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Re-reading Saul Bellow's Seize the Day and Tony Morrison's The Bluest Eye: Re-Conceptualizing Identity for the "The Modern Man"

Dissertation Submitted to the Department of English in Partial Fulfillment of the Requirements for the Degree of Master in Language and Culture

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Dedication

FOR MY DEAR FATHER

PROFESSOR:

SAADNA LAID

MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON HIM AND PLACED
HIM INTO HIS HEAVENS.

I DID IT

PRAY FOR HIM, PLEASE.....

(SAADNA FATIHA)





Dedication

Graduation is the first step in
achieving
your ambition.

I want to dedicate this work to: **My Parents** who helped me dear **mother, Brothers** and **Sisters**.

Dear **father MENASRI TAHER**, may God have mercy on him, my supporter, and loser of my heart.

my dear husband "**Barka redha**" for his constant support for me, and my children: "**TAYM**" "**LOUAI**" "**ABDERRAHMANAH**" "**DJAWED**" may God grant them success. My best friend and sister **Saadna Fatiha** who was so patient with me.

My best teacher Miss **Mekhaznia Wafa** for her help to us.

NAWAL



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I would like to say thank you to my dear husband "**TOURECHE OMAR**" for his support, my daughters "**MARIA, SYDRA and NADA** " My son "**RACIM**" and my happy angel, my God's gift to me in life "**EI-MALAK EL HADY**".

To the Person who deserves to be crowned by this achievement "**MY MOTHER**"

In addition, I like to mention, here, a great name "**PROFESSOR MOHAMAD BEN SACCI**," who was my teacher, many years ago at the University of Batna, because he inspired me a lot with his unforgettable words of wisdom. I dedicate to him all Saul Bellow's literary works.

Above all, I would like to thank my supervisor: miss: **MEKHAZANIA WAFI** who helped and encouraged me in my choice of subject.

"the past is not good, the future is full of anxiety ... only the present is real, the here and now
...seize the day (Saul Bellow).

Without forgetting the brother **Anoir Bensaoucha** for his help with logistical computing problems; thank you very much.

Without forgetting my cup of coffee!

"PUT YOURSELF IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACE; IT IS A TASK"

(Saadna Fatiha)

Abstract

This dissertation examines the themes of identity and modern man in Saul Bellow's *Seize the Day* and Tony Morrison's novels. The study involves a critical re-combing of *Seize the Day* in light of the of theoretical perspectives on identity and modernity and analysis of Toni Morrison's work to identify common motifs related to the construction of identity in the context of modernity. The dissertation argues that both Bellow's and Morrison's works exhibit a concern with the nature of identity in the face of the challenges of modernity, which requires a reconceptualization of the self. Through analysis of these novels, this dissertation aims to explore how the relationship between modernity and identity is portrayed in contemporary literature and what implications such portrayals have for understanding of these concepts. The study concludes by suggesting that the themes of identity and modernity in these works reflect broader cultural concerns and that they offer valuable insights into the complexities of the human conditions in contemporary society.

Keywords: Identity. Modern man, Re-conceptualization, -contemporary literature, Seize The day, Saul Bellow, Saul Bellow, cultural concerns, challenges, Tony Morison., the self

المخلص

تتناول هذه الأطروحة دراسة مواضيع الهوية والإنسان الحديث في رواية "Seize the Day" لـ سول بيلو وروايات توني موريسون. تتضمن الدراسة إعادة النظر النقدي لرواية "Seize the Day" في ضوء المنظورات النظرية حول الهوية والحادثة وتحليل أعمال توني موريسون لتحديد الرموز المشتركة المتعلقة ببناء الهوية في سياق الحادثة. تقوم الأطروحة بالدعوة إلى أن أعمال كل من بيلو وموريسون تعبر عن اهتمام بطبيعة الهوية في مواجهة تحديات الحادثة، التي تتطلب إعادة تصور للذات. من خلال تحليل هذه الروايات، تهدف هذه الأطروحة إلى استكشاف كيفية تصوير العلاقة بين الحادثة والهوية في الأدب المعاصر وما لها من آثار على فهم هذه المفاهيم. تختتم الدراسة بتوصية بأن مواضيع الهوية والحادثة في هذه الأعمال تعكس قضايا ثقافية أوسع وأنها تقدم رؤى قيمة حول تعقيدات الحالة الإنسانية في المجتمع المعاصر.

الكلمات المفتاحية: الهوية، الإنسان الحديث، إعادة التصور، الأدب المعاصر، Seize the Day، سول بيلو، توني موريسون، قضايا ثقافية، تحديات، الذات.

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General Introduction

General Introduction

This dissertation analyzes the works of Saul Bellow "Seize The Day" and Tony Morrison "the Bluest Eye". It deals with a set of vibrant notions such as identity and space, belonging and meaning of its existence, defining one self and other, stream of consciousness, dreams and the way of thinking, hedonism and selfishness or egocentrism, regression and sexuality. It examines how the two literary pieces demonstrate or refute the American myth of American exceptionalism and modern man. Each notion or theme has its own significance in the respective novels. Each of the stories has its beauty in portraying a real picture of the struggle of the modern man and woman who became unable to determine themselves or find the secret of life and time.

The question of personal identity or the answer to the question: what is the meaning of life? or to fill in the gaps of now- day's societies and or to distinguish between what is real and what is not or how can a person adapt himself to modernity which can be seen as a crisis rather than to be really modern. In these few papers, we attempt show some aspects related to modern life and to what extent individuals are satisfied with the new various options exist everywhere and show what problems they face preventing them to achieve their goals and find their true place and define fixed identity in this crowded world which becomes a small village that cannot breathe easily. Now days, people round worldwide spend the majority of their hours using their smart phones; Isolating themselves from their families, partners and peers, each one them is trying to listen to one chosen mouth among an indefinite numbers of mouths that are speaking days and nights without stopping. People are, in fact, taking risks while trying to imitate one trend model until they find themselves alienated from their real life losing their own identity and meaning. The problem of identity is more than race, gender or even class identity, it is as Saul Bellow in

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his novella "seize the day" narrated and tackled these aspects, by proposing that there will be appearance of a new type of identity. Size the day is a novella written by an excellent Jewish American writer of the twentieth century. It recounts one day in the life of the protagonist Tommy Wilhelm who suffer from many psychological problems; he is portrayed as a beleaguered character whose milieu seems to be a complicated for him. This dissertation aims to shed light on a complicated personality in Seize the Day reflecting the modern man's struggles in modern societies where nobody is satisfied or happy. Wilhelm is a city man who feels like the huge sky is going to fall on his head and before arriving to final scene where Wilhelm will encounter an unknown dead, he makes it clear that his greatest need is not money, or love or the peace or to be a famous Hollywood star. Wilhelm arrives to the death after much thoughts and attempts to be the successful well liked man and find his true place, instead this and that all what he had is that he has lost the sight, of his follower Dr. Tamkin. Tamkin is a man of imagination, which can be proved by his many jobs, poetry, talkative nature. He is a heart of central man, the same as those characters multi-talented persons we face, every day in our daily life while getting up to see what is new or who is the hero of the season! Those people and Dr. Tamkin are opposite of what they really are, in mature without dignity. Wilhelm loses the shadow of the man and he ends face to face with death; This final scene which can be interpreted as no future to Wilhelm or it may means stop here! and restart again with a new vision to life, with new different concepts that are the result of an experience. So, they must be true, logic and meaningful leading to success and stability, to the true place and identity. No one in history ever left lost as the modern man who lives in the most developed societies.

Besides reading Soul Bellow's "seize the day", we support this study with reading "the bluest eye"; The first novel written by an Afro-American novelist, Tony Morison, who is famous

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for her epic, often historical writing about race, family and identity; The novel will give us a view from a feminist perspective through analyzing Pecola's identity which is as well confused and threatened. It will support the study in terms of proving that the problem of modern people is more than racism, or gender or self-hatred because the white's standards, since it is obvious that the white themselves are suffering from self-hatred too, because they follow the modern times strange dictations and undefined standards. The fact is that they do not even know what a standard exactly they should reflect to, but there is a serious threat, brought them to a dilemma and identity crisis. Pecola seeks very blue eyes in a very black skin, the same as Wilhelm does; He seeks very much calm in a very crowded city and hypocrisy. There is a big difference between being out or being outdoors; being out means that you can go somewhere else, but outdoor is really a problem; There is no place to go, it is a the peripheral existence, it is the here to stay, it is the end.

The Aim of the Study:

The aim of this dissertation is to examine the identity crisis and the assimilation from the author's modernist point of view as well as the necessity of having a stance from this big called modern time, and trying at least, to show that we are in an urgent crisis that requires an immediate intervention, all this led us to study Soul Bellow's novella seize the day. In order to reach this aim, we need to define the outer world's affect on modern's man ups and downs, Tommy Wilhelm as an example, and to study the imposition of force on people who are too innocent, too hopeful and too eager to recognize their destiny to find their true place, the example of Pecola. The aim of the study is to stand a bit at the role of literature on the development of identity and how do writers convey their messages in order to influence their readers; they

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participate in shaping identity especially in contemporary societies where literary subjects confront with major life changes and authors have to adjust to new situations or contexts the fictional characters and informants in the different narratives discussed in the contributions experience existential challenges , in which they must consider how to balance between being positioned or positioning, especially in narratives of post-modernism era which seems to affirm an era of alienation from the society.

The Identification of the Problem

Tommy Wilhelm in "seize the day" and Pecola Breedlove in "the bluest eye" are two main characters, one is a male and the other is a female living in the same called "modern time". So, they become in broad term : "modern man" who suffer from contradictions of life and have conflicts between their internal and external environment that affect their mental health portraying the mental crisis of contemporary humans and giving some messages to the society to identify the problem which is more than identity crisis or a struggle to find meaning and seek belonging; the problem is a moral misery impossibility of decision making and feeling dissatisfaction in a very fast moving and competitive as well as ambiguous society. The great risk is not just losing the one's identity and belonging but he may lose his mind too. Tommy Wilhelm wants, he tries, but he could not do any, he becomes the slave of his father DR. Abler, his wife and the psychologist who needs a psychologist DR. Tamkin, he was never free, the same thing with Pocola, the little adolescent who feels lost in a dark world that leads. Her to become a slave of an unrealistic dream.

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Literature Review:

Reviewing some of the previous, and related studies in relation to the topic is the first step done in order to build and base our study, orient it to get deeper and view the topic from other angles and trying to present it in a different way. Starting by the book entitled "the creation of consciousness: Jung's myth for: "the modern man" written by Edward F. Edinger, the author proposes a new world-view based on the creative collaboration between the scientific pursuit of knowledge and the religious search for meaning, which provides answers to the ultimate question about existence, arguing that developed and discriminating members of society can not long survive together unless they are psychologically contained with a central living myth; means that modern man is looking for soul, religious and spiritual life. The missing matter in western societies which leads to the loss of meaning, emptiness and despair because they replace the awareness of God by the elemental motivations of power and pleasure. In another book by the same author E. Edward entitled the modern man in search of soul by Carl Gustav. Jung which is considered one of the most important books in the field of psychology, it focuses on the life of individual set against the modern threats to the global community, Jung refers in his book to human being that thinks, feels and makes the body acts. Jung used "soul" in the technical sense and came the following definition," The soul is a kind of force, as well as function of relationship , a function or complex or partial personality" (Carl Jung p.60) . Another book written by David R. Hawkins. M.D. Ph. D. entitled, Reality, Spirituality and Modern Man, the writer convinced that the crisis of now times is totally different from all miseries of the past due to radical changes in human conditions of life and said there is appearance of new social constitution of the meaning of human life in modernity (Reality, Spirituality and Modern Man p.10). In the same book, the author takes prints such as : dreams, human dilemma, personal development, the meaning of

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consciousness, general conditions for crisis of meaning....etc. For example, in terms of experience he said, "meaning is consciousness of the fact that a relationship exists between experiences. The inverse is also true" (David R. Hawkins , p.11, 12).

In an article entitled "Modernity, Pluralism and the Crisis of Meaning the Orientation of Modern Man written by (Peter L. Berger, Thomas Luckman), talked about the cultural orientations are among the most urgent issues of modern time where the individual face the difficulty to define standards and values guiding their lives; asking the question how do human beings coordinate the numerous and social networks in which they interact? In other words: How do they stabilize their own identity ? .According to Anthony Giddens , in his book *Modernity and Self Identity* (p.64), "one of the most distinctive features of modernity is the increasing interconnection between globalizing influences and personal dispositions"; the author demonstrates how personal meaninglessness the feeling that life has nothing worldwide to offer; Become a fundamental psyche problem in circumstances of high modernity.

There exist also novelists who tackled this topic through their narrative fictions the case of our two American novelists Saul Bellow and Tony Morrison. For example in "Seize the Day", Bellow exhibits an ambivalent attitude toward worldly success and he follows his protagonist quest for meaning in chaotic hostile world. In an article published in 2020 by Kazal Kumar Das" entitled *Alienation Failure and Resurrection of Tommy Wilhelm as the man conformist hero of Saul Bellow*; the paper examines the protagonist Tommy as a failure man in every attempt to prove himself in society, the paper shows Tommy as the predicament of modernity because of his isolation, spiritual hollowness, psychological suffering, financial crises in materialistic society and inner struggles. Another article entitled *Inside a Myth in the American society: Seize the Day*

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by Saul Bellow published on 2021, indicates that every venture Tommy went into ends with frustrations and Tommy's American myth is destroyed, alienation and loneliness became a key fact inside of American society. In the other side, Tony Morrison who centered her works on the black experiences; "The Bluest Eye" novel has been discussed by Jess E. Jelsma in her article entitled "Decay and Symbolic Impotence in Tony Morrison's 'The Bluest Eye' constructing her study on the loss of one of Pauline's front teeth as a symbol of destructive nature of the white beauty standards. In this case the lack of blue eyes and the loss of teeth is the loss of physical attractiveness. However, through this research paper, we will argue that gender, ethnic differences imposed by societies determine nothing in modern time and contemporary life because the crisis is one for both man represented by Wilhelm in "Seize The Day", and woman represented by Pecola in "The Bluest Eye"; the same for the handsome charming gentleman with blond hair and blue eyes for the black skinny ugly poor girl. Tommy Wilhelm is not able to seize the day as a result he asks Tamkin for the meaning of the soul, Pecola prays every night for blue eyes; does this explain modern man's need to spiritual life to feel happiness, get rid of anxiety in working city like New York, what kind of help should be offered to extraordinary men and women of recent times?

