



HEGEMONY IN TONI MORRISON'S *PARADISE*



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ABSTRACT

African Americans have undergone much trauma which has had a significant impact on their lives. Though the generally recognised source of their trauma is the experience of slavery and racism, this study uses Toni Morrison's Paradise to demonstrate that hegemony (which encompasses race, gender and class) are accountable for the plights of African Americans. Hegemony examined at the level of race is mirrored through different dimensions like internalized racism, institutional racism and intra-racial racism. Moreover, the study also focuses on gender

through which the different forms of patriarchy revealed in Morrison's texts are decoded. We examine the difference that exists between the oppression of white women and that of black women. Hegemony in class unveils the economic difficulties that characterize the African American community. Analyzing Paradise from the perspectives of African American Criticism, the study concludes that hegemony has led to the stratification of the American society as a whole and the black society in particular.

KEYWORDS : *Paradise, Hegemony, race, gender, Class*