



INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF CREATIVE RESEARCH THOUGHTS (IJCRT)

An International Open Access, Peer-reviewed, Refereed Journal

Visualizing The Refugees In Eoin Colfer And Andrew Donkin's *Illegal*

DIVYA SHARMA

Gurugram University, Gurugram, India

ABSTRACT

Illegal, a graphic novel (2017) by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin, focuses on Visual representation of refugees. Refugees and their complexities are presented visually in this novel through various graphics. This study examines the intersectionality of identity and their experience through graphical representation and challenges the protagonist face during his journey. Amela Koluder has visualized refugees aptly as, "A refugee is someone who survived and who can create the future." It has been a tendency of society to witness the biasness among people in specific which makes a few people to move from their place and find an area, they are respected. Through a critical discourse analysis, this project investigates how the graphic novel challenges the influential history enclosing migration and highlights the human detriment of borders, emphasizing on the question of identity, endorse for visualized empathy. This research project, further will try to encapsulates the apparent loss and trauma experienced by refugees in *Illegal* as has explored through the understanding of Trauma Theory.

Keywords: refugees, identity crisis, alienation, migration, loss, resilience, environment and challenge

CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION

Interplay of Graphic Novels and Refugees

Graphic Novels are a great reference to connect with the writer's emotions as they allow the readers to get into the deep thoughts of what the writer is feeling through the graphics. It can tell a sensitive or moralistic story in an accessible manner. It inculcates all the art in a sequential way and thus forms an extensive work which includes memoirs, fiction, non-fiction, history and many other categories. Earlier, Comics were widely spread and used to attract kids but later these Comics lead to the introduction of Graphic Novels with some mature themes and intense graphics which are now read by many people. Therefore, these Graphic Novels are helping the audiences to relate to more deep situations and themes through images which reflect not only the situation but the emotion of a writer.

After the First World War (1914-1918), millions of people were forced to flee their home lands. These people were called as 'refugees' and the government responded to their needs by framing a set of international agreements to provide them the travel documents for these people who were then the first recognized refugees of the 20th century. These refugees called for other refugees during and after the Second World War (1939-1945) as the number of these people increased when they were forcibly displaced again.

According to the definition of refugees, given by 1951 Refugee Convention, owing to well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion, is outside the country of [their] nationality and is unable or, owing to such fear, is unwilling to avail [themselves] of the protection of that country.

The international community has provided the gathered set of rules and conventions to protect the basic human rights and treatment of people who forced to get displaced because of persecutions. There are a few graphic works which illustrates the images of refugees and their hur-

dles which they face at every moment of their lives. The media representation of refugees offers an extensive solution by bringing an interdisciplinary interpretation to critically examine the existing narratives. The images presented in the novels facilitates the reader to perceive them in their believed notions and empathize with the characters accordingly.

Illegal (2017) written by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin. Eoin Colfer, the international best-selling author and an Irish author of children's books. Andrew Donkin is a great illustrator and a renowned graphic novelist. Both of these authors work on children's novels and here is their collaboration work named *Illegal*. It is one of the novels written about the intricacies of refugees and their sufferings. Here is a boy named Ebo, is 12 years old and belongs to Ghana in Africa. Ebo had a family in Africa but now he is alienated. He had a sister whom he always called 'Sisi' and an elder brother named 'Kwame'. His sister already left to reach Europe and when his brother also ran away, Ebo decides to find him out and start a new life in a new country together. He struggles hard to find him and eventually gets successful one day. The brothers get reunited and make their way across the Sahara Desert to Tripoli, Libya. There they both works hard to get money so that they can catch a boat across the Mediterranean Sea. There is a story showcasing all the events from illness to death on every step of their way to Europe. Ebo is really optimistic throughout and that makes him successful to reach a new country and there he finds his Sisi to start new and a flourishing lifestyle.