Research Methodology.

We apply three steps in this research; collecting data, and presenting data, These steps are applied in order to succeed in making a good academic research. The first step is collecting data. There are two kinds of data used in this research, the primary data which are taken from the novella "Seize the day" by Saul Bellow and the novel, "The bluest eye" by Tony Morrison and The secondary data are taken from the literary books, articles, journal related to this study the data are

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collected by using library research methods: reading (the books, articles, journals) and browsing the internet. The second step is on analyzing data. The method of analyzing data is descriptive analysis. The analysis starts through following analytical approach in order to decode some notions and reconceptualized identity and modern man, causes and effects of complexities of material societies and inner struggle the predicament of modernity. Analyzing using certain Theories related to religion spirituality and creation of conscious and modern crisis. The last step, is presenting The result of analysis, since this research is qualitative research, the method used in presenting the result of the analysis is a descriptive method. Therefore, the data are elaborated through words, not in forma of number and picture.

The Structure of the Study:

This research consists of three chapters: The first, chapter will deal with theoretical parts entitled "Theoretical foundations for conceptualizing identity in the modern era". Which will contain brief definitions, and key term concepts related to identity, identity in literature and modernity. The second chapter will be analysis of the two novels, seize the day and the bluest eye content and examines the different aspects of identity in both novels, and the third part is about exploring intersectionality and identity in both novels .

Research Questions

In our research we attempt to answer the following main questions:

1- How are concepts such as identity, ethnicity, race, space and belonging and modernity were constructed with in the two novels?

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- 2- How is the nature of father and paternity and other human relationships were portrayed through the two novels?
- 3- What are the two protagonists Wilhelm and Pecola looking for exactly to reach satisfaction and find their true place in modern America?
- 4- Is it possible to shape a new type of identity as an end to confusion and human differences and identity crisis in modern era?
- 5- Can modern men succeed in finding solutions for mental crisis and feel satisfaction modern societies?

Motivation

We are really motivated to hold this humble work and to choose this topic. First, our love for literature, that special art, from the beauty of words to its power in describing feeling and even it goes beyond clarifying ideas and understanding concepts, those which meet great confusion in our modern life where more things change and quickly develop they remain the same. Second, it happened that a great novelist; a Nobel prize winner, but is not perfectly known in our academic community. Therefore we want to shed light on him; for his strong language and deep style. Many consider him as a difficult writer because he is really more than a writer and his books are more than fiction, call it wisdom philosophy, anthology, psychology, ideas of fiction that refuse borders and here metaphysics enters and higher consciousness are what have emerged. The one who said that there is a missing link in this world, and the man searches for it always and forever. The third, the necessity to have a stance from our real life situation from what is happening here and now for all of us. The crisis of now days is not identity nor what a

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person has or has not achieved or what he will achieve. The crisis, is greater than racial discrimination and relationships with others. The crisis has nothing to do with material things, names nor clothes that one wears.....it is something else... That needs more researches, more logical, objective and honest interpretations, it needs to it reflect, to think and wonder twice again why no one is happy, not satisfied, what is the crisis definition and what the modern's man identity and for what he is really looking for?



CHAPTER ONE

**Theoretical Foundations For
Conceptualizing Identity In
The Modern Era**

Chapter 1 Theoretical Foundations For Conceptualizing Identity In The Modern Era

Introduction

"Language, Identity, place, and home: These are all of piece just different elements of belonging and not belonging"

(Jhumpa Lahiri Quotes)

Modern times have been characterized by rapid industrialization, globalization and technological advancements, resulting in the way's people perceive and construct their identities. This first chapter, spots light on some of the most important theories and key concepts related to identity formation in modern. Times, including social identity Theory, intersectionality and cultural and as well as modern identity.

Understanding these theories, and trying to decode concepts related to identity is crucial in understanding the complex nature of identity in the modern world.

This chapter , as well, tends to discuss the role of literature and critical theory to highlight the importance of identity in shaping individuals and society and to focus on their significance role in providing a platform for marginalized voices and identities.

I. Identity in Literature

1. Definition and Overview of Identity

Identity is defined by the internalized mental system units each person's inner self and the outside world into a coherent whole. Although it has been described as a developmental process that combines pieces of childhood identity into a coherent structure during late adolescence and early adulthood, it may no longer be the most appropriate way to comprehend the growth of identity. The development of individual's group as a social identity such as gender, ethnicity, class, and social orientation, is not entirely explained by traditional theories of identity development. At this moment psychologists started examining aspects of personal identification as well as the social and cultural factors that influence identity.

Numerous factors, such as individual's special qualities and characteristic family dynamics cultural and ethnic standards, beliefs and attitudes oppression experiences, play a vital role in the development of one's inner self and social outside world. The development process of inquiry, resolution, and commitment required for the manifestations and saliency of one's identity may be inhibited or facilitated by these factors. People are cultural creatures who are impacted by variety by personal identification factors and contextual dimensions. The interaction between psychological and socio-cultural elements in people's lives has broadened conceptions of how people become aware and accept themselves in connection to others, themselves, their place and definition in society, and belonging to social groups.

After the second world war, for example, people in America were becoming more and more preoccupied with self-interest and losing the family values and social integrity, which threatened the self-identity integrity, of individuals in the context of The modern world due to ruthless, materialism's impact on redefining society's values; Fathers did not care of their sons

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and wives did not for their husbands. In Saul Bellow's novella *Seize The Day*, Dr Adler does not sympathize with Wilhelm because he believes that money and self-love are the only things that matter. He also denied his son love and affection by claiming that he does not want to be responsible for him, and as we all know, when a member of a family is disappeared, the end is just around the corner. The protagonist in Saul Bellow's novella *Seize The Day*, physically ran away to discover about himself hopes acceptance and understanding searching for appropriate place; Tommy is portrayed as a complicated character he was in an ex-salesman who was down on his luck due to divorce, a mistress and a failed nerve has been rejected by two fathers. His real one and spurious one who cheats him Tommy became alone in this world, sad and frustrated this isolation and inner struggle is the predicament of modern times where Bellow in his book seems reaching another type of identity. In a different way, with her turn Toni Morrison in her novel *The Bluest Eye* death with identity struggles and The inability of characters. to form a sense of identity; She highlights the lack of identity as the most important reasons for the growth of feeling of anxiety and intellectual disorder.

Building an identity with stable characteristics is the most challenging goal that each man or woman seeks to nail especially now days the question is more than racism, sexual trauma or cultural or even material conflicts. Identity is always here to be discussed as a wide phenomenon and a very complex concept, but necessary to be defined and existed. The infant begins to search for his identity the moment he comes to life and continues to discover himself and who he is and the world around him until the last moment of his life.

2. Role of Identity in Literature.

Identity is of a great importance concept in the world of because literature itself which makes it a very important theme for its readers.

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Literature encourages the readers to see things from their own perspectives which helps the readers in constructing identities. The issue of identity is the topic that is currently being debated the most due to globalization in a huge space and typical fast time where everyone is making daily efforts seeking for his or her true place. The "self" becomes a very complicated phenomenon because of the necessity of the individual's interactions with other and with culturally changed world where many dimensions and standards appeared ambiguous and not satisfying enough. Baldwin discusses this ongoing change in identity, reflected and reflecting process shows that the "self" is an "idea". Many scientists and researchers scholars working in different domains argue that people are not fully free in their lives, they are closed in cages, since the huge world has become a small city, changes are very fast, so people's environment, mental and emotions and decisions are deeply unwillingly affected. according to them there is a band between outside ambiance of a world and individuals' inside world. So that, identity is not stable, it is in flux and fluidity, now (Pile and Thrift, 1995). Now days, people of different identities come from different geographical places, origins, gender, culture and ethnicity are facing a totally new strange situation, these differences are going to be neglected people are obliged or oriented to be alike ; The key word here, is assimilation.

Saul Bellow in his novel targets this extraordinary modern dilemma wondering that there is something Wrong and There is a truth somewhere, as writers they must write about it and explain it : "Men live in his ideas more than he lives in nature" . Seize the day itself is a strong title related to time and how to live it and who you will be or what are the expectations of your being here and now. Morrison tackles the issue of racism, but through her protagonist in connection with now days and now times, The problem arises as more than racism or segregation between man and woman but it is a problematic of identity identification happening now day in the world wide. To create an identity is a part of the essential task of an artist. Identity for the writer refers

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to the identification and declaration of a literary nationality that may be viewed as both distinctive and rooted. The writers who have succeeded in discovering their own identities have been successful in discovering their own identities have approached it in a variety of ways. The word identity is employed by marginalized writers in creative works and that is art where precedence is always given to the owner of the provocation, the plight of immigrant's life for instance. Writers like Soul Bellow ;The Jewish Canadian American and Toni Morisson, The Afro-American Author highlight this quest of national identity by defining and redefining, analyzing and exploring it, I mean their identity, from all possible angles.

Literary texts can also be a field of identity construction because writers and readers are inseparable because of their reciprocal relation since certain values and knowledge are ignited and becoming a source of pleasure for both, writers and readers and enable them to learn more than they do without this literary materials: The collective manifested ideas that are culturally bound to the context of real life, the result can be literal, direct, and symbolic as well as initiative. Thus, it becomes a field of humanitarian exploration and construction of identity .

Readers or even learners of literature not only read or learn about literature, but also about culture and Community in a broad sense. they become across time within the reading habit not just consumers, but active exhibitors and bring the texts They face into the life of their minds. Therefore, The "repertoire" or "extra textual frame" that they carry when dealing with certain texts will have an effect on meaning. So, strongly built stories and literary pieces are a significant Tool may be used by the writers to fix something, to change, to transform, to transmit, to fight or defend certain issues. They con also teach, stimulate and effect people. Story telling was an effective means used by old grandmothers in the kids' education. So literature plays on important role in constructing both individual and family identity as well social identity and other aspects of life, beliefs and values... etc are hearty topics for writing and influence.

3. Evolution of Identity in Literature.

What is identity? Where does it end? "I am me if none of these determine me, then what makes me myself". A Scottish philosopher David Hume has defined the self as nothing but a bundle or collection of different perceptions that follow each other extremely quickly and are in a perpetual flux and movement (Hume, 1739). To clarify, Hume argued that our identities were made up of a combination of our physical and immaterial traits, as well as our ideas, beliefs, values and memories, in addition to our bodies and all of our material belongings. Our identities and individuality are formed by all of this. However, as we develop and change, so does our package. According to Hume, new properties take the place of old ones as a result, our identity is always shifting. Does this imply that when we pass away our identity will follow? How will our relationships be affected? In order to respond to this question, it is necessary to examine a well known phrase by George Berkeley, "to be is to be perceived". His words introduce a fresh view point on identity. A person with a bundle when of features is the same person as long as others perceive him that way. The memories and Thought of a deceased person live on long after they pass away in the modern world. "to be is to be perceived" could be translated as follow: Our identities and therefore our existence is determined by people around us. In other words, this can be called social constructionism of identity.

Meaning of who I am and what I do results from what others think about me and what they expect me to do. Webster University defines social construct as an idea that has been developed by members of a society. Social constructionism is about an individual as a project of the society that person resides in. Labeling begins the moment a person is born and never ends. Individuals grow to fulfill their gender, culture, ethnicity and many other types of roles, thoughts, ambitions,

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value, dreams, everything we have discussed as features of personal identity are, in fact, the outcome of social exposure. each one of us is a reflection of the society he or she lives in.

An individual, as person with an identity, our life must be full of small components. For example, watching movies, listening To music, hobbies, all the thing we do during the day are products of the society that surrounds us. We might think that pecola's strong desire of possessing blue eyes, and a doll, being begging God for another identity is developed by her everyday interactions with the other people, white with blue eyes and rich, different from her real self. To conclude, pecola and anyone with his or her own identity, but at the same time he or she is a part of the greater power.

4. Major Theories of Identity in Literature

4.1. Identity as a Social Construct

Many articles have discussed the most popular personal identity theories , considering identity only as a part to the body, the mind, or the soul is questionable. what identity? when does it end? Scottish philosopher David Hume might have the answer to our question. He defined the self as nothing but a bundle or collection of different perceptions that follow each other extremely quickly and are in a perpetual flux and movement (Hume, 1937). To clarify, He believe that our identity was a set of collections of our material and non- material properties: thoughts, beliefs, values, and memories together with our body and all of our material possessions. All these make individuals and form our identities, however as we grow change , our bundle changes too. Hume explains That new properties replace old ones; therefore, our identity is ever changing and never constant. Webster university defines social construct as an idea that has been created and accepted by people in a society. To be more precise, social constructionism is the underlying

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philosophical view that believes our meaning about the world are co-created by people rather than being reflections of "objective reality". This theory significantly changes the perception and understanding of the identity. A person is a project of the society he or she lives in. The moment person is born, labeling starts and never ends. Individuals grow up to fulfill their gender, culture, ethnicity and many other types of roles. Thoughts, goals, values, dreams, everything that we have discussed as features of personal identity are, in fact, the result of social exposure.

4.2. Identity as a Performance.

In addition to having a particular social identity and being a member in group thanks to a strong relation due to social interaction, the one will see things from the group's perspective and occurs that he will take on a role and will act to fulfill the expectations of that role. Here lies an important distinction between group and role-based identities. Role identity theorists have focused on the match between the individual meanings of occupying a particular role while interacting with others whose role requires the maintenance of different behaviors and meaning in the situation. Early in the development of role identity theory, Mc Call and Simmons (1978) discussed the importance of negotiation in working out the differential performances, relationships, and interconnections of roles within a group or interaction context. If each role is to function, it must be able to rely on the reciprocity and exchange relation with other roles.

