

THE SELF –DISCLOSURE OF SOCIAL CONSCIOUSNESS THROUGH CHADWICK’S MONOLOGUE BY SIMON STEPHENS IN PUNK ROCK

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ABSTRACT

The aim of this paper is to reveal the social consciousness through Chadwick in the play Punk Rock. Social consciousness or social awareness is simply defined as consciousness shared by individuals within the society. It essentially means to be conscious or aware of the problems in a society or community. Simon Stephens cleverly uses the technique of monologue through Chadwick in Punk Rock. It is a brilliant monologue and it makes us to feel the reality of the current world. The term monologue is a theatre technique and it is a speech presented by a single character, most often it expresses the inner nature of the character to the audience.

Key words: Social consciousness, Monologue, Simon Stephens, Punk Rock, Chadwick.

Introduction:

Social consciousness is consciousness shared by individuals within a society. According to Karl Marx, human beings enter into certain productive, or economic, relations and these relations lead to a form of social consciousness. Marx said: "In the social production of their life, men enter into definite relations that are indispensable and independent of their will; these relations of production correspond to a definite stage of development of their material forces of production. The sum total of these relations of production constitutes the economic structure of society — the real foundation, on which raises a legal and political superstructure and to which correspond definite forms of social consciousness. The mode of production of material life determines the social, political and intellectual life process in general. It is not the consciousness of men that determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being that determines their consciousness".

Presently, social consciousness is connected with the collective self awareness and experience of collectively shared social identity. With this we come to know social consciousness is nothing but social awareness of self being part of an interlinked community of others. The "we feeling" or the "sense of us" may be realised by the members of different cultures as well as social groups. Social unity might be experience of collectively shared Social identity and the individuals. The main purpose of social consciousness is also to work for common goal.

Monologue is a term originated from Greek. Mono (μόνος *mónos*) means "alone, solitary" and logue (λόγος *logos*) "speech" is a speech presented by single character, its often express inner thoughts of character aloud in front of the audience. Monologues are commonly used for the dramatic media such as plays, films, etc not only dramatic media and its used for non-dramatic media for instance poetry. Moreover

we can see the similarities of monologue with some other literary devices like soliloquies', apostrophes, and aside. There are some differences between each of these devices.

Simon Stephens is a candescent commentator on his own writings moreover he introduces Punk Rock in the foreword to Volume Three of his Collected Plays: " I have spent a long time over the past ten years writing about seventeen year old characters. In this play Simon shares his past teaching experience in comprehensive schools and prisons and young offenders' team. He says that it strikes him, are as populated by seventeen year olds as they are by alcoholics and dead children. There is something inert about being seventeen. In the mind of Charles Spencer, who himself remembers "those turbulent years of embarrassment and self-doubt, combined with the ache of unreturned love and lust". Punk Rock started in London at the Lyric Theatre, Hammersmith, in 2009 with the production then transferring to the Royal Exchange in Manchester where it won the Manchester Evening News Award for Best Production of the year.

Punk Rock narrates the story of different anxiety adolescents as they flirt, bully and pontificate their way through their A-level mocks. The outcome is a play that is "Power and compelling" according to the Independent's Michael Coveney, and which "evokes the twilight world of the teenager with scary vividness," It is rarely new territory being probed here. To feat the displeased of puberty as amusement is a multibillion-dollar business. Our film, television, book and recording industries would all be in sorry shape without teenage angst to draw from.

The seven characters onstage portray a range of normal teens: There's Cissy (Alexandra Marie Harrington), the diligent/conscientious student who's ruined by a B in English; Bennett (James Fay), her subjugating boyfriend; Nicholas (Diego Buscaglia), the elegant jock; Tanya (Alana Osborn-Lief), the sensitive one; Chadwick (Alex Levy), the brilliant loner; Lilly (Emily White), the modern girl; and the overanxious and over creative William (Phil Gillen). All of them could be depicted as exactly "normal," but as William utters, "I hate normal." The most hazardous one in this clan appears to be Chadwick, who, the group panics, may finally snarl from Bennett's determined abuse/revile. And Bennett is determined, never losing an opportunity to force everybody's buttons with childish name- vociferating and hazards of physical violence if he is rebelled. The last blond appears to approach when Bennett pressures Tanya to paint Chadwick's lips with her lipstick. Later Chadwick shrugs it off with talk that shows his brilliant pomposity, and Tanya recites Bennett to her parents.

The Adult Characters Revealed Through Different Individuals.

Bullying

From the beginning to end of the text the writer uses the theme of bullying in various times. Almost all the characters in Punk Rock undergo bullying in some way. Either in the form of being the bully, being bullied, or being with inclined or disinclined bystander. Especially Bennett's dialogues with other characters is bullying or domineering. He speaks much of disgrace, sexual harassment and hellacious humour to rule the group. It appears Cissy too happy accompanying in with bullying Chadwick. The reason behind this is nothing but he is the one who is more intelligent than her.

Pressure

There is extreme pressure on the characters. Beside the pressure and tension induced by controlling Bennett with his almost steady bullying and menacing presence, there is pressure from parents, school, peers and society, and the pressure of being an adolescent imitating with issues of sexuality, identity and isolation, except mention exams.

To score top level marks in academic wise in a various way that the students get the stress from the parent's side all most all the characters, specifically Cissy.

Sexual Identity

Bennett feels shy to talk about the same gender sexual feelings – though he uses many times in his dialogues. Often he starts the subject but then he immediately switch over other subject.

Isolation/Neglect

Isolation or desolation is part of student's school life and they themselves cause for the isolation. These adults grow in own little dysfunctional family in the old library. There is a remarkable distant and the children are left to cope on their own.

Violence

The fear of violence when Bennett's session with other characters. The writer makes the audience to feel violence throughout the play. Especially in Bennett's portion when he could snap with other characters. This portion gives the tension until we get at the intensely violent climax.

The scene reveals the major elements of Simon Stephens' theme.

The fourth scene plays a pivotal role in bringing about all the elements. In scene four further onstage seven individuals who were them not normal. In all of them we could say one or other negative attributes of bullying, sensitiveness, intellectual loneliness, over imaginative or over anger. The most dangerous are in the crowd become Chadwick. The angst of teens is turning into violence. The final straw seems to come when Bennett forces Tanya to paint Chadwick's lips with her lipstick. But Chadwick shrugs it off with a speech that displays his intellectual superiority Chadwick expresses his grievances about his society in his intellectual monologue.

The monologue of Chadwick reflects the present condition of the society.

Chadwick:

"You know what will define the next two hundred years? Religions will become brutalized; crime rates will become hysterical; everybody will become addicted to internet sex; suicide will become fashionable; there'll be famine; there'll be floods; there'll be fires in the major cities of the Western world. Our education systems will become battered. Our health services unsustainable; our police forces unmanageable; our governments corrupt. There'll be open brutality in the streets; there'll be nuclear war; massive depletion of resources on every level; insanely increasing third-world population. It's happening already. Thousands die every summer from floods in the Indian monsoon season."

Through his monologue we can see the author on the stage more than character. The writer's refers about Somalians who wait in hostel in Malta, people who die of fire or flood every year, vanishing species all such worries are mouth pieced through Chadwick which clearly becomes the central theme of the play.

Conclusion:

From the above analysis we come to know the current state of youngsters and Chadwick is also one among them. While comparing with other six characters we can find the social consciousness more on Chadwick. Especially when Chadwick discloses his self through monologue but he fails to overcome the reality of life. The problems is not in self but the society forces him to undergo some pains like bullying, pressure, sexual identity, isolation, and violence so on.

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