CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

This chapter serves as the introduction, encompassing several key sections: the background of the research, identification of problems, scope of the problems, research questions, objectives of the research, and the significance of the research.

1.1. Background of The Research

Literature is a powerful medium that conveys human experiences, emotions, and histories. Through its narratives, it reflects human consciousness by offering readers a unique perspective to understand and to empathize with diverse experiences. Literature encapsulates cultural, social, and historical contexts, connecting the past and present (Eagleton, 1983). Beyond entertainment, literature emerges as a mirror to society which fosters a deeper understanding of the human condition.

In addition, literature provides profound insights to societal and historical contexts that shape human existence. It acts as a repository of cultural memory, preserving and transmitting the complexities of historical events and social structures. Authors often draw upon their historical and social environments to craft stories that resonate with universal themes, thereby bridging the gap between individual and collective experiences (Said, 1978). In this way, literature serves as both a reflection and a critique of the societies from which it emerges, offering readers a rich tapestry of historical narratives and social commentaries.

Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) is a profound example of how literature can explore the complexities of human experiences. Set in the period after the American Civil War, the novel tells the story of a dysfunctional family of formerly enslaved people whose Cincinnati home is haunted by a malevolent spirit. Morrison was inspired by the real-life story of Margaret Garner, an enslaved woman in Kentucky who escaped to the free state of Ohio in 1856. When Garner was captured, she tragically killed her own

daughter to prevent her from being returned to a life of enslavement. This extreme act of desperation motivated Morrison to explore the psychological and emotional complexity behind such choices, shedding light on the untold history of slavery. *Beloved* captures the brutality of slavery, offering insight into the trauma endured by those who lived through it and the generational impact it left on their descendants. The novel's portrayal of slavery is dedicated to expose its harsh realities, unflinchingly depicting the systemic dehumanization of enslaved individuals. This theme extends to works that highlight the violence, oppression, and inhuman conditions slaves endured, while also focusing on the long-lasting impacts on both individuals and communities. Literature such as *Beloved* serves to provide a voice to those historically silenced, allowing contemporary audiences to better grasp the profound injustices and suffering that were inherent in the institution of slavery (Berlin, 1998).

In addition, this theme also emphasizes the remarkable strength, resilience, and resistance of enslaved people. Through their narratives, authors bring to light the ways in which enslaved individuals fought for their dignity, identity, and freedom against overwhelming odds. These stories often showcase the courage and determination of slaves who resisted their subjugation, whether through subtle acts of defiance or overt efforts to escape bondage. The Theme underscores the humanity and agency of enslaved people, countering historical narratives that have often depicted them as passive victims (Gates, 2003).

Beloved by Toni Morrison epitomizes the slavery theme by intricately exploring the haunting legacy of slavery through its protagonist, Sethe. Sethe is a former slave who is tormented by the ghost of her deceased daughter, a poignant symbol of the trauma and unresolved grief that slavery leaves in its wake. Morrison's narrative weaves a complex tale of memory, pain, and the struggle for identity in the aftermath of slavery. The ghost of Sethe's daughter, *Beloved*, serves as a metaphor for the past that refuses

to be forgotten, embodying the lingering horrors of slavery and the way it continues to affect those who lived through it (Morrison, 1987).

Genetic structuralism, developed by Lucien Goldmann, is a literary theory that intricately combines structural analysis with the social and historical contexts surrounding literary works. Goldmann's theory emerged as a response to the limitations he perceived in formalist and structuralist approaches, which often neglected the broader social and historical dimensions of texts. Instead, Goldmann advocated for a method that is not only dissected the internal structure of a work but also considered the external influences that shaped its creation. This approach recognizes that literature is not produced in a vacuum but is a reflection of the socio-historical environment of the author and their community (Goldmann, 1971).

Central to genetic structuralism is the concept that the structure of a literary text is influenced by the collective consciousness of the social group to which the author belongs. Goldmann argued that writers, consciously or unconsciously, embed the worldview of their social group within their narratives. This worldview, or "mental structure," is shaped by the social, economic, and political conditions of the time. Therefore, by analyzing the structural elements of a text—such as its themes, character development, and narrative techniques—alongside the socio-historical context, one can uncover deeper insights into both the text and the societal conditions it mirrors (Goldmann, 1971; Goldmann, 1980).

Examining the interplay between a text's structure and its socio-historical context allows genetic structuralism to offer a comprehensive understanding of how literature reflects and critiques societal conditions. Literature, under this framework, becomes a site of both representation and resistance. It represents the prevailing ideologies and social conditions, while also providing a space to critique and question these norms. For instance, in analyzing Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, a genetic structuralist approach would explore how the narrative structure and character arcs reflect the historical realities of slavery and post-Civil War America, while

also critiquing the lasting impacts of these conditions on African American identity and memory (Gates, 1988).

Goldmann's genetic structuralism provides valuable tools for literary analysis by bridging the gap between text and context. This approach enhances our understanding of literature's role in society, demonstrating how literary works are deeply interwoven with the historical moments in which they are produced. It also underscores the dynamic relationship between individual creativity and collective experience, showing how authors draw upon their social milieu to craft narratives that speak to broader human concerns. By situating literary works within their socio-historical framework, genetic structuralism does not only deepen our appreciation of literature but also illuminates the ways in which it can inform and transform our understanding of societal conditions (Goldmann, 1980; Eagleton, 2002).

Based on the research questions, this study aims to explore the portrayal of the atrocities of slavery and the depiction of 19th-century American social conditions in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* using a genetic structuralism approach. By examining the narrative structure. This research seeks to uncover how the novel represents the trauma, dehumanization, and disruption of family dynamics caused by slavery. The fragmented structure of *Beloved* reflects the fractured identities and memories of those who endured slavery's horrors, while the characterizations in the novel emphasize the persistent psychological scars and the quest for self-identity and healing. This analysis highlights the intricate relationship between the narrative form and historical context which demonstrates how Morrison uses these structural elements to convey the harsh realities of slavery and its enduring impact on society.

The significance of this research lies in its potential to offer new insights into the ways literature can serve as a mirror to historical atrocities and as a tool for social commentary. By applying the genetic structuralism approach, this research contributes to the broader discourse on the legacy

of slavery and its representation in literature. It underscores how Morrison's work provides a critical lens through which readers can engage with the historical trauma of slavery and its enduring effects on African American communities. Moreover, this research emphasizes the role of literature in fostering a deeper understanding of past injustices and promoting social awareness. Through a detailed examination of "*Beloved,*" this research aims to illuminate the ways in which literary narratives can both reflect historical realities and challenge contemporary perceptions, ultimately contributing to a more nuanced appreciation of the interconnectedness between history, society, and literature.

As conclusion, the selection of this research title, "*The Atrocities of Slavery in The 19th-Century American Society As Reflected In Toni Morrison's* Beloved *(1987): A Genetic Structuralism Approach,*" is grounded in the academic necessity to deepen our understanding of how literature can encapsulate and critique the complex realities of historical events, specifically the atrocity of slavery. This title was chosen to highlight the multifaceted nature of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and its representation of slavery's enduring impact on individual and collective identities. By employing Lucien Goldmann's genetic structuralism, this research aims to bridge the gap between literary form and historical context, offering a comprehensive analysis that considers both the structural intricacies of the narrative and the socio-historical milieu from which it emerged. This approach does not only enrich our comprehension of Morrison's narrative techniques and thematic concerns but also underscores the broader significance of literature as a vehicle for historical memory and social critique. Through this research, the researcher intends to contribute to the ongoing discourse on the representation of slavery in literature, demonstrating how Morrison's work transcends mere storytelling to engage with historical truth and collective trauma, thus offering new avenues for scholarly exploration and understanding.

