

**INSIGHTS FOR MEANINGFUL LIFE
IN SELECTED WORKS OF TONI MORRISON**

A Dissertation Presented to the
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Batangas State University
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In Partial Fulfillment
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Doctor of Philosophy in English

by
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APPROVAL SHEET

This dissertation entitled **“INSIGHTS FOR MEANINGFUL LIFE**

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ABSTRACT

Title: Insights for a Meaningful Life in Selected Works of Toni Morrison

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Summary:

This dissertation aimed at presenting how the selected works of Toni Morrison manifest the sufferings of black women in terms of racial oppression, gender inequality, emotional abandonment, and women's sufferings; the sources of strengths and motive of women's resistance as shown in the love between mother and children, husband and wife relationship, freedom and equality, and self-identity; and the manner how the women in the world portrayed in the novels express resistance to the different forms of violence. Likewise, it shows the implications of the themes pursued in the novels to the study of the meaningful family life among Vietnamese students.

In dealing with the works, the qualitative method with content analysis based on the Sociological and Philosophical Approaches and the theory of Viktor Frankl's Meaningfulness of Life were employed.

The study found out that mostly, the black female characters experienced humiliation and suffered an acute isolation in a white racist society that has marginalized them; Black women always resisted every sort of oppression with different sources of strength and motives; Oppressed women resisted and revolted in various ways, such as verbal, physical, and armed resistance with different manners such as violence, non-violence or acquiescence; and the themes pursued in the novels will change the way Vietnamese students think and act, and foster students to hold campaigns and propaganda focusing on promoting the values of a meaningful family life, a life of prosperity, equality, happiness, progress, a life without prejudice and violence.

The dissertation can be used as reference for students of Literature in the Contemporary American Literature course. Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training, the educational institutions may integrate the insights on the pursuit of meaningful family life in the academe that will also inspire them to spawn activities in the curricula. This paper will also make members of the community understand that life is never made unbearable by circumstances, but only by lack of meaning and purpose.

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DEDICATION

To my dear husband, Mr. Pham Dinh Hung,
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