
Man - Woman Relationship and Oedipus Complex in D H Lawrence

Dr. Priyanka Pasari

Research Project Fellow, Department of English, MJB Govt Girls PG College , Indore

D H Lawrence, born in 1885, was regarded as a great novelist of early 20th Century. He was brought up in a tense atmosphere due to the constant discord between his parents.. He was much impressed by his mother whom he used to love and respect from the bottom of his heart. he also wrote short stories, essay travel books and criticism, yet he is most remembered for his great novels *The White Peacock* (1911), *The Trespasser* (1912), and *Sons and Lovers* (1913).

Sons and Lovers was Lawrence's masterpiece which raised him to the level of eminent men of letters of England. It was written chiefly in an autobiographical style with his favorite setting of meaning area. In this novel, Lawrence made a fine blending of love and hatred. He showed powerful attachment with his mother and a high sense of bitterness and hatred as a sensitivity of a young man. It is highly powerful novel with deep sincerity in dealing with his strong bond and feelings regarding mother and son relationship. The feelings 'love' and hatred have been expressed with powerful intensity. It presents a fine picture of relationship between man and woman, psycho-analysis and natural beauty in the most effective style.

The Rainbow (1915) ,least autobiographical one, centers around man- woman relationship. Here, Lawrence has mainly dealt with the theme of 'marriage'. The writer describes the family history of Brongwens covering a period of three generations. In *Women in Love* (1921), he described his main characters under a new psychology. He expressed effectively his views showing his love and sympathy for the poor. *The Aaron's Rod* is based on a reference from the Bible. The background of the story of the Novel is about unhappy married life. *Kangaroo* came (1926) where he advocated integral sex relationship as an effective remedy for all social ills and evils.

Lady Chatterley's Lover which is regarded as the most sensational novel by D H Lawrence published in Italy came into London quite secretly and under expurgated version in 1932 only after Lawrence's death in 1930. It contained highly detailed descriptions of sexual union. Lawrence describes about the relationship between wife and husband and between lover and beloved.

The relationship between man and woman is the main dominant theme in his novels whether expressed in one form or the other in various shades , hues and aspects. Such relationship may be between husband and wife, between son and his mother or between a woman and her lover. Sex plays an important part for the development of such relationships in one way, or the other. The sexual coldness of a man or woman may give rise to perverted sexual relationships. Lawrence expresses his heart feeling in an emotional and effective style. *Sons and Lovers*, a

popular autobiographical novel, presents the conflict of sexual relationships. In the opening part, we read about the constant discord between father and mother. It results in the close attachment and relationship between the sons and their mother who depends more on her happiness rather than her husband who goes astray because of his drunkenness and wayward life. Lawrence himself is there in the garb of Paul Morel. He discusses and closely analyzes the relationship between men and women. He presents human relationship on its various tangles. He wrote, "I can only write that what I feel strongly about; and, that, at present, is the relation between men and women". He found that relations that exist between men and women ran short of something very vital and something evil and greatly damaging had entered human relations that is what he wanted to set the things right. It reminds of Hamlet who soliloquizes, "O cursed spite...."

Lawrence, like Paul (and both much like Hamlet) was the victim of the Oedipus complex. He loved his mother excessively and had trouble in establishing satisfactory human relationship. Lydia Morel, Lawrence's mother was akin to Mrs. Morel as regards her refinement and culture. Lawrence was deeply influenced by Hardy. Lawrence grew up he was forced to consider the relationship between men and women as a form of conflict, not a natural expression of harmony. If we are to believe Lawrence, his mother disappointed in her husband, turned to her son for the satisfaction and understanding. She failed to find in her marriage. The strain that this implied relationship imposed on his adolescent emotions can be seen his abnormal senility to any threatened domination by women and his almost conflict assumed gigantic proportions in his mind and the almost universalizing tendency so common in egotistical geniuses led him to regard it as the primal sin against natural law. Resentful himself of being absorbed by a woman's tenderness, he thought that the contemporary struggle of woman for mastery was responsible for all human happiness. He even went so far as to trace the misery occasioned by economic disequilibrium to the violation of male supremacy and sexual harmony. This line of thought led him to glorify the primitive state which he believed was based on knowledge of the cosmic law underlying sex relationship.

The inadequacy on his side that he feels in his successive relationship with Miriam and Paul with regard to both Miriam and Clara. Paul's relationship with three women Mrs. Morel, his mother, Miriam leaves her childhood lover and a later loves Clara Dawes. Mrs. Morel fails to recognize the 'otherness' of Paul because she wants to possess the soul of Paul. The mother-pull and love results in stunted emotional growth of Paul.

