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THE DESTRUCTIVE ROLE IN THE CAPITALIST SYSTEM IN "DEATH OF A SALESMAN"

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ABSTRACT

In this paper, the researchers examine and investigate the American Dream in modern American literature, and the impact of capitalism during the 20th century on the American Dream. Regarding Miller's play "Death of a Salesman," the researchers give general idea of American Dream and Capitalism and describe both of them, then give a brief survey on the Great Depression in economics in America. In order to ensure that capitalism has a dark side, they deduce different dialogues that discourage much of society from achieving the American Dream. In the idea of American Dream, Arthur Miller also shows us the ignorance of American society through the main character "Willy Loman" who found real significance for the American culture "American Dream" and became a failure due to his awareness of the way of dreaming and much of the group like him.

Introduction

This study reveals how the American dream has influenced on 20th century in one of the plays which playwright written of 20th century dramatics (Arthur miller) after World War II the American community which is mixture of ethnic group. Every group desired to dream of the accumulation under Great Depreciation in economic "Capitalism". Arthur miller attempted to present his play (Death of a Salesman) in the similar line of the American dream . The littler one existed during this team it exposed American citizen to American dream and showed them the

nature of dreaming and route of the dream. American people live for dreaming from birth to death, the dream on inflection of money [to be rich] but they did not know in mid of 20th century the means of how to do that even they posited all of the facilitates of wealth [death of salesman] emerged in this era and manifested some stuffs of American dreams enfolded among its script. 2 American dream society was lining in ethical vacuum which reflected in aspiration authentically by any means condemns the community vaguely and suggests some moral modes of how to accomplish their ambition.

The problem Statement

The study aims at pinpointing the dark conditions of the capitalistic system, and how the regular people are crushed under the cruel foot of the capitalism. The research raises the question of to what extent the capitalism contributes to the deterioration of the status of the American individual, who is confused with the American dream concept.

Research Questions

- a) In what way the capitalistic system affected the life of the American people?
- b) What is the American Dream? And how the individuals are deceived by such notion?

Research Objective

The researcher aims at answering the research questions that represent his objectives of the current study as follows:

- a) Stating the size of the destruction on the account of the daily life of everyday American individual through the character of Willy Loman.
- b) Explaining the real notion of the American dream and its echoes of the normal people.

Research Methodology

The researcher follows the Marxist theory to examine the conditions of the capitalistic system, through the analytical, and descriptive approach examines the hard conditions of the American society. The researcher uses the primary resources to quote whenever necessary to support the allegations and hypotheses. Moreover, the researcher utilizes the secondary resources in form of the critical book, journals, essays and interviews. This study can be conducted and completed within a period of six months from the date of start.

Capitalism

Capitalism is an aspect of economic structures where private individuals and organizations own and control production. Furthermore, it is economic individualism in which people determine whether and how much to create and sell.

They are at liberty to use any manufacturing method and manufacture whatever they want. In this economic structure, the state should take care of only the internal and external security in the country. The government usually controls the activities related to the security, police, administration and courts of justice.⁽¹⁾ A private sector economy marked by substantial unemployment and the presence of market fluctuations. There will be significant ups and downs of capitalism, fluctuations of the economic cycle with their unavoidable effects on people.

In Rome, Middle East, and the early Middle Ages, the earliest manifestations of capitalism emerged which is named "mercantilism" as an early modern philosophy and framework of European economics that commonly promoted the colonies development that provide materials and markets and alleviate the other nations dependency on home nations. Mercantilism also grew as the Roman Empire spread. Mercantilism gradually developed into capitalist policies that would ultimately be called capitalism as time went on in Europe. Commercialism, industrialism and monopoly are considered such economic practices.⁽²⁾

The sociologist Karl Marx, in the mid-1900s, defined the word "capitalism" as any private ownership of property or company. It was also defined by Prof. R. T. Bye as an economic system in which competition, special property ownership, and enterprise are released typically. The concept therefore points to the key characteristics of capitalism. Capitalism dates from the early days of primitive civilization. Life was said to be easy and ordered during this time, "the good old days". Farming, hunting and fishing formed the basis subsistence resources in a primitive society. The whole opinions were taken in this culture by a tribal chief and his counselors. The barter scheme was created as a result of this decision-making method. It was possible to swap one commodity for another using the barter method. This scheme had its drawbacks, which were later recognized, as not all goods in exchange for commodities could have been priced equally.⁽³⁾

