Shades of Loneliness in Human Behaviour of Fiction’s Characters By Alice Munro

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Abstract

This research paper will analyze the impact of loneliness on human behaviour which is purely presented in Fiction by Alice Munro. This research paper is compilation of Jon, Joyce, Edie and her child’s behaviour changes according to their state of loneliness. The main objective of this research is to find out the incidents and situations responsible for behaviour changes. This research gathers all incidents in Fiction which will help to analyze the woman’s loneliness with regards her marriage in the contemporary society. This research paper is focused upon how loneliness affects and completely changes people to the core into new human personality.

Keywords: Human behaviour, Loneliness, flexibility, Social understanding

Alice Munro is well known Canadian critic and writer who spread all her power of imagination on various fields of literature. She is especially known for her extreme success in short story writings. She is a writer who won the Man Booker International Award in 2009. She is one of the Nobel Prize winners and achieved it in 2013. She was awarded by the Swedish Academy calling her the “master of the contemporary short story”. She is an example of feminist criticism because she is the first woman to be awarded by Nobel Prize in Canada. Her first collection of stories appeared in Dance of the Happy Shades. Her most renowned work of short stories in a collection called Too Much Happiness. She takes short story writing to the high level not to be tiny plays in hands. She stated in her Nobel Prize Speech how she got through all the ideas and thoughts through lots of struggle.

Alice Munro mastered the art abounded with human behaviour and its simplicity in society. Her understanding of human nature of contemporary times is praise worthy.

Alice Munro discusses the plainness of life in her short stories as she describes the ordinary and rough realities of human behaviour. These rough characteristics reflect in the characters of stories too.
‘Fiction’ is short story included in Too Much Happiness at the second place. The first story of *Too Much Happiness* collection is *Dimension* which is quite similar to Fiction. This research paper discusses about the shades of human nature influenced by loneliness which reflects in life story of Joyce and Jon. Jon and Joyce were the intelligent students studied at an Urban high school in Ontario. Jon chooses to work with woods as carpenter due to his passion which somewhere touches the inner loneliness. Nature is itself is a symbol of tranquillity which enters into the behaviour of Jon too. They fell in love with each other and their being fall in love indicates their short town socialization. Joyce somehow feels the inner loneliness so she always looks Jon working with woods in his shop after her school. Their routine somehow has the essence of inner loneliness which reflects and affects their behaviour. Firstly, Jon chooses his passion as carpenter though he was so intelligent to get a job in a city. He prefers to be in small town with his tiny activities which shows the reflection of solitude in his behaviour. This inner conflict also affects his future decision too. Jon’s work as well as his affection towards Joyce is the product of inner solitude. Joyce likes Jon’s passion towards calm profession and loves him for his simplicity. It can be assumed that Jon loves this characteristic of Joyce that she never go against or make fun of his passion like other residents. Jon’s love towards Joyce is a shade of loneliness which converts into great affection. The reason behind fled away with each other drop out of college and leave bright future behind reflects one shade of human behaviour product of loneliness.

After their marriage, they suffer many problems such as financial, social and communication too. They had lack of communication due to their individual inner loneliness. Jon started working as an assistant in carpenter work whereas Joyce started teaching in small town school. Their conversation was short and sometimes has no base. Lack of communication also indicates different shades of loneliness. Jon’s affection towards Edie, an assistant of new shop opened by Jon is the consequence of his broken communication with Joyce.

Alice Munro portrayed the character of Edie who had a child from her ex-boyfriend. Edie entered into Jon and Joyce’s home with different as well as strange human behaviour which is completely influenced by her loneliness. Edie’s interview with Jon and Joyce is an example of human behaviour shades. Jon fell in love with Edie but at the same time Edie also decides to live with Jon instead aware of his wife Joyce. After leaving the house, Joyce started to chat with her similar story ladies to remove her loneliness. This wane effort of overcome her loneliness makes Joyce bold and pretentious. Joyce pretends to revive Jon’s love towards her. Alice Munro revealed the female insecurity in Joyce’s example. Joyce marries with Matt, a sixty years old rich man, reveals
the change in human behaviour from bold to insecure woman. Alice Munro portrayed Joyce’s character abounded with many characteristics and flexible to the core. The main factor behind her flexibility in human characters is the reflection of loneliness. After many years Joyce finds a narrator of a book in who resembles with the child of Edie. Joyce was supposed to her teacher who is the narrator of the story written in book. These written words by Edie’s child is a pure product of childhood loneliness which take place in shape of a book which is now in Joyce’s hands. Joyce decides to visit this narrator or ex-student with an excuse of taking autograph. The encounter exposes Joyce as an unvalued story teller and reflects an example of Munro’s understandings of people. The essence of loneliness can be seen again in Joyce’s mind which finally makes Joyce strong. This can be consider as another shade of loneliness which reflected in human behaviour in society as well as Alice Munro’s art of representing contemporary social structure.

Bibliography


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