Chapter 7: Conclusion

Heritage and Human Identity in Alice Walker's novels form the very basis of her fiction world. Being a black novelist, she is expected to write about the confrontations of black and white people; however, she is specifically interested in the human identity within the black community. The black community is paramount in not just Walker's work, but also in the novels of many other 20th century black writers, such as, Nella Larsen's Passing (1929), Jessie Fauset's The Chinaberry Tree (1931), Zora Neale Hurston's Their Eyes Were Watching God (1937), Toni Morrison's The Bluest Eyes (1970) and so on. Morrison's world is black world. Her characters are prominently black. She talks about black experience, and the human relationships of the black people. Her singular concern is for black values, and black behavior under white duress. The focus of her fiction is on the black life, and the human relations within the circle of black community. Her novels, except for Tar Baby (1981), do not have major white characters. Her characters move to and fro within uncertainly certain and inconsistently consistent status of human identity. Human identity in her novels shows ubiquitous presence of black suffering.

Walker's treatment of parent-child heritage is in accordance with her black experience. With her deft delineation of the parent-child heritage, she takes us into the realm of the black children. Similarly in Toni Morrison's novel The Bluest Eye, Pecola Breedlove is the victim of her father's lust. The situation of incestuous encounter between father and daughter can also be observed in other novels such as, Alice Walker's The Color Purple (Celie and Alphonso), Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man (Matty Lou and Trueblood) etc. The victims of incest in these novels ultimately occupy asocial and silent positions in their community. Pecola,
Celi and Matty Lou suffer from the devastating consequences by their respective father’s lustful acts.

Where Pecola in The Bluest Eye (1970) is ill-treated by her parents, Claudia and Frieda receive proper parental care and affection. Where Nel in Sula (1973), enjoys naturally nourishing relationship with her mother, there is a disgust and hatred in Sula’s relationship with her mother. Sethe’s relationship with her daughter involves eccentricities of mother love in Beloved (1987); whereas Baby Suggs’ relationships with her children are battered and tattered by the effects of slavery.

In Song of Solomon (1977), Milkman’s relationship is affected by his parents’ self-centeredness. Where Milkman’s relation with his mother wavers within the excessive attachment and hatred, his relationship with his father is loveless and far from any sensitivity. On the contrary, Dr. Foster has an infatuation for his daughter Ruth. In Tar Baby (1981) the parent-child relationship has become grudgingly gruesome. The bestial behaviour of Michael’s mother, and his father’s unconcernedness makes Michael to avoid his parents. Jadine Childs lacks parent-child relations in her life. However, her surrogate parents Sydney and Ondine Childs unsuccessfully provide her love and parental care. As a result, Jadine’s relation with them is affected towards alienation. On the other hand, Son’s naturally nourishing relationship with his father Old Man, appears strong and sturdy. In Jazz (1992) most of the characters are either abandoned by their parents, or do not have parents at all. Joe Trace, Violet, Dorcas, and Golden Gray are either orphans or suffer from the imposed orphanage. Like Sethe in Beloved (1987), Mavis Albright’s relationship with her twin children exhibits the extremity of imbecile and immature mother-child relations in Paradise (1998). Where Grace and Pallas have absence of parent-child relations in their lives, Consolata and Seneca are abandoned by their parents at very infant ages. Just as, Bill Cosey in Love (2003) has a very strong and sturdy relationship with his son Billy Boy; Romen in the
same novel, enjoys healthy relations with his grandparents. On the other hand, Junior Viviane is an uncared for teenage girl whose life is devoid of any parent-child relationship. Thus, we can safely conclude that the parent-child relationships in her novels are far from being normal. The children in her novel do not receive proper parental care. They are subjected to condemnation, oppression and tortures. As a result, they cannot become strong and independent individuals. They are doomed forever living without any self-worth.

Walker depicts two prominent variations of heritage and human identity. They are in the form of ancestral heritage, and in the same we can see in Toni Morrison’s novel. The husband - wife relationship between Pauline and Cholly Breedlove in The Bluest Eye begins with gratitude and gratefulness, but ends in quarrels and hatred. Unlike barbarously broken relationship of Pauline and Cholly, the MacTeers have generosity and sympathy in their matrimonial relationship. Like the Breedloves in The Bluest Eye, Macon Dead and his wife Ruth in Song of Solomon, live with hateful husband-wife relationships. Where the Breedloves are the victims of poverty, the Deads disfigure their relations out of greed and self-centeredness. In Tar Baby there is an unsuitably matched couple Valerian and Margaret Street, who live through their strained matrimonial relations. On the other hand, the Streets’ black servant couple, Sydney and Ondine Childs enjoy the harmonious relationship with each other. In Beloved Sethe’s matrimonial relation with Halle is battered by the effects of slavery.

Consequences of slavery do not allow Halle to become an ideal husband. The husband-wife relationship between Violet and Joe Trace (Jazz) is in trouble because of Joe’s love affair with a young girl Dorcas. However, their strained relationship gets renewed at the end of the novel. Bill Cosey in Love has a teenage wife Heed. Their relationship is immature. Similarly, Mavis Albright’s relationship with her husband Frank
is loveless in Paradise. To conclude, we can say that Toni Morrison’s depiction of matrimonial relationship is strained, distorted and unhealthy as a whole. Cholly, Macon, Valerian, Halle, Joe, and Bill Cosey are the incompetent and unsuccessful husbands, whereas Pauline, Ruth, Margaret, Violet, and Mavis can be labelled as bad and mentally imbalanced wives.

Heritage in Walker’s novels have different colors. Where Celie and Nettie have to face many challenges. In Morrison’s novel’s abortive love affair (Song of Solomon); Sethe’s love affair with Paul D is sympathetic (Beloved). Jadine’s love affair with William Green ends in desertion (Tar Baby). Dorcas’s love for Joe Trace is sublime (Jazz), whereas, Pallas in Paradise has an abusive love relation with Carlos. Romen and Junior in Love have a lustful love affair. Thus, Morrison’s depiction of the love affairs is multifarious in colors.

Alice Walker has specifically focused on the heritage and human identity the blacks. Her novel The Color Purple portrays a sympathetic and helpful Sisterhood friendship among two sisters Celie and Nettie. Meridian is a novel of Alice Walker. Truman then gets more attached to her and desires to start once again a new life together.

In Possessing The secret of joy, in this novel Tashi who is an African Woman whose characters has already been appeared in Alice Walker’s novel The Color Purple. She comes to US from Olinka. It is such a novel of Alice Walker where female genital mutilation is followed. Later, Tashi prefers to go back to Olinka due to circumstances because she is a woman who is torn between Olinkan and Western Culture. Tashi Later finds many psychiatrists as she becomes crazy and gets into the trauma. She has to suffer a lot before finding the power to perform.

Debut novel of American author Alice Walker the Third Life of Grange Copeland which narrates the story of Grange. It is set in rural
Georgia in which there can be seen crystal clear heritage of Grange's wife along with their son, Brownfield and grand-daughter Ruth, which is published in 1970.

Thus, these all chapters dealt with the title of my dissertation which included findings and judgments inferred through the study.