



Trauma and Violence in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

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Introduction:

Winning a Nobel Prize is not a piece of cake among the hard competitive publishing of novels and other literary works. Authors should not write words to literature for just a prize. Writers' writings are precious than an award. Literature indeed teaches life which will be piled on life. Toni Morrison never been expected that she will be distinguished with a prize for literature. But she won it for her immense voice given to her society of people who are oppressed, marginalized and crushed black community. As belongs to America, she is identified as Afro-American novelist and won Nobel Prize for literature. Though born in working class family, she developed gradually her knowledge on literature in narrating her stories in a superficial manner to attract her readers.

American Slavery:

American slavery is a system followed and practiced by white American people on black community since the early 17th century to mid 19th century. In the name of colonialism, white Americans travelled to African continents and enslaved millions of Africans and forcefully evicted them to America and forced them to work in various fields, subjected to a life of bondage and brutal treatment. After this state of slavery, black people are forced to indulge in sexual activities and got physical punishments. Black people encountered familial separation and white masters prohibited the education for them. White Americans limited the foods and blocked black people getting enough shelter for their life.

Trauma and Violence:

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* depicts the complexities of Afro-American people's life. The novel vividly pictures the life of slavery, trauma, racism and cultural identity. It depicts the devastating effects of trauma and violence of all age group of black people. The novel exhibits the fearful form of racial partiality between white people and black slaves. Morrison states that the black shall get a marriage but they cannot afford anything like family or children. The protagonist Sethe and Halle marry each other, but the white masters never recognize it. Even the black people are not allowed to wear dress or keep property as their own. Baby Suggs, a woman begets eight more children from six different fathers. Black women were dreadfully raped by white men in front of their husbands and attacked violently and finally killed ruthlessly by white masters. The black young men do not get any kind of scepter to protect their mother, sister from the assault of white men. Halle is one of the characters of this novel becomes mad after seeing all

the violence directly by a traumatic attack. The ultimate violence is, Sethe murders her own daughter to secure her child from slavery. The trauma of the protagonist Sethe and her sufferings faced from the violence she met from the white masters, Toni Morrison states this as:

After I left you, those boys came in there and took my milk. That is what they came in there for. Held me down and took it. She had that lump and could not speak but her eyes rolled out tears. Then boys found out I told...open up my back and when it closed.
(beloved 16)

Conclusion:

As belonging to the suppressed community, Morrison boldly has come up to present the unjustness of White American society. She has vividly shown the racism, trauma and violence through her excellent narrative structure of her masterpiece work *Beloved*. She projects her readers to understand the real life situation of her people of slavery. By reading the novel, one must realize that humanity is the crucial part for life. People must respect other people. There is no discrimination through the identification of black- skin or white-skin. White skin is not supreme and Black skin is not lower in status. The world would not forget Abraham Lincoln, Martin Luther King and Barak Ombama are the black Americans.

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