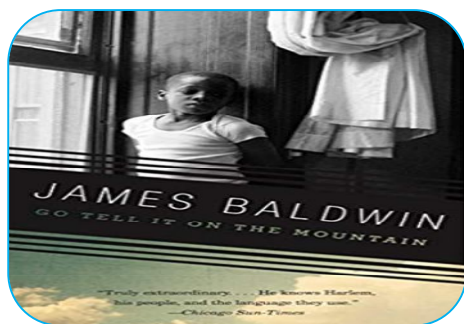




ISSN: 2249-894X  
 IMPACT FACTOR : 5.7631 (UIF)  
 UGC APPROVED JOURNAL NO. 48514  
 VOLUME - 8 | ISSUE - 8 | MAY - 2019



## “INTER CLASS CONFLICT IN NATIVE SON, INVISIBLE MAN, GO TELL IT ON THE MOUNTAIN AND THE BLUEST EYE”

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### ABSTRACT:

The other objective is to substantiate common aspects of interclass conflict in their selected novels. The descriptive, interpretative and analytical of research methodology is used. The hypothesis of research paper is assumed that their novels present inter class conflict as a harmful factor for equality and social status of blacks in America. The original texts of the

select novelists are used as primary source for the study. The critical books of well known authors are used as secondary source for the study. They are the most influential and representative writers of Afro-American literature. Their contributions to Afro-American literature brought success to their efforts in bringing awareness among Negroes. Inter racial tension among the Negroes is important factor for developing their black sensibility. The researcher analyses the role of interracial conflict in the lives of blacks. It is found that interracial conflict is a product of white racism. Interracial conflict in the select novels is examined as a destructive force for collective progress of Negro race. It develops a sense of separatism among the black. The self division among the Negroes is a blunt outcome of a division between whites and blacks. The superiority complex due to white racism corrupts psychology of some educated and well nurtured Negroes. Mr. Wright's novel *Native Son* presents example of autism among the Negro characters. In the beginning of the novel, Bigger, Jack and Gus, members of one gang schedule to mug Blum's (white man) deli. But Gus gets withdrawals from the plan and he is assaulted by Bigger. The disagreement between Bigger and Gus can be interpreted an instance of interracial tension. Their dispute suggests disunity among the Negroes. It also suggests lack of collective fighting spirit in blacks against whites. When Bigger is disappointed as a chauffeur in Dalton's family his friends delighted considering his duty as great achievement.

**KEYWORDS:** descriptive, interpretative and analytical of research methodology.

### INTRODUCTION

The present research paper deals with inter class conflict in the novels of Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin and Toni Morrison. The objectives of the present

research article are to investigate leitmotifs of interclass conflict among the blacks after emancipation of slavery. The other objective is to substantiate common aspects of interclass conflict in their selected novels. The descriptive, interpretative and analytical of research methodology is used. The hypothesis of research

paper is assumed that their novels present inter class conflict as a harmful factor for equality and social status of blacks in America. The original texts of the select novelists are used as primary source for the study. The critical books of well known authors are used as secondary source for the study. They are the most influential and

representative writers of Afro-American literature. Their contributions to Afro-American literature brought success to their efforts in bringing awareness among Negroes. Inter racial tension among the Negroes is important factor for developing their black sensibility. The researcher analyses the role of interracial conflict in the lives of blacks. It is found that interracial conflict is a product of white racism. Interracial conflict in the select novels is examined as a destructive force for collective progress of Negro race. It develops a sense of separatism among the black. The self division among the Negroes is a blunt outcome of a division between whites and blacks. The superiority complex due to white racism corrupts psychology of some educated and well nurtured Negroes. They independently endorse a white man's attitudes towards the people of their own people. "The black man has two dimensions, one with his fellows the other with the white man. A negro behaves differently with a white man and with another negro" (Fanon, 08). The above extract is applicable for showing interclass conflict between the blacks in the select novels.

