

Exploring Identity and Multiculturalism in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

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Abstract

*The current paper is on multiculturalism and identity. Toni Morrison's *Beloved* is a multicultural novel with a sarcastic tone that resembles the various voices of enslaved Africans. Morrison, the multicultural features of the black community, are a source of concern. Coloured enslaved people are mercilessly mistreated by their white owners. They are unable to raise their voices because arrogant white overlords constantly control them. White's human behaviour toward black community members has been veiled inside the enormous expanse of black identity. Because of white dominating culture, black culture has been unable to gain traction in society. Morrison brings up the cultural features of black people, which have been separated in the past. Also, their monster slaves affected Black people's sounds.*

Keywords-Identity, Slavery, Motherhood, Racism, culture

Introduction

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* is a multicultural novel that resembles the various black voices of enslaved Black people in the style of black storytelling in a sarcastic tone. Toni Morrison is concerned about the black community's multicultural characteristics. It reflects the many voices of enslaved Africans who were forced to flee owing to their masters' cruel behaviour. Another significant part of *Beloved* is the insider. Their position as black was brutalised near death. Sethe, the protagonist, and her long history as an enslaved person, provide a vision of black culture and its compulsion to be puppets in a heart-breaking human predicament. Because sex and race are so intertwined, it is no surprise that black women novelists have written books. Have unavoidably reflected on that connection. Literary critics have examined the works of black women based on their history and expression as black and female. They have been fighting for women's rights through their literary works since 1945. Their compositions describe their birth as a lady and a black person by chance. They do not

write about or for black people, but they are the people closest to their hearts. Their outlook on life leads them to pay close attention to details that White people, particularly men, rarely notice. Female characters, particularly black women, shape their perspectives on family, society, community, and the world. They were aware of the adverse effects of racism and sexism on women of all races.

. Because of white dominating culture, black culture has been unable to gain traction in society. By rapping black women's virginity, white enslaved people exploited and used them as a source of entertainment. They utilised black as a vehicle for sexual fulfilment and childbirth without consideration for their mothers or humanity. In *Beloved*, it is yet another unheard voice of black culture.

They have been doubly invisible since they belong to two groups traditionally viewed as inferiors by American society: Blacks and women. Their papers are buried, unread, rarely noticed, and much less frequently interpreted (*Beloved*).

Racism is another of the most important and vast domains in *Beloved*, where the cultural identity has been heavily masked or taken by white masters' angry behaviour. As a result, Morrison raises the cultural characteristics of black people that have been separated into many corners. *Beloved* is a multi-voiced representation of enslaved Africans who died in the middle passage, escaped from the south, and dispersed across the north. Its extremely preventative role demonstrates the spiritual parts of black culture under which they live with a specific experience. It also depicts the innumerable voices of enslaved Black people who have been transformed into countless voices of black people throughout history.

Throughout the novel, there are various layers of black cultures' voices. The prevailing enslavement influences Toni Morrison's voice. Around this voice, the voice of black culture's independence demands the same of black culture's essential human rights displacement of entire black cultures, the furious struggle against racism, etc. These are some of the most prominent black cultural voices. They are demanding the inclusion of their own black culture in their society on political, social, and economic levels and other practical fields. As a result, there are intercultural against the blacks in the novels. Both black and white men victimize black women. Some female characters, such as Sethe, are subjected to

severe physical and emotional torture to spare themselves from psychological death. Sethe murdered her baby daughter. Sethe is alienated from society due to her "brutal" behaviour, and the black community condemns her.

The novel's core difficulty is recognising and claiming one's subjectivity, which Morrison demonstrates is impossible to achieve on one's own. The social environment has a significant impact on one's subjectivity. Inheritance, subjectivity, and continuity of inner experience have been denied Sethe. Beloved's suffering is a heightened version of the anguish felt by all black characters in a racist society. Sethe's battle is also Beloved's and Denver's, Paul D's, and Baby Sugg's. Beloved illustrates the profound emotional repercussions of growing up in a culture where dominance and objectification of the individual have been seen as liberation without first feeling its agency or, in Sethe's words, claiming ownership of oneself. Extreme hunger and the projected fear of being devoured or exploding can tyrannise one's life despite being free of external oppression. Beloved reminds us that the free, autonomous self is intrinsically social, anchored in a relationship and reliant on the crucial bond of mutual recognition at its foundation. Racism's catastrophic and destructive impact on black people's lives Morrison depicts the fatal implications of the prevalent racist ideology and white cultural hegemony on black people's lives. Racism, sexual exploitation, and the loss of familial bonds all have negative consequences.

Because of white dominating culture, black culture has been unable to gain traction in society. Enslaved person black women were sexually exploited and used as a source of amusement for whites by rapping their virginity. They utilised blacks for procreation and sexual fulfilment, forgetting their humanity. Toni Morrison's *Beloved* contains yet another secret voice of African culture. Who fled from the south and dispersed over the north in the Middle Passage. It also reflects the many voices of enslaved Black people who have been transformed over time by their hideous slave sounds. The spiritual parts of black society, under which they live with particular expectations, are highlighted through Beloved's position. Some of the influential voices voiced from the black culture include vehement protests against racism and other issues. They want the inclusion of their own black culture in their society's political, social, economic, and other practical spheres. As a result, *Beloved* has multicultural elements. Morrison identifies white culture's behaviour as judged by how it treats black people.

CONCLUSION

Morrison shows the inadequacy of love in familial connections in almost all of his novels. A family's link of love and affection allows its members to become entire. A guy and a lady in Africa had a mutual acknowledgement of love and understanding in the beginning. However, things gradually begin to change, and there is a lack of affection and caring among the family members. The lack of understanding between the guy and the lady emphasises the chaos of the black family system. It alters society's material foundation. Women are regarded as inferior to men, and the family's ugliness and futility affect everyone. In Morrison's works, there are no black women characters. Without a doubt, the black female authors' works cover a wide range of topics, but their primary goal is to depict the predicament of female characters who are victims of capitalism, racism, and sexism. Despite the consequences of racism and sexism on these female characters, they struggle to establish their rights and achieve completeness.

The exploitation and rejection of black cultural heritage and lifting it into a powerful presence have been a significant absence in American cultural history's narrative. This process of self-discovery and remembrance shapes Toni Morrison's writing. Morrison expresses a clear interest in celebrating black women's strength, ideas, and values to repair the wrongs that have been historically utilised against them in this work. Morrison wants to turn black women's legends into myths that will help them recover from their awful past of slavery. In reality, this search for identification runs across all of the twentieth-century African-American writing.

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