



Unconditional Love Patterning And Grandparental Attachment Theory: A Study In Sarah Fitzgerald's Novel Back To Black Brick

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Abstract: The Grandparental Attachment Theory proves that grandparents are the custodians of the rights of their grandchildren. Their bond is much deeper and emotionally connected than the parental one. There could be two premises for this. Firstly the parents could be lacking in time and opportunity to wholeheartedly commit to their children. Secondly, the experience of the grandparents coupled with the innocence of the grandchild connects at an emotional level. A sudden detachment sends jitters and a shocking revelation to them. Empathy is an important associational aspect.

My paper examines three premises.

1. The Aspect of Unconditional love
2. The Aspect of Disease and Detachment
3. Empathy as a powerful tool for connectedness.

Unconditional Love is that type of love which keeps doing and expects nothing in return. It encompasses, multiplies and crystallizes itself into an ever growing and evolving one with no limits. The sweet innocence and vast experience blooms into one single synthesis and ability. This quality enhances life and situations.

Secondly, with the onset of ageing and other physical changes, mental problems build up. This goes unnoticed thereby bringing up a gap or lullness in the relationship of the grandfather and grandchild. This should essentially be handled with understanding and commitment. The age gap could reflect the

hollows in the level of understanding at a later stage. With societal pressures, either succumbing to the situation or unacceptance brings in greater challenges.

Thirdly, Empathy is a constant binding factor in the lives of grandparents and grandchildren. This is the onus or the base of the relationship itself. With empathy follows other aspects of the whole experience of oneness identity, gratitude and an everlasting solace in this great ensuing relationship. Negativity or the aspect of desperation is non-existent. The aspects of dreaminess and illusion are the visionary elements of this growing and ever-evolving mechanism of oneness. This temporary phase becomes detrimental for life and a memory etched for eternity. It is similar to an optical illusion.

Index Terms – Unconditional Love, Attachment, Empathy, Bond, Memory

INTRODUCTION

Dementia Fiction is that genre of literature that Sarah Moore follows. The Memory and its shortcoming, its impact on the social life of an individual and the impact it has on the psyche of an individual and society is evident. Time Travel or the aspect of Time Functioning through a method of lineage from the great traditional H.G. Wells to the time when this book was composed by a University Professor, Sarah Moore is amazing. The Central character protagonist is a teenaged boy named Cosmo who is finding unexpected ways to deal with the dementia and the ensuing disintegration and mind degeneration which follows.

Cordelia is a side character who is a little bit cast away and an implausible one. The idea of Cosmo coming off to an important phase like examining the sexual assault of the girl is like a Travel Narrative. She becomes a negative character. Her relationship converts itself to be a corrupted one. Cosmo also gives a place to Maggie after her baby is born. He supports both of them morally and looks forward to a present which is full of hope and optimism. Fate had something else in store. Cosmo had other situations to handle. His grandfather's past and the present and also the social worker's interactions with the grandfather's hospitalizing situation. The character of Cosmo is like a double take on life. For instance, Cosmo's past was that of a traumatic one and the present is one of settlement. This is a typical novel of Roddy Doyle. Living with dementia is a challenge in many ways be it linguistically or cognitively. In practicality, the words and ideas used creatively will be presenting a true perspective to the world.

Susanna Katherina Christ, a writer of the book Fictions of Dementia discusses the aspect of a narrative, epistemological paradox. This fiction proves that the more people have it, the less they can experience the seriousness of the condition. Exponentially, this condition describes about the challenge of the caregivers too. They have to be vigilant, kind and confidence-builders for the collaboration of efficient theme building. Another novel Scar Tissue by Michael Ignatieff was published in the 1990's. This examines the narrative of the 45 year old Philosophy Professor who is having dementia. The term Dementia is unused while referring to her condition. The son is entrusted with the care of the mother and treats her with dignity. A twin plot of his life unfolds. The marriage and career falls apart due to excessive obsession. His mental health deteriorates.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The degeneration is very gradual, thus erasing the interest and enthusiasm of the grandson rapidly. He has a double trauma to face; that of an unstable mother who leaves him after war-stricken Ireland and resettles in Australia. This is the fact and the very reason as to why he faced this situation. His situation becomes dicey and unnerving. His adaptation and suitability to a new culture is not without problems and cross ties emerging. This cross tie is his budding relationship with the grandparents. He takes it upon himself to help recover the memory of his ailing grandfather. There are certain situations where he himself gets a stumbling block. He is opening the padlock of the door. The condition of his grandfather is infectious. He is at the mercy of fate itself, nevertheless grandfather Kevin undergoes a memory test. This novel bears the juxtaposition of the elements of a realistic and a fantasy based one. Some major disappointments are faced by Kevin as he goes through the problems of the class based discrimination and on the other hand, the stigma of being an illegitimate mother. The physiological problem of dementia brings with it a lot of undue pressure both on the mind and body. It places a stress on the mind and body concept. This is followed by decline in thinking skills, motor and cognitive abilities. The patients undergoing this condition cannot have an access to clear reasoning and thinking. The past itself becomes an iconic symbol of revelations and smudgy and stunted growth. It ultimately boils down to the idea that there is nothing as forgetting. It is just a state of mind

Those thoughts which randomly announce the situation or specific course of action remains uncontrolled. But those that are involuntary are more meaningful. Cosmo in his innocence and caregiving nature steps in with his omega 3 oils that the doctor prescribes. The reverse parenting pattern follows. The grandson is ultra protective of his grandfather.