Mr. Wright's novel *Native Son* presents example of autism among the Negro characters. In the beginning of the novel, Bigger, Jack and G H, Gus a members of one gang schedule to mug Blum's (white man) deli. But Gus gets withdrawals from the plan and he is assaulted by Bigger. The disagreement between Bigger and Gus can be interpreted an instance of interracial tension. Their dispute suggests disunity among the Negroes. It also suggests lack of collective fighting spirit in blacks against whites. When Bigger is disappointed as a chauffeur in Dalton's family his friends delighted considering his duty as great achievement. It is a clear indication of Negro psychology for serving under whites. Bigger's friends opposed Bigger in his fight against white and are satisfied seeing him working for white. It is quite suggestive that most of the Negroes feel satisfied for being served under whites and become uncomfortable and scared for protest. Lack of courage and lack of mutability among black friends is interpreted as an example of interracial conflict which develops Bigger's black sensibility. The evidence of interracial conflict is found in relationship of Bigger and Bessie. They come together to gratify their sexual need. Their relation is devoid of true affection and love. Their relationship is not based on reciprocal feelings. They are bound for interchanging of liquor and sex. They take liquor and Bigger tenderly sexed her as if he attempting a rape. It was a time when Bigger is being chased by the police. Bigger kills Bessie for her supposed disclosure to the police about Mary's murder. He does not show any sympathy for her, because the way of her murder is very crueler than that of Mary's. It is an example of turning to be oppressor from oppressed. His killing of Mary was accidental but there is motif behind the killing of Bessie. His act shows how he becomes senseless to another black creature for saving himself. Thus *Native Sona* great example of autism between the Negro races. Mr. Ellison's *Invisible Man* is a great example of inter racial conflict in Negro community. It presents lack of humanitarian and liberal attitude towards a Negro by the Negroes. The black boys' fighting with one another at battle royal symbolically suggests clashes among the Negroes. The protagonist feels awkward when Jim Trueblood's confesses his incestuous relationship with her daughter to Mr. Norton. The protagonist avoids black people who live slave quarters. He tries to escape from being identified as Negro. It shows his aloofness from the dark side of his race. Dr. Bledsoe's behavior with the protagonist referring him, "Nigger this isn't the time to lie. I am not white man Tell me the truth" (IM, 139). This suggests superior attitudes of Dr. Bledsoe towards the protagonist of his own race. The word nigger was used for common and poor Negroes. Bledsoe's insistence that he is not white man carries controversial because he says he knows everything but in fact he knows nothing. In fact people from oppressed class like Bledsoe should help and guide the protagonist. Educated and powerful people in oppressed class should bring the lower people in the mainstream of society for their well being. The protagonist is expelled from Negro college by Bledsoe. He gives a bunch of recommendation letters to the protagonist telling him that addressee of letters will give him a job. The protagonist realizes hypocrisy and cunningness of Dr. Bledsoe after knowing reality of letters. The protagonist's black sensibility is emotionally intensified by betrayal of a person of his race. Such antagonism of black man towards another black man creates interclass conflict in them. Mr. Lucious Brocway a Negro supervisor in the factory Liberty Paints developed conflict with the protagonist and deliberately brought explosion in the factory. The protagonist caught in it and got severely injured. Ras the exhorter is again such black man who becomes destructive for the protagonist.

He orders his man to catch and kill the protagonist. Thus these three black characters are proved villains for contributing to pain, suffering and misery of the protagonist. Thus the interracial tension and conflict is examined in *Invisible Man*.

Mr. Baldwin's *Go Tell it on the Mountain* presents conflict between two generations of Negroes showing dissonance among family members. The interracial tension is depicted in the form of domestic conflict among the Grimes' family members. The tension and disagreement is criticized in father and son, brother and sister, and husband and wife relationship. The Grimes' family members present their polar opposite ideology on different issues. They give priority to their individual interests than the collective interest of their family and community. In fact, faith, respect care, affection and mutual understanding for one another in family bring harmony and progress of any family. The conflict between Gabriel Grimes and John is the major conflict of the novel. John does not receive a sense of fatherly security and affection from Gabriel. He hates John and does not accept John as his son from heart. Gabriel opposes John to choose his career according to his likings. It can be examined as a conflict between two generations. Gabriel presents the old and John presents the new generation. The old restrict the new for adopting new ways of life. Thus, being black Gabriel becomes responsible for the sufferings of John. Gabriel's action is also responsible for the suffering of Deborah, his first wife whom he left. Here he resembles Bigger because. He leaves her for saving his pseudo status in society without realizing her agony. He rules over Elizabeth on his terms and condition making her a silent prey to his tyranny. He also exploits life of Esther, his mistress rejecting his own son Royal from Esther. The brother sister conflict is found in relation of Gabriel and Florence. Gabriel's behavior to his own people presents interracial conflict. The sense of separatism is developed in their minds. Florence uses white tone and regards herself as colored woman and hates common Negro whom she calls dirty niggers. Her use of word nigger resembles her with Dr. Bledsoe. It suggests that she wants to look different from common nigger. Such behavioral pattern of some black characters towards another black characters developed interracial conflict in them. Mrs. Morrison's *The Bluest Eye* reflects interclass feministic conflict and feeling of estrangement from it. The interracial tension and conflict among black family members is depicted through Breedlove family. The characters of Negro race play major role for Pecola's tragedy. Claudia narrates such incident "A group of black boys was circling and holding at bay a victim Pecola Breedlove". "Black e mo .Black e mo ya dadd sleeps nekked" (TBE, 63). The groups of black boys insult Pecola publically for her father's irrelevant behavior. However, they belong to the same race as Claudia narrates further. "That they themselves were blacks or that their own father had similarly relaxed habits was irrelevant" (TBE, 63). The above extracts suggest that a sense of embarrassment is created by blacks. They disclose such strange and personal habit of her father. Pecola's public humiliation by black boys creates estrangement from her own community. Maureen Peal is classmate of Pecola. She is light-skinned, light eyed, long haired wealthy black girl. Maureen jeers at Pecola. She proudly says to Pecola "I am cute! And you ugly! Black and ugly black e mo I am cute" (TBE, 71). The extract shows Maureen's sense of superiority for being wealthy and light skinned black girl. Geraldine is a black married woman who reflects example of interracial conflict. Geraldine regards herself superior and sophisticated than other Negroes and calls them Nigger. The differences between colored and nigger are found in *The Bluest Eye* as it is found in the *Invisible Man* and *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. Geraldine teaches her son that they are colored people with special identity. She tries to separate her son and herself from her ethnical root. She does not allow her son to play with other niggers kids. Mrs. Morrison suggests that black woman should understand another black woman's black sensibility. Characters of Maureen and Geraldine indicate that inter class conflict contributed for creating conflict and dissonance among black females. Their rude behavior with Pecola suggests interclass feministic conflict and tension. In fact females are the most sensitive than males so it is expected that they should be united for their collective rights as a black and as a woman.