1.2. Identification of Problems

Literary works emerge as reactions and mirrors of the societal phenomena inherent in human existence. Within this framework, the researcher contends that Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) stands as a manifestation of such social realities. Within this context, the researcher has identified intriguing issues within this novel for analysis, as delineated below:

- *Fragmentation of Identity*: One potential problem could be the exploration of how the fragmentation of identity, depicted through the narrative structure of *Beloved*, reflects the psychological toll of slavery on individuals. This may involve understanding how characters like Sethe grapple with their sense of self amidst the trauma of their past.

- *Historical Contextualization*: Understanding the historical context of slavery in America during the 19th century presents a challenge. This includes grappling with the complexities of slavery as an economic, social, and political institution, as well as considering the diverse experiences of enslaved individuals based on factors such as region, gender, and age.

- *Agency and Resistance*: Addressing the agency and resistance of enslaved individuals within the constraints of their oppressive environment is another challenge. This entails recognizing the various forms of resistance employed by enslaved people, from acts of rebellion to everyday acts of defiance and survival, and understanding how these forms of resistance are depicted and interpreted in *Beloved*.

- *Historiography and Interpretation*: Engaging with the historiography of slavery and its interpretation presents a challenge. This involves critically evaluating historical sources and scholarly interpretations of slavery, while also recognizing the limitations and biases inherent in these sources and interpretations.

- *Relevance to Contemporary Issues*: Addressing the relevance of the portrayal of slavery in *Beloved* to contemporary issues presents a problem. This involves considering how the themes and dynamics of slavery depicted in the novel resonate with contemporary debates on race, inequality, and social justice, and how the novel can contribute to ongoing discussions and efforts to address these issues.

1.3. Scope of The Research

This research discusses Toni Morrison's seminal work *Beloved* through the lens of Goldmann's genetic structuralism, focusing on its portrayal of slavery in 19th-century America. The research meticulously dissected the narrative structure and thematic intricacies of the novel. By employing Goldmann's genetic structuralism, the analysis unravels the complex interplay between narrative construction and socio-historical context, analyzing on how Morrison's text reflects and critiques the systemic dehumanization inherent in the institution of slavery.

Furthermore, the research seeks to extend its scope to explore the contemporary relevance of the novel, probing its thematic portrayal of slavery and its resonance with ongoing discussions on race, inequality, and social justice. This inquiry did not only assess the novel's enduring significance but also examine how genetic structuralism enhances our understanding of its contributions to broader societal debates. While focusing primarily on Morrison's *Beloved*, the researcher also considered broader literary and historical contexts to enrich the analysis and provide a nuanced understanding of the novel's themes and implications. Through this comprehensive approach, the research aims to contribute to the scholarly discourse on literature, history, and social justice, offering fresh insights into Morrison's masterpiece and its enduring relevance in confronting the legacies of slavery.

1.4. Research Questions

Based on the background above, the researcher formulated the problems such as:

1) How are the atrocities of slavery portrayed in Toni Morrsion's *Beloved* (1987)?

2) How does the narrative structure of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) illustrate the social conditions in 19th-century America?

1.5. Research Objectives

Based on the research questions emerged above, the researcher stated research objectives as follows:

1) To elaborate the thematic portrayal of the atrocities of slavery in Toni Morrison's Beloved (1987)

2) To examine the narrative structure of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) illustrates the social conditions in 19th-century America.

1.6. Significance of The Research

1) Theoretically:

This research holds theoretical significance by providing a deeper understanding of how literature, particularly Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, serves as a reflection of societal dynamics and historical contexts. By employing Goldmann's genetic structuralism, the research offers a nuanced framework for analyzing the intricate interplay between narrative structures, thematic elements, and socio-historical influences. This approach expands theoretical perspectives in literary studies by demonstrating how genetic structuralism can enhance our comprehension of the complexities inherent in literary works, especially those dealing with profound historical traumas like slavery. Moreover, the research contributes to ongoing discussions within literary theory by showcasing the relevance of structural analysis in uncovering deeper layers of meaning and significance in literature, thereby enriching scholarly discourse on the intersection of literature, history, and social commentary.

2) Practically:

Practically, this research holds significance for educators, students, and readers interested in engaging with literature as a means of understanding and confronting historical injustices. By exploring the thematic portrayal of slavery in *Beloved* and its resonance with contemporary issues, the research provides valuable insights into how literature can foster empathy, critical thinking, and social awareness. The findings of this research can inform educational curricula, encouraging the inclusion of diverse perspectives and voices in the research of literature. Additionally, the analysis offers practical implications for broader societal discussions on race, inequality, and social justice, serving as a catalyst for dialogue and action aimed at addressing ongoing systemic injustices. Ultimately, this research underscores the practical relevance of literature in stimulating empathy, promoting understanding, and advocating for positive social change.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter consists of previous studies, theoretical background and conceptual framework.

2.1. Previous Studies

Before conducting the research, it is crucial for the researcher to engage in a thorough review of previous studies pertaining to the issue. This review aids in gathering information and generating ideas that serve as the foundation for the current research. Furthermore, the researcher identified three prior studies that were utilized as references for the development and analysis of the current research.

The first research was conducted by Thohiriyah (2019) entitled *Solidifying the White Domination through Racism and Slavery in Toni Morrison's Beloved*. Through an exploration of racism and slavery, this research seeks to examine how the white population employs these systems to reinforce their supremacy over black individuals. Additionally, it aims to assess the repercussions of these oppressive structures on the experiences of the enslaved population. The analysis relies on a combination of library research and close reading techniques to dissect the novel. Furthermore, a qualitative and contextual approach, focusing on both intrinsic and extrinsic elements, is employed. The findings of the research reveal that racism and slavery serve as pivotal mechanisms for upholding white dominance over black slaves. Moreover, these oppressive systems have profound negative effects on the enslaved population. Specifically, individuals subjected to slavery and racism endure significant trauma and suffer from a loss of identity.

The second Research was done by Abu-Fares (2021) entitled *Slavery of the Past and Trauma of the Present: A Research of Toni Morrison's Beloved*. This research paper delves into the theme of slavery as portrayed in Toni Morrison's novel, *Beloved*. Within her narrative,

Morrison digs deeply into the African-American historical experience, particularly focusing on the institution of slavery. Through vivid storytelling, Morrison exposes various grim facets of slavery and its profound impact on those subjected to its horrors. In "*Beloved*," Morrison vividly illustrates how slavery disrupts familial bonds and undermines the maternal role, exemplified through the character of Sethe, who grapples with the haunting memories of her slavery and the guilt it entails. Furthermore, Morrison highlights how slavery dehumanizes men, stripping them of their dignity and subjecting them to degradation by their oppressors. The hostile and degrading environment of slavery results in enduring trauma for its victims, leaving indelible scars that linger long after their physical liberation. Thus, this research aims to analyze Morrison's depiction of these multifaceted dimensions of slavery within the historical context of African-American experience, showcasing the grim realities and lasting repercussions of this dark chapter in history.

The third research entitled *The Psychological Effects of Slavery in Toni Morrison's Beloved* by Higinik, S., Oroh, E. Z., & Kumayas, T. A. (2023). This research aims to uncover the psychological impacts of slavery depicted in Toni Morrison's *Beloved,* particularly focusing on depression and feelings of insecurity. Employing a qualitative research approach, data for this research were gathered from various sources including books, journals, articles, and online resources. The primary source of data is Morrison's novel itself, supplemented by secondary sources such as scholarly literature and online materials. The analysis of the data utilizes a psychological framework, which examines human behavior and emotions. The findings of the research reveal several psychological effects of slavery, including pervasive feelings of sadness, helplessness, worthlessness, fear, hopelessness, and uncertainty, all of which contribute to a life marked by depression and insecurity.

