



# Optimistic and Pessimistic Features of Ecofeminism in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*

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## ARTICLE INFO ABSTRACT

This research looks at the interdisciplinary approach known as 'Ecofeminism,' which is one of the literature studies that sees a link between the exploitation and degradation of the natural world and the subordination and oppression of women. The term is also known as 'Ecological Feminism'. It is a pivotal concept in the contemporary literary world. Feminism expresses women's rights in various waves, which women receive through their wisdom and perseverance. Ecology expresses the interface between living creatures created by divine power and their physical environment. Ecological feminism has two distinguishing characteristics: one is optimistic, and the other is pessimistic. The goal and scope of the manuscript are to explore the perspective of ecofeminism and its features in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* fiction. The first and foremost discussion is about ecological feminism's optimistic features. The second discussion is about ecological feminism's pessimistic features. Sethe is a strong female protagonist who cares for and protects her family as well as nature. She is the mother of sons Howard and Buglar and daughters Beloved and Denver, and she assists in the rebirth of her daughter, Beloved. The school teacher and his two nephews are barbarous. They have created an impact on the environment as well as all the female characters in the novel *Beloved*. The male characters behaved disgustingly, disrespecting the minds and emotions of women and nature. The male characters are so wild about having sex and purloining milk from the breast that they do not even look into race or identity.

**Keywords:** Ecology, Feminism, Ecofeminism, Optimistic Features, Pessimistic Features.

## I. INTRODUCTION

This article focuses on ecofeminist perspectives with both optimistic and pessimistic features. This article examines a few terminologies of the theory called ecofeminism. It is a pivotal concept in the contemporary literary world. Both women and nature were combined by their qualities, colours, odours, and situations that were happening around them. Morrison was an award winner, and she was a deserving writer in Afro-American literature. Her fiction has been discussed in a variety of contexts, including criticism and modern approaches to the English language and literature. Morrison added huge ecofeminism aspects to all her novels, but the author narrows down the aspect of ecological feminism in a specific novel, *Beloved* (1987). *Beloved* is one of the best and most successful novels of her life because it imitates the nineteenth century of the United States when Niggers were enslaved by them. Plenty of themes, symbols, motifs, literary devices, and characters are available in the novel *Beloved* by Morrison. The crucial analysis of environmental movements, various literary criticism, and many theories are linked to or related to the novels of Toni Morrison. Morrison is an Afro-American writer well-known throughout the world for her award-winning achievements in her lifetime. The main theory and approach of the manuscript is ecofeminism. This theory and approach are one kind of women's-identified movement. Women acted against ecological destruction and the threat of diseases, modern agricultural systems, and countless technologies that annihilate society and lead to the devastation of human and non-human habitats.

Ecofeminist philosophers believe that women are closer to nature than men, like William Wordsworth, who is called the English nature poet. Wordsworth wrote several poems on nature. Ecofeminist ideas helped them succeed and thrive. Critics of the theory compared it with the wide literary genres of best-selling books by poets, novels, plays, short stories, and other genres associated with nature and women. This comparative model of evolution has become widespread throughout the world, as it has raised awareness about how to preserve Mother Earth and the feminine form of every woman. The benefits of eco-feminism can be shared with natural beings who provide pious emotions such as happiness, joy, peace, and escape from hitches. The profit portion of earthly life is optimistic, whereas the previous portion of earthly life was pessimistic, reflecting men's powerful dominance; however, in Morrison's work, the superior power is white rather than black.

"I got a tree on my back and a haint in my house, and nothing in between but the daughter, I am holding in my arms. No more running – from nothing, I will never run from another thing on this earth. I took one journey and I paid for the ticket, but let me tell you something, Paul D Garner: it cost too much! Do you hear me? It cost too much. Now sit down and eat with us or leave (*Beloved*,18) In the novel *Beloved*, Sethe is the main character. Her role revolves around different characters, afflictions, and bitter situations, which make other people or readers pity her. Morrison used her opportunities and writing abilities to depict her unpleasant life and became a well-known person during her lifetime. The book *Beloved* is about a worthwhile and veracious incident that happened in someone's life. Slavery was a root cause of the ancient period for Afro-Americans. Slavery and discrimination, as well as women's empowerment, are also major themes of this novel. Sethe is more powerful in her mind and has faced a lot of struggles and torture, which makes her stronger in willpower. Sethe, the character in the novel, is a role model and feels divinity emanating from her. She was described as a bright light in the gloomy world of a cruel society. The manuscript discusses various points of view, including a review of the theory of ecofeminism, historical background, views of ecofeminists, and pivotal points of ecological feminism, focusing mainly on optimistic and pessimistic features of ecofeminism and also analyzing the novel *Beloved* through the purpose of the two main features of ecofeminism created by the author. So, Morrison included numerous natural things that redeemed the women's earth, and they could feel that they were living on a democratic planet. Mainly, this specific novel by Morrison examines how sexism, racism, and speciesism intersect each other.