This book is an immaculate example of showcasing the struggles faced by refugees. As in-textual analysis allows to witness the presence of a powerful depiction of moving refugees seeking the passage from Africa to Europe. It marks an epic journey involving endless obstructions and facing identity crisis. Characters are implicated to understand their struggles and discomforts. This novel has presented the humanity of migrants and these migrants as characters becomes the recognisable individuals who have the hopes and dreams of living a better and healthy life. There is a study on how struggles impact the mindset of refugees to call an action and lead it. Being persistent and strong enough to fight is something can be called as a coping mechanism for these refugees.

Literature Review:

The graphic novel, "Persepolis" by Marjane Satrapi, depicts the Iran-Iraq war and the Islamic revolution. The war led to the destruction of cities and towns which forced the people to flee from their towns. The refugees had moved to Tehran to ignore and escape the hatred shown by Iraqi people but they were not accepted by their own people. "One can forgive but one should not forget" (Satrapi 5). There is a character presented as the protagonist's uncle who makes it clear that the history can't be erased and thus no one should forget their past incidents and people. Though the trauma might cause one to forget all these but be strong enough that memories do last in your mind. "Our family memory must not be lost" (Satrapi 60).

A Graphic memoir written by Robin Ha, titled as "Almost American Girl" depicts how art can save life. As immigrants are new to their host-land, they find ways to feel safe and one of them is found by the protagonist of this memoir which is art. It shows how refugees get the bridge to walk on and adapt the new environment. "I did not exactly fit in Korea or America" (Ha 12). Chuna, the protagonist was found to be more confused and felt 'in-between' as she suffered the lack of sense of belonging. Chuna was living with his stepfather in America but she was finding it complex as she had to deal with mental trauma given by the Americans.

Vietnamese Immigrants and their children were also turned out as refugees when they had to flee Vietnam after the dominance of communist-regime. Viet Thanh Nguyen wrote his own collection of stories named, "The Refugees". The surrounding of bomb threats made them flee Vietnam and this majorly affected their mental as well as physical health. The war between North Vietnam and Communist regime ended with the fall of Saigon but this end was never the end for the people as they saw millions of deaths of the soldiers and their loved ones. It was very difficult for these refugees to stay under such worst circumstances with the feeling of loss also, the economic restructuring.

“Maus”, written by Art Spiegelman, presents the difficulties of Polish Jew who immigrated to New York after World War II and he is a holocaust survivor. He endured his life in the concentration camps of Nazi and there he met his son, Artie Spiegelman. He explains it to him, “No, darling! To die its’s easy...But you have to struggle for life!” (Spiegelman 122). Refugees are strugglers who not only face complexities for their survival but for identity as well.

Jhumpa Lahiri as a writer who expresses the feelings and experiences of immigrants wrote “The Interpreter of Maladies”, a collection of short stories. She explained how immigrants have to deal with mental and physical trauma when they enter a new environment. Characters of Mrs. Sen or Mr. Pirzada are the two people who suffered through the non-accepting behaviour of the people living in their host-land. They were feeling nostalgic at every situation and the situation of trouble was created in their minds due to which they sensed trauma.

Research Gap

Diaspora is a wide field and it has been explored by various writers through their writings but, the area of graphic novels is not examined much by the researchers. Loss, trauma, migration and challenges are great themes of diaspora, if graphic novels are to be considered, so these themes are not much explored through the graphical representation. *Illegal* is a graphic novel which lucidly presents this relationship of the experiences of the refugees and the graphics. This research project presents the psychological impact of trauma and displacement on the protagonist, Ebo through visuals. It gives a sense of empathy and understanding towards the complexities of refugees by understanding the various graphics and visuals. It investigates the impact of illustration style and visual storytelling on the reader’s experience.

1.4 Research Objectives

- To examine the experience of refugees through graphical representation.
- To analyse the representation of refugee experiences in *Illegal*.
- To evaluate the impact of *Illegal* as a tool for raising the awareness about refugee crisis in context of belonging and identity.
- To examine the role of imagery in conveying the themes and emotions.
- To investigate how resilience can make refugees fight for their lives and have better lifestyle.

