

Airo International Research Journal

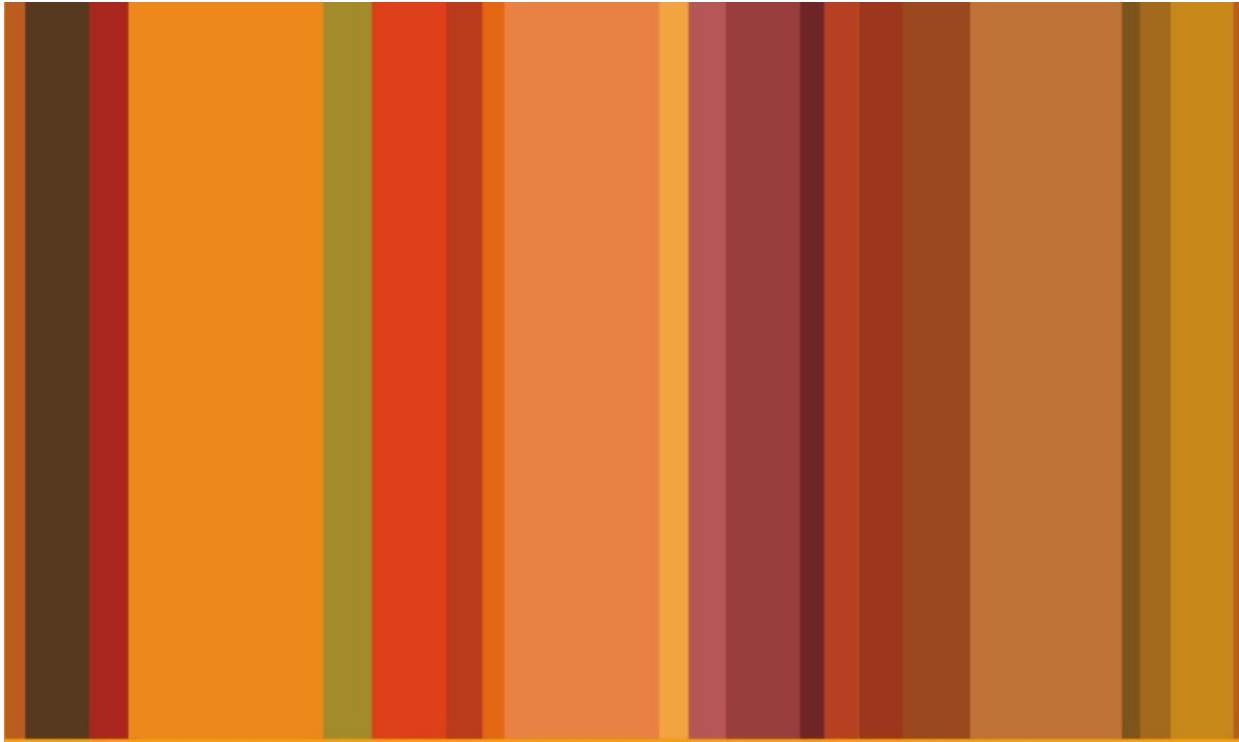
Volume XIV, ISSN: 2320-3714

January, 2018

Impact Factor 0.75 to 3.19



UGC Approval Number 63012



A Multidisciplinary Indexed International Research Journal



ISSN : 2320-3714
Volume : XIV
Journal : 63012
Impact Factor : 0.75 to 3.19



ADHYAYAN
INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH
ORGANISATION



A STUDY OF WOMEN AND ECOLOGICAL FEMINISM IN GLORIA NAYLOR'S NOVEL

Anu. S

M.A In English, Annamalai University

Declaration of Author: I hereby declare that the content of this research paper has been truly made by me including the title of the research paper/research article, and no serial sequence of any sentence has been copied through internet or any other source except references or some unavoidable essential or technical terms. In case of finding any patent or copy right content of any source or other author in my paper/article, I shall always be responsible for further clarification or any legal issues. For sole right content of different author or different source, which was unintentionally or intentionally used in this research paper shall immediately be removed from this journal and I shall be accountable for any further legal issues, and there will be no responsibility of Journal in any matter. If anyone has some issue related to the content of this research paper's copied or plagiarism content he/she may contact on my above mentioned email ID.

