



## THE PORTRAYAL OF TRAUMA IN ABDULLAH HUSSAIN'S THE WEARY GENERATIONS

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### ABSTRACT

The present paper deals about the novel *The Weary Generations* by Abdullah Hussain who is an Urdu novelist and short story writer. The main protagonist is Naim and all the important incidents happen around him. The novel mainly focuses about World war, the Indian subcontinent in 1947 and on the British people and how they had treated Indian people before Partition. The present paper analyzes about how Naim is traumatized and how after that he is recovering and what are the changes that had happened in his life. This novel narrates about different aspects of a generation. After thirty six years, he translated his novel into English, it is entitled "*The Weary Generations*". In the novel, the main themes are partition, war, separation, migration and love.

**KEYWORDS** : Partition, trauma, migration, World War.

### INTRODUCTION

In the World War many people died, most of the people are injured and wounded. During the British Raj, the English people forced the Indians to participate in the World War. The Indian Independence movement is one of the most important movements in Indian history. Partition becomes a significant event in the historical record though it is an unprecedented problem that leads to so many turnings in the socio- political conditions of North Indian states. Language was used as a tool for identifying persons belonging to different religions. The British Cartographer Cyril Radcliffe, whom the critics view as a man without the understanding of the composite culture of India was assigned to draw the dividing line. Thus partitions, by occurring frequently, become familiar to human races not only of past generations but also of the present. Some partitions may be best exemplified here: The partition of Ireland (1920), partition of Hungary (1920), partition of Kurdistan (1920 and 1923), partition of India (1947), and partition of Cyprus (1974).

In 1900 Hindu people started Congress and they appreciated the positive aspects of the British rule. Hindus did not give priority to Muslim people and had given jobs to Congress party people. They felt that the Muslims did not have the same rights as the Hindus. Allama Iqbal, the philosopher raises the voice for separate state for the Muslims in his presidential address in the Muslim League meeting in 1930. Before Independence many people died from both sides. Mohammed Ali Jinnah along with Iqbal worked for a draft resolution in this regard. They clamored for a separate state for Muslims. In 1947, Pakistan got separated from India. At that time, Jawaharlal Nehru became the first Prime Minister in India and Mohammed Ali Jinnah became the first Prime Minister in Pakistan.

### OBJECTIVES

- The present paper focuses on the portrayal on how the protagonist was affected by the trauma and what are the main aspects for his trauma in the novel.
- To analyze about the connection between trauma and the character.
- To analyze about the image of wound and what are the violence that had happened at the time period of war and partition.

Abdullah Hussain novel *Udaas Naslain* translated into English is entitled *The Weary Generation*. It was translated after thirty six years by the author himself. His novel *Udaas Naslain* got Adamjee Award and it is Pakistan's highest award for fiction. His notable literary works are *Udaas Naslain*, *Nadaar Log*, *Baagh*, *The Weary Generations* (Novels), *Nashaib* (collection of short stories), *Qyd*, *Raat* (Novella). *The Weary Generations* becomes the most significant Pakistani work in English. Abdullah Hussain explores his point of view about partition and British Raj and how Muslim people had suffered

during that pre- partition and partition period, how the people suffered during the World war and after the World war. In the novel *The Weary Generations* focused on how Naim's life got changed from the beginning of the novel to the novel's end. Naim is the main character in this novel and author beautifully explains about how Naim's life changed in this novel. In the starting stage Naim is handsome and always looks happy and active but at the end of the novel he becomes weary and he doesn't look good and moreover he loses his left arm. Naim and Azra met in the Khan Clan ceremony. In that ceremony some of the important personalities of the Indian movement like Gopal Krishna Gokhale and Annie Besant had participated. Naim was returning to his ancestral village, while travelling in train a white passenger murdered the peasant who was on the train to see his wife. This is one of the incidents witnessed by Naim and this is the main reason for his hatred and activism against British imperialism and feudalism throughout the novel. World War II is raging in the background.

Naim enthusiastically enrolled his name and fights against Europe and later is in Africa. Many people died in that war period. In the month of July, they move to East Africa. In that place, the opposite team attacked Naim's team and at that moment Naim loses his left arm. After the war his whole life gets changed. He returned to his village and married Azra. Two final historical events signify Naim's hatred with the British colonial system and swift weariness with all forms of struggle and an informal break with Azra. The incidents are the massacre at Jallianwala Bagh in Amrister and the infamous April massacre in Peshawar. At long time Naim and Azra broken their relationship because of misunderstanding and the difference between the rich and poor is the main reason. Naim realized that he was not leading an Independent life. All people moved to Pakistan. Naim and his brother travelled to Pakistan and at that time Hindus came and attacked them. People hit Naim very voraciously and his brother begged to save Naim. But he did not wake up because he was injured. Naim's head falls down.

"Trauma" is a term which has been in currency in the discipline of medical science and surgery. The term when adopted in psychoanalysis carries three explicit ideas into the psychical world; the idea of a violent shock, the idea of a wound, and the idea of consequences which affect the whole organism. Trauma theory is concerned about how the author was affected by Traumatic experiences in that particular literary text. Many authors had given definitions about trauma theory. Cathy Caruth is the Frank H.T. Rhodes of Humane Letters at Cornell University. She explores the ways in which the texts of psychoanalysis, literature, and literary theory both speak about and speak through the profound story of traumatic experience. *Unclaimed Experience* is a splendid work, written with admirable clarity, power, and economy. It is important

for a number of different fields: for psychoanalysis, for trauma theory, for literary study, for literary theory, for cultural and historical studies, and for ethical theory.

The present study focuses on what are the changes that happen before trauma, during the trauma and after the trauma. Before trauma, the protagonist is very active and has self confidence and he had a strong belief in his relationship with Azra. At that World war period, he becomes traumatized because he loses his left arm. After the incident, he suffered a lot and he cannot bare the pain. Naim's whole life was changed. He had to fit a wooden arm and return to his village. Many changes happen, he lost his self confidence and Naim could not move his relationship with Azra as he always thinks about the war. He becomes injured and some years later he returns to his home. In the end of the novel he becomes traumatized and weary and moreover he does not lead a happy life.

In the novel *The Weary Generations* focuses on the protagonist Naim's life. Many changes happen around him. After he is traumatized, he loses his left arm and is wounded and he becomes weary. Trauma can change the life of the people and it can differ from person to person. Some of the persons easily move out from trauma but Naim could not move out and he was again injured and traumatized because of his surroundings.

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