Miriam is very intense in her emotions. She does not indulge in passions at an ordinary level. Paul feels annoyed at her display of affection for her younger brother. He wants her to be normal with her emotions. It is Miriam to whom he looks for an insight and deep vision. Mrs Morel too sucks him up. Miriam loves Paul and Paul does not understand her Paul's love for Miriam is a characteristic illustration of the conventional type of love in the head which Lawrence has to despise in times to come. Thus the study of man woman relationships with each other reveals that only Mrs. Morel can be blamed for not understanding the 'otherness' of the men in her life other-wise in the case of other two women characters- Miriam and Clara.

Paul gave more importance to his mother than his beloved Miriam. He leaves to Miriam for his mother. Miriam comes before the readers only as neglected woman. She was always ready to

make the best sacrifice for Paul but she could not win him forever. Paul's mother always stood as a stumbling block in their love affair Clara played her role of physical contact with Paul who forgot Miriam an important period of time. Paul's dissatisfaction with Miriam the reason of spiritual relationship with Paul. She could not give him any physical satisfaction so Paul become close with Clara but their love affair could not continue any more as it was casual, physical, mundane, and quite earthy as opposed to ethreal spiritual, platonic or non-physical love from Mirium.

Mrs. Morel does not want that Paul be taken away by the beloved .There is a conflict between mother and the beloved for the soul of Paul. It is described in these words 'From his mother, he drew the life warmth.... Miriam urged this Warmth and intensity like a white light''.

Lawrence has tried to show that there should be proper balance between the instinctive and the intellectual life for a harmonious and happy establishment of human relationship. Mr. Morel is a man of instinct and passion, his wife is woman of reason and intellect. Adjustment is not possible. Miriam is all intellect and Clara is all flesh there can be no proper adjustment. So Paul also gets no proper emotional relationship with his women. This according to Lawrence is the tragedy of the modern man. It is the tragedy of thousands of young men in England.

Paul had become only a tragic here only to suffer and bear for the want for real adjustment and favorable decisions in his life and it was the real cause of his suffering and failure in life. His peace of mind has gone he was alone to suffer in a large world. He feels loneliness. He often whispered 'Mother' who was no more to comfort him or provide any solace to him. Thus Paul becomes the tragic hero of the Novel. Hamlet dies in the end his tragic death but Paul dies every moment. He lives and dies or breathes a living death which is the worst kind of tragedy. Paul is left alone to suffer in silence in large crowded and populated world with great agony incapacitated to make love emotionally and receive it.

REFERENCES :

- i. Lawrence, D.H. Sons and Lovers, England: Grove Pressinc. Publication, 1913.
- ii. Lawrence, D.H. Woman in Love. New York: Grove Pressinc. Publication, 1921
- iii. Lawrence, D.H. Lady Chatterley's Lover. New York: Grove Pressinc. Publications, 1929.
- iv. Lawrence, D.H.. The White Peacock. London: penguin Books 1961.
- v. Lawrence, D.H. Sex, Literature and Consorship, New Delhi: Sterling Publication, 1994.
- vi. ...Aron's Rod. London: William Heinemann Ltd. 1963.
- vii. ...Kangaroo. London: Ace Books, 1961
- viii. ...Sons and Lovers. London: penguin Books 1962.
- ix. ...The Plumed Serpent. London: Penguin Books, 1961
- x. ...The Rainbow. London: William Heinemann Ltd. 1965.
- xi. ...The Trespasser. London: William Heinemann Ltd. 1965
- xii. ...Women in Love. London: Penguin Books, 1963.
- xiii. Adler, Alfred ed. Alan Porter, What Life Should Mean to You. London: Unwin Books, 1962.