ABSTRACT

*Gloria Naylor, an observed African American author, set up her own way of life as a female too as a dark ladies essayist, with outrageous condition of noticeable quality in African American writing. She has reliably delineated through her arrangement of compositions her vision of her world in which individual stand up to insidious and an existence of fantasy and misery. She is properly perceived for standing up the privileges of ladies and furthermore other social issues. Naylor sensibly depicts the shifted lives of African Americans, especially her minority and a lady in a Caucasian, male-dominated society. Naylor in her novel *The Women of Brewster Place* depicts the predicament of the extraordinary trying lady of the century, yearning to break out of her cramping part in the public eye and content with her male partner on a balance of balance. The characters of Naylor consummately fit in the picture of a struggler and survivor. The American literature notwithstanding the analysis of a number of traditionalist scholastics and rationalist dispute of the African - American literature it departs more than the very last few decades as an extension of the culture wars into the field of literature. According to these critics, literature is splitting into distinct and separate groupings because of the rise of identity politics in the United States in World War I and World War II and other parts of the world. These critics reject bringing identity politics into literature because this would mean that only women could write about women for women, and only blacks about blacks for blacks and *White and Spirit or Nature*.*

KEYWORDS: *Bioregional Democracy, Federica Montsenys, African Novels, feminist, oppression, victim, tradition, racism and sexism.*

INTRODUCTION

Ecofeminism or ecological feminism is a term coined in 1947 by Françoise d'eaubonne. It is a philosophical movement

which has a union of feminist and ecological thinking it has a belief of social mentality that leads to abuse of the natural environment. It combines either eco-anarchism or bioregional democracy of

strong ideal of feminism. Ecofeminism is a social and political movement which points to the existence of considerable between the environmentalism and feminism which it was referred in ecosystem within the biosphere. The strong oppression and subordination of women in families and society have a difference into conceptual binaries that allows a systematic justification of domination “power-over-power” by subjects the higher ranking categories into lower ranking categories examples like man over woman, culture over nature white over black. They also explore the intersectional between sexism, racism, specialism and other characteristics of scila inequality. It advocates often emphasize the important of interrelationships between creature, non-humans others case in point like farm animals, squirrel, toads etc., on the earth. Women as well as inborn the human race are also amalgamated from side to side to their shared history of repression by a patriarchal western social order. Vandana Shiva claims that women have a special connection to the environment through their daily interactions and this connection has been ignored. She says” wealth in partnership with nature’s process”. However she makes the connection of women’s lives work and knowledge with the creations of wealth. Evan Bondi ponder modern science explains the dominant stream of modern science as a projection of western men values. It describes the “voice of the wilderness and the women ”influential in the feminist movement a common claim within ecofeminist literature is that patriarchal structures justify their dominance through



binary opposition it includes heaven, earth, mind or body, male or female, human or animal, spirit or matter, culture or nature and white or non-white.

All the way through this eco-feministic literature the author Gloria Naylor put in plain words about his both the novels *The Brewster Place* and *Mama Day*. In the novel *Mama Day* its pedestal on the eco criticism approach it has been a mutual interdependence of nature and human beings. Throughout novel the structure based on mind or body, nature or human being or male or female. Naylor amongst six novel one of those *Mama Day* plays an tremendous paradigm how the most important character plays the task of women with preserving the nature. In this volume *Mama Day* it elucidates the moral fiber which has been a sequence reaction within their families and how the character has been linked with the nature and human. The main role shows the business by way of grandma’s responsibility. She coddles her granddaughter cocoa with the magical powder in the mid of the novel based on the natural magical power it supports the cocoa with the partner Ambrose. The living time profession healer based on the magical face powder is appositely related to this novel *Mama Day* with explains the close up concept with nature and environment. Right through the novel *Mama Day* who explains on the subject of how the main and major character in the novel spoils the nature. When the main character has been introduced based on men or women should fall in love with power based on the magical

powder. So usually cocoas grandma used to heal the roots with the unusual powers from her ancestors and using the powers the main character used to destroy the nature in the past, strength in the present, and insight into the future. Gloria Naylor's novel *The Women of Brewster Place* and *Mama Day* explains about the black feministic perspectives. In order to discuss the relationship of motherhood and blood hood relation has been connected in Naylor's novel and connections based on the female leadership in African novels. In this both novels it explains about the different aspects and the first novel explains about the women; how the female have a medical condition with the relationship based on the male character in those dominating society. It explains how the female show their identities in their lives and faces the struggle in based on their relationship. In the other novel *Mama Day* it explains the real situation which happens in our day to day life based on the familial relations. However those black women take refuge in co-operating feeling and sympathy to assuage their sufferings and find their way in desperate situations through relationship with sharing their experiences with each other. According to this Nietzsche a concept of Federica Montsenys based on anarcha-feminism which began in nineteenth century and early twentieth century authors "The emancipation of women would lead to a quicker realization of the social revolution" and that "the revolution against sexism would have to come from intellectual and militant future-women. Women could realize through art and literatures need to



