



The Contributions in Education through Literature (A Narrative Inquiry Study of Prof. Toni Morrison in The United States of America)

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Abstract: *Biography consists of life's story in a unique record form, a narrative impulse, establishes the importance of stories, and provides an open illustrative example of the analysis of an adult learner's story. This paper provides a step-by-step account of how a researcher conducted a narrative research study analysis and developed an organizational structure useful for other qualitative researchers. Prof. Toni Morrison as purposeful sampling is widely recognized as a first lady of literature in American's prominent novelist, who magnificently explores the minority life of the black people identity to the surface in The United States of America, especially that of black women story. Her Nobel Prize Lecture, in which she consistence tells a story of a black woman, history of slavery, racism, post colonialism, and education rights for all. Her life story and contributions in education through literature space can be regarded as a shaper of Prof. Morrison's today and the look of education equality. In her 85th she is still teaching, being mother, and continue writing as her passions. Several interviews dialogue between the journalists through her novels and the young people is full of inspirational stories, wisdom and profoundness. Her life story is indeed worth to learn as a study material especially in English Language and Literature proficiency.*

Keywords: *narrative inquiry, cultural studies, qualitative research, education, teaching, toni morrison, literary, literature, biography, inspiration.*

INTRODUCTION

Science in education pedagogy is a general open term, it is a field to record what was happen in the past, explaining present phenomenon, and a prediction what will happened in the future. It is a bridge from the

scare to the unknown especially for those in the learning age called *the millennial*. It is necessary to learn from other people's life story who is gone through the real life and taking inspirations with reach of motivations. Even though other people mistakes can also to be learn and beneficial to take next steps to reach their goals.

In English Language skill learning process we need to understand the importance cultural studies as well. Because slangs and colloquial language are the most used in digital text today. The boring learning materials will encourage millennial craving information through internet acces easily. As language education system is also craving for dynamic teaching materials with wide scope text exploration in depth narrative, and neutral topics to provide by learning facilitators here, teachers and lecturers.

In this article, I suggest biography text as some new narrative teaching materials that can give the newness to attract learners in learning the standard structured of English language. Dell Hymes (2004:116) states that giving children turns at narrative may allow them to bring the outside culture inside. As different biography text will contain of different informations it will expand learing material far from boring repeating text structure. Rod Ellis (1985:13) also has a same insight that learners need to sift the input they recieve it to their existing knowledge. The english text structure might be the same, but each biography text had their own style and information to collect.

The beneficial of learning language through people life story in form of biography text can enrich point of view and reshape logical thinking to the learners which important in English language cultural study approach. HAMKA(1940) is the leading biography text exploration in Indonesia that confirmed to create high profile inspirational people life story into text as leading information to the future researcher to complete his work, who knows he pass away before those high profile people in the near future.

Professor Toni Morrison is one of the high profile inspirational people in the United State of America. It is necessary to understand that her contribution to the English language and literature by her fictions novel works, bold genre, and nonfictions essays reshape the way of

logical thinking in USA themselves. Her works also shakes the American society and redefine African American culture that called Black People towards White Supremacy. Toni Morrison, the only living American Nobel laureate in literature, published her first novel in 1970. In the ensuing forty plus years, Morrison's work has become synonymous with the most significant literary art and intellectual engagements of our time. Toni Morrison forty years carrier in cultural education and literary impacts and to consider the import, and influence of her legacies in her multiple roles as writer, editor, publisher, reader, scholar, artist, and teacher over the last four decades. Her public letter also committed to support Senator Barack Obama became the first African American President of USA. Morrison's novel publication to contextualize and to consider the interdisciplinary, artistic, and intellectual impacts for USA education using the formal fluidity and dynamism that characterize her works. To English literary and language education especially American studies, Prof. Toni Morrison works are treasures as teaching materials. Yet this article tries to compose the inspirational aspects from Toni Morrison's life story as learning source which is a jewel that worth explores.

As Sam Blumenfeld (2006) exposes that the priceless lessons of experience in learning biographies. Human beings, male and female, have been capable of extraordinary feats in all areas of endeavor. We live in a world built by their genius and inventiveness. The secrets of success are to be found in all these remarkable lives. If you wish to excel in your own life, there is no better place to find inspiration than in the lives of those who have changed our world and changed our lives for the better.