CHAPTER 2: VISUALIZATION OF REFUGEES

Giovanni Rigano is the illustrator of this novel. He has depicted the illustrations in such an emotive manner that the reader can absolutely empathize with the character named ‘Ebo’. The novel initiates with the dark representation of pictures during Ebo’s journey to Europe. This commencement of gloomy picturisation is suitable for the situation because it has the message of struggle which Ebo is going through. Further, there is a bright representation of pictures in the novel which conveys the innocence of Ebo in his childhood. His childhood is entirely relatable to his later journey to Europe. Rigano showcases the pureness of this character when he used to express his bleakness through songs. The use of muted colours emphasizes on the hardships faced by refugees. Ebo, as a refugee, struggles hard to first get to the bus, which will take him to the ship, and then to reach Europe in such a crowded ship. Refugees are not valued and considered equal as normal people. Ebo wanted to earn and get some money which could help him to get to his brother. “You again? There is nothing for you here” (Colfer and Donkin 35). This shows how refugees are suppressed because of their difficulties.

Ebo, a protagonist, whose characterization facilitates reader empathy. He fights and resolute to find his brother and was deeply engaged to do so regardless of any ignorance he faced. Ebo is an alone character who seems to be depressed but mature before his age. His complexities in life made him such strong and significant in his life that he was ready to face the biasedness by

the society. In his childhood he had no one but his only brother and later he lost him as well. His brother wrote a letter informing Ebo that he is going to Europe and find their sister, who went to Europe earlier in their childhood. This made Ebo alienated and independent. The way Ebo's journey is shown, it embodies the human capacity for survival. Ebo's influencing character highlights the complexities of identity and belonging as a refugee. The oppression and injustice, while his journey to Europe, is the evidence that refugees are really exploited and people do take advantage of their need and urgencies. Eoin and Andrew have been known for their presentation of characters and its very much evident in their work *Illegal*.

Kwame, Ebo's brother, is a character who is similar to Ebo but he was elder and mature according to his age. Ebo got sincere in his early childhood, which actually was his period of innocence. Kwame is also a refugee and he pretty well proves his alienation when goes to search his sister in Europe. Leaving Ebo behind Kwame goes on to a journey where he is in the search of 'sisi', their sister. He, being the elder brother had the responsibility to keep his family safe and thus he decides to find out his sister, who years ago ran away to Europe, but didn't realise that his brother, Ebo, will be all alone. Kwame, a refugee, faced a lot while his journey to Europe and in between he was asked to get married. This incompleteness made him uncertain about his decision to leave Ebo behind and reach Europe. A smuggler who embodies exploitation and danger, terrifically, cheated on the passengers he was going to carry on his ship leaving for Europe. "Maximum safe load 6 people" (Cofler and Donkin 1) and "Currently carrying 14 passengers" (Colfer and Donkin 1). The refugees who were eagerly waiting to reach Europe couldn't refute and because of the urgency to be safe, they travelled in a dangerously overcrowded ship. Their need turned into the danger which could be seen in future when they ended up having nothing to eat or to drink.

