

**Racial and Colonial Oppression in Toni Morrison and Zora Neale
Hurstun in *The Bluest Eye* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God***

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A thesis submitted to the Department of English and Humanities in partial fulfilment of the
requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts in English and Humanities

Department of English and Humanities

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It is hereby declared that

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Abstract

This paper mainly focuses on representing colonialism, racism and oppression in “*The Bluest Eye*” and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston

respectively. Racism advocates the superiority of a particular race or society, and it results in prejudice and discrimination towards a group of people based on their ethnicity and race.

Toni Morrison’s “*The Bluest Eye*” and Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* describe the tragedy and pain of African Americans. This paper highlights the issue of white domination and oppression of African Americans. African American people were critically affected by the oppression and racism by the white people. They face discriminations due to their colour and alleged cultural inferiority. The so-called process of psychological and social restrictions makes African people to think themselves inferior. This paper will also highlight the colonial aspects that were faced by Black people. Toni Morrison’s “*The Bluest Eye*” and Zora Neale Hurston’s *Their Eyes Were Watching God* mirror the terrible consequences of slavery on the African American people. Though slavery system is legally abolished, the effects of slavery within African communities are still very much present. This paper will examine the critical aspect of racism and oppression as well as the effects of slavery system on the African American people.

Keywords : Colonization, Oppression, Racism, Dehumanization , Identity , Liberation, Slavery.

Table of Contents

Chapter 1: Introduction

1.1 : Scenario:	8
1.2 : Objective:	10
1.3 : Rationale:	10
1.4 : Research Methodology:	10
1.5 : Research Questions:	10

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1: Introduction:	11
2.2: Racial Discrimination:	14
2.3: Female Oppression:	19
2.4: Quest of Liberation:	24

Chapter 3: Comparison between “*The Bluest Eye*” and “*Their Eyes Were Watching God*”:

3.1: Effects of Rape and Slavery in <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston:	30
3.1.1: Cultural Determinism in the novel “ <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> “:	32
3.2: Effects of Rape and Slavery in “ <i>The Bluest Eye</i> ” by Toni Morrison:	34
3.2.1: Cultural Conflict in “ <i>The Bluest Eye</i> ” by Toni Morrison:	36

Chapter 4: Analysis:	38
4.1: Oppression of female characters in “ <i>The Bluest Eye</i> ”:	39
4.2: Response of Oppression in “ <i>The Bluest Eyes</i> ”:	44
4.3: Colonization Faced by Female Characters:	47
4.4: Oppression of female characters in “ <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> ”:.....	50
4.5: Response of Oppression in <i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> :	54
Chapter 5: Conclusion:	56
Work Cited :	61

Chapter 1: Introduction:

1.1: Scenario:

Both Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston are two African American novelists whose works represent the painful experience of African American people oppressed by slavery and racial discriminations. Toni Morrison was awarded Nobel Prize for the outstanding contribution to English literature. *The Bluest Eye* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* are two of the most famous works by Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston which highlight the issue of racism and oppression in the US. Racism mainly represents the superiority of a particular group or society that results in prejudice and discrimination towards an inferior community. Racism covers the ideology that humans can be subdivided into different groups because of their different social behaviour and their innate capacities as well as can be ranked as inferior or superior (Dar et al. 939).

Due to racism many parts of the world faced genocide in the past. Racism and colonialism are connected to each other. Racism has been one of the major causes of violence, destruction and deaths across the world. It was mostly practiced during the nineteenth century. African American people faced discrimination and prejudice due to their alleged inferior custom and traditions. They always face discrimination due to their complexion. Racial discrimination started along with European colonization. The European forefathers had started their expedition to various countries with the purpose of establishing trade and commerce (Dar et

al. 940). They spread their power and strength to various countries of the world but mostly in Asia and African continents. Europeans built up their colonies and expanded their political influences. Wadia has described the strategic plan of colonialism as:

“Colonialism is accompanied by exploitation, annexation and conquest. Its hegemonic power rests on creating the binary opposition of self/ other, white/ black, good/ evil, superior/ inferior and so on. Thus, a part of the world was able to enjoy supremacy because it convinced the rest of the world about the “white man’s burden” and his “civilizing machine” (Dar et al. 940).

Europeans always represent themselves as superior compared to the black natives. Colour and complexion were one of the driving forces which influenced racial discrimination. As colonies strengthened in many sides of the world, white settlers sometimes had to face oppositions from the natives too. But the native elites joined hands with the white settlers and discriminated the subalterns for privileges and benefits (Dar et al. 940).

Toni Morrison’s *The Bluest Eye* narrates the story of Pecola a young African American girl and her discrimination in the white society. She was raped and had a miserable life within an oppressed society. *The Bluest Eye* is Toni Morrison’s first work which speaks of the loss of ethnic traditions of minority group of African Americans represented by the little girl Pecola and their twisted pursuit of white values in the conflict between black and white culture (Yulin and Xiaodan 433). Pecola was facing racial discrimination. The reason of her racial discrimination was that she belongs from African race. Her family members were Black African. And they live in a white dominated society.

In *The Bluest Eye*, Toni Morrison explores a problem specific to groups targeted by racism, that of internalised racism and religion which has been part of their culture and taken for granted (Krupa 143). This paper will mostly focus on the oppression and racial

discrimination and prejudice faced by the African American people in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. It will also highlight the issue of Colonization.

1.2: Objectives:

The research objective is focused on analysing the effects of colonialism and oppression on African American people and examine the dehumanizing process the whites applied in misrepresenting the African American people and their culture. It will also explore the racism and double oppression faced by the Black African Women. This research will basically highlight Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston's critique of race and racism in *The Bluest Eye* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* with detailed analysis of "Beauty Standard", "Racial Tension" and "Dehumanization".

1.3: Rationale:

Comparative study of Toni Morrison's "*The Bluest Eye*" and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God* through this dissertation will bring out the connection of feminist criticism within the colonial context. Both the novels discuss about racial discrimination and how this results in dehumanization of the discriminated people. The paper will mainly highlight the concept of "Oppression", "beauty Standards" and "Racial Tension" among the colonized and colonizers.

1.4: Research Methodology:

For conducting this research, I will apply qualitative research method. Through close reading and comparative study of the two novels, this research will utilize relevant theories on race, racial discrimination, and their effects.

1.5: Research Question:

How do both *The Bluest Eye* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God* reflect the correlation between racial hierarchy and oppression through the process of dehumanization and its representation of the Africa-American community?

Chapter 2: Literature Review:

2.1: Introduction:

In the 1970s, post-colonial theory entered its crucial phase and numerous scholars cite/ed Edward Said's book *Orientalism* as its precursor, alongside the scholarly works of Frantz Fanon: *Black Skin, White Masks* (1952), and *The Wretched of the Earth* (1961), which called for the decolonization of both the physical state and the psyche (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 3). This approach indicates that the writers from colonised countries try to showcase and express their national identity in a prideful way. Colonization created negative impact on the colonised nations. It was often highlighted through the writings of those colonised nations' authors.

In *Orientalism*, Edward Said demonstrates the epidemic tendencies of the literature of the west and their culture to emphasise the western perspective and glorify and caricature depictions of the East, which automatically deems non-whites as "Other" (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 3). Oppression and racism are deeply rooted in Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*

and Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. Both the novels showcase the effects of racial discrimination on the African American people.

Both in *The Bluest Eye* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, African American female characters are given significant textual space through which readers get a clear perception of the connection between oppression and gender. Post-colonial feminist theory builds on the foundation of the post-colonial context and aims to explain how racism and the lingering political, economic, historical, cultural and social effects of imperialism influence women of colour of the non-western world or non-White Women (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 3).

Post-colonial feminist theory is a profound critical stance or school that emerged in the 1980s with the writing of Audre Lorde and her followers and it is not so different from traditional feminism which advocates equality for both men and women (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 3).

Analysis of the female characters helps us to explore more about the double Colonialization concept. The patriarchal society which is mostly based on male-domination shows the racial equality of black women in white society.

Post-colonial feminism is based on post-colonial foundations within the feminist perspective. To put simply, the purpose of post-colonial feminism is to decolonise the feminist movement and reclaim it within a post-colonial lens, outside its western restrictions and ideals (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 3). Feminist critics had lots of arguments regarding the black women's rights and opportunities in the colonial period. In both novels, black women were deprived of their basic rights. Both the novels showcase the suffering of the Afro-American women in a white dominated society.

When western feminism enters the post-colonial and political sphere, it becomes exceedingly harmful, this lies in the fact that cultural imperialism and the power imbalance between the west and the east overshadows the ability to perceive women of colour in an unbiased

perspective (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 4). Actually, there are many examples in modern feminist ideal which indicates that western civilization failed to give equal rights for Eastern women. Western civilization always highlighted themselves as superior compared to the Eastern civilization. Eastern women were the major victims of oppression.

By portraying white women as victims simply because of their gender identity and falling to hold white women responsible for their role in maintaining white supremacy when women of colour are overlooked, white feminism ties itself with white supremacy (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 4). There was a lot of policies in America and Europe that evident white supremacy. Feminist critics had always highlighted these issues regarding gender discrimination and racial prejudice. Gender discrimination in white society damages the psychological health of coloured women.

Actually, gender discrimination created negative impact both on physical and psychological health of black women. African women are viewed as less Othered and subjected to these misfit ideals of white feminism in order to universalize women (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 4). Black women faced double oppression both by white and black men. Black Women were the victim of huge torture both mentally and physically. And even they were sexually harassed by their white masters. In the plantation fields black women had to suffer a lot due racial discrimination.

Post-colonial feminism as a theory can be considered as a new area for interpretations that was created by the dialogue and exchange that emerged between feminism and the post-colonial theory of culture, as both theories maintain an ongoing challenge against oppression, hence, both theories can be said to be intertwined in terms of those factors (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 4) . In Zora Neale Hurston's novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Janie the protagonist had three male important relationships throughout her life. All of the three men

were Janie's husbands, and all played different roles in Janie's development process as a complete woman. Aristotle's view regarding plots is very much connected to the narrative structure of *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. The novel has a beginning, a middle and an end and there is a cause and effects chain where the events are caused by previous actions (Starke 3). Firstly, Janie was married to Logan and that was a loveless marriage. Later she met Joe and leaves Logan for him. They had an unhealthy relationship. After Joe's death Janie finds Tea Cake and they became a couple.

