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Two-Day National seminar on

*"Artificial Intelligence, Multimedia and ICT in Teaching,
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Indian Council of Social Science Research, New Delhi
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SRI S. Ramasamy Naidu Memorial College, Sattur, Tamilnadu, India



Women, A Voiceless Object In Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*

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Abstract

Women's literature gained widespread prominence by the end of the 19th century. Feminist causes and the expansion of education for women led to many more female writers than any preceding country. These works were characterized by sentimentally, morality, and depth of feelings considered works of feminine genres. Toni Morrison begin an African American writer is considered to be one of the renowned post-colonial feminist writers who touches the very idea of raising voice of repressed group of the black women. Tar Baby express how being women imprisons the female characters. This society marginalized woman and gave them meager and indirect access to power in the community.

Keywords: *Feminist, repressed, marginalized, morality*

Women's literature gained widespread prominence by the end of the 19th century. Feminist causes and the expansion of education for women led to many more female writers than any preceding country. Despite living in a patriarchal society, female writers fought for acceptance in the literary community. In previous eras women's writing was relegated primarily to writing for children and poetry. These works were characterized by sentimentally, morality, and depth of feelings considered works of feminine genres.

Toni Morrison, an African American writer is considered to be one of the renowned post colonial feminist writers who touches the very idea of raising voice of repressed group of the black women. Toni Morrison's works are based on the post colonial feminism in which she very skillfully highlighted the idea of gender, race, sex, and identity and similarly she also highlights the concepts of 'talking back' and making a space among white feminism. As a mainstream white feminism at first could not give proper position to non-white and non-western women, black feminism became able to raise their voice and were able to even write back and hence succeeded in making their own identity.

Morrison, through her black female voice is characteristic of Toni Morrison's novels. Morrison, through her black female characters portrays the collective experience of black women in America which are shaped by the pass experience of slavery and by the patriarchal capitalist America society. Patriarchy in America dates back to the colonial period when male authority and female submission was essential to the subsistence economy and to the social set-up. This society marginalized woman and gave them meager and indirect access to



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power in the community. Before going in to the deep analysis of Morrison works from the feminist post colonial interlinked.

Tar Baby express how being women imprisons the female characters. The novel's male characters tend to see the women as stupid or inferior, simply because they are women. While Valerian ignores Margaret's desire to leave the island. Son insults Jadine by asking her how many sexual favors she had to perform to be given expensive presents and modeling jobs. The men do not see the women as individuals.

Feminine sensibility is an inner fueling. It transforms consciousness, which is a response to surroundings in all its aspects. Such a trait of sensibility operates as a value system of thoughtfulness and sensitivity. Feminine sensibility, being innate to a female, is a heightened sense of perception which acts as a catalytic charting the oscillograph of woman's inner, life. To conclude then, feminine sensibility is something that contributes to the mating of feminism.

The distinct feature of the fictional world of *Tar Baby* is that it is permeated with the sylvan beauty of the tropical Caribbean island. Isle des Chevaliers. The shift from the existing set up in the world of nature to the mechanized world of consumerism and industrial degeneration is vividly captured. The lovers have to persuade daisy trees that indeed men have wrought destruction of the serene beauty and quietness of nature. The loss, of natural kingdom, tropical rain forests and demented stream along with the broken-healed river foreshadows the dichotomy in the life of Valerian and Margaret Street, the wealthy white American couple.

With the exception of Jadine, the women in the novel are associated with motherhood and fertility, sometimes positively and sometimes negatively. These mothers Alma Estee and Son, and These once worked as a wet nurse. Margaret longs to see her son, Michael, but it turns out that she abused him when he was a child. These believes that white women kill their babies, in part because Valerian's first wife had a series of abortions. Margaret's action and These beliefs show that being a mother does not always bring fulfillment to women and can sometimes imprison them as well. Margaret's unhappiness as a wife and mother led her to abuse her child. Over the course of the novel, Jadine tries on the different options available to women: a career woman in Paris, a daughter on Isle des Chevaliers, and a mother figure to Son in New York. But none of these roles leads to satisfaction, and the constraints of her gender continue to bind and frustrate her.