Evidence of negotiation roles is revealed in identity research. Buehler and Stets (1999) that when different but interrelated role behaviors and meanings are negotiated so that role identities are defined, a strong attachment to the group develops. In group based identities, only the actor's perception and actions are directly involved in role-based identities and it means each individual plays his role and does his own efforts to realize a certain objective to feel satisfied, create meaning, reach a goal and succeed in doing something positive to group the otherwise this actor

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will fail in proving himself and his belonging to the defined in group. So, he will lose his effective existence and may feel isolated because he was unable to perform during his acting and interacting with the group members . Different perspectives are involved among the persons in the group as they negotiate and perform their perspective roles, creating micro-social structures within the group. Identity theorists, in fact, view the group as a set of interrelated individual each of whom performs unique but integrated activities, sees things from his or her own perspective, and negotiates the terms of interactions. In other word; people are tied organically through their groups through social identities; they are tied mechanically through their role identities within groups. To illustrate, let us consider the identities of teacher and students who play different roles defined within the group organization of a school. Meaning and expectations are tied to each of these roles. regarding performance and relationship between these roles. Another example of husband and wife with the family are accompanied by meaning and expectations. From all this, we point out one always and simultaneously occupies a role and belongs to a group, so that role identities and social identities are always and simultaneously relevant to, and influential on, preparation , affect and behavior for this reason we cannot early separate role from group. The individual or the self as a unique entity distinct from others, he acts in terms of his or her goals and desires rather than as a member of a group.

Finally, we can investigate the degree to which some identities are more malleable than others. For example, people may be more likely to adjust their person on identities to adapt to a situation than to modify more structurally constrained role or group identities for example person identities may influence role and group identities when they are first taken on. Once a group identity becomes established, however, person identities may have little impact.

4.3. Identity as a Narrative:

self - narratives- stories that make a point about the narrator, help people revise and re-construct identities during work role transitions. Stories are powerful and dominating means; they have a power of telling events, they oblige people to rethink, deconstruct and change them as times change, people can require new thoughts. In recent times scholars paid attention and negotiate work identities. For example, how they use humor, dress, personal style and office decor to signal who they are to others. Among rhetorical strategies is telling a "good story" helps people create meaning and increase the like hood that their identity claims. A self narrator is a narrative that makes a point about the narrator. Scholars concur that self-narratives are both expressive of and constitutive of identity, Mc - Adams defines identity as" the internalized involving story that results from a person's selective appropriation of past, present and future.

A concept of identity as narrative is especially critical for our understanding, when stories are unsuccessful; they don't fit a person, he will for sure, will seek alternative narratives, but there is an agreement that a narrative is sequence of events with the purpose of making a point. Scholars concur that stories are uniquely suited of making sense of ambiguous an equivocal situation because they selectively distill fragmented or contradictory experiences and information into a coherent portrait. Self narratives are powerful instrument for constructing a "transition bridge across gaps that arise between old and new roles and across identities claimed and granted in transition related social interactions such gaps occur through The transition process, when people begin to explore new options and must explain both their background and future goals. Stories help people articulate provisional selves, link the past and the future into a harmonious continuous sense of self. Drawing from the narrative literature, we make three arguments about the attributes of narratives and narrating processes that will affect the outcomes

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of any given narrative depicts a career as a series of unfolding events that make sense sequentially, in which the protagonist's agency provides a key narrative, thread or causal explanation for the story's events. Second, a legitimate self narrative embeds the individual story in a culturally accepted discourse, facilitating the identity's granting. Third, a negotiated story telling process creates conditions for the story's social validation by involving its audience.

This new thinking proposed by Mc Adams, 1995 shows that personality involves three roles : actors who have traits, agents who have goals and authors, who craft life stories (MC Adams, 2013). Individuals development adds each role over time, beginning as an actor in infancy, an agent in early childhood and an author in adolescence, thus across development the "I" constructs a "me", the mature life story "the narrative me", which begins to emerge in adolescence and continuous to develop through the adult life course, is a product constructed by the authorial "I". that authorial "I builds the life story in part by drawing upon available cultural themes, scripts, and narrative structures. The latter are in turn shaped and layered by gender, ethnicity, race, class, ability and other contextual variations. This recent explanation of Mc Adams' earlier theoretical work (Mc Adams, 1996) moves from primarily structural approach to personality toward a process-oriented one by specifying a self The "I" who engages in the action of building a reflexive life story about that self " the Me" .So, narrative identity is about The messages we feed ourselves with. For example: I am nothing but a burden. I am a successful person, and I canIt depends on what You put in your mind positive or negative things: I am happy, so you feel happy at once, i am sad and you feel yourself depressed and a victim and so on and so forth; It means you can actually change the way you view yourself by developing your own personal story.

5. Key Terms and Concepts Related to Identity in Literature

Here are some key Terms and concepts related to identity in literature:

1) **Characterization:** The way an author creates characters and depicts their identities, including their physical appearance, personality traits and motivations.

2) **Cultural Identity:** The sense of belonging and identification with a particular culture or group, which can include language, customs, values, and traditions.

3) **Self-Identity:** The personal those of who one is, including one's beliefs, values, interests, and experiences .

4) **Social Identity:** The sense of self that is based on membership in a particular social group, such a race, ethnicity, gender, class, or sexual orientation.

5) **Identity Crises:** A period of confusion and questioning when a character or person struggles to understand and define their sense of self.

6)- **Identity Formation:** The process by which a person develops their sense of self and establishes their place in the world.

7)- **Intersectionality:** The way in which multiple aspects of a person's identity, such as race, gender and class, intersect and the shape their experiences and perspectives.

8)- **Assimilation.** The process by which a person gives up their cultural identity and adopts the customs and values of a dominant culture in order to fit.

9)- **Othering:** The process by which a person or group is marginalized and treated as different or inferior based on their identity, often leading to discrimination and oppression.

10)- **Hybrid Identity:** The blending and mixing of multiple cultural identities, resulting in a unique and Complex sense of self.

II. Modernity and Identity

A. Overview of Modernity and its Impact on Identity:

Modernization is a process of social change that began in Europe in 18th century and spread through the world. It involves industrialization, urbanization, and technological advancements that fundamentally transform social economic and political institutions. One of the most notable impacts of modernity is the way it has influenced identities. As traditional social structures and ways of life have been disrupted, people had to construct new identities for themselves . Previously, people's identities were closely tied to their family religion, and community. However modernization has brought increased mobility and individualism, leading to the rise of new forms of identity based on personal choice, consumerism, and self- -expression.

The rise of a mass media has also played a crucial role in shaping identity. As people are exposed to new ideas and images, they are increasingly able to form their own conceptions of how they want to live and who They want to be. In addition globalization has exposed people to a wider range of cultural influences, leading to the creation of hybrid identities that draw on multiple cultural traditions. At the same time, modernization has also led to anxieties and alienation, as people struggle to navigate a rapidly changing world. This has led some to seek refuge in traditional social structures and ways of life, while others have embraced new forms of spirituality or turned to nationalism or other forms of identity politics. Overall, modernization has had profound impact on identity, challenging traditional social structures and creating new

opportunities for self-expression and personal fulfillment, but also generating new forms of anxiety and fragmentation.

B. Major Theories of Modernity

There are many changes from earlier centuries to today as involving something like "development" as the demise of a "traditional" society and the rise of the "modern". And in this perspective, which seems to be the dominant one, things look rather different. Theories of modernity are analytical frameworks, paradigms, that are used to study and interpret social phenomena. A tool used by social scientists to make distinction and generalization among different types of societies, and to analyze modernity as it has emerged in the twentieth century. there are several major theories of modernity some of which include :

- **Rationalization Theory** :This theory argues that modern societies are characterized by the increasing dominance of rationality and bureaucracy, which has led to the disenchantment of the world.
- **Modernization Theory**: This theory points that modernity is a process of economic development and social change that leads to greater wealth, education, and social quality.
- **cultural Theory**: this theory emphasizes the importance of cultural factors in shaping modernity, including The rise of individualism and consumer culture.
- **Critical Theory**: This theory critiques modernity as a system of domination and exploitation that perpetuates social inequality and oppression.
- **Post Modern Theory**: This theory challenges the grand narratives of modernity and emphasizes the fragmented and contingent nature of social reality.

1 Modernity as a Break From Tradition:

Modernity represents the change towards new ways of thinking, acting and living and can be regarded as a break from tradition. Modernity emphasizes individualism, scientific, rationality and technological progress. It challenges many traditional values and beliefs, such as the importance of community, religion and the natural world, which have been central to human cultures for centuries. The rise of modernity has also led to the decline of the traditional social institutions, such as family, religion, and even the nation-state, which has been replaced by new forms of social organization and governance that are better suited to the demands of a modern globalized world. Overall, modernity represents a radical break with the past and a new way of approaching the world that places a premium on freedom, progress and individualism.

Many writers and Theorists has tackled This point; for example, along with Marx and Weber, a French Sociologist Emile Durkheim has analyzed in his book "The division of labor" how modern societies could maintain social integration after the traditional bonds of family and church were replaced by modern economic relations. Durkheim believed that society exerted a powerful force on individuals and people's norms, belief, and values make up a collective consciousness, or a shared way of understanding and behaving in the world. Modern societies has also and challenged gender roles, The traditional society has a particular structure where men held most of the power, but with modernity, there was a push towards gender equality and women granted greater access to education, employment and political representation.

In conclusion, modernity challenged traditional ways of life in many ways, and There are human beings who claim to be modern, up-to-date free from all traditions and have the ability to move in step with the ever changing world.

2 Modernity as a Crisis of Meaning:

Modernity can be seen as a crisis of meaning because of the great changes that have touched all aspects of recent time, plus the development and the fast rhythm of life, new and strange sights have appeared, the emergence of pragmatic approaches and new information and an enlarged paradigm of reality from which to reevaluate man's progress and current state of evolution. What is "real" and what is "not real", what is "truth" and what is "false", "why we are here", and what life all about. Meaning is lost and meaning can be seen as a serious crisis for the modern man. Evidentially, for thoughtful people, especially western societies no longer have available functioning myth and the values, beliefs, the traditional structure that give people a sense of belonging and purpose are replaced by the elemental motivations of power and pleasure, or else the individual is exposed to emptiness and disappear, with the loss of awareness of transpersonal reality (GOD), the inner and outer anarchies of competing personal desires take over.

(The creation of Consciousness: Jung's myth⁹).

Jung in his book "Modern man in search of soul" , focuses on the life of the individual set against modern threats to the global community as did many philosophers because they are convinced that the crisis of our times is fundamentally different from all past miseries. These observers hardly start from the assumption that has been a radical change in the human condition rather they seem to respect a new social constitution of the meaning of human life.

" Meaning is constituted in human consciousness; In the consciousness of the individual, who is individuated in a body who has been socialized as a person"

(David Hawkin, M.D, PH.D. Reality, spirituality and modern man¹⁰)

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Modernity is considered by many thinkers as an experience taken without meaning, the question of cultural orientation is among the urgent issues of modern society. Individualism and pluralism lead to the consequence that individuals more and more face the difficulty to define standards values guiding own lives. Individuals require these values to be able to find orientation in a situation which is defined by options and the necessity to take decisions.

Three central groups of question's have been asked by scholars and sociologists are: The first, is about how can individuals realize meaningful lives by choosing from the pluralistic multiplicity of option?. The second, is how do human Coordinate the numerous of social networks in which they interact? In another work: how do they stabilize their own identity. The last one is what value systems guide their ideas of good and evil?.so, obvious that the challenges of modernity require new ways of thinking and living that integrate our materialistic and spiritual needs.

3 Modernity as a Condition Constant Change.

Modernity means a transformation that occurs from past situations, time and place, and style to others which are better and more advanced in different levels, but the fact of change within a society and human beings is always occurring and occurring more and more rapidly in the modern world. He is an observation by "Bauman" about the modern World.

Forms of modern life may differ in quite a few respects - but what unites them all precisely their fragility, temporariness, vulnerability and inclination to constant. change. To be modern means to modernize- compulsively, obsessively; not so much just "to be", let alone to keep its identity intact, but forever..... A hundred years ago to be modern meant to chase the final state of perfection now it means an infinity of improvement, with no final state. (K182).

Here is the fact, by Bauman an permanent as he said "liquid modernity" and there is a complete absence of structure. Modernity as a response to a constant change may not possible

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because things never stop changing internally as well as externally at every second. So, to break with the past and reach the final progress may be the business of science and art or religion and spirituality to control natural forces, understanding the world and the self, moral progress and the happiness of human beings. However, the 20th century, with its death camps, and death squads, its militarism, two world wars, and a nuclear biological threats shattered that optimism; that's why today, we need to rethink of the issue of modernity in relation to time and space, means and ends and try to find stability, a constant link between starts and ends, in order to live in peace and keep own identities, meaning and power through may be healthy, clever professional adaptation to rapid pace of change. (David Harvey, The condition of past modernity. chapter 2)

C. Key Concepts Related to Modernity and Identity

Some of the key terms related to modernity and identity include:

- **Individualism:** The emphasis on individualism is a key feature of modernity. This idea highlights the importance of personal agency and autonomy in determining one's identity.
- **Rationality and Science:** Modernity has been characterized by a reliance on rationality and scientific thinking. This approach has had significant impact on how we understand our identities and the world around us.
- **Capitalism and Consumerism:** capitalism and consumerism have become central to modern identities. We are often defined by our ability to consume and the products we own
- **Globalization:** Modernity has seen the rise of globalization, which has resulted in greater cultural exchange and the emergence of a global culture. This has led to increased diversity and complexity in our understanding of identity.

➤ **Secularization:** Modernity has been marked by the decline of religion and the rise of secularism. As a result, we are increasingly defined by our secular identities and the values that we hold.

4 Individualism and Identity

Individualism and identity are closely related concepts. Individualism is derived from the word individual, that means the one individual human, , one personal human dement and it means the belief in the importance of individual human beings as opposed to social groups or collective interests. It emphasizes the value of self-reliance and personal responsibility, and the promotion of individuals freedoms and rights. Identity in the other hand, refers to how a person see themselves and how they are perceived by others. Identity encompasses a range of characteristics, including age, gender, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and socioeconomic status, among others. Identity shapes one's personal values, beliefs, and attitudes which in turn influence how they interact and how they navigate the world around them. Individualism and identity are linked because our sense of identity is shaped by cultural, social economic, and political contexts. as well as individual experiences. In an individualistic society, are people encouraged to define their sense of self based on their individual traits, abilities and accomplishments. This can lead to a preoccupation with personal identity and a focus and self-reliance, independence, and success.

