



ORIGINAL RESEARCH PAPER

English Literature

A STUDY ON TRAUMA AND RESILIENCE IN J.K.ROWLING'S HARRY POTTER AND THE ORDER OF THE PHOENIX

KEY WORDS: Dominance, Hierarchy, Post Colonialism, Subjugation, Trauma, Resilience

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ABSTRACT

The burgeoning transfiguration of the world from archaic to modern times is the byproduct of technological growth occurred in an expeditious way, yet the monolithic attitude of exercising one's supremacy over others can be traced up to the present times. Post colonialism and fascism focus on the usage of one's powers of conception, judgment and inference on others. This never-ending practice of dominance and subjugation in the constituted mindset of the people is brought to limelight hoping for liberation. J.K. Rowling's timeless fabricated series Harry Potter apart from enthralling readers elucidate about the tyrannized people repressed by the power mongers. The miscarriage of justice, abuse of power, inhumanistic attitude and the hierarchal prevalence is given spotlight. This research paper prioritizes the ostracized characters who struggle for acceptance and identity. The lesson of tolerance, equality and fraternity is well confined in the novels.

INTRODUCTION

J.K Rowling's Harry Potter series includes an array of genres and elements, and reminiscences the practicability that occur diurnally in our lives. Rowling's concatenation of fantasy and coming of age fiction illuminate how the characters face trauma, corruption, disorder, strives of the perturbed ones and their fiery evolution. The fictional series aids to infer the psychologically complex and various shades of characters. The social values are lodged patently. This paper, on *Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix* (2003) gives a look at the protagonist and other characters' destitute plight further stylified by the megalomaniac attitude of the powerful ones. This research paper poses an incisive analysis on the seditious attitude of the characters against inequity. It probes how the fictitious characters abide to the vituperative statements and actions.

J. K. Rowling's Harry Potter saga can be considered, in a contemporary political context, a liberal-slanted series with a setting that includes corrupt government, resistance to injustices, ideal characters, and underlying messages about how to treat people (Alghamdi 60).

The Harry Potter series elucidate the progression of Harry from his adolescence to midlife, tussle with Voldemort, and his nemesis. As the storyline forge ahead, one can understand the narcissism and self-conceit harnessing the lives of the powerless people. This research paper intends to cipher how the arc of the story parallels with the inevitable circumstances of our lives. Albeit one get imbued with grief, trauma, and suppression, one can revive the power of resilience through the adversities. Harry and other characters can be taken as a prototype for how to bounce back from life's setbacks, significant stress and adversity.

Insidious Trauma

Humans encounter an array of emotions in their mundane life. People strain to attain normalcy after a chaotic period. The disquietude generates psychological disorder. The traumatized victim will hassle to encounter further problems. Freud expresses the ideology that the repetition of experiencing trauma will result in strengthening the victim to progress. He is also certain that traumatic experiences provoke the repressed unpleasant and unexpressed emotions. Trauma Studies had its genesis by examining the diverse changes in psychological, rhetorical, and cultural aspects caused by the outcome of trauma. Ford's elucidates the chance of myriad causes for trauma incipiently with the domestic violence, child abuse, human trafficking, chronic illness, asylum seeker and complex situations. Infusion of the

trauma with literature is done to bring a catharsis effect on a traumatized individual. Caruth says, If Freud turns to literature to describe traumatic experience, it is because literature like psychoanalysis is interested in the complex relations between knowing and not knowing...that the language of literature and the psychoanalytic theory of traumatic experience precisely meet. (3)

Insidious trauma focuses on the major part played by the institutions and the social systems in causing traumatic occurrences rather than the individual's direct traumatic experiences.

