

Tribhuvan University

**Exploring Child Cognition in Three Stories by R.K. Narayan,
Anonymous, and Isaac Asimov**

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Requirement for the Degree of Master of Arts in English

by

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Declaration

I hereby declare that the thesis/research paper entitled,

"Exploring Child Cognition in Three Stories by

R.K. Narayan , Anonymous and Isaac Asimov"

is my own original work carried out in a capacity of Master student at the Department of English,

at Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus to the extent that assistance from others in the

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All the resources used for the thesis/ research/term paper have been fully and properly

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April 2018

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Letter of Approval

This thesis, entitled "Exploring Child Cognition in Three Stories, by R.K. Narayan, Anonymous, and Isaac Asimov" submitted to the Department of English, Ratna Rajyalaxmi Campus by Sabina Baniya, has been approved by the undersigned members of the Research Committee.

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Abstract

This thesis paper analyses the cognitive development of children especially students studying in a school ranging from age of under puberty. It shows how different characters of all these stories named "Homework" by R.K. Narayan, "Teddy Stoddard" by anonymous and "The Fun They Had" by Isaac Asimov are deprived from cognitive skills through Piaget's theory of Cognitive Development. It is related to evaluations, judgment, memory, computation and so on. Through this research, it is found that there are cognitive changes especially in the understanding ability of the children during class or study. In "Homework", for example, Swaminathan, can not concentrate on his study due to his father's strict teaching method. During this time, his own experience is not expressed just because of the lack of cognition such as computation. Likewise, "The Fun They Had" also explains a satirical view towards computerized method which renders children about the book. Even the teacher is robot and they have to do their task on a computer so they are bore in study. According to cognitive development, children aged from a 6 to 10 bring change in the way of thinking about the world through their own senses and experience. But in "Homework", the main character, Teddy, is falsely evaluated through his outfit which leads him towards frustration. His willing to study is judged on the basis of his physical attire which shows the lack of cognitive skills.

Thus, cognition is used as a main tool to explain the child psychology in education. The students are expected to come out of the school building to know about the world rather than rotting up for their examinations. Students in this sense are supposed to be engulfed in group discussion or to try to solve the problems themselves. Hence, these stories give a social message regarding the treatment of children.

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Introduction to Cognition

According to English Oxford Living Dictionary, cognition is the mental action or process of acquiring knowledge and understanding through thought, experience and the senses. It includes knowledge, attention, memory, working memory, judgment and evaluation, reasoning and computation, problem solving and decision making, comprehension and production of language. Similarly, cognitive development focuses on a child's development through information processing, language learning and other aspects of brain development.

Basically, there are two kinds of cognition i.e. concrete and abstract. Both types play vital roles in the development of the children's ability to think and reason. Concrete cognition is based on the external affinity; where as abstract cognism is based on internal world. So in these selected stories such as "Homework" by R.K. Narayan, "Teddy Stoddard" and "The Fun They Had" by Isaac Asimov, we can find the lack of cognitive skills such as proper evaluation or judgment, computation, memory, cultural influences etc. Therefore, on the basis of their lack on cognitive skills, each story is categorized as internal and external cognism. As internal cognism focuses on the involvement of the students in their assignment letting them engulf into the world of imagination. None of the characters are being involved in any kind of extra activities rather they are educated within the four walls of class or school. Even in the story "The Fun They Had" talks about the future generation, to be taught in the same manner. Thus, all these characters whether Swaminathan, Teddy Stoddard or Margie are not found to be in the category of internal cognition.

Application of Cognition in Three Stories

Jean Piaget's theory of cognitive development explains how a child constructs a mental model of the world. He disagreed with the idea that intelligence was a fixed trait, and regarded cognitive development as a process which occurs due to biological maturation and interaction with the environment. Piaget was the first psychologist to make a systematic study of cognitive development. His theory is based on the studies of cognition in children, and a series of simple but ingenious tests to reveal different cognitive abilities (1).

