

Black Skin White Masks: A Racial Discrimination and its Psychological Effects in the Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison

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Absract

The topic of the study paper is the impact of racism on psychological well-being. Toni Morrison's novel "The Bluest Eye" was chosen for analysis, and Frantz Fanon's "Black Skin White Masks" theory was used to do so. The study is significant since it is helpful for both students and their professors. It can also be helpful for other studies because it can provide information on how racism impacts people's minds. Additionally, students might gain from this experience by understanding the value of identity to an individual. The data is gathered using the qualitative method from the book "The Bluest Eye." The novel is subjected to a thorough descriptive study using Fanon's theory to assess how racial discrimination has a negative impact on coloured people's mental health. How inferiority complexes affect black men and women. Always having a complexion that was dark hinted towards enslavement and depression, and even damaged people's psyches. Toni Morrison's book has been the subject of a lot of inquiry, however the Black Skin White Masks theory has somehow been overlooked as not properly applying to the book. By using Fanon's theory, the novel is given a thorough examination.

Keyword: *Racism, Psychology, Superiority, Inferiority, Bluest eye, White Skin Black Masks.*

1.1. Background of the Study

Racism is the idea that people of different races have different traits, abilities, or qualities, especially when used to judge one race as being inferior to another. Toni Morrison gained notoriety as a talented African-American writer and social commentator after the release of *The Bluest Eye* (1970). She is an Afro-American woman novelist and one of the most respected literary critics. She also teaches literature and composition. Morrison exposes to readers the perception of reality held by society as a whole in *The Bluest Eye* by applying her critical perspective and philosophical outlook. And that is influenced by the inherent goodness and beauty of white people and the ugly nature of black people. Abuse, mistreatment, teasing, and other serious concerns have plagued males for a very long time, for instance, the way Cholly and the father rape their daughter.

White men find them when they are having sex and ask them to perform intercourse in front of them. Cholly's life is changed as a result of this sexual encounter being objectified. He feels guilty for not being able to defend Darlene from white guys, the shame it brings, and the obvious violation of her space since he is a man. For the purpose of killing the dog he doesn't like, soaphead church uses Pecola. By putting his hand on Frieda's breast, Mr. Henry harasses her. In addition, a

gang of boys harassed Pecola. Some of them were found in American Literature by authors like Tony Morrison. The *Bluest Eye* primarily examines the disastrous effects of inflicting white, middle-class American ideals of beauty on a developing feminine personality of a young African American girl in the early 1940s. Toni Morrison is an American novelist, according to Wilkinson (2019). Her debut book, *The Bluest Eye*, came out in 1970. Her goal with *The Bluest Eyes* is to draw attention to the issues with African American societal structure. To illustrate the difficulties and situations of African American life, particularly the lives of women, she used many styles and techniques.

The book is regarded as Toni Morrison's single most important piece of writing. In addition to describing the lives of black girls and a slave mother, the novel also explores the religious and spiritual practises of Afro Americans at the time. She depicts the sorrows of African Americans in her book. Pecola Breedlove served as the novel's main protagonist. She was the victim of restrictions imposed on black people by white culture. Because of suppression in her unconscious mind, the main character's mental health is damaged. As a result of her dysfunctional black family's obsession with their skin tones, Pecola develops a desire for blue eyes. She believed that if she had blue eyes, she would automatically be considered beautiful outside of the family and at school. She has unpleasant recollections of her parents fighting and never feeling appreciated by her family.