Capitalism is today described by economists as an economic system centered on particular ownership of the means in producing and selling products, described by a free competitive shops and profit motivation. Today, a pure capitalist country is to some extent difficult to be found. Because of its drawbacks, capitalism cannot be characterized as the ultimate mechanism, like every other system, it does not represent a solution for any flaw in human various situations or for destroying the whole differences among people. Thus, because of its potential to transform and further grow nations, it is still in our culture.⁽⁴⁾

The slavery system preceded the expansion of primitive society. Masters and slaves live in this environment. Development factors were the masters' own and wealth was accumulated by the slaves by cultivation for the masters. If an agreement was made to try to alleviate revolts, slaves would be included as a portion of the product as well as they managed to farm the land. This structure was known as Feudalism, and while the slaves turned into Serfs, the masters became known as Lords.⁽⁵⁾

The Author

In the twentieth century, Arthur Asher Miller appeared as an essayist and an American playwright who was an important figure in American theater. Miller was the second of three children of Augusta (Barnett) and Isidore Miller who was born on October 17, 1915, in Harlem, in the New York City borough of Manhattan. Miller was of Polish Jewish descent. Isidore owned a clothing manufacturing company for women that employed 400 people so that he turned into a rich and admired man in the society.⁽⁶⁾ As a teenager, Miller supported his family by delivering bread every morning before going to school. In 1932 after graduating from , he worked in different jobs in order to pay for his college tuition. All My Sons (1947), Death of a Salesman (1949), The Crucible (1953) and A View from the Bridge (1955, revised 1956) are considered the most famous plays.⁽⁷⁾

In the 20th century, alongside Long Day's Journey into Night and A Streetcar Named Desire, the drama Death of a Salesman was numbered on the short list of finest American plays.⁽⁸⁾ Throughout the late 1940s, 1950s and early 1960s, Miller was often in the public eye since he won the Pulitzer Prize for Drama during this period and got married from Marilyn Monroe.⁽⁹⁾ Millar was awarded the St. Louis Literary Prize from In 1980, the Saint Louis University Library Associates in 1980. In 2002 and he won the Jerusalem Prize as well as the Dorothy and Lillian Gish Lifetime Achievement Award in 2002 he won the Prince of Asturias Award and the Premium Imperial Prize in 2003.⁽¹⁰⁾

The Story

Taking the social sense into account, the American Dream represents a crucial element for people to understand and evaluate the American culture and American people. Accordingly, Miller wrote his play (Death of a Salesman) since it provides a wealthy matrix of supporting fables that characterize the American Dream story. Willy believes in the glory and wealth of the American Dream.⁽¹¹⁾ He saw a man named Dave Single once in his youth who was capable to sit in his small room in the hotel, where he phones customers and sells a massive amount of merchandise without ever leaving his room. At the age of eight-four, he died and buyers and salesmen from various parts of the country attended his funeral. For them, Dave Single Man represented a great example to be a successful salesman. Therefore, the dream colored the mind of Willy and tried to imitate this person through his whole life. Ben's performance, his brother, has made a major contribution to his steady faith in the American Dream. Moreover, Ben owned nothing but when he became seventeen years old, he joins the forest and in the age of twenty-one, he became a wealthy man. He enjoys the full success of which Willy can see in dream.⁽¹²⁾

Furthermore, the meaning of the American Dream was critically set in Willy's mind by these two individuals. This confidence is reinforced by Willy and he also takes this dream to his grave. He seeks to achieve it in his life. Some false philosophies were improved by him according to his dream and his eagerness to achieve it believing that "a man can end up with diamonds here on the basis of being liked"

and "Personality always wins the day". Therefore, his insufficient values and thought also come from this society.⁽¹³⁾

