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**Female Madness and Trauma in D.H.Lawrence' *Odour of
Chrysanthemums***

**Dissertation submitted as partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of
*Master in Literature and Civilization.***

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Declaration of Originality

I hereby declare that this submission is my own work and that, it contains no material previously published or written by another person nor material which has been accepted for the qualification of any other degree or diploma of a university or other institution. I also certify that the present work contains no plagiarism and is the result of my own investigation, except where otherwise stated.

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Dedication

To my parents

My father, who taught me that the best kind of knowledge to have is that which is learned for its own sake, and to my mother, who taught me that even the largest task can be accomplished if it is done one step at a time. Without forgetting my brothers: Miloud, Mohamed, and sisters: Khaoula and Hadjer.

And of course to my dear best friend Imane.

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Abstract

The purpose of this research work is to explore both female madness and trauma in a literary work; it was written at the end of the Victorian era and the beginning of the Modernism era, by the talented D.H.Lawrence which is entitled as *Odour of Chrysanthemums*. In achieving this work, the researcher tends to mix a little bit between the two ways informative by informing and giving the whole situation of British society in all fields; during and after the Industrial Revolutions period, affecting by its negatively more than positively. Yet, the other way is to compare; it was limited since the few similarities between D.H. Lawrence's childhood and the Bates family's life. In another way, I found that most of the gender issues come from inequality between man and woman and that led to marriage's problems and failure and also the suffocating air that contributed indirectly and rises the causes of woman's madness and psychological trauma; as a result of using such theories to achieve what behind these issues. This paper will discuss Female Madness and Trauma in D.H.Lawrence' *Odour of Chrysanthemums* by using the psychoanalysis theory.

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GENERAL INTRODUCTION

General Introduction

The odour of Chrysanthemums is D.H. Lawrence's fictitious short story; written in the autumn of 1909 and after revision, it was published in the English review in July 1911. However, Lawrence later adopted this tale into a play *The Widowing of Mrs. Halroyd*, and he included it in his collection entitled *The Prussian Officer and Other Stories*. Yet, Keith Cushman and Victor Schulz praise this story as a masterpiece of short fiction; which held in it a mass of visual imagery, symbolism, foreshadowing, and of course a portrayal of British society state in a bleak world and dark period.

This period witnessed the collapse of both culture and civilization and the same had happened for literature until the birth of a new era was the modern one; which brought a major literary movement the Modernism that was known by the rise of such writers William James, William Faulkner, Samuel Becket, Virginia Woolf, and the skilled D.H. Lawrence; who were marked by breaking the traditions by experimenting a new technique such as the use of stream of consciousness, and the first one who applied this technique is Sinclair Lewis, alongside with the rise of controversial themes, and that was clear in *Odour of Chrysanthemums*.

The odour of Chrysanthemums as a short story; it sets in just one boring evening, it is all about one protagonist Elizabeth Bates; a collier's wife, a mother of John and Annie and pregnant by the third, the story is divided to three essential parts; first, the waiting of Elizabeth for her husband to come home for dinner, but he like usual went to the pub to drink again, second is the searching of Elizabeth for Walter with his partner in work Mrs. Rigley because he did not show up, and she switches from the situation of anger to the situation of worries. The third is the death, clearly Elizabeth's spouse Walter Bates' death which wakes her up from her isolation to finally know that she was not dead and she was just wrong and misunderstood about everything.

The dominant themes in this short story are the image of marriage; nature of love, light and darkness, loneliness, duality, the isolation of the human soul, and in some places Lawrence tried to explore the dehumanizing effects of modernity and industrialization. But mainly he focuses much more to portray the complex lives by showing the individuals facing momentous events and tragedies, fragile happiness, failed marriage and dreams, and finally the shock of death.

This thesis main concern is examining female madness and trauma in the short story at hand; *Odour of Chrysanthemums* which is the face of coal-mining life during and after the industrialization, the suffering of British society, the loss of identity and being alienated under that suffocating air taking this factors into account which led to this phenomenon. The present research questions are posed to start probing this research:

1. What are the causes that led to female madness and trauma in *Odour of Chrysanthemums*?
2. How does D .H. Lawrence portray the female protagonist in his short story?
3. What is the other face of *Odour of Chrysanthemums*?

These following hypotheses are suggested for the above research questions:

1. In the early 20th century British society suffered from the impact of industrialization and the two Industrial Revolutions, the harsh circumstances they suffer from which led to this madness and psychological trauma.
2. D .H.Lawrence tried to show the complexity of being a woman by the female protagonist; who was alienated to herself and her husband due to all the problems and difficulties she faced.
3. D .H.Lawrence depicted his childhood and his experiences through the short story *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, and the central character in his life was his mother who is portrayed as the protagonist Elizabeth Bates in the story.

This thesis comprises three chapters; according to what the problem takes. The first chapter entitled historical and literary overview which is dedicated for showing or simply giving the history of the story' setting as a coal-mining town by giving Bates family as victims of their environment without forgetting about literature at that time when Lawrence wrote this story and how it gets affected by the events of that period?

The second chapter will focus more on *Odour of Chrysanthemums*' theoretical background, starting with feminism, psychology, and psychoanalysis which are related to the problem that tackled in this work. Yet, giving a simple definition of male and female and the differences between the two sexes also discussing the gender issues and its causes, besides involving such themes that arise in the Modernism era; which were clear in *Odour of Chrysanthemums* as alienation and duality.

Finally, the bulk of the last chapter is to start with the relation of the writer D.H.Lawrence and his short story, moving to analyze the foreshadowing and symbolism used by the writer. Another concern in this chapter is to discuss gender alienation by putting the two main characters who represent it in their unique way; shedding light more on the female protagonist and her madness. Additionally, a detailed analysis of the central characters solely as different entities.

CHAPTER ONE

Historical and Literary Overview

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1.1 Introduction

The Odour of Chrysanthemums is a short story by D.H Lawrence, written between the end of the Victorian era and the beginning of Modernism era, it was like a portrayal of the British society 'suffering; the decay of self-identity, alienation and the impact of industrialization. This chapter is the opening to the journey looking for answers through the historical and literary overview of the short story, taking into account the society back there and of course by revealing the nature of the story itself.

1.2 England during the 19th Century

The 19th century began on January 1, 1801, and ended on December 31, 1900, the early of this century saw a large number of social changes it was the era of political and social unrest in Britain. Poverty was indeed common in this century, but life in England was transformed by the first and second Industrial Revolution; they led to productivity and prosperity, but at first, they caused many problems. However, life became more comfortable for ordinary people.

The 19th century was the era of scientific discovery and inventions, which made life more comfortable like Railways, which made travel much faster, while waterproof made life easier, so did the Anesthetics, gas street lights that made going out at night much safer, yet the emergence of photography for the first time ordinary people could have pictures.

Further, this century witnessed development in the fields of Mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, and electricity.

In this vein, the Victorian era was characterized by the employment of young children in factories and mines; besides the advance in Medicine. The 19th century was remarkable by the rapid creation and development of many sports particularly in Britain and the United State of America such as football, rugby union, baseball, and cricket; yet, it marks the fall of the Ottman rule of Balkans.

Furthermore, during the mid of the 19th century, Britain was the richest and most powerful nation in the world, and London became the largest city, and the capital of the British Empire. Britain was the first to industrialize but in the late of the same century, Britain's power declined.

In other hands, the 19th society in England took its part from these changes, also it suffered from segregation and inequality; so, the 19th England social Hierarchy: is the classification of the society of a nation based on various factors out of which the wealth and occupation play a significant role in this segregation.