revise their own roles". (1) Based on this quotation Naylor's novel the women and the Brewster place have the relationships of adoptive child. The relationships seem true with more happy and prosperous life with the relation of blood mother and the child.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Naylor in her novel *The Women of Brewster Place* depicts the situation of the uncommon yearning woman of the century, yearning to break out of her cramping part in the public arena and contend with her male partner on a balance of equity. Ladies have been dealt with unequally in all social orders and have consequently constituted a general underclass. She investigates the bind of defenseless, oppressed ladies and her approach has been a backing of the change of status of ladies as opposed to out and out judgment of a abusive male-ruled society. The novel is a celebration of the riches and diversities of the black female experience. Composed of seven stories, it interconnects the lives of varied urban black women who live on the imaginary street of Brewster Place. Gloria Naylor undermines the conservative stereotypes of Black poverty, by presenting the living diversity of Black female experience, struggling to survive in the ghetto. Naylor's book *The Women of Brewster Place* represents these concerns in the best manner. The intermingled lives of bright, desperate, determined, resilient black women search for an authentic self and move across oppressive tracts of experience. Naylor in her novels deals with the multiplied ways in which women have been

silenced and kept ignorant by the dominant culture. Her contention is that it is the human need to create and maintain a true self in a social context. Such an endeavour becomes an ordeal for those who are doubly oppressed for those who are muted and mutilated psychically through crossfire of caste, sex and colonialism. Though to remove or deny human qualities of society destroys the victim both physically and psychologically and leaves her into a pathetic state of powerlessness and psychic impotency, Black women recreate and maintain their self-identities in the face of a chaotic influx of sensation that has always threatened to sweep them away. They are no more the midnight caged birds, but radiant ebony phoenixes singing joyfully, and triumphantly the song of their true self. African-American women, both in life and literature have transcended the geometric oppression of race, gender and class announcing the spectacle of radiant Black female self in an unprecedented manner. It is an evolutionary spiral, moving from victimization to authentic consciousness, from suspendedness total liberation. Gloria Naylor presents the confrontation of the female protagonists with the patriarchal oppressive environment. Mattie Michael, the main protagonist hails from a traditional family. Mattie is shaped by the predominance of patriarchy. The strict vigilance and stifling care of her father seeks explanation for her every activity. His domination over her leads her to offer explanation for everything she does. She is deprived of social interaction. "Her father

would kill her if he heard she had seen walking with Butch Fuller”(10).

He estranges her from her environment. She feels caught in an onerous situation. Her numbness and restricting of cognizance as her dad hamper her free considering. Thus she effortlessly falls a prey in the hands of Butch, an infamous womanizer. Naylor portrays the physical mishandle that Mattie brings about because of her dad. As a hovering father he endeavors to satisfy every one of her desires. In any case, when she pronounces her pregnancy and neglects to uncover the name of Butch, he beats requesting the name of the man who had sneaked into his home and misshaped the confidence and trust he had in his kid. He can not endure his rebellion. Her pregnancy bothers her dad who appreciates high expectations for her. She is subjected to ruthless beatings. She is whipped so hardheartedly that she is lessened to a heap of torn garments and wounded substance on the floor. "And she braced herself for the impact of the large callused hand that was coming toward her face. He still held her by the hair so she took the force of the two blows with her neck muscles, and her eyes went dim as the blood dripped down her chin from her split lip. The grip on her hair tightened, and she was forced even closer to his face as she answered the silent question in his narrowing eyes.”(22-23). His forcefulness pushes her to release herself from the tormenting mental and physical torments. She views herself as another lady with another comprehension and cognizance all set to start. She simply needed to lay her