Consequently, she experiences longings as a result of her family's, her peers', and society's poor behaviour. Thus, the psychological impacts of racial discrimination have affected this character. She was mostly made a victim of white culture because of her race. Her colour was made fun of by classmates. A child's mental growth happens in stages, and Pecola is a complicated psychological figure. She grows so desperate to have blue eyes that she will do everything to achieve them. The works of Abdul (2020) demonstrate how significant the topics of racism and beauty are in the book. Pecola is treated like an item because she is ashamed of how ugly and dark she looks. The ideal of beauty was blond hair, blue eyes, and white skin. The standard of beauty at the period is whiteness, whereas ugliness is represented by blackness. Whiteness and the dominant race are linked to hegemony. Hegemony is the concept that dominance and superiority only belong to those with power and high standards. People who are white, have blue eyes, and have blond hair are superior. Black people were thought of as slaves. The primary character, Pecola, believed that her ugly appearance was to blame for her parents' and family's arguments, as well as for her underappreciated status in school and the black community. She looks forward to a miracle that will transform her dark eyes into blue ones, making her appear lovely in the eyes of this world. She suffers a lot as a result of her ebony skin. Specifically, the mistreatment of her father and abuse of her mother. She is from a black family, which is why they encounter social challenges. Pecola and her mother feel inferior to other people. Self-hatred is influenced by inequalities in race and class. Due to the social structure, persons of colour who are black feel inferior. Sigmund Freud introduced the psychoanalytical hypothesis. He was a psychologist and explained to us that there are three different parts of the human mind: the conscious, unconscious, and subconscious. Because it shapes our psyche, the unconscious is crucial. Because of the repression in her unconscious mind, the protagonist of the book had a terrible mental state. Due to the fact that her black family is dysfunctional. Her complexion was all that mattered to her. She does not have fond recollections of her parents fighting. Her family never showed him any love. All of these actions have a negative impact on Pecola's mental health. The mind develops at many levels, and Pecola is a complicated

psychological figure. She yearned for blue eyes for such a long time that she finally asked Soaphead for them.

White Skin Black Masks is a notion put out by Frantz Fanon in 1952, as demonstrated by Wahl's (2021) works. Frantz Omar Fanon, sometimes known as Ibrahim Frantz Fanon, was Frantz Fanon's full name. In his work, he discusses ethnicity and culture and how they affect how aware we are of ourselves. The book explores the ways in which colonial conditions develop and subordinate identity. He also talks about how black people experience inferiority complexes, saying that "for the person of colour there is only one fate, and it is white." In order to examine how black men and women are treated in cultures with a predominance of white people, Frantz Fanon presents the psychoanalytical perspective. His work focuses on the superiority of white people over black people and how white people create this inferiority mentality.

In the United States, police kill a lot of black people simply because they have a dark complexion, and one in ten of these victims had a mental disorder. For assistance and improvement, black girls remained at the bottom of the list. In order to maintain the dominance of white people, race rhetoric creates the necessary "darkness." Race discourse and gender discourse interact on the black female body, according to Morrison. The idea that having the bluest eyes makes you more attractive is related to Frantz Fanon's theory that when black people try to adopt white behaviour and appearance by wearing the mask of whiteness, their mind eventually becomes disordered. Because Fanon advocated the idea that individuals of colour who wish to look like white people cover their skin with white masks in order to do so. Similar to Pecola, she believes that beauty only pertains to whiteness or that ugliness only pertains to blackness, which is why she wants blue eyes to appear attractive.

The belief in Pecola's society was that having white skin and a fair complexion made one beautiful and that being white meant you had no struggles, issues, or pains. Pecola wants to have blue eyes because she believes that the only way to end all pain is to be white and beautiful.

1.2. Purpose of the Study

This study aims to highlight the psychological effects of racism based on skin color on human behavior. On the other hand, the goal of the study is to find a connection between Frantz Fanon's theoretical approach and the story *"The Bluest Eye."*

1.3. Implications of the study

This study's implications include "Frantz Fanon Theory," which is relevant to Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye" text. The text lines are implementing the Frantz Fanon Theory of "Black Skin White Masks." Furthermore, an important aspect of the study is the effective application of Frantz Fanon's theories. By connecting it to Fanon's theory, the plausible description also aids in a fresh understanding of the novel's text.

1.4. Objectives of the study

The study's goal is to determine the psychological impact of racial discrimination on the characters in "The Bluest Eye" in the context of black skin and white masks. Finding out how racial binaries effect coloured people's psyche and understanding how people associate blackness with ugliness and whiteness with beauty are the study's main objectives.