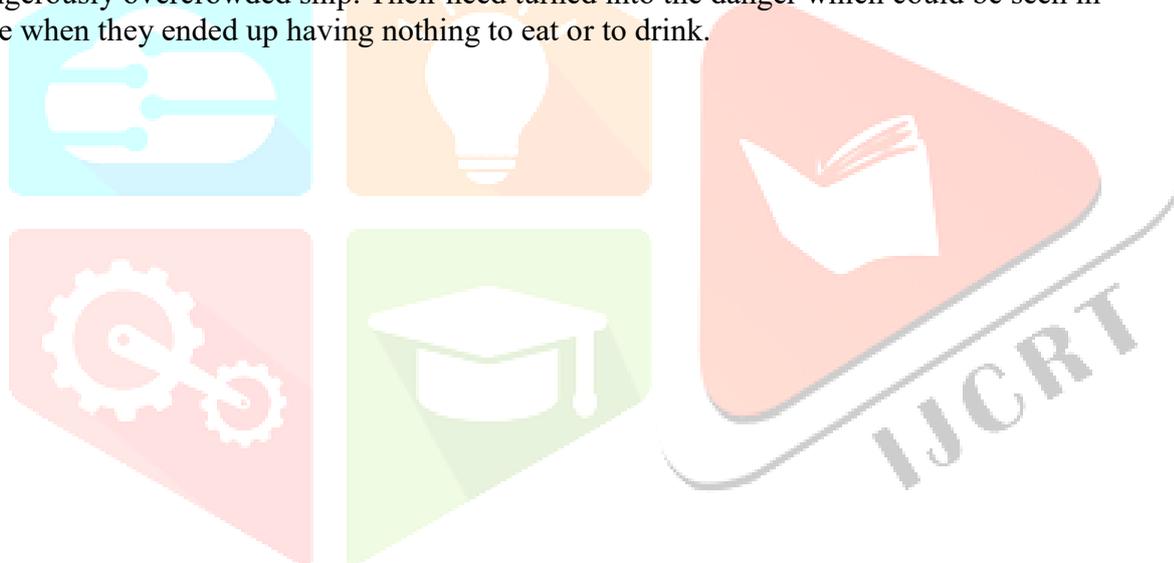




Fig. 1. *Illegal*, 1

'Africa' is depicted as one the symbols which justifies the meaning of home, family and cultural identity. From the roots of Africa, the characters are much attached and have the emotional connect with the land of Africa. This country is the evidence that refugees feel really nostalgic and homeless if they are disconnected from their own homeland. Whereas 'The Mediterranean Sea' symbolises danger, uncertainty and transition. Refugees felt scared and petrified as they were not sure of reaching Europe and had numerous difficulties while travelling. 'Italy'

served as a destination where refugees were taken care of. The characters of this novel are displayed in Italy for their protection and medical services as they were injured while their ship turned down in the sea during their journey to Europe.

The form of this storytelling is non-linear as the panel jumps between past, present and future which shows Ebo's fragmented memories and identity crisis in every situation or panel. The pacing creation is really dynamic which forces the reader to focus on key points and situations. This jumping of panels creates a kind of confusion and havoc throughout the story and which leads to Ebo's disorientation. There is a different colour palette which helps this novel to give reader the varied perspectives and understanding of the graphics. Mutes earth tones are representing the warm and familiar plot in African landscape. In contrast, blue and grey colours are depicting the danger the uncertainty in the Mediterranean Sea. There are some colours which are washed out and these are to show the loss, despair and exhaustion of Ebo throughout his journey. Refugees are forced to face complexities and harsh situations which makes the life more challenging, same as Ebo. Ebo's life turned to be the difficult one as he had a journey filled with danger and fear. The maze as a symbol wonderfully explains Ebo's complex life as a refugee. The trouble and unpredictability are evident in the situation where refugees are all together travelling in the ship in Mediterranean Sea and this is revealed by the waves following their ship. The cracked earth and landscape justify the poverty and embodies African drought.

Ebo's resilience surely challenges the notion of refugees being the victims. He took up all the hard times as a strong protagonist and proved that the determination fails all the hardships. This stereotype is counteracted by the greatness and patience of Ebo to reach his destination even after not having any resources, most importantly money. The helplessness can't stop any refugee to be successful. This graphic novel humanizes refugees and emphasizes on the shared emotions and experiences. The smuggler became a security threat for all the refugees but they made it through and reached safely to the refugee camp in Italy. Though all these complicated events, through their journey, made them feel traumatized and they lost their homeland but their resilience made them stronger. Refugees are separated from their cultural traditions and are displaced without even any humbleness, they are exploited and abused in such a manner that it affects mental health as well. More than any cultural, loss they struggle with language barriers. Language of every country and region varies, so refugees are unable to connect and interact with the people out there. Such many circumstances allow refugees to express the emotions and struggle in whichever way they want. Therefore, these diverse character designs and realistic depiction of refugee camps let the reader understand and empathize with refugees instead being stuck to the stereotypes.

CHAPTER 3: INTERSECTIONALITY OF IDENTITY

Ebo's nationality influences his experience, cultural background and motivations as Nigerian. His African identity intersects with European perspectives, highlighting the stress between global north and south. His identity as a refugee has complicated his sense of belonging. He is an adolescent and the series of events happening in his life affects his resilience, vulnerability and decision-making. His coming age would reflect adulthood, independence and navigating identity. Ebo's masculinity intersects with the societal expectations which influences his actions and relationships. Masculine norms are not seen in the character of Ebo as his life doesn't permit him to be vulnerable. His experiences challenge the traditional masculine norms, emotions and vulnerability.