After reviewing the relevant research studies above, the researcher found that the three previous research studies and the current research

share a common focus on exploring the thematic portrayal of slavery in Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and its profound impact on individuals and communities. Each research comes into various aspects of the psychological, social, and historical dimensions of slavery as depicted in the novel. They all recognize Morrison's adept portrayal of the horrors of slavery and its enduring effects on the characters, highlighting themes such as trauma, loss of identity, and the struggle for agency and liberation.

Despite their commonalities, there are notable research gaps among the studies. Firstly, while Thohiriyah (2019) and Abu-Fares (2021) provide valuable insights into the societal and psychological effects of slavery depicted in *Beloved*, they primarily focus on specific aspects such as racism, trauma, and familial relationships. These studies offer rich analyses of these themes but may overlook other significant dimensions of Morrison's narrative. Additionally, both studies employ qualitative methods but may benefit from a more explicit theoretical framework to guide their analyses, such as genetic structuralism. Furthermore, although Higinik, Oroh, and Kumayas (2023) discuss the psychological effects of slavery in *Beloved*, their research primarily focuses on depression and feelings of insecurity. While this offers valuable insights into the emotional toll of slavery, it may overlook other psychological dimensions portrayed in the novel, such as resilience, survival strategies, and the quest for identity and freedom. Additionally, their research lacks a comprehensive examination of the socio-historical context of slavery and its implications for understanding the characters' experiences.

In contrast, the current research aims to address these gaps by adopting a genetic structuralism approach to analyze both the narrative structure and thematic portrayal of slavery in Toni Morrison's *Beloved*. By employing this theoretical framework, the research seeks to offer a more holistic understanding of how Morrison's narrative reflects the fragmentation of identity among enslaved individuals within the socio-historical context of 19th-century America. Additionally, the research aims

to contribute to contemporary discussions on race, inequality, and social justice by exploring the novel's relevance to ongoing societal issues and debates. Through its comprehensive analysis, the current research endeavors to enrich scholarly discourse on the complexities of slavery as depicted in Morrison's seminal work.

2.2. Theoretical Background

2.2.1. Sociology of Literature

The sociology of literature discusses the intricate relationship between literary texts and the social, cultural, and historical contexts in which they emerge. This interdisciplinary field recognizes that literature is deeply embedded within societal structures and reflects the values, beliefs, and power dynamics of a given society (Gelder, 2004). By adopting a sociological lens, scholars can gain insights into how literature both mirrors and shapes social realities, offering a lens through which to understand the complexities of human experience (Swartz, 1997).

One aspect of the sociology of literature is its examination of how literary works engage with themes such as class, race, gender, and power relations. Through analysis, scholars uncover how these factors influence literary production, reception, and interpretation (Hawkes, 2003). For example, texts may perpetuate stereotypes or challenge dominant ideologies, shedding light on societal inequalities and injustices (Bourdieu, 1993). Understanding literature within this sociological framework allows for a deeper exploration of how narratives reflect societal norms and biases, as well as how they can serve as sites of resistance and subversion (Althusser, 1971).

Furthermore, the sociology of literature interrogates the socio-economic conditions of literary production. It examines the role of various actors, such as publishers, literary agents, and cultural institutions, in shaping literary markets and determining which works achieve recognition and acclaim (DiMaggio, 1987). By researching literature as a

social phenomenon, scholars can uncover the mechanisms behind canon formation and explore how power dynamics influence which voices are privileged and which are marginalized within literary discourse. A key aspect of the sociology of literature is its focus on the reception of literary texts. Scholars examine how readers interpret and engage with literature, considering factors such as social background, cultural upbringing, and personal experiences (Gelder, 2004). This analysis sheds light on the diverse ways in which texts are understood and appropriated, highlighting the dynamic relationship between author, text, and reader (Swartz, 1997).

Moreover, the sociology of literature explores the role of literature in shaping collective identities and cultural practices. Through the research of literary movements, genres, and trends, scholars can trace the evolution of cultural norms and values over time (Hawkes, 2003). Literature serves as a repository of cultural memory, preserving and transmitting the stories, myths, and symbols that define a community's identity (Bourdieu, 1993). By examining the social functions of literature, scholars gain insights into how texts contribute to the construction and negotiation of collective meaning.

Additionally, the sociology of literature considers the role of institutions in shaping literary production and consumption. Cultural institutions such as schools, libraries, and literary festivals play a significant role in mediating access to literature and shaping literary taste (DiMaggio, 1987). Through an analysis of these institutions, scholars can uncover the mechanisms through which literary canons are constructed and maintained, as well as the ways in which power is wielded within the literary field.

Furthermore, the sociology of literature examines the role of technology in transforming literary practices. The rise of digital publishing, social media, and online communities has reshaped the landscape of literary production and consumption (Gelder, 2004).

Scholars explore how these technologies influence the dissemination of literature, the formation of literary communities, and the ways in which texts are created, shared, and interpreted. In addition to its focus on literature as a cultural artifact, the sociology of literature also considers the role of literature in social change and political activism. Through an analysis of protest literature, revolutionary manifestos, and works of social commentary, scholars explore how literature can mobilize communities, challenge authority, and promote social justice (Swartz, 1997). Literature serves as a platform for marginalized voices to be heard, offering a space for resistance and dissent.

Furthermore, the sociology of literature examines the global circulation of literary texts and the ways in which literature transcends national boundaries. Through an analysis of translation, adaptation, and reception studies, scholars explore how texts travel across cultures and languages, acquiring new meanings and resonances in different contexts (Hawkes, 2003). This analysis sheds light on the complexities of cultural exchange and the ways in which literature contributes to the formation of transnational identities.

Moreover, the sociology of literature considers the relationship between literature and other forms of cultural expression, such as film, music, and visual art. Scholars explore how these different mediums intersect and influence one another, shaping the cultural landscape and informing collective understandings of social issues (Bourdieu, 1993). This interdisciplinary approach allows for a more holistic understanding of the role of literature within broader cultural contexts. The sociology of literature examines the role of literary criticism in shaping literary discourse. Through an analysis of critical theories, methodologies, and schools of thought, scholars explore how literary criticism influences the reception and interpretation of literary texts (DiMaggio, 1987). This analysis sheds light on the ways in which critical perspectives evolve over time, reflecting changes in intellectual trends and cultural attitudes.

Furthermore, the sociology of literature explores the relationship between literature and social stratification. Scholars examine how literary tastes and preferences are shaped by factors such as social class, education, and cultural capital (Gelder, 2004). This analysis sheds light on the ways in which literary consumption reflects broader patterns of social inequality and exclusion. institutions influence which works receive recognition and acclaim, as well as the ways in which literary merit is evaluated (Swartz, 1997). This analysis sheds light on the power dynamics within the literary field and the mechanisms through which cultural capital is accrued and distributed.

Moreover, the sociology of literature examines the role of literary communities in shaping literary taste and fostering literary production. Through an analysis of writer's groups, book clubs, and literary festivals, scholars explore how these communities provide support, feedback, and networking opportunities for aspiring writers (Hawkes, 2003). This analysis sheds light on the ways in which literary communities contribute to the cultivation of literary talent and the dissemination of literary works.

Additionally, the sociology of literature considers the role of censorship and state regulation in shaping literary production and consumption. Scholars examine how censorship laws, government policies, and political ideologies influence the content, dissemination, and reception of literary texts (Bourdieu, 1993). This analysis sheds light on the ways in which power is exercised within the literary field and the ways in which literature can be used as a tool for social control or resistance.