According to Piaget, children are born with a very basic mental structure on which all subsequent leaning and knowledge are based. His theory differs from others in several ways. His theory is concerned with children, rather than all learners. It mainly focuses on development, rather than learning per se, so it doesn't address learning of information or specific behaviors. The main goal of this theory is to explain the process by which the infant, and then the child, develops into an individual who can reason and think using hypothesis. To Piaget, cognitive development was a progressive reorganization of mental processes as a result of biological maturation. Children build the understandings of the world around them, and then experience discrepancies between what they already know and what they discover in their environment (3).

When we apply Piaget's theory of Cognitive Development in these three selected stories such as "Homework", "Teddy Stoddard" and "The Fun They Had", we can find a lack of cognitive skills such as proper evaluation or judgment, computation, memory, cultural influences etc. In R. K Narayan's story "Homework", it is described that many cognitive changes impact in their lives, especially understanding ability of Swaminathan and his reasoning power in school age child. Moreover, Piaget's theory shows that children do not really understand what was being asked of

them. Even he mentions that young school children cannot conserve numbers which has fallen out of favor. So, Swaminathan as a school boy was not able to solve the sum given by his father i.e. "Ram has ten mangoes with which he wants to earn fifteen anna, Krishna wants only four mangoes. How much anna will Krishna have to pay?" Instead of answering, he starts imagining whether the very mango is ripe or raw.

Similarly, "Teddy Stoddard" consists lack of proper evaluation through attitudes. As within psychology and philosophy, the concept of cognition is closely related to abstract concepts such as mind and intelligence. Teddy, as a main character who had been known as an intelligent and talented boy was recklessly evaluated. Though he had sharp mind, but due to the demise of his mother, he turned himself as troublesome character which is defined as a social psychology called social cognition that talks about the dynamic attributes. Mrs. Thompson, as a teacher tried to evaluate her students with his gestures which turned out to be false evaluation. Similarly, "The Fun They Had" written by Isaac Asimov is a satire for the so called computerized education which leads students having no image of book. The very story set in the year 2155 in some letter versions; children learn individually at home using a mechanical teacher (19).

Overall, it is concluded that whether they are taught by teachers or robot, their understanding power should be considered. Though their family backgrounds differ, their abilities should be measured on the basis of their acknowledgement through imaginary powers as well as on the basis of their thinking ability rather than compelling them to be repressed with teachers centered education where they are not allowed to express their own ideas. Thus, all these three stories depict the lack of cognitive skills. However, cognition never focuses the

talent, intelligent or IQ of the students; rather it only focuses their understanding. So, they must be taken out to know the real life going on in the world.

Here, cognition is used as a tool to measure the understanding level of the students. Pressure, stigmatization, rejection along with computerization make the students regress into silence, bored and isolated. As a result, the students do not prefer doing any assignments given to them due to old traditional method of teaching .Indeed; learning must be interesting and fun. Education is supposed to be student centered rather than teacher centered. As a consequence, their boredom can be changed into excitement. It is important for the problem to be fixed because if the students have been taught in this manner then there can be the problem of Anesthesia; a great cause of memory loss or senses.

As a result, in 2155, children like Margie hated her homework to be done in computer who is actually deprived with the image of book. Due to this problem children especially, school students are more affected as it is their basic education. Thus it's really needed to be fixed because child mind is like elastic. The more you pull it, the more it becomes longer but how to stretch it either gently or harshly, it is up to the teachers as well as parents. So, as school children they must have ability to acquire knowledge through their own experiences and senses.

Cognitive Process in Child Growth

The characters in all these stories such as "The fun they had ", "Teddy Stoddard" and "Homework" are school students. They are at the age of under puberty. Margie and Swaminathan are categorized as flat characters where their behaviors remain unchanged till the end except Teddy. Teddy in a story "Teddy Stoddard" remains changed with the inspirations of the class teacher who left teaching profession after the wrong evaluation made to him. All these three characters come with the middle class family background which determines their behaviors in the school area.