Toni Morrison's novel is similar in terms of structure and its focus on a central female character: *The Bluest Eye* also begins near the end and then proceeds from the beginning with the events that eventually lead to the end along with flashbacks from a couple of the character's lives (Starke 3). There are different characters in the novel, but the central focus is on Pecola. She was an African American girl. She lived with her older brother and parents Cholly and Pauline. Patriarchal social structure is highlighted in this novel in a negative way and Pecola was a victim of male domination. She was dominated by her own father and by the colonized society.

Many critical interpretations of Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* are driven by the belief that the novel pessimistically depicts an African American community so helplessly captivated by an insidious white aesthetic ideology that it is incapable of resistance, self-regeneration or change (Al-Abbood). Black resistance is one of the important topics for the colonized society. African American people were brutally treated by the white colonizers. Racial prejudice is mostly highlighted in both of the novels. Especially in *The Bluest Eye* Pecola is fond of getting blue eyes. For her getting blue eyes will be like a blessing. As during her period it was considered as a beauty standard.

2.2: Racial Discrimination:

The term racism is a notion which has subsisted and fostered from the beginning of the colonization to the establishment of globalization and the racism has not only increase discrimination on dark skinned people but also raise the issue of marginalization and oppression of black women to its apex globally (Rohini 49). Racial discrimination and prejudice are mostly highlighted in *The Bluest Eye* and *Their Eyes Were Watching God*. In both novel we find how the major characters are suffering for racial injustice.

In *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola wanted blue eyes. Here blue desire for blue eyes indicates white colonizers beauty Standard. Pecola was an African American girl and lived in a white dominated society. According to her, getting blue eyes will increase her beauty. Whites are believed as godly and heavenly creatures due to their light skin colours whereas blacks are considered as evil, ugly and dirt due to their dark skin colours (Rohini 50). According to the colonizers white belongs to the superior race. Black is dark and they are inferior in morals, custom and colours. The idea of race and the idiocy of fairy skin are depicted through the incidents and stories told by the characters, particularly the three young women Claudia, Pecola and Frieda in the novel (Rohini 49).

Whiteness symbolizes beauty according to the white American and European people and black needs civilization. Blacks were not civilised and had no educational background. As whites often claimed, blacks were uneducated and barbaric. And their barbarism could be abolished through the Colonization and Oppression. The novel analyses the tragic and catastrophic effects of white American principles of beauty on the emerging black female personality a young African American teenager and the story reveals the disaster of beauty and the traumatic effects of racism in the social and individual lives (Rohini 49) . Racism created negative impact on Black psychological health.

Morrison endeavours to demonstrate the reader about various catalysts which can elucidate how racism has influenced the lives of the people, and she is also trying to answer to the question “Why?” once reader come across her novel (Rohini 49). *The Bluest Eye* was written by Toni Morrison during 1970. Pecola was exploited, subjugated and suffered from racial discrimination within her family and by the whites. Inferiority Complex was developed within her due to oppression and domination. Pecola wishes for blue eyes to become equal to the whites. She wanted to be cured of ugliness. Pecola was abused, raped and neglected by her own father within the family.

Morrison examined the idea of blackness and beauty that shaped our culture and society, and she challenged the western standards of beauty through her novel and reveals that the idea of beauty is socially constructed (Rohini 50). Morrison was much concerned about modern and cultural issues such as, trans-Atlantic slave system, poverty, violence, discrimination and black immigration. She constantly put emphases on the damage experienced by the Africans through colonialization such as degrading native language, exploitation of natural resources, demeaning indigenous culture and suppression of local people by decolonizing their mind (Rohini 50). Patriarchal social structure and domination system influences racial discrimination.

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God*, Zora Neale Hurston also showcase the effects of racial prejudice in Janie’s life. The harsh reality of racism had destroyed Janie’s freedom as a black woman. Morrison argue that racism can only be compared through the understanding of racialized structure where the submissive racial personalities are arranged and establish in a particular form that generate differences by making binaries, policies secret codes and manipulating people by creating illusions (Rohini 50). Pecola’s mother was so much obsessed with the whiteness that she didn’t give proper love to her own children. She was also a victim of racial prejudice.

If we look at the history, we will find that racism and racial prejudice was one of the major reasons for psychological trauma for the Black African. Franz Fanon had rightly said in his work *Black Skin, White Masks*: “The Negro’s behaviour makes him akin to an obsessive neurotic type, or, if one prefers, he puts himself into a complete situational neurosis. In the man of colour there is a continuous endeavour to run away from his own personality, to annihilate his own presence” (Rohini 50). Due to racial discrimination there was inequality within the African society. Western superiority was the main topic of racism due to their white skin colours. The coloured people were so much obsessed with their complexion, and they wanted to become white. According to them, darkness was a curse.

During the period of Colonization and racism black had no rights and opportunities as a human being. They were ignored by the white men. Even black female were sexually harassed and oppressed. Fanon emphasises the condition of blacks who lives in a racist society and their psychological state that longing for whiteness because it stand for power and supremacy in the social order (Rohini 50). For example, Pecola’s mother did not recognize her as daughter rather she develops her love for the white. She always wanted care and love from her parents, but she was not accepted both by her family and society. She was dehumanized by the white society.

Fanon emphasises the condition of blacks who lives in a racist society and their psychological state that longing for whiteness because it power and supremacy in the social order (Rohini 50). In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Janie’s nanny was a victim of Oppression and colonised by the whites. She wanted to ensure safe life for Janie. Nanny and Janie’s mother was abused by the whites due racial prejudice. Black uses to work on the plantation fields as slaves. They had to suffer huge torture and mental pressure by the plantation owners. In *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola who believed that she is herself responsible for her turbulent condition and ugliness but through the different voice of narration and outlook in the novel it indicates that

the self – abhorrence was not occur due to scarcity or adversity of the people but because of traditional social inclination towards white culture to uphold its supremacy (Rohini 51).

African American people feel marginalized due to poor life style , class distinction and poverty. There are several instances in the novel which portray the issue of colour and class inequalities and people from same community maintain distance to preserve their superior position in western society (Rohini 52) . For example, Geraldine was a Black African lady, and her skin colour was lighter than other black people. So, she thinks herself superior to other black people and teaches her son not to communicate with niggers. So even the black people were racist among themselves. Just for a lighter skin colour they themselves think superior compared to other black people.

Morrison surpasses everything in describing racism and reveals that racism is not the chief mechanism for the adversity of black people, but it is entrenched customs and mindset of society which plays major role in the destruction or upliftment of individual and society (Rohini 51). Thus, racism is harmful for individual identity, freedom, equality and self – assurance. Due to racism black were unable to enjoy the freedom. They always feel themselves neglected in the society. As a result most of the time they feel disgusted and ugly about themselves .

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston received mixed reviews over Hurston's treatment of African Americans struggle and her African American male contemporaries saw her novel as an oversimplified of racial issues (Qashgari 32) . Actually African American history and literature represents the brutality and racism of White Americans and how they impacted Afro-American personality and lives negatively . *Their Eyes Were Watching God* represented three categories of Janie's life which includes gender ,

race and class . As an African American Women Janie was on an identity quest for herself within the racist white society .

Whereas Wall (2000:5) interprets Janie's journey as a pursuit of a romantic relationship, other critics believe that Janie's real ambition is to find her own voice and identity in society dominated by men (Qashgari 33) . Actually *Their Eyes Were Watching God* represented an independent black women. Janie is representing black womanhood . Gates 1989 also describes the novel as the story of “ the quest of a silent black women to find a voice (Qashgari 33) . Due to racial discrimination and prejudice Janie had no identity as a woman within her society. Besides racism , gender inequality was also highlighted by many critics . Janie was dominated by her husbands in “*Their Eyes Were Watching God*”. She wanted to find her true love which was rare within the male dominated society.

Hurston's novel received negative reviews by her contemporary African American scholars and critics because it lacked the treatment of racial issues (Qashgari 33) . Actually there was a tendency of writing about the suffering of African Americans from racist behaviour and laws and the conflict between two races. Gates (2000) argues that black authors wrote almost exclusively about their social and political condition as black people living in a society in which race was , at best problematical (Qashgari 33) .

Black artist major duty was to show protest using literature which represents historical mistreatment of the African American people for increasing their self-esteem. On the other hand, Hurston, in her contemporaries did not address or mention racism aggressively or directly. As a result, her writing seems more satisfying to the white readers . *Their Eyes Were Watching God* was badly criticized by other black writers. Even though the novel does not provide a direct furious protestation against racism , it portrays its impact on the black society as effectively as any other black contemporary literary work that focuses on racial violence

imposed on African Americans (Qashgari 34) . Janie's Nanny born into slavery and suffered from the abusive practice on African American Woman Slaves . Janie was not under slavery but still she was a victim of racism .

2.3:Female Oppression :

This study is focused on exploring the criticism related to oppression faced by Black Women in Toni Morrison's novel "*The Bluest Eye* " . Feminist criticism will also be highlighted in the paper . Feminist literary criticism is used because it is an appropriate approach and theory to understand the relation between literary work and women's oppression in literary work and as it is cited by Peek & Coyle (1986 :151-154) that feminist criticism admits the relation which is applied sex discrimination and suppression on women in literary work (Rochmawati 2).

Oppression is basically a common term that was faced both by white and black women that is done by the man psychologically, socially, culturally and physically. But in most cases Black African Women were main victim of oppression . They faced oppression both from the black and white man. We will find out from the history that black women were negatively treated by the white colonizers and many times by their black partners . Sexually they were abused by the white colonizers. And the oppression created negative impact on their mental and emotional health .

As it is cited by Bell Hooks that Black Women as well as other groups of women are in oppressive situation that acquire an awareness of patriarchal politics from their life experience but black and white women have slight difference oppression between them(Rochmawati 3) . Mostly Black African Women not receive oppression for their skin colours by the man but there are other factors like class, race and gender. This oppression created

mental damage for which women had to suffer . So it's clear that black women faced double oppression . One for their gender and other for their class and race .

When the researcher considers novel to be the object of the research, she considers Toni Morrison as one of the best representatives of women writers who deserve to get honors because of her valuable writing (Rochmawati 3) . Oppression and colonialization are closely connected with each other on various aspects .

Toni Morrison's writing shows the struggle of women against oppression and power . Her writing basically shows the struggle of women due oppression and discrimination for their race , class and gender . In her writing ,she emphasizes on the Black female experience in her own fiction, struggling to find mirror of her worth in her Black society and emerging her writing from the universe of her mind which has been shaped by the African American culture of her childhood and forged by her experiences as an African American woman (Rochmawati 4).