The sociology of literature explores the relationship between literature and economic systems. Through an analysis of the publishing industry, book markets, and literary economies, scholars examine how economic factors influence literary production, distribution, and consumption (DiMaggio, 1987). This analysis sheds light on the ways in which market forces shape literary taste, determine which works are published and promoted, and influence the ways in which literature is

valued and exchanged. Moreover, the sociology of literature considers the role of education in shaping literary tastes and fostering literary engagement. Scholars explore how literature is taught, studied, and interpreted within educational institutions, as well as the ways in which educational practices influence literary production and consumption (Gelder, 2004). This analysis sheds light on the ways in which educational institutions contribute to the formation of literary canons, the dissemination of literary works, and the cultivation of critical literacy skills.

Furthermore, the sociology of literature examines the role of cultural capital in shaping literary production and consumption. Through an analysis of the ways in which social status, prestige, and cultural capital influence literary tastes and preferences, scholars explore how inequalities of access and opportunity shape the literary field (Swartz, 1997). This analysis sheds light on the ways in which social hierarchies are reproduced and contested within the literary sphere, as well as the ways in which literary consumption reflects broader patterns of social inequality and exclusion.

In conclusion, the sociology of literature offers valuable insights into the complex interplay between literature and society. By examining the social, cultural, economic, and political factors that shape literary production, distribution, and consumption, scholars gain a deeper understanding of the ways in which literature both reflects and influences the world around us. Through analyses of literary institutions, communities, censorship, economic systems, education, and cultural capital, the sociology of literature illuminates the mechanisms through which literary value is constructed, contested, and perpetuated. Furthermore, this field of research highlights the role of literature as a site of cultural struggle, where power dynamics, social inequalities, and ideological tensions are negotiated and contested. Ultimately, the sociology of literature reminds us that literature is not created and

consumed in isolation but is deeply intertwined with the social structures and processes that shape our lives.

2.2.2. Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism
a. Definition of Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism

Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism represents a significant theoretical framework within literary studies, offering a holistic approach to the analysis of literary texts by integrating structural analysis with socio-historical contexts. Goldmann developed this approach as a response to the perceived limitations of formalist and structuralist methodologies, which tended to isolate texts from their broader social and historical milieu (Goldmann, 1971). At the core of genetic structuralism is the notion that the structure of a literary text is deeply influenced by the collective consciousness of the social group to which the author belongs (Goldmann, 1980). This collective consciousness, or "mental structure," is shaped by the socio-economic and political conditions of the time, thus reflecting the broader social context in which the text is produced. By examining the structural elements of a text alongside its socio-historical context, genetic structuralism seeks to uncover deeper insights into both the text itself and the societal conditions it mirrors (Goldmann, 1971).

Goldmann's genetic structuralism emphasizes the dialectical relationship between individual creativity and collective experience, positing that authors consciously or unconsciously embed the worldview of their social group within their narratives. Through this lens, literary texts are not seen as isolated works of art but as products of the social and historical forces that shape them (Goldmann, 1980). Genetic structuralism thus provides a framework for understanding how literature both reflects and critiques societal conditions, offering a nuanced perspective on the ways in which texts engage with broader cultural, political, and economic dynamics.

Furthermore, genetic structuralism highlights the role of literature as a site of both representation and resistance. By analyzing the structural elements of a text within its socio-historical context, scholars can uncover how literature reflects prevailing ideologies and social conditions while also providing a space to challenge and question these norms (Goldmann, 1971). This approach allows for a comprehensive understanding of how literature shapes and is shaped by the historical moment in which it is produced, offering valuable insights into the ways in which texts participate in broader cultural and political discourses.

Moreover, Goldmann's genetic structuralism emphasizes the importance of understanding literature as a product of historical materialism, whereby socio-economic conditions influence cultural production (Goldmann, 1971). According to this perspective, literature reflects the contradictions and tensions within society, serving as a mirror to the material conditions of its time. By analyzing the structural elements of a text alongside its historical context, scholars can uncover how literature responds to and reflects broader social and economic transformations. This approach highlights the interconnectedness between literature and society, demonstrating how literary texts both shape and are shaped by the historical moment in which they emerge.

Additionally, genetic structuralism underscores the significance of researching the reception of literary texts within their socio-historical context. Goldmann argues that the meaning of a text is not fixed but is constructed through the interaction between the text and its readers (Goldmann, 1980). Therefore, understanding how a text is received and interpreted within a specific social and historical context is crucial for fully grasping its significance. By examining the reception of literary texts, scholars can gain insights into how literature functions as a site of cultural negotiation and contestation, with different readers

interpreting texts in diverse ways based on their own social backgrounds and ideological perspectives.

Furthermore, genetic structuralism offers a valuable framework for analyzing the relationship between literature and ideology. Goldmann contends that literature serves as a vehicle for ideological expression, embodying the values, beliefs, and contradictions of a given society (Goldmann, 1971). Through an analysis of the structural elements of a text, scholars can uncover how literature both reflects and perpetuates dominant ideologies, as well as how it may offer alternative visions and critiques of existing power structures. This approach highlights the political dimensions of literature, demonstrating how texts engage with broader ideological struggles and contribute to shaping collective consciousness.

Moreover, genetic structuralism encourages scholars to examine the ways in which literature participates in the construction and negotiation of cultural identity. Goldmann argues that literature plays a central role in the formation of collective identities, serving as a repository of cultural memory and a means of articulating shared experiences (Goldmann, 1980). By analyzing the themes, symbols, and narratives present in literary texts, scholars can uncover how literature contributes to the construction of national, ethnic, and gender identities, as well as how it reflects the tensions and conflicts inherent in these identity formations.

In summary, Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism offers a fruitful framework for the analysis of literary texts, providing a holistic approach that integrates structural analysis with socio-historical contexts. By emphasizing the dialectical relationship between individual creativity and collective experience, genetic structuralism sheds light on how literature both reflects and critiques societal conditions, offering valuable insights into the ways in which texts engage with broader cultural, political, and economic dynamics.

Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism offers a comprehensive framework for the analysis of literary texts, integrating structural analysis with socio-historical contexts to uncover deeper insights into the ways in which literature reflects and shapes society. By emphasizing the dialectical relationship between individual creativity and collective experience, genetic structuralism sheds light on how literature responds to and reflects broader socio-economic transformations, engages with ideological struggles, and contributes to the construction of cultural identity.

b. The Concept of Worldview in Genetic Structuralism

In Lucien Goldmann's Genetic Structuralism, the concept of "worldview" plays a pivotal role in understanding the deeper significance of literary texts (Goldmann, 1971). Goldmann argues that each literary work is a product of a particular worldview, representing the collective consciousness of the social group to which the author belongs. This worldview encompasses the cultural, social, and historical milieu in which the author is situated, influencing their perceptions, values, and interpretations of reality. Through an analysis of the worldview embedded within a literary text, scholars can unravel the underlying ideological currents and socio-historical contexts that inform the text's themes, characters, and narrative structures.

Goldmann contends that the worldview expressed in a literary work is not merely a reflection of individual consciousness but is deeply rooted in the material conditions and historical experiences of the social group from which the author emerges. Thus, understanding the worldview of a text requires situating it within its socio-historical context and examining how it reflects and responds to the broader cultural and ideological currents of its time. By delving into the worldview of a text, scholars can gain insights into the ideological

struggles, contradictions, and tensions of the society in which it was produced (Goldmann, 1971).