## 2. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The published journal papers and their writers expressed heterogeneous points of view about the literary theory of ecofeminism. The researcher needs to know the research gap and proceed with the findings with knowledge and wisdom. The author read the current journal articles on pivotal topics such as ecology, environmental crisis, feminism, ecofeminism, patriarchy, revolution, caring habits among women and the environment, exploitation of women, and waves of feminism. The first and foremost journal article by Javeed Ahmad Raina remarks about feminism as a social movement that seeks to challenge patriarchy, social disparity, and capitalism's dominance of women (Raina, 2020).

L. V. Chun-Hua and Carolyn Merchant discussed ecofeminism, the subjugation roots of nature and women, and the liberation of women and nature. Authors like Sara Goodkind, Bay-Cheng, and Mery Diaz argue that feminism is an intellectual movement motivated by critical analysis. They divided their discussion into three categories: conceptual, epistemological, and political (Chun-Hua, 2018).

Elahe Khafi and Dr. Indu Swami argued that equal qualities between women and nature convey the illustration of Rabindranath Tagore's poem (Khafi and Swami, 2020 & 2019). Dipika Giri analyzed modern terminologies of ecological feminism with worldwide authors' genres of literature. Saleh showed that the patriarchal denial of women the right to govern their bodies has a direct correlation to the worldwide overpopulation that is depleting the earth. Marquez's *Innocent Erendira* exposed the injustice between women and nature (Giri, 2019).

Dr. Tasneem Anjum argued that ecofeminism aims to connect women's rights and opportunities with the environment. (Anjum, 2020) Palla Velangani Joseph implied that Vandana Shiva's ecofeminism emphasizes the respect and destruction of both nature and the environment in modern technologies, revolutions, and disasters (Joseph, 2018). Minushree Pattnaik and Terry Westby-Nunn studied Toni Morrison's *Sula* and *Beloved* and found that magical realist techniques are an effective way to convey ecofeminist issues (Pattnaik, 2017).

DK and Lucy Mangan argued for the origin of feminism from the 18th century and discussed issues such as voting, sex, gender equality, and opportunity. They also express the trending theory of ecofeminism, which states that women are caretakers for future generations. How will women's anguish reach a breaking point? (Mangan, 2021)

Aziz says that Ecofeminism aims to end patriarchy, emphasize women's experience, and integrate with local, national, and international ecological movements to achieve women's liberation. It values difference and variety and actively absorbs the latest developments in ecological theory and feminist principles (Aziz, 2021). Aparna Dixit discussed patriarchy's approaches, including Marxist, Engels, Socialist, Black, Eco, and Lesbian. (Dixit, 2020). Gourish Chandra Mondal, a researcher, analyzed the literary criticism called

ecofeminism. Mondal discussed ecofeminism, advocating for the reevaluation of science and the ecofeminist agenda related to “fixing” the environment to address ecological destruction and oppressive power structures. (Mondal, 2005).

Cary L. Klemmer has analyzed theories such as deep ecology and ecofeminism, which Besthorn and McMillen have strengthened. Ecofeminism believes that the existing power dynamic between men and women is unequal and exploitative, reflecting how humans and nature are divided. It also believes that contemporary institutions have caused humanity to lose sight of the divine interconnectedness of all things. (Klemmer, 2019). Shagufta Siddiqui took a different tack, arguing that people should respect women and nature (Siddiqui, 2021). Dr. Priyanka Singh highlighted four waves of feminism: the first, 1830–1900; the second, 1960–1980; and the third, 1990–2000. The fourth wave is an active and developing movement that social media has rekindled. Women today are more emancipated, trendy, and capable of making wise decisions (Singh, 2018).