Swaminathan in a story entitled "Homework" plays a vital role of a mischievous child who prefers cricket in school. He belongs to middle class family. He epitomizes an innocence of youth mischievousness that childhood necessities. As he is from middle class family, his mother works as a homemaker and his father is a lawyer. His father wants him to be a good earner so that he doesn't have to suffer as he does. Because of this, Swami dislikes staying at home and prefers spending his time idly. Even in school, Swaminathan finds his class lectures boring. Due to his less attentions in class, teacher pinched Swami on his left ear. Even sometimes, he gets scolded when asks some extra questions. So, Swami as an imaginative boy is hindered by the old methods of teaching where his own creativity is lost somewhere in the darkness. Thus, keeping his books filled with dust and a cobweb indicates that he remains constant in his same role being a bores student rather than being a fun loving and mischievous child as others are.

Similarly, Teddy belongs to poor family background. He used to be an intelligent and loyal student before the demise of his mother. After the death of his mother, he really prefers to stay aloof. He does not care about his dresses and study. He gets really upset even his class

teacher Mrs. Thompson falsely evaluated him as bad boy on the basis of his outer appearance that makes him feel bored and uninterested during class. But he is only a character among Swami and Margie who gets changed with the influences and inspiration of the same class teacher who left teaching career realizing her great mistake in evaluating the students. Indeed, Teddy wants to achieve love and care from others but he only gets hatred and ignorance due to his attire. But when Mrs. Thompson got to know that he used to be an excellent student in the beginning then with a guilt she stopped teaching. However, Teddy suffers a lot during his childhood in the pursuit of love though he has become doctor now.

In addition to this, Margie, a protagonist, an eleven years old girl, plays a role of school student in the year of 2155. Like Teddy and Swaminathan Margie feels bored and lazy during the classes. She does not even know about the book which is found in the attic. Her robot teacher makes her bore. In 2155, the students are taught by the mechanical teachers in the computer where they are unknown about the paper or even a book. Margie's inner characterization is revealed through her actions and attitude towards school in her time and the past. Old and rusty books found in the attic impact her to have little knowledge about the way school was in the past. She feels bored with the computerization. So this story deals with the future method of teaching which will become increasingly computerized and estranged from social interactions to deprive the students from the benefits of the personal interactions between the teachers and the students that actually helps develop the cognitive skills.

To conclude, the above mentioned characters belong to the middle class family which makes them study in such school where still the so called traditional method of teaching is

prevalent. Tragically, due to this, their creativity and imagination power is replaced by the rote method of learning just for the examinations as well it also impacts a lot on their growth.

Implication of Cognition in Child Psychology

Through out its brief history, Psychology has been defined in many different ways. The early psychologist defined their field as the study of mental activity. With the rise of behaviorism and its concern for studying only those phenomena that could be objectively measured, psychology came to be defined as the study of behavior. Kenneth Clark takes, "Psychology as a scientific study of behavior. Its subject matter includes behavioral processes that are observable as gestures, speech, and physiological changes and process that can only be inferred such as thoughts and dreams (12)."

Likewise, cognition is also based on the mental process to get something through understanding. One of the first persons to study children as individuals was John Amos Comenius, the famous Slavic educational reformer of 17th century who strongly says, "Children should be studied not as embryonic adults but in their essentials child nature so as to understand their capacities and know how to deal with them (9)." Also Plato, a great philosopher concluded that children are born with different types of abilities and that each child should be guided into that type of service for which his particular aptitudes best apply.

The principle of child psychology is based on research findings and theories about children's behaviors and development from the time of conception to the beginning of adolescence. Cognition studies the mental development of a child. Therefore, each selected stories contain these processes where Swaminathan to Teddy as well Margie are taken into account as per their psychological behaviors. Swaminathan tries his best to do sum through

imagination which is not liked by his father, where as Teddy Stoddard who used to be brilliant student before her mother demised falsely evaluated that results depression and frustration and also Margie a future generation child does not know about book. The main reason for this happening is that children are taught and judged on the basis of comparison with the best one. Everyone wants his/her children to be best one but hey never think what will be the consequences of forcing them without letting them knowing the world or society themselves. They are treated like a puppet that do as told by their families or teachers.

