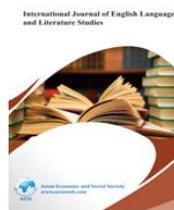




International Journal of English Language and Literature Studies

journal homepage: <http://www.aessweb.com/journal-detail.php?id=5019>



TONI MORRISON TALKS OF AN UNHOMELY WORLD; A POST-COLONIAL READING OF THE BLUEST EYE: A STUDY BASED ON HOMI K. BHABHA'S THEORIES

Abdol Hossein Joodaki

Assistant Professor, Department of English, University of Lorestan, Khorramabad, Iran

Asrin Vajdi

Department of English, University of Lorestan, Khorramabad, Iran

ABSTRACT

The Bluest Eye by Toni Morrison is the story of a young black girl, Pecola Breedlove, who lives in a society which doesn't offer any reflection of her beauty and subjectivity. This study tries to examine this novel based on theories of poststructuralist critic, Homi K. Bhabha. In his work, Bhabha challenges the notions of fixed identities, undermines the binary oppositions between colonized and colonizer, and emphasizes the role of discourse and language in identity formation of both the colonizer and the colonized. Three concepts including: stereotype, uncanny and mimicry are applied to this novel by Toni Morrison.

Keywords: The Bluest Eye, Pecola, Stereotype, Mimicry, Uncanny.

1. INTRODUCTION

Chloe Anthony Wofford, known to the world as Toni Morrison, was born on February 18th, 1931 to George Wofford and Ramah Willis Wofford. She was the second child of four children, who spent her childhood in Lorain, Ohio. Two distinguishing experiences in her early years were, first, living with sharply divided views of her parents about race(her father was disdainful of white people, and her mother more focused on individual attitudes and behavior) and, second, beginning elementary school as the only child already able to read. Morrison absorbed at home a love of stories from her parents, both of whom were story tellers and musicians and who instilled in their children a deep respect for their heritage through the stories they told. Chloe Wofford was graduated from Lorain High school with honors in 1949 and entered Howard University in which she majored in English and minored in classics. During college years she changed her name into Toni Morrison and the reason for this action is still unknown. In 1953 she graduated from Howard University and entered Cornell University, it was there that she earned a master degree; doing a