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Spiritual Paralysis in James Joyce Specific Stories

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Degree of Master of Arts in English

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis paper entitled,

"Spiritual Paralysis in James Joyce Specific Stories" is my own original work carried out as a Master's student at the Department of English at Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus excepted to the extent that assistance from other in the thesis paper's design and conception or in presentation style, and linguistic expression are duly acknowledged.

All sources used for the thesis paper have been fully and properly cited. It contains no materials which to a substantial extent has been accepted for the award of any other degree at Tribhuvan University or any other educational institution, except where due acknowledgement is made in the thesis paper.

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Letter of Approval

This Thesis entitled “Spiritual Paralysis in James Joyce Specific” Stories Submitted to the Department of English Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus, Exhibition Road, by Sita Pokhrel has been approved by the undersigned member of the Research Committee:

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Abstract

This research paper attempts a modest investigation on the spiritual paralysis life of the characters in Specific Stories such as *Clay*, *A Painful Case* and *Eveline* from James Joyce's modernist masterpiece *Dubliners* in order to argue that James Joyce makes a vehement criticism of modernism the influence of which devastate the original values of Ireland. The major issue of the research deals with the negative impacts of modernity as reflected in the form of the frustration, depression, psychological dilemma and emotional alienation in the leading protagonists from the Selected Stories. Placing the contemporary history of Catholic Church and its restrictive doctrines that paralyze the individual wills and desires as well as the European modern changes as the backdrop Joyce excels a portrayal of negative aspect of modernity through the living dead condition of his characters. The research further incorporates the theoretical concept of modernism as its theoretical tool along with the critical reviews from different critics in order for strengthening the major argument on the spiritual paralysis on the Joycean characters. The research paper contributes to the domain of knowledge by the findings that Joycean characters' paralyzed life under the impact of Catholic Church reflects Joyce's critique of modernity in twentieth century Ireland.

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Spiritual Paralysis in James Joyce Specific Stories

Introduction to Modernist Impact in Specific Stories from Joyce's *Dubliners*

Modernism was a literary and cultural movement that took place at around the late 19th century and lasted until the mid-20th century. Originally, modernism was defined as a transition from the past. It refers to the departure from the past and celebrate the present. With the rise of modernism came huge changes in the field of music, art, politics, technology and other social phenomenon. The fundamental battle cry of the modernism is to reject the history and focus on the present as one of the modernist critics, Ezra Pound defines it as 'make it new'. Modernism celebrates the idea of newness which tends to ignore the old. During the process of modernism, the decolonization also started in which all the colonized countries like Ireland began getting independence from Britain. Ireland got freedom. However, British cultural and religious influence continued to affect the tradition, values and history of Ireland. The Britain's religious practice of Catholic Church heavily penetrated into the everyday life of the Irish people. The restrictive doctrines of the Church paralyzed the individual wills, desires and freedom of the Dubliners who got subjected to Catholic values. Joyce's representation of Maria who seeks for marriage to be accepted as good woman in patriarchal Catholic society, Eveline's tolerance of patriarchal violence and domestication by Church values within four walls and Sinico's suicide due to the controlling norms of Church over her individual desires reflect the picture of Joyce's critique of modernism in the contemporary Ireland.

This research paper attempts to explore the implications of the theme of spiritually paralyzed, dust, dilemma, isolations and escape in James Joyce's short stories from *Dubliners*. He is an Irish short story writer and novelist. He is famous for his experimental sort of works that deploys the stream of consciousness with

modernist features in his literary creations. The stream of conscious is used to expose the innermost feelings, emotions and thoughts of the characters through the means of monologue. His works are from the first half of the 20th century especially during the British colonization over Ireland and the First World War. Joyce's works mark a departure from the traditional sort of Victorian narratives and depict the political, cultural and psychological upheavals.

James Joyce critiques the negative impacts and upheavals brought by the modernism like pessimism, isolations, spiritual crisis, frustrations and depressions. *Dubliners* is his masterpiece in which he masters a realistic portrayal of the decaying circumstances of Dubliners. This anthology of stories consists of fifteen stories. Each story deals with the consequences of the rising of modernism. Joyce, being one of the residents and a witness to the changing scenario of twentieth century Ireland, expresses his serious concerns over the downfall and deterioration of the original Irish cultures, values, beliefs and traditions by of the influence of the modernity. The primary subject of his stories dominantly revolves around the spiritual paralysis, moral degradation, cultural deterioration and corruption which are the archetypal manifestations of the impacts of modernism upon the contemporary Irish society. All the stories centre around the depiction of this crisis in the characters. But, the researcher selectively scrutinizes on "Eveline", "A Painful story" and "Clay" as the representative of death-in-life reality of Dublin city.

In this study, the researcher intends to probe into the impacts of modernism and how the characters suffer in their daily life from frustration, depression, alienation and loneliness and why the writer shows the moral and spiritually crisis. "Eveline", "A Painful Case" and "Clay" are the stories that have been selected for this thesis. Each story represents different aspects such as spiritual, cultural and moral pyaralysis

of *Dubliners*. In "A Painful Case" and "Clay", he reflects the cultural and moral as well as spiritual crisis by showing degenerated wills and desires of the characters. But in "Eveline", he deals with the paralysis of *Dubliners* from the gender. There is, of course, moral and spiritual paralysis but it is represented from the suffering of woman who has been controlled within the family boundary and is compelled to live under father's violent behaviours. Eveline is one of Joyce's female protagonists from *Dubliners*. His portrayal of female characters varies from story to story. If Miss Ivory from *The Dead* is more combative and self-determined activist. Female character like Eveline enables Joyce to reflect the gender perspective of the time. He unearths the pitiable conditions of women in a male-dominated Irish society where women's life is very constrained and confined because of her father's alcoholic behaviors and the ignorance from her brothers. Eveline is presented as a representative figure who gets entangled within the transitional swing of the time. She dares to escape the patriarchal chain of Father and lead a life of freedom but her psyche is so paralyzed that she conforms to patriarchal values and submit herself to the service of family.

In the "Clay", the main character Maria an unmarried woman is haunted by the psychological problems of marital dream and she has extreme desire of marital life. Her daily activities are loaded with disorder, dilemma, and confusion and conflict although she wants to live usual life. On the other hand, in "A Painful Case", Mr. Duffy who is so much habituated with his lonely colorless life. Mr. Duffy is ignorant of his own stressful life. He had a very good chance to revive his colorful life by accepting Mrs. Sinico but his constant rejection of any intimacy with her eventually led to his realization of guilt over her demise. He further makes no efforts to improve his situations for better life because the smoke of frustrations and guilt chokes him into the darkness of fragmented life. He is dead although he is alive. Such inability to

take any concrete actions, decisions is Joycean exposure of the psychological paralysis of the Dubliners.