Black oppression is a part of colonialization process . Oppression also causes Dehumanization . Racism, racial discrimination, oppression all were connected term during the period of British colonialism in Africa . Further, by using literary criticism on *The Bluest Eye* this research is expected to give contribution and information about the feminist literary criticism which discusses about the black women and their oppression caused by their gender , race and class on the Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* (Rochmawati 5) . Oppression is one kind of torture for the black women. Gender discrimination is highlighted as a part of Colonization process .

Due to colonization gender discrimination happens within the society. Even we can see that gender discrimination faced by white women also . Due to gender discrimination women always feel neglected by the society as well as by their own family . The concept of Double

Colonization which was introduced by Holst – Peterson and Rutherford in their collection *A Double Colonization* : Colonial and Post- colonial women's writing is a component of post colonial feminism (Rayyan&Aghasiyev157). *The Bluest Eye* basically talk about a black innocent girl who wanted to have the blue eyes. Blue eyes are considered as a symbol of beauty. In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* oppression and colonization reflected on the same way. Toni Morrison and Zora Neale Hurston symbolizes the colonial effects on African People.

The main argument of my paper focused on colonization and oppression faced by the Black people. The paper also talks about the discrimination faced by the black women both from black and white man. Black women in *Their Eyes Were Watching God* are oppressed and suppressed by both the experience of Colonization and male dominated society (Fard& Zarrinjooee 1) . Actually Black people faced double oppression. They get similar kind of treatment from white and black males. This paper shows how the white colonizers degraded innocent black women.

“ Apart from hard work and obedience at home, they were the source of sexual pleasures not only for their husbands but also for the white males and they were considered as exotic sexy women who easily surrender themselves to colonizers (Fard& Zarrinjooee 1)”. Black women were objectified for sexual pleasures and enjoyment by the white colonizers which indicates the harsh reality of excessive attention and Oppression by the white colonizers in Africa. Women were already dominated by the traditional male- centred social system. Therefore it's clear that Afro-American women faces double colonization from white American society and culture.

“ Zora Neale Hurston is one of the most prominent writers in the history of American literature and had many contributions in Afro-American writings . She can be defined as a

nonconformist novelist who protests traditional way of defining female self in the patriarchal black society as well as a path- breaker for other future female black novelist (Fard & Zarrinjooee 1) . One of the important point of “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” is identity . The black women were looking for their own identity from the oppressed white society .

So This is how Oppression and Colonization is highlighted in this paper . The paper focused on double colonization and Oppression. In both Toni Morrison’s “*The Bluest Eye* and Zora Neale Hurston *Their Eyes Were Watching God* discrimination and Dehumanization effects were highlighted. And this paper will mainly uncover all of those things.

Racial and class difficulties were generated by the western world and led to the painful circumstances they encounter and the novel demonstrates how the conditions of living for the female black characters were tormenting and traditionally harsher (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) . Besides female Oppression and colonialization black were greatly dehumanized by the process of racism and class difference . Major class difference is white belongs to upper class and black were from lower backgrounds .

The Author illustrates the struggle of all her female black characters in different pictures, specifically in an explicit way when it comes to Pauline and Pecola (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) . The suffering and struggles of black women were highlighted by many critics and author . Especially African writers feel that female Oppression of that period should be one of the major topic to point out .

The Bluest Eye is one of the great works by Toni Morrison that represents the horror of racism and colonialism by the whites on Black African American Women . Following her debut work , Morrison published her second book , *sula* (1973),, *song of Solomon* (1977) , *Tar Baby* (1981) , and her most acclaimed novel *Beloved* (1987) , based on the true account of a runaway slave who murders her new born daughter to prevent her from being recaptured

and being forced into slavery (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 159) . Her writing represented horrible effects of colonialism and slavery . During the colonial era class division between white and black was the most negative part of the society.

In the novel “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” we can see the negative side of oppression and slavery. Nanny was born into slavery and she knew the horrible effects of it . Janie was also a victim to the male dominated society . But her suffering due to racial discrimination was not highlighted in the text by author properly .

Toni Morrison in “*The Bluest Eye*” illustrates the struggle of all her Female Black characters in different pictures, specifically in an explicit way when it comes to Pecola and Pauline (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) . Morrison showcase that how male characters in the novel oppress women connected to their lives by forcing them . A complete picture of male oppression is highlighted in the novel by the author . Their notions about the value of their own women became their own provocation to satisfy their twisted sexual urges (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) . Black Women were sexually harassed by their own society as well as by the whites. Sexual harassment created long term effects on the psychological health of the colonized women.

Pecola was sexually harassed and abused at her own home. This indicates a miserable conditions of the black community . This is immediately shown through Cholly’s character; his first sexual encounter was the roots of his twisted idea of his own race , women and his sense of worthiness (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) . This represented the mixture of hatred and humiliation towards the white oppression as he once forced to rape a lady in front of white. In this sense, this instance can be seen as what Fanon described as the culmination of colonialization effort being the coloniser’s acquiescence that values of the white man are

enlightened and superior (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) . Pecola's father was not the actual rapist . The white dominated society constructed his mentality in such a way .

Such concepts stemmed from the way white men used rape women of colour as a kind of retribution for the colonised men , this women who live in colonised nations experience double colonialization due to the imperialist and patriarchal notions (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) . Women were objectified as a product both by the whites and black male dominated society. Sex became the main purpose with them . Both black and white women suffered due to objectification . For example , In the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” Pecola was objectified by the male dominated society and in “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” Janie was objectified by the Colonization process.

Throughout the novel Morrison showcase that the only means to escape this sexual oppression is to either surpass the threshold of sexual attractiveness or utilise it against men (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 160) .

2.4:Quest Of Liberation:

Their Eyes Were Watching God represents a black woman quest of liberation . In 1960s when Civil Rights movement occurred, African American women's existence and needs were still ignored because most of the scholars who created the movement were white (Srisang 11). African Americans educational opportunities were denied by white. As a result they were deprived of better positions as teachers , critics , authors and scholars. African American were even deprived of their basic rights and opportunities. For example, Katie Cannon , one of the black feminist, observe that African American women have to struggle to survive in two contradictory worlds , one is white, privileged and oppressive and other black, exploited and oppressed (Srisang 11) .

African American Women were somehow like the earthly goddess who were strong enough to survive in the capitalist society and within hardship . They were physically and mentally strong enough to handle the situation of torture without breaking down . However, the frustrating situation that African American women faced encouraged them to seek their own liberation and that was where the origin of the black women liberation started (Srisang 11) . According to the critics , black women turned to liberation to get back their basic rights and opportunities . They develop themselves more stronger to survive within the oppressed capitalist society .

Because of black feminist movement, the society concentrates more on black women issues and the movement supports not only black women but also the other group of oppressed women all over the world to voice for their liberation (Srisang 12) . Feminist criticism described the suffering of black African American Women . This criticism also showcase their heroic struggles in a colonised society .

There are a number of black feminist theorists who give great effort to liberate black women such as Barbara Smith , Bell Hooks and Maria Stewart (Srisang 12) . Patricia Hill Collins played significant role by her work regarding the issue . Collins is a Sociology Professor at the University of Maryland . She is well recognized as an important black feminist after publishing her book , “ Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment in 1990 (Srisang 12) . Collins mainly works regarding black women issues for their betterment and publishes many works on this topic.

Collins in her Black Feminist Thought: Knowledge, Consciousness and the Politics of Empowerment, mentions that black feminist thoughts demonstrate black women’s ways of empowering themselves to confront race, gender and class oppression (Srisang 12) . She closely observed and examined issues regarding black women liberation . The concept of

female liberation is greatly influenced by other critics too . Black Women Oppression cannot be learnt through inexperienced views of white scholars . Whites scholars always try to ignore the miserable situations of black women . And they were always against the concept of black women liberation .

Collins focuses her study on the importance of knowledge on empowering black oppressed women and according to her writing, there are three causes of oppression separated into three levels: personal biography, cultural context and social institution (Srisang 13) .

Personal Biography level showcases how individual black women faced oppression from the white society. According to Collins each person consists of unique identity and personal biography including values, emotions, motivations and experiences . The way that each person faces situations of domestic violence and abuse or cases like that affects their internalized oppression and this is an encounter at personal level (Srisang 13) .

There are many black women who were afraid of fighting back against the oppression of the white colonizers due to their bad treatment and abusive behaviour . Their motivation, emotions and values of life was changed due to exploitation. Collins mentions that top down power forces and controls victims like black women to give up their liberation to the more powerful superiors such as white males, white females and black males (Srisang 13) . Due to self – destruction and self – denial many black women faced failure and denied the chance of victory . Exploited background was the major obstacle of each African American Black Woman for their self – liberation .

Community Level of Cultural Context Oppression happens in a group or community level of cultural context created by race , class , gender , religion and sexual orientation and it is formed by experience and ideas that people share with each other in the community (Srisang 13) . During this process black women faces oppression due racial inequality and traditional

beauty Standard by the whites. African American Women hate their hair texture and Skin colour due to Euro-Centric beauty Standard . The white skin , blonde hair and blue eyes which constitute the concept of beauty are formulated by white people and approved by black people destroyed black women's self- satisfaction (Srisang 14) . Due to traditional beauty standards by white black women felt ugly . For example , In the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” Pecola a Young African American girl wanted blue eyes with great passion.

In the Past, black male slaves who were oppressed from their masters abused their women to release the pain of their soul (Srisang 14) . Masculine ideas play major role both outside and inside of the house. Black women works hard in the plantation fields with lower wages and in her own house with no payment . This stereotypical beliefs were the main obstacle for black women liberated life. African American Women are pushed down to the bottom of the society (Srisang 14) . They hardly get proper educational opportunities or any better positions in the job sector .

In “ *The Bluest Eye*” Toni Morrison deftly use religious symbolism , beliefs and practices to explore the complicated inner lives of marginalized women (Kara 1278) . In this novel , the main protagonist Pecola wanted blue eyes to be beautiful. Through the powerful literary devices , both authors illuminate the importance of spirituality as a source of resilience, self expression and a yearning for acceptance in the face of societal oppression (Kara 1278) . In *The Bluest Eye* protagonist Pecola belongs from the marginalized group and had conversation with her god for a better life by getting blue eyes .

Pecola was in a situation where she was unable to raise her voice against the oppression . She suffers from social and emotional hardship . She finds comfort in her spiritual connection and use it as an outlet to express her deepest feelings, fear and longings (Kara 1278) .

Pecola lacks of nurturing and supportive environment from the society as well as from her own family . So she made a good connection with her god for support .