1.5. Statement of the Problem

Students find it challenging to comprehend how racial discrimination affects people's mental health. Applying Franz Fanon's theory to the book *"The Bluest Eye"* clarifies how racism upsets people's psychology. This study examines how racism affects the mental health of people of colour by taking into account a number of elements, including hegemony, inferiority complexes, and the detrimental consequences of racism on people's mental health. Each of these issues is supported by a logical argument.

1.6. Research Questions

The following research questions are explicitly included in this study.

1. How is racial discrimination explained in the context of white masks with black skin?
2. How do racial binaries affect the psychology of people of colour?
3. Why is the impact of supremacy and inferiority seen in "The Bluest Eye" as two sides of the same coin?
4. How does the idea of "Black Skin White Masks" impact on the characters in "The Bluest Eye"?

2.1. Literature Review

Racism, according to Dar, Mir, and Ganaie (2018), is a belief in the superiority of one race over another that leads to prejudice and discrimination against individuals based on their race, country of origin, and culture. However, racism has different definitions in modern society, as can be observed. Because people might be classified as superior or inferior and because they have diverse social norms, humans are separated into various groups based on race and ethnicity. Even if racism was theoretically practised in the 19th century, the worst forms of racial prejudice against people of colour are still on the rise. Lincoln signed the Freedom Declaration in 1863, putting an end to the slave trade in the United States, but the dreadful condition of people of colour persists to this day.

The emergence of colonialism marks the beginning of racial prejudice. The idea of colonialism is when one country attempts to exert political authority over another. They force their religion, culture, and language on the citizens of that nation. The goal of the European forebears' continued missions was to establish trade and commerce in various nations. They leave their imprint on numerous nations in the name of achieving independence and purging the east of barbarism.

In order to carry out its political authority, the Europeans intend to establish their political command to carry out the supervision in original colonies either by power or by domination called colonialism. The conflict between the two groups sparks racial prejudice between the natives and white settlers. White settlers can use the native leaders' attempts to identify with them as an advantage to completely destroy the nation. Then they create a number of schemes to oppress the native underclass.

In order to ensure the smooth operation and achieve their goals, the whites employ their force and authority to implement the "divide and rule" programme. As a result, the native leaders aid white settlers in putting an end to the subalterns' uprising. Natives opposed white invaders, but the native elites disapproved of the protests of the lower classes. Therefore, racial inferiority and

superiority were determined by a person's wealth and skin colour. In order to benefit from colonialism, the native aristocracy supported the white settlers while dividing the lower classes.

Following it, racial issues caused a rift in society.

According to Frantz Fanon, "you are white because you are rich, and you are rich because you are white." Whites are seen as being superior at all times, while subalterns are led to feel that they are beneath white people, that they are of a lower race, and that their inferiority prevents them from contributing to society. Even though formal oppression has stopped thanks to the toil of well-known leaders, African Americans are still not treated equally to white Americans. Black people are attempting to identify with white people and their cultural practices. To praise Afro-Americans for being Black, Toni Morrison asserts Black cultural tradition. Through her writing, Toni Morrison helps blacks understand that black identity is in no way diminished in comparison to white identity. She argues that despite physical appearance and cultural differences, not all races are slaves.

Racism, in the opinion of Wallace, Nazroo, and Becares (2016), is a system that unfairly benefits some communities and people while disadvantages others. When racism is experienced firsthand, it has an impact on mental health. It has been shown that experiencing racial discrimination negatively affects one's health, and that racial discrimination trends are correlated with trends in one's mental health. Racial prejudice problems cause the majority of mental health problems in minorities. Racial discrimination has an impact on a person's or a minority group's psyche, which leads to poor mental health.

Roberts and Rizzo (2020) assert that white people have greater opportunities than individuals of race. White students are more obediently aware than Black students, which reduces the likelihood that they may be disqualified. Compared to homeowners of colour, white homeowners are seen as being more responsible. Because white criminals are viewed as less accountable than criminals of colour, their likelihood of being impacted is lower.

