

Psychological Struggles of the Individual in Hostile Environment: A Study Characters in Selected Novels of Patrick O'Brian

Dr. Abhijeet Nanasaheb Pawar

An Assistant Professor, Department of English, SGM College, Karad, Maharashtra (India)

Abstract:

Psychoanalysis dealt with human being conflicts with themselves and each other. Both the exterior and interior conflict that with the characters wrestle in all novels. The characters in nautical fiction of Patrick Obrian are struggling with both inner and exterior obstacles. The inner or internal conflict is nothing but repression and moral dilemma. Characters' habit, hunger, lust, pain, frustration, and fear like other aspects are part of it.

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It is not difficult to see why the psychoanalytic theory has been widely used in the study of literature. Psychoanalysis deals with human beings in conflict with themselves and each other, and literature portray and are written and read by such people. What is confusing is that there are so many psychoanalytic theories, each with its claims and proponents. When we speak of inner conflict, it means clash, struggle, opposition or clashing of opposed interests that go on in a person, organization, state, country and the like. While an outer conflict involves a character wrestling with exterior obstacles, such as other people, an inner conflict implies that the character is struggling with emotional or mental obstacles within him/herself. A moral or ethical dilemma is a classic example of an inner conflict.

Psychoanalysis dealt with human being conflicts with themselves and each other. Both the exterior and interior conflict that with the characters wrestle in all novels. It is exterior conflict existed due to the obstacles made by the other people and surrounding while inner is the characters emotional and mental obstacles within himself which form moral and ethical dilemma. Hence, it precedes the psychological struggle of the character.

The characters in nautical fiction are struggling with both inner and exterior obstacles. The inner or internal conflict is nothing but repression and moral dilemma. Characters' habit, hunger, lust, pain, frustration, and fear like other aspects are part of it. Exterior or outer conflict is nothing but leading life in a sterile and hostile environment of the sea. We find to be the most similarity both in sea human life are to both is unpredictable. A sudden change can bring a storm and destroy all things.

The point course is to not give up and keeps going, even if ultimately characters do not give up, worked so hard to achieve. They show the psychological resilience to cope with crises and overcome the difficulty to come in the pre-crisis state. It is the capacity to withstand stressor and not show any negative mood or psychological disturbance. Thus, Psychological resilience is defined in terms of a person's capacity to avoid psychopathology despite difficult circumstances.

O'Brian's characters Maturin have shown himself to be a practicing psychiatrist. Through his observation, O'Brian has read the struggle in the minds of crew and sailors. We see first in *Master and Commander* in the case of Cheslin, who stigmatized not only with a harelip but because of the crew have learned that he was sin-eater. The man is 'dying of inanition', deeply depressed by his total rejection by his shipmates. Maturin saves him by giving some sense of a helper in the ship's infirmary, thereby giving him some sense of self-worth, leading to gradual acceptance by the crew and the chance finally to prove him heroically and shown resilience in the boarding and capture of the *Cacafuego*. At the same James Dillon seems to be loyal to the British Crown. He has been neglected for the promotion as a Captain of *Sophie*. He appeared to be frustrated but he does not show his reluctant. He shows his bravery and becomes a strong component in the success of *Cacafuego* and Jack Aubrey's Campaign.

Dr. Maturin himself is suffered from unrequited love, jealousy and powerful inner conflicts demonstrate some significant signs of stress. Dr. Ramis responds to his colleague's discourse on sailors with some personal observations:

You speak of loss of weight. But I find that you yourself are thin. Navy, cadaverous if I may speak as one physician to another. You have a very ill breath; your hair, already meager two years ago, is now extremely sparse; you belch frequently; your eyes are hollow and dim. This is not merely your ill- considered use of tobacco- a noxious substance that should be prohibited by government- and of laudanum. I should very much like to see your excrement.' 'You shall, my dear sir, you shall. (Patrick 84-85)

Maturin tolerates certain types of purely psychological distress rather poorly and he has a distressing tendency to become reliant on drugs such as laudanum (the alcoholic tincture of opium) cocaine. The unrequited love with Diana Villars suffers him too much. For this love, he fought with Canning and wandered in many places. Nonetheless, he is capable of great courage when he encounters life-threatening situations, physical tortures, personal injury and medical-surgical operations. His medical adventure to cure dread diseases such as gaol fever, typhus, and plague-stricken shipmates is significant. Even his resilience as spy helped Aubrey in many campaigns.

