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# Sexual And Psychological Abuse On Women: A Study Of Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eye

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### Abstract

"Sexual and Psychological Abuse on Women" symbolises the two aspects of race and gender. The history of blacks in America has perpetually been one of the persecutions and oppressions with inter-racial violence. Tracing the roots of this violence and ill treatment towards the black network justified the inhuman remedy of blacks by their white masters. Black women are the worst sufferers as they have been doubly oppressed due to their race and gender. They also should tolerate the brunt of their men's emasculation by whites. Women effortlessly become sufferers of violence, which is continually connected with the employment of influential White masters. Black female youngsters face abuse in their homes in addition to from their community.

Consequently, women and girl children are seen to be the typical victims of violence, both evident and stealthy. This covers domestic violence, brutality in sexual encounters, and the victimisation of children. Whatever the form of violence, the reality and the threat of violence act as a form of control over women. The present study explores the viable whys and hows of this violence, that is, in reality, in the direction of and using black girls; it additionally goes into how black women live on their oppression. However, black women have devised techniques for handling their oppression; these processes have enabled many to live on their ordeals and pop out of their marginalised countries.

**Keywords:** Sexual Abuse, Psychological violence, Self-Loathing, Oppression.

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## 1. Introduction

The goals and ideals of the African American literary movements could convey the culture and lifestyle of the network through their writings. They began the black feminist moves to propose the adoption of splendour as an extraordinary and standard value, and the novelist is suggesting the community for the building of wholesome facilitates the black community to have healthy identities through the connection to the way of life and lifestyle of a society. Toni Morrison's first novel, *The Bluest Eye*, was written during the 1960s and published in 1970. It tells us the shocking story of a little black girl named Pecola Breedlove, who descends into madness after being emotionally and physically abused on several occasions by the entire community around her, even—and especially—by her family. Eleven-year Pecola lives with her family in Lorain, Ohio. When her father, Cholly, burns down their house, she spends some

days with the MacTeer family. One of the most traumatising events in Pecola's life is the moment when her father rapes her, gets pregnant and loses her sanity. By telling her story, Claudia tries to make sense of everything that happened to the youngest Breedlove and their community. The novel brings to discuss matters such as gender, race and identity and raises questions on racial self-loathing, the menace of white beauty standards, and the loss of one's self.

## **2. Black Identity and Self Loathing in Morrison's *The Bluest Eye***

Morrison brings to light some aspects of the solution to the oppression afflicting African people. *The Bluest Eye* examines racism, original inspiration from an earlier attempted short story by her about a little African-American girl who longed for blue eyes. This feeling of ugliness felt by the African-American girl, caused by her skin colour, is the result of many factors, such as the imposition of a 'Zero-image', the white oppressor's concept of beauty that cannot accept black as beautiful, and the identity crises. A feeling of rootlessness created by a horrible and almost nonexistent home life adds insult to injury. Unfortunately for Pecola, the young girl and a member of the Breedlove family, her home and her family do not offer any warmth or affection, and of course, there is no breeding of love. Her home becomes a place of violence, hatred and sadism.

Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* tells the story of a little black girl who is destroyed by feelings of self-loathing and rejection from those around her. This study intends to investigate how the principles of identification, race and gender are portrayed in the novel and how they relate to the troubles of white beauty standards, self-loathing and racial satisfaction. Toni Morrison shows that the very concept of splendour is harmful and exclusionary. Instead of selling just the concept that blackness is considered stunning, the writer proposes that the valorisation of African Americans must originate from placing significance on their way of life, traditions and connection to the community.

## **3. Psychological Violence towards Black Females**

The word "black" has been used here in the broadest sense without in any way being the ideology of "womanism," which may be interpreted as an "attempt to integrate Black Nationalism into feminism, to articulate distinctively black feminism that shares some of the objectives of Black Nationalist ideology. The violence that whites have inflicted on blacks, particularly black women and female children, including sexual abuse, and separation of families, have created great mental anguish and prevented the cohesion of the black family. Even after the abolition of slavery, various forms of quasi-slavery, like sharecropping and Jim Crow laws, have continued to render life oppressive for blacks. The black woman becomes a slave's slave, and the master-slave relationship is re-enacted in the domestic scene.

The men are often irresponsible, and sometimes they desert their families, leaving the women to bear the burden of the children also the oppression of black women and girls outside the family by their people. This includes eve teasing, ostracism and breach of faith by lovers, sexual harassment, rape, and assault. The black community, at times, makes some members its scapegoat. Betrayed Innocence deals with negligence, unwarranted cruelty, and even incestuous assault by the father. Feelings of hopelessness and her silence, such as trauma, oppression, and guilt, but race is an underlying factor in everything. Since women of colour work through a framework that involves complex intersections of race and gender, they often navigate the world under forced silence. Morrison builds her novel around the idea that silence is rooted in cultural trauma, making that oppressive silence genuinely evident.

## **4. Oppressive Silence versus Alternative Discourses**

Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* becomes exclusive because it is one of the earliest novels to address the problems of child abuse and the emotional violence heaped upon children by parents. On the significance of physical and psychological violence done to the female Children by their parents, they have stated: Equally significant is the physical violence done to the black child by parents who are themselves confused about their identity, as is the case with Breedloves. When Cholly rapes his daughter, it is a physical manifestation of the social psychological, and personal violence that, together with his wife, he

has put upon Pecola (*Morrison* 14), revealing the deplorable and bitter fact that the African-Americans remain oppressed and their struggle for progress remains stunted.

## 5. Conclusion

As a solution, Morrison brings love, stories, and connection to the community through the novel *The Bluest Eye*. Morrison refers to is related to an inquiry into our society's values. Both the plots of the novels are described from the woman's self-perspective, which re-identifies the causes of the woman's psychic violence Pecola believes she has gotten her blue eyes by the novel's end. However, she still wants more: she needs the bluest eyes. After all, beauty standards will always be unachievable, even for white people. We will always be too fat or tall, and pursuing beauty as one of the most desirable values in life will always create self-loathing. *The Bluest Eye* is portrayed within the heritage of the American Black Christian network. Having this significant distinction, each novelist tries to construct the girl's situation beneath the strain of male domination. In each instance, sexual and psychological violence erupts from the suppressed women. Morrison appears to assume that a healed identification will probably come from connection to community and others.

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