One of the key aspects of Goldmann's concept of worldview is its recognition of the dialectical relationship between the individual and society. Goldmann argues that while the author's individual consciousness shapes the text, it is also influenced and shaped by the collective consciousness of the social group to which they belong. Therefore, the worldview expressed in a literary work does not only reflect the author's personal experiences and beliefs but also the broader social, cultural, and historical forces at play (Goldmann, 1971).

Furthermore, Goldmann emphasizes the dynamic and dialectical nature of worldview, highlighting how it evolves and changes over time in response to shifting social conditions and historical developments. Literary texts, according to Goldmann, capture the tensions and contradictions inherent in the worldview of their time, offering insights into the struggles and conflicts of the society in which they are produced (Goldmann, 1971).

Moreover, Goldmann's concept of worldview underscores the significance of ideology in shaping literary production and reception. Ideology, in this context, refers to the system of beliefs, values, and norms that govern society and inform individuals' perceptions of reality. Goldmann argues that literary texts both reflect and propagate dominant ideologies, serving as sites of ideological struggle and contestation. Through an analysis of the worldview expressed in a text, scholars can uncover the ideological underpinnings of the text and examine how they intersect with broader social and political dynamics (Goldmann, 1971).

Additionally, Goldmann's concept of worldview highlights the role of literature as a vehicle for social critique and transformation. By interrogating the worldview expressed in literary texts, scholars can

identify moments of resistance and subversion, where authors challenge dominant ideologies and offer alternative visions of society. Through an analysis of these moments, scholars can gain insights into the potential for literature to inspire social change and foster collective consciousness (Goldmann, 1971).

Furthermore, Goldmann's concept of worldview has implications for literary criticism and interpretation. By considering the worldview embedded within a text, scholars can adopt a more holistic approach to literary analysis, one that takes into account the socio-historical context in which the text was produced. This approach enables scholars to uncover the deeper meanings and significance of literary texts, shedding light on their relevance to broader social and cultural issues (Goldmann, 1971).

In Genetic Structuralism, Lucien Goldmann champions an analytical framework that prioritizes the examination of literary works within the context of the collective worldview prevalent in a given society or historical period. This approach contends that literature doesn't exist in isolation; rather, it is profoundly influenced by the prevailing ideologies and values of its authors and the societies in which they reside. Goldmann posits that to fully comprehend a literary text, one must delve into the underlying ideological structures and values that it reflects, which are inherently tied to the broader socio-cultural milieu of its creation (Goldmann, 1973).

Central to Goldmann's method of analysis is a dialectical approach that considers both the universal human experiences, termed "human fact," and the socio-historical conditions, known as the "significant structure," that shape the worldview of a society. By exploring how literary texts interact with these universal experiences and socio-historical contexts, scholars can unearth the ideological tensions and contradictions that underlie the text, as well as its

potential to either challenge or reinforce dominant ideologies (Goldmann, 1973).

Goldmann's method further involves identifying the underlying tensions and contradictions within a text that reflect broader socio-cultural dynamics. Through careful examination of characters, plotlines, and symbols, scholars can discern how these elements interact with the prevailing worldview of the society in question. Such analysis illuminates the text's ideological stance and its implications for understanding the socio-cultural context of its production (Goldmann, 1973).

Moreover, Goldmann emphasizes the significance of contextualizing literary texts within their historical and cultural milieu to grasp their full import. By scrutinizing how these texts reflect and respond to ideological debates and socio-political tensions of their time, scholars can uncover deeper meanings and implications. This contextual understanding enhances comprehension of the broader socio-cultural dynamics at play during the period of the text's creation (Goldmann, 1973).

Goldmann's approach underscores the dynamic relationship between literature and society, highlighting how literary texts serve as both reflections of and interventions in the ideological currents of their time. By unraveling the intricate interplay between universal human experiences and socio-historical conditions, scholars gain insights into the underlying ideological structures and values embedded within literary works, thereby enriching their understanding of the broader socio-cultural context in which these texts emerge.

Further elucidating Goldmann's method, it becomes evident that his approach to literary analysis emphasizes the interconnectedness between individual consciousness and collective consciousness. Goldmann argues that individual authors, while crafting their literary works, are inevitably influenced by the prevailing worldview of their

society, which he terms the "significant structure." This collective worldview, shaped by socio-historical conditions and cultural ideologies, serves as the backdrop against which individual authors articulate their thoughts and experiences. Goldmann contends that while individual consciousness contributes to the creation of literary texts, it is ultimately subsumed within the broader framework of collective consciousness, wherein the ideologies and values of the society exert a profound influence on the author's creative process (Goldmann, 1973).

Central to Goldmann's analysis is the recognition that literary texts often contain elements that reflect both the universal human experience and the socio-historical context in which they are produced. Through the examination of characters, narratives, and symbols, scholars can discern how these elements interact with the broader ideological currents of the society. Goldmann contends that literary texts serve as sites of ideological struggle, wherein authors negotiate their individual experiences and perspectives within the framework of the collective worldview. This dialectical tension between the universal and the particular, the individual and the collective, constitutes the essence of Goldmann's genetic structuralism, enabling scholars to unravel the complex layers of meaning embedded within literary works (Goldmann, 1973).

Moreover, Goldmann's method underscores the importance of understanding the relationship between literature and social reality. By situating literary texts within their historical and cultural context, scholars can elucidate how these texts both reflect and respond to the socio-political dynamics of their time. Goldmann contends that literature serves as a mirror to society, offering insights into its values, beliefs, and aspirations. Through the analysis of literary texts, scholars can uncover the ideological underpinnings of social structures and

institutions, shedding light on the broader socio-cultural dynamics at play (Goldmann, 1973).

Furthermore, Goldmann's approach emphasizes the role of literature as a form of cultural production that contributes to the construction and transmission of collective meaning. Through the examination of literary movements, genres, and trends, scholars can trace the evolution of cultural norms and values over time. Goldmann contends that literature serves as a repository of cultural memory, preserving and transmitting the stories, myths, and symbols that define a society's identity. By analyzing literary texts within this broader cultural framework, scholars can gain insights into the ways in which literature shapes and reflects the collective consciousness of a society (Goldmann, 1973).

Additionally, Goldmann's method highlights the dialectical relationship between literature and ideology. Goldmann argues that literature plays a crucial role in both perpetuating and contesting dominant ideologies. Through the analysis of literary texts, scholars can uncover the ways in which authors negotiate their individual beliefs and values within the framework of the collective worldview. This dialectical tension between ideology and literature, individual and collective consciousness, enables scholars to unravel the ideological underpinnings of literary works and their implications for understanding the broader socio-cultural context (Goldmann, 1973).

In conclusion, Goldmann's genetic structuralism offers a comprehensive framework for understanding the intricate relationship between literature and society. By analyzing literary texts within the context of the collective worldview, scholars can elucidate the ideological tensions and contradictions that underlie these works. Through the examination of universal human experiences and socio-historical conditions, scholars can unravel the complex layers of

meaning embedded within literary texts, thereby enriching their understanding of the broader socio-cultural dynamics at play.

2.2.3. The Emergence of Slavery in America

The emergence of slavery in the United States unfolded over a expansive timeline, beginning with the early colonial period in the 17th century and extending through the antebellum era leading up to the Civil War. This protracted process was influenced by a myriad of economic, social, and political factors that shaped the institution and its evolution over time.

In the early 1600s, European colonization efforts intensified, spurred by the quest for economic prosperity and territorial expansion. The English established their first permanent settlement at Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607, followed by subsequent settlements along the eastern seaboard. These colonies initially relied on indentured servants from Europe to cultivate the land and establish agricultural economies. However, as the demand for labor increased, particularly with the rise of lucrative cash crops such as tobacco and rice, the supply of European indentured servants became insufficient to meet the labor needs of the expanding colonies (Berlin, 2003).