These women may be marginalized and silenced by society , but through their conversations with the God , they find a way to reclaim their identity , discover their voice and connect with a source of strength beyond the limitations imposed on them (Kara 1278) . Through conversation with god she gets closer to her self – discovery and liberation . This connection with god heal her , helps to overcome struggles and fight against the societal oppression . Through the expression of faith Morrison underscore the importance of spirituality as a means of emotional liberation and empowerment for those facing exclusion and adversity (Kara 1278) .

In Toni Morrison’s “*The Bluest Eye*” we find Pecola a young girl who was a victim of racial discrimination within the novel . The novel did not mainly focus on religious themes but Pecola shows a close relationship with her god . Her conversation with the divine reflect her desperate longing for acceptance and belief that divine intervention could give her the desired blue eyes by which she believes would change her life and make her beautiful (Kara 1279) .

The Bluest Eye novel explore the life of African American Women and their struggles within the oppressed white society . It also showcase their personal growth and emotional wellbeing. African American Women were deprived of their basic needs . Whites did not consider them as human being . They did not give them any recognition or opportunity for growth . Even in many cases they were treated as animals . Black women have no freedom to education . Whites didn’t offer any opportunity for them to be educated . The novel highlights the suffering and struggles of the female protagonist Pecola . Pecola was searching for identity. The novel challenge traditional interpretations of religion , exposing the complexity of religious experiences and inviting readers to re-evaluate their own beliefs (Kara 1280).

Pecola's conversation reflects deep pain and emotional struggles. The novel serves as powerful commentaries on race, gender, identity and spirituality, shedding light on the intersectionality of oppression faced by marginalized communities (Kara 1280).

Pecola was in a society where she had to stay silent due to racism and patriarchy. Her society was constructed such a way that she feels disgusted about herself. Pecola deserves a society without racism or racial prejudice. But she was unable to lead such a life due to the oppressive society. Her conversations with God serve as a refuge where she can unburden herself from the overwhelming burden of self-hatred (Kara 1283). Turning to God was a way to find liberation for herself. The Society was unable to give her freedom. She was bound by the unequal policy of the white society. Growing up in a society that idolizes white beauty Standards, she internalizes a belief that she is unlovable and unworthy due to her dark skin and marginalized identity (Kara 1283). In both of the novel "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*" and "*The Bluest Eye*" Pecola and Janie were searching for identity. Both of them are in a quest of liberation. They wanted to lead a free life without any societal burden. Pecola's quest for divine affirmation highlights the importance of recognizing the inherent worth of every individual, regardless of their race and appearance (Kara 1283). Quest of liberation was a must for both of them.

Chapter 3:

Comparison between "*The Bluest Eye*" and "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*" :

The trauma of slavery is a collective one whose marks are clearly shown in Afro-Americans reactions towards each other; every African American is concerned with the effects of slavery and become aggressive towards others especially, the black female (Sabrina & Soraya 23). The selected two novels "*Their Eyes Were Watching God*" and "*The Bluest Eye*" makes reference towards traumatic experiences such as segregation, racism and

slavery that resulted unconsciously or consciously aggressive attitude to the black women.

Slavery connected to trauma is basically a cultural trauma which threatens whole community's identity formation. Due to slavery which is a trauma creates violence among the black communities . For both men and women slavery is a terrible thing .

Like most of the post modernist Afro-American women writers , Harriet Jacobs confirms that sexual violence is a result and kind of tradition born from slavery which marked the Afro-American memory and identity (Sabrina & Soraya 23) . Slavery is a common issue that was faced by the African American Women from the past to present time . Besides slavery African American Women had to face sexual harassment from their white masters or from their father and husbands . They were a great victim to racial prejudice from the society as well as from their home . Male dominated society always neglected female development as member of the society . Generations of African American females experienced and lived sexual violence either by their masters during the period of slavery or by their husbands and fathers after the abolition of slavery (Sabrina & Soraya 23) .

If we compare both of novels “ *The Bluest Eye* “ and “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” it will mostly highlight the issue of slavery , racism and discrimination going on within the society . The issue of slavery and racism is very humiliating for the Black Africans . Rape became very common towards the dominated group . In both of the novel we can see how the female characters were victimised .

3.1 : Effects of Rape and Slavery in “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” by Zora Neale Hurston :

Zora Neale Hurston shows that sexual violence is the outcome of black males feeling of inferiority in relation to white masters and thus the desire to resemble them in their power and status (Sabrina & Soraya 24) . Suffering due to slavery of black women affects African

American identities . Black Women had to suffer due their inferior race . They became a victim of slavery and rape . Even the society didn't accept them properly. It is shown through Janie's grandmother – Nanny and her mother – Leafy and their traumatic experience of rape by White Americans and humiliation by their folks men when slavery was at its Zenith (Sabrina & Soraya 24) .

Slavery is abolished from the society in recent time but black women still remember the horrible effects of slave trade system . For maintaining power over black men the whites used to humiliates and dominates them . As a result , Black men used to follow the same attitude towards the Black Women like their white masters . So the black women faces oppression and domination both from the black and white men. Being a former slave , she (Nanny) lived in a period where sexual violence was legal and institutionalized mostly for economic reasons(Sabrina & Soraya 25) . Slaves were needed for plantation and cultivation in the fields . Nanny was raped repeatedly by the whites and faced humiliation by her husband.

Nanny develops fear and hatred towards black men because she noticed that the black man does everything that whites do like rape(Sabrina & Soraya 25) . As Nanny and her daughter was a victim of rape and sexual harassment , she was much aware of providing her granddaughter a different life . Marriage to rich man is so important for Nanny like any other ex- slave – who was the subject of rape – to avoid being a victim of sexual violence and exploitation by a poor black man (Sabrina & Soraya 25) . Due racial prejudice black men suffer from financial crisis which forced them to slavery.

The traumatic experience of slavery hurts black men and contributes in the formation of their identity and personality (Sabrina & Soraya 25) . Nanny didn't want Janie to be the victim of sexual abuse . But the reality is marriage is not a proper solution of humiliation. Although

Janie was not physically raped by her husbands but still she got negative influence through them . In this sense , rape may have two significant meanings: the first is physically forcing the black women to have sexual relations and the second is symbolically forcing her to be dependent inferior and subject to black men (Sabrina & Soraya 26) . Janie didn't allowed to Physically abuse her but she was unable to prevent herself from violence by her husbands . As a result , though her Nanny was willing to provide a better life to her , she was still a victim of humiliation , subjection and inferiority by her husbands .

At the beginning , Joe promised Janie to treat her like a respectable woman: Janie , if you think Ah aims to tole you off and make a dog outta you , youse wrong. Ah wants to make a wife outta you” (Sabrina & Soraya 26) . But Joe didn't care about Janie later . Physically and mentally he started to abuse her though they were in a love relationship. It represents how the male dominated society uses women for their satisfaction and black women were bound to fulfil their demands . In addition to this, he always considers her a slave who serves his master , obeys his orders and who is not allowed to make a claim or even to speak when the master does (Sabrina & Soraya 26) . According to this line , Janie and Joe representing a Slave/ master relationship . Joe is a slave owner like the white colonizers and Janie is his slave who satisfies him sexually and spiritually . Joe witnessed a traumatic experience of slavery , he was segregated and subjected by white masters with in Georgia (Sabrina & Soraya 27) . Even Janie's third husband Tea Cake was also aggressive to her . He shows love and care for her but still he shows his superiority .

3.1.1: Cultural Determinism in the novel “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*”:

Zora Neale Hurston's novel “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” has been interpreted as a chronicle of Janie Crawford's attempt to transcend traditional cultural values and establish herself as an independent woman (Thompson 2) . Janie's Journey towards her freedom is

connected to her relationship status with three of her husbands during lifetime . Hurston also constructed the novel from the feminist view . Janie was in search for love , independence and equality within the patriarchal society . Gender discrimination is a common issue within the society which was promoted by white colonizers and also adopted by the black community . The adoption of gender discrimination by the Black African community was the most highlighting part of their history .

By the late nineteenth century many black leaders, most notably Booker T. Washington were emphasizing the importance of material success in proving the black man's worth in society (Thompson 4) . In the novel “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” Logan and Joe's characters were connected to the bourgeois class . Where Tea Cake was different . He rejected the bourgeois and patriarchal social structure. He was fun and caring towards Janie compared to his previous husbands . Somehow Tea Cake was supportive toward achieving Janie's freedom. Although Janie's relationship with Tea Cake is apparently the most emotionally fulfilling , it is not “ a relationship between acknowledged equals (Thompson 6) .

Janie's previous relationships was based on traditional values like, male domination , gender inequality. A close reading of the novel reveals that their relationship is fundamentally far more similar to Janie's previous marriage than it is to the idyllic , equitable union envisioned by many critics (Thompson 6) . Janie's second husband Joe became dominating at the later period of their relationship based on his social status . Though Tea Cake was not totally similar to him . Somehow Janie was also controlling towards her relationship with Tea Cake. Her compliance with Tea Cakes every whim is calculated to make him feel like a man by placing him in complete control (Thompson 7) .

Janie was living in a unstable environment where there is no ideal male – female relationship. As a result she was unable to base on a proper idea of marriage. Leafy and Nanny both were

single parents. So Janie focuses on her imagination to create vision about marriage and relationships depending on her personal observations of the nature . Janie's vision of marriage as the source of romance, poetry and sexual fulfilment is pretty , but it fails to take into account the expectations of a society that places a premium on material success rather than emotional fulfilment (Thompson 8) . This expectation reflects on Nanny's decision to Janie's first marriage with Logan Killicks who was much older than her .

According to Nanny, Janie was alone and she had nobody without her . And within this male dominated white society Janie will not be able to stand alone for herself . Nanny also told her the harsh reality of slavery from her personal experience . She was victimized by the white slave traders. Nanny's position is very similar to that described by Hazel V. Carby in "Reconstruction Womanhood" : " The slave woman , as victim became defined in terms of physical exploitation resulting from the lack of the assets of white womanhood: no masculine protector or home and family , the locus of the flowering of white womanhood (Thompson 9) . Leafy and Nanny was living without a protection of the family or a father and husband. Leafy was raped by her own teacher and according to Nanny that indicates her inferior position within the society as a black women.

As a result , African Women living alone within a male dominated white society are unsafe and living based on the mercy . According to her , marriage to a man with higher social status is a best way of protection . Nanny was trying to protect Janie from the situation that she and Leafy faced during their life time. The cultural determinism is the most influential part of Janie's story in the novel . Her life is affected from different angles by the influence of white culture and traditions.