head on the padded seat and suspend time, imagine that she had been conceived that exact second on that very transport, and this was all there was and ever would be. Be that as it may, simply then the child moved, and put her hands on her stomach and realized that she was sustaining inside her what had gone earlier and would come after. This tyke would attach her to that past and future as inseparably as it was presently fixing to her each heartbeat. With another conceived understanding she pushes forward in life. She moves from accommodation to attestation in request to obtain a personality and to fit into the standard of the general public. Mattie's issues incorporating physical, passionate and financial circles are numerous and changed. Indeed, even in her frantic and forsaken circumstance she doesn't lose fearlessness. She takes up a transitory activity to fight for herself and her child. Her relentless and solid willed brain to raise him as a solitary parent closes in finding a vocation in a book bindery. She sustains him with most extreme care. Mattie considers herself in charge of her past activity. She conveys that blame in her soul. She tries to screen her blame in her forfeit of promising marriage or relationship. Grown up as an egocentric individual, Basil neglects to acquaint himself with the battles of his mother's life. He falls into the awful organization and is detained for the charge of murder. Mattie posts safeguard subsequent to presenting her home, her exclusive property, as security. Despite the fact that the lawyer guarantees basil that he will be absolved, he escapes at the prospect of enduring a trial. Subsequently, Mattie



loses her home and is consigned to live in Brewster place.

SIGNIFICANT PROJECTION OF WOMEN OF BREWSTER PLACE:

Gloria Naylor, a celebrated Afro-American novelist, established her own identity as a female as well as a black women writer, with extreme state of prominence in Afro-American literature. She has faithfully depicted through her set of writings her vision of the world in which human being confront evil and a life of illusion and despair. She is rightly recognized for speaking rights of women and also other social issues. African American writing tends to concentrate on topics important to Black individuals, for example, the part of African Americans inside the bigger American culture and issues, for example, African American culture, bigotry, religion, subjection, opportunity, and balance. Being an African lady by birth and convention Naylor herself confronted a part many testing and astounding conditions yet she opposed all extreme that came her direction. She experienced childhood in a period and area in which dark ladies used to live generally. There was no profession for them. They needed to live family unit ladies. In any case, Naylor rejected to assume a customary female part and furthermore dismissed pettiness. Naylor investigates the female persona through a progression of durable female characters that are really the focal character in her books. She doesn't treat ladies in the recognized part apportioned to her by the society like that of a mother or a

spouse however as a person. Naylor needed to be free from the strict norms of the customary society. She delineates the female experience of mistreatment and misuse in a male ruled Dark society. She furnishes ladies with new bearings to conquer the imperatives of the individual and the political and develop their own methods of protection. Ladies are not ready to practice self-sufficiency either finished their lives or their bodies since they are controlled and decided for them by men. The women's activists advanced the thought of a general womanhood cutting over all boundaries of age, salary, class, race and other troublesome elements. The women's activist sense of duty regarding battle all types of man centric society and sexism has given a similarity of brought together belief system to women's activist feedback.

CONCLUSION

The character has been introduced as Ophelia she lost her mother at the small age and for her food or entertainment, mind or body insists herself and she sold her child saddle under the place called prostitute. Based on this novel the social revolution against sexism, racial discrimination it has been pin-pointed out in this novel based on the child character through literature. In this novel the Brewster place explains out the literature has been implemented through the character Ophelia. The universal character of women has a weak hearted based the second step mother role doesn't play blood hood relationship. So it forces sex slavery. In 1895 Voltairine De Cleyre an American



writer says the sex slavery that ideals the beauty of women's bodies and unnatural gender roles." It refers to traffic in women for purpose of prostitution; also mentioned marriage laws allow men to rape their wives without consequences. Such law makes every married woman is a bonded slave, who takes her master name, her masters bread, her masters commands, and servers her masters passions."

REFERENCES:

- [1] Naylor, Gloria. *The Women of Brewster Place*. New York: Penguin Books, 1983. Print.
- [2] Christian, Barbara. *Black Feminist Criticism: Perspectives on Women Writers*. Columbia: Teachers College Press, 1998. Print.
- [3] MalathiR. "Gloria Naylor and Her Treatment of Women's Predicament." *Rock Pebbles* 19.2 (2015): 115-118. Print.
- [4] Botkin, Daniel B. (1990). *Discordant Harmonies: Anew Ecology for the twenty-first century*. Oxford univ. press, NY. ISBN 0-19-507469-6.
- [5] White, Jr. Lynn, Town shed (March 1967). "The Historical Roots of our Ecological crisis" *science* 155(3767):1203-1207
- [6] Shiva, Vandana (1988). *Staying alive: women, ecology and development*. London: Zed Books. ISBN978-0-86232-823-8.