Although, Joyce unveils the contamination, corruption, deterioration and paralysis on psychological, spiritual, cultural and moral aspects through the major protagonists. He employs the technique of epiphany in order for the redemption of the pervasive Dublin life. Epiphany is an ultimate realization of truth that Joyce uses through the change in his protagonists. It is his suggestive voice for the protection of original history, values and heritage of Ireland. He shows the transformation in his characters from immature to mature, personal to public, ideal to real so that the Dubliners are awakened about their death-in-life situation as brought by modernity. Mr. Duffy's sympathetic inclination towards the painful life that Mrs. Sinico lives and his act of relating his own frustrated life with hers marks a point of epiphany. He experiences a kind of guilty for her tragic death. He detaches himself from her whose company could make his life more cheerful and meaningful. But his inability to accept it dooms his own life to isolation and alienation. Eveline has an epiphany twice- when she decides to free herself from the harsh and controlling behavior of his father and second, when she chooses not to run away with Frank for she fears the gloomy future in an unknown land. Although she has an epiphany but unlike others, her epiphanic revelation draws her back to the same world. Maria's realization also ends up making no progress. Her desire for marital life destroys her whole life. All these protagonists have felt an ultimate truth but it was late for them to redeem from it because they were pervasively frozen by death-in -life.

In fact, there has been rare discussion on Joyce's objective behind the representation of the characters. If inquired very closely, we can find out that Joyce has become very purposeful at his portrayal of characters who suffer from frustration,

depression, alienation and other psychological problems. By depicting such characteristics, he tries to critique the adverse impact of the modern influences in Ireland because of which there has been the loss of original Irish values. The spiritual dead, psychological paralysis, cultural demise and moral decadence as seen in the characters evidently show the Joycean critique of modernity, particularly the negative influences coming from its colonizer, Britain. The research hereby probes into the innermost feelings and emotions as reflected in actions and thoughts of the leading protagonists. While investigating the Joycean criticism of modernity in the selected stories, the researcher poses the most possible research questions for the answer of which will eventually discover the textual evidences to justify how Joyce is against the modern changes in Ireland. The research focuses on why does Joyce show the characters, especially the leading protagonists, in a changeable mode? Why do the characters feel the guilty of their actions at the end of the story? Why does Joyce use the technique of epiphany in all the stories? These research questions are the core while going through the texts.

Since the major argument of the research is concerned with Joyce's critique of modernity, the researcher will incorporate the modernist views of the modernist critics such as Ezra Pound and other critics such as Florence A. Walzl, O'Brien Eugene, Zennure 'Koseman as a methodological tools whose reviews on the selected stories will contribute to exploring Joyce's critique of modernity. The research project dedicates itself to historicizing the historical contexts of the twentieth century of Ireland so that the texts has been analyzed as Joyce's efforts in making objective reflection of the bad impacts taking place because of the then Roman Catholic doctrines that control the individual wills of the characters as well as the modern

changes of the Britain. This way, the research interrogates into the Joycean critique of the impact of modernity in the selected stories.

Critical Views on Joyce's Realistic Representation of the History in Specific Stories from *Dubliners*

The selected stories from James Joyce's *Dubliners* are suitable for my research because the subject of my research inquiry is to deal with the James Joyce's critique of modernism. He depicts the negative impact of modernity in the form of the spiritually paralyzed state of Dubliners in twentieth century Ireland and these selected stories present the leading protagonists suffering from psychological depression, frustration, loneliness, alienation and an inability to act according to their wills and desires. The restrictive religious doctrines that control the Dubliners' wills and the European modern changes that overshadow the original Irish values are Joyce's object of criticism which he portrays through the cultural, moral and spiritual crisis in the major protagonists of these selected stories. Thus, these short stories are important to strengthen my inquiry upon the spiritually paralyzed death-in-life of Dubliners.

James Joyce is known as a master for his use of realistic presentation and criticism of pervasive impacts perpetuated by modernity in most of his stories. He makes the reflection of the declining situation of the Irish culture, lifestyle, values and traditions under the influence of modernism. He shows that *The Dead*, paralyzes frozen picture of Ireland by depicting the moral, spiritual and cultural degradation in the characters. Paralysis of life, to him, is the quintessential of Dublin city that he describes it as "scene because that city seemed to [him] the centre of paralysis" (qtd. in Werner 33). The stories by James Joyce are very powerful to critique the modernist trends, and impacts by depicting the characters' frustration, alienation and moral evacuation resulted by modernity. Joyce has politics behind the representation of falsities and negativities of modernism. For this, there are many reviewed works on texts of James Joyce.

Dubliners, as a collection of stories, is James Joyce's groundbreaking masterpiece that garnered huge controversy as well as popularity for its naked depiction of the pervasive and corrupted human behaviors and emotions. Joyce was compelled to exile from his hometown and the publishers occasionally declined to publish them. Despite such unpleasant atmosphere, Joyce seemed determined to expose the deteriorating situations of his country. As a witness to the twentieth century transition that the Ireland was undergoing, Joyce was dissatisfied with the changes invited by the rise of modernity. He found the arrival of modernity in Ireland as a locus of destruction and contamination that corrupted the original Irish values. The blindness of Dubliners fascinates them towards the modernist sentiments that caused the loss of old traditions of Irish society. The moral contamination, cultural degradation and spiritual paralysis dominated the lifestyle of Dubliners because of their illusive submission towards modernism. Thus, *Dubliners* as Joyce's literary work reflects the declining state of moral history of Ireland in the symbolic form of his characters' frozen and paralyzed wills, emotions, and social values as Florence L. Walzl observes:

In *Dubliners*, then, Joyce gives the case history of a nation, tracing a paralyzing disorder from its first partially observable effects through increasing degrees of prostration to a final immobilizing stroke. By means of this unusual personification, he shows the Irish people as successfully paralyzed in emotion, will, action and social values. The "moral history" *Dubliners* presents is along decline, and the prognosis for the patient is death. (228)

These lines strongly conform to the fact that Joyce's literary piece *Dubliners* should not be read as a mere fictional work of literature but rather, it has to be read as his literary

endeavor for the realistic presentation of the paralyzed history of twentieth century Dublin life. This fact is further supported by Gerd B. Jorhovde who, in his article "From discords to Dubliners", postulates that Joyce's story "is also a superb illustration of the theme of paralysis which Joyce himself used to describe Dubliners" (98). Thus, the theme of moral paralysis, cultural deterioration, and psychological dysfunction and spiritual death has been powerfully embodied in *Dubliners*. Joyce condemns them as a damaging effect permeated by the influence of modernity.

Almost all the stories compiled in *Dubliners* are concerned with the paralysis of the moral, cultural and spiritual values. The characters, especially the major protagonists are living a life of living-dead: "Joyce views paralysis as a kind of living death, or rather succession of deaths, emotional, psychological, or spiritual, details of darkness, cold, night, winter, and blindness image this process" (Walzl 223). Such actuality of death-in-life through paralysis of morality, culture and spirituality can be seen affecting the central protagonists of "Eveline", "A Painful Case" and "Clay". These stories unfold Joyce's criticism of modernism through the portrayal of frustrated, isolated, alienated, paralyzed wills and emotions, inability to act and the disillusioned life that the characters went through.