The intersectional ethnicity and nationality can be seen in Ebo's Nigerian and Igbo identities which shape his cultural background. His background identity, Nigerian, is complicated because of his refugee experiences. Ebo faces discrimination due to his ethnicity, nationality and refugee status. This discrimination can be identified as evidence for Racism and Xenophobia. It also leads towards the vulnerability to exploitation and this got increased according the increasing age of Ebo. His intersectional identity encourages resilience, resourcefulness and adaptability. His dedication towards his journey and to achieve the success made him feel confident about himself by challenging the dominant narratives. Vulnerability

to abuse is what child refugees face the extreme. This abuse and exploitation cause them to get disrupted education and psychological development.

The Chronic Traumatic Stress Model (Herman 1992) was introduced in the work 'Trauma and Recovery' where she explained the effects of prolonged exposure to traumatic events. The model is vastly prominent in this graphic novel. The illustrations are perfectly showing the visuals of this particular migration theory which affects the mental health faced by identity crisis and the harsh experiences.

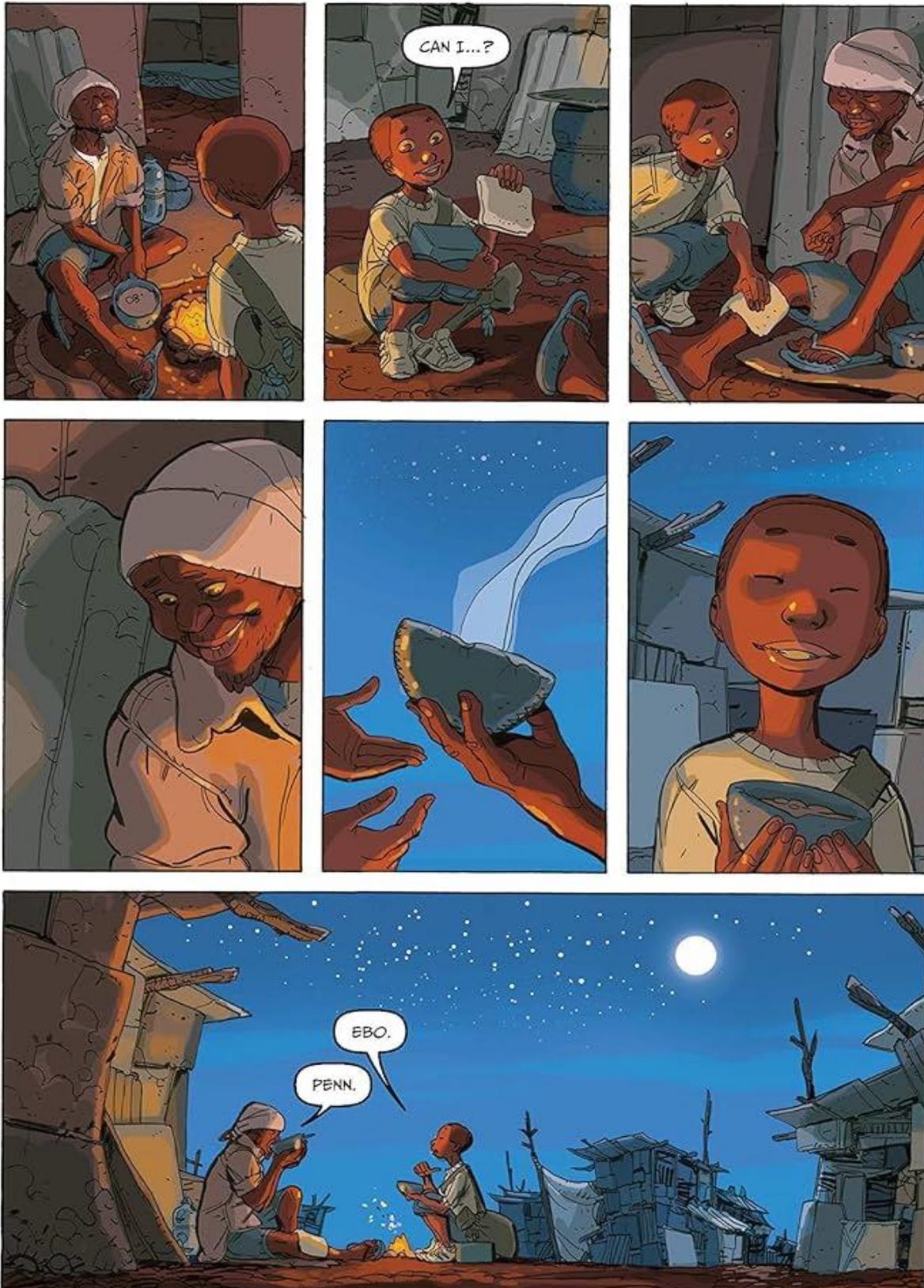


Fig. 2. *Illegal*, 37

Edward Said, a post-colonialist theorist, began with the appearance of 'Orientalism' in 1978. Many other Non-western writers already criticised colonialism and imperialism but what Said shown was how the colonial power was dependent on colonial knowledge. One of the elements of Orientalism is Power Dynamics. *Illegal* shows the power imbalance coming from existing notions which perfectly defines the dominance of one culture over other. Ebo's identity as a refugee is not respected because he faces a lot in his childhood as well as in adulthood. The dominant class suppress the refugees which makes their life, the hardest. The stereotypical notions can be seen during the journey of refugees in the graphic novel, *Illegal*. Colonialism's legacy still prevails and that can be identified in this particular graphic novel through the journey of Ebo. Centring refugees as the marginalised section is surely a challenge to the dominant perspectives. This graphic novel challenges Orientalist stereotypes by humanizing refugees. Such exiting norms cause the systematic oppression to lead even in the present era. This graphic novel *Illegal*, written in 2017 is of contemporary time and it explicitly reveals the presence of dominant class and power as evidence that suppression of refugees is still a concern. These power dynamics affect the lives of refugees in every aspect whether its mental, social or physical. Refugees are not accessible to all the services and equality just because of their identity and hard times.

