RACE, GENDER AND CASTE IN THE NOVEL “BELOVED” BY TONI MORRISON

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Abstract: The Slavery is the biggest curse for any living being in this universe. There is no partiality in the case of slavery because slavery may done on animals, birds and also human beings. Slavery fall on animals, birds, plants are not considered as real slavery because it won’t fight for their own independence, but humans do. They will rise up for their own independence and freedom. They fight for their identity. Humans also will become the beast when they undergone a unlimited slavery. Slavery is not an easy going term where it is controlled from Person to People, People to District, District to State, State to Country and so on. Slavery is the term which belongs to Sadistic thing. Slavery is the huge punishment one can give for humans or any other creatures in this world. Human beings are slaved on the basis of their Race(colour discrimination), Gender(here, female discrimination) and religious views are wordless curse. Because now-a-days one can enjoy their independence and name them on the basis of their outfit(race) and one can attract to another by gender basis(here, men to women and vice versa). Here, this paper focuses on race, gender and caste in Toni Morrison’s “Beloved”. This paper highlights the plight of the Protagonist Sethe, who has undergone discrimination based on race and gender.

IndexTerms - Slavery, Race, gender, colour discrimination, female discrimination.

I. INTRODUCTION

Chloe Anthony Wofford, later known as Toni Morrison. The melodies and stories of Toni Morrison’s youth without a doubt affected her later work, undoubtedly, Toni Morrison’s written work was extraordinarily impacted by her crew. Toni Morrison was a greatly talented understudy, figuring out how to peruse at an early age and performing admirably as she learns at an integrated school Toni Morrison, who moved to Hawthorne Elementary school, was the main African American in her first grade classroom, since she was so talented, Toni Morrison was regularly asked to help different under-studies figure out how to peruse. She as often as possible worked with the new migrants to America.

The novel “Beloved” by Toni Morrison was written in 1987. This novel “beloved” depicts how the evil of slavery undergone by the black people who are all shipped from Africa. “Beloved” is the novel which made African’s lives a living hell by slavery. Main purposes of this novel “Beloved” is to understand the plight of the blacks who are all suffered from an identity crisis in that period. This novel also explores the pathetic conditions of the slaves and marginalized section of the American society in the light of setting, conflict and character used by Morrison.

In the novel “beloved” the plot development with a view to showing the dehumanization of the slaves and also the objectification of the slaves which practiced under the name of slavery.

II. BELOVED

Toni Morrison writes about the protagonist of the story, Sethe. She lives in house number 124 in Ohio which is near to Cin cinnati in 1873. The house Sethe lived was filled with the cries of her dead daughter, Beloved. Sethe was born in the south to an African mother and Sethe does not know her mother. When Sethe was 13years, she was sold to the garners, who own “Sweet Home” and practices worst kind of slavery. It is the kind of oxymoron where slavery followed inside the home which is named as Sweet Home. Sethe works in sweet home along with other slaves but she did not knew the before. Those slaves are Sixo, Paul D, Paul A, Paul F and Halle. Those slaves work there from first and after is Sethe and they also of course just after her but never touch her. Sethe chooses to marry Halle because he has proven generous enough to buy his mother’s freedom by hiring himself out on the weekends.

Together Sethe and Halle have two sons named Howard and Buglar as well as baby daughter whose name all planned to learn. They all planned to leave sweet home after Mr.Garner’s death where Mrs.Garner widower helped them all to flee away from sweet home. But after Mr.Garner’s death, Mrs.Garner’s sadistic brother-in-law takes up the charge who named here with schoolteacher. Schoolteacher and his nephews capture the slaves Paul D and Sixo who tried to escape from the sweet home. Schoolteacher kills Sixo and takes up Paul D back to Sweet home. Sethe was seized and also violated by schoolteacher’s nephews by stealing the milk from her body which is stored for her infant daughter. Halle was watching this event from a loft above her, where Halle lies frozen with horror. Because when she planned to escape from sweet home, she was pregnant with a fourth child. But after such incidents she escapes into the forest but Sethe was collapsed from the exhaustion in the forest. Amy Denver, a white girl found Sethe and nurses her back to health. Later, when Amy Denver helps Sethe to deliver her baby in a boat, Sethe names her second daughter as „Denver” after the girl who helped her. After Sethe delivered the baby she went to her mother-in-laws home and Baby Suggs cleans up Sethe before allowing her to see her three older children. Sethe spends twenty-eight wonderful days in Cincinnati where baby Suggs serves as an unofficial Preacher to the black Community.

The beautiful days was turned into black day in Sethe’s life where schoolteacher comes for Sethe and her children to take back to the sweet home.

Rather surrender herself and her children to the act of dehumanizing slavery, she flees with her children to the woodshed and tries to kill them. Sethe first kills her third child by cutting her throat with the handsaw. Now only, Sethe arranges the baby’s head-stone to be carved with the word “beloved”. Later Baby Suggs stops Sethe before she kills other children by telling schoolteacher went back from our home.

