



FIELD OF VISIONING TRAUMA, CHILD ABUSE AND BETRAYAL IN HANYA YANAGIHARA'S 'A *LITTLE LIFE*'

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ABSTRACT

This article explores a rich imaginative division of conservative justification of social inequality. Child labor is one of the most historic problems which is still an ongoing issue. During that time child laborers were being forced to work in factories in the urban setting as which led to the result of the Industrial revolution. Child abuse is a serious problem that prevents the physical, sexual and emotional development of children. These issues can leave the child with serious, long-lasting psychological damage. Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life* (2015) explores the annoying outline of trauma theory. The diverging novel shows its life-threatening portrayal of sexual abuse in the protagonist Jude's childhood and the dreadful effects shown as a self-harming adult. *A Little Life* is certainly an exhausting, overwritten and extremely depressing novel and also it depicted the lives of poor and working-class children. The main objectives of this paper are how orphans are treated in the modern world and how it leads to destroying their life. And also highlights the narrative styles, techniques, and themes of *A Little Life*. So, this article is an attempt to study the novel *A Little Life* from the trauma perspective. And it analyses those trauma ideologies that can be studied in connection with the concepts of child abuse.

KEYWORD: child labor, sexual abuse, long-lasting psychological damage.

INTRODUCTION

In the field of trauma studies, psychological trauma and its verbal are used to shape individual and social identities. It also knowingly contains a single event or experience, spirits, and emotions. Moreover, psychoanalysis trauma involves serious long-term negative values. Although Sigmund Freud himself originated this field of study. Trauma theory occurred in the 1960s from several areas of social concerns; the existence of violence against women and children like rape and aggressive betrayal. Yet his disposition toward outstanding narrative led him away from a study of how traumatic experience affects individuals. Trauma is mostly affected by their own experience and also it affects one's beliefs about the future via loss of hope; limited expectations about their life. Trauma theory also investigates everyday living with trauma, chronic pain, and disability.

Child abuse plays a major role where it creates a speechless fright that divides or destroys identity and also it enables great attention to extreme experiences such as rape, war, slavery, oppression, and racism which also affects their mind's emotional response caused by a traumatic event. Trauma includes a wide range of serious injuries, sexual violence, life-threatening events, and chronic abuse.

Hanya, an American novelist, was born in 1975 in Los Angeles. She is the author of three novels, most notably the novel, *A Little Life* was bestowed Man Booker Prize in 2015 and also gained the Kirkus prize in 2015 for fiction. Hanya desired his novel to be a combination of two genres: realistic fiction and fairy tale. It determines the provocative background of trauma theory. *A Little Life* deals with its life-threatening portrayal of sexual abuse in the protagonist Jude's childhood and the melancholy effects. *A little life* is certainly exhausting, overwritten, and extremely depressing.

Cathy Caruth in *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History* (Caruth 3) studies the profound effect of trauma on the lives and relationships of orphan children. Her work examines that trauma is imposed not upon the body, but upon the mind, which means that psychological trauma deals with the mental experience of time, self, and the world. As an American writer, most of her works deal with issues of oppression, child abuse, lack, and oppression of dominated people. *A Little Life* deeply consisted of memories of people who had escaped orphans who had escaped from child abuse.

A Little Life, is about the deep sympathy and different life perception of orphans in the society. It is fundamentally a story about how child abuse distresses a person and also ruins the criminal justice system, especially for orphans because no one can ever discern the life experience, that someone else has gone through. Hanya reconnoiters the trauma and sexual violence that collide with someone else's life.

Hanya Yanagihara's *A Little Life* is one of the best and most popular novels in American Literature and it involves many social problems of that time. With the art of writing, Hanya discovers the lives of child orphans. She reworked all the American orphan's experiences and produced a vibrant expression and its true culture. She found that the suffering of child abuse, the orphans fought for freedom and justice also the children searched for love and dignity.

The story revolves around four friends with different backgrounds and dispositions, Malcolm, JB, Willem, and Jude. Jude doesn't disclose anything about himself, he's loved and adored by so many people, he's successful but still, he stays uncommunicative, he's subtle and fragile. His past is unknown, and mysterious even to his friends, even though Willem and Jude have a beautiful bonding, Jude's past is still in the dark. The novel progresses with Jude's past trying to suffocate him and saviors like Willem, Harold, Julia, Andy, Ana and so many, so many wonderful souls struggling to save him.