However, individualism can also lead to a sense of isolation and disconnection from others, and can create a lack of concern for the collective well-being of society. It is important to strike a balance between individualistic and collectivistic in tendencies in order to foster social harmony and a sense of belonging .

5 Alienation and Identity:

Although alienation is an old phenomenon, it has only recently become popular and used as a vital concept in contemporary literature. The word denotes separation and estrangement from others, society, and work. An alienated individual in the words of Britannica, is "stranger to himself, he has lost his senses, he always in search for being". Many psychologists have discussed this term like Eric fromm (1972), the social psychologist who considers alienation as an expanded phenomena, in which one is said to be alineated from society, culture, and more importantly from himself. Moreover, the philosopher Karl Marx sees alienation as a persistent sociological problem of the capitalist society. According to Marx, alienation means:

First, that the work is external to the worker, isn't a port of his nature, that consequently he does not fulfill himself in his work but he denies himself, he has a feeling of misery, not well being, does not develop freely a physical mental energy, but is physically exhausted and mentally debased... his work is not voluntary but imposed, forced labor... Finally, the alienated character of work for the worker appears in the fact that it is not his work but the work of someone's, that in work he does not belong to himself but to someone else.

Another view of Malvin Seeman from the psychological side, the process of alienation is internal condition of individuals in which this typical individual is separated from his surroundings and from himself and experience bad feelings and situations of self-estrangement, meaninglessness, isolation and powerlessness and all these bring a problem inside his identity.

6 Technological Advances and Identity

The acceleration in the change of the self generated in relation to technology. It had a significant impact on identity since, for instance, the first time men used telephone. The

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telephone obliges its users to develop new capacity to focalize attention, because before people used to communicate via letters. Historians noted that: " The use of the telephone has given rise to a new mental habit". (Giampiero Arciero amb Guido Bondoff 101]

considered as a new life style as well. Furthermore The consequence of the consciousness of the cinema forcing itself into the collective consciousness and imposed a new mode of experiencing. The number of radio listeners and spectators is a sufficient proof by itself on how much transmission technology is? Television has changed the way of life to The 1950s, represent the golden age of Television and information technology. Millions of people changed the speed and quality of their internal states as a result of television's influence .Technology has on impact on the relation of the modern man with himself, with others and the world. In traditional societies, the construction and the maintenance of identity is easy thanks to stability. Therefore relations with others are solid, defined and structured in accordance with social rules. By contrast, the other directed individuals learns different standards is of life and absorbs what represented by the media, imitate and follow it as a guideline and a model. This individual's actions, emotions, his images and discourses to which he adapts himself and tries to recognize who is he among those inputs may be positive, while as well as they may be negative such as the breakdown of relationships, and instead to feel situated, the individual seeks an identity according to the signals coming from global society. So, The relation between Technology and identity imposes a new problem : how can an individual maintain his own identity with clear, fixed characteristics when the sensitivity to others on the need to conform with the different contradictions caused by the indefinite changes and variability, especially, within the rise of social media and internet, people, here, hove more opportunities, if not more risks in shaping expressing then identities in a public space.

III. Critical Theory and Identity

A. Overview of Critical Theory and its Relationship to Identity:

Critical theories is a philosophical and sociological approach to understanding society and culture. It seeks to analyze the ways in which power structures and social hierarchies affect individuals and groups, particularly those who are marginalized or oppressed. Identity, in this context, refers to the various ways in which individuals define themselves and interact with others based on their cultural, social, and political backgrounds.

Critical theorists argue that identity is not fixed or inherent, but rather constructed through social and cultural processes. These constructions are shaped by factors such as race, gender, sexuality, class, nationality, and religion, which intersect and produce complex forms of oppression and privilege. The goal of critical theory is to expose and challenge these power structures and promote justice and equality. It encourages individuals to reflect on their own identities and the ways in which they are shaped by social by promote social. Cultural norms, as well as to challenge those norms in order to create a more just and equitable

B. Major Critical Theories Related to Identity:

There are critical theories related to identity, some, of which include:

1. **Feminist Theory:** This theory focuses on the ways in which gender shapes identity and how patriarchal systems contribute to the oppression of women.
2. **Queer Theory:** This theory challenges the idea of fixed, static identities and explores the fluidity of gender and sexuality.
3. **Critical Race Theory:** This theory examines how race and racism shape identity and impact social and political structures.

4. **Postcolonial Theory:** This theory explores the ways in which identity is shaped by power dynamics between colonizers and colonized peoples.

5. **Intersectionality Theory:** This theory recognizes that multiple forms of oppression, including those related to race, gender, sexuality, class, and ability, intersect and interact to shape individual identity and experiences.

These theories all delve into the ways in which social, political, and cultural structures impact individual and group identities, and emphasize the importance of understanding and challenging these structures in order to promote social justice and equality.

1 Postcolonialism and Identity:

postcolonialism refers to the period after colonialism has ended, but the effects of colonialism and the power of the colonizer are still felt in society, culture and politics. People from past colonial society tend to fall in identity confusion and struggle and this type of identity is ever changing. The moment of transfer of sovereignty makes people question "who I am" In this process of identity formation and reformation, postcolonial societies often face challenges such as discrimination, prejudice, and inequality. This is because the dominant culture or identity, which is often linked to the colonial history, tends to hold more power and prestige in society. People, for instance, who were born and raised in colonial society formed what is called "notional identity" Scholars like Judith Butler argued that notional identity is an individual choice, some like Anthony Smith would argue that it is socially constructed and culture the most role in it. Policies, and institutions also contribute in shaping national identity. However, new social movement theorists agree that the objective for participants of such movements is to seek recognition for new identities and life styles.

2 Feminism and Identity:

feminity and masculinity or one's gender identity . Beginning at birth, the self meanings regarding one's gender in social situations. Feminism is a social movement that advocates for gender equality and the rights of women. One of the key premises of feminism is that gender is not biologically determined, but socially constructed. This means that gender roles, behaviors, and expectations are shaped by societal norms, attitudes, and beliefs. Identity, on the other hand, refers to how individuals perceive themselves and the categories or groups they belong to, such as gender, race, ethnicity, nationality, religion, and sexual orientation. Identity is also influenced by societal and cultural factors. In the context of feminism, identity plays a crucial role in shaping how individuals experience and respond to gender inequality. For instance, women from different cultural, racial, or socioeconomic backgrounds may face unique forms of discrimination or marginalization based on their identities. Feminist theory recognizes the intersectionality of various identities and the complex ways in which they interact with one another to shape individuals' experiences of oppression and privilege. Feminist activists and scholars advocate for an inclusive and intersectional feminism that addresses the needs and concerns of all women, regardless of their identities.

3 Queer Theory and Identity:

Queer theory is a social theory that aims to examine and question traditional notions of gender and sexuality, as well as the binary understanding of identity. Queer theory asserts that identity is not fixed, stable, or uniform and it is continually changing, fluid and diverse. In relation to identity, queer theory suggests that identity is a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that is shaped by various factors such as culture, society, language, history, and power. Queer theory also affirms that identity is not determined solely by biological sex, gender,

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or sexual orientation but is constructed through social and cultural practices. In essence, queer theory challenges us to critically examine dominant views of identity and encourages us to embrace the diversity and complexity of the human experience. It asks us to acknowledge the complexity of identities and to resist narrow and fixed definitions of identity which exclude and marginalize people who do not conform to mainstream norms.

4 C- key Concepts Related to Critical Theory and Identity:

Critical theory and identity are interdisciplinary fields that draw from various disciplines such as sociology, philosophy, gender studies, postcolonial studies, and cultural studies. Some key concepts related to critical theory and identity are:

1. **Power:** Critical theorists view power as a pervasive force that shapes and structures society. This power can be physical, social, cultural, or psychological, and it operates at every level of society, from the micro to the macro.

2. **Identity:** Identity refers to the way individuals define themselves based on their personal characteristics, cultural values, and societal expectations. Identity can be shaped by factors such as race, ethnicity, gender, sexuality, class, and nationality.

3. **Marginalization:** Marginalization refers to the social, economic, and political exclusion of individuals or groups who are deemed as different or "other" based on their identity. Marginalized groups often face discrimination, prejudice, and inequality due to their marginalized status.

4. **Intersectionality:** Intersectionality refers to the ways in which various forms of oppression, such as racism, sexism, homophobia, and classism, intersect and compound to produce unique forms of discrimination and inequality.

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5. **Hegemony:** Hegemony refers to the dominant cultural, social, and political values and norms that are used to maintain the status quo and perpetuate the current power structures. Critical theorists argue that hegemonic norms and values can limit and control the identities and experiences of marginalized groups.

6. **Social justice:** Critical theorists advocate for social justice, which entails challenging and dismantling oppressive power structures, and promoting equity and fairness for all individuals, regardless of their identities.

IV. Intersectionality and Identity.

A. Overview of Intersectionality and its Relationship to Identity:

what is intersectionality? originally coined by Kimberle Crenshaw in 1989; it is often discussed as a theory methodology, paradigm, lens framework; It is " a way of thinking about identity and its relationship to power". (Kimberli Krenshaw 2015)

It refers to the ways in which different forms of social identity intersect and overlap, and how this intersectionality shapes people 's experiences of oppression and privilege. In other words, intersectionality recognizes that individuals have multiple identities that overlap and interact with each other, such as their race, gender, sexuality, socioeconomic status, and ability, and disability, among others these identities cannot be understood in isolation, but rather as interlocking systems of privilege and oppression that shape one's experiences and opportunities.

Intersectionality highlights the complexity of people's identities and experiences and the need for more social justice and the pledge to leave no one behind.

B. Major Theories Related to Intersctionality and Identity:

Intersectionality is a framework for understanding the various ways in which different aspects of a person's identity - such as race, gender, sexuality, class, and ability - intersect and interact with each other, creating unique experiences of privilege and oppression. There are several major theories related to intersectionality and identity, including:

1. **Kimberle Crenshaw's theory of intersectionality:** Crenshaw is credited with coining the term "intersectionality" and developing the theory that multiple forms of oppression can intersect to produce unique experiences of marginalization. She argues that traditional understandings of discrimination often fail to account for the ways in which different forms of oppression can compound and interact with each other.

2. **Patricia Hill Collins' theory of matrix of domination:** Collins describes a matrix of domination, which is a framework for understanding the ways in which different forms of oppression intersect and reinforce each other. She argues that this matrix includes not only social group identities like race and gender, but also institutional forms of power, such as the state and the economy.

3. **Audre Lorde's theory of the "mythical norm":** Lorde argues that society treats heterosexuality, whiteness, and masculinity as the "mythical norm" - the standard against which all other forms of identity are measured. This makes it difficult for people with multiple marginalized identities to find acceptance and belonging in society.

4. **Gloria Anzaldúa's theory of borderlands:** Anzaldúa argues that marginalized people exist in a state of "borderlands," a space between cultures and identities that can be both

empowering and painful. She encourages people to embrace their complex identities and use them as a source of strength and resistance.

5. Bell Hooks' theory of intersectional identity: Hooks argues that everyone has multiple intersecting identities, and that recognizing these complex intersections is necessary for understanding and addressing systems of oppression. She calls for an "intersectional consciousness" that recognizes the full complexity of people's identities and experiences.

1. Intersectionality and Race:

For people who belong to racially marginalized communities, their experiences of oppression and discrimination are often shaped by their race and other social identities. For example, a person who may be a black woman may experience discrimination and marginalization that is different than that experienced by a white woman or a black man due to the intersection of race and gender.

2. Intersectionality and Gender:

When we consider intersectionality and gender together, we understand that gender oppression intersects with other forms of oppression such as racism, and classism. This means that women who experience discrimination based on their gender also face different and often compounded biases due to other social identities. For example, a black woman may face discrimination and oppression based on her gender as well as her race. Similarly, a disabled transgender person may experience marginalization based on not only gender and sexuality but also their ability status.

3. Intersectionality and Sexuality:

sexuality is one aspect of identity that may intersect with other social identities to create complex experiences of oppression and privilege.

C. Key Concepts Related to Intersectionality and Identity:

Intersectionality is a theoretical framework that emphasizes how different social identities intersect and interact with one another to create unique experiences of privilege and oppression.

Here are some key concepts related to intersectionality and identity:

1. **Social Identity:** An individual's sense of self based on their social group membership(s). Social identities can include race, gender, sexuality, ability, socioeconomic status, and religion.
2. **Intersectionality:** The idea that different social identities intersect and interact with one another to create unique experiences of privilege and oppression. Intersectionality recognizes that individuals hold multiple social identities, and that these identities are interconnected and shape their experiences in complex ways.
3. **Privilege:** Unearned advantages or benefits that come with being a member of a dominant social group. Privilege can be based on social identities such as race, gender, and socioeconomic status.
4. **Oppression:** Systemic discrimination and prejudice that individuals experience based on their social identities. Oppression can take many forms, including discrimination, violence, and unequal access to resources and opportunities.
5. **Power:** The ability to influence or control the behavior of others. Power can be influenced by social identities such as race, gender, and socioeconomic status.

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6. **Marginalization:** The process of pushing individuals or groups to the margins of society, often based on their social identities. Marginalization can result in exclusion from social, economic, and political systems, as well as limited access to resources and opportunities.

7. **Privilege Awareness:** The process of becoming aware of one's own privilege, and how it can shape one's interactions with others. Privilege awareness is a key component of effective allyship and social justice activism.

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Conclusion

This chapter was s theoretical explanation of the thesis being conducted in which it includes brief and important definitions of a number of concepts related to the chosen topic.

It tackled issues like modern times, identity that his become a complex and multifaceted concept, it is no longer simply tied to factors such as race, ethnicity, a gender, bit instead influenced by a variety of factors including culture, education, socioeconomic status and personal experiences.