Durgadevi's (2019) works show that psychoanalysis is a theory given by Sigmund Freud he's a psychologist. He says that psychology is the study of the minds of people. Psychoanalysis aims to discharge people of their fearful grief so that they can normally be unhappy. Psychoanalysis is a type of therapy that is used for catharsis to release pent-up emotions and memories. Freud told us about three layers of the mind conscious, unconscious, and subconscious. The unconscious and subconscious both store the emotions and stressed-out feelings. After his analysis, Sigmund Freud spoke to us about psychoanalysis. The unconscious half is where all of the suppressed urges are kept. The most significant portion of the mind is the unconscious since it shapes our psychology.

According to Freud, neurosis and unhappiness are caused by excessive depressive or repressive behaviour. The most crucial factor in someone's psychological development is their family. The oral, anal, phallic, latent, and genital phases are the first five stages of a child's development. In the first 18 months of life, the oral phase is the first psychosexual period. The second and third years of life are when the anal phase first appears. Between the ages of three and six, children go through the phallic period, during which they can tell the difference between males and girls. Latent age is the age that emerges between the ages of six and puberty. Children form social bonds both inside and outside of the family. The psychosexual development stage is followed by the genital phase, which is the final phase in which people develop a strong sexual attraction in

the opposite gender. The five stages mentioned above are crucial to a child's growth. Any phase that is disturbed causes a disorder that affects their progress and personality. Since she is now an adult and begins having periods, the main character Pecola in the book was in a latent phase. Her friendships with Frieda and Claudia deepen over time.

3.1. Research Methodology

The research technique is the research that instructs us on how to structure a research article in which the researcher describes, explains, and predicts phenomena to understand their system. The qualitative method, according to Queirós, A., Faria, & Almeida (2017), is a strategy used to understand the complicated reality and the meaning of acts in a specific situation. The goal of the qualitative approach is to generate a thorough examination of a particular situation in order to comprehend its various dimensions; it does not focus on numerical or statistical representation. The social component of research is discussed in the qualitative technique, according to Apuke, O. D. (2017). The following are examples of qualitative research: phenomenology, grounded theory, historical research, and ethnography. Ethnography is the study of one culture and the comprehension of the significance of culture as it relates to a group's behaviour. Understanding and exploring a person's lived experience and the subjects that are a part of it, such as domestic abuse, is referred to as phenomenology. Culture-specific behaviours and their effects are investigated through subterranean theory. Past studies and documented resources are included in historical research. The qualitative method is applying to this research paper. People detail their understandings in-depthly while using the qualitative method. It provides thorough details on a book. This research paper's information is based on the book. The information is analysed using Frantz Fanon's "Black skin, White masks" theory. The work depicts the psychological effects of racial discrimination.

3.2. Data Collection

The qualitative approach is used in this study to emphasise descriptive data from the text of the book "The Bluest Eye." The novel is thoroughly examined in order to gather the information. To address the research issue, specific literature passages are cited. When the research is starting, the book is carefully examined to understand the data. In order to get the data, Franz Fanon's theory was also explored descriptively. The research's conclusions were reached by comparing the text with the theory. The non-numerical nature of the data allows for close observation. Based on an understanding of the characteristics and attributes of the text, the data is organised and classified.

3.3.1. Sample and Demographics

This research study uses "The Bluest Eye" as an example. The study has been updated with new articles. The struggle of black people, particularly women, to survive in a white culture is the subject of this novel. They must overcome every obstacle that white civilization has set before them. The book portrays black people as inferior beings since Pecola is shunned by her family, friends, and even society. They simply want to live their lives in society as freely as white people do. Reaching the sample is not encountered with such a problem. Specific lines from the sample were chosen because they reflect how black people suffer psychologically as a result of racism. So the theory has been applied to the text to justify the purpose of the study.

