



THE NOTION OF TRAUMA AND IDENTITY IN “THE AMERICAN PASTORAL” ABSTRACT

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The term psychological novel has been widely used since the beginning of the twentieth century. One of the most outstanding representatives of the psychological fiction genre is Philip Roth. His one of the most famous works of all times "The American Pastoral" will be analyzed through the psycho-analytic method. The findings implies that the author tries to demonstrate the trauma in his characters, its aftermath by his own alter ego and the intergenerational trauma by the representation of Jewish minority group in US.

Key words: intergenerational trauma, psycho-analytic, neurotic

Introduction:

The twenties century is marked by the growth in realism as a literary trend. However, during this time because of the finding of Sigmund Freud in psychology the focus shifted from the actions of the character to the inner world of the individuals. His ideas hugely impacted on the literature and the representation of the human life. Therefore, a new branch of realism psychological realism immersed.

Methods:

The theory of personality organization and the dynamics of personality development as they apply to psychoanalysis, a clinical approach to treating psychopathology, is known as psychoanalytic theory. Since Sigmund Freud's work in the late 19th century, psychoanalytic theory has undergone numerous improvements. Long after Freud's death in 1939, the psychoanalytic theory gained full popularity in the last third of the twentieth century as part of the critical discourse on psychiatric treatments that followed the 1960s. Freud had stopped studying the brain and its functioning, and had turned his attention to the study of the psyche, as well as the use of transference and free association in treatment. The identification of early experiences that may have an impact on later life.

Since the early stages of psychoanalysis itself, psychoanalytic reading has been used and has grown into a diverse tradition of interpretation. "Psychoanalytic literary criticism does not constitute a unified field," as Celine Surprenant puts it. All



variations, however, support the notion that literature is inextricably linked to the mind, at least to some extent."

Authors and other artists are seen as neurotic by psychoanalytic critics. Nonetheless, an artist manages to evade numerous external expressions and consequences of neurosis by discovering a road back to sanity and completeness through the process of producing their art.

Discussion

In the novel "The American Pastoral" by Philip Roth, the protagonist Seymour Levov, nicknamed The Swede has suffered from the loss of a child. However it was not simply a loss, but having a child alive and at the same time, losing her was resulted an unspeakable pain in him.

The story of The Swede took place in a time of American invasion and its aftermath. Seymour's daughter Mary was turned out to be quite radical and joined some minor terrorist group resulting her bombing the local mail store and a murder of a postman. She has been in hiding since then.

The events are told by the narrator aka Nathan Zuckerman. He is the alter ego of the author. Philip Roth wrote other novels narrated by Nathan and they are called Nathan Zuckerman trilogy. He knew the protagonist since his childhood and idolized him as others. The Swede was a man many admired as his wife Dawn. To further analyze the novel, the thing that needs to be mentioned is the protagonist's Jewish background. Jewish people suffered much genocide during the course of time and made their way into the world with a price. The Jewish identity of the characters hugely impacted their lives. The main character in American Pastoral is a Jewish guy named Swede Levov, who is an exceptional former athlete and an old friend of the narrator, Nathan Zuckerman. He's a prosperous businessman and a loving parent and spouse. He resides in the isolated community of Old Rimrock, New Jersey. Merry, his daughter, is active in the anti-Vietnam War movement and establishes an explosion at the nearby post office, leaving several dead. The goal of the Swede to lead a respectable America is irrevocably broken. The storyline of the book often goes back and forth. In his quest to discover the reason for his daughter's deviant behaviour, Levov discovers that he is a sad guy. The revolutionary nature of his daughter and the foundation of his life in America are linked to his Jewish identity. Through Merry, Roth dramatises the latent war effect in Americans. Following his daughter's subterranean life, Levov has a troubled existence. How is it possible that Levov is unaware of this himself? He is compelled to recall long-forgotten details



about his Jewish heritage. Roth restates the American political landscape, the sense of community and belonging, and loyalty and betrayal throughout the book.

Because of the way the father-daughter relationship is written, the work covers a lot of political information about American culture as well as the response to Vietnam War policies. America's post-Vietnam War culture is still enmeshed in the illusion of a semi-secure environment. America after World War II continues to be a breeding ground for violence in various forms.

The story's central theme is the Jewish character within the framework of Americanism. Merry, his disobedient sixteen-year-old daughter, becomes involved in the anti-Vietnam War movement and sets off a bomb at the nearby post office, which results in several deaths. The Swede is unable to comprehend what is happening in front of him. He's shocked that this could have happened. Readers are led to an understanding of historical events through this bombing.

The Vietnam War doctrine proved unworkable for the younger generation. The clandestine campaign against the American government continues unabated in the name of protest and the civil rights movement. In this work, Roth delves deeply into the psychological realities of real life, opening up significant possibilities for the actual truth.

Conclusion

Jews in America have long had distinct identities. Jews in America bear severe scars from the Holocaust. Swede Levov is shocked to learn that his daughter has planted explosives to defy the Vietnam War policies once more. He is a Jew, and he cannot dispute this. He is always in danger of being socially excluded. His daughter's displeasure and her status as a fugitive serve as a trigger for him to remember that his family and he once had to deal with the killings committed by his tribe. Thus, he is once more in a stressful circumstance. His daughter's worry as a Jew has intensified to the point where she is an anti-Vietnam worry within the US.

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