Insidious Trauma in *Harry Potter and the Order of Phoenix*

This research paper attempts to bring out how one can derive strength and determination from experiencing insidious trauma in the right sense by paralleling with the literary representations on how Harry and his comrades initially undergo complex trauma kicked by the prejudice, corruption and capitalism, and finally how they thrive to lead a life of solidarity and sanity. Many theorists have likeminded notion that the genesis of trauma does not only rely on a particular event but also can happen by multifarious chain of gloomy experiences. This research paper explores the motif of how the fictional characters' subjection to malfeasance, violence and inverted totalitarianism inflict trauma within them by perpetrators, mirrors the stark reality of the innocent lives of people get precipitated by the authoritative figures in real life.

At times even the powerful ones get caught in the malice of a higher authoritative organizations as they do not accept to tune to the whims and fancies of the institution. Sirius Black though acquiring a higher status gets curbed in the hands of the corporation as he remained unyielding to their rules. There are people like Sirius Black in this realm yet the oppressive nature of the authority does not allow such person to flourish. They are pushed to periphery. Sirius's inability to aid makes him feel inferior. He earnestly looks forward for an opportunity to self-explore. The lust for power can transform a normal person to a person who can go to any limit to retain the power.

J.K. Rowling's description of the house elves and the kind of treatment they receive evince the racism that is still prevalent in day to day lives. House elves do possess magical qualities alike the wizards yet they are dominated culturally and are entitled to be slaves forever. They are confined to use wands. Unlike the goblins and centaurs, the elves have the lowest division of hierarchy. They do not have an independent

mindset; always remain subservient to their lords. They punish themselves if they violate the master's order. This makes the masters to have a superior identity and upper hand, providing the space to casually treat the elves low and make them voiceless. Kreacher considers the half blood and mud blood as unequal when compared with the members of pure blood line. He feels proud to be a part in serving the Black's family though he gets mistreated terribly.

The Ministry takes control of the school of Hogwarts is quiet palpable for Harry and his friends. The Ministry attempts to monopolize the school by inflicting various norms and curb the school activities earn despise from all. The constitution in the name of grabbing majority inflicts damages to the normal life that are irrevocable. Rowling talks of a peaceful co-existence which we should follow in real life through the voice of the ghost characters: "...Peaceful co-operation, that's the key. We ghosts, though we belong to separate houses, maintain links of friendship. In spite of the competitiveness between Gryffindor and Slytherin, I would never dream of seeking an argument with the Bloody Baron" (Rowling 189).

Professor McGonagall tries to impart some sense to Harry to be careful with Professor Umbridge because of her affiliations with the Ministry. Umbridge in spite of knowing the truth joins hand with the Ministry. The characterization of Umbridge symbolizes the intrusion of government authority over the issues that are not their concern in the first place. She resembles the Ministry. The Ministry forges ahead to vandalize the pride of Hogwarts and promotes Umbridge as High Inquisitor with more allotted power. She gains access to destabilize the Professors at her dislike, and favor the groups that support her notions.

Umbridge confiscating the brooms of Harry, Fred and George and disbanding them from Quidditch show their outrageous actions. She becomes the controller of Hogwarts. Umbridge has a biased opinion on 'others' and addresses the centaurs as, "Filthy half-breeds! She screamed, her hands still tight over her head. 'Beasts! Uncontrolled animals!'" (Rowling 665). The power she holds dare her to stoop to the level of arranging dementors to attack Harry. Her excessive power gives her the courage to do illegal things. This shows that even women are sometimes responsible for the men's traumatic situations. Umbridge considers Rubieus Hagrid, the keeper of Keys and Grounds, and Care of Magical Creatures teacher at Hogwarts as an unfit and scrutinizes his teaching qualities, pinpoints his unclear way of expressing the ideologies of his subjects, and judges him based on his appearance and. She orders Hagrid to leave Hogwarts and unexpectedly the situation turns chaotic with the intervention of Professor McGonagall to backhand Hagrid. With the assault on McGonagall by Umbridge's aiding Ministry Aurors, Hagrid displays a fierce counterattack and escapes into The Forbidden Forest. Her authority delineates the oppressive enforcement of power, where defiance is met with severity.

