

Indian Journal of Social Concerns इण्डियन जर्नल ऑफ सोशल कन्सर्नस

(A RESEARCH JOURNAL OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES)

Volume - 1

Issue - 1

April 2011

पंजीकरण संख्या
ISSN-2231-5837



Guest Editor
Dr. Siddharth Singh

Managing Editor
Dr. Hari Sharan Verma

Editor
Dr. Rajnarayan Shukla

Office Asst.
Sonam

Legal Adviser
Sanjay Kashyap
Advocate
980, Civil Court, Ghaziabad

shootings and other physical abuses dominate the scenes. Paul D. and Sethe describe form their lives as slaves. Sethe kills her beloved daughter to save her from the horrors of slavery. However, in *Beloved*, communities torn asunder by violence realize that they can survive only through a revival of communal values. Morrison deals with the origins of violence, slavery to understand and to depict how communities can overcome the ravager of oppression.

The effects and motivations for violence in Morrison's novels are as distinct in each case as her variation narrative strategy. In *The Bluest Eye*, the narrator steels this novel through flash back, backward looking stories within the forward moving plot. However in each case, the stories recount the characters' parts, explain their motivation and express the inescapable and destructive cycles of self-hatred.

Morrison uses a different narrative pattern in *Sula*. Here chapters are titled according to a particular year, i.e. 1929, 1932, 1931 etc. However those chapters tell the events from the characters' pasts which take place in those years. Morrison uses the recursive narrative strategy in *Tar Baby* in a less obvious way. The novel opens with son's struggle towards shore. He reaches shore but never escapes it. The narrative strategy in all of Morrison's novels chaos the narrative element in the psychoanalytic process.

Dr. J.K. Sharma

Associate Professor
Department of English
S.J.K. College, Kalanaur (Rohtak)
Mob.: 09416283451

Anju Rajan

Associate Professor
Department of English
Vaish P.G.College, Bhiwani
Research Scholar
NIIMS, University, Jaipur
Mob. : 09802664766

पंजीकरण संख्या
ISSN-2231-5807

REGIONAL IMBALANCE IN INDIA – AN OVERVIEW

Mamta Devi

Regional imbalance is the unequal development of the different regions or states within a country wherein a few states make fast progress whereas others remain underdeveloped. Politicians are the real causes for regional imbalance. Many times the politicians fuel the militant attitude of the locals and oppose development. Among the probable causes are the difference in desire and willpower, attitudes and lifestyles : creativity and wisdom; and work culture. Also, maturity in leadership performance habits, behavioural adjustment in conflicting situations and sharing of concerns stand to create regional imbalance. The regional imbalances are nation specific. Nowhere in the world a country exists of such gigantic proportions as India due to which it is called a subcontinent.

No two regions can be same and similarly, no two societies can be same. The reasons are obvious. First of all the geographic conditions define a particular region. It is the climate which determines the work culture of a particular region. Secondly, the social conditions and traditions differentiate one region from the other. Thirdly, the religion also has its impact on regional differentiation. Fourthly, the economic conditions of a region, depending upon other basic conditions, are defined by the work culture of the social groups residing in a particular region. If two regions have similar characteristics, then it would be the same region and shall not be classified as two separate regions.

Geographical conditions to decide the regional boundaries and upon the climatic conditions depend the work culture, requirements and life style of the societies. In our country, the people of Himachal Pradesh will have different work culture as compared to the people of Rajasthan. The northern states have different work culture as compared to southern states. In even climatic conditions as available in Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh the social groups don't have to face weather hazards and so, they work for more hours in a day as compared to the social groups of U.P., Haryana and Rajasthan. Keeping in view such regional disparities, different professions are practiced by peoples of different states. Hence, the climatic

anger and humiliation on the weaker members of their own communities. And these communities repress and can't identify violence forced upon them by the whites which is the root cause of their collapse and entrapment in cycles of violence. Moreover, while trying to uplift themselves, members of black communities frequently forego their ethnic values and adopt those of the dominant whites.

However, despite their inability to recognize the source of violent oppression, Morrison's novels are frequently concerned with the communities efforts to purge violence and with their struggles to repair the bonds of the community torn asunder by it. Morrison's works tell how the violence and discord in her communities stem not only from the loss of those beliefs in the community but also from the abandonment of those beliefs in the favour of the beliefs and values of the dominant whites. These novels place a great value on traditional beliefs, especially wholeness through community. It becomes apparent in Morrison's treatment of characters like Pilate Deat, who refuses to turn from her natural life style and traditional values.

Morrison's characters, in their efforts to regain lost or abandoned belief systems return to the origins both the origins of violence and the origin of the community and its values. They want to reclaim the African origins of the Afro-American communities and to return to their African values whose abandonment has ruined their lives. In song of Solomon, Milkman discovers himself and returns to his rural southern and African past. In other instance, such as in Beloved, Morrison's novels drive back to the origins of the Afro-American communities in America where the horrors of slavery put the members of the same community each other.

In Morrison's novels, incidents within the plot significantly repeat the dominant whites' oppression of the black communities. These communities want to find a cure for violence and the sacrifices of the scapegoats are an attempt to provide that cure.

The sacrifice of the scapegoat in many of Morrison's novels constitutes an effort to free the community from the chain of violence. The characters look into their pasts and narrate the violence and trauma that have forced them to perpetuate violence in the community. Morrison's narratives struggle to reinstate the difference between the present and the past, thus escaping compulsive repetition of the past in the present.