Moreover, the harsh conditions of indentured servitude, which often included brutal treatment, meager wages, and limited opportunities for advancement, led many European laborers to seek alternative forms of employment. As a result, plantation owners turned to the transatlantic slave trade as a solution to their labor shortages. Beginning in the early 17th century, enslaved Africans were forcibly transported to the Americas to work on plantations, mines, and other labor-intensive industries. The transatlantic slave trade became a lucrative enterprise, fueling the economic growth and development of European colonial powers (Higman, 2012).

The institution of chattel slavery, which treated enslaved Africans as property to be bought, sold, and exploited for profit, became firmly entrenched in the economic and social fabric of the colonial South. Plantation owners viewed enslaved labor as essential to their economic success, as it allowed them to maximize profits and maintain their competitive edge in the global market. The profitability of slavery led to its rapid expansion throughout the colonial South, with enslaved Africans playing a central role in the production of staple crops such as cotton, sugar, and indigo (Wood, 2003).

Furthermore, the legal and social structures of the colonial South were designed to uphold and perpetuate the institution of slavery. Enslaved Africans were subjected to a system of brutal oppression and exploitation, with their rights and freedoms severely restricted. Slave codes, which were laws enacted to regulate the behavior and treatment of enslaved individuals, reinforced the subordinate status of African Americans and justified their dehumanization and exploitation (Johnson, 1999).

Additionally, the racialization of slavery, which linked African descent with perpetual servitude and inferiority, served to justify and perpetuate the exploitation of enslaved Africans. The belief in white supremacy and the inherent inferiority of black people provided a moral and ideological justification for the brutal treatment and exploitation of enslaved individuals. This ideology of racial hierarchy and domination became deeply ingrained in the social and cultural norms of the colonial South, shaping attitudes and behaviors towards African Americans for generations to come (Jordan, 1968).

Moreover, the profitability of slavery created powerful economic incentives to maintain and expand the institution. Plantation owners and merchants who profited from the labor of enslaved Africans wielded considerable political and economic influence, shaping colonial policies and institutions to serve their own interests. The wealth generated by the

slave-based economy contributed to the economic development of the colonial South, fueling the growth of industries such as agriculture, commerce, and shipping (Inikori, 2002).

Furthermore, the legacy of slavery continued to cast a long shadow over American society long after its formal abolition. The racial hierarchies and inequalities established during the colonial period persisted in the post-Emancipation era, shaping the socio-economic status and opportunities available to African Americans. The enduring legacy of slavery underscores the profound and far-reaching impact of this institution on American history and society.

As the late 17th century unfolded, the institution of chattel slavery in the southern colonies became increasingly entrenched and institutionalized. The economic prosperity of the region, particularly in plantation-based economies like Virginia and South Carolina, relied heavily on the exploitation of enslaved labor. The expansion of lucrative industries such as cotton and sugar production further solidified the reliance on enslaved Africans, who were subjected to brutal conditions and denied fundamental human rights. This economic dependence on slavery perpetuated the dehumanization of Africans and their descendants, reinforcing racial hierarchies and divisions within colonial society (Wood, 2003).

The legal framework supporting slavery became more robust during this period, with colonial legislatures enacting laws that explicitly sanctioned the ownership and exploitation of enslaved Africans. The Virginia Slave Codes of 1705 were a pivotal example of this legal consolidation, as they defined enslaved Africans as chattel property and imposed strict regulations on their movements, behavior, and treatment by their owners. These laws were not only legalized the brutal subjugation of enslaved people but also entrenched racial hierarchies that relegated Africans to a position of perpetual servitude and exploitation (Berlin, 2003).

Moreover, the late 17th century witnessed the emergence of racial ideologies that sought to justify and perpetuate the institution of slavery. Europeans and European Americans increasingly relied on pseudo-scientific theories of racial superiority to rationalize the subjugation of Africans and Indigenous peoples. These ideologies, rooted in notions of white supremacy, portrayed Africans as inherently inferior and suited for servitude, thereby legitimizing their exploitation and dehumanization (Jordan, 1968).

The expansion of the transatlantic slave trade during the late 17th century further fueled the growth of slavery in the southern colonies. The demand for labor in burgeoning industries such as sugar cultivation in the Caribbean and tobacco production in the Chesapeake region led to the increased importation of enslaved Africans to meet the growing needs of colonial economies. This influx of enslaved people was not only bolstered the profitability of plantation agriculture but also reinforced the racialized system of bondage that defined colonial society (Higman, 2012).

Furthermore, the late 17th century saw the consolidation of power among colonial elites who benefited economically from the institution of slavery. Plantation owners and merchants amassed wealth and influence through the exploitation of enslaved labor, wielding significant political and social control within colonial society. Their vested interests in maintaining the status quo of slavery contributed to the entrenchment of the institution and hindered efforts to challenge or reform it (Johnson, 1999).

Additionally, resistance and rebellion among enslaved Africans during the late 17th century highlighted the inherent brutality and injustice of the institution of slavery. Slave uprisings such as the Stono Rebellion in South Carolina in 1739 and the New York Slave Revolt of 1712 demonstrated enslaved people's willingness to risk their lives in pursuit of freedom and autonomy. These acts of resistance underscored the

inherent contradictions of a society built on the exploitation and oppression of a marginalized population (Inikori, 2002).

The transatlantic slave trade played a central role in the expansion and perpetuation of slavery in the United States. Between the 16th and 19th centuries, millions of Africans were forcibly transported across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas, where they were sold into bondage and forced to labor on plantations, in mines, and in other industries. The transatlantic slave trade was characterized by its brutality, with enslaved Africans subjected to inhumane conditions during the Middle Passage and enduring unimaginable suffering and exploitation in the New World (Berlin, 2003).

As the United States expanded westward in the 19th century, debates over the institution of slavery intensified, leading to political conflicts that ultimately culminated in the Civil War. The issue of slavery divided the nation along regional lines, with southern states advocating for the preservation and expansion of slavery, while northern states sought its abolition. The election of Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860 on an anti-slavery platform precipitated the secession of southern states and the outbreak of hostilities in 1861 (Berlin, 2003).

The Civil War, fought from 1861 to 1865, resulted in the abolition of slavery with the passage of the Emancipation Proclamation in 1863 and the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution in 1865. However, the end of legal slavery did not herald an end to racial inequality and oppression in the United States. The legacies of slavery, including segregation, discrimination, and systemic racism, persisted long after emancipation, shaping the social, economic, and political landscape of the nation in profound and enduring ways (Berlin, 2003).

In conclusion, the emergence of slavery in the United States was a complex and multifaceted process that unfolded over centuries. Influenced by economic, social, and political factors, slavery became deeply entrenched in the fabric of American society, leaving a lasting

legacy of racial inequality and injustice that continues to reverberate in the present day.

2.2.4. Historical and Structural Dynamics of Slavery in the 19th Century America

The historical and structural dynamics of slavery involve understanding how slavery operated both as a socio-economic system and as a psychological instrument of control. Slavery in the United States, particularly in the 19th century, was not just about forced labor but also about the systematic dehumanization of African Americans. Slavery shaped the social, political, and economic structures of the time, creating a deeply entrenched racial hierarchy that lasted long after slavery was abolished.

Historically, slavery in the 19th century can be divided into several dynamics. The first is the economic aspect, where enslaved people were seen as property and a crucial part of the Southern economy, especially in cotton plantations (Berlin, 2003). The second dynamic is the legal framework, which codified the status of enslaved people as property through laws like the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which reinforced the institution of slavery even in free states (Finkelman, 1997).