The opening lines of the novel are equally fulfilling. "Thy granddad was pretty much the cleverest person". Cosmo's elegant and rich background with an Elitist living is a testimony to the idea that he is involved in a very emotional relationship with the grandfather rather than a material one. His grandfather promises an answer to everything. This deeply sacrificial love is a proof that Cosmo only seeks gratification which the parents couldn't suffice themselves to give. He was dreadfully watching the life pass by until his grandfather rendered memories.

Memory Studies examines the connection of memory and interdisciplinary thinking. Cosmo's brother Brian passes away when he was ten years old. The strategy of overcoming grief that was adopted by Brian is continuous work. The lines from the novel, "the ghosts in your life don't ever really go away. Every so often they will whisper to you... Don't worry about it too much." This refers to the concept of the lost self in literature wherein a character experiences a lack of identity due to events which are painful and causes disorientation. According to Solzhenitsyn, "Literature together with language, preserves and protects a nation's soul. The soul of an individual reflects the nationalistic outlook of a nation. The inner character of a person is reflected in the sorrowful existence that life had given. Their dynamism and succumbing to circumstances become part of their new experience and culmination. This novel is considered to be a seminal one in which there is a compassionate story which wins over the dull and dreary existence of the grandfather. The true to life image and rendering of opinions becomes like the big challenge. The inspiration for the story comes from a true life situation.

Blackbrick Abbey is the locale of the novel which has two big avenues. Centrally located are the stables of horses and apple orchards. The customary bell is placed and the setting is an idyllic one. The construction of houses and characters render a very sober look in the novel. The house in the novel itself is a testimony to the secretive uproar of the Alzheimer's patient. The obsession of big and better is like a recurring Leitmotif in the work of Sarah Moore. The Secret Garden and the Anglo Irish setting in The Last September and the appearances of the family brought in the theme in a very evocative manner. Critics have acclaimed the idea of the plot that revolves around the decline to be one of destruction. The big house represents the family identity and not an individual one. Historical Non-fiction is an effective genre to coordinate with the powerful aspects of story-telling. This instance is very exquisitely explained in this novel. Back to Blackbrick depicts the extremities of childhood, adulthood and oldage; all interspersed in a true reality. It is actually a complete tale, full of optimism. The future is a very hopeful and a bright one. The folk touch to the story is imminent.

There are constant themes of Adult Fiction like the caste system that the character Cosmo is dealing with. Images of big houses become an obsession for Cosmo as the several stables and conventional orchards exist. The Big House and complicated things presented in the novel have been an obsession for the author herself. Flashbacks of past and present intermingle and the history bases provided in the novel are close to reality. Hints of curiosity and historical premises blend themselves into this genre. The theatrical performance of the novel was drawn up in full light and liveliness of the characters. This novel is comparable to a play called "Beans on Toast". The common theme that pervades in the novel is that of the power of memory. The primordial idea that if one is really attached then, despite the memory problems, the bond remains. The novel also deals with the Irish charm. It has the main concept of purgation of emotions and the aspect of purifying oneself through an emotional draining. The past is such an irreversible emotion but the present situation could be relived and exaggerated beyond imagination. Evil people and situations could be reversed through the actual disease, Alzheimer's. A temporary escape could have brought about a solution to the problem. The images of the hot chocolate ticking clocks, radio quizzes all bring about a realization that the Temporal Reality and Time area only factorial parameters for a realistic life. Cosmo loses his brother and as the Time Capsule flies, he is excited to unfurl the present time which would be a happy one. The side plots of the story are twisters. Kevin, the cook, Master Coporamore and Cordelia, his daughter are present. Kevin is happy for Cosmo. Coporamore tries to assault Maggie and Cosmo sees it while realising the mistake, that the master rapes the servant. Cosmo is present in the time sequencing of the past and current events. Maggie does not ask for help. This reflects the Irish society of the times. The emotional effect of the incident of rape is very much at the back of the mind of the character. The whole novel is based on the emotional appeal but the characters are unemotional. This is the paradox of the novel. The novel is appropriate for an older generation of readers as the disease condition presented is out of a problem in the body.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Cordelia is a side character who is a little bit cast away and an implausible one. The idea of Cosmo coming off to an important phase like examining the sexual assault of the girl is like a Travel Narrative. She becomes a negative character. Her relationship converts itself to be a corrupted one. Cosmo also gives a place to Maggie after her baby is born. He supports both of them morally and looks forward to a present which is full of hope and optimism. Fate had something else in store. Cosmo had other situations to handle. His grandfather's past and the present and also the social worker's interactions with the grandfather's hospitalizing situation. The character of Cosmo is like a double take on life. For instance, Cosmo's past was that of a traumatic one and the present is one of settlement. This is a typical novel of Roddy Doyle. Living with dementia is a challenge in many ways be it linguistically or cognitively. In practicality, the words and ideas used creatively will be presenting a true perspective to the world.

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In conclusion, Alzheimer's can be reversed with the concept of wellbeing. Experiencing emotions of joy, excitement, contentment can help patients increase their quality of life. Their sense of purpose is to be enhanced according to the Lancet Commission as their meaningfulness to life returns while reinforcing the concept of goals. Ultimately, the Dementia sufferers are people of strong courage, conviction and resilience. They never give up.

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