CHAPTER TWO

**Re-Conceptualization Of
Identity In *Seize The Day* And
The Bluest Eye Novels**

Introduction:

In Saul Bellow's "Seize the Day," the concept of identity is explored through the perspective of the protagonist, Tommy Wilhelm. Tommy is a middle-aged man who is struggling to find his place in society and establish a sense of purpose. He feels like a failure in his career and relationships, and as a result, his identity is fragile and uncertain. Part of his struggle with identity is the idea of living up to his father's expectations and feeling like a disappointment to him. Throughout the novel, Tommy grapples with the question of who he truly is and what he wants out of life. In Toni Morrison's "The Bluest Eye," the concept of identity is explored through the character of Pecola Breedlove, a young black girl who becomes obsessed with the idea of having blue eyes. Pecola's desire for blue eyes reflects her internalization of societal standards of beauty, which value white features over black ones. This obsession with whiteness leads Pecola to attempt to conform to these standards, compromising her sense of self and ultimately leading to her downfall. Through Pecola's story, Morrison highlights the destructive impact of societal messages on individual identity and the need for self-acceptance and self-love.

I. Identity in Seize the Day and The Bluest Eye

1. Identity in Seize the Day:

By reviewing the critical literature on "seize the day", many researchers have been conducted on Saul Bellow's novella "seize the day". Seize the day; this strong title has been published in 1956, it examines one day in the unhappy life of the protagonist Tommy Wilhelm, who has fallen from marginal middle management respectability to unemployment, divorce, and disappear. like many of bellow's other novels, seize the day exhibits an ambivalent attitude toward worldly success, and it follows its sensitive, gullible an protagonist's quest for meaning in

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a chaotic and hostile world. And many other articles and writings have focused on the author of the novella, himself, Saul Bellow as an American Canadian Jewish writer whose characterization of modern urban man, disaffected by society but not destroyed in spirit, earned him the noble prize for literature in 1976. He was a representative of the Jewish American writers whose works became central to American literature after world war II Bellow always explains the importance of the literature the necessity of the writers to present and figurate realities explain issues and defend aspect about the fate of humankind. He is number one in tackling "Identity" especially the Jewish one, in now days conditions, for him, thinking and writing presents a view about both life and The role of novelists in the 20th century. "we do not, we writers, represent mankind adequately" (Nobel Acceptance. 1976).

In the spot of Identity, many research papers aim to show the image of identity in modern era, in accordance with seize the day which depicts the absence of relation with family society, work place and state and explore hard, the protagonist fails in a dilemma and becomes non conformist hero, suffering from many psychological problems, In an article published on 2014 entitled "A complicated personality in seize the day by Saul Bellow", people physically escape to learn of themselves who they are. Other researchers attempts to analyze Bellow' s glorification of the present by applying the spirit of "Carpe Diem" means here and now. The setting of the novel is in the mid twentieth century. Post world war II America. It was the time when the people were leaving the modernist spirit being grinded by the post modernist spirit. As a result Tommy has no choice but to weep and live one day after another. Inside a myth in the American society again an article published on 2021. In this novella, exceptionalism and being an American of high category requires to evaluate every opportunity, seizing possibilities and being achiever inside the society is the definitive port of the American nation. Saul Bellow aimed to show the loss of

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American myth in *Seize the Day*. The book's protagonist, Tommy Wilhelm, struggles with his inner dilemma between his desires and the norms dictated to him. Tommy's identity crisis seizes him from time to time, and tries to get rid of his roots, as he did not aspire this designed life for himself.

1.1 Overview in the novel of major critical perspectives on the novel

Seize the Day by Saul Bellow has been analyzed by various critical perspectives, including:

1. **Marxist Criticism:** This perspective focuses on the economic and social issues presented in the novel. The Marxist critics argue that *Seize the Day* portrays the capitalist society as exploitative and inhumane, where individuals are reduced to their economic value.

2. **Psychoanalytic Criticism:** This approach analyzes the characters and their motivations from a psychological standpoint. In *Seize the Day*, the psychoanalytic interpretation explores Tommy Wilhelm's mental state, his complex relationship with his father, and his struggles with identity and self-esteem.

3. **Existentialism:** The existential perspective views the novel as an exploration of the human condition, as Tommy Wilhelm searches for meaning and purpose in a world that often seems indifferent to his suffering. It also examines the themes of freedom and responsibility in the novel.

4. **Feminist Criticism:** Feminist critics interpret *Seize the Day* by examining the portrayal of female characters and gender roles in the novel.

They argue that the book reinforces traditional gender stereotypes of women as passive and emotional while men are depicted as rational and dominant.

5. **Postmodern Criticism:** This critical approach challenges the traditional narrative structure of the novel and questions the idea of a fixed reality. Proponents of postmodernism interpret *Seize the Day* as a metafictional work, which calls attention to the artifice of literature and the potential for multiple interpretations.

1.2 Analysis How these Perspectives Inform the Study of Identity in the Novel:

the previous critical perspectives, modernism, post colonialism and psychoanalysis play an important role in the study of identity by emphasizing the complexities and uncertainties of human identity. One significant perspective is existentialism, which is the philosophy that makes life feasible, it is also all about what the existentialists saw themselves while expressing about philosophical matters. The existentialism and loneliness of modern man among crowd of the society are the main themes of Saul Bellow's literary pieces; the way, the style, Bellow has exploited them through his novels and made distinction, and had his own touch in his approach towards life; He tried to drift against the flow of river. Most of people found hard to see a pattern in the evolution of life. Saul Bellow paints a humanizing picture of American culture, broadens the concepts; You read Bellow means you attend philosophical lesson in search for meaning and purpose of life. Wilhelm, the novel's protagonist, struggles with his identity as he confronts the emptiness and disillusionment of his life. His frequent failures, and nothing works with him. So that, He feels isolated and disconnected from society. This perspective informs the study of identity in the novel by highlighting the individual responsibility to create their own identity and find meaning to life. "when do we get free" (Seize The day 41)

« what sort of people did you see, every other man speak a language entirely his own, which has figured out by private thinking. You have to explain, explain, translate, translate, back, further, ... like York. How many languages There were, and how hard to describe glass of water" (Seize the day 47)

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Another perspective is the psychoanalysis, which emphasizes the role of the unconscious in shaping human behavior and identity, Wilhelm's behavior and inner turmoil are often driven by his unconscious desires and conflicts. This perspective informs the study of identity in the novel by showing how unresolved childhood trauma and psychological issues can continue to shape our identity and behavior for example in the novel, Tommy Compares his dead mother to his wife and he a child of his father during his long life time. Julie's Raper shows that the antipathy of Wilhelm is Oedipus complex. Bellow here portraits love besides indifference, Wilhelm feels love and hate with father at the same time. It is called an ambivalent feeling in psychology Term. That's why Tommy seeks for father in Tamkin this leads to self-hatred and he calls himself: "a hippopotamus" (Seize the day 15).

The Marxist perspective also focuses on the interaction between individuals and society and how society shapes individual identity. Tommy Wilhelm really works hard to modify his past failures and dreams to success and reality. Though he gets success as a salesman for the Rojax corporation in the past, now he cannot pay present month's rent and have no money to support his wife and two sons, all his attempts are nipple in the bud. His wife has just fixed herself on him to kill him; She refuses to give him divorce not she accepts to give him love: "The court says, " You want to be free. Then you have to work twice as hard ". She says, "ok on Monday, and wants more money on Tuesday and it begins again " (seize the day 20).

" I didn't want to live, but I could not stay.....I expect help " (seize the day 32).

"The city boy, gentleman Tommy lives in a materialistic society. New York - The end of the world, with its complexity machinery, bricks and tubes, wires and stones, holes and heights".

(seize the day 83) .

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The changes in society and the failure of the capitalist system led him to struggle to several roles to achieve success, earning money reaching The American dream, but what happened is that money made him guilty and the society machine loses his belonging and makes him not to feel free. so, it contributes in shaping his special, vulnerable dreamy personality, enable to adapt anything because in these days nobody can tell for sure which is which. Overall, the different perspectives presented in "Seize the Day" contribute to a complex and multifaceted understanding of the theme of identity. The novel suggests that identity is shaped by a variety of factors, including individual agency, unconscious desires and conflicts, and social structures and institutions. It is worth saying that Saul Bellow here, presents another type of identity as a solution to the internal conflict of the individual in the modern societies, highlighting through it, the importance of paying attention that the modern man is searching for the soul.

"The soul, what did it look like? where does The true soul get its strength? why does it love truth? "

(seize The day 20)

2. Examination of the Different Aspects of Identity in the Novel:

Saul Bellow's novel "seize the stay" explores various aspects of ardently through the life of its protagonist, Tommy Wilhelm. Here are some of the key aspect of identity that are examined in the novel:

2.1 Self-Identity (Personal Identity):

As we have seen, in the previous chapter, the self identity as the unique set of characteristics, qualities, and beliefs, values and experienced and expectations that define a person's perception of themselves, including how an individual sees himself, personality, abilities, preferences, passions , and role in society and we have clarified that self identity, can be

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influenced by different external and internal factors through the individual's life. Self-identity is a crucial element in personal growth and development and can form the basis of one's self-esteem and sense of purpose. In this part of analysis of how the characters in the novel of seize The Day negotiate their own sense of self, how do they act and what are their actions in order to be capable to enhance quality of life and the realization of dreams and aspirations. We need to put in mind that improving the self and succeeding in developing a clear and neat personal identity is not limited to one stage of a person's life, but it takes place over the course of an individual's entire life span. The different stages we noticed throughout the novella and how characters, each one, plays his own role depending on his beliefs and way of thinking, some characters are considered, successful ones, earning the reasons to be accepted by now days societies according to certain standards, such as, Money standards, Knowledge a class respect, here is the model of Dr Adler, The protagonist's father, he adored money, a man of action, he is considered the ultimate representations of The American dream, since he come from a poor family and with his hard working and relying on himself engaged in experiences purposefully, dynamically, he finally, managed the achieved status in society, Dr. Abler prefers to ignore Tommy's existence because Tommy to existence is on accumulation of disappointment. He refuses To help his son and always look at him and at his daughter; Tommy's sister Catherine are unsuccessful case in life. Hence, he never treated Tommy as his son and underrated Catherine's aspirations as a painter. In fact, he would like to see his son having the same objectives as his like money and social status when his children don't have these objectives, instead they choose to be unrealistic personalities, emotional guided, always complaining and begging his help,... He refused To help Them because they don't follow his footsteps, he criticizes them" So! It's bad luck, now. A minute ago it was stupidity. People who will just wait for help. must wait for help. They have got to stop waiting" (Seize the Day 62) Throughout his life, Tommy, The young man in his

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middle forties, large and blond with big shoulders, his back was heavy and strong, handsome, doctor's son what happens to him, to his personality to his decisions, what are his action..... nothing at all expect struggles with an inner dilemma between his desire and the norms dictated to him, It is a dilemma, identity crises.....lost.... Tommy has Jumped To more serious stage, instead of building his own who, what and where? his real, clear, neat and convinced identity, strong character, instead of being, he lost his choice and fell in an ended list of questioning about himself. The city-boy, The photogenic, He has fragmented himself he has double minded man he has changed his name from Wilky as his father calls him into Tommy Wilhelm, he likes his name because it represents the freedom of the person. But Wilky was his inescapable self. Tommy does not want to see himself as an ordinary person. That's why, in his middle age, Tommy tried his own free choice and he is tempted by a deceptive talent scout into quitting his college life. His eagerness to become an actor captures him and is deluded to go in the "screen test" That was offered by "holly wood." As Bellow writes, "Everybody wants to make something. Any American does. however, Tommy's dreams in cinema turns into spare activity, and he flounders around an unheard movie. He is deceived from every attempt dong his life . These disappointments make Tommy more vulnerable. as he mentions in the novella, "For all the Time I have wasted I am very sorry". Tommy's predicament in his life make his condition worse, and the emptiness which always felt of his soul never completes. Wilhelm's reply in the novella, concerning the self-pity, " A person can become tired of looking himself over and trying to fix himself up. You can spend the entire second half of your life recovering from the mistakes of the first half".

(seize the day 52)

Wilhelm again speaking to himself, "Haven't I always done my best?..... everything comes from me and nothing back again to me! there's no how that all punish This". Tommy is left by his

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dreams, experiences and father in a hopeless situation. As Tommy says, " Let me at least have the companionship of This animal". His external and internal environments oblige Tommy To accept his failure and makes him burst into a burden of outcomes. He calls himself hippopotamus. He lost his- self-esteem during his challenges, struggles, he didn't succeed in building his own identity, but he ends with no sense of self, no purpose except frustrations as Jung says in his book" The purpose of human life is the creations of consciousness". "perhaps The life dramas of the ego are the dreams of the self". Shakespeare also says, " we are such stuff as dreams are made on".

(The Tempest, act4, Scene 1, line 156)

2.2 Social Identity

Social identity as we have introduced in the foundation part, includes groups such as nationality, ethnicity, gender, religion, occupation, or any other group that an individual feels a sense of belonging to. Throughout the novel of seize The Day, Tommy struggles with the social identity especially The Jewish one and desires to assimilate into American culture. Tommy's Jewish identity is evident in his name, which he dislike because it sounds too Jewish. He is also self-conscious about his appearance which he believes is too Jewish and unattractive. As we know Tommy's father is a successful physician, and he grew up in a privileged environment, which he feels is not reflective of his Jewish roots. Despite his discomfort with his Jewish identity, Tommy still feels a connection to his heritage. He attends synagogue regularly, and he feels a sense of comfort in the Jewish community. However, he is also embarrassed by his Jewishness and is eager to assimilate into American culture. For example, he changes his last name from Wilhelm to wilhelmus to sound more American. Throughout the novel, Tommy struggles to reconcile his desire to assimilate with his Jewish identity. He resents the stereotypical image of the Jews as weak and inferior and believes that assimilation is the key to success.

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However, he also recognizes that his Jewish heritage is a part of his identity and cannot easily be erased.

"He can't change his lungs , or nerves, or constitution or temperament. They are not under his control. When he's young strong and impulsive and dissatisfied with the way things are he wants to arrange them to assert his freedom. He can't change The government or be differently born Wilhelm had always had a great longing To be Tommy. He had never, however, succeeded in feeling like Tommy, and his soul had always remained Wilky".

(Seize The day 16)

As an illustration of Tommy 's experience navigating his Jewish identity and desire to assimilate into American culture. His struggle represents the larger struggle that many minority groups face when trying to assimilate into dominant cultures while still maintaining their unique identities.

