

SUPERVISOR'S REPORT
BA THESIS

The Problematics of Race in Selected Writings of Toni Morrison
Klára Staňková

The thesis focuses on three later novels of Toni Morrison: *Paradise*, *A Mercy* and *God Help the Child*. In addition, Ms. Staňková discusses the short story "Recitatif" and also draws brief connections with two further early works of Morrison, *The Bluest Eye* and *Beloved*. Following a review of racial relations and racism in the United States, the introductory chapter centers on the argument that race is a social construct which nevertheless continues to matter. As Ms. Staňková puts it in the abstract: "[t]he fact that our society is still remarkably shaped by the concept of race highlights that we have not yet reached the post-racial era and therefore, the examination of race and racial injustice is of paramount importance" (5). The objective of the remainder of the thesis is to illustrate this point on the above-mentioned literary works by Morrison. The analysis of these texts is detailed and considerate in respect to Morrison's depiction of the continual presence of racism along with other forms of oppression, ethnic hatred and exploitation (for example sexism in *Paradise* and enslavement of Native Americans in *A Mercy*).

On submission, the thesis was checked through Turnitin, and according to the protocol generated by the program and currently available through SIS, there is a 44% overall similarity of the thesis with other texts. Ms. Staňková has confirmed that the two longer works submitted to the University of Durham are her own essays. However, there are several incorrectly marked citations, for example from Jennifer L. Morgan's article on page 12, from Dewey M. Clayton's article on page 14, from Martin Luther King's "Letter from Birmingham Jail" on page 15 and from Tessa Roynon's article on page 35. Although these seem to me rather as oversights (particularly since Ms. Staňková asked for the check through Turnitin herself), I recommend that the thesis be withdrawn and re-submitted in a corrected version. As a supervisor, I must add that I am sorry this has happened but I did not notice these errors, even initially in the protocol generated by Turnitin, and I did not consider running the thesis through Turnitin myself (which I will do in the future).

Pavla Veselá, PhD.
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