Likewise, Piaget also explains that cognitive psychology is concerned with the way the brain actively processes incoming information by transforming it internally in various ways. So keeping the students only inside the school may result dullness of the children's mind. No creativity and understanding will be felt if they are not allowed to do any act themselves. So their experiences and freedom of choices and motivation towards self actualization must be focused.

Cognition and Education

Over the year a gradual evolution in educational procedures is always taking place. But still in most developing countries, traditional method of teaching is being followed. The traditional teaching method concentrates on subject matter and the passing of examinations as rituals without creative pursuits. The essence of traditional method of teaching is first, systematization and then, formality. So in R.K. Narayan's story "Homework", we can find the lack of cognitive development which is a highly commitment to the socio-political reality. But it doesn't mean that Narayan is totally against education. Rather he is saying that traditional method of teaching is rendering inability of the child to cope up with the examination system in

relation to the mechanical and unreal system of Education so, perhaps, Swami does not show his interest in doing sum given by his father which he dislikes most.

Similarly, the very traditional method is being used in a story entitled "Teddy Stoddard". Herbert Sorenson, a psychologist writes, "The traditional highly structured classroom is teacher centered and authoritarian or autocratic because the complete responsibility for determining the work to be done and the control of actual class procedures are solely the teachers' (492)." So, Teddy, as a student, is falsely evaluated as a manner less and unhygienic boy who does not show any interest in study. Mrs. Thompson, a teacher uses the same traditional method to determine whether her student is good or bad. That's why, she considers Teddy as an unintelligent boy. But when she checked his records then she realized that he really made a mistake in evaluating him because Mrs. Thompson had whole responsibility to determine the work to be done and the control of actual class procedures solely. As a consequence, he is found to be bore and idle. In the same way, Sorenson believes that the work program given in traditional method of teaching is carefully structured into definite courses, or subjects, with a specific and very regular time and place for each.

As all these imply that, the teacher is conspicuously in control, and the work typically focuses on the content of textbooks. So that Swaminathan and Teddy both feel bore doing work because they don't find any interest in them as they can not express their own ideas rather they need to shut their mouth and keep doing as their teachers or even father like of swaminathan said. In contrast, Sorenson further adds, "The modern method of teaching is student centered and democratic because of the much greater degree to which students participate in planning and directing the class work. [...] The modern method of teaching lays aside the highly formal

structure of traditional teaching in order to stress activities that appeal to the student's natural interest (490). "Here, the students plan the activities, direct the discussion to each other, and make the decisions about class matters as the class proceeds. Basically, the teacher is on the sidelines as an observer; he doesn't ordinarily come forward to make the contributions even to correct the students' errors and misunderstandings. It has been found in a number of scientific investigations that when dealt with autocratically, students typically respond individually determined degrees and combinations with anxiety, tenseness, hostility, aggression, vacillation, lifeless submission, indifference, egocentricity or self-centeredness. As consequences, this leads the students having lack of unity and prevailing ill will and conflict. Scientific observation of democratic classes, on the hand, has revealed these prevailing student responses: enthusiasm, spontaneity, work initiative, cooperativeness, mutual respect and friendliness.

These socially integrative reactions have been found to result in friendly interpersonal relationships among students and between the teachers and the students as well as good balance between and independence in work and play. Flanders put it, "Teaching is an interactive process. Interaction means participation of both teacher and the students and both are benefited by this. The interaction takes place for achieving desired objectives (8)." So the teacher who is highly respected and appreciated by his students is likely to be effective whether methods are teacher centered or students, and a teacher is typically regarded effective when he has a large body of knowledge which he deals with interestingly; respectful towards his students. And, if the teacher is humble enough to admit his errors and shows that he is sincerely in search of knowledge, the students will tend to be cooperative rather than antagonistic.