The 19th century England was divided into several classes:

- **Aristocrats:** the highest power, authority, and social status holder of the 19th century; they include the Royal family, Spiritual and Temporal lords.
- **Middle class:** people who are quite wealthier than the lower class, it is divided into two other parts :
 - **Upper Middleclass:** included Factory owners, Doctors, Bankers, and Lawyers.
 - **Lower Middleclass:** included small scale Businessmen, shopkeepers, and Marchants.
- **Lower class:** it is the lowest social class in the 19th century; it subcategorized to :
 - **The Working class:** it is the upper lower class included Labors, Factory Workers, and Minors.
 - **The Poor:** these were the people living on charity; they were not involved in any work.

1.2.1 Literature during the 19th Century

Literature can be defined as an expression of human' feelings, thoughts, and ideas. It usually means books and written works (poetry, prose, plays, and novels) that is well written. Books written by Charles Dickens, Emily Bronte and Shakespeare are a best example of literature. Literature has developed so much in the 19th century; it changed the traditions and the constraints of English literature by the coming of the Modernism era.

The modernist period took place from 1890-1940, roughly was to create a sort of literature that the world had never seen some time recently, inside the breaking point between an old, rural-based society and a modern industrialized one, another way of considering and writing emerged. This period was marked by sudden and unexpected breaks with traditional ways of viewing and interacting with the world.

Furthermore, the modern period traditionally applies to works written after the start of WWI, common features include bold experimentation with the subject matter, style, and forms; encompassing narrative, verse, and drama. Some of the notable writers of this period: James Joyce, Virginia Woolf, D .H. Lawrence, T .S. Eliot, George Bernard Shaw, and William James.

Abrams further explains:

Some literary historians locate the beginning of the modernist revolt as far back as the 1890s, but most agree that ‘high modernism’, marked by an unexampled range rapidity of change, came after the World War The year 1922 alone was signaled by the simultaneous appearance of such monuments of the modernist invention as James Joyce’ *Ulysses*, T .S.Eliot *The Waste Land*, and Virginia Woolf’s *Jacob’s Room*, as well as many other experimental works in literature. The catastrophe of war World War I had shaken faith in the continuity of Western civilization and raised doubts about the adequacy of traditional literary modes to represent the harsh and dissonant realities. (Abrams, Meyer Howard.1993, p,118-119).

The modernism era had brought to many new techniques and styles of writing to that time’s literature; which considered as a flourishment of literature, this era marked the emergence of new themes born from the society at that time; which are presented in the story in hand such as alienation, duality and looking for self-identity; yet marriage was a central subject of modernist writers, as it is well portrayed in D. H .Lawrence’s *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, and as techniques there was the use of foreshadowing and epiphany .

Literary Modernism is a movement in the early 20th century when the subconscious monologue of the characters is introduced to the readers. For example, in the *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, the author D .H.Lawrence takes us through the mind of the miner’s wife whose husband lay dead as she thinks about how separated they were through their marriage’s life.

Literature was so weak till the coming of the modern period which refreshed it by bringing new techniques. Besides the rise of so many skilled authors; who added like a magical touches to literature in order to shine again.

1.2.2 Industrialization

The Industrial Revolution was a rapid development of industry took place in the late of the 18th and the beginning of the 19th centuries; when agriculture societies became more industrialized and urban. The transcontinental railroad, the cotton gin, electricity, and other inventions permanently changed society; it marks the beginning of industrialization. Many contributed to the rise of the industrial revolution in Britain.

Industrialization is the process of social and economic change whereby a human group is transformed from a pre-industrial society into an industrial one. It is a sub-division of a general modernization process, where social change and economic development are closely related with technological innovation. Industrialization also introduces a form of philosophical change, where people obtain a different attitude towards their perception of nature.

Furthermore, industrialization needs several elements: they are land, labor, capital, technology, and connections without a generous supply of these basic elements and the ability to organize them, people cannot develop into an industrial society. Additionally, some causes led to this process like the access of raw materials; coal, iron, copper, water- power and cotton were available for the British to use them for their industrial advancement, coal provided much more energy than wood, despite it caused diseases. Yet, the steam engine invented in 1763 by James Watt which sparked the change of many industries in Britain and it created a huge boost in production.

The industrial revolution had positive and negative impacts on society; the negative including poor working conditions, poor living conditions, low wages, child labor, unheard disease before spreading wide and far, besides the pollution of land, water, and air. While the positive effects included the development of economy, emergence of machines, telegraphs, and railroads emerged, saving of time and labor, increasing savings and investments, the rise of living's standards, yet the growth of industries which resulted in a large scale in the production of goods.

Industrialization is mostly good for the economy, mass production of goods, despite its impacts whether positive or negative on society in all fields, and that led to rise the situation of Britain and all the countries which got to industrialize.

1.3 The Modern Short Story *Odour of Chrysanthemums*

The Odour of chrysanthemums is a short story by D.H.Lawrence, it was written in autumn 1909 and published in the English Review in July 1911. It was a time when England was still powerful, international force, during the 19th century England's industrial machine had developed the factory system; which produced surplus goods for export.

A short story is a brief work of fiction, usually written in prose and running 1,600 to 20,000 words in length. The literary roots of the short story can be found in oral story telling traditions, such as anecdotes, fairytale, folktale, fable, account, legend, fiction, and myth. Anecdotes are a very short story that is significant to the topic at hand, usually adding personal knowledge or experience to the topic.

The modern short story always shows us some thing of how people respond to life, characters in the short story are closer to those people in real life, it has just one protagonist. The short story is often based around a single key moment or incident in the life of characters and in some times it represents their turning point. It can be a moment that actually triggers tension or conflict between two individuals, or an individual and society; thus, in such cases, the key moment already has occurred or been reported, some moments can be trivial and ordinary; others can be tragic and quite out of ordinary.

Additionally, the short story can saw a change in the main character, it focuses on one character who is the protagonist and develop it, a short story may not deal with the vagueor general experience, it is a section of a particular experience; special and isolated, the short story must have « epiphany » which means getting a sudden vision of life. A story has 5 basic and important elements are the characters, the setting, the plot, the conflict, and the resolution.

Further, in *Odour of Chrysanthemums* Lawrence captures the lives of the mining community, their families, and the working-class; also, Lawrence's short story portrays and looks in the issues of industrialization, its effect on the working-class and the

relationship of marriage. Although Lawrence ignores some modernist techniques, Elizabeth's epiphany scene is the key evidence of modernist techniques, the short story reaches its climax in Elizabeth's epiphany; her sudden realization of her failed marriage, finally she feels the utter isolation of human soul. Besides that, Elizabeth's fragmented thoughts are considered as a modernist technique, yet utilizing the modernist narrative mode of a stream of consciousness.

1.3.1 The Theme of the Story

The story takes just a single evening in the life of Bates family, who lived in an England mining town. The father always came home late after working in the mine, but let us go back a little earlier. The story sets in a rural coal-mining town, this depiction of family life turning around a youthful, solid and nice-looking house-wife Elizabeth Bates who conflicts with her drunk husband Walter Bates who comes routinely late at night.

The story opens with a visit by Elizabeth's father, she had a conversation with her widower father about his possibility to marry again after her mother's death, and the subject of marriage was a sensible for Elizabeth, because of her experience with Walter. Anyway, she made bread with butter and tea for her father, after that, she came back home then she prepared dinner waiting for her husband, but he didn't show up she knew that he is at the pub again, Annie complained to begin eating without waiting for her father, but Elizabeth didn't overcome her anger of her absent spouse, she discovered her hopeless life and that she was alienated. However, she fixed her children's mood by decorating the dinner table with them, and she decorated herself with flowers, she tells her children about the chrysanthemums their father gave it to her in their wedding.