### Literature Studies - Ecofeminism

In 1974, French feminist Francoise d'Eaubonne invented the term “ecofeminism.” The word “ecofeminism” refers to a subset of feminism that investigates the associations between women and nature. It is often referred to as “Ecological Feminism.” Ecofeminism is a movement that perceives a link between environmental exploitation and degradation and female subordination and oppression. The phrase “ecofeminism” alludes to the cruel torture of trees and women’s innocence. Ecofeminists’ opinions are related to women and the environment. Each ecofeminist has different judgments. The great ecofeminists are Vandana Shiva, Maria Mies, Greta Gaard, Mary Mellor, Rosemary Radford Ruether, Dido Dunlop, Joanna Macy, Mitsuye Yamada Lois Ann Lorentzen, Karen J. Warren, Sonya Renee Taylor, Zuzana Caputova, Lisa Brown, Patrick D. Murphy, Arlie Russell Hochschild, Jane Caputi, Carolyn Merchant, Fatimah Kelleher, Susan Griffin, and Lisa Kemmerer. Susan Griffin, a distinguished cultural ecofeminist, asserts the profound interconnectedness between women and the planet, encapsulated in her statement, “There is a very strong relationship between women and the planet.” Her notable contributions to the field have been recognized through various accolades, including honorary doctorates from the Graduate Theological Union, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts, and the Commonwealth Silver Award for Poetry. Griffin’s seminal work, *A Chorus of Stones*, garnered the Northern California Book Award for Non-fiction, was a nominee for the Pulitzer Prize and the National Book Critics Circle Award, and received a local Emmy for her play ‘Voices.’ Similarly, Greta Gaard, an esteemed ecofeminist, activist, and scholar, contributes significantly to the discourse through her academic endeavors and publications. As a professor, she imparts knowledge on human-animal studies, environmental justice, and LGBT literature. Greta Gaard’s influential works in the field of ecofeminism include *Ecofeminism: Women, Animals, and Nature* (1983), *Critical Ecofeminism* (2017), *International Perspectives in Feminist Ecocriticism* (2013), *The Nature of Home: Taking Root in a Place* (2007), *Ecological Politics: Ecofeminists and the Greens* (1998), and *Ecofeminist Literary Criticism* (1998). Gaard articulates a comprehensive understanding of ecofeminism, positing that women’s liberation is intrinsically linked to the emancipation of all racial, gendered, sexual, and ecological ‘other’. She elucidates that in heteropatriarchal cultures, the oppressed are often feminized, perceived as less rational, and less fully human, underscoring the intersectional nature of ecofeminist theory and praxis. (Gaard, 1998).”

**Table 1.** Ecofeminist views of the theory, ecological feminism, and their noted points

Vital Categories	Greta Gaard	Rosemarie Tong	Susan Griffin
Ecofeminist Ideas and Meaning	Both women and ecology are entangled with liberation and oppression.	Nudism and Chauvinism is related	Solid ties between women and the planet
Books	Six books are related to the theory of ecofeminism	Over ten books on Feminism, bio-ethics, sex, and philosophy.	Over twenty books based on ecofeminism with
Awards and Honour	Receiving honor through writing and editing the books	Nor awards and medals in her lifetime but honor received by the readers of her book	Commonwealth Silver Award for Poems, a Guggenheim Fellowship, a Northern California Book Award for non-fiction, an honorary doctorate from the Graduate Theological Union, and grants from the National Endowment for the Arts.
Theme of Studies	Human-animal studies, Environmental Justice, postcolonial ecofeminism, and LGBT Literature	Patriarchal Culture, Genetic and Reproductive Technology, Marxist Feminism, and Ethical Issues	Cultural Ecofeminism And Women’s Culture