4.1. Data Analysis

Frantz's "Black Skin, White Masks" theoretical approach is supported by a connection to "The Bluest Eyes." Black people get an inferiority complex because they are often seen as being beneath others. Pecola, the main character, was black and felt inferior because of the way people treated her because of her unattractive appearance and dark skin. Soaphead used her to murder the dog, and Louis Junior accuses her of killing her mother's favourite cat. Everyone takes advantage of her.

Pecola, the 10-year-old black girl who serves as the book's protagonist, lives in a culture that views blackness as a sign of ugliness. Pecola wants the bluest eyes because she believes that if she had them, all of her troubles with society, her parents, and her school will be solved. She thought that having the bluest eyes was the answer to all of her issues. Because of their inferiority complex, black people tend to want to be white. Black people still identify as black, but they believed that by acting like black people, they could lessen their inferiority problem.

4.2. Analysis

The issues with societal structure that African Americans encounter are highlighted in "The Bluest Eye." Because they are black and women, Afro-American women have a particularly difficult time in life. If she had blue eyes, she believed that life would be different.

"Why to look at pretty eye Pecola. We must not do bad things in front of those pretty eyes" (The Bluest Eye pg.44)

Every day, Pecola's parents would argue, and she believed that this was because of her dark skin tone. She believed that if she had blue eyes, things would be different. She associates blue eyes with strength and beauty, so she assumed that if she had blue eyes, people would treat her differently at home and in the classroom. Black women were marginalised and hence do not have the right to live. Even though Pecola's mother is black, she despises her daughter due to her dark skin, unsightly face, and undesirable characteristics.

"Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove fought each other with a darkly brutal formalism that was paralleled only by their lovemaking. She ran into the bedroom with a dishpan full of cold water and threw it in Cholly's face. 43 "Each night, without fail, she prayed for blue eyes." (The Bluest Eye pg. 46)

Soaphead, a dream interpreter, lived in the community. He is incredibly intelligent and uses esoteric methods to operate his firm. Pecola rushed to him in a rage because she wanted blue eyes and asked him to obtain her blue eyes. Because she is sick of being called ugly and black, she desires blue eyes. Blacks lack basic human rights, and Black women are particularly disenfranchised.

She reasoned that having blue eyes would lessen the idea that being black and inferior. When Pecola requests blue eyes, Soaphead objects because they make him think of a dog he detests. An evil scheme suddenly enters his thoughts. He was envious of a dog that other people thought was gorgeous. He begs Pecola to give the dog some poisoned food that he has given her. He tells Pecola that if the dog exhibits unusual behaviour, she will develop blue eyes; however, if not, she will never develop blue eyes.

Pecola feeds the dog the poisoned food, which the dog eats. After consuming the food, the dog passes away, and Pecola believes she has acquired blue eyes. When Pecola asks Soaphead for blue eyes which reminds Soaphead of a dog he does not like at all. Suddenly a sinful plan comes to his mind. He was jealous of a dog that people considered is beautiful. He gives food to Pecola which is poisoned and asks her to give it to the dog. He says to Pecola if the dog show some strange behavior then she will get blue eyes but if not she will never get blue eyes. Pecola gives the poisoned food to the dog and the dog eats the food. After eating the food dog dies and Pecola thinks that she has gotten blue eyes.

Even if she believes in the Soap head and his bad conduct, Pecola is longing for blue eyes. This is all due to the society, which created the conundrum that the criteria of beauty begin with fair skin and end with blue eyes. This study also reveals that no black qualities have been added to any of these traits, which all belong to white people.