The aim of this research is to represent Prof. Toni Morrison 85 years life story in depth, this qualitative research need to be dissecting the datas using the narrative inquiry approach that can themed, coded and restorying to give clear explanation about the correlation between Morrison's biography. Matti Hyvärinen(2012:11) explain in thinking about the possibilities of narrative in historiography in general, he tend to emphasize the necessary move from the structuralist textuality into contextual storytelling. The prurpose of narrative histories is not the search for fixed closures but an invitaiton to telling new story from new

perspective. This dynamic point of view is also becoming reason of this research to give the useful contribution to The Princeton University Library who announce that the major portion of the Toni Morrison Papers, part of the Library's permanent collections since 2014, is now open for research. Morrison's papers were gathered from multiple locations over more than two decades, beginning with the files recovered by the Library's Preservation Office after the tragic fire that destroyed Toni Morrison's home in 1993.

METHOD

Leonard Webster and Patricie Mertova (2007: 1) tells in *Using Narrative Inquiry as a Research Method* that over the last more than two decades narrative has gained momentum in two ways - generally, as a term occurring in educational research literature, and, more specifically and recently, as a nascent research methodology in its own right with a potential for use across a wide range of disciplines (from philosophy, education, theology and psychology to economics, medicine, biology and environmental science). Narrative inquiry is set in human stories of experience. It provides researchers with a rich framework through which they can investigate the ways humans experience the world depicted through their stories. Ching-Jung Yang (2011: 205) has pretty similar explanation in more detail collecting data strategy for a narrative inquiry of qualitative research can come from various sources: field notes of individual or shared experiences, journals, interview transcripts, observations, storytelling episodes, letter writing, autobiographical writing, documents such class plans, newsletter, etc. Whatever the data sources are, the data are diachronic data.

So, in this research the data also collect from the transcript that collected and jot down manually from several videos of Toni Morrison interview and documentary film as main source from YouTube and combine by a bunch of digital text such as news, journals, articles from reputable publisher, and the biography book itself to build themed narrative story from Toni Morrison childhood until present. In this qualitative research Prof. Toni Morrison chosen as the expert sampling. Muhammad Billal Zafar (2013:6) imerge that the properties of expert sampling make it a