Likewise, in "The Fun They Had", Margie dislikes her school as they are taught in home in a robotic manner. Margie gets bored during class as they have to study like a computer. They are not given any sheet of paper to write rather they are compelled to do every task in computer as if they are robots. The very story is set in the year 2155 in some letter versions; children learn individually at home using a mechanical teacher. Piaget assumes that with the progress of ages the children change in the way of thinking about the world. So do the children of 2155 since they are unknown about any written materials as well as the computation. The so called highly modernization makes them think like a computer where they are deprived from the knowledge of the books.

In addition to this, Bomi Kim assumes that Isaac's imaginary future is not as good as present by showing Margret's interest towards old school and her imagination about the fun they had. It is opposite of what Isaac's: imagination about future. Future wonders about past and past wonders about the future. Personally, Bomi Kim likes his description arouse dramatic sense of irony to readers. So in these selected stories, every education method is traditional based where the priority is given to the course and the passing of examinations. Every class is based on autocratic system where even in the future the children feel bore and they do not show any interests. As consequences, this type of education leads the children to anxiety, hostility, aggression or self-centeredness (Kim 2). Even Piaget mentions that until children are not given any numbers in the favor of them, they do not show their interest in them so, Teddy, Swaminathan and Margie get lazy to do their task as they are not favorite of theirs'.

Even John Holt, a vocal advocate and an author says that helping children learn and explore in the world is best seen as a branch of natural science, like trying to raise exotic plants or little-

known animals. He worked as a classroom teacher and school reformer and decided that schooling was not the same as education. He says that even if children do learn in school to despise, fear and even hate children from other social groups, might they not hate them even more if they did not meet them school? So, for him most children who learn without school, or who go only when they want to. Grow up with a much stronger sense of their dignity (ch.2).

To conclude, we must create such environment where children learn through their own abilities rather than from their teachers. Children must be self centered so that they can know the real life of the world.

Cognition and its Role on Children'S Literature

According to Your Dictionary, literary writing is defined as creating new creative work, such as poems or novels, and compilation or volume of creative works. It means having the characteristics such as artistic merit, creative genius, and the expression of mankind's noblest qualities. Writing is a medium of human communication that represents language and emotion with signs and symbols. Children are growing up too rapidly because of a combination of early testing in school, advertising, bad childcare and a reliance on a computer games and television, experts warned today. Children of today's world are more forward with all kinds of technologies as well as they are filled with a lot of logical ideas. They have imaginary power to understand the world. They are more steps ahead regarding technologies.

Modern children's literature is considered as more rich and complicated on the basis of their cognitive abilities. Children of today do not prefer sitting in the four corridor of the class or the school rather they prefer to do any kind of given tasks through their own hypothesis either by their own experience or mental ability. There is no particular genre for the children literature.

They are the producers of in the text they write or find in the texts they explore. Before Piaget it is said that children cannot think like adults but he proves that they can also think and reason properly using hypothesis. He says that imagination is greater than knowledge.

Traditionally, academic writing focused on the so-called modes such as descriptive, narrative and argumentative or persuasive. So in this context, writing can be viewed relatively narrowly, as a particular verbal production skill where text is manufactured meet a discourse demand. So in a story "Homework", Swaminathan is also being taught in a traditional way how his father used to b taught by the traditional teachers but he himself as modern child does not prefer the same method commencing dipped in the world of imagination. The children of today's world think of benefits even about their future so Swaminathan thinks about the profit and loss.

Cognitive writing models have intended to define writing in terms of problem solving. A skilled writer can confront a staggering hierarchy of problems including how to generate and organize task relevant ideas. So today's modern children and their writing are of different levels. They think like an adult. Actually, adults who think of themselves attracted to it as field of interest might well tend to be people who enjoy imaginatively experiencing in it the freedom of an innocence they themselves no longer possess an innocence manifested not only by assumption that they are ever and always pioneers breaking new ground but also by the replication in their work of the qualities about the childhood they themselves produce in the texts they write or find in the text they explore (365-387).

