

THE MANIPULATION OF HUMAN FEELINGS AND THE TALE EXPLORES EMOTIONAL NEGLECT.

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Abstract. *This study looks at how writers depict emotional detachment, neglect, and the exploitative use of human emotions in literary narratives. Social realities have long been reflected in literature, and the portrayal of emotional coldness frequently functions as a critique of power imbalance, social injustice, and moral decay. Authors show how emotional exploitation impacts people and relationships, resulting in alienation, identity loss, and ethical degradation, through narrative devices like characterization, symbolism, and conflict. This study aims to analyze the causes and consequences of emotional indifference in literary texts and to demonstrate how these themes encourage readers to reflect on empathy, responsibility, and human values. By exploring these issues, the research highlights literature's role in exposing emotional injustice and advocating for greater emotional awareness in society.*

Keywords: *Feeling, emotional exploitation, empathy, moral responsibility, literary analysis, ethical erosion, techniques, symbolism.*

Introduction

Literature shows us a lot about people and how they act, both the good stuff and the bad. (Killeen from 2007). One thing that keeps coming up, and it bothers me, is how characters just do not care about others feelings, or worse, they use them for their own reasons. These concepts refer to a lack of empathy, emotional neglect, and the deliberate or unconscious use of others' feelings for personal gain. Writers from different times and places dig into this to show what happens when people get emotionally cold, affecting not just one person but whole groups.

I think emotional detachment in stories often looks like characters ignoring someone else pain, or being too passive to help. They might brush off vulnerability, put their own needs first instead of doing the right thing. Sometimes it is not mean on purpose, just quiet, like not saying anything or staying away emotionally. That shows harm can come from doing nothing, not only from hurting directly. Stories use these parts to make you wonder about morals in people and societies that let bad things keep going without stepping in.

Then there is emotional exploitation, which ties right into that, and critics. (Booth in 1988). It's when a character takes advantage of another trust or weakness for their gain, like control or power. In books, it could be lying, messing with someone's head, or making them dependent. The ones getting exploited are usually the weaker ones, showing unequal power in relationships. Authors point out how feelings get turned into weapons, making close bonds into something controlling.

This stuff is not just in books, it connects to real life, shaping how we think about right and wrong. (Nussbaum in 1995). Reading about indifferent characters makes you think about your own actions in daily talks and stuff. It questions if being neutral emotionally is okay morally. Literature acts as a way to probe morals, not just art analyzing this pulls in psychology, sociology, and ethics. (Tyson 2021) Psychologically, detachment might come from trauma as a shield. Sociologically, it is about class and power letting neglect happen.

Ethics looks at responsibility in relationships. Mixing those helps see how stories build these cold or using characters.

Writer techniques play a crucial role in revealing these themes. Authors may use symbolism to represent emotional emptiness, such as barren landscapes or broken objects, while dialogue and silence often signal emotional distance. Point of view is another important tool; limited or unreliable narration can emphasize emotional blindness, whereas omniscient narration may expose the internal consequences of indifference. (Eagleton, T. 2008). Through conflict and resolution, writers demonstrate how emotional neglect and exploitation lead to personal tragedy, social breakdown, or moral awakening.

As a result of human indifference in literature are frequently severe. Characters who experience emotional neglect often suffer from isolation, loss of self-worth, and psychological distress. In some narratives, prolonged indifference leads to rebellion or violence, suggesting that emotional deprivation can destabilize individuals and communities. Similarly, emotional exploitation damages both the victim and the exploiter, reinforcing cycles of manipulation and mistrust. (Wilde, O. 1888) By portraying these outcomes, literature warns against the normalization of emotional harm.

This article aims to explore how literary texts depict human indifference and emotional exploitation, why these themes remain relevant, and what moral lessons they convey. The study seeks to answer the following questions: How do authors represent emotional indifference and exploitation through characters and narrative structure? What social and psychological factors contribute to these behaviors in literature? What ethical messages do these narratives communicate to readers? Addressing these questions will contribute to a deeper appreciation of literature's role in promoting empathy and moral awareness. (Wilde, O. 1888)

Conclusion.

To sum up, Human indifference and emotional exploitation represent some of the most profound ethical concerns explored in literary tales. Through the depiction of emotionally detached characters and manipulative relationships, literature exposes the silent yet destructive power of emotional neglect. Unlike overt acts of violence, indifference often operates invisibly, making it more socially acceptable and therefore more dangerous.

Literary texts challenge this normalization by revealing how emotional coldness erodes trust, fractures relationships, and diminishes human dignity. By portraying the emotional consequences faced by neglected or exploited characters, authors emphasize that the absence of empathy can be as harmful as deliberate cruelty.

Moreover, literary representations of emotional exploitation highlight the imbalance of power that exists within personal, social, and institutional relationships. Characters who exploit emotions frequently benefit from authority, social status, or psychological control, while their victims are rendered voiceless or dependent.

These narratives critique social systems that enable such exploitation, suggesting that emotional harm is often rooted in broader structures of inequality and moral irresponsibility. In this way, literature moves beyond individual blame and invites readers to consider collective accountability.

Another significant contribution of these narratives lies in their ability to cultivate empathy. By granting readers access to the inner lives of emotionally marginalized characters, literature fosters emotional awareness and ethical reflection. Readers are encouraged to confront uncomfortable questions about their own indifference and complicity in emotional harm.

This reflective process reinforces literature's role as a moral force, capable of shaping values and encouraging more compassionate human interaction.

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