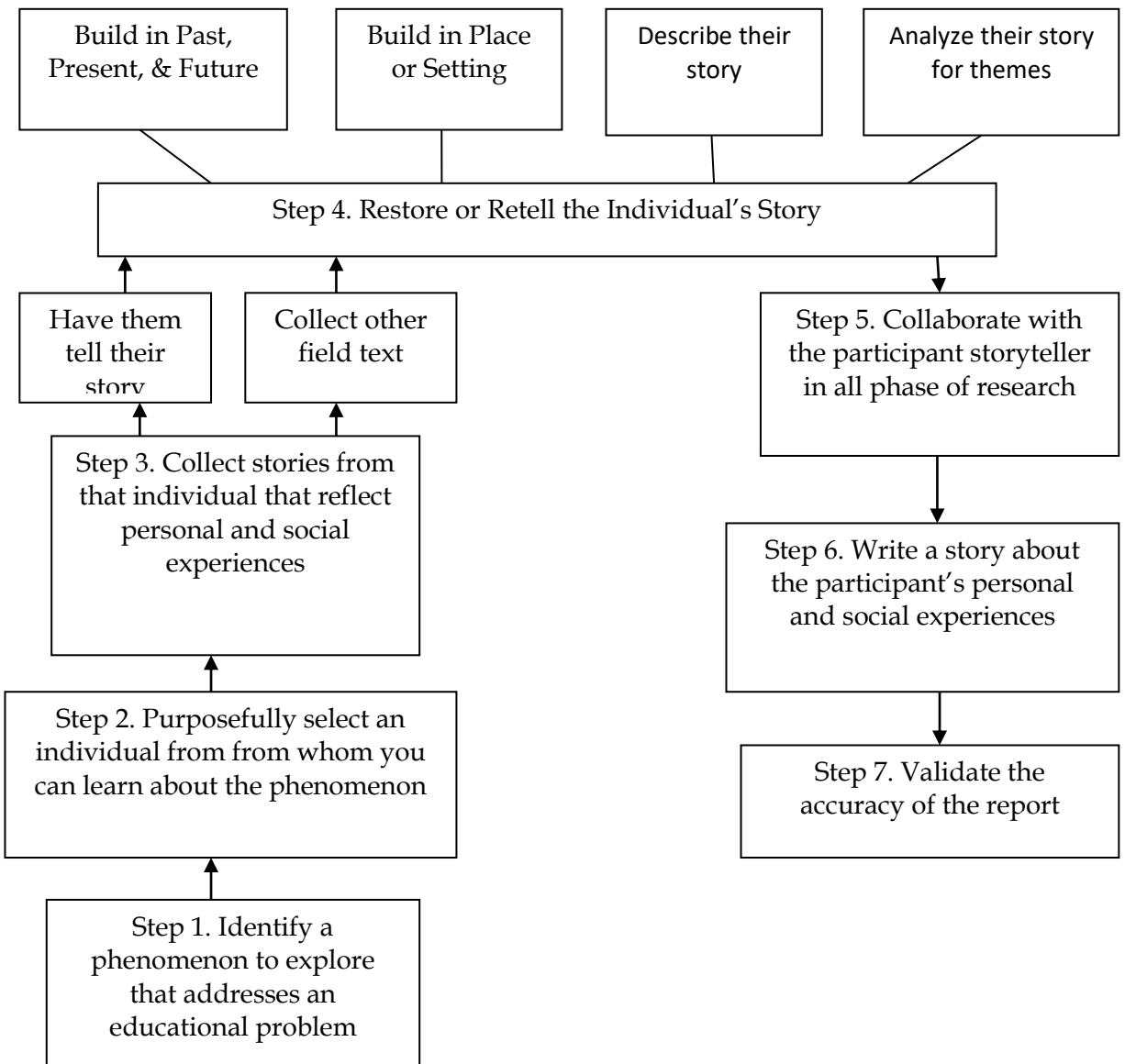
valuable methodology for generating content for several important content-centric applications, such as topical search, trustworthy content recommendation, breaking news detection, and so on.

After preparation and passing huge assorted raw data sources collection including books, audio books, audiovisual evidences, interview videos, news articles, and others from the expert sampling, restorying is the next step to conduct narrative inquiry approach. This is the step where data processing begin. Several strategies that appear such as jotting down conversation and collect as transcript text from several interviews and conversations, finding themes for sections that appear majorly in fields data, the researcher organize key words by codes, cronological order, and story setting in several large themes.

The main datas to analized carefully are from videos transcript text in English those several accessabel youtube relevant videos, they are BBC (*British Broadcasting Corporation*) video documentary film named *Imagine Documentary* in year 2015 it has 64:00 minutes in total duration. The BBC journalist named Alan Yentob and Alibe Parsons as the narrator, and as director and producer is Jill Nicholls. This video documentary titled "*Toni Morrison Remembers*" in the summer on 14 July 2015, Manhattan, New York, USA. The second is a speech by Prof. Toni Morrison at the event Edward MacDowell Medal. This video has duration of 14:36 second in total and published at 1st of September 2016 by official *channel* MacDowell Colony in Youtube website. The third video has 06:17 seconds in total duration by TIME journalist at Toni Morrison's office, Random House New York, USA. This video published 15 May 2008, and uploaded in Youtube website by the official channel of TIME Magazine, the last one is exclusive interview video in duration 06:34 long. The New York Times *editor book review* named Sam Tanenhaus as the interviewer in November, 30th 2008 and published at December the 1st 2008, that also collected from website Youtube in official *channel* of The New York Times.

