Nature of Human Relationship in Toni Morison’s Novel

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Abstract: The terms "Human" and "Relationship" are combined to make the phrase "human relationship." "Human" is defined as "1. Of, relating to, or characteristic of human beings: the course of human events; the human race" in the American Heritage Dictionary.

"Relationship" is defined as "2. Possessing or demonstrating the qualities that set humans apart from other animals, such as kindness."

While the word "relationship" is defined as:
1. The state or fact of relationship; connection or affiliation.
2. Kinship; a relationship based on blood or marriage.
3. A specific relationship between individuals who are connected to or interact with one another.

Being the first African-American to receive the Nobel Prize in literature in 1993, Toni Morrison is the most accomplished African American woman novelist of the modern era. Present paper tries to study the nature of human relationship in Toni Morison’s novels.

Keywords: Human Relationship, Toni Morison, Novel.

In the Ohio rust belt town of Lorain, Toni Morrison was born on February 18, 1931. George Wofford, her father, was a Georgia-born shipyard welder. Ramah, her mother, from Alabama originally, Willis Wofford. The second of four children, Toni was. "Chloe Anthony Wofford" is how her parents named her. She spent her early years in a diverse and somewhat unfriendly area in Lorain, Ohio. The Wofford family "had an Italian family on one side and a Greek family on the other. There was neither segregation on a class basis nor overt racial hostility in their area because everyone lived in poverty. Toni Morrison's early years were not dominated by black responses to white oppression notwithstanding the great depression. Morrison began working for Random House in Syracuse as "an associate editor" in 1964. In addition to raising her sons, she spent her evenings writing.

She thought it was thrilling and difficult. Morrison then started working at Random House in New York as a senior editor in 1967. There, she worked as an editor for numerous works by notable black American writers including Andrew Young, Angela Davis, Muhammad Ali, etc. She served as the State University of New York at Purchase’s associate professor of English from 1971 to 1972. She also spent the 1976–1977 academic year as a guest lecturer at Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. She held the Albert Schweitzer Chair in the Humanities at the State University of New York at Albany from 1984 to 1989. Morrison was appointed the Council of Humanities' Robert F. Goheen Professor at Princeton University in 1987.

Eight novels have been written by Morrison. The most recent films are Love (2003), The Bluest Eye (1997), Sula (1974), Song of Solomon (1977), Tar Baby (1981), Beloved (1987), Jazz (1992), Paradise (1998), and Tar Baby (1981). Each one of them has a lot to offer and is also varied and interesting. Her distinctive storytelling style, which varies from book to book, is delightful. However, the abiding impression is one of humanity and sympathy, which is always grounded in great laughter.

One of the best creations of man is the relation or relationship between mother, father, sister, son, daughter, husband, wife and in-laws.” These relations along with several others form a society. Society implies a group of people maintaining human relationships. Hence, it is the product of human relationships. The origin and very identity of the society is closely related to the human relationships. Race, colour, culture, religion, power, and language are some of the important factors, which play their roles in maintaining or straining human relationships.

The definition of "human relations" in Webster's Third New International Dictionary of the English Language is "the social relations between human beings, especially when being investigated."

One of the most influential authors in African American literature, Toni Morrison also addresses "the pain and agony caused by the African American oppressor" in addition to advocating the importance of good and healthy human relationships in African American society. The whites who were the blacks' masters caused them great suffering. Her works contain a significant amount of information about the mysterious sufferings of black people and the skewed human relationships in American culture. Her genuine sentiments about the lack of healthy human interactions occasionally come across in her entire fictional universe. Her books have a variety of themes. All of her stories share a common theme, though, which is how she portrays her inhumanely human relationships. Her characters' broken and torn interpersonal bonds serve as the fundamental foundation of her make-believe universe. In her books, Morrison explores four significant iterations of the issue of interpersonal connections. The first is the relationship between a parent and child, followed by the relationship between a man and a woman, companionship, and finally, the relationship between an individual and society. The growth of Morrison's philosophy has been influenced by a variety of causes. These include the social setting, her family history, the black community, African American folklore, her educational background, her experiences...
Morrison has explored a wide range of other human connections in her books. They include friendships, connections between people and the larger society, master-slave ties, tenant-landlord partnerships, and more. According to the plots of her works, she has accurately described them. Frieda MacTeer, Pecola Breedlove, and Claudia are clearly close friends in The Bluest Eye. It is a fairly well-known illustration of female friendship. Morrison demonstrates her woman-to-woman attitude in this connection. In Song of Solomon, she also addresses boy-to-boy friendship. In this book, Milkman Dead and Guitar Bains are depicted as having a male friendship. Sula follows the friendship between two young black girls named Nel Wright and Sula Peace. Morrison captured every colour and cry of this relationship in his painting. Pecola Breedlove is derided in The Bluest Eye's black culture because, by their standards, she is unattractive. This book demonstrates the terrible repercussions of unrealistic beauty standards on interpersonal connections between people and in society. It also goes without saying that no society, black or white, can accept a member who challenges its norms and traditions. Sula criticises and mocks the attitudes and beliefs of black society in her book Sula. She suffers as a result from social exclusion. In this story, the one-versus-all dilemma is expertly portrayed in terms of the human bond between the individual and society. In Tar Baby, Morrison portrays an intercultural romance. The book's main character, Jadine, is a sort of member of two families: the one of her white financial backers and the one of her black parents. The juxtaposition of the black and white worlds in this book reveals the range of interpersonal relationships between the black and white world's women and men. A predominantly male-dominated black society is depicted in Paradise (1998). All of the ladies who reside at "the Convent" are either victims of domestic violence committed by their husbands or lovers or have a troubled history. They are viewed negatively by the black men of Ruby and as a danger to their moral integrity. The warped, unpleasant human interactions are the central theme of this book.

REFERENCES:
5. Ibidem, p.9
7. Ibidem, p.2
9. Ibidem, p.10
11. Ibidem, p.3
12. Ibidem, p.3