In *Eveline*, he deals with the paralysis of Dubliners from the gender perspective concerned with the frustration of a female protagonist under the domesticated treatment of her father who is violent and tends to unleash a tirade of verbal abuse towards her while drunk. There is, of course, moral and spiritual paralysis but it is represented from the suffering of women in male-hegemonized Dublin society. Looking at the story as the Joycean exploration of women's subjectivity, O'Brien highlights, "The focal of this essay will be Joyce's exploration of female subjectivity in *Dubliners*. Eveline in a book whose structure has been the topic

of much discussion the role of the female characters has been surprisingly neglected" (203). O'Brien clearly analyzes the Joyce's stories particularly "Eveline" from feminist point of view. The central protagonist Eveline lives a very limited and controlled life. She has brothers but they are busy at their works. Her mother has already died. Her stay beside the window and think of past and future portrays her confinement far from the outside world. Joyce presents a woman who hungers for emancipation by fighting back the patriarchal control. But, at the end, she returns home no matter how dominating it is. She encounters epiphany twice: when she decides to go with her lover, Frank, for her freedom and second one is, when she prepares to elope with him on boat but her feeling of insecurity in future life with him makes her return home. This story shows ups and downs, twists and turns, the psychological upheavals going on in the protagonist's mind. She is nostalgic from her childhood about her father's violence on her mother. She makes an attempt to escape from her burdens.

Eveline represents the victimization of patriarchal Irish society that relates the world of women to the private sphere of kitchen. Joyce, unlike other female characters, presents Eveline as a voice for those women whose freedom has been controlled and confined. At the same time, he depicts her as a spiritually paralyzed who is afraid of escaping the frozen world of male-dominated Dublin life. Reading her paralyzed will that fails to resist the patriarchal oppression as represented by her violent father, Marilyn French argues:

Eveline" is a simple story, but not as simple as it is generally deemed. Like other characters in *Dubliners*, Eveline wants freedom from oppression, but does not possess enough will or selfhood to conceive of freedom to do anything. Neither sex nor power is at issue in this story: the young girl has no strong sense of either in herself. Her choice

seems to be between oppression and escape from oppression, and that is how it has been read by critics. But her dilemma is more complex.

(452)

These lines exclusively emphasize on the fact that Eveline's failure to resist patriarchy for her individual freedom testifies the paralyzed wills and weak emotions of Dubliners. Especially, women's life is more deadening. Stressing on her weak wills and emotions as well as patriarchal domination as a primary reason for her paralyzed life, Florence L. Walzl concludes, "In Eveline, Irish bourgeois society ensnares and paralyzes a young girl. Eveline is trapped by society, past and present, in a promise to a dying, irrational mother and the unreasonable opposition of father. Though she wants to live and decides to escape, on the dock she is paralyzed by fear. She is caught in a death trap, doomed by paralysis of will born of timidity and a mistaken sense of obligation" (225). This way, "Eveline" is Joyce's critique of spiritual paralysis and psychological death as modernist negative impacts.

Likewise, the second story 'Clay' deals the main character, Maria. She is crazed after her marital dream with extreme desire of marital life. As we go through the text we accustom with the forgetful habit of Maria which may be the result of spinsterhood. Story is mainly focused on character especially on Maria rather than plot. Opening paragraphs describe the setting and the main character of story; story begins in the Dublin by Lamplight laundry where she lives and works. She works in charitable institution for women. She seems to be living very busy life and to be unaware regarding changing aspect of society. She wants to please all people around her; she is adored by the women in the laundry and people from outside. Additionally, she is warmly welcomed by Joe and his family. She gets ready to attend at the party organized by Joe to whom she had nursed when he was a baby. Maria has been living

very illusive world that her blindness becomes the source of her own depression. Her desire for marital life drives her into the darkness because she keeps on frustrating herself by doing things that help her look like an ideal women as determined by Catholic values. In fact, her desire was her self-deception that led her to paralyzed life. Reading her desire as the source of her own blindness and cause of frustration, Marilyn French argues:

The major theme of "Clay" is blindness, Maria's self-deception. Both ellipses and tone are used to convey this blindness and the surface that substitutes for the real. The tone, which is feminine, sweet, cheerful, and passive, indicates that Maria thinks of herself still as a young girl, still nubile, dependent, and subject to others. She deceives herself not only as to the nature of her desires, but also the fact that she has any. She claims she is looking forward to the children's singing, when in fact she is looking forward to singing herself; she claims she wants neither ring nor man when in fact, as the laundresses know, the child's game is the high point of her year. (459)

Maria made mistakes many times as she forgot cake, at the time of choosing clay and singing song. G. Ralph Smith connects the Maria's love Song "I 'Dreamt that I Dwelt in Marble Halls" with superstition and Joyce's ability and knowledge of superstition although we can connect this idea with frustration and discontent. She tries to forget her difficult life by giving excessive focus on small things of daily life. Story has lighted on Maria's activities in detail; these trivial details tell us that how modern men have spent their time by focusing on trivial issue such as buying cake, playing with kids, gossiping with laundry women etc. because they are living in vacant life as living dead. The story depicts how people can live an incomplete and half-life in

which their concentration on the small trivial things stops them from seeing the reality of life and it makes them dead because of their illusive assumptions such as egoism, idealization and submission to domesticity .They fail to act according to their desires. In the same way they are compelled to live in a state between life and death. This situation is living death.

Similarly, "A Painful case" presents its protagonist, Mr. Duffy as a physical manifestation of how paralyzed wills, emotions and spiritual repressions lead to the alienation and frustrated life. The last story "A Painful Case" embodies many themes which are introduced and explored in earlier stories such as spiritually paralysis, frustration, isolation and loneliness of the characters. Joyce failed or distorted love story uses allusion to make his tale more biting. Joyce juxtaposes this background to Mr. Duffy and Mrs. Sinico, middle aged and has no physical relationship. Like Eveline, the protagonist also become socially, sexually and spiritually paralyzed because of being trapped in a colorless and spiritless everyday routine life. He repressed his inner desires because of routine life and strict ideals of Irish Catholicism which kills his desire. Like Dubliners, he is very blind, ignorant and unaware of his lonely and alienated life caused by his submission to Catholic ideals as French points out:

"Mr. Duffy has absorbed and lives by the ideals implicit in Irish Catholicism, yet denies himself the comfort or pleasure which accompany those ideals for devout. Like Maria, he has tried to kill desire, intellect, character, and position. When, at the end of the story, he realizes he is an outcast from life's feast, he experiences no surge of repressed desire, no impulse to change. Rather, his sorrow and loneliness are the acknowledgement that he has indeed succeeded in

renouncing the world, the flesh, and the devil. The price for his virtue is living death and complete isolation. (462)

Mrs. Sinico was a person to revive his meaningful life but he constantly avoids any intimacy with her. His life was frustrated like hers. But he was unable to realize the importance of this affair for his better life. His paralyzed wills and inability to act eventually led to alienated, depressed and very remorseful life at the end. His inability itself is a mark of his paralysis like French asserts, "Inability to act is paralysis" (445). So, Joyce critiques the modernist impacts of alienation, isolations and paralyzed state of unstable psychology as seen in Mr. Duffy.

