

Influences of White Culture on Afro-Americans Depicted in Toni Morrison's novel: The Bluest Eyes

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Abstract: Toni Morrison was an American Novelist. She has written many novels. The Bluest Eye is her first novel published in 1970. She has written further many novels including Beloved, Sula, Jazz, Recitatif, Song of Solomon, Home, etc. She received Nobel Prize for work in literature in the year 1993. She wrote masterpieces in her life. Literature is the mirror of the society in relevance of the time. It may be past, present and future. Whatever happened in the past in history it has a place in literature, People, Society learn from the past. Contemporary pictures of the society get depicted in the in the piece of literatures. The Bluest Eye is the important novel by Toni Morrison which depicts the impact of White culture on African -American eleven -year-old girl named Pecola Breedlove in the novel. Pecola grew with great depression in the story because of her black skin. White skin means superior...? Because of this white culture Pecola, a young girl think herself ugly and inferior and it develops inferiority complex in her. Further She wishes The Bluest Eyes. She prays at God for blue eyes. She feeds poison to the dog unknowingly to get the bluest eyes and to become pretty. She want to be accepted and loved by surrounded people with blue eyes. She thinks blue eyes means beauty. It clearly indicates that she doesn't accept herself as she is physically. It means she hates herself because of her black skin. It Impacts, the changed psychology of Pecola to be pretty and get blue eyes as a symbol of beauty .How does skin colour define the superiority or Inferiority? In any Democratic society all the people are equal before constitution in spite of their colour, religion, Class, Caste, race etc. People have a right of living like people, human with humanity and that is the required real picture of Human society.

Keywords: White Culture, Racism, Discrimination, Afro-Americans, Interior. Ugly etc

I. INTRODUCTION

"You are the architect of your own life." **Gautam Buddha** said before 2500 years. Yet most of the people are in the mindset to accept the imaginary truth as shown the Hollywood or Bollywood movies and are ready to change as shown in it. People have that much influences of it that they blindly follow without it's consequences. Here in this novel Black Women **Pauline Breedlove**, Mother of **Pecola Breedlove and Samuel Breedlove** is under the influence of Hollywood movies and came to the conclusion that whatever shown in the movies are true and applicable in human society to everybody. So, she feels proud to work as a home servant in a white family and takes care of white children in the family. She seems herself equal by serving white family and living with them. Consequently, she couldn't pay proper attention to her own family and son Samuel breedlove (who ran away from the home for twenty-seven times in his fourteen years of age) and Daughter Pecola. We don't think working as a servant is a not good job, it's ok, one has to work for livelihood also should perform duties with honesty; but at the same time, one should take care of own children for their proper growth. This is the most important duty of parents for their children to build strong and happy society. **Claudia Mac Teer**, a nine years old strong-minded daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mac Teer is a main Narrator in the novel. She dislikes even white coloured dolls which was given as a gift to her for Christmas.

"I could not love it

*but I could examine it
to see what it was that
all the world said was lovable."*

Claudia tried to understand why people love such white dolls. She observed dolls "glassy blue eyeballs "and twisted yellow hairs are as like the actresses in the movies. And women who possesses such qualities of bluest eyes and twisted yellow hairs are beautiful. But Claudia doesn't think like so. So, it really indicates that the influence of white culture on children's mind especially on the mind of black children. She represents her rebellious nature against white culture and beauty standards and saves Pecola in the school when white children misbehaved with Pecola. Claudia Mac Teer saved Pecola with courage.

Pecola Breedlove is the protagonist of the novel. She is eleven years old. She believes herself as an Ugly because of her skin colour. She never gets love from her family members. **Cholly Breedlove**, the father of Pecola, raped her under the influence of alcohol. She suffered a lot from the life. As a black she was already thinking ugly to herself, inferior and insecure. She wishes herself the bluest Eyes so that she will get pretty and will be loved by all. She was thirsty for love, kindness, support, help. Eleven years old an innocent girl was away from parent's love. Her father was drunkard and low charactored man and mother also was working for white family. She was also careless about own son and daughter. "Help you how? Tell me, don't be frightened."

"My Eyes."

"What about your Eyes?"

"I want them blue."

In the wish of becoming pretty and getting the bluest eye she comes in the contact of **Soaphead Church** She asked him to turn her eyes blue. Pecola is eleven years old should know that it is not possible to turn eyes into blue but she requests

Soaphead Church to help her anyway to get bluest eyes, and further he assures Pecola to make her eyes blue if she obeys his orders. Pecola also who was under the influence of being pretty and getting the bluest eyes she feed poisonous food to the dog as per instructions of **Soaphead Church** and wait for the dogs funny behaviour but unfortunately the dog gets the death due to the poisonous food and Pecola run away. Here the influence of white culture can be underlined the above examples.

In a symbolic manner Pecola is a character represent the black community who hates themselves, thinks themselves ugly, based on their black skin and wish to be white.

Cholly Breedlove is a father of Pecola breedlove and Samuel Breedlove. He is a husband of Pauline Breedlove. He is a man of nobody. He is violent and severely damaged man from his young age. He was left by his mother as an infant on a trash heap. He failed to provide all the livelihood to his family members. He was neither good father nor good husband. He raped his own daughter one day under the influence of alcohol. As he belongs to black community, he also was humiliated many times by white people. Novel describes how he was humiliated when he had his first physical relations with a girl and caught by white people and made a fun of them.

Pauline Breedlove is a mother of **Pecola and Samuel breedlove**. She is working as a servant in white family. She serves and cares for the children of white family but she failed to serve and love her own children Pecola and Samuel Breedlove. She was happy to live with white family thinking feel good with white family while following their culture and feel of equality and beauty. She beaten Pecola when her (Pauline Breedlove) husband Cholly raped his and her daughter Pecola under the influence of alcohol instead getting angry on Cholly Breedlove. Pauline didn't show sympathy for her daughter. Her lame foot convinces her to loneliness. So she use to think that what beauty and possessions are the way to happiness. She once she fixed her hair like sex symbol Jean Harlow and loses her tooth while eating candy.

In short, The Bluest Eyes is the story of eleven years old African American girl Pecola who hates her own self due to her black skin. She always prays at God for white skin and blue eyes because as per her understanding it will make her beautiful and world will accept and love her. Her mother has a lame foot and loses herself in movies. She felt isolated and ugly. She takes care of white people's children and beats own children. Pecola's Father Cholly breedlove a man of no character, as a child abandoned on trash heap and later rapes his own daughter Pecola. Pecola's brother Samuel breedlove runaway twenty seven times in his fourteen years of life. What a great tragedy of the family and with the children.

Real beauty does not lie in the physical appearance i.e. White skin, it lies in good deeds and innocences.

REFERENCES

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