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Trauma, Memory, and Resistance: Exploring the Complexities of Human Suffering in Yvonne Vera's Works

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ABSTRACT

This research paper examines the portrayal of trauma in Yvonne Vera's works, analyzing how her characters navigate traumatic experiences and the impact of cultural and historical contexts on their lives. Through a close reading of Vera's novels, this paper highlights the complexities and nuances of human suffering, exploring the ways in which trauma shapes individual and collective experiences. By examining the intersections of trauma, memory, and resistance, this paper provides a nuanced understanding of the human experience and underscores the importance of empathy and understanding in the face of trauma.

Trauma, a complex concept, encompasses a range of emotional and psychological responses. Emotions unheard, emotions unexpressed, emotions suppressed and emotions lying on death bed, emotions that sail in their own journey of shattering ups, and floating downs. Trauma may be a physical set back, a mental set back or may be psychological set back. Each trauma has its own story to narrate. A story that defines life that defines people that defines generations and that defines history.

The term Trauma has originated from a Greek word and was connected to wound. The concept of trauma primarily focused on physical injuries rather than psychological or emotional impact. May be the word had its root in mid 1600. It was only in late 19th century, that a shift in meaning was observed. Trauma was now not just a physical wound but was connected to emotional wound. In Colin Davis and Hanna Meretoja's article, trauma was referred as "…psychological injury, lasting damage done to individuals or communities by tragic events or severe distress" (1). The term and its meaning kept developing with the advancement in medical field. New symptoms gave birth to deep studies that lead to deeper understanding of the term. Some such studies were made at the time of industrial revolution where people had pain and suffering without actual visible wound. The small word made an intense journey with discoveries in different fields and experiments. Many medical experts, neurologist came up with different theories and terms like 'Railway spine', Traumatic neurosis' etc. These studies came up with the fact that the impact of trauma can be far-reaching and varied, affecting individuals, communities, and societies as a whole.