However, Joyce not only depicts the negative impact of modernity in his leading protagonists as frustrated, depressed, alienated and isolated but also tries to awaken them by bringing the psychological transformation from ideal to real, egoism to social, ignorant to knowledge, self-centered to social growth. Such psychological changes finally reach the climax in the form of epiphany. Epiphany is the realization of ultimate truth. It is the moment of truth revelation in which the protagonist gets disillusioned. The characters come to realize their past mistakes and thus, feel enlightened. But this process of realizing the truth is more painful. Almost all the stories in the *Dubliners* deal with epiphany at the climax as Theodore Spencer agrees, "*Dubliners*, we may say, is a series of epiphanies describing apparently trivial but actually crucial and revealing moments in the lives of different characters" (10). It is defined as a state of one's full realization of the truth that results from one's process of maturing. It goes through the series of currents to finally bring the protagonist to the climax of epiphany. Talking about this gradual growth of epiphany in character's life, Tang Xu, one of the epiphany critics, explains, "it can be applied to any situation in which enlightenment on a problem or situation is realized a new and deeper

perspective. Epiphany is generally gained after a series of dramatic psychological struggles and small alterations in awareness accumulate to form a change in nature" (133). Here, Xu insists on the preconditions that lead the character to the climax of maturation with the feeling of epiphany as can be seen in the protagonists of the stories. These views sum up that epiphany is an ultimate realization of truth. It is the process of disillusionment in which the protagonists experience a matured understanding with the painful realization of truth at the end. Taking the characters from such painful travel of reaching the eventual reality is how Joyce tricks to generate an emotional impact of awakening among his characters. Relating such style of painful journey of characters in *Dubliners*, Shen and Dong identifies, "Epiphany cannot be formed without protagonists' painful experience and reflection. Almost all characters in *Dubliners* could gain insights into something in the end, and the existence of epiphany brings the stories to a climax" (31). As these critics remarked, the selected stories begin with the illusive world of the protagonists and slowly they encounter a handful of humiliating, insulting and thought-provoking events that lead them to the state of painful disillusionment.

Yet, Joyce uses epiphany for a certain purpose. Although he depicts his characters suffering from the modern impacts, but he seems to awaken the Dubliners from such adverse impacts for which he applies technique of epiphany which imparts a new lesson in the characters' understanding of the world around them. This way, the research tries to show the emergence of epiphany while still portraying the modern paralyzed state of the Irish people.

Spiritual Paralysis in James Joyce's Specific Stories from *Dubliners*

James Joyce, one of the prominent Irish modernist writers in twentieth century, is remembered for his contribution to the modernist work. His well-known work is *Ulysses* a modern versus of Homer's *Odyssey* which was published in 1922. Another major work is *Dubliners* a collection of fifteen short stories through this he manifests the effect and consequences of modernity in textual form. He emphasizes on the role of spiritually paralyzed, isolations, dilemma, disorder, dust and escape in order to show the problematic life style of Dubliners in modern time; it was the place where he was born. Furthermore, he believes that Irish society and culture have been declined by the Roman Catholics Church and England respectively and its bad impact upon Western Europe countries has made them poor and undeveloped. All the characters he employs in the selected stories have been metaphorically depicted meaningless and empty handed although they want to go back where they come from. The aim of this study is to focus on home Dubliners who are living in isolated and paralyzed life. What circumstances and situation have played vital role for this disorder. Therefore, Joyce takes Dubliners as a crowd of corpses who are spiritually and morally dead because of their weakness such as egoism, self-centeredness, ideal, ignorant etc. that led them to the state of frustration, depression and loneliness.

In *Dubliners* he presents harsh reality of his hometown and its residents employing real characters of everyday life in twentieth century. Through the stories he shows spiritual paralysis or loss of values for the fact that Irish people were becoming more pessimistic about life because of the war and the cultural crisis. According to Joyce, Irish people don't want to react to overcome the situation that they want to live like that. There is no reaction and desire to change the situation. They don't react, like a sort of paralysis its like feelings depress; they don't desire to

change their lives.

Joyce works mark a departure from the traditional sort of Victorian narratives and depict the political, cultural and psychological upheavals. These three texts, *A Painful Case*, *Clay*, *Eveline*, have features of modernism. Modernism refers to the movements in literature and arts from the middle of the 19th century to the middle of the 20th century applies to literature, music, painting, film, architecture, and so on. The stories by James Joyce are very powerful to critique the modernist trends and impacts. Modernism depicts the frustration, alienation and moral evacuation resulted by modernity. Joyce has politics behind the representation of falsities and negativities of modernism. Benstock in his article on William Graddis: In Recognition of James Joyce argues, "Thus, with the publication in 1922 of *Ulysses* . . . an imitable book which was noneless imitated, becoming the single most important influence in the European and American novel for several decades" (178). The writer thus claims that Joyce played prominent roles in the development of modernism by depicting the horrors and evils brought by modernity. There are several negative impacts brought upon the present's society due to the modernism.

In this study, there is a discussion about how the characters were unable to change their life. They were paralyzed by social norms, tradition, responsibility towards family for example – In *Eveline*, Eveline can't wish for her own happiness as she had promised her dead mother that she would look after family. She remembered her mother before her death making Eveline promise to take care of the family. Eveline goes back to the past and recounts her mother's words.

Mr. Duffy from "*A Painful Case*" who is very much habituated with his lovely colorless life that he refused any kind of changes in his life. Later in "*Clay*", Maria seems to be living very busy life and to be unaware regarding changing aspect of

society. Maria is unable to move forward in her life. Unlike Eveline, she has no important, life changing decisions to make.

In "Eveline", Joyce presents the thoughts of a young woman who considers whether to leave home and marry, or to remain home with her severe father. This story shows ups and downs, twists and turns, the psychological upheavals going on in the mind of the protagonist, Eveline. She is nostalgic with memories of her childhood, her mother's words to take care of the family and father's violent manners for he threatened her every day with terrible words. She makes an attempt to escape from her burdens but she fails. She would have had the chance to know what independence feels like and practice individual freedom. "Eveline" also comes under such narratives, which mark a break away from traditions and is made something new as Ezra Pound terms "make it new". Modernist writers therefore struggled in Ezra Pound's brief phrase to "make it new", to modify if not overturn existing modes and subjects of representation, partly by publishing them towards the abstraction or the introspective, and express new sensibility of time . . . (4). Joyce also tries to show condensed form. He also portrays the complex condition of human mind, metropolis's mental lives, and even new woman and so on. By depicting the theme, the writer portrays the nothingness of life, and psychological disruption of human in modern age.