2.3 Cultural Identity

In "Seize The Day", The characters construct their cultural identities through their experiences, relationships, and interaction with others. The role of religion and heritage is significant in shaping the sense of self for some characters in the novel. Tommy Wilhelm struggles with his identity throughout the novel and finds comfort in his Jewish faith and heritage. He has grown up in a Jewish family, to father of Jewish roots who live in Christian world and culture, They are, both son and father, strangers in the religion matter. So that the sense of belonging means much more important meaning for them than other people. In seize the day, Soul Bellow, plays an important role through his fantastic, style in portraying the image of the Jewish family through the conversations between father Dr. Adler and his son Wilhelm who is still Wilky for his father as he used to be since his childhood. The conversations took many pages this highlights the importance of family and how is the nature of father and paternity must

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to be in its origins, strong and the son must obey his parents. The problem that happened is the family borders and it's sense is threatened by the living condition in a very crowded city called New York, Bellow's intelligence, appears in combining two contradictory places together, The hotel for old men, The hotel, is a place where strangers share the same place with each other, while, in reality, we cannot put a hotel living and family living together, It's not as the place of stabilization and love. The social and familial relationships are fought by The love of money unlike the father, the son does not worship money, all what he wants is to be admitted as a son. Tommy loves his family and his Two sons he is always eager to family life to restart again with Margaret his Christian wife, he asks for assistance, not even assistance, but just the feeling.

Wilhelm during times of hardship, he lost his sense of self and tried to find meaning in life through his faith. He recognizes that he lives in a hell in a no defined world. "So The world is full of murders. so, it is not a world it is a hell" Wilhelm says to himself, trying to find an end to this misery, where he finds himself turning around and surrounding with. "Why must I like the way you behave? No, I don't like it " . Wilhelm is wondering again. All this, led our protagonist to seek refuge in religion and remedy for his mental relief in spirituality, entering himself in another totally experience with Dr. Tamkin, asking about the soul and meaning of soul. Dr. Adler, as we have said, just previously, rejected his Jewish heritage, choosing instead to assimilate into American culture. " To exchange an ounce of soul for a pound of social powerA lot of them don't like Jews, either I suppose". (seize the day 46)

Mr. Perls and his father because they adored money, still they were called "to act energetically and this was better than to yell and cry, pray and beg, poke and bunder and go by fits and starts and fall upon the thrones of life". (seize the day 33)

This decision has had a significant impact on Tommy and his sister, leading to a feeling of displacement and a search for identity. Overall, religion and heritage play a crucial role in shaping the character's sense of self in "Seize the day". For some, it is a source of comfort meaning, while for others, it is a reminder of their displacement and a struggle. to find their place in the world.

3. Analysis in Which the Characters in the Novel Negotiate their Identities

3.1 Discussion of the Ways in Which the Characters in the Novel Negotiation to Attempt to Reconcile Different Aspect of their Identities

In the novel "Seize the Day" by Saul Bellow, the characters struggle to reconcile their different aspects of their identities in various ways. In this novel, the main character Tommy Wilhelm struggles with his identity as a failed salesman, a father, and a son. Some ways in which the characters attempt to reconcile their different aspects of their identities are:

1. Tommy Wilhelm attempts to reconcile his failed identity as a salesman by trying to become successful and earn the respect of his father and family. He wants to prove to his father that he can take care of himself and his family.
2. Dr. Tamkin tries to reconcile his identity as a manipulative and deceitful person by claiming that he is a psychologist who wants to help others. He also tries to justify his actions by saying that he does what he does to help people.
3. Margaret, Tommy's ex-wife, tries to reconcile her identity as a caring and loving person with her desire to move on and start a new life with her fiancé. She struggles with her feelings for Tommy and the guilt of leaving him behind.

4. Wilhelm's father is trying to reconcile his identity as a successful businessman with his identity as a loving father. He wants his son to be successful like him but also tries to support him emotionally when possible.

3.2 Analysis of How the Characters' Identities are Shaped by their Interactions with Others in the Novel

Seize the Day by Saul Bellow is a novel that paints a vivid picture of the lives of individuals living in New York City in the 1950s. The novel focuses on the protagonist, Tommy Wilhelm, and his interactions with several other characters who play a crucial role in shaping his identity. Here's an analysis of how the characters' identities in Seize the Day are shaped by their interactions with others in the novel:

1. **Tommy Wilhelm:** In the beginning, Tommy's identity is shaped by his past failures and his desire to regain his self-worth. Over the course of the novel, Tommy's interactions with his father, Dr. Tamkin, and his ex-wife, Dollar Bill, shape his identity and lead to his eventual realization about the importance of accepting oneself. His interactions with Dr. Tamkin, in particular, reflect his desire for guidance and validation. Dr. Tamkin's manipulative behavior and self-serving motives ultimately lead to Tommy rejecting his advice and realizing that he is responsible for his own life.

2. **Dr. Tamkin:** Dr. Tamkin is a confidence man who preys on Tommy's insecurities. His interactions with Tommy reflect his manipulative and egotistical nature. He shapes Tommy's identity by convincing him that he is a victim of society and that success can only be achieved by taking risks and detaching oneself from worldly possessions. Dr. Tamkin's influence on Tommy ultimately leads to his downfall.

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3. **Wilhelm Sr.:** Tommy's father plays a pivotal role in shaping his identity. Wilhelm Sr. is cold, distant, and unsupportive, which feeds into Tommy's insecurities and self-doubt. His interactions with his father highlight the importance of parental support and the impact it can have on shaping the identity of a child.

4. **Margie:** Margie is Tommy's ex-wife and plays a minor role in the novel. However, her interactions with Tommy reflect the importance of self-acceptance and the detrimental impact of trying to live up to societal expectations.

II- Identity in the Bluest Eye:

As we have discussed in the foundation part that, in the world of literature, identity has a great concern and many authors have devoted their works to clarify the concept, Tony Morrison the Afro American female writer is one them famous for her fiction about racism, family and identity. She has taken a big responsibility and was very courageous to explain objectively to the world of today which is full of contradictions and struggles who are the black; the black in modern America. She Writes for reflecting the real position of the black usually hidden by the white. The theme of identity is a major theme in the Bluest Eye, her first novel; this novel explores how societal standards of beauty and race impact the self-perception and identity of individuals, particularly young black girls. The characters in the novel struggle to define themselves and find their place in the world that consistently denies their worth and humanity. The main character, Pecola Breedlove, is especially impacted by this, as she desires nothing more than blue eyes, a feature that she sees as a symbol of acceptance and beauty. The novel ultimately highlights the destructive nature of identity stereotypes and encourages readers to examine and challenge the societal forces that shape our perception of self and others.

1. Review of the Critical Literature on The Bluest Eye

The "Bluest Eye" by Tony Morrison has garnered significant critical attention since its publication in 1970. The novel tackles issues of race, gender and beauty with the context of African American society in the mid-Twentieth Century. Critical analysis of the novel has focused on several themes, including the effect of racism, the concept of beauty and the development of identity. In addition, to Morrison's use of language particularly in her vivid descriptions of characters and settings, has also been praised. Morrison makes the readers question beauty, the pressures put on people to fit in with the untrue idea. Many essays and articles have discussed this issue. Dana Paramita in her book "Review of the bluest eye" written by Tony Morrison has reminded us the purpose of writing is that the writer would like to give the readers a portrait to stop hating themselves for everything they are not, and start having themselves for everything that They are not and she explains that the novel's strong language and secondly explicit content exposes the strengths and weakness of the novel. other research paper have focused on Tony Morrison as related to feminism though the development of Pecola from an embryo to a woman through different phases of her life (Musical Rhetorical and feminism in Morrison's The bluest eye 220) Other articles view it as a novel that portray the tragic condition of black in racist America. Another dissertation by Shubhanku Korchar entitled "treatment of violence" : A study of Morrison's the bluest eye and beloved published on 2013 describes how white people attack the psychological mind of the black people, especially women, through the concept of beauty. Most black women endure these conditions, some do not care, and some struggle for equalities. Pecola is a victim of it, actually Pecola is not ugly; it just because, she was form from parents who are victims of stereotypes. However, some critics have expressed concerns that the world focus on the effects of racism on black individuals can be seen as perpetuating the idea that blackness is inherently marked by suffering. There are also debates

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about the novel's use of child sexuality and violence, which some argue can be exploitative in nature. However, through this research paper, although the critical perceptions, We will argue that gender, ethnic differences imposed by societies may determine nothing in modern time and contemporary life because the crisis is one for both man represented by "Wilhelm" in "Seize The Day" and Woman represented by Pecola in "The Bluest Eye". Toni Morrison has addressed a message that bellow has generalized it. The problem of " who I am"? and The crisis of meaning and defining oneself; being indoors and not outdoors as Morrison has express in her book is the concern of all humanity ; Regardless your gender, racial group, adult or a child. The death of self-esteem can occur quickly to children as vulnerable members, but it also touches profoundly and painfully the adults, the case of Tommy Wilhelm in Seize The Day, who is still acting as a child.

In this paper, we will prove what is count is not to posses blue eyes because those who possess it could not even recognize it. Whilhelm is a handsome charming man, with blond hair and blue eyes, but he is not satisfied. He has not got his true place, yet, nor has defined his identity because beauty was not simply something to behold; It is something one could do. The question is more than racism, in this, dissertation, the issue is to prove who you are as on effective human being, regardless of your shape, and color and where you are from. Oprah Winfrey, the black women has become a global icon thanks to what the presented not only to blacks, but to all human beings. So, in this research. paper, there is clear gap pointed by both authors: Tony and Saul in search for space and identity in modern Time.

1.2 Overview of Major Critical Perspectives on Novel:

"The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison is a novel that deals with complex issues of race, class, gender, and beauty standards. The novel has received various critical perspectives over time. Here are some of the major critical perspectives on the novel:

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1. **Racial perspective:** This perspective analyzes how Toni Morrison portrays the African American community in the novel. Some critics argue that Morrison highlights the negative impact of racism on the African American community. The novel shows how African Americans have internalized the white beauty standards and how this has affected their self-esteem and identity.

2. **Feminist perspective:** This perspective examines how the novel portrays the experiences of women. Some critics argue that "The Bluest Eye" highlights the marginalization and objectification of women in society. The novel shows how beauty standards are imposed on women, and how this affects their sense of self-worth and identity.

3. **Psychological perspective:** This perspective looks at the psychological impact of societal pressures on individuals. Some critics argue that the novel shows how the characters' experience of trauma and abuse affect their mental health.

The novel also explores how people cope with trauma and how it affects their identity.

4. **Postmodern perspective:** This perspective examines the novel's narrative structure and explores how it challenges traditional linear storytelling. The novel is told from multiple perspectives and incorporates various narrative techniques. Some critics argue that it shows how people's experiences of reality are subjective and how storytelling can affect our understanding of truth.

1.3 Analysis of How these Perspectives Inform the Study of Identity in the Novel:

As we have said, the bluest eye examines the complex issue of racial identity and cultural oppression through the experiences of its African American characters. The major critical perspectives that inform the study of identity in the novel are :

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1- **Marxist perspective:** According to this perspective, identity is shaped by economic and social factors. In the novel, characters like Pauline and Cholly Breedlove represent the oppressed black working class, whose identity is shaped by poverty, racism, and lack of opportunities. The Breedlove family's poverty is a significant factor in its members' sense of self-worth, as they are forced to live in a substandard environment. This perspective highlights the effects of capitalism and class on African American identity.

2- **Feminist perspective:** This perspective highlights the role of gender in shaping identity. In the novel, the main character Pecola Breedlove is systematically, devaluated and mistreated because of her gender and race. The protagonist Pecola is categorized "ugly" by society. As a result, she recognizes that love and identity are conditioned by beauty standards shaped by the whites. Pecola's request is not for money or better house or even more sensible parents; her request is for blue eyes. She suffers from self-hatred, she feels rejected, racism in fact, according to the author threatens identity. That's why Pecola, unconsciously prays for blue eyes, she needs a miracle. She says in the novel, "There can't be anyone I am sure, who knows what it feels like to be disliked, even rejected, momentarily or for sustained period of time"

The novel also, demonstrates how women are often in position of powerlessness relative to men, as evidenced by the abusive relationship of Pauline and Cholly. This perspective emphasizes the intersectionality of gender and race in shaping identity.

3- **psychoanalysis perspective:** is also one of the primary perspectives that inform the study of identity in "*The bluest eye*". Through the lens of psychoanalysis, the novel explores the psychological effects of racism on African American identities. Morrison also uses the

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psychoanalytic theory of the "Oedipus complex" to illustrate how Pecolla's desire to blue eyes is rooted in her desire for hers affection and approval .

The protagonist's actions are influenced by her unconscious and suffer from certain psychological issues such as: fear of intimacy, fear of abandonment, fear of betrayal, low self esteem, insecure or unstable sense of self. For Pecola, almost, the same gap is found in black families, she is rejected and hatred for things which cannot be changed, no support from families or friends, is again more harsh since she is a child especially in front of the most shocking and traumatizing events in the girl's life who was raped by her father, getting pregnant and losing her sanity.

4- **Post colonialism:** is another critical perspective that informs the study of identity in "The bluest Eye". The novel addresses the historical oppression of African Americans and their disconnection from their cultural roots. Through the character of Pecola, Morrison demonstrates how even within the African American community, Eurocentric beauty standards continue to be internalized as the standard of beauty.