Clearly, writing skillfully can involve sophisticated problem solving. So, the children with cognitive skills create logical ideas having reason. They use hypothesis to write through their own experience. The main role of cognition in modern children writing is that it keeps the

students far away from the old and so-called traditional method of writing. Sarah Trimmer says, "Children should not be permitted to make their own choice, or to read any books that may accidentally be thrown in their way, or offered for their perusal rather they should be taught to consider it as a duty to consult their parents in this momentous concern (143)." Similarly, Katherine Jones says, "I believe that the term children literature creates confusion because children's literature as a genre is confusing –richly and complicatedly so. The confusion makes the genre seem impossible only with the assumption that the differing definitions must be mutually exclusive and that one must be right in ways that makes others wrong, which makes them all mutually defeating (45)." To Piaget, cognition development is such kind of progressive reorganization of mental processes as result of biological maturation and environmental experience. Children construct an understanding of the world around them, and then experience discrepancies between what they know and what they discover. He says that children are born with a very basic mental structure on which their knowledge is based.

Cognition includes different cognitive process like learning, attention, memory, language, reasoning, decision making, etc, which form part of our intellectual development and experience. Though all these above mentioned stories are fictions, they reveal the real critical condition of education. How children are categorized as per their attire or family background as well as how teachers are weak in evaluating the students with the help of mental action or process of acquiring knowledge. Cognitive skills determine how we learn best if we don't understand, it's hard to improve. Therefore the cognition plays a vital role in the very modern children writing including their learning abilities.

Textual Analysis: Three Stories

All the selected stories such as "Homework" by R.K. Narayan, "Teddy Stoddard" and "The Fun They Had" by Isaac Asimov are based on the characters that play the role of students at the age of under puberty. Each character is deprived from the cognitive skills. Thus, these stories are analyzed with the help of Piaget's theory "Cognitive Development". Teddy as main character in a story "Teddy Stoddard" plays a miserable role where he is falsely evaluated on the basis of his attire and he is considered as an unintelligent boy though he used to be the best one. Similarly, in a story entitled, "The Fun They Had", Margie gets bored with the robotic method of teaching in home where they are not given any paper to write. They are totally unknown about the book. They were even shocked, when they found out that in bygone days students used to be provided book to read and copy to write. But they are now in 2155, where everything is highly modernized that all the children are given education by mechanical teachers. At the same token, another story named, "Homework" by R.K Narayan presents a naughty student, Swaminathan who does not prefer school. He spends most of his times roaming around the village and avoiding his father. But his creativity is unknown to his father. He imagines the world with his own mental ability and tries to relate it with the real lives of the people.

Sandhya Saxena, a doctor finds R.K Narayan's story as a fictional narratives with marvelous discourse .She says, "His story, "Homework" reveals his concern with society and his commitment to socio-political reality .The criticism of the educational system and the lack of faith in it is a common theme of Narayan (10)." She further says, "Children are all mischievous impulsive and innocent like Swami ,so he instead of giving answer asked by his father ,he starts imagining whether the mangoes are ripe or raw(12). " Though Narayan was not a good student

himself and even his father was a headmaster so he is representing Swami to express his anger towards the so called conservative method of teaching.

Similarly, she even argues that Narayan does not say that education is useless rather he is saying that traditional method of teaching is relevant inability of the child to cope with the examination system in relation to the mechanical and unreal system of Education so, perhaps ,Swami does not show his interest in doing sum given by his father which he dislikes most .At the same token ,Wordsmith critically says that Narayan's story "Homework" is immensely readable .He argues that this story seems as if Narayan wanted to regale us with tales of the encounters that an average child with limited intelligence and utter lack of courage has while growing up in the sleepy town of Malgudi where ten years old Swaminathan is kept within the four walls of conservativeness(208). Every child has their own capacity of doing any task so does Swaminathan have who can imagine and think using hypothesis; he is the one who can dip himself in the world of imaginations. So Wordsmith is trying to convey us that education must be funtastic rather that fantastic.