Pivotal Opinions	Founder of the Minnesota Green Party	The primary field of study is criminal law.	Stand against feminism and racism, To develop an increasingly global perspective and write poems on ecological disasters
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Rosemarie Tong was an American feminist philosopher. Tong defined ecofeminism as the connection between Sexism and naturism. Tong states about “Patriarchal Culture” and “women have been ‘naturalized’ and nature has been ‘feminized’ (characteristics of women)”. Ecofeminists are deeper into ecologists. Nature is beneficial to biotic components and biodiversity. Karen J. Warren is another ecofeminist who describes women in animal names such as cows, foxes, chicks, serpents, bitches, beavers, old bats, cats, bird brains, and hare brains. Warren is a well-known American Ecofeminist; her works are *Ecological Feminism* (1994), *Ecofeminism: Women Culture and Nature* (2018), and *Ecofeminist Philosophy: A Western Perspective on What It Is and Why It Matters* (2000). Susan Griffin is a radical feminist philosopher, ecofeminist, essayist, and playwright. Griffin spoke about the Subjective voices of nature and women. Ynestra King is one of the neologists, she coined a new diction called ‘Eco spirituality’. Also seeks to excel in the dualism of patriarchal thinking. Eco spirituality means connections between the science of ecology and divinity. King said that women are closer to nature than men. Her famous book was *Healing the Wounds: Feminism, Ecology, and Nature/Culture Dualism* (1995), and an article, “What Is Ecofeminism?” was published in 1987. She has written an essay, *The Ecology of Feminism and the Feminism of Ecology* (1989). The words of Ynestra King inspired the author. The contempt for women and the disdain for nature are deeply intertwined and mutually reinforcing. Ecofeminism impresses the human being; it is really attractive. A single kind of Literary Criticism influenced American Author Charlene Spretnak called Ecofeminism (Gaard, 1998).

**Table 2.** Major ecofeminist views of the theory, ecofeminism, and their renowned points

Vital Categories	Vandana Shiva	Maria Mies	Ynestra King
Ecofeminist Ideas and Meaning	Merged ecology and feminism through disasters and honor, love, and maintain the environment	To annihilate the ecological aspects of female nature through catastrophes and also similar optimistic qualities of nature	Science of ecology and Divinity are combined
Books	Eight books tied with ecological feminism	More than fifteen books relevant to biotic and abiotic components and also mainly focussed on biological aspects	Books based on Dangerous Intersections
Awards and Honours	The Sydney Peace Prize, The Lennon Ono Grant for Peace, and the Earth Day International Award	Social Scientist, and Environmental Activist	Feminist Theorist, & Founder of Women and Life on Earth
Themes of Studies	Capitalist Patriarchy, Ecofeminism Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity, Genetic Engineering, Bioethics, and Biotechnology	Capitalist Patriarchy, German and foreign diversity in benefit and devastation and also inequality of all genders, and includes Anarchy-feminism and Ecofeminism	Praxis, Eco spirituality, Nature/Culture Dualism, Biological Atrocities, Ecology, & Feminism
Pivotal Points	Voice against Genetically modified technology She is called as “Gandhi of Grain”	Oppression and Subjugation of flora and fauna with females through triple items like racism, sexism, and colonialism.	For feminism, a voice has been raised on the issue of nature.

The world’s most popular ecofeminists, Vandana Shiva from India and Maria Mies from Germany are both from heterogeneous diversity. Both discuss ecofeminism as ancient wisdom defined by the concept of “capitalist patriarchy”, inequalities among men and women, and also an association between patriarchal domination of women and environmental damage or the prospect of atomic annihilation. Shiva fought for various fields: Intellectual Property Rights, Biodiversity, Genetic Engineering, Bioethics, and Biotechnology. Her loudest voice was raised only for genetically modified technology. Her inner voice shows the miseries of biodiversity loss, misusing the land for their benefit and selling it for profit on a money or dollar basis. “Peace in chauvinism is a war against women,” declares Mies (Shiva and Mies, 2010).

The lexical fragment of ecofeminism is fragmented into pieces: ecology and feminism. Ecology has a life of its own and is one of the branches of biology, also known as environmental biology. In 1866, German zoologist Ernst Haeckel devised the term “etymological ecology.” Ecology, as defined by Ernst Haeckel, refers to how an animal interacts with its surroundings, including other living things. This is known as ‘interaction ecology.’ Ecological variety is the complex web of many species found in an environment and their dynamic interaction. Because every ecosystem on Earth interacts with the ecosystems surrounding it, measuring ecological variety is challenging. The Gaia hypothesis was developed by James Lovelock in 1968 to describe the earth's ability to maintain the physical and chemical conditions required for life, particularly

microorganisms, which have progressed with the physical environment to provide control (self-regulation) and to maintain surroundings favourable to life on Earth. In the Greek language, Gaia means the Earth goddess. Charles Fourier, one of the founders of New Vocabulary's 'Feminism' (1837), aims to improve the status of women in society by releasing them from sexism and other forms of oppression. A feminist, Simone de Beauvoir, utters, 'Never once have I thought I was less than anyone else. But 'being a woman' condemns every woman to second-class status'. In black feminism, a neo-lexical element introduced by Alice Walker is 'Womanism' during the second wave of feminism in the year, 1982 (Vakoch, 2018).

