
EGO AND UNPROFESSIONAL Demeanour KEEP CHARACTERS BATTLING IN D.H. LAWRENCE'S WORKS

Satbir Singh*

Dr Vijender Singh Tanwar**

INTRODUCTION

D.H. Lawrence is one of the most influential writers of the twentieth century. He is being remembered for his novels which have controversial themes. In the very beginning he was called a writer who had obsession with sex. His novels were banned. But later on, his work got acknowledgement and was appreciated by everyone. He not only gave an evocative portrayal of working class life in a mining community, but also provided an intense study of family, class and early sexual relationships. The contemporary social changes and conflicts were reflected in his novels. Lawrence celebrated his vision of the natural, whole human being, opposing the modern society. He probably dealt with many common problems of all human beings which were very urgent and he explored them with original force, commitment, and style that appealed to everyone, especially the youth. After the First World War he felt that it had become more important to find the grounds of faith in life itself and the means to a new integration of the individual and society. To this he added the questions of nature of a relationship between man and man that would have the same higher significance as that between man and woman. Naturally, he was concerned with how this force might be restored to a proper balance in human behaviour. He reflected on the issues relating to emotional health and vitality, spontaneity and instinct.

*Ph.D Research Scholar, Singhanian University, Pachheri Bari, Jhunjhunu, Rajasthan

EGOISM AND OVERLAPPING CHARACTERS

Sons and lovers is Lawrence's first great novel. It is a description of a young man's coming of age in the early years of the twentieth century. The novel finds its roots set in working class, Nottinghamshire. It focusses on class conflict and gender issues. It depicts the miserable life of working class in a mining community. Mrs Moral is a descendent of a famous Coppard family and she always feels remorse for having being married to a person who is racially, economically and intellectually not at par with her. Even she harbours superiority complex and wants to establish her authority over Mr Moral and other neighbours. She even asks her children not to mingle and share light moments with their father and forbids them to inherit any of his habits. Even, she warns them not to use the dialect used by him. Mr Moral is a family member physically, but emotionally he finds no place in the family and is intentionally sidelined so as to blunt his effect on the children. He is considered a non-entity in the family who has been deprived of all social accountabilities. She denies him his role in the family and belittles his importance thinking that he descends from a low and unimportant class.

The couple keeps on fighting on and off. Mr Moral returns home inebriated in the evenings and would exchange heated arguments with her. He would pick a fight with her and bully her. She would retaliate resulting into a wild chase. The never settled married life of the parents gives jitters to children and it has a psychologically disturbing impact on the children. Her constant taunts on him add fuel to their already toppled married life. She loses not even a single chance to malign his reputation and calling him using bad names. It is an established fact that Mrs Moral rules the roost and she is all in all. She has the final words. Mr Morel is forced to remain aloof and his decisions are never taken seriously. Once she is red with rage to see the locks of Williams spread on newspaper lying on the floor. She treats the act as an unwarranted intrusion by Mr Moral in family matters. It clearly reflects that Mr Moral is confined to self and couldn't talk about family issues, if he wants as well. Both the characters exist in a constant fear of unknown fear, apartness and mutual lack of confidence and distrust. This happens because the characters defy themselves being natural and they have a tendency to live according to mental conceptions. Walters Morel symbolizes the working class and represents their work ethic and their intellectual and social aspirations. Gertrude and Walter find it impossible to adjust. They are always daggers drawn. Sons and Lovers is a novel that

epitomizes the conflict between the unskilled, “ill-educated” working class and the rigidly moral, emotionally and sexually inhibited middle class. Other characters in the novel, especially the protagonist Paul Morel, face the wrath of disharmonious relationships between Mrs and Mr Moral. Mrs Moral, after a short blissful married life, is disillusioned with her marriage and altogether abhors the manners and etiquettes of her husband. She feels frustrated with her husband’s indulgent and shiftless ways. Their continuous quarrels make the children perturbed and keep them in a fix. Paul is unable to strike a happy cord and complete relationship with Miriam and Clara. Miriam presents herself as a direct rival to Mrs Moral for the possession of Paul’s soul whereas Clara is too shallow and superficial to hold on to Paul for a very long time.