The researcher found three important examples in the select novels that reflect hatred and rejection of black children. John Grimes in *Go Tell it on the Mountain* is hated and rejected by her father Gabriel. Pecola in *The Bluest Eye* is hated and ignored by her mother Pauline. Cholly Breedlove in *The Bluest Eye* is rejected by his father Samson Fuller. In fact mother and father ought to offer love to children. But the

black kids lack affection and sense of security from their parents. In such a way above mentioned characters represent to be oppressors for their own people. Thus despite of the support and encouragement from their own people most characters are suffered, jeered and humiliated by their kin and kith. One can fight with others bravely but gets emotionally torn out when being exploited by own people. The interclass conflict in all forms has made lives of Negro characters more tragic more sensible and more pathetic that intensify their black sensibility "As long as the black man's among his own, he will have no occasion, except in minor internal conflicts, to experience his being through others" (Fanon, 82). This observation shows the division and conflict among the blacks. They do not feel oneness among them. They cannot stand against the white as a collective force. They are divided by the effects of white racism. Thus interclass conflict is interpreted as a serious factor for the development of black sensibility. Self consciousness and individual pride of Negroes has proved a harmful factor for black sensibility. Though protagonist in *Invisible Man* is manipulated by whites characters but nobody ever attempt to kill him, the way the two blacks did. John and other black characters in *Go Tell it on the Mountain* are suffered by tyrannical Negro Gabriel. Black women characters like Pauline, Maureen and Geraldine have played a vital role in tragedy of black girl Pecola. "Self-consciousness exists in itself and for itself, in that and by the fact it exists for another self consciousness; that is to say, it is only by being acknowledged or recognized" (Hegel, 230-231).

### CONCLUSION:-

In this way the researcher found interclass conflict as harmful factor for Negro race. The marginalized people like Negro must make collective efforts for their social existence and survival of their community. It should be remembered and realized that progress of any community can be achieved by making the progress of lower and downtrodden people of that community. The rich and educated members of community should not corner themselves from their community. They should not build a wall of differences. Inter class conflict blows irreparable damage to black victims in the select novels. It is an issue of contemplation. Conflict between classes is common phenomenon in the world. But oppressed classes should avoid it for getting equality and social status. Depiction of interclass factor suggests that problems of Negroes cannot be resolved by an eradication of white racism only. The select novelists suggest that Negroes should unite irrespective of their individual differences. The feeling of oneness and brotherhood should be increased among them for obtaining progress on international scenario. The poor Negroes are rejected by black rich Negroes. In their dominance they resemble the white oppressors. Inter racial factor of Negroes is found as an evil impact of white racism. It is psychological reactions to white racism. The differences of literacy, financial condition, gender, and criminality as well as dark and light color of skin are some reasons for interracial conflict among the Negroes. They differentiate and separate themselves from common, poor, and uneducated Negroes. The interclass conflict suggests inherent sense of human jealousy. Interclass conflict has its validity in the present century also. Superiority and inferiority complex is common and visible conflict in almost all casts and all races.

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