-
- xiv. Aldington, Richard. D.H. Lawrence an Indiscretion. Seattle, 1927,
- xv. Aldridge, John W. ed. The Critiques and Essays in Modern Fiction. New York: Ronald Press Co., 1952.
- xvi. Allen, Clifford. A Text Book of Psychosexual Disorders. London: Oxford University Press, 1962.
- xvii. Allen, Walter. English and American Novel from the Twenties to Our Time. London: Phoenix House, 1964.
- xviii. Bainton, Roland, H. Sex, Love and Marriage. Fontana Books, 1958.
- xix. Barnes, H.E. An Intellectual and Cultural History of the Western Thought. New York: Reynal and Hitchcock, 1941.
- xx. Beal, Anthony, ed. D.H. Lawrence: Selected Literary Criticism. London, Heinemann, 1964,
- xxi. Brett, Dorothy. Lawrence and Brett, A Friendship. Philadelphia, 1993
- xxii. Brinton, Crain. Ideas and Men, The Story of Western Thought. New Jersey: Princeton Hall, Inc., Sixty Printing, 1953.
- xxiii. Brunton, Paul. The Spiritual Crisis of Man. London: Rider and Company, 1952.
- xxiv. Cazamian, Louis & Legouis, Emile, A History of English Literature. Section Second, Modern Times, Trans, By W.D. Macinnes and the Auther- London: J.M. Dent & Sons Ltd., Revised ed. 1933.
- xxv. Chesser, Eustace. Sexual Behavior. London: Transworld Pub., 1964.
- xxvi. Closter, Genaldine, Yoga and Western Psychology: A Comparison. London: Oxford University Press, 1943.
- xxvii. Coates, J.B., Ten Modern Prophets. Frederick Muller- Second Edition, Oct., 1964.
- xxviii. Cole, William Graham, Sex in Christianity and Psychoanalysis. New York: Oxford University Press, 1955.
- xxix. Corke, Helen. D.H. Lawrence's Princess, a Memory of Jessie Chambers. London, 1951.
- xxx. Daiches, David. The Present Age in British Literature. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1958.
- xxxi. David Daiches, The Novel and the Modern World, London: The University of Chicago Press, 1973.
- xxxii. Davies, John Langdon. Sex, Sin and Sanctity. London: Victor Gollanz, 1954.
- xxxiii. Deleski, H.M. The Forked Flame... A Study of D. H. Lawrence. London: Faber & Faber, 1965.
- xxxiv. Dix, Carol. D.H. Lawrence and Women. London: MacMillan Press Ltd. 1980.
- xxxv. Drain, Richard, L. Tradition and D. H. Lawrence Groningen, 1960.
- xxxvi. Draper, R.P. D.H. Lawrence, The Profiles in Literature, Series. London: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1969.
- xxxvii. Drionkwater John ed. The Outline of Literature. Revised by Shipp, London: Horace George Newness Ltd., 1950.
- xxxviii. Eliot T.S. After Strange Gods London: Faber & Faber, 1933.
- xxxix. Evans, Sir Ifor. A Short History of English Literature. London: Penguin Books, Second Edition, 1963- Reprinted , 1966.
- xl. Fielding, William J., Sex and The Love Life New York: Perma Books, 1656.
-

-
- xli. Forster, E.M., don, Aspects of the Novel. London: Edward Arnold and Co. Pocket ed. 1953.
- xlii. Frenihough, Anne. The Cambridge Companion to D.H. Lawrence. Cambridge: Cambridge UP, 2001.
- xliii. Gollins, A.S. English Literature of the Twentieth Century. London: University Tutorial Press Ltd
- xliv. Gomme, A.H. ed. D.H. Lawrence: A Critical Study of the Major Novels and Other Writings. Sussex: The harvester Press Ltd. 1978.
- xlvi. Gordon, David J. D.H. Lawrence as a Literary Critic. London: Yale University Press, 1966.
- xlvi. Grip, John, P., Sexuality, Love and Immorality. New York Philosophical Library, 1956.
- xlvi. Hoffman, F.J. & Moore, H.T. ed. The Achievement of D.H. Lawrence.
- xlviii. Hoffman, F.J., Freudianism and Literary Mind. Baton Rouge, 1945.
- xlix. Hoffman, Frederick. J. Freudianism and the Literary Mind. Louisiana: Louisiana State University Press, 1945.
- l. Holbrook, David. The Quest for Love. London: Methuen, 1964.
- li. Horstein, F. x. Sex, Love and Marriage Von, & Fallor, Popular Library 1964.
- lii. Hough, Graham. The Dream and The Reality. London, Duckworth, 1963.
- liii. Hough, Graham. Two Exiles: Lord Byron & D.H. Lawrence Nottingham: Nottingham Press, 1956.
- liv. Hunter, Jim. ed. The Modern Novel in English. London, Faber & Faber, 1966.
- lv. Isqascs, J., An Assessment of Twentieth Century Literature. London, Secker & Warbyry, 1952.
- lvi. James, Scott, R.A., Longmans. Fifty Years of English Literature (1900-50). London: Green & Co., Second ed. 1953.
- lvii. Kenmare, Dallas, Fire- Bird, A Study of D.H. Lawrence. London, 1951.
- lviii. Landau, Rom. Sex, Life and Faith. London: Faber and Faber, 1945.
- lix. LAWRENCE CRITICISM IN OTHER BOOKS AND IN PERIODICALS
- lx. Leavis, F. R. The Great Tradition. New York, 1948.
- lxi. Love Hate Relations. New Delhi, Allied Publishers First Indian Reprint, 1977.
- lxii. Ludwig, Emil. Of Life and Love. New York: Philosophical Library, 1945.
- lxiii. Mann, Heinrich. The Living Thoughts of Nietzsche. Cassel & Co., 1942.
- lxiv. Messanger, Nigel. How to Study A D.H. Lawrence. London: MacMillan, 1989.
- lxv. Moore, H.T. ed. Introduction to D.H. Lawrence's Sex Literature and Censorship. New York: Twayne Publishers, 1953.
- lxvi. Moynahan, J. The Deed of Life: The Novels and Tales of D.H. Lawrence. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1963.
- lxvii. Murry, Johathan M. , Love, Freedom and Society. London: Cape, 1957.
- lxviii. Nasr, Seyyed Hossein., Man and Nature, The Spiritual Crisis of Modern Man. London: Allen & Unwin Ltd., 1968.
- lxix. Neill, S.D. A Short History of the English Novel. London: Jerrold's, Jan., 1952.
- lxx. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 1953.
- lxxi. Panichas, George A. Meaning of D.H. Lawrence's Religions Quest. London: Mouton & Co., 1964.
-