### 3. THEORETICAL AND CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The goal of the manuscript is to become acquainted with contemporary criticism, also known as ecofeminism. The viewpoint of an ecofeminist is different, but the meaning is the same. The researcher chose this theory to understand the relationship between ecology and feminism. The core interpretation of the manuscript is the optimistic and pessimistic features of ecofeminism. The main purpose of the manuscript is to offer a wide collection of connections between women and nature. The first objective is to focus on optimistic features. The second is to focus on pessimistic features. Morrison added both features in a complex form and mixed them in the novel *Beloved*. The research questions are as follows:

1. Can nature look after women?
2. what are the ways to respect both nature and women?
3. Why are women and nature affected by violence?
4. How did women stand up for nature?
5. Are Toni Morrison's novels interpreted with optimistic or pessimistic views

of Ecofeminism?

The author evaluates the theory in terms of fathoming. The research questions are wild and open, so the response is honorable. The research gap is to respect nature and women in the surrounding part of society must act as guardians for things like flora, fauna, biodiversity, ecosystems, human beings, and abiotic components. Women have historically been responsible for nurturing and sustaining life, leading many to take on roles as protectors and defenders of the natural world. For example, women have been at the forefront of environmental and conservation movements around the world, such as the Chipko movement in India and the Green Belt Movement in Africa.

Capitalists make decisions that annihilate and abuse other humans and non-humans through various weapons, modern technology, patriarchy, and the way of violence. Sethe is one of the female characters and has an active and major role in the fiction, *Beloved*. Racial tension is one of the major issues in the United States between whites and blacks. Morrison has written eleven novels, including *The Bluest Eye* (1970), *Sula* (1973), *Song of Solomon* (1977), *Tar Baby* (1981), *Beloved* (1987), *Jazz* (1992), *Paradise* (1997), *Love* (2003), *A Mercy* (2008), *Home* (2012), *God Help the Child* (2015). Her novels address the ecological implications of adorning books with increasingly priceless ornaments and materials.

### 4. METHOD OF RESEARCH

This study employed a qualitative descriptive methodology. To look at literary theory and criticism in terms of ecofeminism is to motivate people to ask to be compassionate with both the environment and females in the world. The primary sources are the book of Toni Morrison, *Beloved*. The secondary sources are the following materials:

1. The previous journal articles
2. The books are relevant to the criticism of ecofeminism by various ecofeminists
3. Websites

Sources are collected with relevant terms such as ecology, feminism, both women-nature, patriarchy, rebellion, and also optimistic and pessimistic characteristics of ecological feminism. These are the important sources that are available from various websites, libraries, and journals (crucial articles).

### 5. FINDINGS

#### 5.1 Optimistic Features of Ecofeminism

Respecting nature is like honoring mothers and other women. It is considered to be as valuable as reproducing. These are just a few of the many positive aspects of ecofeminism. In her book *Beloved*, renowned author Toni Morrison includes more optimistic elements. The universe plays a significant role and is considered divine. Supporting the earth is only possible through worshipping and praising it, just as we would honor our deep roots. Earth, also known as Gaia, is considered a mother and has a sentimental relationship with all beings. International Mother Earth Day is celebrated on April 22 to increase awareness and support for the environment. The English language's sacred vocabulary refers to the mother. The author



here represents Mother Earth, with a preference for the latter. Women, as well as nature, play a significant role in families and society. As such, it is essential to salute Mother Earth with our whole hearts.

