

**THE COMPOSITE INTIMACY OF DYNAMIC RELATIONSHIP
IN D. H. LAWRENCE'S 'THE RAINBOW'**

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D. H. Lawrence's *The Rainbow* was published in 1915. It was continuously examined by the various literary media of English Literature during his period. Nevertheless the author was not fully acknowledged by the reviewers of that period. The distinguished thoughts and assumptions of Lawrence had provoked the reviewers of the literary critics of his time. After Lawrence's death in 1930, only a few writers, columnists and critics discerned him honestly and fairly with their judgments of his texts. Indeed, the readers began to appreciate his works from 1950s onwards with the help of numerous biographical books about Lawrence. The most influential critic of the time F.R.Leavis placed Lawrence in the summit position in the literary writings particularly in the *genre* of fiction. In a magnanimous appreciation of Lawrence's writings, he says "Lawrence is the greatest tradition of the English novel" (Keith, Sagar 53). F.R.Leavis also compares and balances Lawrence with the reputed writers of English Literature especially the novelists like Jane Austen, George Eliot, and Joseph Conrad.

The cultures of human society diverge from nation to nation and from indigenous to indigenous. *The Rainbow* depicts the life of a young woman of proletarian class in which she finds her social status and her cultural development in the aspects of familial bond with different roles like a daughter, sister and granddaughter. Outside the

family, she plays roles of a student, classmate, friend and so forth. All these typical roles of human responsibilities are executed by the individuals in the family. Lawrence transcends of typical conversation of day-today life with various personalities in the human world. The nature of Ursula is to show the readers that everyone finds predicaments to reach the highest status on earth but we all strive to be one with others in the realities of human existence. As we know, the familial covenant of relationships is difficult to maintain throughout our lives. Indeed the human personality constantly changes according to the environmental factors and the phenomena of the human beings in this cosmos.

The author elucidates the personality of Ursula which metaphorically refers his own reality of life on Earth. Lawrence connects everything with nature of instinct and the consciousness of thoughts. The famous psychologist Carl Jung says in his writing: "personality is the attachment to nature, metaphysics, and aesthetics of 'felt' life". (C.G.Jung 88). Of course the novel exposes the characteristics of Ursula who is attached towards the religious belief and the mythology of human existence. The human imaginations derive from the profound contemplation and spiritual ecstasy. These imaginations are connected with the family members in the society and to the nature of environment in which we live. Ross

C. Jegan

Charles says “The source of all life and knowledge is in man and woman, and the source of all living is in the interchange and the meeting and mingling of these two: man-life and woman-life, man-knowledge and woman-knowledge, man-being and woman-being” (Ross 78).

The novel which appeared first in 1915 is the unconditional and delicately prearranged form of D.H. Lawrence's inspection about familial relationships. The novel communicates the chronicle of three contemporaries of English family connections of the Brangwens. The main characters of the novel journey in and out of various familial roles like husbands, wives, children, parents, brothers, sisters and so forth. Lawrence narrates on the totality of relationship in the personality of the individuals who attempt to climb the social ladder in the reality of hard work. In the first chapter of the novel, the author expresses the ancestral lineage of Ursula Brangwen who is considered as the protagonist of the novel. She resembles the life style of Lawrence himself through her own characters and attitudes. In the novel, the farming lands are demonstrated in order to show the familial occupation of Brangwen family at Nottinghamshire. We can see the typical life style of a man, who does the laborious work for the development of his family in the perspective of economical enhancement. In the beginning of the novel Tom Brangwen is portrayed as a secondary protagonist of the novel. We can comprehend the approach of Tom Brangwen to the Polish lady Lydia Lensky who convinces her talks about the reality of her past life with the Polish doctor. The relationship between Tom Brangwen and Lydia Lensky shows the typical nature of human bond of love and affection. The relationship among these people proves the cultural belief and ethnicity. The novel reveals love and affection in the

situation of the familial condition, which upholds the steady faith in the supernatural power of the divine supremacy. The complex personality of people will always reveal the identity of the family where they tend to create the basic behaviours and manners of life. We know the phenomena of literature, which serves the purpose of the human various chronicles of time through different spheres of life on Earth. The novel depicts the culture and the tradition of English middle class family. The novel elucidates the aesthetic values of living and surviving in this reality of life.