Most of the neighbors were aware by Walter Bates' attitude and his daily being at the pubs, his work partner joins Elizabeth for looking for her husband. They were worried this time about his vanishing; Walter's mother shows up trying to argue with her daughter in law. Suddenly, some man appeared bringing Walter's dead body, Walter's mother started crying, but Elizabeth doesn't care and she tries to cover Walter's dead body from her children.

1.3.2 Title's Symbol

The short story *Odour of Chrysanthemums* is well known of using imagery and symbolism, such as chrysanthemums which represent the whole relationship between Walter and Elizabeth, the flowers of the title are the essential symbols of the story; they accompanied Elizabeth in her path in all the major turning points in her life from marriage to births to her spouse got first time drunk and he has a brown chrysanthemum She says, "It was chrysanthemums when I married him, and chrysanthemums when [our child was] born, and chrysanthemums the first time they ever brought him home drunk, he'd got brown chrysanthemums in his buttonhole"(6). As if it is the flower represents how Walter is seen by her.

The word chrysanthemums is a western name that came from the Greek word 'Chrysos' meaning gold, and 'anthe' meaning flower, it is also today referred to as 'mums'. The flower chrysanthemums hold positive and negative meanings across different periods and cultures. For instance, in the Victorian era chrysanthemums is used to show friendship and wishing, whereas, the Buddhists use it as offerings, in China symbolize the long life and good luck in-home, while in Australia it is associated with mother's day, and in Belgium and Austria used as a memorial flower to honor the dead by placing it on the graves.

The symbolic meaning of the flower chrysanthemums also changes with the color, red symbolizes love, yellow symbolizes the pain of love and sorrow, white symbolizes loyalty and honesty, violet means wishing to get well. The flower brought to England in the 18th century and its interpretation was entirely different, it was considered symbolic of deep isolation and sorrow, D.H.Lawrence employs it with negative side; death, disappointment and bitterness, they are associated with the protagonist Elizabeth and her contradictory feelings because it reminds her of her marriage with Walter and represents all the disappointment she has experienced in life, like in the situation when Walter brought drunk.

In the 1900s many writers used the term chrysanthemum to refer to the main female character, the flower used again and over again in different colors, shapes, and places to symbolize the places of Elizabeth going through a cycle of birth, marriage, loss, and death. Brown chrysanthemum symbolizes the moment before death, and if we look at it in the different angle it could be also about industrialization versus nature, whereas at the end the

broken bucket of chrysanthemums is a metaphor of Elizabeth and Walter broken bond which is more shattered by his death, the author highlights the chrysanthemums significance as a symbol of death in the situation when Walter's body is laid, 'there was a cold deathly smell of chrysanthemums in the room'. Since the title the odour of chrysanthemums not chrysanthemums, we understand that the smell of chrysanthemums associated with death rather than the flower. The chrysanthemum is an image of life's fragility and our inner life, the flower has opened the beginning of Walter and Elizabeth's marriage and it closed it.

1.4 The Coal Mining Life in the 19th century

The early 1800s saw great changes in people's working lives, people changed their earning from farming towards industrial work. This period is commonly known as the Industrial Revolution, this led to expanding many industries and factories and that raise the danger's percentage; although some workplaces were already risky; this was especially in the case of coal mining.

The coal mine goes back thousands of years, the first coal mine was sunk in Scotland under the Firth of Forth in 1575. It was a basic element in the industrial revolution of the 19th and 20th centuries, it considered as the main source and primary energy for industry and transportation. Yet, it developed so much during this period and used to power the massive steam-engines, heating buildings, and generate electricity as well as to create iron. Coal played a vital role in the Industrial Revolution.

The work in mines was so hard; whereas the owners of coal mines needed to produce coal as cheaply as possible, a miner was paid according to how much coal he produced not how many hours he worked; so, miners were obliged to take the whole family to work underground to produce as much coal as possible, to earn more money to live. The majority of working families were often rent a place to live from mine owners, this means that the mine owner paid the family for mining coal, but takes some money as the rent of the house, large families used to live in just two rooms with few possessions.

The work in mines starts early so the families needed to wake up earlier; they work 12 hours each day for 6 days a week, except Sunday or the holy-days like Christmas and

Easter. Children used to go to school on Sunday just for learning alphabet, counting, and Bible stories that were their only education.

Working conditions underground were so difficult and dangerous, the mines were completely dark so the miners were obliged to buy their tallow candles; made from animal fat. The underground roadways were so narrow and the mines owners didn't want to spend money to make them bigger; so, small children were used to pushing the coal baskets along the roadways. Some mines were very hot, wet, and dusty with poor ventilation, besides the existence of water which raises the fear. Besides, the rats and mice which were known to live in mines.

The coal mine was a social and political issue, and the most dangerous, unsafe British industries, many deadly incidents daily happened and a million miners were killed or injured; with roof-falls one of the most likely causes of death or injuries, shaft accidents were also common, while mine gases could cause explosions or poison the workers.

1.4.1 Bates Family as a Model

The story started with the image of Brinsley Colliery; industrialized town and known of coal mining, providing to the reader a bleak picture that shows the corruption of industrialization upon nature, it led to many harmful effects on the environment through pollution and exploitation of resources.

D.H. Lawrence's short story *Odour of chrysanthemums* paints a stark picture of life in a small industrial town; Lawrence shows the effects that industry has had on the environment surrounding the small mining town of Brinsley Colliery. Furthermore, Lawrence shows that industrialization causes not only the decay of environment but human inter-personal relationships as well, the bleak existence of the Bates family serves as a testament, the industrial work kills the patriarch of Bates family and forced Elizabeth to dehumanize, Elizabeth realizes that she doesn't know who she is anymore, Lawrence shows that the ultimate price that human beings must pay for industrial progress is their individuality.

For instance, the protagonist Elizabeth Bates a coal mining wife lived in a small mining community, she and Walter have two children Annie and John and she was pregnant by the third, Elizabeth a cold and pragmatic woman who found herself married to

an alcoholic man; who spend so much time in the pubs, while she was waiting for him, all that affected her to act with hostility and anger towards her husband and children, despite her practical way which she has raised her children with, and kept her house clean and stayed in bed marriage.

The relationship between Elizabeth and Walter represented as suffocation and dysfunctional one which was clear by the repetition of the word 'bitter' which shows their bitter and cold relation as a result of living with man, she does not love him, unhappy marriage with an illiterate coal miner. Walter was not a good father or husband; he suffered in his life as he did in his death, till that Elizabeth faced her fate by understanding deeply her spouse, marriage, and her family life that it was not happy at all. This story is of self-discovery that comes too late.

1.4.2 People's Suffocation

Suffocation means the lack of air, it symbolizes the disability of living, lacking from everything; from the safe place to the lack of communication between husband and wife, to the lack of affection from children to their father, to the lack of society to the proper living.

The air in the countryside mining town is foul and suffocating to the adult members of the Bates family as indicated by the title of the story. The air in the coal mines where Walter works is unsafe, choked, and suffocating. For adult Bateses, the air around them has become stifling; with Elizabeth, her slow death and decay are symbolized by the *Odour of chrysanthemums* which she now finds foul after years of disappointment in a marriage that did not fulfill her childish hopes. Further, Walter's death is literal but no less symbolic, he is denied air by the collapse of the mine around him and smothers, the doctors said he is 'asphyxiated'. However, the story does not suggest the air in this little mining town is, by its nature, foul or people are; bound by the ties to which Elizabeth and Walter have submitted.

In this vein, D.H.Lawrence talks about how the industry is dominating nature, he tells us how mankind cannot stand in industry's way and that it is like a monster we created, which we cannot defeat, Lawrence tries to create a gloomy and lifeless picture

which suggests that the story will be sad and tragic. That was clear by his use of negative words to achieve what he wanted.