**Table 3.** Optimistic features of Ecofeminism Theory

<i>S. NO.</i>	<i>Main Elements</i>	<i>Features - I</i>	<i>Features - II</i>
1.	Women	Love/Care (Family)	Disrespect
2.	Environmental Biology	Comfort (Whole world)	Ignore to respect

### 5.2 Pessimistic Features of Ecological Feminism

The most detrimental aspects of ecofeminism are its continued disregard for the environment and its treatment of women, who once lived as men's property, as well as its misuse of the environment, which was linked to every woman and every child whom men victimized. Men need property rights and to be involved in political ecology. In Afro-American fiction, whites had supreme power and hoggish behaviour in the sense that their mind replicated. The authorities hide their own eyes and abuse every woman and Gaia, also dishonouring society and surrounding them. It contends that patriarchy exclusively prioritizes the male attributes of conquering and domination and devalues the "feminine" personalities of life-giving and caring, which is one of the reasons for the devastation of the Earth. The technologies invented by the ruling powerful men are being used in a variety of illegal ways, including misusing the environment and women. The illustrations mentioned in the novel *Beloved*, by the first Afro-American Nobel Prize for Literature, Toni Morrison, Capitalism is strongly alive in our society and nation.

## 6. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### 6.1 Optimistic Features of Ecofeminism in Morrison's *Beloved*

The optimistic aspects of ecofeminism are very interesting and stunning experiences that motivate the human world. Morrison's *Beloved* had a huge variety of ways to relate to nature only through flora and fauna. She compared the natural and environmental things: trees, medicinal plants, animals, parts of plants, and birds, and also included abiotic factors such as snow, breezes, and sunlight. Sethe is a central character in *Beloved*. Nature guides people on the right path, helps them, and provides harmony. Morrison foregrounded both biotic and abiotic components in the optimistic features of ecological feminism in her book *Beloved*. The author has listed different natural parts of concepts, mainly as nine concepts in biotic components and less than three concepts in abiotic components. Environmental aspects are merged with women, which is amazing, and also separated by biotic and abiotic components, which is also wonderful.

Morrison has listed more optimistic aspects through biotic components; the first concept is chamomile sap, and Sethe has her first scar on her leg and the second scar on her back. Sethe had a scar on her leg that was cured by chamomile sap. Chamomile sap can be used as a remedy and medicine after being rinsed. Chamomile is a fragmented tree and a medicinal herb. The second scar is on her back. Sethe expressed her suffering to Denver and Paul D through her words, "I've got a tree on my back." Later, she explained it to her boyfriend, Paul D. She said, "She can't see her back, but her back is like a chokeberry tree, which has a trunk, branches, and even leaves." Sethe has been bearing the chokeberry tree for over eighteen years. She also has a good time with Paul D. Even though Sethe's breasts are full, those hard guys behave harshly. They consumed her breast milk. She told Baby Suggs, who cannot take any risk, but Suggs' eyes shed tears.

The second concept is trees. Sethe and Paul D reminisce about their childhood, their sweet home, and their feelings for nature. They both found prettier trees than any farm around. When Denver and Beloved were near the trees, they sensed peace and caring blossoms emerging from their mother. Trees are a major symbol and motif in the novel *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Trees have left both good and bad recollections of their lives. It provides energy for enslaved people in *The Sweet Home*. In *Sweet Home*, the enslaved people are Sethe, Sixo, Paul A, Paul F, Paul D, and Halle. In their life, the trees give them beautiful things like genuine comfort, independence, and calm. Sethe happily shared beautiful trees that she only knew from her home and work at Kentucky Plantation, both of which bestowed us with pleasant moments. In House 124, Sethe went outside of the house, entered the garden, and chopped at the close-fitting soil over the roots of the pepper plants. She occupied the whole pole. Sethe spends her time in the garden.

The third concept is an antelope, a kind of mammal that lives close to the African continent. Women value wildlife and work to protect it. Amy and Sethe noted the little antelope's calm grazing. The fourth one is a wild onion, which the author compared to one of Sethe's characteristics. 'Wild onion' is a metaphor for defense. Sethe's offspring are Denver, Howard, Buglar, and Beloved, and she must take care of them. She wished to safeguard her younger one. She laid back in the wild onion field. Eating wild onions can protect our brains and heart. Ayurvedic treatments use powdered wild onions. This powder helps to decrease swelling and alleviate pain when applied.