Additionally, the psychological and social control mechanisms were significant. Slavery was not only maintained through physical violence but through mental and emotional subjugation. Douglass (1845) argued that the process of breaking an enslaved person's spirit was integral to maintaining control. Morrison's *Beloved* reflects this aspect of slavery through its portrayal of trauma and memory, where characters like Sethe carry the scars of past abuse, not just physically but mentally.

The structural dynamic of slavery refers to the long-term societal effects of the institution. W.E.B. Du Bois (1935) argued that even after slavery was abolished, the social structures and racial hierarchies it had established persisted through Jim Crow laws and racial discrimination.

Morrison's novel uses fragmented narratives to reflect these enduring effects, mirroring the broken and incomplete lives of formerly enslaved individuals.

The literary portrayal of slavery, as seen in Morrison's work, also emphasizes the complexity of memory and identity among formerly enslaved individuals. The fragmented structure of *Beloved* suggests how slavery distorts not just the present but also the way the past is remembered. According to Morrison (1987), the narrative's non-linear structure reflects the fractured experiences of those who endured slavery, highlighting how the trauma of enslavement continues to affect individuals and families across generations.

To conclude, the historical and structural dynamics of slavery as depicted in Morrison's *Beloved* resonate with broader academic discussions about the institution's impact. Through narrative and theme, Morrison reflects how slavery did not only shape the economic and legal aspects of society but also left deep, lasting psychological scars on individuals and communities.

2.2.5. Post-Civil War America: The Aftermath of Slavery

Following the Civil War, the United States entered a tumultuous period known as Reconstruction, marked by efforts to rebuild the nation and address the aftermath of slavery. During this era, the country grappled with profound social, political, and economic changes as it sought to integrate millions of newly freed African Americans into society (Foner, 1988). However, the promise of Reconstruction was short-lived, as white supremacist backlash, coupled with political compromise, led to the erosion of civil rights gains for African Americans (Du Bois, 1935). In the aftermath of the war, the South faced economic devastation, with its agrarian economy in shambles and former slaves grappling with poverty and discrimination. The transition from slavery to freedom was fraught with challenges, as African Americans sought to assert their rights while

navigating a society still deeply entrenched in racial hierarchy and segregation (Foner, 1988).

The end of slavery did not immediately translate into equality and justice for African Americans. Despite the abolition of slavery, the legacy of racial oppression persisted in various forms, including sharecropping, convict leasing, and the emergence of Jim Crow laws that enforced racial segregation and disenfranchisement (Du Bois, 1935). The promises of Reconstruction were undermined by the rise of white supremacist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan, which used violence and intimidation to maintain white supremacy and undermine the rights of African Americans (Foner, 1988). Moreover, the Compromise of 1877 effectively ended Reconstruction, leading to the withdrawal of federal troops from the South and the imposition of discriminatory laws and practices that perpetuated racial inequality (Foner, 1988).

In the aftermath of slavery, African Americans faced numerous challenges as they sought to rebuild their lives and communities. Economic opportunities were limited, and many former slaves found themselves trapped in cycles of poverty and debt due to exploitative labor practices such as sharecropping (Foner, 1988). Moreover, the denial of political rights and the enactment of discriminatory laws deprived African Americans of their full citizenship and perpetuated their marginalization within society (Du Bois, 1935). Despite these obstacles, African Americans demonstrated resilience and determination in the face of adversity, forming tight-knit communities and institutions to support one another and advocate for their rights (Foner, 1988).

The aftermath of slavery also left a profound impact on the collective psyche of African Americans. The trauma of slavery, coupled with the persistent threat of violence and discrimination, shaped the experiences and identities of generations of African Americans (Du Bois, 1935). The memory of slavery loomed large in the cultural consciousness, influencing artistic expression, social movements, and

political activism (Foner, 1988). Through literature, music, and oral tradition, African Americans sought to preserve their history and culture while challenging prevailing narratives of white supremacy and black inferiority (Du Bois, 1935). The legacy of slavery continues to reverberate in contemporary American society, underscoring the ongoing struggle for racial justice and equality (Foner, 1988).

In the wake of the Civil War, the social landscape of the United States underwent a seismic shift as the nation grappled with the implications of emancipation. However, the transition from slavery to freedom was far from smooth, marked by a complex interplay of progress and regression in the quest for racial equality (Litwack, 2009). Despite the abolition of slavery, African Americans encountered formidable barriers to their advancement, including economic exploitation, legal discrimination, and pervasive racial violence (Du Bois, 1935). The collapse of Reconstruction ushered in an era of segregation and disenfranchisement, with African Americans relegated to the margins of society by the oppressive forces of Jim Crow (Foner, 1988).

The post-Civil War era witnessed the rise of various mechanisms of racial control aimed at subjugating African Americans and preserving white supremacy. Sharecropping emerged as a predominant economic system in the South, trapping many African Americans in cycles of debt and poverty (Du Bois, 1935). Moreover, the convict leasing system subjected African Americans to forced labor under brutal conditions, effectively perpetuating the exploitation and abuse reminiscent of slavery (Litwack, 2009). Meanwhile, the implementation of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws institutionalized racial segregation, relegating African Americans to second-class citizenship and denying them basic rights and liberties (Foner, 1988).

In addition to legal and economic constraints, African Americans also faced pervasive violence and intimidation at the hands of white supremacist groups such as the Ku Klux Klan. Lynchings, mob violence,

and race riots became commonplace occurrences, instilling fear and terror within African American communities (Litwack, 2009). These acts of racial terror served as a means of enforcing racial hierarchy and maintaining white dominance in the South (Foner, 1988). Despite the brutality and injustice they endured, African Americans resisted oppression through various means, including grassroots activism, legal challenges, and cultural expression (Du Bois, 1935).

The aftermath of slavery left an indelible mark on the collective consciousness of African Americans, shaping their sense of identity, community, and resilience. The memory of slavery, coupled with the ongoing struggle for freedom and equality, became central themes in African American culture and literature (Foner, 1988). Writers such as W.E.B. Du Bois and Frederick Douglass used their platforms to document the horrors of slavery and advocate for social and political change (Litwack, 2009). Meanwhile, African American churches, schools, and fraternal organizations emerged as vital institutions for community uplift and empowerment (Du Bois, 1935). Through these efforts, African Americans sought to reclaim their agency and dignity in the face of systemic oppression and dehumanization.

Furthermore, In the aftermath of the Civil War, the United States entered a period of profound social, economic, and political upheaval. The era following the abolition of slavery witnessed the emergence of new challenges and opportunities as the nation grappled with the legacy of slavery and the complexities of Reconstruction. One of the key developments during this period was the passage of the Reconstruction Amendments, including the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, the Fourteenth Amendment, which granted citizenship and equal protection under the law to all persons born or naturalized in the United States, and the Fifteenth Amendment, which prohibited the denial of the right to vote based on race, color, or previous condition of servitude (Foner, 1988).

Despite these constitutional amendments, the promise of freedom and equality for formerly enslaved individuals remained largely unrealized in the years following the Civil War. The Reconstruction era was marked by ongoing racial violence, economic exploitation, and political disenfranchisement, particularly in the Southern states. The rise of Jim Crow laws and the systematic disenfranchisement of African Americans through tactics such as poll taxes, literacy tests, and grandfather clauses effectively nullified many of the gains made during Reconstruction (Litwack, 2009).

Moreover, the economic landscape of post-Civil War America was characterized by widespread poverty and inequality, particularly among African Americans. Although emancipated from slavery, many formerly enslaved individuals faced significant barriers to economic independence, including landlessness, sharecropping, and debt peonage. The promise of "40 acres and a mule" for freed slaves, initially articulated in General William T. Sherman's Special Field Order No. 15, was largely abandoned, leaving many African Americans landless and economically vulnerable (Du Bois, 1935).