The psychological emptiness is symbolically represented by the frequent use of 'Dust' in the story. Dust refers to a sense of lifelessness and a loss of hope in this story *Eveline*. The word "dust" gets repeated in the story to show that the life has been like the dust in Eveline's place, particularly of Dubliners and Irish in general. She plans to be someone. As the narrative unfolds, Eveline, the central character is at the window watching evening occupying the avenue of the place where she lives. She is

tired as her head is leaning against the window's curtain. She is very nostalgic. Though, it is the depiction of nothingness of Eveline's life but symbolically connotative to the Irish people. Eveline's life gets no valued like dust. Joyce therefore highlights in the story, how it feels and what it is to be Dublin. Scholes in his article concludes:

In this symbolic opposition, Frank is associated with water, freedom, the unknown, the future and potency. The father's house is dusty. Eveline is slavery in it, but it is known, rooted in the past and fruitless. As her father's slave/wife, Eveline will be sterile, impotent, celibate, a kind of nun, a Dubliner. This symbolic opposition emerges most powerfully from the clash of connotations in a single sentence in a final scene. (79)

From the lines above, it becomes clear that the life of Dubliners has been compared to useless object to show their paralyzed life filled with depression, frustration like a dust that has no value. They are like dusts which cannot reproduce. It is like nothingness, a synonym to Irish. Eveline wants to be free from all the burdens and hardships of life because her life gets demanded at her home. Her father is so much dominating upon her. Similarly, at home Eveline lives a paralyzed life as she couldn't speed up her life with external environment. Though she works every day, remains in decisive in family, turns over her salary to her father. After her mother's death, Eveline has to do all the house works. She has to do exhausting work with which she is unsatisfied and she gets verbally abused by her father while drunk which reflects her helplessness and hopelessness. But still she is unsure of leaving Ireland with her lover Frank. She starts remembering her family. She gets psychologically dysfunctional. Bound by religiosities, Eveline thinks it is a catholic duty of obedience

to her father and caring for her brothers. She wants to leave such dusty house, which gives her no life. Her life has no value in that house. Eveline is also a typical character that represents whole Dubliners, who want to get the meaning of life. They have to remain in such dusty houses and stale environment. Ingersol highlights "Eveline cleans and cleans, but still there is the inevitable dust that settles in those curtains of cretonne, representing her marginal effort at gentility. This is the "home" she has decided to leave, a home that she associates with its objects (503). It shows an attempt of Eveline to make her life meaningful. Dust represents lack of life in the house and which could never bring changes on her. Dust's accumulation makes her unable to act or to move. "Dust" is mentioned repeatedly to reinforce Eveline's own lack of movement. She wants to flee from dust and with Frank to Buenos Aires which literally means good and fresh air, the opposite of her dust covered life in Ireland. But the dust covers up her hope and the hope in life gets devalued like the dust. The very dust symbolizes burden and hindrances on her way of life. Like other Irish people, Eveline also wants to come out from nothingness. Religious significance also gets highlighted in story while talking about dust. The cleaning of dust could mean the cleaning of spirituality. She attempts to purify her spirit but really could not do so because she was sacred of social criticism for breaking away restricts set by the patriarchal values. And life has become insignificant. So is of Irish people.

Eveline's inability to escape has been perceived as an aspect of paralysis in Eveline. Paralysis is psychological dysfunction that penetrates Eveline's mind. Eveline does not leave Dublin because she is closely tied to her household. After her mother's death, her life is full of burden and even dilemmatic condition. She could not decide what to do and what not to do as in the book we can read:

Was that wise? She tried to weigh each side of the question. In her home anyway she had shelter and food; she had those whom she had known all her life about her of course she had to work hard, both in the house and at business. What would they say of her in the stores when they found out that she had run away with a fell one? Say she was a fool, perhaps; and her place would be filled up by advertisement. Miss Gavan would be glad. She had always had an edge on her, especially whenever there were people listening. (32)

This aforementioned excerpt clearly depicts the psychological upheavals that comes in Eveline's mind. She wants to get rid of her lifelessness but she could not really decide. She hopes to get dustless air in Buenos Aires, a life a meaning and potency but at the same time she feels obligated towards her family members. She thinks to be religious and wants to serve other, as catholicity provokes or forces her. Her minds nerves get dysfunctional. She is being paralyzed and finally a decision is to be if being paralyzed and finally a decision is to be made and she makes for to stay in Dublin.

As Eveline is trapped in difficulties and dilemmas, the Irish people and the country itself suffers from such psychological confrontations. The British had controlled all the Irish people and all their cultures were polluted by colonizers. The colonization is a way to bring turmoil in Ireland. Like Eveline, the country also gets spiritually paralyzed. Joanna Luft in the article "Reader Awareness: from and Ambiguity in James Joyce's Eveline's argues:

The story is written such that neither option is represented as a better than the other. While Eveline cannot escape her paralysis, readers may transcend their by detaching from her point of view and from the question of whether it would have been better for her to board the

boat or not. Recognition of the hermeneutic indeterminacy produced by the ambiguity of the story frees readers from the futility of answering what is an unanswerable question. (51)

This is difficult circumstance or a strong dilemma that appears in Eveline. This is "hemiplegic" or paralysis, where she is unable to stick to one option. The metaphors like evening, dust, foreshadows her dilemma and inability to act properly.

Joyce is quite famous to manifest the psychological situation of the characters and hence through the characters, the psychology of Irish people. Like other stories, Joyce favors psychological realism. It is a preference over psychological time. "when Bergson distinguished between chronological (clock) time and what he called duration (*duree*) or psychological time . . . when duration encompasses those times in a life which are significant to an individual" (58). The writer in *Eveline* is also successful to make a realistic representation of the mind of characters. Zennure Koseman highlights:

Eveline is the story of a young teenager who faces a dilemma where she has to choose either to stay at home by living with her father or to escape with his boyfriend. While facing the future, Evelin's story depicts the pitfalls of holding to the past, i.e. she is obsessed with a dilemma either to continue her domestic life rooted in the past or to possess a new married life. (589-90)

Eveline is hence obsessed with dilemma. Her mind's nerves make to and fro movement. Once she gets hopeful and immediately gets dismayed. She has no stable mind. The pleasant feelings come but quickly get replaced by the description of her new imagined home, where she will be treated with dignity and respect. In the story the lines read "But in her new home, in a distant unknown country, it would not be

like that then she would be married" (32). Eveline shifts from dependence to independence, immaturity to maturity, weak will to strong, will power and so on. It shows a shift in her mind, the dilemma, the hope sudden despair, dismay, the trust and the disbelief.

Having lived through his childhood upto the end of his university education Joyce has become aware of the life in Ireland and ambition of young people to leave Ireland and be "free" Eveline fails to leave Dublin and choose to continue domestic roles. She always faces the problem to make decision as she could not be decisive in the house. Her physical thoughts are prioritized. To Young "The majority of the story is composed of free indirect thought from Evelines point of view; she has no direct speech, no speech presentation at all (132)." The dust in house and Eveline's struggle for money mentioned in the story clarify their miserable condition. This is the reason why she decides to leave the house and elope with Frank but at last she changes her decision.

