

Critique of Dominance: An Anti-hegemonic Discourse in Toni Morrison's *Sula* and *Beloved*

*M.F. Anne Feril and A.R. Jemi

Department of English, Holy Cross College (Autonomous), Nagercoil - 4
Affiliated to Manonmaniam Sundaranar University, Tirunelveli - 627012

* Corresponding Author - Email: ferilanne@gmail.com

ABSTRACT

The burden of race, class and gender has a strong influence on Morrison's novels. This research paper delves into the lives of black women who are affected due to racial and gender discrimination and class restrictions. In her exploration of the black women, Morrison exhibits the modes of practice through the categories of gender and race. Racism, which is constant in the lives of the characters, whose past, present and future form continuity in the cycle of frustration from which the townsfolk cannot easily escape, affects them psychologically. This dark racial reality has made the African-Americans victims of a cultural and psychic split that has resulted in developmental inhibition and the need for pathological defence movements. Her novels show how slippery it may be to enlist the politics of everyday life and to criticise, oppose, subvert or escape the racialised and gendered nation-orders.

Keywords: *Anarchism, Anarcho Feminism, race, gender*

Feminism is interpreted as a critique that centralises the oppression of women due to their sex based on the dominant ideology of patriarchy. Therefore, on one hand feminism can be comprehended as an analysis of patriarchy and on the other hand as an ideology consigned to women's liberation. Feminism is also a term that denotes various social theories and political movements based on the belief that rights, privilege, status and obligations should not be determined by gender. Different approaches to feminism offer different analyses of the causes and nature of oppressions upon women leading to possible solutions. Feminism as an ideology has branched out on various theoretical intersections like Marxist feminism, anarcho feminism, radical feminism, liberal feminism, postcolonial feminism, ecofeminism etc. The effect of feminism has led women, all over the social world, to identify with the feminist stand, voicing against the otherness. *Sula* and *Beloved* of Morrison can be examined using the tenets of anarcho feminism.

Anarcho Feminism focuses on critiquing society based on race, gender and social class. In the beginning, anarchism and feminism were basically different expressions. In the end of nineteenth century and at the beginning of twentieth century Mary Wollstonecraft, Lucy Parsons, Voltairine de Clayre and Emma Goldman made the connection between anarchism and feminism. Anarchism is fighting in its bases with every kind of authorities and their