He lives in a society where the minds of people are dominated by the American Dream. In the present context, Willy Loman, like Maggie in *Maggie: A Child of the Streets* by Stephen Crane, Glyde in *An American Tragedy* by Theodore Dreiser, and Gatsby in *The Great Gatsby*, by Scott Fitzgerald, is the victim of the American Dream. Their tragic life is just as a scholar says, "The American obsession with financial success has ruined him and people like him".⁽¹⁴⁾ Willy acknowledges his failure in pursuit of the dream at the end of the play whereas he does not concede. In the last hallucinatory conversation with his brother Ben, Willy attempts to commit suicide to give deposit money to Biff. Yet, he wishes his American Dream to be achieved with his son, however, his greed is lit and madness eventually kills him in seeking success.⁽¹⁵⁾

Capitalism in the Play

One of the most common topics in American literature has always been the American dream. It originated in the colonial era and matured in the 19th century. The ideals of Americans gradually grew with the discovery of the North American continent, the growth of the enlightenment of the capitalist economy and the Western revolution. American Dream is noticeable in American literature since it criticizes the ideas contained in the American Dream.⁽¹⁶⁾ All these exert a profound impact on the thinking of the American dream. Frederic Carpenter indicates that the presence of the American Dream had a powerful impact on American Literature, suggesting that the ambiguous term inspired the creativity of our fiction and the imagination of our poetry.⁽¹⁷⁾

The American Dream's projection on American Literature adds a more personal viewpoints. In fact, the literature has achieved a symbolic and empirical projection of the implications of the American Dream, almost by inadvertence. As with the Psychological Politics of the American Dream, Louis Tyson writes that since literature is a munition of both the ideologies of a society and its psychological conflicts. Additionally, it has the ability to detect the parts of a collective psyche of cultures and recognize how ideological exploitations expose the essence of individual psychological investments relationships towards their world.⁽¹⁸⁾⁽¹⁹⁾

Accordingly, this paper will analyze two texts from American literature, which include the American Dream concept to display that the American Dream is a representation of the continual necessity to wish the human natures. The text that encompasses the idea of the American Dream is "Death of a Salesman," published in 1949 by Arthur Miller, mirrors the fantasies of Willy Loman, sixty-four years old, whose life was devoted to achieve the American Dream.⁽²⁰⁾ Both of them were written in the midst of post-war economic booms. The two protagonists are still unable to achieve their aspirations even in this period of economic growth, while the opportunity and chance to accomplish one's dreams are increased. As Hays comments, the economic downturn raised new questions about the likelihood to fulfill the American Dream, the sorrow weakened the power of the capitalist

system, and demonstrated the slimness of the American Dream that hard work is equivalent to success, he argues in Miller's autobiography, *Time Bends* (1988), that the Depression was just a matter of money incidentally.

Instead, a moral catastrophe and a violent discovery of the hypocrisies were the reasons beyond the American society façade. In other words, the psychological influence of the Depression caused a sense of unbelief in the American dream that would not be damaged until entrance of America in the Second World War in 1941. Miller's play (*Death of a Salesman*) which appeared in 1948 was a good display of consumer-oriented society in America that took place in post-World War II. The play describes two days in the consciousness of Willy Loman, a failure salesman whose emotion for the American Dream and achievement stains the 14 lines of reality in his mind. ⁽²¹⁾

The play opened Just four years after the end of the War, reflecting the struggles of many American citizens, faced with rapidly shifting economies, coming out of the Great Depression and WWII.⁽²²⁾ Miller thinks that the death of a salesman refers to what occurs when someone has a refrigerator and a car. Miller, through his show, was successful to engage with the audience and appeal to their experiences playing seven hundred and forty-two times from 1949 to 1950, and since then resurrected four times on Broadway. In terms of economics, technical advances, the migration, equality and the shifting Dream "arts.brighton.ac.uk.../dissertation-a" American Dream and Capitalism are very important topics in the play, during his Great Deprecation he tried to show through his play that much of the community has my owes.⁽²³⁾⁽²⁴⁾⁽²⁵⁾

Data Analysis and Discussion

In the play, American dream is a very important theme, there is no real American Dream concept, but Arthur Miller tries to highlight the American dream. Regarding the play "*Death of a Salesman*," Arthur Miller offers the way of dreaming in society during the 20th, introducing Willy Loman who is the major character of the play; Willy Loman as a family leader who wanted to accomplish the American Dream, and Willy Loman is an example of how everyone in society wanted to be good.

