

CHAPTER THREE

CONCLUSION

In this chapter, the present writer would like to draw a conclusion of what has been discussed in Chapter Two. After analyzing two major characters in Sula, the present writer concludes that Toni Morrison has created two different types of woman in this novel. The first type is a woman who is portrayed as unconventional, having the courage to do things as she wishes. The second type is a woman who is portrayed as conventional, conforming to the social norms.

Toni Morrison has successfully described a woman who is absolutely different from the typical women in her time. Through her actions, Sula is portrayed as a woman who has enough courage to choose her own lifestyles. She does not care about the rules that bind her; she feels free to do whatever she likes. Her characteristics are unconventional.

Referring to conventional women, Toni Morrison tries to give a description of women in general. Nel is very conventional and she does not dare to break the tradition. Through the portrayal of her character, it is clear that Toni Morrison really understands women's problems in her time. She gives a clear description that women have limitations in their lives, and they do not have any

power to get out of the unpleasant situation that they have to face. They do not even try to make things better for them , while they actually can get happiness if they try.

The present writer considers that Toni Morrison can portray both the conventional and unconventional women successfully. Toni Morrison knows very well that women in her time really deserve a better appreciation, and that they should have freedom to get happiness. Through her description of the conventional major character, she gives a clear picture that generally women in her time are so submissive that they just accept their faith without protest.

Toni Morrison feels motivated to create contrasting characters. The first is Nel, who is very dependent and submissive. The other one is Sula who is much more independent. By contrasting the two major characters, Toni Morrison means to tell the reader that compromising to fate will only make them weak, so through her unconventional female major characters, she reveals that “actions speak louder than words”. It is evident that she makes an effort to encourage women to fight for their happiness, and not just accept their unpleasant condition.

In this novel, Morrison shows that family background also plays an important role in shaping someone’s character. Sula lives with her grandmother and her mother who do not pay any attention to the norms of the society. In this house, Sula learns from her mother that sex is pleasant so that Sula thinks that it is all right to have many affairs with men, including her best friend’s husband. Hannah’s bad examples have influenced Sula’s character. Sula becomes an unconventional character, different from most of the girls in her time.

On the contrary, Nel lives in a traditional family. Nel's mother, Helene, has taught her about moral principles since her young age. As a result, she grows up as a conventional woman just like her mother. In other words, Nel represents women in her time.

The present writer really appreciates Toni Morrison's efforts to show how women in general are not as equal as men, let alone black American women. From this novel she learns that women to some extent should be like Sula, who is independent. However women should not follow Sula's way of life, which is full of scandals. To end her thesis, the present writer is of the opinion that Sula is interesting, realistic, and worth analyzing.