2. Examination of the Different Aspects of Identity in the Novel:

In "The bluest Eye", identity is a central theme that is explored throughout the novel. The book presents a critical examination of various aspects of identity at the individual, familial and social levels. Here are some of the aspects of identity that are explored in the book:

2.1 Racial Identity:

Society categorizes people based on race and ethnicity and this creates a system that leads to inequality. Race as it is defined in the previous chapter by a local or global geographic human population distinguished as a more or less distinct group by genetically transmitted physical

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characteristics or a group of people united or categorized together on the basis of sharing a common history, nationality, or geographic distribution. Now, we possess advanced scientific tools to examine race in more sophisticated way which highlights that there is no such thing as pure race, with the lines between races being blurred; for a white individual will have biological materials from other races who is black; Therefore, from a social science point of view, we look at race as a social category what we receive as a biological difference. This is on categorically different from ethnicity which is a term applied to a group of people with a common religion, language, nationality, history or other cultural factors. Racism in itself a social construct. There is only one human race, and discrimination against only individual from the same race shell eventually lead to social dissociation. For someone who is examining his consciousness will not hold any prejudice against a fellow member of society based on how dark the color of their skin is. It is necessary to acknowledge that someone who can feel his tallness only when someone is kneeling before him is the one who has a serious problem. It is commonly known that if you are going to chain someone, you're bound by your repression for you will have to hold on to the other end of the chain. In Tony Morrison's book "the bluest Eye", the characters navigate their racial identities in diverse ways. Deciphering how the characters choose to identify themselves and races is crucial to understanding and its impact on individuals perception and experiences. Pecola, The protagonist of the book, internalizes the racial biases surrounding her, she idealizes whiteness, wanting blue eyes, and believing that such a trait would make her worthy of love and respect. As a young growing teenager, she is at an age where girls are attracted by others, and looks after themselves, and seeks to be pretty and more attractive; She focuses on her physical appearance, and she notices her darkness in a society of two polls, black and white. The white's standards are the dominant ones, however the black society is full of oppression, and mistreatment of the woman, instead of fighting those black and those white devils, she chose the

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path of self-hatred with a strong desire to change the color of her eyes. The results in a desire to eradicate her entire black identity. On the other hand, the character of Claudia challenges those standards. She resists the notion that black children should idealize and glorify white beauty. Her rebellion is evident in her criticism of her white dolls and her assertion that blackness is an essential characteristic for her identity. She actively challenges the societal expectations of blackness and refuses to self-hate or internalize racist beliefs. Characters such as Maureen and Geraldine choose to distance themselves from the negative connotations associated with blackness rather than reject them entirely. They wield the power they have to rise above and differentiate themselves from their peers. This way, they create a room for themselves in a society that's hostile toward blackness. Pecola's blackness and ugliness make her invisible in the eye of the beholder, her teachers and classmates ignore her existence because she does not possess the dominant culture's standard of beauty. However, Claudia's rejection of those beauty standards creates an environment for resistance; she refuses to obey the standards of beauty while others rejoice in them. She hates the baby doll she receives for Christmas; she finds it ugly and wonders why others regard it as charming. "I didn't know why I destroyed those dolls. But I did not know that nobody ever asked me what I wanted for Christmas". (The Bluest Eye 21)

2.2 Gender Identity..

The African American author Toni Morrison is an essayist, profoundly worried about issues such as the gender issue, race, sexual orientation.....etc. A Nobel Laureate, she is a standout among the most noticeable journalists of fiction in Contemporary America and is considered as the most important talent of the Twenty-first century. She publishes her first novel "The Bluest Eye" to give readers stories about blacks, women, marginalized people; she uses Pecola in order to thoroughly examine the viability of African American female stereotypes and effectively offers

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enough proof as to why they must be challenged and dispelled, she doesn't only make the true nature of what it means to be a woman, but also set her alone when in fact the collective conscious defies the imposition of any such stereotype. Morrison's work provides an excellent foundation for understanding the nature of African American womanhood via black feminist view. Morrison illuminates the heavy influence of white culture. Young black girl perception and self perception, as shown in *Pecola Breedlove*, is obliterated from a drastically young age. Creating a self-hating and self-destructive, black community controlled by white superiority. Everyone around Pecola including her parents and community makes her feel worthless and disempowered. In an effort to redefine herself to fit a standard of beauty that so adamantly excludes her, Pecola falsely adopts blue eyes, Pecola Breedlove is driven into a state of madness after she believes she has magically acquired blue eyes. Black women have been unjustly prevented from living freely. They kept be down and silenced in a racist and patriarchal society where they were burdened with psychological and physical weight. Because they were positioned in a complicated relationship between sexism and racism, as we have mentioned Pecola seeks to save herself to define her real identity, she challenges to break silence through asking for a miracle to be happen. Hook believes, "Now, it is time to write about who, really the colored women are and hope to become". Family is the most important institution where black women are contextualized in their suitable roles and attitudes it determines others behavior and attitudes. the black females themselves . If a family is deconstructed because of racism or patriarchy, the black female position is destroyed as well. The way black females perceives themselves affects the way they act and enact in the society. Moreover ,self - definition and self- perception decides how people treat and perceive them Pecola's dysfunctional family, hence played a major role in her perception to herself as ugly which contributed to the development of her identity in the negative way. Pecola convinces herself " that those eyes that held the pictures, and knew the

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sights if those eyes of hers were different, that is to say beautiful, she herself would be different". Pecola believed that if she looked different, beautiful, maybe Cholly and Mrs. Breedlove would not as badly as they do. May They'd say, "why, look at the pretty eyed Pecola. We mustn't do bad things in front of those pretty eyes". (Morrison46). Pecola receives her ugliness as a trigger to the violence she is exposed to at home. The other characters, in the novel also in grapple with their gender identities, often in relation to the beauty standards imposed by society. For example, Claudia Mc Teer resists These standards by rejecting dolls and other traditionally feminine toys, while her sister Frieda embraces Them as a way to fit in. Similarly, The Character of Geraldine seeks to distance herself from blackness and align herself with beauty as a means of going social acceptance. All in all, "The bluest Eye" illuminates the ways in which societal beauty standards can import and distort one's sense of self and identity, particularly with regards to race and gender. Morrison's exploration of these Themes sheds light on the damaging effects of racism and colorism on the construction of selfhood.

2.3 Class Identity..

Tony Morrison's "The Bluest Eye examines the lives of African American characters struggling with Their socio-economic status and the associated sense of self. The contrast between richer and poorer black people is extensively discussed in the novel as another source of base discrimination, along with one 's money and social standing. Black people are disproportionately affected by the hierarchy and stratification that exists between races as well as between different financial levels and social statuses. Black people are described in extremely purposeful terms, means even the choice of words used to depict them is carefully chosen, "colored people were neat and quite; niggers were dirty and loud". Therefore, the poor black people are distinguished by both, white people and rich black people. There are many instances

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of racism in the novel, one of the most prominent being the moment when one Pauline was giving a birth to Pecola, and she heard the doctor saying to his students that black women do not feel pain while giving birth because they are like horses. Pauline takes on rather than resists the identity assigned to her by the dominant culture. She behaves in the way the accurate way That white and high class black people expect her to do, she hold the ugliness assigned to her family and she neglects them." So, when her child is born, and it both black and female, Pauline sees it as she herself was seen while in labor as undesirable, irrelevant, and unimportant." Pauline treats the girl for whose family she works as if she were the perfect kid she has always envisioned, she shows her motherly affection and sensitivity. Pauline seems capable of giving her children support, love and care in this regard, but she just decides not to. Because they were black, poor and dysfunctional as a family, society saw them as ugly .Pecola never fights back when she is bullied as though she accepts the remarks as being genuine.

In contrast, Claudia who comes from a loving caring family has high - self esteem, not longing for blue eyes or white dolls. She actually damaged the white dolls as a sign of hatred she felt for white people. Claudia does not understand why these dolls are assumed so beautiful, that she breaks down her doll attempting to find where the beauty is. Perhaps Claudia was able to evolve her own opinion and not get influenced by accepted standards of beauty because of the family she was raised in, that made her feel loved and beautiful the way she was. What Pecola lacks most decidely is a sense of self Pecola is unable to promote a healthy and confident sense of identity due to Tomy complex reasons . Pecola is a child a black unsupportive family who do not show love towards her, and the judgmental stereotypical society. The paradigm of Claudia and Ferieda show that having a loving and caring parents and siblings makes a significant difference.

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"There can't be anyone, I am sure, who doesn't know what it feels like to be disliked, even rejected momentarily or for sustained periods of Time" (the bluest eye 65)

The characters in the novel negotiate their class identities, and the role of economic status is shaping Their sense of self, in varied ways:

1- **Pecola Breedlove**: comes from a lower socio- economic background and as we have seen, she internalizes the negative perceptions that the society has about her. Pecola idolizes the fair- skinned Shirley temple, wishing to look like her. Her mother had instilled in her this notion that her dark skin and other physical features deemed her as undesirable, thus perpetuating the notion that poverty and low socio -economic status are synonyms with ugliness, leaving her with little positive self- image.

2- **The Mac Teer sisters**: Claudia and Frieda belong to working-class family. They are occasionally envious of their more privileged peers but never feel inferior, They learn to appreciate. The value of their existence, including their physical and social identities.

3- **Geraldine**: is a middle-class character who fully embraces her higher socio-economic status she has internalized the prevailing societal norms and values which have created a class structure that favors her. She resents Pecola's presence in her home, partly because of Pecola's lower socio-economic background and partly out of ingrained colorism. that perpetuates white normativity.

3. Analysis of the Ways in Which the Characters in the Novel Struggle with and Construct their Identities.

In Tony Morrison's novel "The Bluest Eye", the characters struggle with oppressions that shape and construct their identities in different levels. First of all, Pecola is an adolescent and the development of identity in adolescence is more complicated as it consists of 3 changes, biological process that involves physical changes, the second is cognitive process which involves a person's mind and intelligence, they will have a clear picture of what's right and what's wrong or and actually they examine their surroundings and the last one is socio-emotional process which involves a change in their emotions, personality relationship with others. For adolescence especially over 10 to 13 years old according to (Santroch, 2013) is on age of facing problems, it is not easy if the child does not have self confidence; For Pecola, she was influenced by the situation's that are not stable, she had no support or guidance, she has familial problems which are increasing day by day. For example, her father Cholly who becomes drunkard and likes beating his wife, he is a sinner and a failure man. Cholly never shows love or affection to Pecola and her brother Sammy because he does not know how to raise children and cannot even comprehend what a such relationship because of the impact of his dark life as an unwanted child. Both his parents rejected him, he was raised by his aunt Jimmy. Because of alcohol he made his daughter Pecola pregnant, he burnt his house, he left his family without a house to live. So, the local government decides to put him in jail for what he did. Cholly is dysfunctional and evil father. An adolescent who has a good and safe relationships with his parents, he will be easy to socialize with peers, easy to control themselves, reducing anxiety and depression, he will have better self esteem, however there is no love or attachment in the Breedlove family between parents children and brother sister. From Pecola and Frieda conversation, she does not know what

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love is because she never receives it from her family, she said : Then Pecola asked a question that had entered my mind. "How do you do that"?. I mean How do you get somebody to love you? "

(the bluest eye 102)

The conflict in the family is rising when Pauline's admiration of white people make her forget her family, Sammy and Pecola. Pecola becomes desperate, back of self-confidence, and arousing a feeling of anxiety. She never goes anywhere and she thinks that she is ugly by having darker skin than anybody else. On the contrary Sammy becomes destructive and a rebel; he hates his family and likes running away from them. He cannot control himself. The Breedlove is from the lower class because both Cholly and Pauline are blue-Collar workers. They are living in the first floor of a Two-story abandoned building, all the settings of Pecola's house describes that she is poor. The lower class commonly relates to poverty. It is negatively related to educational career, and health service aspiration. So, the adolescents living with this situations are hard to get opportunities in their lives to explore their identities. The black ethnic in America Africa is the largest ethnic minority in America (Santroch, 2003).

The dark history of slavery labels African American with a negative identity and creates racial discrimination. Pauline has told that she hates living in Lorain because she is feeling lonely and racism. Both of the whites and the colored are meanness to blacks. Racial discrimination also, leads to the conception of superiority and inferiority by calling black people niggers or negroes, not blacks. The superiority of whites influences all the aspects of blacks living, including beauty, morality and intelligence. Pecola experiences, internal racism from her mother and community, who are also black. There is another evidence of racism when Pecola meets a colored boy, Junior, whose mother, Geraldine does not allow him to play with niggers instead of

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using blacks. Whites succeed in building a negative image of blacks and ethnocentrism. Pecola is not only marginalized in the white community but also her own people. She behaves what they say that she is black and ugly perceives a negative stereotype about her ethnic-racial group; in other words, she turns down her black identity that is called identity self denial. Pecola prays for blue eyes, every night by thinking if she has them, her parents would love her and never fight again. "The bluest eye" describes African American girl who struggles to find her identity, living under multiple oppressions of high perceived parental neglect, external locus control and high rejection of her surroundings negative identity, greatly influence her life and cause her a state of mind damaged. In other words, it is very difficult to Pecola to develop her own identity because the influence of the context gives negative self image, lack of self-esteem, anxiety and trauma. She does not do any explorations and commitment to finding her own identity. she wants to have blue eyes, and white skin that drives her mad. So, as conclusion, the identity of Pecola cannot develop and the experiences identity confusion. Identity vs identity confusion (Erikson Theory).

3.1 Discussion of the Ways in Which the Characters in the Novel Attempt to Reconcile

Different Aspects of Their Identities:

In Toni Morrison's novel "The Bluest Eye," the characters grapple with the difficulty of reconciling different aspects of their identities due to the presence of systemic racism and white beauty standards. One example is Pecola Breedlove, who struggles to form a positive self-identity due to her dark skin color and her internalization of the dominant white beauty standards. She becomes obsessed with having blue eyes, which she sees as a solution to her struggles, believing that this transformation will grant her acceptance and love. Another character, Claudia, grapples with her intersectional identity as a young black girl in a racially oppressive society. She confronts the contradiction of being both revered and vilified for her blackness and attempts to

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reconcile it by asserting her self-worth and speaking out against racism. Cholly Breedlove, Pecola's father, is a character that embodies the effects of internalized racism. He struggles with his self-identity due to the traumas he faced as a black man in a white-dominated society. He tries to reconcile his blackness with the societal expectations and abuses he experiences by lashing out, committing violent acts against himself, his family, and society. The characters in "The Bluest Eye" reveal the complexity of identity, how it is shaped by external forces, and how it impacts one's self-worth and behaviors. They also illustrate the challenges in reconciling socially imposed identities and external expectations with one's true self.

