Abstract

This was a qualitative research. Examining and exploring the novels of Alice Walker, Meridian. Now is the Time to open Your Heart, By the Light of my Father’s Heart and Meridian with the help of text based primary sources of information such as critical articles in books, the e-sources which are available on the internet and articles.

This thesis mostly consisted the Heritage and Human Identity in the Novels of Alice Walker and referred to other relevant theories and recommended concern philosophies.

The Identity is affected, in its structure. The Heritage, mentioned here which does interpret, the person who is generally recognized by his birth, creed, color of people living in the in the same area in which they share a common background or interests, with its norms and values affect the development of the self as evidenced in Toni Morison’s novel Sula and Brownfield in Alice Walker’s novel mention but a few. How Identity interrelates with their Heritage has an effect on both the community and on the person. The communities in which individuals are situated do have their own challenges. The Heritage in which Celie and Meridian live in The Color Purple and Meridian are faced with challenges of Identity and Heritage. This is reflected by the circles in which power is exercised. There is the white world which has ultimate power followed by the Black American world which is enslaved in the White world. Within the Black American world is an oppressed world of the Black American Woman whose state is given as inferior as negative. In this world, the Black American Woman has to fight in order to attain an identity and as image of the self for herself.
The study examines and explores how a female character in such an oppressive environment can interrelate with the community and still attain the self.

All novels present a female character as the protagonist; Celie in The Color Purple and Meridian in the novel Meridian and in the similar way in another novels. The study investigates how the concept of the Heritage and Human Identity in the novels The Color Purple, Possessing the Secret of Joy, The Third Life of Grange Copeland, and Meridian has been created, developed and presented. The role of Heritage, sex and Identity in a community is examined especially in the way they each affect the development of the individual self.

The finding of this work show that, the black in the world of the white is not always safe and that the black has to break some of the bonds that keep her in oppression for her to attain a sense of the Identity. The finding show that society looks at such the black as a rebel but that by confronting It’s situations and oppressors the black attain his/her identity and place in own community.