We often come across the portrayal of women as always, the patriarchal victimizers of violence and oppression from the primordial times to the present days. Men are not exceptional than women, they too face the insidious traumas in various forms. There are cases where men are subjugated to domestic violence too. K.S. Janani speaks of the traumatic events that dominates and marginalize men who do not withstand the standards of hegemonic masculinity. Male hysteria is never projected unlike female hysteria. It is due to the patriarchal norms that men are expected to behave more masculine repressing their emotions. As men are afraid of societal accusations, they never display their range of emotions. Men displaying their emotions get construed as vulnerable.

Harry becomes aware of the fact that Professor Severus Snape has also faced turmoils. At present Snape acclaims the title of being great at teaching Portions and an expert in

Occlumency, he faced criticisms and subjugation and had traumatic past caused by the power owned ones. Harry dreams of Sirius getting harassed in the hands of Voldemort, and decides to rescue him. He realizes the ploy Voldemort used upon him. Harry realizes that Voldemort's quest for the secret weapon is necessarily himself. Harry feels pessimistic as his dear ones are posed to continuous problems and sacrifices due to him. The prophecy nestled within the white globe gets ruined, and Sirius gets killed by Bellatrix Lestrange. Harry prostrates at the loss of Sirius, a last inkling of a connection to his parents. When Harry tries to vindicate himself against Bellatrix, the rejuvenated Dark Lord Voldemort arrives. The self-inflicted trauma of Harry results in his maladaptive epiphany. The loss of Sirius triggers intense guilt in Harry and greatly paralyzes him. Harry and Voldemort cross swords at the fountain of Magical Brethren. Voldemort endeavors to beguile Harry into killing Dumbledore. Harry's schism with Voldemort remains unyielding. Voldemort backpedals when the Ministry of Magic confronts him in corporeal form.

This study brings out the characters' experience of trauma mostly on social levels rather than the personal ones. In comparison with the personal traumatic experiences, the traumatic pain inflicted by the society generates more damage shackles the inner confidence, and stir the questions of self-identity of an individual. Giving an intrinsic reading to this novel will help to acknowledge how this novel replicates the reality of social structure and the prevalent system. The social oppression plays a pivotal role in causing disorientation and disturbance in the life of common man, in addition to personal pressures. The Ministry and Voldemort represent the authoritative figures who aim at taking control over the lives of others inflicting pain and hard times. This study makes distinct how the Order of the Phoenix cadre are subjected to terror and misconception, confined to the public mockery and tarnished reputation which implicate the diabolic attitude of the state. The Ministry stands as a paragon of how a higher hierarchy should not be. Their wrong usage of power causes distress to the innocent people. To the Ministry, the people under their dominion are no lesser than the elves. Fudge misinterprets Dumbledore and Harry as they will influence people over him. Voldemort considers Harry as his opponent who feared that his supremacy will face downfall because of him. Voldemort and Fudge are profligate in their use of power to subdue their rivals.

CONCLUSION

The experiences of the characters in the novel *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix* are analogous to subordination, oppression and racist attitude, the core elements that constitute insidious trauma. Dehumanization of the powerless people brings to mind the problems of colonialization. Power and prejudice are still prevalent in the contemporary society. The evils encountered are not something merely physical. This paper emphasizes the existence of a power-aspiring society where both men and women tend to suffer equally, albeit in varied ways. The analysis shows that the Ministry and Voldemort's army are imposters who pose troubles to the community of Order of Phoenix, and how the house-elves are subjugated by the wizard community. The portrayal of male trauma also accords with the notions of insidious trauma. Although the characters have faced adversities, they never let their hope but strive with resilience. It is vital to grasp that through understanding insidious trauma, it is the need of the hour to bring changes in laws and policies to enhance the lives of the marginalized, reduce their burden and lead the future generation to a path of equity.

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