In *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*, the relationship between an upper-class figure and a gamekeeper has as origin in war and hectic life. The upper class lover, Lady Chatterley, is married to a feeble aristocrat who has been made impotent by war wound. Lawrence lays all threads bare to show that war has undone present generation and it is only the fulfilling of the desires of body that can play a key role to regenerate and revive this society. The female characters aspire and yearn for a goal that is unknown. The unknown goal becomes a mystery for them which they find difficult to crack and unfold. That both men and women are poles apart is a stark reality. Women seem to be a paradox and a jinx and they want to remain independent entity. They always want to keep a high profile. Men always want to develop themselves within a changing society rather than tampering with the society and keeping themselves isolated and aloof from it.

The principle of duality runs through most of his novels. There has been a class conflict and the relations remain tormented at all times. Many times the conflicts are born because of the male characters trying to ignore the sex part of their lives. They underestimate the effects of it, finally overlooking it altogether. In some other cases it may happen naturally. In *Lady Chatterley’s Lover*, Sir Clifford Chatterley is left crippled and impotent by war wounds. He becomes a writer so as to keep himself busy and engaged. His wife loses interest in him as he is unable to fulfill her sexual desires. She diverts her attention to her husband’s gamekeeper Mellor. Being lonely and ignored, she finds pleasure in his company and finally two fall passionately in love. She is sensually fully satisfied in his company. The relation between Sir Clifford Chatterley and lady Chatterley widen further and are never sweet. Sensual love seems to be a strong alternative to the mechanisms of modern warfare and technology. There is an extension given to the society, it is no more confined to a space and it has been reshaped

to incorporate all the western values. Sex experience thrills Lady Chatterley and she hopes her husband to comply by her wish but she is dismayed to learn that her husband attaches greater importance to “the long life lived together than to the casual delight of sensual union.” The lady finds herself dumbfounded after knowing the views of her husband and thinks that life for her has become hollow without any love, joy, happiness etc. This newly formed relationship surely hinges on their emotions and senses. There is very peculiar warmth about it.

In *Women in Love* Anna makes a mockery of the spiritual passion of Will for Christian myths and legends to such an extent that he starts feeling ashamed of his own passion and it makes him feel sore with Anna. Once he fights with her because she has recklessly put away his tools in some corner where they have gone rusty. They generally patch up the matter and lovingly receive each other, but these frequent brawls destabilize their married life and keep them in a constant state of tension. Realizing that Anna does not honour him, Will finds himself perturbed. Actually they fight in an attempt to dominate each other. After each tussle Anna emerged stronger leaving Will weaker. Will’s insistence on complete obliterating of the shelves, complete merger into each other and Anna’s defiance of it shows again the complete class conflict between them.

In *The Rainbow*, Tom and Lydia are two centres of consciousness involved in a timeless conflict, seeking their salvation. Feeling neglected by Lydia, Tom diverts his attention to Anna. Here, Tom-Anna relationship finds an elaborate description. The first generation anyhow tries to keep the relations warm and to some limit, they are successful as well. But Will and Anna fail to achieve the fulfillment earlier achieved by Tom and Lydia.

The relations further worsen when it comes to talking about the third generation represented by Ursula. Tom believes in old values and practices but Ursula is an aspiring woman who wants to dominate the man’s world. The shift in the behaviour is not sudden. It comes from generation to generation. The people believe in materialized world, the community is no more an agricultural community but it has become a highly commercialized community. Because of this Ursula is more interested in eternal world. Ursula never finds herself satisfied, be it school, college or any other place. She every time portrays that the current generation is striving hard to fulfill the needs and the old values cannot help them in it. It is their shift of mind from old values to modern time that can help them achieve their goals.

CONCLUSION:

Since literature generally deals with the attitudes, feelings and interpretation. It mirrors the society. The role of the criticism is to analyze literary works, elucidate passages, point out connections and contrasts, discuss techniques and strategies and bring out meaning and significance. So, it can be said that Lawrence tries to understand, through his work, the human nature, especially why the relations between two characters turn sour and there prevails no peace of mind. The female characters want to be in riding seat and establish their supremacy. They think themselves to be more intelligent, prudent and wise. Also, desires play a key role in destabilizing the characters. The quest of desires reflects the dual nature of human beings. The characters find themselves ill at ease when they come from different class and status. The human relations formed between seemingly two poles apart classes are responsible for twists and turns in the narratives and are finally the characters are on the brink of collapse.

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