The instinct to escape from unhappy situation defines Joyce's Eveline as inability to commit the process or cope up with the situation. The characters of the Dubliners in general, and Eveline in particular, long to escape and adventure in other countries. Eveline also hopes for a new life in Argentina because she didn't want live a commonplace life of her mother in domesticated walls of her father and she wanted to live the life of freedom which was possible only while away from home. Even in Joyce's "A Little Cloud", the central character Thomas Chandlier also called little Chandlier, longs to escape from Dublin. But finally he gets on epiphany, with tears of remorse in his eyes. Eveline also has an epiphany, remembers the past, her mother, her childhood friends, and is quite nostalgic. Frank was about to receive her at the port. She feels Frank as a vessel to escape from tortures, isolation, fragmentation and

pessimism as Donald T. Torchiana writes:

But the outcome of the story is hinted early in this last third with its charged naming of the boat as a black mass". For so it comes to appear to Eveline as a vessel to escape. Though, she prays desperately and calls upon God for direction, when Frank is entreaty appeals to her spirit, she remains dumb him. Three times he calls her, and three times she denies with silence, her hands bound to the railing. (27)

The above lines clarify how much desire Eveline has to escape from frustrations and burdens. Though she desires to go but could not at first make a decision on her own. She really prayed the God so that she could get rid of her desperate life. She takes Frank as a savior of her life. But her home and religiosity pulls her back. "She stood up in a sudden impulse of terror. Escape! she must escape ! Frank would save her he would give her life perhaps love too" (35). This is how a theme of escape pervades the story. She really could not cope up with the societal changes and has extreme nostalgia. The city lives of Dublin affected the psychology of Eveline. The stimuli hit her psychology and being unable to adjust where she is planning to go far from there. Inability to cope with changes also forced her to escape.

The writer in the story deploys several features of modernity. Joyce centers his story in Eveline's thoughts. Focus on individual psyche rather than the communal is an evidence of modernism manifested in story. Though, may not be a complete stream of consciousness technique, but it is clear that the story is about Eveline's psychology; her thoughts and emotions of characters depict reality. Alienation as a psychological fragmentation which is also a modernity features is there define in the story, from which protagonist suffers. The writer focuses on psychology of characters to a great extent and open-endedness in story also make departures from Victorian narratives.

By focusing on the themes of isolation, death and escape, Joyce portrays the nothingness of life, the disruption in psychology of human and complete paralysis in modern human. Joyce, who is a celebrated writer of Ireland, is quite famous to present the psychological realism, the stream of consciousness as a narrative device to reveal the innermost feelings, emotions and thought process of the characters.

As we go through the text "Clay" we accustom with the forgetful habit of Maria which may be the result of spinsterhood. Horst Breuer writes "Maria's shyness and confusion can, of course not be separated from her spinster status, and the gentleman's mistake reminds her once again of the many frustrations and disappointments of her stunted life"(953). Story is mainly focused on character especially on Maria rather than plot. Opening paragraphs describe the setting and the main character of story; story begins in the Dublin by Lamplight laundry where she lives and works. She works in charitable institution for women. She seems to be living very busy life and unaware regarding changing aspect of society.

In the beginning she is addressed as "Maria. You are a veritable peace-maker" (line 13). She wants to please all people around her; she is adored by the women in the laundry and people from outside. Additionally, she is warmly welcomed by Joe and his family. She gets ready to attend at the party organized by Joe whom she had nursed when he was a baby. At the party they play traditional Irish game named Halloween games and she chooses clay rather than water, a ring, or a prayer book that signifies according to Irish belief she will die soon "She felt a soft wet substance with her fingers and was surprised that nobody spoke or took off her bandage"(98). Furthermore, we can say that Maria herself signifies Ireland and its decaying existence.

According to William T. Noon, "Clay" unfolds against this all Hallows

background to introduce us to a modern work-a-day saint. “a saint with the small indeed whose proudest moment of grace “epiphanies” in the wordless, brave acceptance of herself as others see her- so much shapeless, loveless clay”(93). Generally, epiphany is comprehended as a moment in the story where a character realizes the knowledge and feelings. Maria mistakes for many times as she forgets cake, at the time of choosing clay and singing song. G. Ralph Smith connects the Maria’s love Song “I ‘Dreamt that I Dwelt in Marble Halls” with superstition and Joyce’s ability and knowledge of superstition although we can connect this idea with frustration and discontent. She tries to forget her difficult life by giving excessive focus on small things of daily life. Story has lighted on Maria’s activities in detail; these trivial details tell us that how modern men have spent their time by focusing on trivial issue because they are living in vacant life as living dead for they are unable to act as per their wills. The story depicts that people can live an incomplete and half-life in which their concentration on the small trivial things stops them from seeing the reality of life and it makes them dead?. In the same way they are compelled to live in a state between life and death. We call such situation is living death:

But no one tried to show her mistake; and when she had ended her song Joe was very much moved [. . .] whatever other people might say; and his eyes filled up so much with tears that he could not find what he was looking for and in the end he had to ask his wife to tell him Where the corkscrew was. (Lawrence 99)

This is the way of living of Dubliners in the beginning of twentieth century that Joyce manifests by employing the day to day life of people and their activities as it was. Everyday routine businesses of living and tight scheduled life lead them toward frustration, isolation and dissatisfaction; these are the common notable features of

modernism. Maria has a desire to be married but she faces many obstacles in the course of life and then ultimately harsh circumstance stops all her action. Before she gets ready to go Joe's house, she goes to the market moving through the crowded street to buy cake for the children and a special plum cake for Joe and his wife, when she gets back a form market she uses a crowded tram as a transportation in which she meets with "colonel-looking gentleman". She appreciates to chat with him and finally separate each other by saying goodbye. Here gray color signifies *the dead* and incomplete life as well. Yellow and brown are the colors which symbolize the paralysis and frustration throughout the work of James Joyce. Morally and psychologically dead has played crucial role in the story. Through the characterization of Maria the reality of modern people has reflected, it is because every time she lost the dream of her world. Her attraction to the colonel in the crowd tram, her eager to ring and wedding cake demonstrates that she is very much attracted to her marital dream. At the time Dublin is a defeated city and whole Irish political circumstances are still suffering from the loss of nationalist leader. Such chaotic political situation makes people isolation and lonely which is reflected through the characters. To be paralysis there must be upheaval and chaos. Psychological death and morally death center people to the disorder and confusion in life. Joyce tactfully connects two different ideas implicitly: Irish political and the effects of colonization on the Irish psyche. Maria is a representative character of Irish; she is presented as powerless trapped by hindrances that she cannot solve properly. On the same way we the notion of epiphanies in 'Clay'. Epiphany, generally, is situation which allows character to understand their particular situation and circumstance and gets back people from frustration and isolation. In Clay during the Halloween game when Maria chooses the clay, manifests the symbol of upcoming death, she thinks nothing of it. Maria's choice

of Clay signifies not her physical death but her emotional or psychological death. In the course of the evening game children trick Maria and Joe scolds the children and they offer again to choose; at second time she chooses the prayer-book. "Maria understood that it was wrong that time and so she had to do it over again: and this time she got the prayer-book" (98). These lines portray her attempt to redeem herself by buying a prayer book. The story deals with her psychological death.