Lawrence picked the most abstraction in the exact nature of survival of human beings. The author communicates the ideas of human beings in the perspective of British tradition, belief, language, creed, race, and ethnicity. The relationship of the human beings is certainly very effective and easily adoptive to the different milieus of cultural existence. The author portrays the characters with each unique style of life and attitude towards the intimacy with the other gender of creation in the universe. Gradually the novel transmits to another generation which conveys the era of social revolution and global civilization. The novel reveals the idea of civilization and evolution of cultural development in the nature of economical status and power in the society. We can assume the marriage of Anna Lensky and Will Brangwen as the bond of mutual submissiveness, compliance and meekness. The conversation between Will and Anna proves the controversial elements of familial association and the maladaptive condition of relationship between them. The establishment of the familial bond between them shows the ambivalent nature of relationship. The marriage between Anna and Will proves the conservative style of marriage as the mere ceremony or the rituals of the

human living. The novel shows the unhealthy condition of social equality, liberty and fraternity, which are suggested at the time of French Revolution. The traditional practice of marriage is portrayed in *The Rainbow* through the marriage of Anna Lensky and Will Brangwen who want to try to break away from the reality of traditional style of marriage and living. But all their efforts turn futile. We can examine the text of *The Rainbow* about Anna's words of cheekiness and effrontery,

It is impudence to say that Woman was made out of Man's body, when every man is born of a woman. (Lawrence: *The Rainbow* 123)

The attitude of the couple reveals the personality of the modern husband and wife who are supposed to maintain the social and familial values in the perspectives of the morality in the society. The complex attitudes create different dispositions, dispassion, insouciance and detachment in their traits, which discriminate the harmony of the family. Indeed it is very prevalent in most of the families. The real nature of behaviours and attitudes of the people are portrayed through the characters of Ann Lensky and Will Brangwen who lived with their fire of passion and the proliferation of lustful desire in them. They tend to sleep day and night in the initial stage of their marital life. However, later on the attitude of the husband and wife gradually altered in them. The essential constituent of the novel exhibits the adventures of the third generation of Brangwen family Ursula Brangwen who is the definite protagonist of *The Rainbow*. Through the character of Ursula Brangwen, the author narrates the resemblance and similitude of Lawrence's past life. The novel reveals the idea of human experience which undergoes various struggles in life to climb social ladder.

Ursula Brangwen plays the crucial role in the aspect of instructing and guiding the younger sisters. The younger sisters pay attention to her teachings about the biblical stories and the wisdom of life. The author narrates the mundane life style of the family. He also exhibits the sibling rivalry without any exaggeration. Through the sibling rivalry, the author asserts the self-centric nature of human tendency in order to obtain the self-satisfaction of the individuals. The desires within the personality of the characters prove the disposition the human traits. Every one reacts to the fulfilment of the own personal needs in which the real attitude is demonstrated by the circumstances of the individuals' temperament. We can perceive the apex personality of the Ursula Brangwen who exposes herself in the perspective of adventures to survive independently with all the liberty, equality and fraternity. Every individual tend to create the personality of his or her own ways in the circumstances of their unique temperaments.

The relationship can be influenced by the ideas of any philosophy in life through sharing of bio-psycho-social contact with other human beings. The novel expresses the unique aspect of religion and aesthetic values of life. The author indirectly interprets the concept of homosexuality which is being practised in all the nations. The author meticulously narrates the entire disposition of the minds of all the characters in the novel. Ursula's chronological development of her personality proves the composition of her inner thoughts. The author also describes the human adjustment and understanding with the other fellow human beings in the family and also outside the family. Lawrence frankly elucidates the early love affair of Ursula and Anton Skrebensky who shares their love and

