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LLT Journal  
A Journal on Language and Language Teaching

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Notes on articles contribution:

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THE AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN'S  
FUTILE QUEST FOR SELF IDENTITY IN  
TONI MORRISON'S *THE BLUEST EYE*

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**Abstract**

*African American women have long suffered discriminating actions – both as blacks and as women. During the period of slavery, many African American women were victims of sexual harassment at the hands of their white masters. The widely spread stereotypical figures of African American women were means used to devalue African American women's status and honor. White society has implanted the negative image of African American women so persistently that many of them believed in their inferiority. In addition to the destructive stereotyping, the dominant white culture also created standards of beauty – blue eyes, blonde hair, and white skin. The standard certainly excluded most African American women.*

*In "The Bluest Eye", Toni Morrison describes the African American women's futile struggle to find their self identity. This paper attempts to reveal the damage caused by the white standards of beauty on the self identity of African American women.*

**Keywords:** *stereotypes, discrimination, white standards of beauty, self-identity.*

**1. Introduction**

The Black leader Malcolm X once states "the worst crime that white man has committed is to teach us to hate ourselves" (qtd. in Rose 177). How does the mainstream white society make the African