“Soaphead Church told her to come in. “What can I do for you, my child?” She stood there, her hands folded across her stomach, a little protruding pot of tummy. “Maybe. Maybe you can do it for me.” “Do what for you?” 173 “I can’t go to school no more. And I thought maybe you could help me.” “Help you how? Tell me. Don’t be frightened.” “My eyes.” “What about your eyes?” “I want them blue.” (The Bluest Eye pg. # 173 & 174)

In this study, the psychological state of Soaphead has been examined, including how, after carrying out his evil scheme, he writes a letter to God. In his letter, he informs him that he has granted the small black girl's long-desired yearning for blue eyes by giving her those eyes. He also accuses God of doing something that was not done by God. He claims that God is envious of him as well. Therefore, this study examines the psychological state of Soap Head, who was eager to elevate himself to the status of God, as well as how he took advantage of Pecola's naivety.

“Dear God: The Purpose of this letter is to familiarize you with facts which either have escaped your notice or which you have chosen to ignore”. (The Bluest Eye pg. 176)

Pecola is hated both within and outside the home because of her fascination with blue eyes. She is rejected by her mother Pauline because she is dark and unattractive, and she lavishes all of her care on the Fisher girl, a white youngster. Her infatuation with blue eyes is primarily a result of her violent upbringing in a home where her parents were constantly at odds over trivial matters.

Her relationship with her father, Cholly, who sexually abused her when she was pregnant, casts doubt on their otherwise admirable father-daughter bond. She also receives bullies from outside the house these all are the factors that enhance her obsession with blue eyes. Because everyone in society admires blue eyes. She thought that if she gets blue eyes no one will do odd things in front of these beautiful eyes. She considered that her ugliness is the reason behind all these problems the fight between her parents and the bully she receives from outside the house and from society. She develops her psyche that the blue eyes are all she wants.

Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove fought each other with a darkly brutal formalism that was paralleled only by their lovemaking. Please, God,” she whispered into the palm of her hand. “Please make me disappear.” (The Bluest Eye pg. 43 & 45)

The main driver of racial prejudice and the creation of binary concepts like master and slave, black and white, superior and inferior, and beautiful and ugly is colonialism. These dichotomies have helped divide society into levels depending on various norms. The idea of racism, beauty standards, and the concepts of superiority and inferiority are all brought with white people.

According to the research's purpose, the racial discourse in the book is evident when Soaphead refers to Pecola as a "ugly young girl asking for beauty." In doing so, he exhibits colorism and excludes blackness from the circle of beauty. Pecola wants blue eyes to be respected, welcomed, and loved in order to overcome her blackness, ugliness, and inferiority mentality. Blue eyes also represent for white supremacy and are a sign of beauty.

"The black people and the white people come to signify power and colour inferiority complex," writes Frantz Fanon. There are too many stigmatising concerns, such as racism, oppression, and abuse, as a result of postcolonialism and colonialism, which are clear themes throughout the book. *"The most blue eyes."*

Below are a few examples of oppression and abuse taken directly from *"The Bluest Eyes"* text. Racism was born out of colonialism and continues to have an impact on the colonised populations. The dichotomy between ugly and beautiful, black and white, is very common. The blue eyes "indicate the power structure and the colour discourse in a way that blue eyes symbolise the white community, strength, and beauty while blackness denotes submissiveness and oppression," according to one scholar. As stated by Frantz Fanon, "all the black people, community, and nation are manipulated by both white men and nation," Soaphead here portrays the power and white supremacy by manipulating Pecola. Pecola made the choice to copy by wishing she had the white complexion, blonde hair, and blue eyes in order to feel superior, adored, and strong in society. As a result, Pecola becomes the victim of postcolonial shackles, denies her identity, and longs for blue eyes, which represents "Frantz Fanon's Black Skin White Masks" at its most extreme.

This study demonstrates how a child is oppressed in the book because the protagonist deals with racism, oppression, and social discrimination in the white society. Below, we define each of these concepts in relation to the text. Her mental health is affected by these issues, and by the book's finale, her unconscious recollection has replaced her conscious memories. Her family and the rest of society do not like her. Because she prefers a white child and despises Pecola, her mother Pauline never treats her like her own daughter. Pecola wants her mother to adore her, but because she prioritised Fisher's family before her own, Pecola had to endure additional hardship. In Fisher's family's home, where Pecola's mother works, there is a mishap. More than her daughter, Fisher's young child is loved by Pauline. Pecola injures her leg after she spills the blueberry pie while visiting her mother at Fisher's home. She patiently awaits her mother, believing that she will tend to her wounds. Pecola is most wounded when her mother visits because she acts differently and hits her for scrubbing the kitchen.