Furthermore, people started to not be familiar with the negative effects of industrial waste and their impact on the environment; the suffocation of people at that time in those conditions had touched even the psychology, sociology, physique, and technology levels. Despite the great economic success that comes along the Industrial Revolution; it caused a wide variety of victims, characterized by low happiness health, depression, anxiety, physical punishment, emotional pressure, fatal injuries and death accidents resulted.

1.5 Conclusion

In this chapter, we have shown all that we need to know about D .H.Lawrence short story *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, we provided to the readers both sides of the story's background from the history to the literary one, taking into consideration the vivid picture of the 19th century; when the real events behind this story had happened, giving the chance to them to go deep and understand what behind the story in hand. The next chapter will provide the reader's another side of the story.

CHAPTER TWO

*Odour of
Chrysanthemums'*
Theoretical Framework

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2.1 Introduction

The *Odour of Chrysanthemums* is a short story written in the early phase of Lawrence's writing career; with its stunning visual imagery, foreshadowing and portrayal of British society, D.H.Lawrence in his best story taken from the scenes of his childhood and based on characters he knew intimately, he explores the concept of human isolation, the nature of love and relationships, by taking Bates family as a psychological and physical result of the world that is alienated to them. This chapter will give a detailed explanation of the short story's theoretical side.

2.2 Gender Issues

The word gender describes the socially-constructed roles, activities, and responsibilities; that assigned appropriately for men and women in a given society, cultures, and times. Yet, gender is determined by the conception of tasks, functions, and roles attributed to women and men in public or private life. It also refers to the fixed roles assigned by the society expected to be performed by men and women, because they are either male or female; besides that gender is a learned process and it can be changed.

Gender issues began with women struggling in every historical period and various regions of the world for their rights with men; one of the issues at the beginning of the 20th century was women's education, wages, employment, career, voting and nomination itself. One major issue is pay gap which means that women are paid less than men, another issue related to the pay gap is the promotion gap which deals with the fact that women on average get promoted less often than men, other gender issues are: lack of mobility, discrimination, violence, freedom of marriage, citizenship and professional obstacles.

Gender equality means that men and women have equal power and opportunities for financial independence, education, and personal development; also it includes income gap, inequality health care, and social class. Yet, gender issues are not focused on women alone, but on the relationship between man and woman in society. Education is a key area of focus, although the world is making progress in achieving gender parity, in education girls still make up a higher percentage of out of school children than boys. Women's health and safety is another area of focus, HIV/AIDS is becoming an impactful issue for women, and it can be related to women's fewer opportunities for health and unequal power in sexual partnership as a result of gender-based violence.

On the other hand, gender issues include all aspects and concerns related to women's and men's lives and the situation in society, to the way they interrelate, their differences in access to the use of resources, their activities, and how they react to changes, interventions and policies.

Globally, we know that due to the women's fewer opportunities for economic participation than men, less access to basic and higher education, greater health, and safety risks and less political led to the current gender issues and also over the years, as a result to the differences, inequality and stereotyping which are still exist nowadays.

2.2.1 Feminism Movement

Throughout history, women have been portrayed as the weaker sex as a result of these unfair social assumptions, women have been working hard to dissociate themselves from this stereotype and become more independent with their lives. After so many challenges, hard situations, conflicts, unfairness, and gender inequality; a new movement had just born to take care of women's rights, it is the feminism movement.

Feminism is a set of movements intended to defend, enrich, and safeguard equality between men and women in all fields: political, social, and even economic. Feminism seeks to challenge gender inequalities; it means that women share the same rights with men inside and outside their homes. The word feminism has been broken into three major concepts where each one holds a wave of upholder women who have continuously fought gender disparity and men's bigotry towards their claim for equality.

The first wave of liberal feminism refers to the 19th and early 20th century feminist movement in Canada, the USA, and the UK; its main goal was to achieve women's suffrage. However, Christine de Pizan is considered to be the earliest feminist writer, since she was the first who has written about the importance of women and their contribution to society as well as her resistance against misogyny. During the 19th century, women were considered as intellectually and physically lower, feeble, and impotent. Their role was limited at home only i.e. they could neither study nor vote or work; women properties at that period were possessed by men especially if they were married.

Therefore, the first wave of feminist's main goals to break all those laws and to achieve equality with men. Their major concerns were for education, employment marriage laws, and the right to vote above all. Virginia Woolf has been amongst the first

wave feminist upholders, in « a room of one's own » her main focus maybe not on the room, rather she uses this term as a symbol to explore women's needs at that time such as freedom, privacy, leisure time and financial independence.

The second wave or what is called radical feminism has emerged just after the Second World War. Simon de Beauvoir is considered among the main eminent figures in this movement because women were treated as instruments more than as human beings; her main struggle has been to elevate women's identity and nature as a woman.

Betty Friedan's 1963 book 'the feminine mystique' in which women's problem has been called 'the problem that has no name'; she focused much more on housewives' rights, Friedan's main struggle then was against the social inequalities with men; she has been one of the founders of (NOW) the National Organization for Women which intended to bring women to participate in the American society. Therefore, after the foundation of NOW, women have gained many rights such as equal pay with men, educational equality, no-fault divorce, and so on. However, it could be said that even though second-wave feminists have attained dual main achievement; inequality still exists since they have not attained the political power, that's why they decided to carry on their struggles as long as they are not equal with men.

The contemporary third wave or what is called diversity feminism has found its roots in the mid-90s, it struggles almost for the same second wave's feminist principals, but it focuses much more on politics; it has been written in third wave's feminist slogans 'personal is political'. Moreover, third-wave feminist has not been limited in European or American countries only; rather it is still thriving all over the world.

As far as literature is concerned, 'a critique of language' is also one of the main feminist movements' goals; where they endeavored to diminish male's dominance in literature and to elevate women's language, which was undermined by men's control. Furthermore, one of the primary feminist movements has been to face up to men writer's views and ideas to women, their feeling and thoughts as well as their view of life and living. *Ecriture feminine* for instance is considered a response to men's writings.

2.2.2 Male and Female's Definition

Sex is a label -male or female- namely there are just two sexes, it can be defined as the classification of people as male or female; typically assigned at birth based on the

appearance of external anatomy, it means the genitals you are born with and the chromosomes you have, it goes on your birth certificate. When it comes to sex characteristics; we tend to associate a predominance of estrogen with females, besides the facial hair, breast tissue, and vocal range. While the predominance of testosterone is associated with a male but it is important to understand that every person has both of these hormones.

We can define male and female scientifically and genetically as a person with XX chromosomes usually has female sex and reproductive organs; therefore, it is assigned biologically female. While, a person with an XY chromosome usually has male sex and reproductive organs, and it is assigned biologically male. Further, females and males describe biological sex in humans-animals and other organisms, male and female should be used when referring specifically to sex (a biological characteristic).

Furthermore, males of all species are made for wooing females, females typically choose among their suitors. For instance, when woman dress up going to the club; she meant to be attractive, it is a subconscious desire to attract potential mates as possible, man, on the other hand, tend to attract as many potential females as possible; by showing off his fancy car, expensive gold watch, and suit, or flexes his muscles; he is doing so to make himself desirable by healthy women; to propagate his genes, it is all in the pursuit of reproduction.

Male and female's brains differ in many aspects such as size; for instance, men have 10 larger brains than women, another thing is that women use their entire brains and think emotionally, while men use just their half brain besides they are interested in things and systems much more than women. Some studies confirmed that the neuroscience of sex differences in the study of characteristics that separate the male and female brains, which gave the result that the brain's morphology indicates that male and female brains cannot always be assumed to be identical from either a structural or functional perspective. Also, the difference touch the higher-order thinking skills, female students have a higher percentage than male in 4 indicators which are different, organizing, attributing and checking but male students have a higher percentage just in 1 indicator than the female which is producing indicators.