Death plays a dominant role in the story. The title word of the story 'Clay' itself is a symbol of death because all living things have to blend with clay and all things change into clay after physical death. Maria picks up the saucer that contains clay. Meanwhile, Joe is worried because he is aware of her old age and she has not got married yet. Thus, clay is a symbol of Maria's death in life; she focuses on small details avoiding the reality of life is a kind of metaphorical death. On the same way, the corkscrew that Joe looks when his eyes filled with tears after hearing Maria's song at the evening which symbolizes that the modern people avoid painful situation and reality by focusing on small objects. Angus Easson points out "her isolation and her cheerful front, her lack of human relations and the humiliation she is prepared to submit to for human relations: these are the part of the Dublin scene" (81). These lines stress on the fact that the modern people like Maria are busy at unnecessary activities rather than focusing on the reality of everyday life.

The story exhibits how Dubliners live an imperfect and partial life due to their isolated, alienated and depressed life conditions in which their way of life prevents them from the reality of life and seem as living dead. All the situations that are presented in the story are the characteristics of modernism. They are living vacant life with isolation, disorder and frustration. The Story is loaded with the notable features of modern people such as dissatisfaction, dead in life, paralysis, tight scheduled life

style and so on. For example, the crowd street and tram, “voice of young lady in shopping store was it wedding-cake she wanted to buy” (96) manifest the disorder psyche of young lady, because she is also a member of Dublin. Her mistakes at the time of singing are the situations that manifest the meaningless life of Dubliners.

The last story "A Painful Case" embodies many themes which are introduced and explored in earlier stories such as spiritually paralyzed, frustrated, isolated and loneliness of the characters. Joyce distorted love story uses allusion to make his tale more biting. This text is one of the modernist texts which have the features of modernism. Modernist who followed after the First World War were noticeable for their pessimism and their sense of failed, fragmented society, in which the uncomprehending individual was swallowed up by huge forces outside personal control, leaving many writers with the sense that they should withdraw into their art and in intense, aesthetic world where senses shape and order could be achieved" (Childs 30). This text has characteristics of modernist text which has pessimism, individual, isolation. Mr. Duffy's imprisonment is self imposed. He is terrifying alone and isolated but has chosen this life for himself. He is modern, typical. He has no friends, church or creed. "Duffy is the prototype of denatured modern man, as we are told at first he has neither companions nor friends, Church nor creed." (Corrington 850). He is also prudish, as we can see his treatment of Mrs. Sinico, despite the fact that both people are clearly dissatisfied with their current situation. However Mr. Duffy does not realize the extent of his loneliness until it is too late.

In "A Painful Case" by James Joyce we have the theme of loneliness, isolation, guilt, order and paralysis. Taken from his Dubliners collection the story is narrated in third person by unknown narrator and very early on in the story the reader

realizes that Joyce, through use of color, is highlighting to the readers how lonely the main character, James Duffy's life is. In his description of Duffy's room, Joyce appears to focus on two main colors black and white. This is significant as it symbolically suggests to the reader the lack of color that exists in Duffy's life. The reader is also made aware of the repetition that exists for Duffy. He goes to work every day and has his dinner in the same place and returns home to his lodgings after work is finished. This cyclical pattern or continued repetition suggests a paralysis that is felt by Marria in Clay.

According to Doki " ... has been pointed out by several critics, the relationship between Duffy and Sinico is clearly defined by gender stereotype: man talks and interprets woman...For Duffy, Mrs. Sinico functions as a Lacanian mirror or Mother's gaze which reflects his ideal self image..."(70). He argues Duffy's relation is gender stereotype because there is dominance of male's perception of women. Woman's personality has been interpreted from male's judgment value like Duffy rejects Sinico's physical intimacy as a materialist. He fails to hear Sinico's voice. It is noticeable that the trigger for the possibility of change in Duffy's life comes through his meeting of Mrs. Sinico. However, any chances he has thwarted by his inability to accept Mrs. Sinico's affection towards him Duffy cannot overcome the fact that she is a married woman and as a result of her act of spontaneity and holding his hand to her cheek, she breaks up any engagement. It is only several years later when he is reading of Mrs. Sinico's death that Duffy begins to read not only how lonely she was but how lonely his life is.

It is also significant that despite Duffy being aware of how unhappy he was in his life (prior to meeting Mrs. Sinico) when he does have the opportunity to happiness, he steps away from it. Both Duffy and Mrs. Sinico shared a similar

unhappiness or loneliness and how unhappy Mrs. Sinico really was is noticeable by the fact that after Duffy rebutted her, she drinks alcohol to comfort herself. There is also a noticeable lack of empathy within Duffy for other people. First he cannot empathize with the workers from the Irish Socialist party and their concerns about their wages. Also it is significant that when Duffy first reads of Mrs. Sinico's death, he feels not for her but for himself, considering himself to have shared his thoughts with her. At Mr. Duffy feels epiphany. Similarly, in "The Dead" Gabriel has epiphany at the end. "Gabriel felt humiliated by the failure of his irony and by the evocation of this figure the dead, a boy in the gasworks. While he had been full of memories the secret life together, full of tenderness and joy and desire, she had been comparing him in her mind with another"(Joyce 697). Gabriel's epiphany and self awareness comes. In the same way, Mr. Duffy feels alone after death of Mrs. Sinico. He doubts the reality of what memory tells him. He sits under a tree and allows the rhythm to die away because he has been stricken by the guilt of being responsible for Sinico's death. He is frustrated by regrets.

However, Duffy's lack of understanding of Mrs. Sinico's position shifts while he is walking in the phoenix park. He not only feels guilty about how he treated Mrs. Sinico but he begins to understand how difficult her life must have. Duffy realizes that Mrs Sinico's life must have become unbearable for her. This epiphany or awareness from Duffy however the impetus lived. "Duffy chooses a Nietzschean style of exile and alienation. The frustration of the aspiration to lead to prestige and power at the top of the colonial hierarchy dooms the colonized subject to perpetual horizontal or ground level vision (DohortleZ). Like Nietzschean notion of nihilism which suggest to defy external values and be master to oneself, Duffy chooses self-exile and alienations to be upright man by abandoning all external pursuits like

Sinico. Rather than it being the impetus to bring change to his life by the end of the story the reader realizes that there is no change for Duffy. He is to remain as paralyzed or as lonely as he was at the beginning of the story. This lack of movement or advancement by Duffy is significant as it is fine. Second time in the story he misses an opportunity to change the life. The first opportunity arose when Mrs. Sinico held his hand to her cheek. There was a possibility then for Duffy to change his life to defeat his loneliness and find some type of happiness in the company of another person, however he did not take advantage of this opportunity because he was driven by religious fear of adultery, an extramarital affair which is regarded as a sinful act by Catholic system, as restricted by Catholic doctrines.