Willy Loman wanted his sons to follow him in his believes but his elder son 'Biff' realizes that his father live in fancy and illusion, Also Biff considers his father as classic and traditional man in his ideas, So that Biff refused to be with his father's in his misunderstanding of the new concept "American Dream " and Willy by holding his wrong dreams and insisting to applied drive his family to live in miserable, sorrowful , sad , and pitiful life. Therefore from the play " *Death of a Salesman* " the researcher sum up that Willy Loman became a failure as result of many reasons, that made Willy Loman was a failure. ⁽²⁶⁾

First he became old enough and became less active than before ,also Willy Loman couldn't bring himself to admit his failure, he never that only ,but he has gone beyond that ,he did not want any advice from anyone, In addition to what has been mentioned above he found that is so hard to him to face his reality as an ordinary

man, and he considered himself very Semitic also his superior led him to be a failure. Capitalism is an economic structure that existed in the United States of America in the past time and distress in the years of the last 19th century and the beginning of the 20th century.

Also Capitalism is an economic political system in which property business, and it's consider momentous part in this play, the greatest instance of influences a society. Arthur Miller's from his Drama depicted the effective of Capitalism around the hero Willy Loman as " Seller man", and his family longing to live in comfort, welfare life among the Great Depression, the author attempted to clarify the dark side of Capitalism through the words that has been used in his Drama this words such as "Loman " that means " low income" by the other way the hero of the play considered an ordinary man in middle class , besides that the word "Man" means in literature human being it's represented everyone in society. ⁽²⁷⁾

Therefore, Miller's insinuate that common words in order to generalize his ideas, and in the other hand he wanted to say most of society suffer a lot Due to dark side in particular the middle class in community. Moreover, Miller's in his play "Death of a Salesman" reflected the background of his family as a "biographical approach" in his capacity that Miller's contemporary that era, and the reason that leads him to clarify the influence of American capitalism and consumerism because his father effective by the dark side of Capitalism and lost all his wealth, and their family after a few years became poor. Thus, Arthur Miller with his masterpiece tried to warn community from the danger of the gloominess of Capitalism.⁽²⁸⁾

The following quotations illustrate how capitalism is included in the play:

Willy:" I opened the windshield and just let the warm air bathe over me . And then all of a sudden I'm goin off the road ! Iamtellinya, I absolutely forgot I was driving. If I would have gone the other way over the white line I might have killed somebody. So I went on again-and five minutes later I'm dreamin again. and I nearly-He presses two fingers against his eyes"

"Miller A- act 1"

There in this section Willy Loman is thinking more during his journey with his neighborhood that the warm air reinforces his thoughts and his memory and that while he was driving due to the merging dream, he might have killed someone by his car ,Willy always hopes about working in New York even though he comes from New England , his delusion follow him where ever he going

Willy: " There is more people ! that what's ruining this country! The competition is maddening! Smell the stink from that apartment house ! And the one the other side -How can they whip cheese? " Miller – A act 1"

Willy maintains that the slack of prosperity of his family, so he worked hard to live comfortably with his family, not his flawed perception and true vision of the American dream. He started asking sense question to himself and his mom, and with surprise and hallucination, do you think this is true? How much has increased

competition made it harder to fulfill the American dream? After several questions, Willy begins to understand that he's a failure.

Biff: "I don't know what the hell I'm working for .Sometimes I sit in my apartment- all alone. And I think of the rent I'm paying. And it's crazy. But then , it's what I always wanted. My own apartment , a car , and plenty of women. And still, goddam-mit, I'm lonely"" Miller A -Act I"

Biff started to declare about his dream as every youth, America is the dream land for its citizens. some American dream of luxurious living happiness, comfort, having new car and other everyone has own dream differ for other, therefore Biff here expecting property to own car, and marriage pretty wife to live with her not alone, he thinking more about that and day by day his dreaming update according to his age, by the other means that dream of child differ from the dream of young man.