3.2 Analysis of How the Characters' Identities are Shaped by Their Interactions With Others:

identity development and formation is a human life process that begins since birth until death. Identity is a predominant issue during adolescence because it is the perfect time to ask their identity "who I am" According to Wijaya, identity is not something attached to ID. card, identity is an awareness of one's uniqueness that comes from self assessment and self observation. (Erikson, 1968) said that the self identity is about belonging, it is an adaptive outcome and symbol of maturity. Erikson has marked the role of the context and interactions with other in shaping identity. In the novel we may cite: family, peers, school and the white dominant society. Pauline, Pecola's mother who is working as a maid in fisher's house, she loves working there; The fisher is white, rich and ideal family, but Pauline herself is black, ugly and poor. The conflict in the family is rising when Pauline's admiration of the white people make her forget her family. The mother Pauline treats her daughter Pecola and the white girl of her employers as superior to her. Pecola, when her parents are fighting, she hides and prays to God to make the disappear. nobody trust Pecola, even her mother. Pauline and Cholly are not reasonable, they

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don't give Their children why sort of love and care, it means a total absence of familial interactions. The relation between Pecola and her friends. is not good either because of the impact of the adverse family atmosphere. It is difficult for her, she does not know how to behave and face rejecting of the environment. She is also teased and insulted by her friends, by calling on her when they want to get an immediate angry response from one of the boys from the accused and getting peals of laughter of others, by saying, " Bobby loves Pecola Breedlove! Bobby loves Pecola Breedlove". It is different from her classmate Maureen Peal a half white and wealthy girl, everybody wants to sit with Maureen peal, she is admired by boys and girls because of her beauty and the quality of the dress she wears. Even the teachers do not give her, protection when Pecola is badly treated by her classmates. Pecola is very weak, she cannot fight back, here, she begins to pray for blue eyes, every night, thinking that possessing blue eyes is the solution; her parents will love her and never fight again, her friends and Teachers will love her too. The impact of racism, abuse, and her desire to be loved by anybody leads her to self effacement and madness.

We can conclude by saying, the context influences and interaction with others contribute in shaping identity. The conflicts in her family peers, school.....etc. All do not support Pecola to get herself, in contrast, they force her to insanity, she becomes lost direction in her life that makes her thinks about changing her identity. All This means that characters' identities are constantly being shaped by how they are treated by others, whether it is whether it is positive interactions that build them up or negative interactions that tear them down. Every interaction has an impact on their sense of self.

Conclusion:

Regarding the theme of identity in "Seize the Day" by Saul Bellow and "The Bluest Eye" by Toni Morrison, both authors explore the complexities and struggles of identity formation in their characters. Bellow presents the protagonist Tommy Wilhelm as a man who is lost and unable to find his place in the world, while Morrison tells the story of Pecola Breedlove, an African American girl who longs for acceptance and validation from her community.

In both novels, the characters' pursuit of their identity is deeply intertwined with their environment and the people around them. They face conflicts and obstacles that challenge their self-identity, leading to feelings of isolation and despair. Tommy Wilhelm and Pecola Breedlove both struggle to reconcile their inner selves with the external world, highlighting the complexities and nuances of identity formation.

Overall, both novels offer a poignant and insightful portrayal of the complexities of identity and the challenges faced by individuals in their pursuit of self-discovery.



CHAPTER THREE

**Exploring Intersectionality And
Identity In Bellow's *Seize The Day* And
Morrison's *The Bluest Eye***

Introduction:

In this chapter, we delve deeper into the exploration of identity by examining the concept of intersectionality in Saul Bellow's *Seize the Day* and Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*. Both novels offer profound insights into the struggles faced by individuals in their quest for self-actualization within the complex framework of societal expectations by analyzing the intersectionality of various aspects of identity, including race, gender, class, and culture, we aim to conceptualize comprehensive understanding of the "modern man" and the challenges encountered in defining one's identity in a rapidly changing world.

I. Intersectionality and the Modern Man

Intersectionality is a term coined by Kimberle Crenshaw in 1980 and it is often discussed as a theory, it is: "a way of thinking about identity and its relationship to power" (Kimberle Crenshaw, 2015). Crenshaw in 1989 said that intersectional analysis should be applied to all people and not just to marginalized and racialized women which whom the rise of intersectionality is historically linked.

Regarding "Modern Man" era, Human rights have formed the United Nations (UN) system, as a step to provide equality for all people especially after the COVID-19 crisis to end inequality and discrimination impacted on persons with disabilities and others marginalized by systems of oppressions such as patriarchy, racism, colonialism...etc. The aim of intersectionality in modern time is to help connecting human rights to the multiple forms of discrimination that people experience." It is essential to achieve equal outcomes for all in global efforts to fulfill the pledge to leave no one behind" (intersectionality and modern men p01)

II. Race, Gender and Identity.

1. racial identity and cultural assimilation:

focusing on both novels, both protagonist Wilhelm and Pocola Breedlove struggle with their racial identities and assimilation highlight how racism and societal constructs impact an individual's sense of self and ability to integrate in a certain society. First, in *Seize the Day* the protagonist struggles with his Jewish identity asking himself is he a Jewish or American since he doesn't look like a Jewish he does not speak the Hebrew, he does not eat a Jewish food and he has not a Jewish girl friend. However, he lives in American surroundings where he had his education, his wife and witnessed the accidental circumstances of New York and Chicago cities.

Tommy Wilhelm's change of name is an attempt to deny his Jewish heritage, and he would destroy the element of the Jewish identity," you set free when mama died, you wanted to forget her, you wanted to get rid of your daughter Catherine too, me, too you are not kidding anyone" (*Seize the Day* 29). He feels in the same time, an outsider because of the influence of the successive failures until he encounters Tamkin to help him to seize the day in American land. Tommy in "*Seize the Day*" based on Carl Jung's concept of the collective unconscious and rebirth, Tommy Wilhelm deny his father's authority and internalize American culture under the control of the Jewish collective unconscious, ultimately they achieve self-awareness, as they assimilate themselves into American culture and also embraces his Jewish heritage, and finally he reborns and comes with his Jewish American identity. However, Pecola could not form any kind of identity by contrast she seeks acceptance through begging God for blue eyes. She does not know who she is she does not create awareness of her identity because of the absence of the sense of well-being and self-respect. So, in order to assimilate herself and again a place in the American white society, instead, Pecola needs to know who she is first and accept her blackness second and third to see herself beautiful without any necessity beautiful to change the color of her eyes.

2. Gender Identity and Societal Expectations

Tommy Wilhelm in *Seize the Day* and Pecola in *The Bluest Eye* both struggle with traditional gender and societal expectations in different ways, and they both strive to gain masculinity by challenging those expectations. Tommy feels emasculated by his circumstances as a man who lives in a non human but animal world that gives value to money, machines with little importance to feeling and emotions. He is an idealistic man that 's why he finds himself outcast in New York. So he feels an alien ," I don't belong to New York any more" (*Seize the Day* 82) . The city respects the doctor, the professor he and business men he tried engaged he engaged himself

in different streams: the medical school, but he abandoned it. Dr. Adler wished him to become a doctor just like him, he then joined movie industry to become a Hollywood star, unfortunately his father feels deeply disappointed because Tommy again fails in acting too! He returns again and the choice this time is business world and works a salesman, but he did not succeed. Tommy is a responsible of a family, his wife puts him in a shameful situation, no love and no divorce. She killed his masculinity Dr. Adler said to him, "It seems to me no normal person would stand for such treatment from a woman" (*Seize the Day* 85). For Pecola, the story is about oppression of woman. Under whites' standards and traditions women and girls are expected to be beautiful with blue eyes and get dressed in typically feminine way, but the poor black girl is out of standards, she finds herself doubly oppressed by black men and white men.

III. Class, Power Identity

1. Socio-Economic Status and Social Hierarchies:

Tommy Wilhelm's socioeconomic status is lower than the people around him, including his wealthy father. Through Wilhelm's experiences, the novel explores the struggles of those who have fallen out of mainstream society and the pressure to conform to social hierarchies. In the other side, Pecola faces extreme poverty and low socioeconomic status. The novel highlights how racism and societal beauty standards create social hierarchies that oppress Pecola and her family. The novel examines how systems of oppression and social hierarchies based on race and beauty lead to feelings of shame, inadequacy, and self-hatred in those who are marginalized.

2. Power Dynamics and Identity.

This section focuses on power dynamics whether derived from economic, racial or gendered factors and their influence on characters' identities. Starting by the power of money that

ruins the usual existence of Tommy as, "... Money is of course destruct" (*Seize the Day* 77). There is exploitation of one social class by another; it is seen in the modern industrial capitalist country and the result of this exploitation is alienation. Through Tamkin's behavior whose intention is not to help Wilhelm, rather to absorb the last blood of his vein. The poor becomes poorer and the rich becomes more powerful and dominating. In this novella the scene of despair and isolation of modern city dweller is conveyed by the image of "a howling wolf". Wilhelm is a city man, but he feels out of place in New York City; when night comes, he feels like howling from his window like a wolf. He is painfully aware of his isolation. He was exploited by everyone in this materialistic world, he is totally lost until he finds his true place in the funeral procession. Similarly, in *"The Bluest Eye"*, power dynamics are observed in terms of race and beauty standards. This dynamic power between whites and blacks creates an atmosphere where people of color feel inadequate and inferior and their identities are shaped accordingly.

IV. Cultural Identity and Belonging.

1. Cultural Hybridity and Identity

Cultural identity in both novels is presented differently, but both explore the challenges of negotiating cultural hybridity and traditional heritage. In *Seize the Day*, the protagonist Tommy Wilhelm struggles with his Jewish heritage and his desire to assimilate into American culture. He believes that in order to succeed in American society, he needs to give up his Jewish identity and adopt a more mainstream perspective. However, as Tommy faces financial and personal difficulties, he realizes that his Jewish heritage is an integral part of his identity, and he cannot abandon it without losing a sense of belonging. Similarly, in *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola is caught between the desire to assimilate into the white American culture and the need to preserve her

African cultural identity. She believes that if she can have blue eyes like the whites she will be accepted, but eventually realizes that the cultural assimilation she seeks is impossible

2. Identity Crisis and the Search for Authenticity

In both novels, the characters struggle with an identity crisis and the search for authenticity. Tommy Wilhelm grapples with his identity as a salesman, father, and a person in search of meaning. Similarly, Pecola seeks to achieve a white standard of beauty and acceptance, ultimately losing her sense of self. In *Seize the Day*, Wilhelm is constantly searching for a defining moment to find his purpose. He is torn between his desire for financial success and his yearning for a more meaningful existence. In *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola struggles with her sense of individual identity and her collective identity as an African American woman. Her struggle is further complicated by her internalized belief that she is not worthy due to her appearance. Ultimately, both novels address the tensions between individual and collective identity. In *Seize the Day*, Wilhelm realizes that the societal expectations of success and belonging do not align with his own desires. He learns to value his individuality and to define his own sense of self-worth. In *The Bluest Eye*, Pecola's quest for a genuine sense of belonging remains unfulfilled as societal expectations continue to dictate her perception of self. Both novels offer a critique of the societal pressures and norms that shape our sense of identity and belonging. They challenge us to examine the influence of these forces and to define authenticity in our own lives.

Conclusion:

By exploring the intersectionality of identity in Bellow's "Seize the day" and Morrison's "The Bluest Eye", this chapter demonstrates the complexities faced by the "modern man" in conceptualizing their identity. The analysis of race, gender, class, and culture offers a nuanced understanding of the challenges encountered in defining one's sense of self in a world shaped by intersecting social dynamics. Through these literary explorations, we gain valuable insights into the struggles and triumphs of individuals in their quest for a comprehensive and authentic understanding of their identity.

General Conclusion:

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This dissertation dealt with re-reading Saul Bellow's "Seize the Day" and Toni Morrison's "the bluest eye" for re-conceptualization of "identity", "and modern man"; It analyzed how the characters in both novels struggle with their own sense of identity and how they attempt to define themselves in a modern society. Additionally, it examined how both authors address the theme of societal expectations and how they impact one's understanding of self. It explored how the concept of identity is not fixed, but rather fluid and subject to change based on individual experiences and societal expectations. The challenges of modern era are numerous, and they include technological advancements, globalization, climate, change, political and economic instability, social inequality ...etc. Both characters Tommy Wilhelm in "seize the day" and Pecola Breedlove in "the bluest eye", are suffering regardless their origins, color, class... There is a clear common point between the white attractive young man in his middle forties, large and blonde with big shoulders whose father is among the high intellectual class and the black skinny categorized "ugly" girl whose father is an alcoholic who belongs to the very poor low class. Both experience feelings of alienation and isolation and lack of sense of belonging; they feel disconnected from the American society and struggle to find their place in the world. Wilhelm is estranged from his family and fails to establish meaningful relationships with others, while Pecola in the bluest eye is marginalized and ostracized by her community due to her skin color. Both characters experience a profound sense of loneliness and despair as a result of their social isolation. Saul Bellow, through his novella, explores the theme of identity and the human conditions in the twentieth century, Tommy Wilhelm struggles with his identity and his failure to achieve the American dream; Bellow's protagonist responds to Pecola that achieving dreams is

General Conclusion:

not depending on possessing blue eyes, it is a question of to be or not to be! The question about life's meaning has vexed humans throughout history. William James once said "I bade him get a job, but he had one, to eat a good meal, but he was not hungry; He left visibly unmoved by my argument" (Smith 19).

Saul Bellow is one of the most essential writers of the 20th century. Reading his works can provide readers with a great understanding of human nature of modern society. "I think New York is not the cultural center of America, but the business and administrative center of America" (Seize the Day 45). Unlike Tony Morrison who seeks to create a voice that is both female and black, Bellow would not allow himself to be determined by his environment; The question for him is not: Tell me where you come from, I tell you who you are. Bellow moves from his historic fact to the larger universal issue; He seeks freedom, satisfaction, meaning and the fate of modern men "where do we get free" (Seize the Day 41). Reading Saul Bellow is an amazing experience; it is a whole research about life and humanity. For Bellow the true writer has nothing to say, what counts is the way he says it.

As final conclusion to this modest work, we would clarify that in the novel, there is no specific mention of an alternative type of identity emerging. However, the novel does suggest that one's identity is constantly evolving and adapting to the changing circumstances of life. Perhaps a new type of identity can emerge as society continues to change and evolve in a strange world where the more things change the more they remain the same. So, is it really modern? Is the time really advanced and civilized to the point of progress towards self-discovery: who we are, what we want, and where we are going?

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