To have conducted an affair with Mrs. Sinico would have been against how Duffy views life. Everything needs to be place, to be ordered, or structured correctly for Duffy. Joyce uses symbolism in the story to highlight to the reader how important order is. The books in the book case in his room are placed in an order. Also the reader learns that Duffy abhorred anything which betokened physical or mental disorder Duffy's belief in order is significant as it further suggests to the reader the idea of routine, of things being done in a particular way. Duffy's inability to deviate from this order would suggest a continued paralysis.

Joyce again uses color (brown) as he does in stories in Dubliners. He does in other stories in Dubliners to symbolize the idea of delay. The hazel sticks (brown) which Duffy utilizes when she goes walking is an obvious example of this symbolism. Another example would be the beer and biscuits that Duffy eats every day for his lunch again Joyce utilizing the color brown suggests to the reader the idea of repetition. The reader is aware that Duffy has the same meal every day, and also the newspaper that Duffy is reading when he notices the article on Mrs. Sinico's death is

buff (yellowish brown) in color. The story presents distorted love story with alienation. Duffy's narcissistic characterization is in Joyce's story. He spends loneliness, isolated, guilt order and paralysis. The most striking thing about the story is that despite being aware of how lonely he is, Duffy at the end of the story does not change. Joyce's symbolically use of color; brown is idea of paralysis. Rather he begins the story in the same position. He started it alone and/lonely. And as previously mentioned, Duffy's continued would suggest not only is Duffy to remain lonely but he is to remain isolated.

Restating Joycean Spiritual Paralysis in Specific Stories from *Dubliners*

While Joycean works, especially *Dubliners* has been studied in relation to his aesthetic use of epiphany and as a particular literary artifact, the research discovered that Joycean works often deal with the historical circumstances of Ireland. Joyce was very much familiar with the post-independence changes of Ireland after its freedom from British colonization. He witnessed the post-independence Ireland being entangled by the web of British modern changes and the pervasive influence of Catholic doctrines. Thus, Joyce employed the loss of Original Irish values as the subject of his writing and the selected stories itself testifies the adverse impact of modernity upon the moral, spiritual and cultural life in the form of frustrated, depressed, alienated and death-in-life of the characters.

The writer critiques the negative impacts and upheavals brought by modernism. By focusing on isolation, dust, escape, Joyce portrays the nothingness of life, the disruption in psychology of human and complete paralysis in modern human. Through the characters of these stories, he presented the mental condition and helplessness of people who live in a repetitive without accepting any challenge. The fictional characters he used to represent the paralyzed society of Ireland may not just be fictional but actual representation of Dublin and its society.

We know that Joyce heavily deploys the modernist features in this short story. And this strategy of Joyce serves to bring the modernist movement in the English Literature. He shows the psychological realism, the stream of consciousness, ambiguities, depression, anxiety and frustration of the characters on these stories. Stream of consciousness is the most innovative narrative technique among the modernist writers. It emerged as a response to the linear narrative pattern practiced by the Victorian writers to reflect the progressive social phenomenon. But twentieth

century society was a different reality constituted by the world war devastations such as trauma, frustration, depression, alienation and other psychological problems. So, stream of consciousness was experimented in order to be able to dig out the inner reality of the characters for which the monologue was applied. Joyce was one of those who were known for prominent use of stream of consciousness. The selected stories from *Dubliners* embody the stream of consciousness that Joyce uses to explain the paralyzed wills, desires and the passive life of his characters as an effects of the modernity. It is revolution against the traditional writing. Through the depiction of the characters in these stories, the protagonist as tidy, pious and dull, Joyce shows her psychologically repressed personality. The words are repetitive and vocabularies are simple, but psychology of characters is disturbed and mysterious. Socially and religiously bound characters can never show their loveless life and suffers whole life in isolation. Hence, it becomes a good modernist art.

Being a witness to the dark realities of twentieth century Ireland, Joyce tried to chronicle the history of Dubliners by showing the cultural dead, spiritual crisis and moral paralysis. Joyce was a critique of Catholic Irish society and the modern influences of European societies, especially, Britain. The religious doctrines of Catholic Church controlled and restricted the free wills and desires of the Irish people because of which they remain unable to act according to their personal freedom. As a result, they suffer from psychological problems such as frustrations, depressions, isolations and the feeling of guilt. Mr. Duffy's constant rejection to be physically intimate with Mrs. Sinico shows his fear of restrictive Catholic values that regard sex as a sin. Mrs. Sinico is a married woman. She has got a daughter. However, she advances to be close to him. She is driven by an impulse to develop a secret affair with him which shows her transgression from the restrictive social norms and values

guided by catholic doctrines. She values her personal desires and wills more than any external boundaries set by the religion. Joyce was against the Catholic belief system. Here, Mr. Duffy's so-called attachment with his existing religious doctrines prevent him from hearing his inner feelings nor did he realize Sinico's emotions. She dared to live her life freely but Duffy feared to free himself from the moral boundaries of the Catholic. Thus, he denied any physical intimacy with her, he finally ended up taking her own life. Eventually, he feels guilty of not being openly expressive towards her feelings when he learns of her terrifying death. It shows the death-in-life of Mr. Duffy who cannot act according to his desires, individual wills but is entangled by external values imposed by Catholic restrictions. This is where Joyce gives his critique on modernity coming from Britain. Likewise, Eveline from *Eveline* is trapped by the Catholic system of the social gender perspective that reward the woman's passive submission towards family. She is weak to act according to her desire. She wishes to go out of the boundary of the family and lead an independent life but she cannot resist against father's violent nature. Although she felt enlightened once not to live a domestic life like that of her mother. She finally falls back from her courageous decision to elope with Frank who seems to be the source of her freedom. She recalls the promise she made to her dying mother about taking care of the family. It traps her back to the family responsibilities. However, tragic her family is, she accepts it. But her frustrated life continues to haunt her. Maria is so obsessed with her desire to lead a marital life. She is old enough for marriage but she pervasively desires for it. It shows the materialistic attitudes of Dubliners at the cost of spiritual values. Her selection of 'Clay' while playing game symbolizes her emotional death.

This way, Joyce in his modern masterpiece, *Dubliners*, makes a realistic representation of the declining and degrading state of Irish values and history because

of the influences of modern changes. He sketches a history of twentieth century Ireland that is characterized by the frustrated living conditions of the Dubliners as represented by Mr. Sinico, Maria and Eveline. These are Joyce's representative symbolic characters whose frustrated and depressed life makes a reflection of death-in-life of Dubliners. These characters' failure to take any actions and decisions according to their individual agency is the fundamental picture of how Joyce shows the paralyzed state of Dubliners. One way or another, these leading protagonists happen to encounter the existing Catholic Church and its rules which condition them to be submissive to religious doctrines rather than being guided by their individual impulse. Joyce seems to express his hatred towards these modern influences because of its adverse impact on the original Irish values and history.

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