3.2: Effects of Rape and Slavery in *The Bluest Eye* by Toni Morrison :

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison can be considered as the perfect example for the African American people's miseries and suffering due to slave trade system . Like many Afro-American female writers , Toni Morrison gives voice to the black minority and tends to show the way the trauma of slavery breaks the black families (Sabrina & Soraya 28) . She also describes the conditions of black families that represents a history of trauma and misery . Slave trade system was one of the major issue which created great suffering for the African people like the Breedlove's family. Like Hurston , Toni Morrison tends to present a social and collective situation in which she shows the whole black Community through the Breedloves , a representative of every black poor family (Sabrina & Soraya 28) .

Slavery causes segregation among the family members which affects in the development of their personal growth . Breedlove family was fond of beauty and obsessed with the whiteness. They considered themselves as ugly people . For them , God has the same features as whites : “ God was a nice old white man , with long white hair, flowing white beard , and little blue eyes that looked sad. When people died and mean they were bad (Sabrina & Soraya 29) . Here Toni Morrison represents collective Trauma compare to individual. Again black women were a victim of both violence and injustice . For example , Pecola was a victim of male domination and violence as well as her mother too.

Black women in “ *The Bluest Eye*” never got freedom . They were made only to serve Whites , obey their orders, look after Whites children and often leave their children alone (Sabrina & Soraya 29) . Both black and white males are the reasons for huge suffering to the black female . They showed no mercy on their women. As black man were unable to show their anger against slavery towards their white masters , they became violent to the black women and shows aggressiveness to them . In “ *The Bluest Eye*” Pecola's father shows his aggressiveness towards his family .

The black man is a victim of segregation and humiliation in the American society (Sabrina & Soraya 30). He takes his revenge by abusing black women . As a result , rape and humiliation was a part of black families . Toni Morrison represents how rape is connected to the issue of slavery . She shows that black community is destroyed by the effects of rape and it's trauma. Toni Morrison provides the history and experience of Cholly in order to show at what extent the black males are so affected by whites mistreatments and humiliation and as a consequence of their traumatic experience of slavery , they behave violently with any weak black woman (Sabrina & Soraya 30) .

Cholly mirrors African American society that had faced oppression and domination also affected by racial discrimination from the White society . Cholly was a victim of traumatic experience caused by slavery during his childhood: two of the white man caught Cholly with Darlene and he was forced to rape her Infront of them . As a result , instead of being hateful towards the hunters, he started to hate Darlene as well as all the black women . His hatred started to grow against the black female more deeper . While the white men were the main reason of his unwanted situation . According to him , white colonizers were superior compared to black man like him . So he shows his aggressiveness towards the black women who are weak .

Cholly cannot show affection , nor love to his family and has no idea how to love or raise children... he could not even comprehend what such a relation should be .. because he had never experienced the taste of a true and unified family in his childhood (Sabrina & Soraya 31) . He was lonely from his childhood . His mother ignored him as she went mad . Even his father was irresponsible and aggressive towards him during his childhood . As a result , he was unable to get proper love and care from his family . His social bonding was not close . He cared for just his own desires . As a result , he never thought for his daughter or wife . And he was careless about his family.

3.2.1: Cultural Conflict in “ *The Bluest Eye*” by Toni Morrison :

Multiculturalism is the warm enthusiastic and positive reception , recognition and promotion of multiple cultures , applied to the social make up of a specific place , often at the political and cultural level (Bhanegankar 379) . In the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” Toni Morrison showcase the cultural conflict between white natives and Black African people. Toni Morrison also criticize the idea of beauty and racial prejudice within the society . She strongly disapproves of the notion of physical beauty because no standard scale to precisely gauge beauty was is and will ever be available in any culture or civilization (Bhanegankar 379) . Toni Morrison raised her voice against the supremacy of white society and also against the dehumanization and demonization of Black African.

The idea of racial prejudice and injustice was against the rules and regulations of multiculturalism . Racism and racial discrimination causes the rejection of whole race and it's cultural identity . The novel dramatizes the process of falling apart of a whole race that rejects its own authentic cultural identity and is fascinated by the physical features of another race which they mistake is virtuous and superior to their own (Bhanegankar 379) . In “ *The Bluest Eye*” Pecola was a African girl wanted to become someone else from her own culture identity and race . She wanted blue eyes that she will never get . Even Pecola's family was so much obsessed with beauty .

The White Americans have a sense of superiority born of the white skin while the blacks have a sense of fear , envy , insecurity and inferiority which characterizes their wild , bizarre behaviour (Bhanegankar 380) . Pecola was going under a traumatic situation due to the oppressive situation of her family within the white dominated society . Her situation was like a tragic story who quest for her new recognition. Her identity as a part of the society within which she lives .

The Bluest Eye describes the tragic aspect of a black girl's quest for a new identity the process of Pecola's unbecoming starts exactly at the moment she desires to become someone else (Bhanegankar 380). According to the critics, Transculturation is connected to the novel as it covers ethnic conflict, multiculturalism, racism, cross-culturalism, war and interracial marriage also some other context connected to more than one particular culture. Healthy communication and interaction creates understanding, trust and cooperation among all the members from different cultures. The fundamental aspect of trust and cooperation that is the most essential part of multiculturalism basically missing between the relationship of white native American and Black African.

The novel ridicules the white America's plot to associate intelligence and virtue with the colour of man's skin and also at the same time disapproves of the blacks mad pursuit for it (Bhanegankar 380). Pecola was within an oppressive society where she learns from her family and friends that she is ugly, poor and black and there is no one to appreciate her.

Maureen the richest of the white girls in Pecola's school reminds her that she is "black and ugly" and that even her father, Cholly is "old black daddy" whereas God made her very "cute" and therefore, eligible to enjoy the privileges of life – particularly the privilege to denounce and destroy the blacks (Bhanegankar 380). Pecola was tortured by white people.

For example, Mr. Junior, the young boy from the white civilized group locked Pecola in his house and made her his prisoner. Even his mother blamed Pecola as the main suspect for her black blue eyed cat's death.

Pecola feels that even God is on the favour of the white people. They are privileged and superior by their race and culture. Black culture is unable to compete with them. Pecola was suffering due to the cultural conflict between black and white.

Chapter 4:

Analysis :

The Research focus on Black Female Characters in Zora Neale Hurston's “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” and Toni Morrison's novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” . The analysis is divided into two different parts . First part discusses and analyses oppression and Dehumanization process faced by the female characters ; whether or not females become a victim of psychological, social , physiological or cultural oppression . And the second part, describes and analyse responses of the woman who faces oppression from the society . Firstly, *The Bluest Eye* is a novel about “ Black Women Oppression in the North, Ohio , America (Rochmawati 37) . Most of the black female characters are oppressed psychologically , socially, physiologically and culturally . Even women were oppressed due to their gender and also for their class and race . There are some major female characters in both of the novel like , Pauline , Claudia , Frieda , Janie , Nanny and Pecola . All of them were a victim of racial discrimination and Oppression .

4.1: Oppression of both male and female Characters in “ *The Bluest Eye*”:

Pecola's Oppression :

Pecola was the second child of Cholly and Pauline in the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*”. She faces three different kinds of oppressions , psychological , cultural and physiological Oppression . Basically Pecola faces the same psychological Oppression like her family , such as Pauline or Mrs. Breedlove (her mother) , Cholly Breedlove (her father) and Sammy Breedlove (her brother) (Rochmawati 37) . Whole family was psychologically oppressed by the white colonizers . Pecola and her family are considered ugly because of their physical nature (Rochmawati 37) . They had dark skin colours , curly hair , heavy eye brows and crooked

nose. On the other hand , Whites were good looking . They had white skin , Sharp nose and straight hair . Moreover, Pecola is oppressed culturally and physiologically by the image of white people's beauty which is supported by the media , such as a candy wrapper , cup of milk , magazine (Rochmawati 37) .

Pecola is culturally oppressed due to the traditional beauty standards of the dominated white society. Pecola is a Black African American girl.

Each pale yellow wrapper has a picture on it , a picture of little Marry Jane , for whom the candy is named. Smiling white face. Blond hair in gentle disarray, blue eye are Petulant, mischievous. To Pecola they are simple pretty.....(*The Bluest Eye*: 50) .

Pecola's family is not upper class. They are poor and black . She faces cultural oppression from the school . Pecola faces inequality from her classmates as well as from the teachers .

Teachers always try to avoid her .

She was the only member of class who sat alone at a double desk. The first letter of her last name forced her to sit in the front of the room always.... The teachers had always treated her this way . They tried never to glance at her and called on her only when was required to respond. She also knew that when one girls at school wanted to be Particularly insulting to a boy or wanted to get an immediate response for him , she Could say . Bobby loves Pecola Breedlove! Bobby loves Pecola Breedlove! And never fail to get peals of laughter from those in earshot, arid mock anger from the accused (*The Bluest Eye*; 45-46) .

Pecola is physically oppressed due to her gender. She is disturbed and threatened by the group of boys . She is psychologically and physically oppressed in the novel . Her own father rapped her . She becomes pregnant by her father . Moreover , the effect of rape is worse than the physical pain of the actual rape itself (Herman in Freeman , 1984:20) . Due to the pregnancy Pecola is suffered and psychologically discomfort. For Pecola her ugliness is a

curse and she blames it for her rape . She feels shame , humiliation, lose of self esteem and guilty due to her pregnancy . As a Black African American girl Pecola is dominant both by the society and by her family . Her father is abusive both for Pecola and her mother . Even Pecola does not get proper love from her mother .

The damage done was total. She spent her days , her tendril , sap- green days, walking up and down , up and down , her jerking to beat of a drummer so distant only she could hear. Elbows bent, hands on shoulders, she flailed her arms like bird in an eternal, grotesquely futile effort to fly . Beating the air , a winged but grounded bird , intend on the blue void it could not reach- could not even see- but which filled the Valleys of the mind (*The Bluest Eye*; 204) .

Pauline's Oppression :

Pauline faces double oppression as a Black Women in the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” . She faces oppression due to her gender and race . She faces different types of Oppression such as cultural oppression , physiological Oppression , psychological Oppression and social deprivation . Pauline and her whole family such as Pecola Breedlove, Sammy Breedlove and her husband Cholly Breedlove are psychologically oppressed by their white masters . Her whole family was neglected by the whites due to their physical structures like heavy eyebrows, curly hair , black skin and crooked nose. They are totally different from the white colonizers like , straight hair , Sharp nose and white skin .