The fifth concept is that both the sisters, Beloved and Denver, admire the branches of trees like leaves. After the blood-red bird vanished into the darkness of the foliage, Denver was interested in seeing when turtles emerged from the water one after the other. The sixth perception is natural birds, such as doves and woodpeckers, which Aunt Phillis admires. Normally, the natural birds that visit the location, Alfred, Georgia, in the United States of America. She watched (doves and woodpeckers) for a long time and then opened her ears wide to hear the bird's sound. The seventh concept is Beloved compared to natural aspects like rain and rubies. She might scream like rain and her blood like rubies, which made her skin brighter. The eighth idea is the 'Humming Bird'. Sethe murmured like a hummingbird, and she was happy about hearing the beating sound of the hummingbird's wings. She has more love for nature. The next one is one of the branches of the plant, considering the flowers, which delivered the character, Aunt Phillis. Phillis looks at the flower, which represents freedom. The tenth most distinguishing natural feature of the character Beloved is her skin, which shines brightly against chamois and taffeta. Last but not least biotic factor of optimistic features of ecofeminism thing is grass blades, which Sethe also loves and feels happy about seeing before her.

Morrison has listed more optimistic aspects through abiotic components; the first and foremost is the Ohio River. Sethe crossed the river, which, compared to her sufferings of slavery, finished, and now she moved toward freedom and rebirth life. Morrison brought out the optimistic features in various aspects, with biotic and abiotic components compared to nature and the female character's perspective.

### **6.2 Pessimistic Features of Ecological Feminism in Morrison's *Beloved***

Morrison equated ecological things such as scars on the skin, reptiles, domestic and wild animals, portions of trees, parasites, blood, and insects, and also included abiotic components, in particular darkness, gloomy rooms, and houses. The female characters are discriminated against by society and powerful men. Discrimination arises from oppositions such as culture vs. nature, human vs. animal, and male vs. female. Morrison has listed more pessimistic aspects through biotic components. The first one is a sycamore tree. The focused character, Sethe is comparing the soughing of a sycamore tree to the boys' murmuring. She admires and is interested in hearing the sycamore tree's syrup rather than the boys. She hates to hear the sound of the boys. Boys are hanging from the sycamore tree, and they are disturbing nature for their benefit. The Sycamore is one of the symbols of *Beloved*. The Sycamore tree signifies strength and protection. The second perception involves the men of Sweet Home, including Paul D. Garner, Paul F. Garner, Paul A. Garner, Halle Suggs, and Sixo, who is known for his untamed nature. These individuals are referred to by various epithets such as young boys, old boys, picky boys, and strapping boys. These men often exhibit thoughts and behaviors that are coarse and morally questionable, contemplating the mistreatment of women, engaging in inappropriate actions with livestock, harboring violent fantasies, and indulging in idle, base activities. Despite the morally degraded environment and the exploitation of enslaved individuals, the protagonist chose Halle Suggs as her life partner.

The third one is the school teacher and his atrocities. The owners of The Sweet Home were Mr. and Mrs. Garner. when Mr. and Mrs. Garner passed away. The teacher came along with his nephews to run The Sweet Home. Mr. Garner's brother-in-law is the teacher. He is really honest. He not only mistreats and dog-treats his slaves, but he also measures, weighs, and examines them like animals. He enjoys making other people suffer, and he has developed strategies for subverting his slaves' will. He has very straightforward and thrifty tendencies. He works hard while getting little sleep or food. Morrison rewards the schoolteacher by portraying him as Dr. Evil. The schoolteacher's two nephews harm Sethe. That harmful incident made her kill her daughter-in-law. Their book-reading teacher was standing next to her, watching and taking notes while the first person, who had mossy teeth, sucked on her breast while the second person was merely holding her down. One was opened in her back by the teacher, and as it closed, it turned into a tree that continued to grow there. Later, her back tree becomes numb, with no feeling she might not feel. He referred to the enslaved people as "Cows." Paul D, though, labeled him a cow. Sethe said that forbidden people beat, raped, stole her breast milk, and caused her to become pregnant. After Sethe emancipates herself from The Sweet Home, all of a sudden, three men (the Schoolteacher, his nephew, and a Sheriff) begin to roar like a bull and make that place violent.

The fourth one is burning wood and eyes. Sethe's breathing is like burning wood, and her eyes are also burning because she has seen many bitter situations that might have passed her lifetime. The fifth concept is the loss of biodiversity. Certain losses of biodiversity are happening around the world. This incident was also shared and collided with women. The raccoon is one kind of mammal that lives on the northern side of America and the northern portion of South America. It has special traits such as smelling good, attacking humans, and having rabies in the saliva. Rabies is one of the viral diseases that is spread by the saliva of infected animals and leads to brain inflammation. The enslaved people, Paul D, Paul F, and Paul A, are trying to disturb the raccoon. To protect its life, they just kill it. One of them is boiled, another is roasted, and at the end, they cook and taste it well. Enslaved men are very eager to taste the flesh of raccoons. They hunt again and again, and that tempts them to eat it.