Furthermore, the condition of a sailor who is living in a briny world is frustrating and revealing the mental struggle of sea society. It was full with brutality and beating. This oppressive aspect of this brutal world looks new and heartbreaking to Maturin so he comes to Aubrey after seeing brutal beating under naval discipline, he nodded:

'Tell me, he said, in low voice, some moments late. 'Were I Under naval discipline, could that fellow have me whipped? He nodded towards Mr. Marshall.

'The master?' Cried Jack, inexpressible amazement.

'Yes,' said Stephen, looking alternatively at him, with his head slightly inclined to the left. (Patrick 115)

It is tedious to tell the many examples to be found in both reliable and unreliable sources. The example from *The Mauritius Command* was shocking to lower deck opinion was no simply the brutality but the fact that sufferers were prime seamen, as it shocked Jack Aubrey to hear that his coxswain Bonden had been flogged by Captain Corbett. The ignorant landsmen had always been herded they are about work with blows, but those smart top men should suffer likewise offended every seaman's idea of natural justice and the social order within the company. Nonetheless, the valor and devotion of Barret Bonden are significant in every campaign with Jack Aubrey.

Nevertheless, seasickness is also one of the elements that disturb the psychology of the sailor and crew. It strikes them to become violent, ruthless and murderous. In *Desolation Island* the condition of criminals is severe. They have kept in the forepeak of the ship.

All the convicts are more or less dead, so seasick, and one woman is in screeching fit... foretop halliards badly chafed, and bowsprit gammoning not what it might be everything is ship shape, tolerably shipshape. (Patrick 68)

This condition of criminals made them devil and they killed their warden and his assistant. The doldrums area that brought them in a sterile environment that disturbs the mentality and health of convicts and crew. They have been suffered by the gaol fever. Convalescent of men on the ship was one of the biggest challenges before for the Maturin. But the efforts of Maturin have convalescent 65 men out of 200.

Fear of life is always roaming around the crew. It is frequently at the door of them. Fear of naval warfare, fear of storm, fear of survival and sea creature is prominent to them. These are going to create internal conflict among the mind of the sailor's minds. As part, naval warfare ship Jack Aubrey and his men have gone through many critical battles along with French, Spain, and America. The novel *Mauritius Command* has highlighted the terror of sea war between French frigate and Royal Navy frigate to free the Islands. In *Master and Commander* the fear of Dillion death has been faced by Aubrey. Even we have seen the Maturin has been plenty of time captured by the enemy. *The Fortune of War* also reflects the fear of capture and escape is roaming in the minds of Aubrey and Maturin. To some extent, this fear disturbs the mental stage of men but they overcome it by strong resilience. They fought bravely against their enemy such as France with the feeling of patriotism. In *Mauritius Command* campaign was launched by Aubrey to diminish the increasing power of French in India Ocean. Besides the resilience and bravery of Aubrey and his men to re-establishment of rudder and rigging at desolation island is admirable.

Occupational stress and life satisfaction if we find in the select novels we can conclude that occupational stress is higher to a lower level officer than as compared with the senior level officer. Greater occupational stress is connected with a lower satisfaction score. The most important factors were separated from family, loneliness, fatigue, and multi-nationality and sleep deprivation and health. Jack Aubrey and his everyman are suffered by this same. But the resilience of seafarers and strategies for coping with inevitable stress decrease the risk of stress. Therefore, Jack Aubrey seems to be succeeding campaign after campaign.

Thus, O'Brian's characters in the novels are engaging both in interior and exterior conflicts. Dr. Maturin is a keen observer of interior conflicts such as internal sexual urge, fear, frustration, pain, anger, and hunger. The internal struggle is led by the outer or exterior obstacles existed due to the sterile and hostile environment of sea life. The sexual urge male-centered world is made them wild when any female appears on the aboard. The Wogan's appearance in *Desolation Island* reflects it that every crew wants her sexual partner. Besides the physical separation sailor, the psychological imbalance is seen through the observation of Maturin. He knew the pain behind the struggle. The dying depression of the sailor in *Desolation of Island* is significant to save a life in front of the natural wilderness. The seasickness is resulted in crew become wild and violent too. Fear naval warfare and survival are also afraid of them to work aboard. The life away from the family is challenging for the men of Aubrey and Aubrey himself with his wife Sophie. Therefore we find Aubrey is using the medium of writing a letter to his wife for

expressing his feeling and keep continue the love amongst them. The letter in *The Fortune of War* to Sophie is giving minute detail of Aubrey's life when he was captured and imprisoned by the American.

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