

Social Discrimination on Selected Short Stories of Katherine Mansfield

R. Monisha

Thangavelu Engineering College, Chennai, Tamil Nadu, India

Abstract: *The dissertation attempts a study of Katherine Mansfield selected short stories “ A Doll’s House”, “ A Cup Of Tea”. Chapter one talks about the genesis and growth of the short stories. Chapter two studies the critical analysis of the short stories. Chapter three focuses on the comparison of both the short stories “Social Discrimination and Concluding part.*

Keywords: Katherine Mansfield

I. INTRODUCTION

“ A Short story is a love affair , a novel a marriage. A Short Story is a photograph, a novel a film”.

- **LORRIE MOORE.**

A short story is a brief work of literature usually written narrative prose and emerged from earlier oral telling traditions in the 17th century. Short story is largely distinct from the novel doesn't have set length Short Story differs between genres, countries, eras and commentators. Short story writers may define their work as part of the artistic and personal expression of the form. Short story can be read at a single setting. Short story is a genre by itself Short stories are less than 5000 words and shorter than a novel.

Short story should be within ten to fifty double spaced pages of text. Some other ways of defining the length of a short story are:

- Short story tends to concentrate on one major event or conflict.
- Short stories have one or two main characters.
- Short stories create a single specific effect
- Short story is more compressed than novels.
- Short story does not have sub plots.

CHARACTERISTICS:

As a concentrated form, of narrative prose fiction, the short story has been theorized through the traditional elements of dramatic structure exposition, complication, rising action, crisis, climax and resolution. Longer stories, plots of short stories also have a climax crisis or turning point. As with any art forms, the exact characteristics of a short story will vary by creator. Short stories tend to be less complex than novels. The character of the form developed particularly with authors known for their short fiction, either by choice or by critical regard which acknowledged the focus and craft required in the short form e.g.: **Jorge Luis Borges** who won American fame with “**The Garden of forking paths**” published in the August 1948 Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine.

CHAPTER TWO:

Katherine Mansfield Beauchamp Murry was a prominent modernist writer of short fiction who wrote under the pen name of Katherine Mansfield. Mansfield left for Great Britain when she was 19 where she encountered Modernist writers such as D.H. Lawrence and Virginia Woolf with whom she became close friends. Her stories often focus on moments of disruption and frequently open rather abruptly.

Among her best-known stories are "The Garden Party", "Daughters of the Late Colonel" and "The Fly" During the First World War Mansfield contracted contracted extrapulmonary tuberculosis, which rendered any return or visit to New Zealand impossible and led to her death at the age of 34. Katherine Mansfield's work is intensely autobiographical and



her favorite themes are family, relationships, parental and marital. The stories have something in common with those of Chekhov, and are remarkable for their clarity of detail, symbolic use of objects and incidents and a cunning distillation of atmosphere.

ANALYSIS OF MAJOR CHARACTERS:

Kezia : A contributing factor of the story “ The Dolls House” by Katherine Mansfield is the characterization of Kezia as she travels in her innocence through the symbolic world of experience. Kezia the youngest of the girls , takes an interest in the rather simple lamp.

Burnells: Isabel thinks that she is the boss because she is the eldest she tells their sisters what they have to do. She is like her mother because she allows her to do most. Her sisters think that it is okay.

Kelveys's: Lil goes always first and our Else always hold on to her.They have not got anybody to talk; they can only talk to each other. Else wears long white dress and a pair of boots and Lil wears an ugly dress and everybody laughs at her.

CHAPTER THREE:

SOCIAL DISCRIMINATION

EFFECTS OF DISCRIMINATION:

PHYSICALLY : Headache, change in eating, sleeplessness, lack of personal hygiene and lack of energy.

EMOTIONALLY: Lack of confidence, insecurity, anxiety, sudden change in behavior, lack of co-operation and learned helplessness.

SOCIALLY: Isolation, becoming withdrawn, feels like a stranger.

INTELLECTUALLY: Poor performance in examination, lack of achievements , lack of skills, loss of motivation.

These simple words mad her strong and confident to live in the society that is treating her so cruelly. All that made her to move forward successfully was this simple words and she wanted to live a successful life.

In the short story A Cup Of Tea the character Rosemary had to face a different situation where he husband discriminates her mentally and challenges every decision. She wanted to bring smith who was a beggar to her home and help her to come out of her pathetic situation and live her own life but this decision was not accepted by her husband and stops her every attempt.

This mental blockage from her own husband affected her completely and her own living and this was something that made her feel so bad about the society she is living in. this was taken a step further by her husband who decides to send Rosemary away from the family.

II. CONCLUSION

Thus we could see how the two important discriminations are highlighted by Katherine Mansfield, I Compare the two characters kezia and Rosemary and tried to project how the social discrimination is affecting them Socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally. I n a society that is filled with such discrimination.It is not showing any differences to even a small girl Kezia .

Thus Katherine Mansfield tries to bring out this harsh reality and the after effects of social discrimination through her works.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- [1]. Mansfield Katherine A Doll's House: Addison Wesley Longman,1998.
- [2]. Mansfield Katherine ACup Of Tea : Bowling Green State University Popular Press, 1993
- [3]. Van Gunsteren, Julia. Katherine Mansfield and Literar Imperpressionism: Amsterdam Atlanta,1990.

