Bullying: A Comparative Study of Mary Karooro Okurut's The Invisible Weevil And Charles Dickens’ Oliver Twist

Rajni Arora
Department of Verbal Ability
Lovely Professional University

Abstract- A comparative study was undertaken with Charles Dickens’ “Oliver Twist” and Mary Karooro’s “The Invisible Weevil”. This research paper aims to reflect the practice of bullying in English literature. Bullying is of three types: Physical, Verbal and Psychological. Charles Dickens has always been a favourite author of not only of Victorian era but also in modern age. No research has been done on the aspect of Bullying that has always remained a major part in his novels. Throughout his life he was bullied by one or another person. He himself had a bitter experience of Bullying in the factory, he used his those experiences in Oliver Twist. In Mary’s “The Invisible Weevil” depicts a story of bullying done in school and showed its aftermath results. The victims are not only students but also teachers. In this study the guidelines of the latest 8th edition of MLA style sheet will be observed. Reviews from Research journals, newspapers and magazines will be consulted from Shodhganga, Jstor, Google Scholar and other Web sources. This study is qualitative and based on knowledge and no field work is required. The textual analysis will be done to explore and investigate the social and scientific vision of bullying in various literature.

Key Words: bullying, society, psychological aspect, dehumanizing, victim

The paper talks about the psychological aspects of bullying. Oliver Twist is a novel with many themes i.e. Crime, punishment, sufferings, poverty etc. But this paper touches the aspect of Bullying that becomes the reasons of aftermath results. Similarly, The Invisible Weevil, a novel written by Mary shows the story of a girl who becomes victim of bullying by her seniors in a hostel. She was wrongly treated and given punishments. This research paper focuses on the responsible factors and to get the solution. Previous researches just show the educational institutions having this practice and a mismanagement of the education system.

He himself had a bitter experience of Bullying while working in the factory, he used his those experiences in Oliver Twist. Oliver twist is a story of an orphan boy who tries to stay in the society but his efforts are futile. Society refuses to help him. After his mother’s death, he is sent to the parochial orphanage, where he and the other orphans are ill treated terribly and were used to given less food to eat. They had to strive sometimes. They have to struggle very hard. When he is nine years old then he is sent to the workhouse, where a new chapter of bullying and sufferings starts. The other boys when
they were unable to stand their hunger any longer they decide to ask for more food. They decide that they will draw a straw and the person who loses he has to dare to ask for more food but unluckily, Oliver loses. Similarly he faces many difficulties. A gentleman Mr Brownlow takes Oliver in his house. He was happy in his life again but after sometime, again he was caught by Fagin and kidnapped. Again his misfortune started. They forced him to break a house. He was sent at gun point. But his partners left him in a ditch. He manages to reach back to his owner, Mrs Mavlie where they decide to protect him. So these were the changes in Oliver’s life.

Throughout his life he was bullied by one or another person. Whateover happened with him was a clear cut result of Bullying. If he was not bullied this way, may be his life would be changed.

"The Invisible Weevil" shows a picture of bullying in school. Many articles have been written on this issue but they don’t focus on the psychological factors responsible for this.

Bullying is one of the form violence and that can be physical or psychological. Aghamelu has specified the difference between physical violence and psychological violence. Physical violence is such violence if you hurt someone physically in any form like rape and fists. Psychological violence involves any hostile behavior using non-verbal or verbal language to harm someone.

The Invisible Weevil is a story having many characters that are involved in Bullying. Some of them are the victim and some of them are the leading commander. The major character who is involved in bullying is “Brigadier” There is a new comer in the hostel named Nkwanzi, She is given an impossible task of
blowing the light bulb with her breath. For us, to use Brigadier means the person who takes cares of the society for security reasons.

One girl approached Nkwanzi’s bed. You! Go and blow out the light, she commanded. … are you deaf or just stubborn and arrogant?…and she hauled Nkwanzi to her feet. Now blow it with your breath… A slap on her cheek did it. The brigadier’s voice is heard commanding

Okurut depicts bullying in school as a major threat to the new students joining school. This kind of behavior by the senior students is dehumanizing to the new comers. Bullying continues in the dormitory. This time the students are impersonating the church. Fresh students are addressed as tail; this form of branding is verbal bullying. They are given urine to drink in the name of holy drink.

The victims are not only students but also teachers. Rose is the teacher who has become the victim of such incidences. She is given Verbal bullying treatment. She is tired of the things at last and leaves the job. At such treatments, the new comers they decide to give more harsh treatment to their juniors. And the cycle goes on.

Deborah Jesseman (July / August 2000) stated that Oliver Twist basically targets young readers. Unlike many audio books, a narrator reads most of the story but various actors read the dialog of the major characters.
Colin Williamson found two missing links in the novel. According to him, Charles might have done the same practice that’s why he had left these links in his novel Oliver Twist. He criticised that Dickens provides more than average scope for this kind of research, and of recent years the tendency has been to follow such clues in the direction either of his subconscious or of his symbolism. I propose to look at a number of episodes in Oliver Twist and see where they lead when approached in the first place from the point of view of Dickens’s conscious narrative intentions. As per him, there is unnecessary digression just for the sake of emphasizing and commending Losberne's impetuosity, which, in any case, plays no shaping part in the story.

Roland f. Anderson stated that Oliver Twist is an improvised mystery," further he complained that Oliver Twist is not unified as a novel ought to be; however, he is also unwittingly identifying a structure not unique to Oliver Twist, but widespread in narratives, particularly those often thought of as primitive and archaic in origin.

Graham Greene, appreciated that "Chesterton, in a fine imaginative passage, has described the mystery behind Dickens' plot, fine imaginative passage, has described the mystery behind Dickens's plot, the sense that even the author was unaware of what was really going on.

Michael Lund, Sidney Thomas and William T. Lankford criticized Oliver Twist as a novel creating sexuality. They stated the incidence of Rosy’s engagement. At one time the tears of Oliver are momentary. Whether it is an incidence of death of Dick or marriage of Rose. He could not justify the feelings.

Peter Nazareth stated that The Invisible Weevil has many flavors. It showed the incidences of rape, death, problems, beauty and many more.

In one of article, Moon et al. tries to depict the relation between criminal minds and bullying.

They stated that “when we explain bullying, self-that is very much required. Self-control has a great level as compare to bullying and to inculcate self-control, effective parenting is very much required. “Bullies are more likely to be impulsive, to lack empathy for others, and to be easily provoked, all consistent with low self-control” (Moon et al. 5).

REFERENCES


Al-Raqqad KH, Al-Bourini ES, Al Talahin FM, Raghda ME (2017). The Impact of School Bullying on Students' Academic Achievement from teachers’ Point of View. International Education Studies 10:6 ISSN 1913-9020 E-ISSN 1913-9039 Published by Canadian Center of Science and Education.


Web sources