2.3 Some About Psychology

Psychology is the scientific study of the mind and behavior, and according to the American Psychological Association it's the study of the mind; how it works and how it affects behavior, psychology is a very new science, its roots go back to the ancient Greece 400-500 BC. It started with a philosophical one; with great thinkers such as Socrates (470BC-399BC) in influencing Plato (428/427BC-348/347BC) who in turn influenced Aristotle (384BC-322BC). Philosophers used psychology to discuss many topics now studied by modern psychology such as memory, free will vs. Determinism, nature vs. Nurture, attraction, etc.

In the beginnings of psychology, there were two theoretical perspectives on how the brain works: Structuralism and Functionalism.

Structuralism is an approach pioneered by Wilhelm Wundt (1832-1920), which focused on breaking down mental processes into the most basic components.

An American psychologist named William James (1842-1910) developed an approach that came to be known as Functionalism that disagreed with the focus of Structuralism.

In 1913, an American psychologist John B. Watson founded a new movement that changed the focus of psychology –Behaviorism- he argued that it's not the result of internal mental process, but the result of how we respond to the environment. Behaviorism focused on how people learn new behavior from the environment.

Humanist viewed behaviorism and psychoanalytic theory as too dehumanizing rather than being victims of the environment or the unconscious, they proposed that are innately good and that our mental process played an active role in our behavior. The humanist movement puts a high value on the emotions, free will, and a subjective view of the experience.

There are different types/branches of psychology that serve different purposes are:

- **Clinical psychology:** integrates science, theory, and practice to understand, predict, and relieve problems with adjustment, disability, and discomfort.
- **Cognitive psychology:** investigates internal mental processes, such as problem solving, memory, learning, and language.

- **Developmental psychology:** this is the scientific study of systematic psychological changes that a person experiences over the life span, often referred to as human development. It focuses not only on infants and young children but also on teenagers, adults, and older people.
- **Evolutionary psychology:** looks at how humans behave, for example, language has been affected by psychological adjustments during evolution.
- **Forensic psychology:** involves applying psychology to criminal investigation and the law.
- **Health psychology:** is also called behavioral medicine or medical psychology, it observes how behavior, biology, and social context influence illness and health.
- **Social psychology:** uses scientific methods to understand how society influences impact human behavior.

There are 4 main goals of psychology are: first, to describe (describing the behavior or cognition) second, to explain (explain behavior how and why it occurs) third, to predict (predict future behavior from findings research) finally, to change (after describing, explaining and predicting, changing or controlling behavior can be attempted).

2.3.1 Freud's Psychoanalysis Theory

The Austrian Sigmund Freud who lived from 1856 to 1939, he was the dominant paradigm in psychology during the early 20th century, yet, he was the founding father of psychoanalysis; a method or a type of psychotherapy for treating mental illness and also a theory which explains human behavior, he used interpretive methods, introspection, and clinical observation to gain and understanding of the mind, he focused on resolving unconscious conflict, mental distress and psychopathology.

Freud argued that the unconscious was responsible for most of the people's thoughts and behavior and mental health problems, he believed that events in our childhood have a great influence on our adult lives; shaping our personality. For example, anxiety originating from traumatic experiences in a person's past is hidden from consciousness and may cause problems during adulthood.

Freud (1923) later developed a more structural model of the mind comprising the entities: Id, Ego, and Superego; these are not physical areas within the brain, but rather

hypothetical conceptualizations of important mental functions. The id, ego, and superego have most commonly been conceptualized as three essential parts of human personality.

Freud assumed the **Id** operated at an unconscious level according to the pleasure principle; the id comprises 2 kinds of biological instincts which Freud called Eros (life instinct) and Thanatos (death instinct).

The **Ego** develops from the id during infancy, the ego's goal is to satisfy the demands of the id in a safe and socially acceptable way, in contrast to the id; the ego follows the reality principle as it operates in both the conscious and unconscious mind.

The **Superego** develops during early childhood and is responsible for ensuring moral standards are followed, the superego operates on the mortality principles and motivates us to behave in a socially responsible and acceptable manner.

2.3.2 Female Psychology

Since the mid of 19th century, the feminists argued that the field of psychology has neglected the study of women and gender and misrepresented woman in writings and theories, and that led to the birth of new field is female psychology or psychology of woman; which it deals with inequality between man and woman, feminism and psychology adopted and developed the feminist theory in psychology by representing the concerns of a woman and treating topics like woman's mental health issues, sexuality reproductive rights and reproductive health, woman and intimate relationships, career, age, national origins, sexual harassment, child sexual abuse, race discrimination, rape, intimate partner violence.

Psychology witnessed male contributions such as Sigmund Freud, B.F.Skinner, and John B.Watson, while the female contributions helped so much development of psychology as equal as the males or much more. If you go back, you find that the earliest psychologists were men, but the reality that women also contributed since the earliest days, those female psychologists faced all ways of discrimination, obstacles, and difficulties.

Some women helped to shape psychology such as Anna Freud who was well-known as much as her father, she expanded her father's ideas but also developed her own, among her achievements: the mechanism of defense and child psychoanalysis, besides that she influenced other thinkers like Erik Erikson. Other famous female names in psychology are:

- **Mary Whiton Calkins** who was the first female president of the American Psychological Association.
- **Mary Ainsworth** developed the use of a technique known as the strange situation assessment, and she focused on the importance of healthy childhood attachments.
- **Leta Stetter Hollingworth** who made a name for herself for her research on intelligence and gifted children and the psychology of women.
- **Karen Horney** was an influential neo-Freudian psychologist known for her feminine psychology.
- **Melanie Klein** a therapist who used techniques to help children express their feelings and experiences naturally and helpfully. And other marked psychologists like Eleanor Maccoby, Christine Ladd, Frankline, and Manie Phipps Clark who changed psychology.

Feminist psychology puts a strong emphasis on women's rights.

2.4 Trauma in *Odour of Chrysanthemums*

Trauma is the experience of strong, severe psychological distress after an unforgettable and horrible event like rape or natural disaster, those who suffer from such a situation develop emotional disturbances such as anxiety, anger, and sadness, and that due to the overwhelming amount of stress; feeling helpless, choked or sometimes anger is from the common result after a traumatic experience, besides the physical symptoms like headache or nausea or even sleeping's troubles, a lot of such people could not move with their lives after what had happened to them.

From the beginning, D.H. Lawrence paints a bleak picture of the whole story; a coal mining society, an industrialized with suffocating air. The protagonist Elizabeth is a stern and practical woman in her behaviors, she is a drunk coal miner's wife and a mother of two children Annie and John, Elizabeth considered herself different to her husband and because of this incompatible social classes, she was unhappy in her family and marriage life due to the unpleasant attitudes of Walter by going daily after work to the pub, Elizabeth was sick of her waiting for him always, but this time was different Elizabeth's spouse returned dead; he was laying out like a log at that moment. Elizabeth realizes that she and Walter were strangers to each other and that they never knew or understood each other.

Elizabeth was not psychologically normal by living with an illiterate husband, under unsuitable conditions; yet, she was unhappy in her current life, and what increased that Walter's sudden death which led Elizabeth to fall in another psychological trauma.

2.4.1 Alienation

Alienation is simply the feeling that you do not belong in a particular society, place, or group, or another hand is the state of being an outsider or the feeling of being isolated from society. In psychiatry, alienation is a state in which a person's feeling is inhibited so that eventually both the self and the external world seem unreal, and according to Karl Marx; alienation is a state in which a person feels detached from the outside world and sometimes from his / her feelings.

Further, alienation is complex; it can be sociological and psychological, it occurs when a person becomes isolated from their environment or from other people even the ones they love, it affects a person's health and rises the symptoms which are: feeling helpless, unsafe, different and separated, feeling that the world is empty and meaningless and refusing to obey rules. There are also the symptoms of depression that include: having a poor appetite or overeating, sleeping excessively, or having insomnia and being fatigued.