In addition to economic challenges, African Americans in the post-Civil War era also confronted pervasive racial discrimination and violence. The emergence of white supremacist organizations such as the Ku Klux Klan and the enactment of Black Codes and Jim Crow laws reinforced racial hierarchies and sought to maintain white supremacy in the South. Lynchings, mob violence, and racial terror further underscored the precarious position of African Americans in Southern society, perpetuating a culture of fear and intimidation (Foner, 1988).

Furthermore, the legal and political gains achieved during Reconstruction were gradually eroded in the decades following the Civil War. The Compromise of 1877, which effectively ended Reconstruction, resulted in the withdrawal of federal troops from the South and the abandonment of efforts to protect the civil and political rights of African

Americans. The Supreme Court's decision in the case of Plessy v. Ferguson (1896), which upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation, further entrenched racial discrimination and segregation in American society (Litwack, 2009).

Despite these challenges, African Americans in the post-Civil War era demonstrated resilience, resistance, and resilience in the face of adversity. The rise of black-led social and political organizations such as the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the emergence of influential black leaders such as Booker T. Washington and W.E.B. Du Bois underscored the ongoing struggle for civil rights and social justice. Moreover, the contributions of African American soldiers during the Civil War and their continued participation in civic life served as powerful symbols of black agency and citizenship (Du Bois, 1935).

Additionally, the post-Civil War era witnessed significant cultural and intellectual developments within African American communities. The Harlem Renaissance, a flourishing of African American art, literature, and culture centered in Harlem, New York, in the 1920s, showcased the creativity and resilience of black artists and intellectuals. Writers such as Langston Hughes, Zora Neale Hurston, and Claude McKay produced literary works that challenged racial stereotypes and celebrated the richness and diversity of African American life (Foner, 1988).

Furthermore, the post-Civil War era witnessed the gradual expansion of educational opportunities for African Americans, as schools, colleges, and universities were established to provide formal education to black students. Institutions such as Howard University, founded in 1867, and Fisk University, founded in 1866, became centers of learning and scholarship for African Americans, nurturing generations of black leaders, scholars, and professionals. The establishment of historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) played a pivotal role

in advancing the cause of African American education and empowerment (Litwack, 2009).

Moreover, the post-Civil War era saw the emergence of new forms of cultural expression and identity among African Americans. The Great Migration, the mass movement of African Americans from the rural South to the urban North and West, transformed the demographic and cultural landscape of the United States. In cities such as Chicago, Detroit, and New York, African Americans found new opportunities for economic advancement and cultural expression, contributing to the development of vibrant urban communities and the spread of black culture and music (Du Bois, 1935).

In conclusion, the post-Civil War era in America was a period of profound change and transformation, marked by the abolition of slavery, the struggle for civil rights, and the emergence of new forms of cultural expression and identity among African Americans. Despite the significant challenges and obstacles faced by African Americans in the aftermath of slavery, the post-Civil War era witnessed the resilience, resistance, and resilience of black communities in the face of adversity. Through political activism, cultural expression, and educational advancement, African Americans sought to assert their rights, reclaim their dignity, and build a better future for themselves and future generations.

2.3. Conceptual framework

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        │  Author's Worldview  │
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| The atrocities of slavery portrayed in Toni Morrsion's Beloved (1987) | How does the narrative structure of Toni Morrison's Beloved (1987) illustrate the social conditions in 19th-century America |

The Atrocities of Slavery in The 19th-Century American Society As Reflected In Toni Morrison's Beloved (1987): A Genetic Structuralism Approach
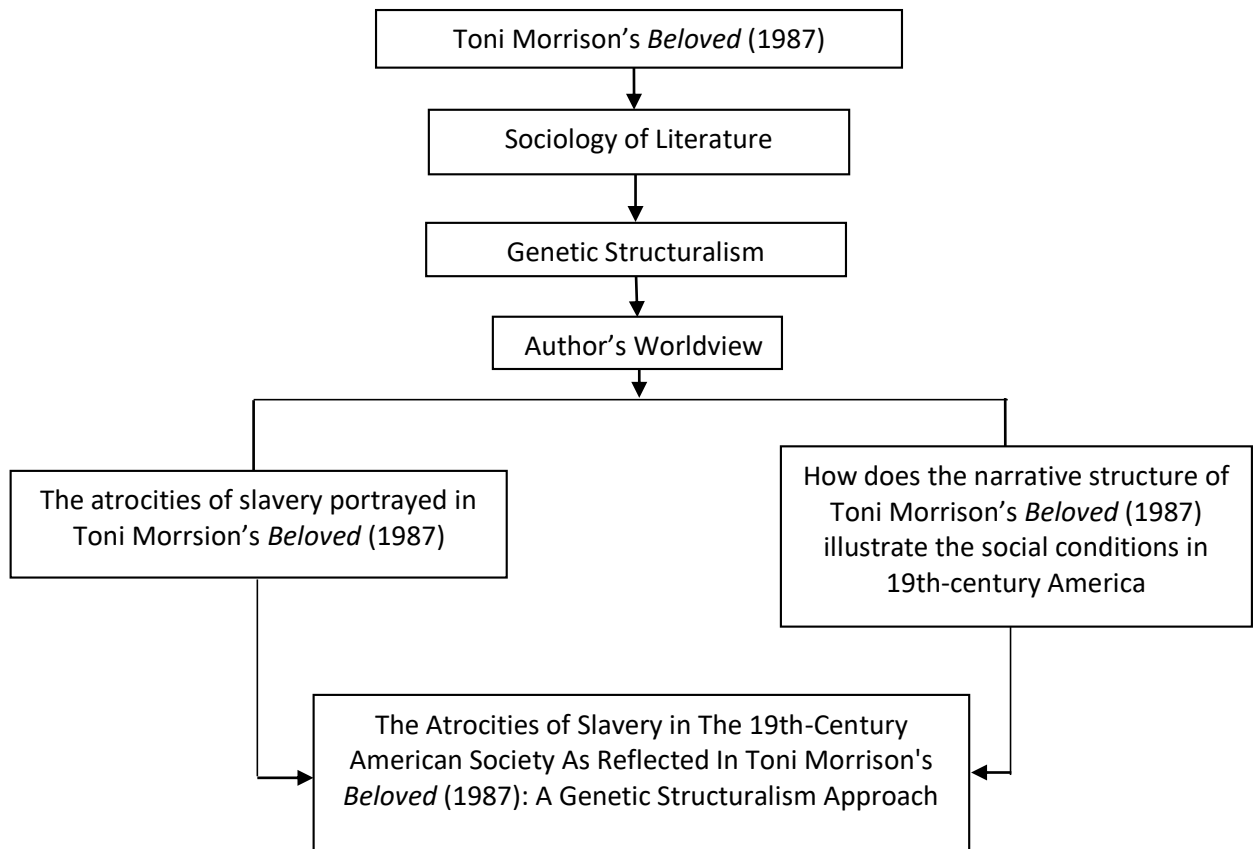
Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

This research examines Toni Morrison's *Beloved* (1987) through Goldmann's genetic structuralism, focusing on its depiction of slavery in 19th-century America. It scrutinizes the novel's narrative structure and themes. By applying Goldmann's genetic structuralism, the analysis reveals how the novel reflects and critiques the systemic dehumanization of slavery within its socio-historical context. Additionally, the research explores *Beloved*'s contemporary relevance, considering its themes in ongoing discussions on race, inequality, and social justice. Through this approach, the research aims to contribute fresh insights into Morrison's masterpiece and its enduring significance in confronting the legacies of slavery.