"Crazy fool...my floor, mess...look what you...work...get on out...now that...crazy...my floor, my floor...my floor" (*The Bluest Eye* Pg. 109)

The tiny pink and yellow child was crying when she left the house, and she could hear her mother's voice soothing and hustling her. Therefore, this study demonstrates how a mother's treatment of her black daughter in a predominantly white culture affected the girl's desire for blue eyes.

She believed that having blue eyes would make her life simple and that her mother would love her more if she looked lovely.

A situation has arisen in Mr. Yacobowski's store. Pecola visited the store to purchase candy. Mr. Yacobowski ignores her when she enters the store because he knows he won't be wasting his time by giving a young black girl a second glance. Pecola becomes aware of her ignorance in Yacobowski's eyes (The Bluest Eye pg.47). She feels disgust and irritability, but her blackness remains immobile and menacing. When she finally decided to purchase three Mary Jane candies, Mr. Yacobowski hesitated to take her money because he didn't want to touch her ebony hand. Pecola suffers greatly from her society because she was born in a racist nation, she is a woman in a patriarchal culture, and she is a child in a time when kids are ignored at best. This study illuminates the treatment of a black girl by a white immigrant. Pecola develops an inferiority complex as a result of his actions. She is impacted both physically and mentally by racism in society.

Even though her professors have never attempted to stare at her, she is not treated properly at school. She is the only student in the class to have a solo desk. Her classmates at school only use her name to make fun of someone. She began crying and covering her eyes as students danced around her and called her names. She was the object of everyone's desires and requirements. This study demonstrates how her father exploits her for sex wants and how Soaphead uses her to murder a dog. When they want to make fun of someone, girls at their school will use her name.

"Bobby loves Pecola Breedlove! Bobby loves Pecola Breedlove!" (The Bluest eye pg.44).

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"Louis Junior utilizes her for fun. He blamed killing his mother's favorite cat. Junior's mother calls Pecola a "nasty little black bitch" and orders her to get out". (The Bluest Eye pg. 86 &87)

At the conclusion of the book, all of her suppressed urges take control of her conscious consciousness, and she enters a different realm. After seeing Pecola's imaginary buddy, she eventually loses all control. She discusses her eyes with her fictitious pal. She has blue eyes now and is in her own universe. Her conversation gives the impression that she is stranded and unable to go. She enjoys when her friend compliments her blue eyes, but she becomes enraged when her imaginary friend changes the subject. This study demonstrates how racism impacts the psychology of the main character of the novel, leading to her eventual descent into madness. According to Frantz Fanon, black people desire to seem like white people so they imitate them in appearance, behaviour, and diet until they lose sight of their own identity and begin to believe that they are white and superior.

They are bluer, aren't they? Oh, yes much bluer. Bluer than Joanna's? Much bluer than Jonna's. And bluer than Michelena's? Much bluer than Michelena's (The Bluest Eye pg.197)

Shirley Temples, a young actress who at the time met all beauty criteria, was well-known (blond hair, white skin, and blue eyes). She is admired by all the girls for her attractiveness. At the time, Shirley Temples enjoyed enormous fame. Pecola went to the kitchen one day while residing with the MacTeers family and drank three-quarters of milk using the cup (there was a picture of Shirley Temples on the cup). She believed that drinking milk from the cup would make her more attractive and give her the white beauty that society so highly values. Everyone admires Shirley's features, therefore Pecola wants her to have blue eyes to meet the ideal of beauty that society values. Pecola believed that by consuming milk from Shirley Temple's cup, she would develop similar facial traits. This study demonstrates how Frantz Fanon's theory—according to which coloured people believe that by acting like white people, they will become white—has been supported by similar ideas.