Alienation has many causes from psychology disorder to a social situation that includes: mental health disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder, and self-stigma as a result of mental illness. Feeling alienated can lead to many different social problems which are: drug or alcohol abuse, truancy, and criminal activity, it may increase mental physical disorder that includes: psychological pain (anger and depression), eating disorder and attempted suicide.

There is another type of alienation developed by Karl Marx is social alienation that describes the isolation, dehumanizing and disenchanting effects of working within a capitalist system of production. The major causes that led to its emergence are: working and living within the capitalist system, economic instability, demographic changes within a population, living at the lower ranges of social hierarchies of race and class, poor people that cannot participate in society and also people of color as a consequence of systematic racism.

The modernism era was characterized by the rise of such disturbing, diverse and difficult themes like alienation which was a principle and one of the major themes in

modern literature, it can be found in James Joyce's story *The Dead*, T.S.Eliot poem *The Waste Land* and Joseph Conrad's novella *Heart of Darkness*; each piece uniquely shows the idea of alienation. Another example, in the novel *The Great Gatsby*; it also includes alienation as well, the clear evidence of Jay Gatz who changes his last name to Gatsby; he tries to cut off his back which alienated himself from what he might be called in his natural place in the world.

Alienation was also a common theme in Nathaniel Hawthorne's works such as *Young Goodman Brown*, it is a literary piece written by Nathaniel about Goodman Brown who was unable to forgive himself faith for being at the meeting and isolates himself from her, after realizing that she is a follower of the devil, Goodman Brown knew that there no good in the earth that all have evil in their hearts.

2.4.2 Duality

Duality is another theme as much important as alienation is used by D.H.Lawrence in his short story *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, this theme specifically sets light against darkness, coupledom vs.solitariness, men vs. women, parents vs. children, and industrialization against the natural world. So, what does duality mean?

Duality refers to having two parts with opposite meaning like the duality of good and evil, or simply is a classification into subclasses or opposed parts, for instance, the duality of life and death which is another tackled theme in the story; death teaches us that everything in life is created balanced of opposites and competing forces; yet, these forces are not just opposites, they are complementary they don't cancel out each other they balance each other. Stevenson also talked about the duality of human nature which says that every single human has good and evil within them, and inside everyone's personality, but what 's important is how you behave and the decisions you make.

In literature, duality is anything that has two sides; duality plays an essential role to show the reality of the characters.

2.5 Conclusion

The previous chapter has tackled different theories, which are treated before by D.H.Lawrence in *Odour of Chrysanthemums*; including Feminism which is a central theory since the short story talks about a female protagonist. Besides, Psychology theory

which is important to deal with the character's psychic. Yet, using a common theme in the 20th century in British society, such as alienation and duality. The next chapter will give another unseen picture of the short story.

CHAPTER THREE

Examining Female Madness
and Trauma within the short
story *Odour of
Chrysanthemums*

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3.1 Introduction

Besides alienation as a central theme in *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, marriage was as major as it, alongside with feminism theory, psychological trauma and duality; by taking Bates family as a victim under industrial corruption of British society after the Industrial Revolution which harmed the society, creating such a suffocating and choking unacceptable air which led to gender alienation, gender issues and the lack of love and communication among the individuals in a common modern society.

3.2 D .H.Lawrence's Life Vs. Bates Family Life

David Herbert Richards Lawrence was born on 11 September 1885 in a small mining town in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire, England. The son of Arther John Lawrence and Lydia Lawrence, D.H.Lawrence was an early 20th century playwright, a novelist, an author, a short story writer, and a talented poet; besides being an independent-minded and sensitive man, because he was a good student he won a scholarship to Nottinghamshire High School; after that, he became a teacher and when his career in literature progressed, he stopped teaching and kept just writing.

D .H.Lawrence inherited his love of literature from his well-educated mother, he was best known for his controversial novel *Lady Chatterley's Lover*; which described explicit details the sexual affair between a working-class man and an upper-class woman, while his novel *Sons and Lovers* which considered from the 100 best novels of the 20th and masterpiece of D .H.Lawrence's finest achievement, the story follows the young Paul Morel's growth into manhood in a British working-class family. His novels explore the themes of female sexuality, emotional health, instincts, and dehumanizing effects of modernity.

Coming to D .H.Lawrence's well-known short story *Odour of Chrysanthemums* which focuses on a dramatic moment in the life of Mrs. Elizabeth Bates, the accidental death of her husband Walter Bates; this story is some how similar to D .H.Lawrence's boyhood, the first familiar thing is the setting of the story was in a bleak mining village in Eastwood, Nottinghamshire; where D .H.Lawrence was born and grown-up, the second thing is his parents; Arthur Lawrence who was a coal miner since the age of 10, a dialect speaker, a drinker and illiterate man quite similar to Walter Bates, while Lydia Lawrence who was an educated woman, working in the lace-making industry, she was from the

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middle-class exactly like Elizabeth Bates in the story, even their relationship was not different to Lawrence's parents real relationship; it was dysfunctional and suffocating, despite they married after a love story they had an unhappy marriage and family life; that what was portrayed in *Odour of chrysanthemums*.

D.H.Lawrence struggled his background a lot to not be like his father a coal miner, he was closer to his mother than father he hated him so much, he influenced literature by his way and became such a famous writer due to his mother who made him love literature since she was herself interested by it. Otherwise, the Eastwood setting especially the contrast between mining town and unspoiled countryside, the life, and culture of the miners; the strife between his parents and its effect on his relationship with Jessie all became Lawrence's early short stories and novels.

Lawrence's background is almost like the stories and novels he wrote as an elaboration on his personal past experiences, and his masterpiece *Odour of Chrysanthemums* is the best evidence of that.

3.2.1 *Odour of Chrysanthemums* as a Social Reflection

The Odour of Chrysanthemums is not just a short story about a British couple during the 19th century, who had a marriage's problems and they were unhappy and alienated to each other and the outside world; it is not about a collier's wife waiting for her husband from work in a black winter evening. The story reflects much more than that.

It common that the setting of this story is Nottinghamshire; the mother town of Lawrence himself, this town was known for being dirty and unsanitary, it was also famous by lace-making industries and coal mines; the exact works of Lawrence's mother and father, this is just a part of this reflection since the working conditions were horrible and that what was clarified in the story.

The 19th century had major social changes after the Industrial Revolution, which caused plagues in the working-class of the social class of D .H.Lawrence himself, the impact of industrialization was as positive as negative; it helped to urbanize and moving from agricultural society to manufacturing, yet, the invention like the steam engine which helped the industry, but in contrast, it causes very harmful consequences such as human

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isolation, the factory workers tend to ease their individuality and they felt alienated besides the health issues brought on by dangerous working conditions.

The setting of the treated story is the best answer and the right image and also the good social reflection of what had happened during the 19th century? And what did people lived there to suffer in such circumstances? Since the opening of the short story, Lawrence talks about how gloomy and lifeless life is, besides the dominance of industry over nature.

3.2.2 Foreshadowing and Symbolism in *Odour of Chrysanthemums*

Foreshadowing occurs in a literary text when the author gives clues and hints about what is coming in the story, it uses usually to enhance the storyline and to create more suspense. It appears at the beginning of the story and helps the reader to develop expectations about the coming events in the story; Lawrence uses this technique to hint to the reader of the tragedy that Elizabeth Bates will soon happen to her husband Walter Bates.

