



IN HANYA YANAGIHARA'S *A LITTLE LIFE*, AN ANALYTICAL PERSPECTIVE ON THE PREDICAMENT OF WITNESSING TRAUMA AND CHILD ABUSE

S. Swarna Latha & Dr. P. Preethi,

Department of English, Vels Institute of Science, Technology &
Advanced Studies, Chennai

ABSTRACT:

To everyone's satisfaction, the topic of trauma has come up for discussion around once every half-century and explores a rich imaginative division of traditional rationale for social injustice. Studies on trauma have long combined psychology and mortality. Physical, psychological, and sexual abuse of children are all forms of child abuse and neglect, both of which are grave, all-encompassing issues. These factors have the power to protect the child from severe, long-lasting psychological harm. In her 2015 book *A Little Life*, Hanya Yanagihara depicts how children's personalities are influenced by a variety of societal variables and provide a tiresome, overdone summary of trauma theory. The *Drifting* book depicts romantic abuse against the protagonist Jude as a child and the horrible things she discovers as an adult self-harmer. Readers of *A Little Life* are reminded that it is impossible to know the experiences an experimental person has had throughout their life. The main focus of this broadside is on how orphans are treated in the modern world and how this results in their deaths. The fear of disaster causes children to repress their opinions and judgment, which manifests itself in different ways. The quest for the answers to these questions is explored in the 2015 book *A Little Life*.

KEYWORDS: Child labor, psychological abuse, long-term psychological damage.

1. INTRODUCTION

Literature can produce ancient and nostalgic forms that are frequently difficult to differentiate. "*A Little Life*" by Hanya Yanagihara depicts the trauma thoughts that might be



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planned in conjunction with the principles of child abuse. Psychological trauma is employed in witnessing trauma research to identify specific social traits. The purpose of this essay is to look at the outcomes for kids who have been subjected to physical and sexual abuse as well as domestic and societal violence. Children's

reactions to trauma are sometimes unsatisfying and consequently unsophisticated, but up until now, the effects of revelations of tragedy and vehemence have been thoughtful and long-lasting. The trauma theory, which was an aggressive betrayal of violence against women and children like abusing them, emerged during the 1960s from many sectors of social apprehension. In addition, trauma is frequently conceived by their own experiences as well as their goals of their selves and the search for life. *A Little Life* Pact's account of sensual abuse in Jude's youth and its tragic results is life-threatening. This essay aims to demonstrate how societal issues contribute to the trauma and social identities of individuals. American-English author Hanya was born in Los Angeles in 1975. *A Little Life* by Hanya is unlike anything else and is, quite simply, cherished. Hanya used mysterious, delicate brushstrokes to color the picture. Her books are difficult to understand and foolish stuff. The interactions that favor the ecospheres are intricately put together, but performances fill the spaces. They are luxurious and very thorough. It rushes towards the overarching premise of the book as a result. The fatal depiction of sexual assault in the protagonist Jude's childish and sad possessions, however, is consistent with this book.

The current study makes an effort to familiarise readers with an orphanage fight and shows how sexual assault can be traumatizing as well as a foregone conclusion of social inequality. Psychological trauma includes a single immersion and feelings, according to the field of trauma research. Even though Sigmund Freud invented this field. Hanya revised all of the American Orphan's activities and altered both its outward image and internal culture.

Hanya's works openly show how the unfair system they live in affects the experiences of orphans in the southern United States. Cathy Caruth in *Unclaimed Experience: Trauma, Narrative, and History* (Caruth 3) studies the lives and relationships of orphans. Her work observes that trauma is played not upon the physique, but upon the mind.

The primary goals of this essay are to examine how society treats orphan children and how



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doing so can ruin their lives. Additionally, it emphasizes *A Little Life's* storytelling approaches, genres, and themes. To explore the book *A Little Life* from a trauma viewpoint, this post will do just that. Additionally, it examines the ideology around child abuse that can be compared to those of trauma theory.

LITERATURE REVIEW:

Prajapat Sarita (2007) in her thesis *Role of Families Factors and Child Abuse in Personality of Children* portrays the personality of children which is affected by many social factors. It manages the children who get captured in conventional society almost daily. The war between family, social and individual factors depicts itself in this work. The consequences of childhood accomplishments continue to affect a person even as an adult. The following areas direct their concentration toward the impact of global singularity not inadequate to any specific country. Rajinder Kumar (2012) in his thesis *child labor is a necessary evil for the Indian economy a case study of wood carving labor in Saharanpur city* represents the problem of child labor. The researcher expresses that Child labor was not seen as problematic throughout most of the past, only becoming an undecided issue with the beginning of universal. With the initiation of industrialization and suburbanization in the primary 19th century, the factory and industries began taking the place of handcrafts. So, factories on the other hand obligatory economy and bountiful labor. This part studies the children started being employed both on farmhouses and in factories since they provided an inexpensive and long-suffering labor force as against adults. From the researcher's perspective, child labor is making children do tremendously perilous work in detrimental circumstances, sometimes tapping their healthiness, education, individual communal development, and even their life expectancy risk.