CHAPTER 4: REFUGEE'S EXPERIENCE

Ebo's story begins with a precarious journey where he flees from his homeland in search of better healthcare and safety. He had to forcefully displace himself because of economic hardship and persecution. This refugee had to ask his uncle to give him some money as Kwame was also not there to support him and Ebo was all alone. Ebo was eager to find his brother and so, he decides to go on a journey to Europe. This journey was not an easy one as the reader can visually experience the struggle of Ebo to reach Europe. There was a lot of uncertainty and risk throughout his journey because of life-threatening dangers he faced such as treacherous sea crossings, exploitation and violence. Already, Ebo was mentally going through vicissitudes and there comes such hard journey to be covered. He was separated from his family which turns out to be the unmatched loss. This separation from family and familiar surroundings lead to feelings of disorientation and Ebo was disconnected from his homeland in every manner. Throughout his journey, he not only observes the violence, abuse and exploitation but all of lead to emotional scars in his life which were challenging. His life is concerned only with loss and grief as he initially lost his loved ones and also his identity was questionable. He, in his childhood, faced the loss of one of his family members which was his sister and to find his sister, his elder brother also left him alone for good. This alienation and loneliness are the two main factor of bringing his life into grief and loss. Such situation might have made him to grapple with the guilt of surviving while others did not. There were significant losses in Ebo's life which included leaving his cultural identity, social connections and sense of belonging behind. He struggles with new traditions and he was disconnected with his own traditions, language and culture. Then, he also suffers the loss of his relationships, community and social support networks which were existing in his life earlier. He then also deals with a new and unfamiliar environment where he can't relate to it and tries to find a new sense of belonging.

