

A Study of Love and Reality in John Osborne's Play Look Back in Anger

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Abstract

The Modern drama consists high position for some dramatist. John Osborne was one of them. Look back in Anger was written by John Osborne in 1956. It was a problem play. This paper study about social problems like love and reality in look back in anger. It deals with the social aspects as Kitchen Sink drama connected with class conflict which are reflected in reality in Modern society. In this play the protagonist loss his identity as play the role of angry young man is jimmy porter. His wife's name was Alison. Cliff and Helena were other characters in this play. It also deals with the study of degeneration concern modern world connected with present time.

I. INTRODUCTION

Look back in anger by John Osborne was a notable creation. It was a problem play. In this play the protagonist Jimmy Porter depicted as Modern man's personality as modern generation. It focuses on the life and struggle of an educated young man. He dissatisfied his life and belong to a working class. He was not impressed an upper middle class wife Alison. So, his marriage life flow as problem play. In this play, the playwright give intension from life and failing marriage. Mainly he described the generation of 19th century term as angry young man. Realism is the main key concept in this play. It was one of the most remarkable first kitchen sink drama in theatre.

Modern drama focusing to realism as the concept of social issues, moral ambiguity and complex characters. Henrik Ibsen as the father of modern realism, G.B Shaw as the social critiques, Anton Chekhov as the social norms,

Eugene O'Neil as American realism, John Galsworthy as social problems of the underclass. But John Osborne stress about Kitchen Sink Drama. In late 1950 the kitchen sink drama was originating. It focuses the profound social Economics and cultural transforming in post-war Britain.

This play is a one type of play picturized the emotional and domestic life of ordinary people in rural area. In this play, the main themes of poverty, unemployment, discomfortable life and degeneration. The play is rural setting tells the story of ordinary family members. Family tensions are the realistic conflict between husband, wife, parents, children's siblings and other family members.

II. CLASS CONFLICT AND SOCIAL ALIENATION

In this play another main theme is class conflict from British class structure in 1950. There are two classes, one is working class and the other is upper middle class. The main protagonist, his friend Cliff Lewis belongs to the working class. But his wife, her family members and her friend Helena belong to an upper middle class. Jimmy Porter was 25 years old as a university graduate and a highly intelligent man. His wife Alison was a slim, tall and dark in colour. He was a noble lady. Her father Redfern was a retired colonel. Alison's friend Helena also belongs to an upper middle-class family who worked as a theater. Jimmy and Alison got married in three years. So, Jimmy Porter who was trying to search for a good profession to live a better life but unable to do it. The time did not support him so he managed a candy stall partnership with his friend Cliff. He was not satisfied with his work and position in society, so he played an angry young man role in this play. There is class conflict between Jimmy's family and Alison's family. So, his marriage was a battleground but his friend Cliff tried to calm the situation. Jimmy always felt frustrated and behaved like an animal. He wanted to take revenge; he was filled with anger at society for the class system and the people. But Alison was opposite of Jimmy. He always insulted her cause of frustration in life. One day he pushed Alison away. So, she felt very sad with a heavy heart. She left her house when her friend Helena stayed with Jimmy, he was attracted to her but that was not love. It was only a sense of anger and rebellion. Helena was a sensible lady so she was convinced Alison to live a better life.

III. IDENTITY

Identity refers to characters' profound internal struggles to define themselves amidst shifting societal norms, cultural displacement, or personal trauma. The identity crisis analyzes the development of one's personality, social and cultural life. I have tried to describe between the personal and social identification of the characters in this play.

Look Back in Anger is a play. There are five major characters. They have difficulties in

finding their real identity. This is a story of four young people, Jimmy Porter, his friend Cliff Lewis, both coming from working-class. Jimmy's wife Alison Porter and her best friend Helena Charles, both coming from an upper middle-class family, who live all together and suffer from love they feel for each other. Colonel Redfern, the father of Alison, who stands for the great Edwardian past. Jimmy was an angry young man in this play. In his childhood, he lost his father so he struggled to establish himself. His anger is a symbol of political and social ills of British culture in 1950. When we look forward to Colonel Redfern, he represents the time of British Empire as a value of honor, duty, loyalty class and culture. Alison's character also represents very humble and uneasiness with a woman. The play shows the rise and fall of British Empire that are connected to the two world wars. The British economy supported as the new world power, military and politically.

Jimmy represents the symbols of worthy classes of the past. He is the example of a group of people who are unfortunate and angry young man depressing circumstances of post-war Britain. This generation of young men struggling to survive as an education background. Jimmy complains against political, economic and religion. He was dissatisfied with the previous generation because of his own generation's disappointment of World War II.

IV. REALITY

Jimmy plays a role of an angry young man, represented of 19th century a group of people who are dissatisfied with domestic life. He was an educated young man. He married an upper middle class lady who was Alison. Both are opposite of each other so her married life dissolved. He tried to get a good employment but failed to do it. So, he managed a candy stall with the partnership of his friend Cliff to manage his livelihood. Alison and Cliff had a good respect and true love for each other but Jimmy didn't know the true relationship. He was frustrated with social life. He did not know the reality of life. He believes that love is pain for him. He did not understand Cliff and Alison's love for each other.

When Alison left her house, he was attracted to Helena who was a friend of Alison. Alison felt sad

but jimmy thought I take revenge against upper class. But Helena a sensible lady convinced Alison to stay with jimmy. At the end of the play, they together reunite. Before that jimmy and Alison did not enjoy married life as love simple human pleasure. Their marriage life dissolved with class system, anger and suffering. When jimmy was attraction with Helena, want to enjoy romantic pleasure she managed herself. There has no love between jimmy and Helena. Helena plays a role of morality in this play. At end of the play, Alison understands the conflict and stay with jimmy. she trays to give him all support and love to stay happy. All incidents marked reality as the class conflict and loss.

V. CONCLUSION

In this play Osborne stressed that kitchen sink realism was reflect. The main protagonist jimmy porter plays as the role of an angry young man belong to 19th century which are connected in modern society. There has mainly social class conflict, loss of identity, reality and play of domestic in rural area. Lastly Alison has known the reality of family life. When she left alone jimmy, he knows the domestics life value and know the real meaning of love. She plays a role of sensible lady. she always trays to maintains peace in her family so she accepted any kind of insult of jimmy. All the fact are evident that love and reality are the core themes in this play.

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