2. PREJUDICE: THE BRUTAL ASPECT:

Readers can better grasp the orphan's life in stereotypes reading *A Little Life* (2015). The purpose of this study is to identify the types of prejudice that the book highlights. First, the author arouses deep comprehension and diverse life perspectives. This book tells the tale of how child abuse torments a victim and continues to be an illegal justice system, especially for orphans because no one can ever again discriminate against another person's life



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experiences. Hanya is aware of the sexual violence and trauma that have affected others.

Hanya examines three types of prejudice: stereotyping, sexual assault, and social isolation. She elaborates on the issues and discusses how bias is caused by them. Additionally, she deals with issues of culture, socioeconomic status, and child abuse.

This book demonstrates how bias is a constant throughout society. Hanya investigates what may occur when the lives of people and child abuse and trauma clash. Four buddies with varying backgrounds and personalities—Malcolm, JB, Willem, and Jude—center the story. They entered adulthood before understanding its purpose, which caused their lives to drift apart as a result of trauma. Jude, the book's main character, was raised by a priest after growing up as an orphan. The priest was frequently abusive and brutal to Jude, and his terrible life is also depicted in the novel. Jude was subjected to frequent clergy sexual assault and was encouraged to engage in sexual activities with other men in exchange for payment. When Jude is transferred to adoptive care, he is forced to engage in physical therapy. He has been overwhelmed by everything because he is a youngster. But as the years passed, his life was dramatically turned around, and the priest condemned him to a Spartan punishment.

The punishment was converted to abuse—physical, mental, and emotional. He fled as a result and attempted to hitchhike alone to Boston. Because it is eager to examine those distinctions and present the consistent effects of trauma, *A Little Life* flourishes and ties. Hanya can explicitly demonstrate the pernicious reach of child maltreatment because Jude's increasing agility is unable to protect them from the criminal court system's biased stereotypes about orphans.

“Our parents are dead” (AAL3).

Willem said this about the realities of their life as orphans and the fact that they were not being raised by their original parents. Willem sees the agony of child abuse as well as the boundary snarls of bereavement and inequity as one large, depressing, and impractical issue. Both Jude and Willem denied having ever engaged in child sex.

Hanya reemphasizes the role of orphans as well as their goal to be true to themselves and their struggle for survival. She serves as a metaphor for each orphan in this book and the



impending twists and turns that come with their declaration. So, this is a brand-new shot that highlights the difficulties the kids in the orphanages face. The majority of Hanya Yanagihara's works are heavily influenced by human relationships, their problems, and their effects. Sociologists have gradually developed a framework to identify and explain the nature of discrimination and slavery inequities. The risk of poor well-being and mental health, therefore, exists for orphans.

“you’re in pain. We have to get you to help.” (AAL19).

Willem expresses his concern to Jude, and after he flees to Boston independently, he returns into himself and is eventually kidnapped by another vicious man that he

embraces. Jude imprisoned him, repeatedly seduced him, and eventually fled, getting into a vehicle accident. Jude sustained injuries during the encounter that left him with permanent agony and infirmity. Jude's past of sexual molestation as a child has seriously and emotionally damaged him. Jude was raised in a hermitage and constantly sexually abused by the monks, so his body can regenerate. He remembers a time in the past when one of the brothers forced him to become addicted to years of child abuse.

The cruel component of child labor includes the mistreatment of children, but it is vital to understand that when it occurs, society as a whole is affected. Those who are just concerned with their egoistic safety cannot ignore or side-step this hurt because it distresses every unsocial individual both immediately and over time. His maltreatment starts a lifetime of low self-esteem, dissatisfaction, and relationship issues, much like Jude's depression and anxiety do. Children who grew up in abusive environments have also been reported to have similar psychological and emotional disorders.

3. WITNESSING TRAUMA:

Hanya gave a sketch of the trauma theory. The divergent piece is praised and derided for its life-threatening depiction of Jude's childhood sexual abuse and its emotional impact on him as an adult who engages in self-harm. Her novel set in the present day deals with fake trauma; it purposefully textualized Jude's pain's actual absence into an overly exuberant and contented emotional system. As a result, it revealed an asserted provocative perspective on the level of chronicle perception and concentrated on contemporary trauma fiction. Trauma



teaches that one cannot always understand the difficulties someone else has faced in life.