Despite all of these sorrowful experiences, Ebo demonstrated a remarkable resilience. He strongly adapts the new environment, language and culture. Though the systems were really complex there but Ebo finds his way to survive and navigate through those systems. He maintains a sense of hope and determination towards his purpose of rebuilding his life. This proves his mental strength as well as the power to be resilient. Thus, his journey can be defined as a process of self-discovery and redefinition. Being displaced, facing all the difficulties, Ebo's journey and story highlight the importance of preserving human dignity. The support of his community and social relations were the biggest strength to make him heal and get integrated with a new environment.

These situations of migration, trauma, loss and resilience can be critical cause of psychological disorders or disturbances. Refugees have to face a lot as it can also be seen with the example of Ebo's journey. This can lead to the disorders such as Post – Traumatic-Stress Disorder (PTSD), which refers to the flashbacks of the past experiences, anxiety due to terrible situations faced by and the refugees and lastly, the vigilance which can be counted as an important one to heal for their future. Feelings of hopelessness and sadness is natural to be felt by refugees after such traumatizing series of events. It's difficult for the refugees to firstly, loose their loved ones and more importantly, their culture. Tradition and culture are something a refugee feels mourn about because they can't easily adjust in a new culture. 'Trauma Theory' was introduced by Caruth in 1996 through her work 'Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History'. Trauma was initially referred to the physical injuries but gradually the term took new meanings and connotations which refers to internal wound, a wound on a person's psyche. This term took got a momentum only after the world wars. The soldiers, who were involved in the wars, showed the symptoms of depression, restlessness, fear, anxiety and nightmares. It ruptures the person's sense of self and causes psychological disorientation. Caruth heavily relies on Sigmund Freud's notion of trauma where she mentions "It is not, like the wound of the body" (Caruth 4). She says it's not only the wound of the body but of the psyche and it's so violent that is not 'fully-known' initially but once it's over, then gets back in the form of night mare or flashbacks. 'Contemporary Approaches in Literary Trauma' by Michelle Balaev, focuses on contemporary perspectives on literary trauma theory. This work shows how literary criticism plays an important role in the writings of and about Trauma where the leading literary scholars take Trauma Studies in a new direction through innovative analysis of trauma in literature and culture.

The examination of refugee experiences encompasses different aspects of their journey, from detention to asylum-seeking and integration. One of them is Retardation, refugees may be detained or retarded from getting to the asylum centre. There are numerous reasons for that, one could be lack of documentation, which might have led to security reasons during the asylum process. As refugees are neither of their homeland nor of their host-land, they face severe criticism and the identity is questionable. Detention centres are there for providing help to refugees and behave in humanly manner but there are a few out of them which don't involve humanly conditions. Such centres do face criticism for providing poor living conditions, overcrowding and limited access to healthcare but on contrary, there are many centres which provide humane conditions. Such conditions affect the mental health of these refugees and cause psychological health issues as well, including PTSD and anxiety. The other aspect is Asylum Seeking, refugees do apply for asylum with their documentations and with their claim of fear and asking for help. For them it's not so easy to seek help because they have to face a lot, which they can't afford, including long waiting periods and the complex legal procedures. This long process, after being done, provides the status of refugees if they will get help or if they will be banished. This shows how challenging it is that being in long ques, while struggling with physical and mental aspect, and wait for the approval, and the outcome might be banishment not in favour of a few refugees. The last aspect is Integration. This comes with resettlement, where refugees need to resettle themselves in a new country not only dealing with social and cultural barriers but linguistic barrier too. Their safe area, which is their own country, should be forgiven if they are displaced due to any reason. Otherwise, this nostalgia of things or their own country will restrict them from going ahead and moving to another place, which might become their permanent one. It can be a challenge not only to their lifestyle but to the employment opportunities as well and getting a good enough job is necessary when you want to start fresh. Employment is the pedestal on which their lifestyle (education, housing and healthcare) depends. There will be no education or housing if one doesn't earn well because in a new country there would be no one who can help any refugee as they don't know them. Healthcare is a basic requirement and any refugee can't access it if they don't have money and money can only be earned by securing a satisfactory job. It is really hard to find a well earning job because they are judged on the basis of their identity and their won people are more preferred when it comes to any kind of opportunity. Here, comes the role of Government, NGOs, and community organization. There are a few organisations which help the refugees with the language, job and cultural training. This is how government, of new country, works for refugees

to make them feel comfortable but there are restrictions of getting equal treatment until it gets a long of these refugees staying there.