The eyes , the small eyes set closely together under narrow foreheads . The low irregular hairlines , which seemed even more irregular in contrast to the straight, heavy eyebrows which nearly met . Keen but crooked nose with insolent nostrils. They had high cheekbones and their ears turned forward. Shapely lips which called attention not to themselves but to the rest of the face... It was as though some mysterious all Knowing master had given each one a cloak of ugliness to wear the master had said , You are ugly people” (*The Bluest Eye*; 38-39) .

From her childhood Pauline was treated negatively by the white society. Her foot is lame from childhood as she was injured badly. She didn't have proper nick name and even she didn't have good friends and family members to love her properly. She faces negligence from the society and from her own family members. Racism and racial discrimination created negative impact on her mental health too.

Pauline was culturally oppressed for her lame foot at home. She was culturally oppressed by Mrs. William her mother who told her to take care of her twins and the house. She was culturally oppressed by the white society.

Mrs. William got job cleaning and cooking for a white minister on the other side of William town and Pauline, know the oldest girl at home, took over the care of the House. She kept the fence in repair, pulling the pointed stakes erect, securing them with bits of wire, collected eggs, swept, cooked, washed and minded the two younger child A pair, a pair of twins called Chicken and pie, who were still in school (*The Bluest Eye*: 112).

Pauline was a victim of cultural oppression since teenager. She started to fantasize about a man who will love her and behave honestly with her. Pauline was interested about other sex from her teenager. In her imagination, there is a man with gentle, strength and peaceful mind. Due to the social system Pauline started to believe that men are important and meaningful creatures for women.

When the war ended and the twins were ten years old, they took left school work. Pauline was fifteen, still – keeping house, but with less enthusiasm. Fantasies about Men and love and touching were drawing her mind and hands away from her work... In nine of her fantasies was she ever aggressive; she was usually idling by the river Bank or gathering berries in a field when a someone appeared, with gentle and Penetrating eyes .. the someone had no face, no form, no voice, no odor. He was a Simple presence, an all embracing tenderness with strength and promise of rest ... (*The Bluest Eye*; 113).

Pauline meets Cholly and felt that he will be able to make her peaceful and comfortable .

After that she was able to make a decision to marry Cholly . And later Cholly became Pauline's husband . Cultural oppression created negative impact on Pauline's mentally . She and her husband were culturally neglected by the white dominated society . Again male dominated society was also a negative side for Pauline to survive properly . Most of the time male domination was a challenge for all the black female .

Everything changed . It was hard to get to know folks up here and I missed my people I weren't used to so much white folks . The ones I seed before was something hateful, but they didn't come around too much. I mean we didn't have too much truck with them . Just now and then in fields or at the commissary . But they want all over us . Up north they was everywhere next door , downstairs, all over the streets and colored Folks few and far between . Northern colored folk was different too . Dicty – like . No better than whites for meanness . They could not make you feel just as no – count 'cept I didn't expect it from them . That was the loneliest time of my life ...(The Bluest Eye; 117) .

Pauline faces racial discrimination between white and black people in the society . She was shocked by the white culture . The society was dominated by them . Black and white people receive totally different behaviour from the society . Superiority was always highlighted by the whites colonizers . And black were neglected and inferior community of the society . Again male female discrimination was also a part of the male dominated society . Black were deprived of their basic rights. They didn't have any good opportunities for growth and development . They had no rights as a human being . Again in the male dominated society black women were objectified and faced double oppression. Even in some cases Black people also tried to show negligence to the other black due to a little brighter skin.

Pauline felt uncomfortable with the few black women she met . They were amused by her because she did not straight her hair ... Their goading glances and private snickers

at her way of talking (saying “chil’en”) and dressing....(*The Bluest Eye*; 118) .

Pauline was victim of Oppression. Even she was culturally oppressed by her husband Cholly . Cholly was irresponsible towards Pauline . He was unwilling to give money or to straighten hair or to buy clothes for her . As a result Pauline decided to earn money by herself to fulfil all the needs . Even Cholly did not agree with this decision of her . Later Cholly’s behaviour was not good for Pauline. Patriarchal oppression was highlighted with the behaviour of Cholly for his wife. He was badly dominating her .

Claudia’s Oppression:

Claudia is also a victim of Oppression . She faces both cultural and psychological Oppression in the novel . In Christmas day she faces oppression by receiving a doll .

It had begun with Christmas and the gift of dolls . The big , the special, the loving Gift was always a big , blue – eyed Baby Doll . From the clucking sounds of adults I Knew that the doll represented what they thought was my fondest wish . I was Bemused with the thing itself and the way it looked. What was I supposed to do with it ? Pretend I was it’s mother ? I had no interest in babies or the concept of motherhood. (*The Bluest Eye*: 19-20) .

Besides psychological Oppression Claudia was also culturally oppressed . White beauty Standard is supported by media , like newspapers and magazines . According to them yellow haired , blue eyed and brighter skinned doll girls like the most . Even children also set up beauty standards according to the white dominated society . From the childhood they wanted to be beautiful and play with a good looking doll . Racism is mostly highlighted by this activity . White colonizers set up the beauty standards in such a way that even the children gets involved with racism and racial issues . A black child faces the harsh reality of racial prejudice . Those who bring up in a white dominated society with black skin they wanted to get out of this curse . Traditional white beauty Standards damage the childish mentality of the

black African American children . As a child they faces inferiority complex . Due this inferiority complex they can not even grow properly during their adulthood . So the racial prejudice and discrimination creates very bad effects on African American people from their childhood and it should be removed from the society .

To see of what it was made , to discover the dearness , to find the beauty , the desirability that had escaped me , but apparently only me . Adults , older girls , shops magazine, newspaper, window sings – all the world had agreed that a blue- eyed , yellow – haired , pink – skinned doll was what every girl child treasured . Here ; they said; “ this is beautiful and if you are on tin’s day ‘ worthy’ you may have it”. (The Bluest Eye; 20-21) .

4.2: Response of Oppression in “ *The Bluest Eye*” :

This part analyses the responses about oppressions faced by Black African American Women in the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” by Toni Morrison . There are major four female characters Pecola , Pauline, Frieda and Claudia . Pecola is the main character of this novel .

Pecola’ s Response :

Pecola’ s Response to the physical oppression is similar to her mother . She accepts herself as ugly due to the darkness . She accepts all oppression by the dominated society. According to the white society black are uncivilized and ugly . And their only purpose is to serve the white.

The master had said , “ You are ugly people.” They had looked about themselves and saw nothing to contradict the statement; saw in fact , support for it learning at them from every billboard, every movie, every glance. “ Yes” they had said. You are right”. And they took the ugliness in their hands, threw it as a mantle over them, and went about the world with it (*The Bluest Eye*; 39) .

Even one of the sorrowful matter is that Pecola accepts physical and cultural oppression that is supported by media as a beauty standard . Pecola is fond of getting blue eyes . White constructed the whole society in such a way that Black people have no rights to properly live. Their darker skin colours make them inferior in front of white. Pecola was placed in lower class in school due to cultural oppression. According to her only by getting blue eyes she can be beautiful . So she always pray for it . She thinks that blue eyes can give her love and respect from the society . Even she is deprived of love from her own family. This is how she is oppressed by the white society. Pecola is physically oppressed by a group boys. They think themselves more powerful compare to her as she is a girl . Pecola is unable to do anything against the oppression that she faces.

Pecola is oppressed and abused by her boyfriend. His name is Junior. She is physically oppressed by him . Junior wanted to trap Pecola to be his prisoner . And she tries to protest this decision by showing her anger through the words “ stop that” and “ let me go” (*The Bluest Eye*: 90) . Even Pecola is physically and psychologically abused and oppressed by her father . But in this case Pecola blame her looks . According to her the situation will be different to her if she had blue eyes and beauty .

The damage done was total . She spent her days, her tendril sap- green days, Walking up and down, up and down , her jerking to beat of a drummer so distant only She could hear. Elbows bent ,hand on shoulders, she flailed her arms like bird in an eternal , grotesquely futile effort to fly. Beating the air, a winged but grounded bird, intend on the blue void it could not reach could not even see but which filled the valleys of the mind (*The Bluest Eye*; 204) .

Pauline's Response :

According to the white colonizers Pauline and her whole family members are ugly and uncivilized. Even they also accept this ugliness. Pauline is culturally and psychologically

oppressed within the society . When Pauline was a child , she had many restrictions from her family as a result she finds pleasure by doing all the housework. She used to arranged all the things . By accepting all the situation and doing all the housework properly represented that Pauline accepted the reality of oppression.

Her general feeling of separateness and unworthiness she blamed on her foot . Restricted as a child to this cocoon of her family spinning , she cultivated quite and Private pleasures . She liked most of all to arrange things. To line things up in rows – Jars on shelves at canning , peach pits on the step , sticks , stones ,leaves and the Members of her family let these arrangements be (*The Bluest Eye* ; 111) .

In home Pauline accepted cultural oppression . Pauline was also a victim of gender discrimination . She faces the issue of gender equality from the different sphere of the white dominated society . She was somehow dependent on man for a better life style . But the reality is very different . She didn't receive proper treatment from her husband . He was abusive towards her . Pauline is culturally oppressed by her male partner . She feels that Cholly can provide her comfort . So she decided to marry him . After their marriage situation dramatically changes . Pauline played her role as a wife by taking care of the household and Cholly used to work outside for earning money . For getting comfort and proper life Pauline became dependent on her husband .

“ Me and Cholly was getting along then. We come up north; supposed to be more Jobs and all . We moved into two rooms up over a furniture store, and I set about housekeeping . Cholly was working at the steel plant and everything was looking good that was the lonesomeness time of my life.. just waiting for Chilly to come home at three o' clock. I didn't even have a cat talk to.” (*The Bluest Eye*;117) .

In her new town Pauline is psychologically and physically oppressed by some black women and as a response she started imitating other Black women so that they amuse her less . She puts makeup on her face and wishes to wear new clothes by asking money from her husband.

On the other hand Cholly is not willing to give her money for buying clothes. As a result Pauline decided to work for herself to fulfil her personal demands like clothes and other things for their apartment. She gets a job in a rich white family house. But Pauline faces challenges while working in that family. She had to choose between her husband and her work for getting money. But she decided not to leave Cholly for work. As a result she has to come back to her home and play the role as a house wife. Again she becomes a victim of physical, cultural and psychological oppression.

When the winter sun hit the peeling green paint of the kitchen chairs, when the Smoked hocks were boiling in the pot, when all she could hear was the truck delivering furniture downstairs, she thought about back home, about how she had been all alone most of the time then too, but that this loneliness was different. Then she stopped Staring at the green chairs at the delivery truck; she went to the movies instead..(*The Bluest Eye*; 121-122).