Jude experienced anguish on both a physical and psychic level, which was interconnected. He develops complaints and illnesses later in his difficult childhood and adolescence that will make him feel bodily discomfort every day for the rest of his life. Additionally, terrible memories, flashbacks, and an unending sense of doom and threat torture him. Jude hints about inflicting increasingly horrific acts of self-harm on himself to survive the insults and transfers. Jude's creations provide comfort in the suffering he inflicts because he can resist it, and as a result, they give him a more intense sense of what to pay attention to. Jude's involvement requires pain because it makes him appear distant and fundamentally different from other people.

Jude has to be continually recognized since he derives a lot of his mental and emotional suffering from them.

Jude suffered from a painful and persistent trauma from a previous existence. He suffered physical, emotional, and sexual abuse as a child, which has rendered him permanently disabled and in a perpetual state of pain. He also fights with the psychological repercussions of these experiences in addition to the unadorned physical impacts elsewhere. Jude laments the occurrences of these upsetting trials in his life time after time. Inability to escape the horrors of his past, he engages in self-harm and engages in combative associations throughout his adult life.

His stumbling gait and the scratches on his arms and back are constant reminders of this past. Jude's pals are aware of the unknowable since he has never tolerated any information, and they fear that if they learn what has unquestionably been revealed to him, they won't ever need to communicate with him again. Children's vehemence in conflict has long-lasting effects on their health and well-being, relationships, society, and ideas. More serious injuries can result from violence against children than through carnal aggression and assault.

“Malcolm and JB too would see him in pain” (AAL20)

Jude's background represents an ongoing rejection of the contemporary psychological spiral, which is surely too intense to sustain without healing the wounded. It shows a part of a



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mature story that begins by being relatively socially optimistic and gradually becomes more thoughtful. The trauma of child abuse and the larger malaise of misery and injustice are comparable, depressing, and unsolvable issues.

In other words, thought-provoking is not the result of trauma; rather, it is the approximate hypothetical renunciation of any hope for justice, compensation, or structural change. Jude is currently suffering from health issues that are causing him to experience hallucinations and eating memories, but fortunately, Willem is constantly around to help him when he wakes up in the middle of the night. Willem asks Jude about everything he has accomplished and all the people who adore him, but Jude is rarely so deeply immersed in his memories that he cannot even identify Willem when he asks who he is. This shows how deeply traumatized Jude is and how consumed with the past he can be. Jude misses all associations with his previous life and all the enjoyable skills he acquired there when he is mired in his memories. Jude experiences these things as though they have not even happened.

Hanya firmly intersects this conversation and puts forth the instances and fragments of child abuse. Jude frequently cuts himself due to his tragic history, which has left him severely disabled and psychologically scarred. Childhood is the absence of adulthood, yet orphans in "*A Little Life*" aren't even given human status. They were no longer a source of support due to the abuse they suffered as children. Orphans lose their identity as a result. The traumatization of Jude demonstrates the devastating effects of child maltreatment on society. Sometimes, people's daily interactions are continuously determined by their psychological state of mind. Jude became an orphan as a result of all the conflicts he experienced.

Jude's mistreatment as a youngster indicates that he has experienced many hardships and potentially fatal traumas, and the narrative develops and concludes with the separate lives of Willem, Malcolm, and JB, in which these characters interact with one another. They interact freely and it is clear that they love each other, but Jude feels unable to reveal his background or his current mental state. When his friends try to approach him, his consciousness travels back to the place where he was subjected to physical and emotional



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abuse.

CONCLUSION:

A psychoanalytic perspective on *A Little Life* can also be used to analyze how characters like Jude develop through time. In the novel, the conscious and unconscious are grandiose. All of this consciousness, said Freud, emerges to the conscious in unpredictable ways. According to Freud, people's unconscious fear and longing that they are not consciously aware of strongly influence their behaviors.

Hanya focuses on the idea of how child abuse is victimized in opposition to, conquered, subjugated, and marginalized in American culture in her book *A Little Life*. Though adultery among children was addressed in the 18th century, upper-class people are now hesitantly concerned about orphans in the present day.

The novel starts with a humorous tradition, but as it goes on, child abuse becomes a major main point. The entire story revolves around events that happened to orphans, and it demonstrates the real and heroic struggle of young orphans against child abuse. *A Little Life* suggests that child abuse occurs in characters, and the author vividly depicts all the surroundings and issues that the kids face after they are declared orphans. The concepts of cunning and betrayal are spread throughout the book. With the realization that child abuse and children can cause more destruction and sorrow for individuals than make them prosperous, her work captures the reader's attention.

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