

INAUDIBLE VOICE OF PECOLA IN TONI MORRISON'S NOVEL *THE BLUEST EYE*

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ABSTRACT

Toni Morrison's first novel "*The Bluest Eye*" examines the ideals of beauty of a female African American girl, Pecola Breedlove. Pecola searches for love and acceptance in her community, but she is being devalued in her own race. As through the voice of Claudia, it is understood that Pecola longs for feminine beauty like fair complexion, blonde hair and blue eyes which is highly regarded in American Society. Pecola prays for blue eyes, because she believes that life would be better after it. Pecola becomes the African American community's scapegoat of her own fears and feelings of unworthiness. Finally, Pecola is left alone and lives in an imaginary world with blue eyes.

KEYWORDS: Black Girl, Community, Insane, Family, Violence, Rape

Toni Morrison, a twentieth century woman writer boldly portrayed about the cultural production of a marginalized group of African American folktales. Morrison has artistically, historically and politically formed the African American literature. Her novels are constrained to her particular customs and cultures of African American society. She has focused on the unspeakable things which are unspoken in the Afro-American presence in American Literature.

The Bluest Eye Morrison's first novel is a story of a black girl, Pecola. The novel clearly shows the physical and psychological destruction of Pecola. Pecola's classmates and her community have created a picture that she is ugly. This hardened truth has created a disturbance in the heart and mind of Pecola. Morrison In *The Bluest Eye* states, "Long hours she sat looking in the mirror, trying to discover the secret of the ugliness, the ugliness that made her ignored or despised at school, by teachers and classmates alike" (43). The whole community was under the dominant control of racism and in this novel Pecola becomes a prey to it. The entire commune was wishing for physical beauty and in return Pecola was also impressed by the pictures of Shirley Temple. She was influenced by the beauty and was longing for physical attractiveness so that she would regain her identity within her family and community.

Pecola's story is based on the subject of catastrophe in the Breedloves family. Her parents lack economic prosperity, and also because of racist effect the family is dearth of love and family bonding. Her family has no trace of happiness. Pauline, mother of Pecola has been economically and intellectually back sided. Cholly her father on the other hand was psychosexually saturated by racist experience as a teenage boy. Whereas, Pecola's family suffers from inadequate love, care, support and are miserably affected in their daily routine of life.

Morrison has beautifully signified the seasons in contrast with the characters in the novel. The comparison between autumn and spring is connected to the character of Pecola Breedlove. She is derecognized by the world due to her appearance, after she was raped by her own father she lost all hopes in her life and consequently desolated by her mother.

This incident had seriously affected her heart and mind and she finds an avenue to seek love. But, her attempt fails in securing love from her family, friends and community.

Pecola's paramount relating to her mother's constant denial of her appearance. Due to this she was neglected by her neighbors, acquaintance, and community in American society. In her regards, the relationship between mother and daughter is totally out rated in this novel. Pauline after Pecola's birth feels distasteful because the reflection of her own self is seen in Pecola. The baby once again carries an appearance of dark complexion. Pauline on the other hand has not understood the needs of Pecola and had not taken proper care of her. This desire of longing for love has led to many diversions in the lives of Pecola.

Pecola, on the other hand, feels the aloofness within the family and she begins to analyze the root cause for all detestation. Then when she compares her life with her friends Claudia and Frieda, their confirmation of living is totally different from Breedloves family. In their family Claudia's mother takes good care of them and two sisters spend their time together, sharing their happy and sad moments but Pecola does not have anybody to share her emotions and nobody accepts her because of her appearance.

Pecola is shunned by her community and she is not given an individualistic sameness within African cultural values. She was not considered as an integral part of her community the young girl was not protected by the African morality and ethics. Culturally and spiritually, there is no liberty for Pecola to stay alone outside her community, as black Americans were facing struggles by the white people. Their whole community was oppressed, neglected without their identity. In all areas of life, the black Americans were suppressed by not obtaining their basic rights.

Pecola is the solemn victim of racist evils which brings chaos in an environment. Of all these regards Pecola's failure is because of white supremacy in her society. She was brought up in a society where black people are considered as nonentity but white people are reflected as everything. After, Cholly's assaulting Pecola's complex has gone down and again, violence takes up a major part in her life. She becomes the cause of separation between her mother and father. In the case of Pecola it is unthinkable of her father's behavior.

Cholly as a father does not know how to take care of his children and have never watched anybody raising their children. Morrison in *The Bluest Eye* remarks, "Cholly was truly free. Abandoned in a junk heap by his mother, rejected for a crap game by his father, there was nothing more to lose. He was alone with his own perceptions and appetites, and they alone interested Him" (158). The white dominant rulers did not allow Cholly to do his duty, because of the interference of white rulers in his community. Cholly, often neglected by his society, personal relationships with no respect, money, and a voice for himself experienced the worst struggle of not providing love, care and comfort to his family. It is also because of the lack of education, values, morality and ethics which is unaware among the community has made Cholly to behave in such manner and spoil the life of her own daughter.

Pecola in return her quest for love made her think that physical beauty is where people get attracted and she always longs to have a beautiful appearance. Since she had been raped by her father, violated by the universe, neglected by her appearance, she was finally left into the world of madness. She wanted her baby to have blue eyes like Shirley temple, but misfortunes again take place in her life that Pecola's baby is dead.

Pecola is raped again and becomes insane not only because she is unloved and ugly, because her community constructs an ugly secret beneath the surface of the Shirley Temple cup. The cup represents the attractiveness forced on the young black girls of the story. Pecola is a poor black underside of that story which by its presence serves a mark of value. Thus, Morrison portrays Pecola as a person who is unfairly blamed in her community through which Morrison reveals the unappealing truth that is prevailing in her African American culture and unveils the minds and hearts of people by depicting a heartrending novel *The Bluest Eye*.

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