

The Torment of Confinement and Its Impact on Masculinity: An Analytical Real-Time Case Study with Respect to Emma Donoghue's Room

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Abstract

This research paper titled "The Torment of Confinement and Its Impact on Masculinity: An Analytical Real-Time Case Study with Respect to Emma Donoghue's Room, aims at bringing to light the confined section of persecution to men, while holding an effective comparison with the literary construct of Emma Donoghue's seminal novel, Room. This paper analyses how both a case study of reality and fictional piece of literature travel the same parallel type of traps, and how trauma is automatically created as a result of each of the two ideologies. It encapsulates the torment of masculine traits that have almost lost the opportunity to be defended upon. And this concept stands best expressed through the novel's central figure Jack, a little boy, but again a growing up male, who faces a traumatic aftermath from five years of captivity. While choosing to evolve in the emotional mindset of males like him, sometimes injustice done to even brave men can cause silenced suffering within them. These silenced men and their struggle to come out of such trauma, form the corner stones of this research paper. This study deals with both physical and mental imprisonment of Jack as well as harassed men in general, and respects their untold misery, thereby stressing upon the key of equality in justice, and to break the chain of taboo against such cause.

Keywords

Masculine, Trauma, Confinement, Reality, Case Study.

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Throughout history, the concept of confinement has created various emotional and traumatic shock in all people, irrespective of genders. This paper magnifies the above impact on a male's untold trauma, based on the findings of resemblance from a novel Room, by Emma Donoghue, an Irish-Canadian novelist, playwright and literary historian. Donoghue's fresh innocent touch and promptness in writing creates this traumatic connectivity from a five-year-old boy's perspective. Stressing that one cannot be gender biased on any circumstances, the comparison is also done with a real life case study of some men whose silent traumatic narratives takes a dangerous end which should not be a viable solution, in case of any more circumstantial crisis.

This paper underscores the confined persecution to Jack, the five-year-old protagonist of the novel and the selected male representative for the research of a captive's view on life around him. Though the novel provides the child narrator as the reader's lens, it gives out the actual truth of seclusion without any understatement and how it persecutes and limits his circle to a very small one where the boy sees the eleven-by-eleven-foot room to be his entire world and the real big existence outside to be entirely in outer space as if like new planets. Again, the innocent mind is too young to understand that he is actually inside an average facilitated prison which is the primary reason he is not worried about getting out of it.

This character in such a situation can be studied through the aspect of initial sense of adaptability which every human would naturally exhibit in order to survive: "Ma shrugs. 'He's just spent his five years in a strange place, that's all.' 'You don't think he's been shaped-damaged-by his ordeal?' 'It wasn't an ordeal to Jack; it was just how things were. And, yeah, maybe, but everybody's damaged by something.'" (Donoghue 295-296)

Persecuted Confinement in harassment deals with the society in general and can happen to anyone man or woman. In countries like India, development over defending the silent persecution done to female is comparatively more than providing an equal attention to men. Just because cases of violence against men are minimal, one cannot ignore the actual impact of it. Hence the following case study primarily focuses on spotlighting the male victims and their psychological setbacks even under defend-able causes. While a number of laws have been successfully sanctioned for women to be protected from men, one has to think if the same will happen if men are victimized. Indeed, the term equality is being indirectly biased by narrow perceptions, if equality itself is served differently for different genders.

Coming to the Social- anxiety disorder in Jack, Donoghue demonstrates how the psychological fallout from physical seclusion can exacerbate emotional isolation over time and

how, in many cases, ending a very solitary lifestyle can be even more alienating than seclusion itself. Amidst all the freedom and rescue done to save Ma and Jack, the author now places the readers in the aftermath of a long abduction. One might clearly find that Ma starts her normal life but Jack who is entirely new in facing the big world outside, faces severe traumatic breakdown silently. He finds himself ironically alienated when he should feel free and happy. This makes him seek comfort in his confinement as he tries to go back to the room and finds the bed and materials he used, to be finer than freedom itself.

“‘Not just children,’ says Ma. ‘People are locked up in all sorts of ways’” (Donoghue 295). Comparative pessimistic trait in a case study plays a pivotal role in correlating the instance of adapted confinement in Jack, for this purpose the research connects the dots with the real-life cases where men tend to hide their insecurities fearing the social-anxiety that they have to face in phase of its revelation to get justice for themselves. One such case is detailed below:

“A thirty years old man, Pushkar Singh, resident of Jankipuram Sector C, Lucknow (Uttar Pradesh), committed suicide because of the harassment by his wife. In his suicide letter, he stated: ‘I was sent to jail after a false dowry case was lodged against me by Vinita and her family, who had demanded, Rs. 14 lakh as compensation. Neither my father nor I had seen such a big amount in our lives. We even sold our house to contest the case.’ To which he further added, ‘I would also like to request Vinita not to harass my family in future. It was my mistake to marry her and I am repenting it by sacrificing my life’” (Yogeetha Sai).

The factual happening of the above case builds curiosity of the societal voice on the impossibility of men being harassed and women taking the position of victimizing them. This is just one case study among many, where research proves that most men do not come out to report their harassment at various situations because of social mockery. Unfortunately, while one considers the topic of equality among genders one automatically becomes biased over women equality and forgets to realize that men also face such issues.

Especially focusing on this case, one comes to know that the victim was of lower economic status which adds to his tragic decision at the end. As society has framed various attitudes of bravery and manliness to men right from their birth, men fear reporting issues of violence against them. The importance of recognizing that men being considered the stronger sex is as tough as women being considered the weaker sex on fulfilling the stereotypical gender roles.

Pushkar Singh is forced to battle his unjust fate of marriage life with his economic depravity. Here again, the society in which once women feared, felt inferior, and hid their molestation, has now made men fear being superior and facing offenses as a subject of insult. As the society views men to strive to greater heights, the fact that men on the other side face several traumatic setbacks and fight for it becomes a lost purpose. This false practice, is being socially tuned-in

right from school going boys to adult males, to not even cry and let out their emotions even when it is necessary, as it is perceived as a so-called masculine trait in culturally rich countries like India. Hence the whole psychological trauma pent up inside males turns them to be dangerously sensitive to such harassments. In such extremities a male turns silently towards suicide or becomes enraged to commit murders. This is why men always choose to hide their torments rather than face the judgmental public. Instead of being mocked at for their lack of masculinity, men also grit their teeth and remain silent victims. It is in fact true that men are twice alienated than women when it comes to harassment and abuse, because social standards and stereotypes expect men to stand up for themselves, rather than come out and complain about their problems.

On a concluding note, Emma Donoghue has done justice to the male community through her novel, *Room*, as this research gives a clear juxtaposition of Jack's mentality of considering confined comfort that draws parallel connection to men's mentality in remaining hidden about the various abuses done to them by any gender. This makes it a matter of serious attention as the world turns towards brighter sides of modernization, but the affected minds of men are still in the dark. By concentrating on this issue, many innocent lives could be saved from suicide and even so many from becoming murderers. This research thus provides an awareness to both the victim and the total community one lives in. This paper also provides future scope in developing secured platforms for men to express their torment and free themselves from their psychological and painful confinement, that can redirect them to authorities who can help them out. The paper thus draws its conclusion to the truest sense of Nakkeerar's dictum: “A mistake is a mistake even if the Almighty commits it” (Nakkeerar's Thirumurugaatrupadai).

References

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