The foreshadowing was seen particularly in Lawrence's description of the children; firstly, the clothes that John was wearing carry the weight of foreshadowing when Elizabeth is looking for him, who appears from the bushes; John is wearing '... trousers and a waist coat of cloth....' which appears to be '...Cut down from a man's clothes....' this foreshadows that John will take the role of a man when his father dies. The second is Annie's affection towards her father which is suggested in Annie's hair which is blond like Walter's hair changing to brunette Elizabeth's hair, and this foreshadows that Annie's affection will turn to her mother Elizabeth when her father dies. Also, Mr. Rigley warning Mrs. Bates of the accidental harm that the ruts in the ground could do foreshadows Mr. Bates' accidental death in the mines.

The important clue that foreshadows the death of Mr. Bates is '... the deathly smell of chrysanthemums....' it shows that something bad will happen to him when he did not show up that night. Yet, Lawrence foreshadows Walter's fate when Elizabeth complains bitterly to her children that one day Walter 'can lie on the floor' when he comes home and he will be 'like a log'.

While, Symbolism is the use of symbols to signify ideas and qualities by giving them symbolic meanings that are different from their literal sense, in another hand,

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symbolism is when the author uses an object to add deeper meaning to the story; a symbol can enhance a theme, an idea, and a character.

In *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, the main theme is the suddenness of death so throughout the story Lawrence uses a lot of imagery and symbolism to explore this, the first symbol is **the chrysanthemums**; which symbolize happiness and joy according to Mrs. Bates they remind her of her relationship with Walter and their shared lives during their marriage, the birth of their first child, the first time Walter brought home drunk, and finally at Walter's death. These chrysanthemums look different to both mother and daughter, for instance, Annie wonders at their beauty, but Elizabeth associates their scent with the cold odour of death, above all else, the chrysanthemums in this story are the symbol of transition and change.

The second symbol is the **locomotive**, in all the stories after Industrial Revolution era the using of the train is a symbol of progress in a negative way more than the positive one, yet, at the beginning of the story Elizabeth was caught between the hedge and the locomotive; which symbolizes of being her trapped in a disappointing marriage, while Walter suffocates to death as a result of **being trapped** after the cave-in.

Additionally, the symbol of **darkness** because all the characters throughout the story tried to find their ways in the dark to the light, another symbol is Elizabeth's **garden**; which symbolizes man's alienation from nature, and on a personal level, it symbolizes Elizabeth's alienation from her husband.

3.3 Gender Alienation

Most of the historians talked about the impact of the Industrial Revolution and Capitalism on the status of women taking a pessimistic view, recent research suggests that the massive industrialization of the 19th and 20th centuries had a long-term psychological effect; that what had confirmed by a collaboration between psychologists, historians and economic geographers who examined people in industrial regions stated that they will suffer from (higher neuroticism, lower conscientiousness, lower aspects of extraversion, lower life satisfaction and lower life expectancy).

People who live in areas with active coal mining like Nottinghamshire, today they often experience a greater risk of mental and physical health issues such as depression,

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anxiety, and asthma than people in other regions, this industrialization even affected the future traits, its effects seem to be toxic, while it brought a massive technological and economic progress it also left a psychological legacy to continue to shape personality traits of people in this region.

Besides the horrible psychological issues of this region's people, they also suffer from their social life, taking an example of the domestic life of a working-class housewife; who tend to be servants in the wealthier families and to keep her house clean, warm and dry, the whole family were living in just one room; spending the half of their income in rent, yet the air was felled by coal-dust of factories even the water was dirty. In the early industrialization the working-class families to live they adopted a law called 'Family wage economy' depends on the collective wages of all the family' members, and in the modern stage they adopted 'Family consumer economy' in which the family is the site of consumption and women are employed to raise the standard of consumption.

Taking the best example of these circumstances is D.H.Lawrence's short story *Odour of Chrysanthemums*; since the beginning of the story Elizabeth was isolated with her thoughts waiting for her husband, even her children were with her they were isolated from her, even when Walter dies Elizabeth and her mother-in-law were grieving in their ways, but they were isolated from each other, the wife remembers him as the one who made her life miserable because they were strangers to each other, even they have two children and now the child within her womb is 'like ice to her' another symbol of alienation. Elizabeth realizes she and Walter were guilty of causing each other' alienation in their marriage, perhaps this why Walter was drinking, even Walter's mother remembered that her son was a happy and joyous man until he got married, also Elizabeth remembered that they were against each other, she alienated herself from him because he was drinking and he was drinking due to she alienated herself from him; it was like a vicious circle and now he is dead and she is alone.

3.3.1 Women's Madness

The 19th century is a period of the great industrial, economy and medical progress that led to the foundation of society in a very direct way, during this century and in the early of 20th; feminist movements emerged Europe and USA to gain women's rights, at the same time psychiatry tried to measure mental disorder and their causes concerning the

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female malady; it occurs as ‘feminization of madness’, Freud was developing his research on hysteria which is provoked by the influence of hormones in women’s mood, and gynecology was thought as the organic symptom of madness. Madness is not considered as an illness but as a depiction of insanity, perversion, and rebellion in art and literature.

The Odour of Chrysanthemums as a female protagonist who is Elizabeth Bates, which all the story turn around her; Elizabeth’s feelings towards her husband were resentful and angry, she was always blaming him of being an alcoholic and being the reason behind her upsetness and unhappiness in their marriage; she realizes later after looking to his dead body that she never recognizes him, yet they were alienated to each other. Elizabeth was that much mad because her husband who made her life miserable, and who influenced her whole life from marriage, the birth of their first child and the first time he brought drunk home, all these events were linked with chrysanthemums; which seen no more beautiful by Elizabeth after all the disappointment she had in the cycle of her life, yet Elizabeth and her husband’s relationship was suffocating despite they married after a love story. All she had undergone through made her Elizabeth in the end scene of the story, alone and isolated to herself, to her children even to the unborn baby she feels that its presence will remind her of the distance between her and Walter.

Elizabeth’s madness started when her spouse began to drink; that what led to the problems between them besides living in poverty and chocking coal mining town; that rises the distance between Elizabeth and Walter as a husband and wife which ends with Walter’s death that left a psychological trauma; this led to Elizabeth’s break-down.

3.3.2 Love and Marriage

The story *Odour of Chrysanthemums* shows the nature of love that was between mother and child; which seen in Elizabeth relationship with her two children John and Annie, and that was clear in her protection of them from Walter’s indiscretions and when their father was dead and layout as a log on the floor, she tried to keep them in their bedroom to not go downstairs to see him, besides she calmed their grand-mother to not cry to do not heard her. Elizabeth first and foremost must worry about her children, another complicated relationship is between her and the baby inside her womb; it was not out of love but quickly as the cold coupling between two isolated individuals, it was described as ‘a weight apart from her’ and ‘ice’. Elizabeth connects her unborn child with her distant

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relation with Walter; also Walter's mother shows a deep love with her screaming and tears when she saw her son's dead body.

In another hand, the nature of love between Elizabeth and Walter is much darker than the love between Elizabeth and her two existing children, her love towards Walter had been replaced by resentment, disgust, and anger, even the physical intimacy could not overcome the reality that they were alienated to each other, they didn't forgive or understand each other; Elizabeth sees Walter beyond her disappointments, she considered herself fool neglecting the love that existed between them; which drew her into this marriage.

There is no doubt that marriage is a central theme in this story, alongside with the portrait of working-class people; this story develops the theme of the nature of the sexual relationship between men and women, Lawrence views the failure of Elizabeth and Walter to achieve the deeper life that marriage can offer. Elizabeth couldn't accept by any way that she married a person below her class status, and after Walter's death she finally realizes that she contributed in failing of her marriage with Walter, death at that moment was her immediate master; she knew that she was living with fear and shame in her whole life which led to her current situation alone, disparate, isolated, shame and regret.

