**Toni Morison and Inaam Kachachi: A feminist approach**

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**Abstract**

Toni Morrison is an American African Novelist born in Ohio in 1931. She won Nobel Prize in 1993 her literary works for her literary works, and Pulitzer Prize for her Beloved Novel. Inaam Kachachi is an Iraqi Journalist and Writer living in Paris. She was Shortlisted for the international Arabic Fiction, and in 2016 she won the Lagardere Award for Arab Novel for Tashari. These two women writers be ascribed to the common features both Novelists and their works which dealt mainly with humanitarian issues.

**Keywords:** African American, displacement, feminism, Iraq, multiculturalism, race

**Introductions**

Feminist literature is fiction or nonfiction which adopts the goals of women, and defines, establishes and defends their equal civil, political, economic and social rights. It often expresses the idea that women’s roles are unequal to those of men – particularly with regard to status, privilege and power – and generally illustrates the results to women, men, families, communities societies as undesirable.

In this regard, the literary genre that best attracted women to write in were poetry, and novels later. In the history of novel writing, there is a long list of women-writers, many of them were writing in disguise; they used male names. This would show how hard might have been for women to write in public at that time. Now, women are writing freely without being afraid of being criticized by the society.

This study is about two contemporary female novelists who belong to two different societies, languages and cultural settings. They are Toni Morrison, an Afro-American novelist, and Inaam Kachahchi, an Iraqi novelist. Both deal with humanitarian issues. This is the common feature of them that is the reason behind choosing this topic.

**A Feminist Contemporary Novel and Humanitarian Issues**

A contemporary Novel is no longer a creative aesthetic text, but, with its references and connotations on the current human reality, an expression of many social, political, and intellectual issues. Therefore, it expresses, among many other, an exceptional cultural, semi-encyclopedic integral form in which two things are included: high rated plot and full social reference system.

Whereas it is a distinctive feature of contemporary narrative writing in general, it is, for the feminist narrative, more essential. Its narrative patterns constitute a distinctive trend, not with its contribution; but because this narrative literature goes beyond epistemic and social limits and barriers to express universal, existential visions and views.

This way, human concern and relevant issues have become the fascination and center of this literature. Things like belonging, identity, alienation, racism, sectarianism, and religious discrimination become among the salient themes of this literature in such a way that give it a panoramic feature.

Accordingly, the contemporary Feminist narrative literature, in its human concern and universality, reflects the issues and contradictions of the modern world, and thus, has become a convenient tool for tackling grand problem of humanity. Toni Morrison and Inaam Kachachi, have their novels, particularly, from point of view of the themes they usually tackle in their works which dealt mainly with humanitarian issues. However, they differ in the way they represent their own societies and in the historical contexts of their novels, with
their own distinct spatial temporal dimensions. In their works, each takes her own society as a background and a source of inspiration. For Toni Morrison's works, the American society, whether in the past or present, forms the historical background, while Kachachi works and were inspired by the Iraqi society, especially the contemporary one.

**Universality of Their Topics**

Furthermore, the themes and intellectual issues tackled by both novelists in their most significant works have been other stimuli for selecting the topic. Racial and Ethnic discrimination and Slavery as well as Social oppression of the black people in America are the most significant topic of Toni Morrison. While identity, belonging, immigration, political, and social disintegration in the post-war Iraqi Society are the themes that Kachachi’s works were built on. Both novelists, then, looked into solving the modern man’s problems whether western or Eastern. This means that the contemporary feminist literature represented by the two novelists’ works have appeared to have a universal nature as it assumes essential issues experienced by the contemporary society. This explains the popularity their works enjoy so that they have been translated into several languages. They appeal to the man careworn with such issues regardless of the nature of the society in which they live. Hence, the contemporary feminist novelistic literature has managed, with these novelistic trends to go beyond distinctive barriers and discrimination among societies and directed their awareness towards one mutual humanitarian issue.