Inclusivity in the minds of people can only be incorporated by initiating some policy reforms, community and support and international cooperation. Diffusing biasness, introducing great resettling quotas and especially, improving the conditions of detention in asylum seeking process will help these refugees to get an emotional support and they will be able to adapt new culture on a fast pace. Majorly, the people, on international level, should be taught of cooperation because no one knows that from which country refugees might displace themselves or get displaced by other reasons. Once there will be cooperation between Governments of various countries and between people of various cultures, there will definitely be no harsh treatment towards these refugees and they can live a satisfactory life as normal people do.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSION

In conclusion, refugees suffer a lot not only physically but mentally. Their mental health is affected by the situations like identity crisis or economic conditions. Such complex surrounding make them leave and move to a place or country where they can feel safe to live. As Ebo had to leave Africa to find his brother, he fought with various circumstances which made him feel exhausted. At one point he did not even had money to have food but managed to get it by working for people. Economic crisis was also one factor that was contributing to make Ebo's journey difficult because he had to earn by himself at the places before America to further continue his journey. His African identity was looked down upon by the people during his journey but his dedication did not let him stop. The identity crisis forced him to get back to Africa as he was neglected and disrespected by many people but he made sure to fight back and make it up to America. For him, solution for all the problems was only to meet his brother and this focus made him resilient towards the harshness and complexities faced by him towards his journey. Others like Ebo, women and LGBTQ+, also go through these difficulties but the adaptability towards the new environment makes them strong to reach their destination and their resilient behaviour makes them win. Trauma Theory exists in this novel as it shows the after-impact of Ebo's journey when he was taken to asylum seeking centre and he was fighting with all the mental and physical injuries. Even when his journey was about to get over, the obstacles or barriers were endless. He had to seek help at the end of the journey, and the cause of this help will always be a part of his life which will be seen or recognised in the form of nightmares or flashbacks. These nightmares and flashbacks occur due to the mental trauma which is a consequence of the problems faced throughout the journey and experiences of being a refugee, as a long-lasting impact.

The discrimination between native people and refugees should be reduced so that these refugees can gain some emotional support which is much needed for them to recover. The policies and frameworks should be designed in such a manner that people like Ebo can maintain the resilience and power to fight against the disruptions which cause them 'Trauma'. Some causes for their weakness and delay in curing themselves is Retardation which doesn't allow them to reach or avail the asylum facilities. Also, lack of asylum-seeking centres can be great cause for refugees to cure later than they should. There are many places where the facilities are not that efficient to help refugees and even some of the cities don't have such centres. This causes the refugees a great problem. Due to discrimination, refugees are not allowed to reach those helping centres as they are considered different from rest of the people. So, integration must be a topic to get discussed in contemporary era as people need to know that these refugees suffer a lot and abandoning them can lead to bigger issues rather than a solution for them.

Works Cited

- Balaev, Michelle. *Contemporary Approaches in Literary Trauma*. Palgrave Macmillan, 2014.
- Caruth, Cathy. *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative and History*. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1996.
- Colfer, E. and Donkin, A. *Illegal*. Hachette Children's Group, 2017.
- Freud, Sigmund. *Beyond the Pleasure Principal*. Dover Publications, 2015.
- Ha, Robin. *Almost American Girl*. HarperCollins, 2020.
- Herman, Judith. *Trauma and Recovery*. Basic Books, 1992.
- Lahiri, Jhumpa. *Interpreter of Maladies*. Houghton Mifflin, 1999.
- Nguyen, Viet Thanh. *The Refugees*. Grove Press, 2017.
- Said, Edward. *Orientalism*. Pantheon Books, 1978.
- Satrapi, Marjane. *Persepolis*. version 2, no. 5, Vintage Books, 2001.
- Spiegelman, Art. *Maus*. version 1, no. 122, Pantheon Books, 1986.