However, hunting for the animal raccoon is not good because its population is shrinking and its generation is getting reduced. Due to hunting, loss of biodiversity happens. The sixth concept is patriarchy. Patriarchy is one of the terms in the theory of ecofeminism. Patriarchy is known to be male governance over women in the

form of sex, rape, violence, discrimination, race, slavery, trauma, psychics, and harsh words. Every woman is associated with violence toward natural aspects like trees, occupying lands for various profits, and discriminating against domestic animals and even birds. Patriarchy leads to encouraging the loss of biodiversity and lovable women's relationships.

The seventh one is Ghost, which represents the predominant character, Beloved, a parasite that clings to a person's body and snips their nutrition and other essentials. She has a strong bond with home number 124. Enslaved people must be affixed to the owner's property. The ruler watches all work and permits whatever misuse they see fit. The eighth one is noxious insects. Ella was close to Sethe, and she suffered from venomous bees, mosquitoes, spiders, wasps, and hornets. She was tortured by her husband, John, and her father-in-law on all four sides of the room. Ella felt unpleasant about thinking about slavery. Sethe might think that Ella and John, metaphorically a duo of chickens and also Perch and Catfish, were hopping onto the boat. The whites were ferocious in shooting the blacks person by person with their weapon, a rifle. Then they created a lot of trenches, rooms, and doors, and the blacks dumped them inside and began to torture the men by beating and giving heavy work, but the whites raped the same woman several times, like Ella, who was spoiled by a white man and his son sexually harassed more than a few times. Morrison gave the oppressive and exploitation aspects of the environment and the feminine side through the text. These are the pivotal points of the Pessimistic features of ecofeminism in Morrison's *Beloved*. Along with the texts, Morrison stated that they demonstrate how women and nature can convey their emotions.

## 7. CONCLUSION

Ecofeminism recognizes and celebrates the important role that women have played and continue to play in protecting and defending nature. It also recognizes that the fight for gender equality and the fight for environmental justice are deeply interconnected and that progress in one area cannot be achieved without progress in the other. Women are guardians for the future generation, a vital role in the nation and worldwide. People should keep their accommodations open and clean. Women are the precious diamond in every eye in the world. Women are equal to the earth and the universe. The earth is important because it plays an active role in creating the world's organisms under its greenery. Morrison shows *Beloved* as a resurrected child to Sethe. Sethe lavishly expresses her life experiences to Denver, claiming to have been an enslaved person for 40 years and spending the remaining years as she pleased. The author has used plenty of terms related to ecofeminism and added pivotal points such as patriarchy, ecology, feminism, black ecofeminism, and positive and negative features. Ecofeminism thus encompasses many types of coercion like racism, classism, imperialism, ableism, ageism, and anthropocentrism with its kaleidoscope perspective. First, the theory of ecofeminism from an optimistic point of view esteems the female gender and their rights and surrounding place covered by nature. Second, in the theory of ecofeminism from a pessimistic point of view, power dominates both nature and women in gloomy places with violent activity. Morrison's *Beloved* is analyzed by the double-way process, either in optimistic or pessimistic features of ecofeminism. The whole study discusses the preservation and exploitation of ecology and feminism, which is analyzed through the fiction *Beloved* by Toni Morrison. Morrison attempts to demonstrate that women are willing to stand alongside nature to preserve the environment, by attempting to express that nature serves as a shadow for women in all situations. Nature could act as a bodyguard, even though it may be revenge for women and their rights. In the present scenario, nature can be treated as a pet by women because it controls the emotions of every woman, as was also proved by a Padma Sri environmentalist, Tulasi Gowda. Gowda, a seventy-two-year-old tribal woman, possessed endless knowledge of herbs and plants. She lived with herbs and plants, which she felt were redeeming experiences from nature. So, both flora and fauna and also abiotic elements are good redeemers for women. Women are also redeemers for their specific families. Morrison's novels demonstrate the caring capability increased in the parts of natural things as well as women.

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