Even though all of Morrison's novels dwell deep in violence, each novel treats violence in unique ways, presenting it in various forms and offering themes of the scapegoat and its function within the community. Like Morrison's later novels, her first novel The Bluest Eye is full of incapable violence generated by a self-loathing and self-hatred that seeks expression in and liberation through the sacrifice of a young girl, Pecola Breedlove. In this novel, Morrison

sarts defining the long term effects of economic oppression and explores the futility of abandoning a traditional set of values in the favour of the values of the dominant white community. It is true that Morrison's first novel is an unsuccessful attempt to name white violence toward blacks as the source of violence within black communities. But it exhibits how a lack of community and solidarity, a sense of shared values and beliefs, has the power to disrupt and destroy the individual.

Morrison's second novel, Sula, is also suffused with brutal violence which is generated by an intense, almost inhuman love. Just as Pecola becomes a victim in The Bluest Eye. In this novel, all violence and anger find a final release in sula's sacrifice. Yet, as in Morrison's other novels, there is no redemption. After Sula's death, the community is worse off than it was. In Sula Morrison is concerned with preserving a sense of values, of refusing to participate in the cycle of mutual violence initiated by the white oppression. Finally, in this novel, there is a struggle to create an identity independent of the value system of the dominant society.

In Song of Solomon, Morrison's third novel, violence is less pervasive than it is in her earlier two novels, but it remains as Morrison's unmistakable signature and the trade mark of her communities. Thus, one is not surprised to find its pages spattered with the blood of community violence. Here, the familiar pattern of revenge and mutual violence emerge in obvious terms with the introduction of 'Sever Days' a group of seven black men sworn to kill a white person for every black murdered by whites. As in all Morrison's other works, this violence within the society definitely leads to sacrifice. In the same way this novel too offers no definite answer to the question of violence and discord within the community.

Tar Baby is a subtle departure from the more physical violence of Morrison's earlier works to the psychological torment, child abuse, abandonment and discrimination. Still, violence in this novel defines characters and focuses the action. For instance, Valerian Street inhumanly tortures his wife, continually berating and embarrassing her. His wife too is guilty of physically abusing their infant son. Once again, through Jadine and Son, Morrison depicts the characters who represent two sides of a culture question. This novel too focuses the question more sharply without giving any solution. Tar baby comes much closer to naming the source of violence, but fails naming a way to overcome that violence.

In Beloved, Morrison's fifth novel, violence emerges from slavery and oppression. It is violence perpetrated on blacks by whites rather than violence within the Black community itself. We find here a community, once bonded through love and mutual respect, ripped apart by violence and envy. But violence enters Beloved long before Sethe murders her daughters. Whipping,

REFERENCES

- Anastasi; A. Psychological Testing. London : Macmillan, 1968.
Best, J.W. (1986) : Research in education, Prentice Hall of India.
Charasia, (1954) : New era in teacher education.
Cohen, Lavis and Maniou Lawrence. Research Methods in Education. London : Croom Helim. 1980.
Garret, H.E. (1958) : Statistics in Psychology and education, Landmark Green and Co. New York.
Koul Lokesh. Methodology of Educational Research. New Delhi. Vikas Publishing House Pvt. Ltd. 1997.
Oadwal (2001) : Evaluation of B.Ed. curriculum of Punjab University in light of the objectives of NCERT.
SHARIF, Mohammad (1983): Teacher education in India.
www.ncte.com
www.ugc.com

Dr. Umender Malik*

* Assistant Professor, Department of Education,
M.D. U. Rohtak (Haryana)

Dr. Rajni Bala**

** Assistant Professor, Ramgarhia College of Education,
Phagwara (Punjab)

१२५
१२७६

VIOLENCE AND OPPRESSION IN THE NOVELS OF TONI MORRISON

Anju Rajan, Dr. JK Sharma

ABSTRACT

The purpose of this article is to study the thematic concerns in the novels of Tony Morrison- The Bluest Eye, Sula, Song of Solomon, Tar Baby and Beloved. Morrison's novels are suffused with violence both physical as well as psychological, and oppression. Morrison has very effectively presented the conflict between the black and the white communities. The dominant whites make the blacks their victims and perpetrate violence and oppression on them. The blacks find themselves divided among their own community members and indulge in violence among themselves. though violence is perineated in all her novels, Morrison has dealt with violence in each novel in a unique way.

In all her major novels Toni Morrison has dealt with the theme of violence and oppression. Not even mothers and fathers, sons and daughters, or birds and animals are safe. She herself claims that aggression is not as new to black women as it is to white women. In Morrison's fiction violence exhibits its many faces. It may be anything from ostracism and psychological abuse to rape, from self-mutilation to the cold blooded murder. Her very first novel, The Bluest Eye, describes a father's rape of his daughter. Violence has been let loose in Morrison's Sula, from the "Stubborn, headless soldier" running with his brains sliding down his back to the collapse of the New River Tunnel as ice split and earth shook song of Solomon is also full of violence, beginning with Robert Smith's suicide and ending with the shooting of Pilate. Psychological abuse finds an abundant expression in Tar Baby as does the physical violence in other novels. And finally Beloved's violence sears the pages and simmers just beneath the purpose. The psychological and physical tortures force sethe to murder her infant daughter.

In her works, Morrison both shares and hides the fact that the violence and oppression within the black communities are imposed from outside by the white perpetrators, but eventually becomes self-sustaining within these communities. When the dominant whites victimize the blacks they victimize each other in response.

The people in Morrison's novels deny their tendency to focus their