



History and Fiction: Representation of Slavery in Select Novels (A Study of *Beloved*, *Roots* and *Uncle Tom's Cabin*)

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Received : November 2014

Accepted : March 2015

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Abstract : *The present study is related to the discourse of slavery in the fiction of Toni Morrison, Alex Haley and Harriet Beecher Stowe. The relationship between fiction and history is multidimensional. Both fiction and history use narrative forms, configure events referring to the same world considering the context often adopting similar strategies in the pursuit of the actual event. Yet these writers progress differently, raise different expectations and have a different relationship with the reader. Literature often gives new perspectives to the reading of history. Many novelists have rewritten the history of slavery from the angle of a neglected and often voiceless race.*

But in case of these writers history and fiction delight in their difference as it is this difference alone which allows them to borrow and yet strive to move beyond the likeness, to explore the hidden dimensions of the known 'reality'. Thus, this article unfolds the hidden reality of known facts.

Key words: *Black identity, history, fiction, resistance and slavery.*

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Introduction :

Subjugation of man by man has existed since time immemorial. In recent times the institutionalized dehumanization of enslaved African subject on American soil has been the subject of great historical and literary discussion. Historical novelists have often been found to be more adept at communicating issues of oppression, memory and identity than the ivory-towered historical theorists.

Literature has made society aware of exploitive and decaying institutions like slavery and has acted as an instrument of social change. A fictional account of the interior life of a slave might be more historically real than actual documents