Re-Transcript and Restorying Process		
Transcript audiotape, audiovisual, text, & documents (raw data)	Re- Transcript by researcher	<i>Restory</i> by Themes, Codes, and Settings

Flow Step In Conducting Narrative Inquiry Study



FINDINGS

- TMSpeech: Well, I think I should go home. //joking// after Michael speech, and Peter, and Suzan. It's all been said. //smiling//
And they'd suggested that I've say a few words and I thought about it and I did some search and it's all very and I think I work 3 sentences that were interested me. And then I thought, I don't think so //people laughing// I had no idea that the best speeches would be already given.//people laughing and applause// but now, I am truly lost for words. So I will tell you something else. **(TM's Speech Joking Style)**
- EMMTM1: I will tell you how I began to be a writer. Mm...I was a reader. I learn to read when I was 3 years old. It was very special because in my family there were stories about my grandfather who had as it was told every holiday he read the bible through 5 times.//people laughing// **(TM's childhood)**
- EMMTM2: And we were very proud of that but we knew particularly my parents that there were decades when African Americans were unable to read because they were not allowed to read. And when they said "school" is always came quotation marks. Because when their little allies of feels or under trees and the grandfather of bible leading power //Sinicism mimic// reputedly went to those "schools". //gesturing quotation marks// **(TM's childhood)**
- EMMTM3: One day in order to tell the teacher that he wouldn't be back because he will have to rely on his sister to teach him to read and apparently she did and then later on I begin to wonder why is he reading the bible 5 times? //people hardly laugh// and then encourage to me that's the only book they have. There were no book stores //laughing & giggling// there wasn't no, you know, "buy it" and they weren't teaching them anything but they teach themselves **(TM's childhood)**.
- EMMTM4: So, I learning to read, knowing how to read, buying books, my mother join the club, what was that club? "Vougethemonth" yeah the other one...yes, "Literary Guilt" //pointing to the one who said//. So it was very important and you just take it for

granted the ancestors that they give up space. (TM's childhood)

EMMTM5: So, I was a very early reader and had assumed that everything had been to be written and I would have access to it and read it. I got a job with helping of my oldest sister at the library, you know, pushing a little catalogue and stopping and reading so much that they wanting to fired me but...//joking//people laughing// They thought maybe not, so they move me to the catalogue department which is fine. And so that kind of real life for me was working with books, reading books, reading them many many times et cetera. (TM's childhood)

EMMTM6: And I was invited to go to the writing club in Washington D.C. where a group of amateur writers and some were well-known and met once a month. And I was invited for reasons I thought I guess I don't remember but I went and they had the best of FOOD you can imagine. //excitement saying the word "food" when tell the story//people laughing// I mean that there really various breads so I brought a little essay that I'd written in I don't know under graduate or something. And they said "uh huh, uh huh..." //uninterested situation// and then became clear that I could not getting new or food if I didn't have something new to write. (TM's adult life)

EMMTM7: So I was at home thinking what I want to write, what do I know, and I'd my son, my oldest son was just walking and hanging on my shoulder. As kids do you know their always somewhere pulling your leg, standing on you or their heads and I was trying to think of what I could write and then I remember that an incident in my childhood that I remember very carefully and what it meant not just what it happened but what it meant. (TM's adult life)

EMMTM8: I began to write what later became "the bluest eye". But while I was write I remember this more than I remember the book //giggling// while I was writing and I write white a little pencil you know, and a legal pads and so on. And I was writing and my son is doing something over here. //pointing to her right shoulder//gesturing or pretending to be writing//.

And He spit up some orange juice or something ---- right on my manuscript. //people hardly laughing//.

And I...being a writer, //people silent// Wrote around it. //gesturing writing around her baby's spit//people hardly laugh and big applause //Toni Morrison laughing//.

It was so clear, I can only get rid the book stain instead just wipe it but that sentence might not comeback. No. (TM's adult life begin writing)

EMMTM9: So I got really interested in it. It took me several years to finished that book because you know "life" I was teaching, and children, and husband, and whatever...//people laughing// and it's just the thing that you do as even now, you know, how many books did you say? 11? No...really? A lot. //sigh// Bu and I'm aged as you can see I'm not so addepted running around. //talking about she and her wheelchair in her 80's// But the thing that is really true and it always been true and I didn't know how important it was, is my imaginative mind. //sharp vision to the audiences// (TM's adult life in writing carrier)