- lxxii. Partlow, Robert and Harry T. Moore. D.H. Lawrence: The Man Who Lived. Carbondale: Souther Illinois University Press, 1979.
- lxxiii. Pinion, F.B. A D. H. Lawrence Companion. London: The Macmillan Press Ltd. 1978.
- lxxiv. Pinto, V.de. D.H. Lawrence: Prophet of the midlands, Nottingham: Sola, 1951.
- lxxv. Pritchett, V.S. The Living Novel- 'Sons and Lovers'. London: Chatto and Windus, 1961.
- lxxvi. Purohit, Kalpana. D.H. Lawrence-Man and Artist. Jaipur: Pointer publishers, 1999.
- lxxvii. Radhakrishnan, S. Eastern Religions and Western Thought. London: Oxford University Press, 1940.
- lxxviii. Raymond, William. The Social Thinking of D.H. Lawrence. No. 4, 67-71, Universities & Left Review Sumer, 1958.
- lxxix. Ress, Richard. Brave Men-A Study of D.H. Lawrence and Simone Weil London: 1958.
- lxxx. Robson, W. W. D. H. Lawrence and Women in Love in The Modern. Age ed. Boris Ford London: Penguin Books, 1965.
- lxxxi. Rolph, G.H. The Trial of Lady Chatterley. London: Penguin, 1961.
- lxxxii. Rowse, A. L. Times, Persons, Places: Essays in Literature. London: Macmillan, 1965.
- lxxxiii. Rusell, Bertrand, Marriage & Morals. London: Unwin, 1965.
- lxxxiv. Sampson, George. The concise Cambridge History of English Literature. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, First ed. 1949
- lxxxv. Schorer, Mark. ed. Modern British Fiction. New York: Oxford University Press, 1961.
- lxxxvi. Sharma, Shruti. D.H. Lawrence: Sons and Lovers- A Critical Study. Karnal: Natraj Publishing House, 1987.
- lxxxvii. Singh, Hukum. D.H. Lawrence: Sex, Love and Life. Kanpur: Aradhana Brothers, 1988.
- lxxxviii. Sitesh, Aruna. D.H. Lawrence: An Anthology of Recent Criticism. Delhi: Ace Publication, 1990.
- lxxxix. Spender, Stephen. ed. D.H. Lawrence Novelist, Poet, Prophet. London: Weidenfield and Nicolson, 1973.
- xc. Spilka, Mark. D.H. Lawrence-A Collection of Critical Essays. New Jercy: Prentice- Hall, 1963.
- xc. Tedlock, E.W. ed. D.H. Lawrence and Sons and Lovers', Sources and Criticism. London: University of London Press Ltd., 1966.
- xcii. Tindal, William. D.H. Lawrence and Susan His Cow New York, 1939.