Hanya vividly portrays the life and sexual awakening in New York city. The story of life was ripped apart by this childhood incident and Hanya told this from the perspective of Jude and their friends. Hanya deals with the issues wisely and sensitively about childhood abuse, which Jude overcame. In recent decades, Sociologists have increasingly brought up the framework to explore and explain the nature of inequalities in the area of discrimination, and slavery. So, the orphans have a risk for poor health, low well-being, and mental health.

This book is certainly exhausting, overwritten, and extremely depressing. This book also teaches that every human being is worthy of love, some fragile souls like Jude are accustomed to the toxic environment, they deeply believe that they deserve the painful treatment and they deserve toxic people but Hanya proves to them that their perceptions were wrong by writing this mesmerizing piece '*A Little Life*'.

Hanya joins this conversation powerfully and she puts the bits and pieces of child abuse. Jude habitually cuts himself because of his traumatic past. His childhood life was taken in and raised by monks, who sexually abused him at worst which leads him physically disabled and psychologically damaged. Hanya manages to give a subtle theme about sexual politics and self-identity. Jude, in this novel, is depicted as helpless and powerless. Childhood means the absence of adulthood, but in "*A Little Life*" orphans are

not even considered human. Because of childhood abuse, they were not sustained to help anymore. So orphans lose their identity.

Hanya deals with some Existential crises compared with Jude's character. Where Jude individually questions whether their lives have meaning or purpose. Jude was traumatized at a very young age which also shows the devastating impact of child abuse on society. Sometimes life among people is always concentrated on psychological feelings. Jude as an orphan comes through all the struggles in his life.

This novel represents the social impact by defining the child abuse of Jude where he has several depression, anxiety, and extreme trauma from his childhood also the novel progresses through the individual lives of Willem, Jb, and Malcolm where these characters interact with each other. The four spend time together which also shows their intimate relationship. So, there is a clear understanding of their love for each other but Jude finds himself unable to reveal his past or his current state of mind. Whenever his friends try to get closer, his consciousness goes back, to where he was physically, mentally, and sexually abused by monks.

The author illustrates that *A Little Life* is a novel in conversation with *Odyssey*. *Odyssey* is a story that also revolves around abuse and sexual assault. Hanya, by her attempt, tries to evoke Jude's hidden past. *A Little Life* introduces an orphanage's struggle and depicts the trauma of sexual abuse and a conventional justification of social inequality.

According to the trauma studies, the social impact plays an important role, in the same way, the characters are scared to face society, especially the protagonist Jude is trying hard to conceal his memories of childhood. *A Little Life* has become a classic in modern American literature. Social problems also discuss the issue of child abuse, which has long been unconsciously mastered by the human mind.

CONCLUSION

A Little Life interprets the characters of the child abuse in children and the author vividly captures all the circumstances and the problems that the children endure in the appellation of orphans. The novel delivers the ideas of betrayal and discrimination. Her novel provokes the reader's mind with the idea that child abuse and children can create more destruction and suffering for people rather than making them prosperous.

The novel made some prolific, vigorous, and strong views against the real suffering of child abuse in children. Hanya's character description appeal more real to the readers which is revealed in their sympathy for the characters and she has also done it deliberately in her second novel. The reader may cry and laugh with the characters in every situation. *Oliver twist* also experienced child abuse of children throughout his career. He also describes betrayal that affects every space in time the past, present, and future.

Even though the story begins in a light-hearted manner, as it proceeds the plot takes place in the betrayal of child abuse. The entire plot revolves around the incidents that took place in the orphans and it depicts the realistic and more terrific struggle of child orphans in the name of childhood abuse.

A Little Life can also be analyzed from a psychoanalytic perspective which deals with how characters like Jude change in time. The conscious and unconscious are elaborate in the novel. Freud believed that all these conscious behaviors come out to the conscious unexpectedly. Freud asserted that people's behavior is determined by their unconscious fear and desire that they are not consciously aware of.

Through the novel, *A Little Life*, Hanya renders the idea that how child abuse is discriminated against, dominated, subjugated, and marginalized in American society. Though people talk about the liberation of child betrayal in the 18th century, now in the current scenario of the 21st century, orphans are subtly troubled by upper-class people.

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