“The ‘folks’ my mother was referring to was Pecola. The three of us, Pecola, Frieda, and I, listened to her downstairs in the kitchen fussing about the amount of milk Pecola had drunk. We knew she was fond of the Shirley Temple cup and took every opportunity to drink milk out of it just to handle and see sweet Shirley’s face.” (The bluest Eye pg.23)

Pecola believed that her parents' argument and her marginalised status in both society and school were primarily caused by her appearance. Because a doll with blue eyes was always lovable, she always hoped for them. She believed that if she were to get blue eyes, everything would change, her parents' relationship would be harmonious, and she would radically vary from them. Her parents don't support her, and she was powerless to withstand the deceit of racial and gender discourse. She has no choice but to rely on the blue eyes she believed would alter her relationship with her family. In the end, she was psychologically affected by the gender discourse of feminine beauty and the racial discourse of black inferiority that were repressed in her undeveloped heart. “Never did he once considers directing his hatred toward the hunters. Such an emotion would have destroyed him. They were big, white, armed men. He was small, black, and helpless. His subconscious knew what his conscious mind The Bluest Eye did not guess—that hating them would have consumed him, burned him up like a piece of soft coal, leaving only flakes of ash and a question mark of smoke” (The Bluest Eye pg. 150 & 151).

4.3. Results & Discussion

Pecola is aware of the dominance of white society and aspires to have white feminine characteristics. Black families and black society are significantly impacted by racism. Her overwhelming preference for white women is evident in her quest to have the bluest eyes. Many people appreciate the white morals and their system, including Soaphead, Frieda, Pecola, Yacobwski, Louis junior, Mrs. Breedlove, and many others. People constantly make an effort to act, speak, and live like white people in order to fit in. But they fail to remember that this is all a joke. This nonsense is not just committed by the poor or the ignorant; educated people often participate in it. Geraldine is the name of the character, and she loves her blue-eyed cat but rejects her kid. Despite the fact that she was black, she still forbade her son from playing with other black kids. In the end, her son agreed with her and thought he was superior to black boys. Because racism has such a powerful psychological hold on them, they believe that by acting like them, they are demonstrating their inferiority. This study demonstrates how a tiny black person is despised by both white people and black people in the novel.

5.1. Key Findings

Even though slavery was abolished legally thanks to the laborious efforts of well-known individuals, African Americans are still not treated equally to white people. Black people are imitating white culture and trying to pass themselves off as white. Toni Morrison believes that black people are not less than white people and urges Afro Americans to be proud of their black identity. The work explores a variety of concerns, including post-colonial ones. It is impossible to escape Pecola's ongoing efforts to convince herself that she has white skin and blue eyes. Pecola, the protagonist of the book, eventually goes insane as a result of conscious longing. Even at the conclusion of the book, she saw a blue-eyed version of herself, indicating that her psychology was affected. Her daughter is raped by Pecola's father, who also made an attempt at raping her a second time, and by her brother. She was stifled by her own family and the white culture, which is why she eventually became despondent. Her mother places the guilt for the rape on her rather than her father. The novel illustrates the ideas of power and colour discourse. Black people are viewed as inferior while white people are powerful. Pecola is the one who experienced prejudice, and as a result, her mind was messed up, leading to her eventual insanity. Because they lack rights, black people believe that by acting or behaving like white people, they can become white and possibly get acceptance from society. Even black guys desire to wed white women in order to gain social acceptance and elevate their status. Even black people do not want their kids playing with other black kids. This study demonstrates how racism has an impact on black people's mentality, leading them to mistakenly believe that they are white even when they are not and to act and appear like them.

5.2. Direction for Future Research

Other scholars who wanted to contribute to the qualitative study of Toni Morrison's book can benefit from this research. Additionally, they can evaluate "The Bluest Eye" in comparison to other hypotheses. They can compare the research with this research to discover more conclusive results by comparing the results of applying different theories to the same novel.

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