4.3 Colonization Faced by Female Characters :

Besides oppression Colonization is also represented by Toni Morrison in *The Bluest Eye*. Oppression and Colonization are closely connected terms. The African American people were the major victims of colonialization process. They were uneducated and uncivilized according to colonizers. Colonization process was a long-term process in many countries like India and other Asian countries. British rule over the Indians for a longer period of time. They forced Indians and controls the power of their nation. There are many barbarian records of British people in India and countries like Africa. They tried to make a group of people from India who will be Indian in blood but English in morals and intellectual. They not only damage the Indian society but also help the by establishing road, offices, school, Universities and all other things that was helpful for the development of native Indians. For the African American people, the situation was different. They were brutally treated by the whites. In this

analysis we find many characters from *The Bluest Eye* “who were the victim of Colonization. Due to Colonization, they lost their identity . They faces oppression from the society . African people mostly victim of Colonization in the plantation fields. They had no freedom . For a longer period they had to work in those field with or without any payment. Women were the major victims. They had no opportunities to grow and be educated. Due to Colonization Pecola a young African girl had to survive without respect and love. The social system is constructed in negative way . Pecola’s mother accepted the reality of colonized nation . She thinks herself inferior compared to her white masters. Colonial and the Post – Colonial era is mostly highlighted by many critics and authors in their writings . “ *The Bluest Eye* “ is also that kind of writing . In which Toni Morrison showcases the horrible impact of a colonized nation . In “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God* “ there are some major female characters who observed impact of Colonization throughout their whole life. The condition of the colonized people were miserable.

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Janie and her Nanny were victimised by the Oppression . They faces cultural oppression by the whites society . And even they were psychologically oppressed. Cultural oppression occurs when women does not get proper value from the society. Male dominated society is the main reason behind that . Culture is a pattern of expectations about what the appropriate behaviours and beliefs for the members of the society (Rochmawati 25) . Culture and Norm shapes everyday life and it’s connected to the social expectations. In cultural oppression a particular culture faces discrimination from the dominant society. Like Janie’s Nanny was a victim of Oppression and inequality within the white dominated society. She was a victim of inequality for her culture as a African American. African People and their culture was inferior according to the white people . Nanny was colonized brutally by the whites . And willing give a proper life for Janie by getting married to her .

Nanny wanted to provide proper love and care for Janie as she was a victim of Colonization process . Her response towards the Oppression was positive . She was always against the brutally and oppression of the whites . Her main protest against the oppression was to provide Janie a better life . As she didn't want to Janie suffer like her throughout her whole life . In “ There Eyes Were Watching God” we can also find Janie's struggle as woman to find proper love and care from her husbands as well as from the society . In her first marriage Janie was unhappy with Logan . Logan was a old and wealthy farmer . But he was very unromantic . He was unable to provide proper love and care to Janie . Though Janie gets a secured life by marrying Logan . She was fond of love. Janie's Nanny never get a secured life.

Colonialization process ruined her whole life . She was a victim of racial prejudice too . As she lives in a white dominated society she never receives proper treatment from the society . Slavery was also a harsh reality of a colonized nation . African American people were the victim of slavery and it's side effects. Slavery was never abolished from the mind of African people . According to many African slaves death was better than slavery .

The Bluest Eye depicts the victimization of the blacks at the altar of the destructive theory of physical beauty (Bhanegaonkar 381) . In the novel besides colonialization the idea of beauty is destructive for the black community . For example, Pecola a black African American girl rejected her original identity and desires for becoming a white girl of the school . Pecola's quest for a new identity meets with frustration and despair due to the fact that she has rejected the most intimate part of her humanity , her original African self (Bhanegaonkar 381) . Due to Colonization and oppression African people were losing their self identity .

According to many critics , Colonization creates frustration and trauma among the colonized nations like Africa . Pecola and her family was a victim of frustration and mental trauma by the whites . Pecola's tragic predicament confirms the view that man cannot achieve a new self for himself by denying the original one to which alone he properly belongs (Bhanegaonkar

381) . It suggests that though the colonial power influencing black people they can't deny their self identity. African culture and traditions are deeply rooted in their personality . In *The Bluest Eye* Pecola wanted blue eyes for removing her original identity . Pecola's failure to achieve an identity for herself is caused by her willingness to be judged on the defective and jaundiced scale manufactured by racist and capitalist white America (Bhanegaonkar 381) .On the other hand , In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* we find the same issue with Nanny's character . Nanny also wanted to be free from her identity . She and her daughter was the worst victim of Colonization and Dehumanization. As a result, She was willing to get rid of this dehumanizing process by achieving new identity . So she tried to provide Janie a better life compared to her . Janie was also affected by the Colonization process negatively . She had to marry a much older guy only to get protection from the colonized society . So colonial expansion is negative both for Janie and Pecola as well as for all the Black African People who were the victim of it .

4.4: Oppression of female characters in “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” :

Janie's Oppression:

In *Their Eyes Were Watching God* Logan is not very powerful but rather quiet a simple man without high social standing despite owning his own land where he works all day (Starke 8) .Compare to Janie , Logan has higher social status and ability. Janie is forcefully married to Logan due a safe life as she was caught by her Nanny with a boy kissing her . He is a stable man with his often mentioned sixty acres that Janie ought to be glad to marry because it signifies that she is a decent woman with a man by her side that has what it takes to take care of her (Starke 9) . Logan and Janine had no love between themselves but Nanny wishes to protect Janie .

Janie was culturally oppressed by the white society . Whites are the dominated group in the novel . They have colonized the nation totally . Their behaviour was oppressive towards the inferior community. Janie was from the African Race. So for her surviving in the male dominated white society was challenging . Besides white domination Janie was oppressed by the male dominated society . After Logan Janie was married to Joe . The town is male dominated in the way that the mayor is a man and that is not questioned by anyone, it is natural for Joe to become the highest leader since he has the wanted qualities (Starke 9)

White domination and Patriarchal Social structure created bad effects on Janie and her family life.

Janie was living in a society that was oppressive towards her from different angles. Being the town mayor and having everybody look up to him , Joe tries to live up to a perfect facade which includes a perfect wife who is merely a beautiful ornament in his life (Starke 9) . Janie was like ornament who had to obey his husband strictly . She was unable to lead a free life . She was oppressed by the patriarchal social structure. Her second husband Joe was treating with her like an object. Even the white male dominated society was more negative for her to survive alone . So she had to stay with a man for her self Protection .

Tea Cake is the last person in Janie's life . Though he was not similar to the other husband of Janie . Some time after Joe has died Tea Cake appears in town and he is the character who follows Patriarchal structure the least (Starke 9) . Compare to Logan and Joe , Janie was more comfortable with Tea Cake . He was less oppressive and caring . He is less influenced by the Patriarchal Social structure. This is applicable to Tea Cake because even though he does not follow patriarchal structure in the way Logan and Joe do he is still subconsciously affected by it (Starke 9) . Tea Cake was not dominating towards Janie . This is because , he had no higher social status like Joe and Logan . Joe and Logan have higher social positions.

They were more powerful within the society . As a result , Janie faces more oppression from them .

Actually Patriarchal Social structure damages the healthy social system. Women are deprived of their rights and opportunities within a Patriarchal Society. Johnson continues by discussing that “ The prominent place of misogyny is patriarchal culture , for example , doesn’t mean that every man and woman consciously hates all things female (Starke 9) . Besides Cultural Oppression , Janie faces psychological Oppression by her husbands . Especially Joe and Logan created negative effects on Janie’s mentality . At first Logan was not caring and loving at all . She had to do hard work with him to live properly . Due to oppressive behaviour of Logan , Janie fall in love with Joe . At first Joe was not oppressive . When he developed his reputation within the society he became oppressive.

Janie become a victim of the male dominated society firstly by Logan and later by Joe . But her third marriage was different compared to previously. Tea Cake’s social status and social class in Eatonville are considered low , partly because he is not a dominant leader like Joe was (Starke 9) . So Culturally and Psychologically Janie was not much oppressed by her third marriage . But due to the Colonizers Oppression Janie was a victim of social injustice . Her Nanny tries to save her from Physical Oppression.

Nanny’s Oppression:

Their Eyes Were Watching God begins to address two different perspectives in the first page, which are men’s and women’s : “Ships at a distance have every man’s wish on board (MAE, 37) . Janie ‘s Nanny was a major victim of Physical and Cultural oppression by the white colonizers. She suffered both physically and mentally . As she was an African American Women white colonizers were abusive towards her . She was abused for her skin colours and race . She was sexually abused by them and unable to lead a proper life . She always wanted

to provide Janie a secured life. But she was not secured at all . Hurston wrote : Women forget all those things they don't want to remember, and remember everything they don't want to forget (MAE, 37).

Due to the Oppression Nanny was broken from heart . She knows the value of a respectable life that she never got. Nanny's plan for her granddaughter is marrying a wealthy man who can provide Janie with all the material needs instead of marriage that is built on equal affection (MAE, 37) . As Nanny was abused by the oppressive society for her providing Janie a better life was a challenge. Throughout her whole life Nanny had to obey the whites by anyway. So she was familiar to their brutality . White treated the black African like animals. And for them Black African women were objectified. Nanny was also objectified like all other female . Janie's grandmother plays a major role in Janie's entire married life as she apparently participates in instilling patriarchal mentalities into Janie's young mind (MAE, 37) .

Nanny arranged Janie's marriage based on the economic condition of Logan Killicks. It was her first marriage but they developed unhappy relationship with each other. Nanny was a victim of racial prejudice and injustice within the society . Due to discrimination there was a huge suffering of the colonized nations . The people living in those countries were the worst sufferers .

Nanny thinks that installing the sense of needing to marry man is only for a safety , and by marriage Janie protects herself: “ it's protection” (MAE , 38) . According to Nanny marriage is not just about love , it's important for the social privilege. She feels that economic condition and wealth is more important within a male dominated as well as patriarchal society . While responding to Janie's dissatisfaction about her marriage to Logan, Nanny's language fails to address her concerns for Janie and therefore Nanny's views marriage as a

commercial venture (MAE, 38) . Nanny oppose the idea of love within a marriage and for her marriage is social union and protection from the dominant group .

Nanny's idea about marriage is totally different from the point of view of Janie . Pushing Janie to think of the benefits in getting married to Logan , Nanny alludes that Janie “ can buy and sell” whatever she wants , and that she can “ buy ‘em and give ‘ em away in a tone indicates Nanny's obsession with materialistic things (MAE, 38) . Nanny feels Financial needs is the most important thing and a marriage must be ensured all the economical needs. So for her love is not important compared to money and economic condition . Though Logan was not a loving husband but he had the ability to fulfil all the basic demands of Janie . Perfect marriage provides better financial facilities according to Nanny .