C. Jegan

passion between them. The novel discloses about the mechanical love, which the soldier exposes to the young woman of middle class family. The modern society is seen as the radical and revolutionary vision of human civilization through the relationship and the personality of each individual in the novel. The human urges make the traits of the individuals in the society to follow certain principles, morals and values in life. Lawrence exposes the preliminary love of Ursula Brangwen and Anton Skrebensky who naturally relate with each other for the congenial love and passion. It depicts the cultural practices in the nation. Ursula believes herself to be uncontrolled by the urge of human relationship with the opposite gender. She feels Anton's love. The relationship of Anton and Ursula explains about a man who wants to enjoy and experience the pleasure with the opposite sex. He exploits her for the deliberate idea of fulfilling and satisfying his own desire and passion. The novel demonstrates the moral and ethnic principles of the society. The rapture of their relationship turns into the rupture in certain circumstance of life. When there is the rupture in the relationship of intimacy between two individuals, it is very predicament to make them compromise. Sigmund Freud says:

Look into the depths of your own soul and learn first to know yourself, then you will understand why this illness was bound to come upon you and perhaps you will thenceforth avoid falling ill. (74)

The reason for the uncompromisingness or irreconcilableness of relationship demonstrates the inner personality of an individual. It proves the unscrupulousness, dishonest, untruthfulness and deceitfulness of an individual. It shows the ego-centric and self-centric nature of human being, who

for the welfare of the particular individual, tries to deceive the weak and the meek. The nature of the human relationship is not only for the temporary happiness but also for the steadfast and everlasting living. Ursula Brangwen represents the real personality of an individual. She not only does the domestic activities but also cares her younger sisters. The duties and the responsibilities of the parents are thrust on the elder child of family. She babysits and cares the other children in the family. In the case of Ursula, she maintains the endurance from the early age onwards in the family in spite of irresponsible parents and the sibling rivalry.

The author lists out the struggles and the perseverance of the protagonist in the family for the development of her personality and her social status in the society of male dominated society. Lawrence exhibits the difficulties of Ursula Brangwen, who encounters all the environmental forces of life. All these are related to Lawrence's own struggles and hardships in the reality of his life. The ultimate ambition of Ursula is to stand on her own and to acquire the status in the modern society where there are competitions, antagonisms, oppositions and rivalries in order to obtain the good status in life. Lawrence reveals this fact earnestly in the novel for the consideration of the women's emancipation and the empowerment of their social status in the male chauvinistic society. The author narrates the different dynamic roles of Ursula Brangwen who plays the multiple roles in the family for the social responsibility of an individual's contribution to the family as well the society. The multifarious roles of Ursula interpret the decorum of life in the society. No man is born without shortcomings and limitations to face the world successfully for reaching the status of perfection through self-actualization.

Lawrence illustrates the composite roles, responsibilities, functions and the positions of Ursula Brangwen in the family where she lives with her own family members like parents, grandparents and sisters. Therefore, she functions the various roles in the family like a grandchild, child, particularly eldest child, eldest sister and lady love for Anton Skrebensky. She plays the different roles outside of the family as student, friend, colleague, teacher, motivator, roommate, and so forth. In all these roles, she plays the vital role of typical young woman or female in the novel. Lawrence expresses about the women as the symbol of love and compassion. Lawrence says in the first part of the novel:

In the close intimacy of the farm kitchen, the women occupied the supreme positions. The men deferred to her in the house, on all household points, on all points of morality and behaviour. The woman was the symbol for that further life which comprised religion and love and money. The men placed in her hands their own conscience, they said to her 'Be my conscientious-keeper, be the angel at the doorway guarding my outgoing and my incoming.' And the woman fulfilled her trust, the men rested implicitly in her, receiving her praise or her blame with pleasure or with anger, rebelling and storming, but never for a moment really escaping in their own souls from her prerogatives. They depend on her for their stability she was the anchor and the security, she was the restraining hand of God. (*The Rainbow* 13)

Lawrence reveals each stage of her life. She faces myriads of problems and troubles in order to pursue right path to establish her status in the society. Only

education will support her to obtain all the successes in life. She takes the challenges in whatever she does. She remembers all the values and worthiness in life. Lawrence elucidates first Ursula as a child, which is nourished and bred well in the manners of social acceptance and recognition. The parents Anna Lensky and Will Brangwen are in seventh heaven for obtaining the first child. They are in the euphoric and the elated mood of happiness for obtaining Ursula as the gift from God.

