

Research Proposal

Breaking the Myth: That we can live in this world all alone: A detailed study on Schizophrenia in the selected poems of Sylvia Plath

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I. Tentative Title

Breaking the Myth: That we can live in this world all alone: A detailed study on Schizophrenia in the selected poems of Sylvia Plath

II. Research Problem

Schizophrenia belongs to the sub category of Bi-polar disorder. Though it is regarded as serious mental illness which interferes with a person's ability to think clearly, manage emotions and mingle with the society. It is a complex, long-term medical illness. The exact prevalence of schizophrenia is difficult to measure, but estimates range from 0.25% to 0.64% of U.S. adults. Although schizophrenia can occur at 20s to early 30s for any women. It is uncommon for schizophrenia to be diagnosed in a person younger than 12 or older than 40. It is possible to live well with schizophrenia. These include a person hearing voices, seeing things, or smelling things others can't perceive. The hallucination is very real to the person experiencing it, and it may be very confusing for a loved one to witness. The voices in the hallucination can be critical or threatening. Voices may involve people that are known or unknown to the person hearing them.

Schizophrenia is not a complex disease, still one third of our population were affected by the culiminary disease. The disease is boon and a bane. The great scholars like Sylvia Plath, Jacques Derrida, Eduard Einstein, Napoleon Bonaparte, and Adolf Hitler were to believe to be affected by this strange disease. But miracles happen in our life. In a similar way, hallucinations served the writers to a great extent. They started to get along with these hallucinations and made them as their central character in their life. For instance, we can review the work of Sylvia Plath's Daddy. Sylvia Plath is diagnosed with acute level of Schizophrenia. But she had

committed suicide because of this disease. On the contrary her imagination went to a great level of extent. We can see this type of extra ordinary ideas in her another work Mirror.

“Now I am a lake. A woman bends over me,
Searching my reaches for what she really is.
Then she turns to those liars, the candles or the moon.
I see her back, and reflect it faithfully” (Mirror, Plath)

In these lines, she compares herself with a lake .A lake filled with happiness as waters. In reality Sylvia Plath never had happiness throughout her life .Through her words like woman, candles, liars ,moons .she tries to explain all these ideologies .Sylvia lost her father at an early age .She was alienated all alone. The word “Alienated” serves a purpose for the term Hallucinations.

In this complex world people care for money and have no true love, any kind of emotions in this world. We are filled with virtual machines and technologies. The social media which intended to bring us together, have failed drastically. We don’t know the relations and neighbor names in our society. Yet, we hail our society as great .Derrida would have talked about on the conception of cultural Hegemony. We live in a structured culture, where our wings are tied. The society impose us to have sex, family and children’s .But this same society fails to accept people living in loneliness .But the lonely people were either lonely because the people find them unattractive or they find the other people in opposite vice-versa. Sylvia Plath is a lovely lonely person unfit for the society. But her works served a great feast for the same society. But what about the feelings Of Sylvia Plath in this society. She was happy or not .Yet we ought to know?

The advent usage of imagined relations helped her to overcome a satisfactory role in writing. So I try to use Hallucination as a tool to prove that writers and people can live in this world without any human relationship. Their own inner self or hallucinations are sufficiently enough to produce great works with optimal effort.

I wish to use Hallucination as a tool to prove Sylvia Plath lived happily with her alter ego hallucination. Also her imaginative consciousness was great only because of this hallucination.

III. Definition of Terms

Alienation: This concept was first introduced by Marx and since used in A variety of contexts. It means the separation of the individual from important aspects of the external world accompanied by a feeling of powerlessness or lack of control. A person may feel alienated from themselves or from society.

Schizophrenia: Schizophrenia is characterized by thoughts or experiences that seem out of touch with reality, disorganized speech or behavior and decreased participation in daily activities. Difficulty with concentration and memory may also be present.

Hallucination: A person or object which is absent to other, but visible to the persons affected with schizophrenia

IV. Background

The word "schizophrenia" is less than 100 years old. However the disease was first identified as a discrete mental illness by Dr. Emile Kraepelin in the 1887 and the illness itself is generally believed to have accompanied mankind through its history. Written documents that identify Schizophrenia can be traced to the old Paranoiac Egypt, as far back as the second millennium before Christ. Depression, dementia, as well as thought disturbances that are typical in schizophrenia are described in detail in the Book of Hearts. The Heart and the mind seem to have been synonymous in ancient Egypt. The physical illnesses were regarded as symptoms of the heart and the uterus and originating from the blood vessels or from purulence, fecal matter, a poison or demons. A recent study into the ancient Greek and Roman literature showed that although the general population probably had an awareness of psychotic disorders, there was no condition that would meet the modern diagnostic criteria for schizophrenia in these societies.

VI. Research Methodology:

My research methodology will include close reading, interpreting and comparing/contrasting the primary sources chosen for study. Psychological and Sylvia Plath works would be taken made use of in order to establish the social and political scenario in which the writers live and write. There will also be a psychological re-interpretation of the themes and issues heightened in the works of Sylvia Plath using the Psychoanalytical tool "Hallucination". The ultimate goal of my research is to break the myth that we cannot live alone. I would try to include some other authors who used their hallucinations as a tool to deprecate the nominal literature into pieces. My idea is to prove we can live in this world without anyone as well as people living with Schizophrenia are great than any other people living this world. All great people who have

ultimate imagination powers are affected by these Hallucinations. But I try to reprogram this hallucination as a blessing to live in this sub-alter world all-alone with happiness.

Bibliography:

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