**Multiculturalism Reflected Narratively**

A quality of a society where there is open mingling of many distinct national or ethnic cultures. It can also be used to describe social or political initiatives that support or promote such coexistence. The notion that cultural traditions, regardless of how peculiar, should be allowed as a sign of respect is significant in this. In the United States, Ishmael Reed, Leslie Marmon Silko, Ralph Ellison, N. Scott Momaday, The renowned writers of color who have appeared since World War II include Toni Morrison, Rudolfo Anaya, Sandra Cisneros, Maxine Hong Kingston, and Jessica Hagedorn. They are all-American in their aggregate blend of African American, Native American, Asian American, and Hispanic strains, despite being undeniably unique and greatly diversified. Although each author's work is unique, it has not remained in cultural isolation and has instead strengthened the country's rich literary heritage. (Lee, 2003) [4].

Toni Morrison, the focus of the current study, addresses problems that are of a central human concern, including racism, sexism, war, poverty, incest, betrayal, hatred murder and other trauma, and the complex meaning of community and love. (Stein, 2009: 19) [8]. She started her literary career with her novel entitled, The Bluest Eye, in 1970. It reflects the contradiction of the American society, specially, in racial, ethnic, and discrimination issues against the black Americans. The influences of those problems can still be seen, from to time, in the framework and network of relationships in the American Society and in the psychological effects on the black (Morrison, 1970; Bloom, 2007: 1-2). Again, in 1974, she published her second novel which goes with the title, Sula. It deals with the same problem of racial and ethnic discrimination (Mbaila, 2010, p: 42; Morrison, 1974) [5]. On the other hand, The Middle-Eastern legacy of female writers has grown significantly in the 20th century, with new generations of authors committed to give women a voice and depict feminism, identity, and class issues from a female perspective. The framework Iraqi women present, this national story, is a manifestation of the brutality they experience in the course of living in exile and conflict. They write about their experiences out of feminist impulse and maternal instinct to give voice to the society's voiceless underclass. They use the chaotic experiences of Iraqis as sub-narratives to tell their country's war story. Women authors give Iraqis’ current national narrative of conflict an important and necessary voice through their potent portrayals of the realities they live in. Inaam Kachachi, the author selected for this study, is but one example of the many Iraqi authors who concentrate their energies and their writings on the war experience. (Kashou, 2013).

Kachachi's vision is implied in cultural aspects of her works. Those aspects are considered a standpoint to her viewpoint of human and existential concern all over the world. Tashari, written by Kachachi in 2013 [3] and published in Beirut, treats the question of identity and belonging of Iraqi people. The word tashari refers originally to a kind of hunting bullet which is fragmented into many small pieces that spreads in the air when it is shot towards birds. Here, it is used to describe the state of millions of Iraqis after 1991. They were scattered on earth; you find them everywhere as a result of hard life, oppression, injustice and discrimination. They were lost in new societies with different characters, nature, manners, social systems, etc. They began to ask themselves unconsciously about their identity (Kachachi, 2013) [3]. Tashari is a novel that addresses this question of identity. Throughout, it expresses the question of identity whether at home or in exile. At home, the loss of identity is represented by alienation. You do not feel you belong to your environment. Everything is against you.

**Conclusion**

Toni Morrison and Inaam Kachachi, have their novels, particularly, from the point of view of the theme they usually tackle in their works which dealt mainly with humanitarian issues. However, they differ in the way they represent their own societies and in the historical context of their novels, with their own distinct spatial temporal dimension, in their works, each takes her own society as a background and a source of inspiration. For Morrison, the American society, whether in the past or present, forms the historical background. Furthermore, the themes and intellectual issues tackled by both novelists in their most significant works have been other stimuli for selecting the topic. Racial and ethnic discrimination and slavery as well as social oppression of the black people in America are the most significant topics of Morrison, while identity, belonging, immigration, social and political disintegration in the post-war Iraqi society are the themes that Inaam Kachachi’s works were built on. Both novelists, then, looked into solving the modern man's problems weather western or eastern. This means that the contemporary feminist literature represented by the two novelist’s works have appeared to have a universal nature as it assumes essential issues experienced by the contemporary society. This explains the popularity their works enjoy so
that they have been translated into several languages. They appeal to the man careworn with such issues regardless of the nature of the society in which they live. Hence, the contemporary feminist novelistic literature has managed, with these novelistic trends, to go beyond distinctive barriers and discrimination among societies, and directed their awareness towards one mutual humanitarian issues.

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