



**ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER**

**English**

**ELEGANCE AND POLITICS IN TONY MORRISON'S 'BLUEST EYE'**

**KEY WORDS:** politics, black community, aesthetics, brimming, depression

**Bolla Madhavi\***

Research Scholar, Department of English, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana State, India . \* Corresponding Author

**Dr. Konda Nageswar Rao**

Director, DRBRARC, Department of English, Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana State, India .

**ABSTRACT**

This research paper attempts to study the Toni Morrison's *Bluest Eye* is a novel about the devastating effects of racism and internalized self-hatred on a young black girl named Pecola Breedlove. Set in Ohio during the 1940s, the story follows Pecola as she longs for blue eyes, which she believes will make her beautiful and loved. Through the perspectives of various characters, including Pecola herself, Morrison explores themes of race, class, gender, and beauty, revealing the destructive impact of societal standards and prejudice on individuals and communities. The novel is a powerful critique of the American dream and the systemic oppression that continues to shape American society.

**INTRODUCTION**

The blue eye has the highest significance of all This is Toni Morrison's first novel Poet and writer made her famous. Written in 1970. A new morning in the work block has become a port Pulitzer Prize winning works For her. This novel is anything but. Like Her other works, The *Bluest Eye*, turn to the dark side Racism and loss of self-confidence It has a darker shade of skin. Morrison Who gets through this 15 year old girl She was thrown into a craze for piety. along with To address larger social issues, this novel is a novel. A curious display of beauty Construction. Morrison by Pecola We know what it is. It is like developing hatred towards things that are out of one's control. She "This is called ""self-control"". The story of Pecola One of them was two sisters named Claudia. Pecola couldn't tell her own story as much as she did Weaker and weaker. Details of her family members Explained in very few words. She is a mother, and has a piece of advice And weak father and brother. Father came to her The pregnant woman nursed the babies in her womb and hurt her Suffers from self-harm. The story of Pecola One of them was two sisters named Claudia. Pecola couldn't tell her own story as much as she did Weaker and weaker. Details of her family members Explained in very few words. She is a mother, and has a piece of advice And weak father and brother. Father came to her The pregnant woman nursed the babies in her womb and hurt her Suffers from self-harm. Even mother does not think about that work. Pakola's dome can also be seen in the background Mother's concern for her problems but Smt Breed Love limited his own time. "Holding Cholly as a model of sin and failure, she bore him like a crown of thorns, and her children like a cross." (p.98). She was considered a member of the family. What is this structure? Family for her. But Choluu escapes her Behind her dress and refusing, she took A single bread winner's charge and the left chol far behind In building power. She moaned through her cavity Attitude She is the main bread winner and must obey Her working mother limits.

She has a crush Mother worries about Pecola, but speaks harshly of her He insulted her. Instead, she shrinks the white girl For her work and pay and trying Make up for the loss of blueberry sauce Sweetness in her voice. Pecola is well aware of her black complex The two sisters had helpless expressions on their faces Claudia is very comfortable in their skin She is comfortable, a nature when seen white Opponents: "But it's more than just wanting to suppress the ego. Her curls are proud of her eyes and ownership The mouth dropped we know she is offering us something precious and that our own pride must be asserted by refusing to accept." (p.5) These lines are meant to be in the womb Be noble, be partisan, be a master of deeds, the power to say "no, forgive, have mercy". When the story was written in 1970, the name "Black is Movement" came up. Started in the 1960s. But that's how the world felt To develop, This is called aesthetic construction continue in society.

Skin dominates the market White and polishing cream is sufficient evidence of ours Discrimination against white or fair skin. According to Moses "beauty is a deeply problematic concept in Morrison's work...., the omniscient of narrator of The *Bluest Eye* asserts that 'physical beauty' and 'romantic love' are the most destructive ideas in the history of human thought" (p.633) Katherine Sterne quotes in her paper, "The concept of physical beauty as a virtue," Toni Morrison wrote in 1974, "is one of the dumbest, most pernicious and destructive ideas of the Western world, and we should have nothing to do with it" ("Behind the Making" 89). Morrison was responding to the slogan "Black is Beautiful" which she took to be "a white idea turned inside out" that still reduced the worth of a people to their bodily appearance. "Concentrating on whether we are beautiful," she wrote, "is a way of measuring worth that is wholly trivial and wholly white and preoccupation with it is an irrevocable..." The story is not just about misdeeds The young girl is Pecola but it's about the whole milieu Blocks, their inability or dreams big, Their services are easy and satisfactory Their behavior, their desperation, their violent behavior is revealed Ants. Black girls are chagrin against their white Rivals. The wide view of the book is a kinescopic one Their feelings are different. In fact, we are more By becoming aware of the world of despair Claudia's story is how she felt when she was Watch it pour on a white girl At her young age. This 'blackness' comes around. This disease does not leave anyone. Even if it seems that The Whitcomb family was a porcelain against race love The family but the bug looks the same as the last the family Mrs. Whitcomb is also a disappointment like Mrs Breed Love: She keeps crafting for about three years Drink milk by Pecola. The novel does not attempt to solve Pecola's problem. In the situation, it does not develop any surprising element Pecola's commentary or conclusion at the end. Told her father about the miscarriage. what is the whole story, This makes us, the readers, point Questioning us, it makes us question. It is an immediate concern in our face to assume social responsibility Protecting/maintaining the self-respect of every individual Every person in this world. The end of Pecola This incidence is a metaphor for the nadir. sanity is going. Critic Barbara Christian (1980) notes, "In The *Bluest Eye*, the central theme is the effect of the standardized western ideas of physical beauty and romantic love not only on the black women in Lorain, Ohio, but also on the black community's perception of its worth. All of the adults in the book, in varying degrees, are effected by their acceptance of the society's inversion of the natural order. For, in internalizing the West's standards of beauty, the black community automatically disqualifies itself as the possessor of its own cultural standards" (p.52) Pecola is introduced in page no<sup>11</sup>.