" Happy[enthralled]: That's what I dream about Biff .sometimes I want to just rip my clothes off in the middle of the store and outbox that goddamned merchandise manager. I mean I can outbox, outlift and outrun anybody in that store, and I have to take orders from those petty, common sons of bitches till I cannot stand it anymore" Page 82-Act I

Harpy's the way of dream differ for his brother Biff, he want to be very merited winner for everything, his desire American dream like view of everyone who conviction means that dreaming can come later not important now, he cannot get rid from the idea that success may come from the businesslike rivalry, fulfillment of the American office place. Similar to Biff and Willy, he desires for a simpler life, but is as result as their father old man lose his job became unemployed, his fancy to translated for real dream in addition to this the dark side of Capitalism, all this bar that mentions prevent Willy's family to live even in simple life or for achieving to American dream .

"HAPPY: Dadis never so happy as when he is looking forward to something ! (Act- 1) Happys statement reflects a fundamental understanding of his father need to dream as a means of escape. Is Willys family in some ways responsible for furthering his delusions? Or are they only trying to make their father happy? And Willy Loman became misguide for his family, and not able to knew who is he ? he always became living in inner conflict and imagination for the American Dream even become unsuccessful ideal of a failure for himself and others member of his family.

"Linda: You will do it yet, dear. Willy walks out of his jacket. Linda follows him. Willy: and they will get married, and come for

a weekend. I would build a little guest house. Cause I got so many fine tools, all I would need would be a little lumber and some peace of mind. Linda, joyfully: I sewed the lining. Willy: I could build two guest houses, so they would both come. Did he decide how much he is going to ask Oliver for? Linda, getting him into the jacket: He did not mention it, but I imagine ten or fifteen thousand. You going to

talk to Howard today? Willy: Yeah . I will put it to him straight and simple .He will just have to take me off the road . Linda: and Willy , do not forget to ask for a little advance , because we have got the insurance premium .It's the grace period now. Willy: That's a hundred.....? Linda: A hundred and eight, sixty-eight. Because we are a little short again"

"Miller –A- ACT-2-" conversation above among Willy Loman and his wife ,Linda. The researchers can infer that there is not any mentality no criteria even there is not any judgment for the American dream , Arthur Miller seems always on the verge of one ,and in his play explain American dream is a nightmare, and sorrow for everyone that cannot able to interpret the real meaning of the ideal modernism , like Willy Loman, as he said in the dialogue above, "I could build two guesthouses" , this mean and verify that Willy Loman has dream ,and he hope to do more, and also generally drama has jewels ,frame of limitation, because is his bumbling, making more fault and disorderly in his conduct only, he wants to achieve anything's without knowledge . {29}{30}

Conclusions

The analyzed play (Death of a Salesman) is a well-recognized work for its anticapitalist tendency. This common reading stems from the urge to put forward the notion that a propagandistic piece of writing is the play. An effort has been made to expose the ambivalence of the text due to the roots of the work in America via this article.

While some of the characters other than the titular hero, Willy Loman, superficially claim to be idealistic, they are no longer like that because they are trapped as well, and thus the victims of Capitalism, which in Capitalist society perceives a man without money, are a tragic figure rather than voicing the idea that capitalism is evil.

The goal of the paper is to reveal how the textual frame work conveys this idea: the development of characters, dialogues and the structure of the story. In this way, with its technique of taming the personality, the paper aims to explore the indirect work of discourse.

The author through his play wanted to critique and corrected the ideas of Society for misunderstanding. Arthur Miller indicted this from his play a round main character Willy Loman as naïve man wanted to lead his family to live in comfort but his age, illusion, pride and dare side of Capitalism these elements compel him to be failure and put the end for his life. The researcher from the view of Arthur Miller can inferred that to be successful not impossible but must Army yourself with determination, strong willing, and knowing how to do that.

Moreover, in this play Arthur Miller denounced the values of downturn of economic which leaded for destruction of entire families, and made majority of American society competed only on collecting money and no spaces for creativity. {31}

Recommendations

In his play "Death of a Salesman", Miller predicts for danger of effective of Capitalism that causes Great Depreciation for American society during 20th century, this influence still existing even now, and to be successful not possible but depend on awareness therefore the researcher testament that :-

- The researcher recommends the play "Death of a Salesman" Should be taught in faculties as part of the required reading.
- The researcher recommends the play "Death of a Salesman" should be looked after by teachers and read it intensively to investigate about the influence of Capitalism

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