

ABSTRACT

My dissertation focuses on the representation of traumas in selected three Afro-American novels. I attempt to draw attention on the issue of Afro-American minority's traumatic experiences. Trauma in my discussion includes double consciousness, national trauma of slavery, memories of war and white racism towards the African minorities. The three novels include, Earnest Gaines's *A Gathering of Old Men*, Toni Morrison's *A Mercy* and *Home*. Victims subjected to long-term slavery collect traumatic memories inside their bodies and often recollect these memories as a physical evidence of psychological dispossession. Characters participating in war suffer from PTSD and are unable able to relate to the present. The novel also contains rampant racism that disturbed the lives of most of the African Americans during 1950s. The theme of white racism will be applied to all the three novels as how the Afro-Americans being a marginalized community bear the trauma of racial discrimination. I analyse these three novels in terms of their thematic commonality of representing various forms of trauma of the Afro-American minorities in the United States. To illustrate the traumas of African minorities, I examine their socio-political situation in the histories of U.S. I argue that racial discrimination experienced by Afro-American members and their subsequent generations is a strong subject to be pondered on. By applying Trauma theory in my research work, I attempt to argue that, present-day Afro-Americans suffer from the markings of the past and bear the racial prejudices in important spheres of their lives.

By recollecting memory and reviewing history of Africa's brutal past, the research will also be helpful in understanding that Afro-American literature seeks to eradicate the mainstream society's stereotyping of African minorities. Battling stereotypes thus becomes the major work in Afro-American cultural projects.