Despite Nanny's advice Janie does not welcome the ideas of Nanny and Janie's angry tone explains how much she is dissatisfied with this marriage: “ Ah ain't takin day (Logan)'s land tuh heart (MAE, 39) . Though Nanny accepted the Patriarchal Social structure but Janie didn't . Nanny didn't receive proper social protection and healthy economic system throughout her own life . She has faced oppression both physically and mentally. As a result her psychological condition is unable to prefer love and care from the marriage as well as from the society she lives in . So she tries to protest against her oppression by providing Janie a better life compared to her own .

4.5: Response of Oppression in “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” :

Janie's Response :

As it has been mentioned , Fried states that a traumatized person is disable to remember the experience that one had ; therefore, one's shelter is to unconsciously repeat that repressed experience (MAE, 71) . Janie's second marriage with Joe was characterized by sexual and Patriarchal domination . In the novel Joe was a ambitious, authoritative and independent

character . Janie seeks for an identity through her marriage with Joe as she associates her happiness with him (MAE, 72) . Janie wanted to lead a romantic and healthy life with Joe which will be free from her previous oppression . In her first marriage Janie was oppressed by her husband Logan . That was a very hardworking life without any proper happiness that Janie wishes for .

Joe's appearance , imperious tone and greed for ruling position evoke a white man's power which unconsciously attracts Janie's libidinal desire for such men (MAE, 72) . Though Janie wishes for a happy marriage but Joe's authoritative qualities and ego matches to the ruling image of the whites . Joe was aggressive and he considers himself superior to Janie and other people of the town . Ah told you in de very first beginnin dat Ah aimed tuh be uh big voice(MAE , 72) . Later Joe became the Mayor of the town with big voice . As a result he turned into the ruling community like the white . Joe is seen by Janie as a stylish man who dresses and acts like “ like Mr . Washburn” the white flock (MAE, 73) .

Joe became oppressive towards Janie . And as a response towards this Oppression Janie started to protest him . For his behaviour with Janie and other he was compared to the slave owner. For a man who orders and guides the people to build Eatonville, Joe is being compared to a slave owner who makes people wonder if the “ Slavery being over” (MAE , 73) . Due to Joe's behaviour the people in the town fear him . Janie was treated like property by him . Janie was bounded by the four walls of his house . She had no freedom as a wife . But later Janie was not silent . She fought for her rights .

Nanny's Response :

Considering how the slavery system functions for maintaining the sense of inferiority within black women , one can understand Nanny's yearning for a social upgrading and economic protection (MAE, 40) . Nanny works in the plantation fields as a slave. As a result she

represents bottom of the social hierarchy. According to many critics , plantation owners uses slave women's body like breeding instruments for producing cheap labour . The slave women's were objectified as breeding machine. They had no freedom and rights. Like , Nanny was also objectified . Nanny's case is demonstrated by Bell Hooks when she writes about black women during the slavery era as being regarded maids , labourers or breeders (MAE, 40) .

Nanny's response towards the Oppression of slavery system was not much active like Janie . She didn't protest against the oppression that she faces during her whole life . Even Nanny's daughter also faces sexual harassment from the white colonizers. But Nanny's cooperation with the dominant white culture plays another key role in the Oppression of her granddaughter (MAE, 40) . Though Nanny did not actively protest against the slavery and sexual harassment but she was willing to provide better life to Janie . As a result , she arranged a marriage for Janie for her social protection . It was one kind of response of Nanny against the oppression . Philippa Kafka makes the argument that material considerations take precedence in Janie's arranged marriage with Logan in which Nanny seems to wait for “ the best financial offer” in order to put Janie on sale in the marriage market (MAE, 40) . Though Nanny was unable to protect herself and her daughter from the brutality of the white Colonizers , her response towards Janie's protection was not negative. She wishes for a better life for her granddaughter .

5. Conclusion :

Throughout the centuries the concept of Double Colonization , coined by Holst Peterson and Rutherford in 1988 has been used as part of post colonial feminism to describe patriarchy and

imperialism oppress women (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 162) . This line represents how the colonized people experiences double oppression due to race and gender. It highlights the issues of Indigenous minorities , women with a history of continuous persecution and women who belong to marginalized groups in post colonial cultures (Rayyan & Aghasiyev 162) . Post colonial feminist perspective is highlighted by the double colonization process of the novel . Male domination , patriarchal social structure and colonial racial discrimination is highlighted by Toni Morrison in “ *The Bluest Eye* and by Zora Neale Hurston in “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God* “ . This paper also highlights the consequence of colonialism and oppression that are faced by the African American people . It represents how women were victimized by their white owners.

Of course ! not every black or brown colour remark as ugly or nasty ; dark brown chocolate always tempts others and black shiny hair is always connected with youth and beauty hence considered as beautiful then why black skin colour considered as ugly? (Harsh 53) .

Actually people have negative attitude towards black skin colours. This attitude must be changed . Skin colours must not be the main issue to judge a particular community. So it's important to change the attitude towards the black skinned people. People need to battle with their inherent biased self and should realize that what matter most is person's diligence , capability and compassion; the skin colour is just the outer covering of our body to protect our internal organs and it has nothing to do with our worthiness (Harsh 53) . In the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” Pecola and her family is judged based on their skin colours . Pecola's family was unable to provide protection for her as she was black . Even she was not safe in her own family. Racial prejudice must be removed from the society.

Claudia's Survival and success are in many ways connected to her family roots in the African American tradition (Al-Abbood 29) . She developed her maturity against racism and discrimination of the dominant group . The values and aesthetics of this heritage enable

Claudia to mature and develop the right modes of anti racial consciousness and resistance that effectively translate Morrison's gesture of deconstructing the dominant ideology into African American self- affirmation : black is beautiful (Al-Abbood 29) . Pecola was mentally damaged by oppression and domination of white colonizers . African American people must be united to protect their identity . They must not be afraid to get recognition from the society. They must be aware of their rights . Pecola and her family are not aware of their basic rights as a human being . They think that whites have the privilege to dominate them as they were superior race . Pecola is irredeemably damaged due to the black community's own complicity in reinforcing the power structures of the dominant white culture by remaining enthralled by it's dehumanizing values and ideals (Al-Abbood 29) .

The Bluest Eye novel is about double oppression facing by black women . The main reason behind their Oppression is gender discrimination . Both the white and black women faces gender discrimination and inequality from the society . Basically, Black women have to face the same Oppression with White or other Color women who are opposed by their gender (Rochmawati 61) . Still there is difference between the Oppression that are faced by black and white women . Black women not only faces gender discrimination but also racism and class equality from the society . Male domination is another Oppression that are faced by them . Culturally, Women are oppressed by the stereotypes between women and men that many of them are controlled by men (Rochmawati 61) . This paper explains the female characters from two of the novels “ *The Bluest Eye* “ and “*Their Eyes Were Watching God*”. It talks about the oppression and response of Pecola , Pauline , Claudia , Janie and Nanny . All of this female characters faces negligence from the white society . They are the victim of racial prejudice . This Paper also highlights the racial discrimination that are faced by the African American community. The female characters were oppressed by physically , socially and culturally .

Both of the novel “ *The Bluest Eye*” and “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God* “ shows how Black African women are at bottom position of the society . They were considered as less powerful and inferior . Women are considered less power and passive than men who are considered to have full of power and aggressive which is these stereotypes are also supported by the media to strengthen that stereotypes (Rochmawati 61) . The White dominated society supported the inequality faced by black People . They think they can control the whole black community because of their inferior race . Sexual harassment is one of the most highlighting factors for the white society . Even the black community is divided into two groups . They are rich and poor black families. The rich black feel superior compared to poor black women . Even the poor black women were oppressed by the rich black women . For example , It can be seen when Pauline and Claudia are oppressed by the other black women who more rich or welfare in their economic family condition (Rochmawati 62) .

The research wants to draw the conclusion that institutional discrimination and legal issues expose the underlying unrest in American society , which eventually causes issues for families and has a detrimental effect on children psyche (Sajjad et al. 1685) . In “ *Their Eyes Were Watching God*” Nanny and Leafy got mistreatment by their god . Leafy was sexually harassed and raped. Her instructor raped her and as a result Janie was born . In African American Society men were used and forced against black women under the racist law . Some black started marginalizing their own culture and race . They were at first subdued under white control and after they establish some rapport with white , they attempt to use this authority against their own people (Sajjad et al . 1685) . American society’s dehumanizing effect make them emotionless and heartless in front of the colonized nations . In the novel Janie was unable to create a good family life .

Religion a cornerstone of human history, has played an influential role in shaping social and individual norms since the dawn of civilization (Kara 1285) . In novel “ *The Bluest Eye*”

Toni Morrison's shows the bonding and conversation with the protagonist to her god . Pecola find strength , comfort and healing with her conversation to god . It was both emotional and spiritual connection of Pecola with her god . Her spiritual connection become a safe place for her to express hopes , desires , fears and emotions to god . These dialogs symbolize Celie and Pecola's unyielding spirit and emphasize the role of faith as a beacon of resilience in the midst of their turbulent lives (Kara 1286) . Pecola's conversation with her god is connected to her journey towards self realization.

Racial Prejudice was the major reason for her suffering as a African American girl . She finds peace by getting connected and sharing her emotions to god . She was discriminated by the white as well as male dominated society . Pecola was not even safe at her own house . And her parents were careless about her as a daughter . As a result she developed her conversations with god to get comfort and sympathy. Similarly Janie was victim too. But her situation was different . This paper is mainly focused on colonization and oppression faced by the African American people . It also highlights the issues of slavery, racism and discrimination.

Zora Neale Hurston , Toni Morrison and Alice Walker refer to the history of Afro-Americans in order to relate it to the state of the black community in the twentieth century (Sabrina & Soraya 48). For decades African American people experienced and witnessed slavery by the whites . As the slavery system is abolished the new generation from Afro-American community hoped a better life and new beginning characterized by peace , harmony and equality . Black dreams for a peaceful life , however could not be realized because of the legacies of slavery which are segregation , discrimination and racism that didn't disappear in the twentieth century (Sabrina & Soraya 48) . Black Women were the victim of aggression faces sexual abuse and rejection by the American society . Both of the authors Zora Neale Hurston and Toni Morrison tried to improve black's self confidence and status by their

writing . Their contribution will play important role to bring relief for the Afro-American people.

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