Tar Baby is in the white society. The white American society, with its ubiquitous domineering culture, plays the *Tar Baby* by ensnaring the minds of black people and disjoining the black family. Both Son and Jadine also exhibit traits of the *Tar Baby*. Son tries to lure Jadine to black culture and family. It is Jadine, however, who has the mythical



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accoutrements of the Tar Baby. She succeeds in weaning Son away from his black community in Eloe. Her image as the trickster, comfortable in her own wellk-mapped out territory of the white world, looms large.

Tar Baby explores how being an woman imprisons the female characters. The novel's male characters tend to see the women as stupid or inferior, simply because they are women. While Valerian ignores Margaret's desire to leave the island. Son insults Jadine by asking her how many sexual favors she had to perform to be given expensive presents and modeling jobs. The men do not see the women as individuals.

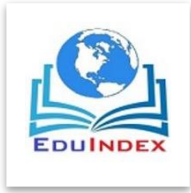
Jadine is a young black women and works as a model in Europe. Jadine is orphaned and she is portrayed in the story as the epitome of "get-set". She is portrayed as a beautiful, intelligent refined and ambitious. One fine morning she locks herself in her room. k Meanwhile Jadine's rich, white boyfriend, Ryk, has send her a luxurious sealskin coat. Son shows up her room as she tries on the coat, and they talk in an enticing way that sooner of latter starts to terrify Jadine.

Through Jadine roles Morrison explores the implications of a black woman's self-conscious objection to these oppressions. According to Jadine character physical standard so beauty doesn't oppress her and as a result they reject her. Morrison points out that too much of their time has historically been given over to the domestic work of making life comfortable for others. This result in offering few chances for her to think about realizes their own self-fulfillment.

Valerian and Margaret are locked in a dead-end marriage. Theirs was a loveless marriage characterized by lack of emotional warmth and reciprocity of feelings. Margaret, for valerian was a beautiful show-piece which could engage the attention those who thronged his life and business. Valerian chooses Margaret as his wife, twenty years his junior, the way he does other valuable objects for their outward beauty. He decides to marry her when he first sees her riding a winter carnival float holding the paw of a polar bear. Valerian starts treating her as though she were a socially embarrassing commodity bearing his name. He expects her to conform endlessly to his commands. When she fails to do so, he sadistically punishes her.

"She gets a little bored, I guess. Got more time than she can use". This shows that how much Valerian insults and mocks Margaret. Valerian then changes the subject and jokes with Sydney that he should wear comfortable and climate-appropriate shoes like sandals, but Sydney objects that he would be less dignified in sandals. Margaret comes in wearing a wrinkle-preventing device on her face called "Frownies".

Margaret and Valerian come to blow because Margaret has invited number of guests to come stay, against Valerian's street wishes. One of these guests is their Street's son, Michael,



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but Valerian suspicious that he will really come. Margaret goes to her room. But he quickly returns to the dining room earsplitting. Sydney runs to Margaret's room and returns to declare that there is a man hiding in her closet. Everyone but Valerian invites the man whose name is Son, to stay the night. This shows how Margaret has no rights in the house even though she did not have the rights to see her son.

In *Tar baby* one encounters a physical white presence influencing the black people. Jadine, the female protagonist becomes an antithesis of black folk and community values. Jadine, the closest thing *Tar Baby* has to a central character, is a light-skinned African-American woman who was orphaned at twelve and was raised by her aunt Ondine child's and uncle Sydney on the Caribbean island of Dominique(Dominica) on the estate of the wealthy, eccentric white man Valerian Street and beautiful but aloof wife Margaret. Valerian helped them send jadine to private school and to the Sorbonne. Jadine, now successful model who spends much of her time in Paris and New York. At the end of the novel, she returns to her own life in Paris, she is determined to face her fears alone. Jadine experience conflict between the white society in which she is entrenched and the black culture represented by her uncle, aunt and Son, her lover. Jadine refuses to submit to the tradition image of woman hood that both Ondine and Son want to impose upon her.

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