in any places or country. Writing is a way of thinking.

In the Bluest Eye, characters associate beauty with whiteness. The novel refers white Americans as icon of beauty and goodness such as Creta Garbo, Ginger Rogers, and Shirley temple. In the novel the female African American characters have grown up in a society that does not find them beautiful or being looked at. Dalai Lama once quoted " Appearance is something absolute but reality is not the way – everything is independent, not absolute."

^a Research Scholar, Department of English, Immaculate College for Women, Viriyur, Tamil Nadu, India.

^{b*} Department of English, Immaculate College for Women, Viriyur, Tamil Nadu, India.

* E-mail: kevinanten.ja92@gmail.com

Pecola is continually identified by her ugliness, and she fixates on what society esteems to be a symbol of beauty and purity: blue eyes. Pecola's acceptance that blue eyes that will make her beautiful shows two specific effects of racism on African American girls: low self-esteem and envy of whiteness.

Whiteness in the blue eye is associated with glorious, innocence, goodness, cleanliness, and purity. Each of the characters who have internalized popular and cultural concepts of goodness, beauty, and innocence tend to have some kinds of fixation with their hidden whiteness. In the blue eye racism is a powerful determinant in the novel. "Racism is not merely a simplistic hatred. It is more often, broad sympathy toward some and broader skepticism toward others". It is because Cholly is black that the white man chases him while he is losing his virginity. This in turn leads him to be somewhat repelled by women and family, which leads to his alcoholism, similar to the soaphead church is raised in a family that marries light-skinned blacks in order to "whiten up". This leads him to an obsession with purity and racial discrimination.

Society and class are nearly unexplainable in the *Blue Eye*, since there were so many economic barriers for African Americans during this period. The African American citizens of Lorain, who work in coal mines as for white families. The other aspects of this theme breakdown of community, since many of the characters who identify with middle-class white culture feel they isolate themselves from "black folks." Whom they associate with criminality and laziness. Rodrigo Duterte said that "God does not discriminate against people, regardless of color, religion, social class, or gender and sexual preferences."

Frank Lloyd Wright once said "Study nature, Love nature, stays close to nature. It will never fail you." Love is something that many characters desire in the *Blue Eye*. Pauline spends her time daydreaming about love at the time. Pecola wants blue eyes, and after will make loveable. In this case of Pecola and Pauline, the ideas are: "If someone loved me, I would be saved; my life would be completely different."

G.D. Anderson once said "Feminism is not about making women strong. Women are already strong. It's about changing the way the world perceives that strength." The blue eye is especially concerned with the experiences of African Americans in the 1940s.

In that time many black people struggled with our country. Because their color is black, so no one gives respect to the black people. The black young girl feels like loneliness. Claudia also feels lonely because her parents don't care for her, then she speaks herself after that she hates whiteness, including her white baby doll. It presents the realistic view of the options for this woman: they get married and have children, then she works for white families, or becomes a prostitute also.

"The great thing about modern feminism is that women can define what it means to them: It can mean being ambitious, It can mean being emotional, It can mean being sensitive and compassionate and also a leader. It can mean all those things." The novel's main theme is the culture of women and young girls, emphasizes beauty magazines, and identifying with their celebration.

Malala Yousafzai once said "There should be no discrimination against language people speak, skin color, or religion." Toni Morrison in this novel said about African American culture. Pecola is a black woman and she struggled more in her country. Because her color is black, so she feels ugly. Pecola wants blue eyes, after she gets blue eyes she feels differently and her neighborhood thinks about differently. Pecola, Frieda, and Claudia are good friends and also a black woman. Pecola feels lonely "If someone loved me, I would be saved; my life would be completely different." There is much race discrimination in *Blue Eye* particularly for black people. In my view there is no race discrimination in this world.

WORKS CITED

[https:// www.goodreads.com](https://www.goodreads.com)

[https:// www.brainyquote.com](https://www.brainyquote.com)

[https:// www.shmoop.com](https://www.shmoop.com)

[https:// www.everydaypowerblog.com](https://www.everydaypowerblog.com)