In addition to this, Harshita Meheta also comments on the irony and humor of "Homework". Childhood means simplicity. It is carefree. Playing in the Sun, with naked feet running over green grass without carrying weights on shoulders, a child's life is the most euphoric times of one's life. It is envied by all adults who miss living outside the Constraints of their new monotonous lives. One even craves to re-live his or her childhood once again. So in this regard, the reader is not laughing at Swami or his circumstances, but laughing for him from a place of understanding and delight. But one does not realize how difficult and complex can a life of a child get. Constant pressure from all directions tells on swami and he bends. The irony lies

in the fact that he brings two worlds together merely to gain attention of a new friend, for whom he becomes inconsiderate of his old friends and family, and that one friend doesn't even forgive him .So , the bigger irony is that a child's life is not as easy as one assumes it to be . (Meheta18)

Similarly, Bomi Kim explains that "The Fun They Had" creates sense of irony along with the character's concept of teachers, books, and schools. And thereby Isaac's imaginations about future becomes much fresher and readers' curiosity about future increase .In addition to this, Kim says that Isaac interest indicates that his imaginary future is not as good as present by showing Margie's interest towards old school and her imagination about the fun they had. It is opposite of what Isaac's: imagination about future. Future wonders about past and past wonders about the future. Personally, Bomi Kim likes his description arouse dramatic sense of irony to readers(Kim 2).

Similarly, Carly Smoot sees how this story could really impactful to show the privilege of school and haven real human interaction. The failure of technology is presented in this text, "The Fun They Had". In his opinion, computer and computerized machines can only replace "Human" in the field of life that do not comprise human interaction and need no respect of the human feelings, intellectual, differences and capabilities and this is highlighted in this short story of Asimov. For instances, the mechanical teacher is unconcerned with Margie's inability to answer the tests she had been given- had been giving here a test after in geography resulting in her hatred for geography, for mechanical teacher and above all for school:

Margie was scornful. "School? What's there to write about school? I hate school
"Margie always hated her school, but now she hated it more than ever. The
mechanical teacher had been giving her test after test in geography; she had been
doing worse and worse (45).

She further argues that a school is like a teacher, friends and a whole lived life. A school
is a small society in which students get acquainted with different types of people, gain
experiences as well as friends and build up their own personalities. Therefore, it cannot be
replaced by a computer situated in a closed room.

Finally, Carole Fader comments on the truth of the story "Teddy Stoddard" written by an
unknown writer .Teddy is a little boy who inspired the teacher Mrs. Thompson who evaluated
him in a false manner on the basis of his attire which lead him to be distress about the
assignments as well as he starts feeling fed up with life of school where students are judge
through their body appearance.

Conclusion

This research work in three selected stories by R.K. Narayan, Anonymous and Isaac
Asimov renders the picture of child cognition along with their psychology in education. The
above stories show that the parents or the teachers provide their children with all kinds of
modern facilities and opportunities, in the name of maintaining their social status by their
children in the future. Swaminathan's father who used to be taught by traditional methods of
teaching wants his son study in the same manner where there is the lack of creativity but the
parents in the name of giving education force their children to learn by rotting up for the
examination jus ton be passed do not care about their psychological impact that the children may

have. These stories carry the idea of cognitive development of Jean Piaget. Teaching must not be limited within the textbooks and the passing of examinations, which is the another idea that these stories show. In all these stories, every character follows the traditional method of teaching follow teacher- oriented or autocratic type of teaching where students have to follow what the teachers or parents say as Swami's father, Mrs. Thompson or the robot. But this type of teaching makes the students far from initiative, cooperatives and understandable manners.

In sum, whether they are taught by teachers or robots, students' understanding power should be considered. Though their family backgrounds differ, their abilities are measured on the basis of their acknowledgement through imaginary powers as well as on the basis of their thinking ability. They are forced to be repressed with teacher centered education where they are not allowed to express their own ideas. Thus, all these three stories depict the lack of an environment conducive to develop their cognitive skills. In this way, the research has come up with the conclusion that these stories are able to explore the child cognitive development on the basis of various families along with the importance of cognitive skills that emphasize on the creativity rather than on rote up education.

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