So, she's not the only one Story but it's black Awareness. Each

one tells a different story The basic situation is the same: their disapproval By white people and their lethality Acknowledgment of self-esteem. Pecola's definition also Raped by his father, written with such grace Morrison's stance is questionable language. All in all Family feeling goes for a toss when you think so There is a lack of culture in religious and social matters. Ms The theme of ethnic love is given to important pages. Dancer, that too is very poetic and assertive. Mrs. Breed's love story is very tender and tender. Disgusting fashion. Claudia tells about her inner self The countries of the world expressly prohibit it. Three whores Given enough space with their idiosyncrasies, Brutal honesty and weaknesses Pecola They are attracted and this is also suggested by the tongue She could be a cheek or a writer with lesbian tendencies She wanted to emphasize the point of dying for love And ready to get love from anyone, Regardless of gender. She also claimed to get See Mary Jane Rappers. Can be a writer Imagine the extent of her happiness "Sex." As Bosan put it forward: "The 'Thing' Claudia learns to fear is the white standard of beauty that members of the African American community have internalised, a standard that favours the 'highyellow' Maureen Peal and denigrates the 'black and ugly' Pecola Breedlove." (p.31) Morrison Breed tells about Love House "Sorrow that cannot be explained," "sorrow that cannot be explained" Complete disappointment. It proclaims the rejection of the world Black people. See the moribund life in these words: "No young girl had scared at the tiny Christmas tree and remembered when she had decorated it, or wondered if that blue ball was going to hold, or if HE would ever come back to see it." (p26) And this negation is so paramount that the narrator prefers anger over it. "Anger is better. There is a sense of being in anger. A reality and presence. An awareness of worth. It is a lovely surging." (p.37) and such negation finds absolute voice in Pecola's urge to disappear. Though she goes totally freaky about her looks in the end, but her mental aberration can well be gauged through her magical want of disappearing in the beginning: "Please, God," she whispered into the palm of her hand. "Please make me disappear." (P.33) She wants to disappear. She doesn't want to acknowledge her own existence because what she has experienced is only rejection, rejection and rejection. Sami Ludwig in "Toni Morrison's social criticism" emphasizes Morrison's concern for pointing out black women's representation: "At the core of Morrison's concern in her social criticism are logical snares of representation. They have to be pointed out because they dominate the media, the political debates and agendas, and they are abused for reasons of power, racism, and, sometimes, sheer ignorance. Moreover, many of these images also determine our internalized discourse, our thinking, writing, and reading. It is at this cognitive core of mental human agency where Morrison is most political, when she unpacks the modalities, incompatibilities, the contradictions, and the injustices, and effectively demonstrates how exactly they measure our lives." (p.136) Through Pecola's life, Morrison attempts to give an insight into the derogatory behaviour of the boys. "That they themselves were black, or " (p.50) throws light on their mindset. The cultivated frustration would find ways in harassing the vulnerable Black targets that would give them an acknowledgement of their superior self, being boys.

### CONCLUSION

Toni Morrison's *Bluest Eye* is a poignant and powerful novel that sheds light on the devastating effects of racism, internalized self-hatred, and societal standards on a young black girl named Pecola Breedlove. Through her masterful use of language and narrative structure, Morrison exposes the ways in which these forces shape individuals and communities, leading to deep emotional pain, isolation, and despair. The novel is a stark reminder of the ongoing struggles faced by people of color in America, and a call to action for individuals and society as a whole to confront and dismantle systemic oppression. Ultimately, *The Bluest Eye* is a testament to Morrison's extraordinary talent as a writer and

her unwavering commitment to exploring the complexities of *Bluest Eye*.

### REFERENCES

- [1]. Stern, Katherine, "Toni Morrison's Beauty Formula." *The Aesthetics of Toni Morrison: Speaking the Unspeakable*, edited by Marc C. Conner, by Yvonne Atkinson et al., University Press of Mississippi, 2000, pp. 77– 91. JSTOR, [www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt2tv833.9](http://www.jstor.org/stable/j.ctt2tv833.9).
- [2]. Fanon, Frantz, *Wretched of the Earth*. Grove Press. New York. 200
- [3]. Moses, C. 1999. *The Blues Aesthetic in Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye"*. *African American Review*, 33 (4):623-37
- [4]. Bouson, J. Brooks, *Quiet as it's Kept: Shame, Trauma and Race in the Novels of Toni Morrison*, Albany, State University of New York Press. 2000
- [5]. Sami Ludwig, "Toni Morrison's Social Criticism" in "Cambridge Companion to Toni Morrison" [6]. Morrison, Toni, *The Bluest Eye*. Vintage Books. London. 1999