The family is very small in numbers when Ursula was born and later on, the family is proliferated with a number of children. "One is not only a little individual, living a little individual life," Lawrence wrote while composing the novel. "One is in oneself the whole of mankind, and one's fate is the fate of the whole of mankind." (James T. Boulton, 68). We can see the joy of the parents with their euphoric condition and contentment in life for obtaining the first child. It is the genuine feelings of all the parents. Whether we understand the feelings or not while we read the text. We experience the realities of our life without any remorse or sadness. Therefore in that aspect a child gives the fulfillment of joy and happiness to the parents. The personality of an individual commence from the beginning of life and carries out until the last breath of human life. According to the psychologists and the psychiatrists, a child develops the particular trait and personality from the early period of the childhood which later on maintains the environmental forces of life with the other members in the family.

Ursula becomes the child of her father's heart. She was the little blossom, he was the sun. He was patient, energetic, and inventive for her. He taught her all the funny little things; he filled her and roused her to her fullest tiny measure. She

C. Jegan

answered him with her extravagant infant's laughter and her call of delight. (*The Rainbow* 78)

We can perceive the characteristics of Ursula Brangwen who had enjoyed the love and affection of the parents in the initial stage of her life. She felt the real filial love towards her parents especially she becomes a favourite child of her father. The childhood of Ursula makes the readers realize their own early stage of life. Will Brangwen reaches twenty-six at that time he has four children therefore Ursula is not given such previous affection and love. Therefore, she was disappointed by her parents. However, she wants to get the normal connection with her father again but it goes in vain. She feels the strange situation in the family where there is no peace and harmony in the circle of familial relationship.

The second role Ursula plays as a sister in the family as well the eldest child, who cares her younger sisters. She helps her parents in small domestic work like washing clothes, cleaning the vessels, dressing the younger sisters, making them ready to school and so forth. The concept of filial love will reveal the facts about the complexity in the relationship between the parents and the children.

The readers can assume the values of sibling's relationship in all the novels of Lawrence. The relationship of the sibling is one of the reputed themes of Lawrence who reveals the nature of familial integration through the children or the siblings in the family. They maintain the spirit of the familial living and assisting each other in the paths of moral correction and counseling each other for the support and the sustainability of the familial values. She always prepares to be with her grandmother Lydia Lensky who teaches her the morals and values in life, which she realizes instantaneously.

This helps Ursula Brangwen to become a motivated and an inspired girl in all the aspects of her growth and development of personality.

Nevertheless, Ursula feels the burden at certain point of time whenever she has to care her younger sisters Gudrun, Theresa and Catherine. The two remained at home. Ursula leads the younger sister to the Church School near the Marsh land. This genuine responsibility gauges the character of Ursula as a dedicated and lovable person to her younger sisters and brother in the family. The young age of Ursula assesses as the moralistic and principled girl who understands the reality of life intellectually and feels to be her own nature of being independent in all the walks of her life.

It was very burdensome to Ursula, that she was the eldest of the family. By the time she was eleven, she had to take to school Gudrun, Theresa and Catherine. (*The Rainbow* 218)

We can understand Ursula's for the burdensome responsibilities which her parents are supposed to fulfill in the family. The duties of the parents are handed over to the elder sister who always feels the realities of the existence in the environmental factors of living with other family members for the communion of spiritual union. She maintains a close association with one another in the familial integration.

Ursula is a God-fearing personality and also god-bearing personality. A famous writer says: "Dostoevsky called the Russians the "god-bearing" people, those who carry the secret of life within them and preserve it for that remote apocalypse when the entire world will be fit to receive it" (Lodge, David. 67).

Therefore we can assume the values of Ursula's struggles and hardships for the perseverance in the field of education to

stand alone on her effort to become a liberated person in the society. She is determined to become a teacher in which she can enrich and empower herself in the male dominated society. It is true, if we obtain an appropriate education in a proper manner of discipline, definitely a person of proletarian class can become an elite individual in the aspects of wealth and authority.

Ursula, at the end of the novel, looks at the rainbow which gives her hope and confidence to reach a good status in life successfully on Earth. Lawrence illustrates all these ideas for the importance of familial bond in all the human beings. We need to comprehend our genuine complex nature of relationship in the right perspectives of life with other in the family and in the society.

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