Later , many torturous experiences in a chain gang in Georgiou for Paul D where he was sent after trying to kill Brandywine, a slave owner to whom he was sold by schoolteacher. One day, a fortuitous rainstorm allows Paul D and other chain gang members to escape. Paul D travels northward and years later, he ends up on Sethe's porch in Cincinnati.

Sethe and Beloved’s relationship becomes more intense and exclusive. Beloved grows increasingly abusive, Manipulative and
parasitic. Sethe is obsessed with satisfying Beloved’s demands and making her to understand why she murdered her. Denver, however, like the ghost, which everyone believes to be the spirit of her dead sister, Beloved. To satisfy the needs of Beloved, they should be economically strengthened. For this purpose, Denver asks for job to Mr. Bodwin. So Mr. Bodwin came to 124 to take Denver to her new job. Beloved in the confusion that Mr. Bodwin as Schoolteacher, she disappears and she never to return.

Paul D came back to Sethe. Mourning Beloved, Sethe laments, “she was my best thing”. But Paul D replies, “You your best thing, Sethe”. The novel ends with a warning that “this is not a story to pass on”. The town and even residents of 124, have forgotten Beloved like “an unpleasant dream during a troubling sleep”.

III. RACE:

In the novel “Beloved”, the protagonist was born to an African mother and when Sethe was at the age of thirteen, she was sold to the Garners own sweet home where he practices slavery. Only because, Sethe was a daughter of black women she was subjugated into slavery. Here black women refers to „Race”.

The term race refers to group of people who have differences and similarities in the biological traits by society. The population of one group differ from other group of populations. The race concept does not go so easily in the case with humans. Because, not only humans exist in a broad scope of environments and also there is a high level of gene flow between people groups which make tough to devise them into distinct groups.

Skin colour remains a primary trait to point people into racial groups. Not only skin colour denotes the race, but also the hair texture and face-shape also used to denotes the people and separate them into the particular races.

On other hand, no genetic characteristics possessed by all Blacks but not by non-Blacks. Similarly there also no factor or cluster of genes common to all whites but not to non-whites. That is, one’s race is not decided by a single factor or gene cluster. Thus, greater genetic variation exists within the populations typically labelled black and white in the populations. This finding gives the assumption that racial divisions reflect fundamental genetic differences.

Race was not only based upon the particular person we discuss about, but also the whole generations where they brought from. That is, for example: here I talk about Tori Morrison’s, Beloved novel protagonist „Sethe” where she was born to African mother, so Sethe was referred as black. This is not Sethe’s mistake and this is also not Sethe’s mother mistake because Sethe’s mother was born to either black mother or father and it goes on and on. This is not a mistake of particular person and it should be denoted in whole as generations. This is also not a big issue because, the race is the term which was coined only by human kind and not by any other supreme Supernatural power. Race is the big torture for the physically dominant people by their skin tone because they are all subjugated by the capitalists or Whites.

IV. GENDER:

Gender refers to the social attributes and opportunities connected with male and female, relationship between women and men, girls and boys. In most societies, exists a conflicts and inequalities between women and men in decision-making opportunities, responsibilities assigned, activities undertaken and control over resources. Gender determines what is expected, allowed and assessed in a womanhood or a man in their setting.

Gender equality refers to the equal rights, obligations, opportunities of adult females, human races, girls and male children. It also attained when the different behaviours, dreams and needs of adult females and human races. Gender (Sexual Orientation) is important in the evolution of self. Sexual Orientation is the nation of being male and female, but when the female was sexually tortured or forced, there is no more justice done to her.

Gender classification came just to represent but not to indicate physically ruined or weak. Sethe was the woman who undergone a physical violation by the nephew of schoolteacher in the name of slavery because no one remains there to conquer her. Sethe was the black woman and nothing boost up her to conquer for herself too.

Sethe was generalize as second sex (weaker sex), she undergone many physical violation until she was repressed. But when she came out with guts of facing everything she faced many emotional bonding with her children. Beloved was the third child where Sethe killed her for betterment sake, Sethe undergone mental violation inside herself throughout the novel.

Generalization was an easy task. Denoting female as second sex, weaker sex, physically weak, etc., is such an easy wordings but being woman is not easy. Being woman in one’s life is not an easy going path than man. Being man also difficult but being woman is differently difficult.

V. CONCLUSION:

I discussed about race and gender in Toni Morrison’s “Beloved”. Here Sethe who was a black woman where she born to black mother. On denoting one by their nature of colour was called or Racial Discrimination. Sethe was also undergone terrified racial discrimination by her nature colour of birth. Race cannot be abolished until „White car runs with black wheels”. Gender is also another thing which cannot be abolished because Supernatural power itself gives birth only by Gender line. That is male-female. But dominating one in the name of gender variation is not a right thing because the name of gender only varies but not the power or guts. Because, in one way or the other, females are much more stronger than males even in both physically and mentally. But for that , I would not conclude by saying that males are weaker. I ju