The two main characters in this short story are unhappy, and they communicate little, yet they kept their sorrow in 'shadows' pretending that everything is fine to be accepted by the society, *Odour of Chrysanthemums* shows that not all the marriages bring happiness, the couples tend to isolate themselves to no face the reality of their fail marriage, the fault here is that many couples decided to live unhappy rather than to be rejected by others, Lawrence uses the color of chrysanthemums to portray how Elizabeth must be feeling at that time, and some ties death makes truths unbearable.

3.4 Analyzing the Main Characters Solely

The Odour of Chrysanthemums is a short story happened in just one evening in a cold and dark winter day in a small coal-mining town, the story turns around just on one main character is the protagonist Elizabeth Bates who married to an alcoholic husband Walter Bates; who was indirectly linked by her, while the antagonist in this story is death the death of Elizabeth's illiterate husband Walter Bates.

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Walter Bates never appears alive in the story, he was absent throughout the entire story and we know about him just through Elizabeth's eyes and from his children, his mother, and the neighbors, he plays an essential role in shaping the Bates family's life, despite he is been dead since the beginning of the story, he was described as 'handsome body', 'fine limbs'. Yet, Walter seems to be an insensitive drunkard, who chooses to spend his evenings at a bar than with his wife and children; his long absences made Elizabeth struggles with both anger and anxiety, facing the gossip of the neighbors. The only kind words spoken about Walter come from his mother when she remembers him as a child calling him 'a good lad', when Walter's body brought home he was naked and vulnerable, Elizabeth was stunned because she cannot blame him anymore for her unhappiness; because his habits and attitudes led to their sad marriage and his death helped to change Elizabeth's vision for the future.

Walter is a coal-miner who was stuck in his depression and bleak work, all the miners at that time were known of having trouble with alcoholism, they spend their time in the pubs drinking rather than being with their families, Walter's drinking was a result of intensive alienation; because he does not want to confront the reality, he drinks to live in his world, his awareness is drugged by drinking which creates false consciousness.

While D.H.Lawrence described Elizabeth Bates as the handsome woman with black hair, she has an air of calm that she does not lose even when she faced death, she was disillusioned in her life with coal-miner husband in a small mining community; because she has dreams of a different life than this one with the harsh world with the mines, trapped in her small world. Elizabeth exudes hopelessness that consumes her; unhappily, she spends much of her time waiting for her husband, Elizabeth shares too much of her frustration about her children.

Further, Elizabeth sees herself as wasting her life with Walter missing a better life she could have with someone else, when she was and her mother-in-law undress and wash Walter's corpse, she realizes that she has never seen Walter and she feels ashamed because she had not allowed him to be himself; due to he was distant from her so she feels pity for him despite her earlier harsh view of him. At the end of the story, Elizabeth submits to both life and death as her 'masters' recognizing her mistakes.

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3.4.1 Walter's Death

Death usually strikes fear in people's hearts. They rarely talk about it because the mystery of death remains mysterious today. However, to understand death means understanding life which is known as the body vitalized by soul while death is a separation between body and soul. Generally, we can define death as the act of passing away or the end of life or more precisely the permanent destruction of something.

Human being could not at all tell the experience of death exactly, because when the person passes away, nothing from him/her stays to report, that is why death is remain a heavy word as a process to understand; we can understand it a little from Socrates' death experience, who faced it with all courage because he believed that life was achieved by death.

In *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, Walter's death touched a big epiphany for Elizabeth; who suddenly realizes that the life she was living is a big fat lie when Walter dies Elizabeth finally discovered in the end that she has shared nothing with her husband, and she has never truly known him at all and they were strangers to each other despite they had two children and the third is coming, and they are still don't know and understand each other; which led to the alienation that caused such a harmful psychological effect on both of them.

This story shows Elizabeth's regrets about her life, while D .H.Lawrence advocates the kind of life in which unions are based on intimacy; whereas Elizabeth only had physical but not psychological intimacy with her husband; even in their marriage was a union of strangers in which Elizabeth felt spiritually dead, but when Walter died she felt alive; this moment was her epiphany shows her that she was wrong about her entire life because she allowed being controlled by death and life, they were her masters that led to her marriage's failure.

Walter's death led to Elizabeth's epiphany; this was the important moment that was the whole story is about, in this instant Elizabeth realizes that she was not dead and she was unchained by her mistaken thoughts, which made her live a miserable and unhappy life, and that was her fault which in the end she recognized it.

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3.4.2 Elizabeth's Epiphany

Epiphany is a literary device; which means the moment when a character is suddenly struck with a life-changing realization, which changes the rest of the story or it is simply a moment of sudden or great revelation that usually changes one in some way. The term epiphany seems to have many meanings and uses. It used frequently in modern poetry and prose fiction; It was first introduced in literature by the author James Joyce.

Elizabeth's epiphany in *Odour of Chrysanthemums* is an important instant of the story, it comes directly after Walter's death, which pushes us to understand deeper the aspect of marriage, loss, and life. After enduring this epiphany, Elizabeth will live a more authentic life, thanks to death that shows her that she was not dead, she never accepted Walter as he was, but she will accept the others as they are in the future, because she will have three children to raise and take care of them by her own.

Elizabeth at the moment of seeing her husband's dead body, she suddenly realizes that she never saw Walter as he is. She never understands him they were meeting in the dark and fighting in the dark also, there was no connection between them as wife and husband. However, Elizabeth realizes what a stranger her husband was to her, they were united in body but not in spirit; this realization led to her loneliness.

3.5 Conclusion

This final chapter gathers the important parts that the whole story is built on. From the juxtaposition of life and death to the main theme marriage during the modernism era, besides the effects of industrialization which touched even the human psychic, it sheds light on the female protagonist Elizabeth Bates; how she thinks? Why? And the causes behind her marriage's failure. Yet, the little similarities between D.H. Lawrence's life and conditions and Bates' family own which were quite clear in the story.

General Conclusion

Lawrence's most autobiographical short story *Odour of Chrysanthemums* is a very understandable story with a bleak and depressing atmosphere to the reader. Lawrence in this tale tried to describe the life as it existed before. The current story was turned around on just one female character who is Elizabeth Bates who came up by Lawrence's inspiration from his mother Mrs. Frieda Lawrence. However, Elizabeth is an illiterate drunk coal miner's wife, the mother of John and Annie and pregnant by the third. The story was about the wife's waiting for her spouse to come home for dinner; who seemed dead at the end which left a great trauma especially to the wife, no doubt that the whole story had a lot of events but the last scene of Walter's death had concluded everything.

The whole story deals with a profound picture of marriage which is told by the protagonist perspective. The marriage that was a desirable relation for both of them despite their love story marriage, they were like strangers to each other due to the alienation they were living into it. Although they dislike it; the lack of connection besides the place and the air they were living in was shocking and unacceptable, which left on them psychological damage.

The female madness and trauma that was designed in *Odour of Chrysanthemums* by the protagonist Elizabeth Bates which come as a result of the alienation that she and Walter were suffering from. And all the people were living at that time and that place in that unbalanced world; which was created by the development and industrialization which left a great impact on that people missing the nature as a cost for the progress.

Elizabeth Bates who found herself alone, confused and shame in the end when her husband died; that was her epiphany which made her realize that she was wrong about her entire life with Walter and that was her mistaken thoughts that guided her to be into such a miserable situation a failed marriage's life, she never let Walter to behave like himself she was apart from him so he has chosen to drunk to forget about the real life and live in his own world, which drive them to be alienated to each other.

Symbolism in *Odour of Chrysanthemums*, life vs. death, industrialization vs. nature or marriage in the same short story might be a great themes to be examined at it had done with the theme of female madness and trauma, another suggestion could be good to treat

is the comparison between D.H.Lawrence's life and the characters in his other literary works.

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