EMMTM10: That is a brilliant and sparkly and interest as it is I ever been. I think it is more or so, //applause from all people// Yeah, but after all that reading in my childhood, teenage, undergraduate, graduate, and then I got this invitation, I got to this writers group and I realized that there is some book that nobody has ever written and I am determine to read it. So, the only way I can read it--- I have to write it! //people applauded// (TM's adult life begin writing)

EMMTM11: I have to say I thought it was a wonderful book, but...! //pause & people laughing// It was so short of outside the mainstream which I was not even thinking about. It was a story, I knew a child, was my best friend and we had an argument. We were in my hometown Lorain, Ohio. //some people from Ohio clapping// And she said there was no God and I said there was. And we had a little court. But she had proof but I didn't. //people laughing// And her proof was and at we'll grew 11 years old. Her proof was that she had been praying for blue eyes for 2

years and He never gave it to her. He'd took care of him right.
//smiling// (TM's childhood impact her life begin in writing)

But the point is, I remember looking at her, I turn my face and I
looked at her, and she was a coal black and I thought she
would horrible with blue eyes.// people giggling hardly//
And just stunt me and then the 2nd thing I thought was how
beautiful she was. That's not the word we used as kids
"beauty" we said "cute" sometimes or something but there was
this face, this almond shaped eyes, this high cheek bones, this
exquisite lips, I mean you know, I was amazing. I was destruct
by and then she needing to be somebody else. (TM's childhood
impact her life begin in writing)

EMMTM12: So when I wrote something that I thought it should been read it was that cornel that I think how she'd began like that?

Who told her she needed blue eyes?

Why did she think that?

And if she did who ever though her, however it will just destructive. And we and other children bullied her and had probably helped make her want some other look. (TM's childhood impact her life begin in writing)

EMMTM13: Whatever, that's how "the bluest eye" started. And I have to tell you the 1st time I sent it out to be published to the publisher, or agent, or one of those people I got an isle note back that said "thank you very much but this no beginning, no middle, and no end." //people laughing//

That's called "the stopper" you know that? You should say I mean "Okay!".

But you know I had a very aggressive family who didn't listen
to people when they were onto something, so I sent it to the
other places, 12 I think. And all of them said, not that. but
"thanks a lot but no thanks." (TM's adult carrier begin in writing)

And then finally somebody else hold to said "okay" I think it
was I don't know something had been written of a black book,
a "childhowaidy" book I used to called but "Man Child and the
Promising Land". So it was short of up you know, you could

probably make \$1 or \$2 that you can think written by a black person. So, this guy hopes I took it. And at that time, I know I'm going out of it, I know//smiling and laughing// but it still hilarious to me. (TM's adult carrier begin in writing)

EMMTM14: And when I finished the book and while I was sending in around, I was working at a publishing house Syracuse. And the Random House bought that little house. So I moved to New York. But I don't want they knew that I had the book to publish because I am an editor, you know, that's different. If they know I'm being a writer that they will say "No, don't do that." so, I didn't tell anybody, and of course they'd find out and offered me a job either there at the Random House or above at Knopf. And Knopf was the, you know, the medal, the gold medal of publishing. (TM's adult editor carrier begin in writing)

So I went upstairs to see and I talked to a man who ran Knopf at that time Robert Gottlieb. And he said "I don't want to be your boss, because that I have to be able to fired you, but I really would like to be your editor." And he has been ever since.//Robert Gottlieb had been work more than 40 years since that time// Big Applause from all people.// (TM's adult editor carrier begin in writing).

CONCLUSION

Biography and life story Prof. Toni Morrison is a small laboratory about what happened in the past that has a positive contribution about the development of the literary, educational, and social world in his country. The work produced by Prof. Toni Morrison over the past fifty years is a record of hundreds of years of history that has been traversed by people in the United States.

By exploring the motivation that is the foundation of a character in achieving his goals, he can invite students to think far ahead of what he wants to achieve and how to achieve it. If we want to learn the language of a nation, then learn from its literary works. Recordings of events perpetuated by poets and writers both fiction and non-fiction represents certain grammatical and linguistic patterns that enrich the learning experience.

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