ABSTRACT

RACISM AND FEMINISM IN THE SELECT NOVELS OF AFRO-AMERICAN WOMEN
WRITERS TONI MORRISON AND ALICE WALKER

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The authors Toni Morrison and Alice Walker are the most productive Black women writers in the United States of America who rose to eminence by means of their creative output as novelists, short story writers, essayists, biographers and lecturers. Racism indicates the unequal power relations that grow from the socio-political domination of one race by another ensuing in organised discriminatory practices. Feminism is an economic movement intended to establish equality in a political, cultural, legal rights and security for women. Their novels reflect their apprehension with fundamental feministic and the racial issues of the Blacks, particularly of the Black woman. The issues of racism are explored under the environmental conditions of the general victimhood of Black males, the destruction of culture and traditions of Black families. The usage of rememory technique in bringing out past racial issues and attainment of selfhood is explored. Then the victimhood of Black females and Black children in form of internalised racism, the intra-racial racism, and the lack of emotional and psychological support for the children from the parents are analysed. These aspects of racism are analysed in all the novels of Morrison and Walker. This research further investigates into the areas of feminism like portrayal of Black women under the environment of patriarchy, rape as a tool of oppression, womenhood, motherhood, etc. The Black women are portrayed variously as grand-mother, mother, daughter, wife, friend, etc. The role of patriarchy comes from husbands, White masters, fathers, sons, etc. The research arrives at a conclusion after an extensive analysis and justifies that the core issues in the novels of Toni Morrison and Alice Walker are racism and feminism.

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(Research Guide)