



THE DEHUMANIZATION OF HUMANITY IN EUGENE O'NEILL'S *THE HAIRY APE*

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ABSTRACT

Eugene O'Neil is a most famous name to provide the social satire of contemporary period. The modernism becomes the worst period for the humanity, to make all human being as the machine. The humanity becomes the last part of human life and all becomes the greedy for money. The industrialisation changes the face of world and all industrialist becomes mad for money and rule over the poor. The working class never become the main stream of society. The poor tries to associate themselves with the other society and they are always fail in this and get the animal treatment in the life. O'Neil is the prime person who focuses on this issue with his drama and make the society aware for this behaviour. The paper focuses on the nature and behaviour of Yank at the same time the ill treatment he gets in his life as the representative of working class. Yank tries to connect himself with the world but fails to connect with anybody which makes him alone in this world. He becomes the representative of the entire oppressed class. The paper tries to show the reader that the humanity is dehumanised by modernism.

Key words: disillusionment, modernism, workers, humanity, dehumanisation.

Eugene O'Neil is the best dramatist and critic of the social issues. He is known American play writer. The most important achievement of his life in the feild of literature is that, he receives the Noble Laureate in the literature in the year of 1936. His most of the dramas are based on the realistic issues. The disillusionment of life of modern society is the prime issue of his writing. The proper attack of his on modernism makes people aware about the inhumanity of the modern period where the human treats as machine. The place for emotion and relation goes in the vain and entire society becomes money minded that narrated in his most of the plays. The pessimism of human life is also narrated in his plays, and to come out of that the continous struggle of human is avilable in his play. O'Neill most of the heroes are the tragic heroes and the victims of modernity. The quality of writing drama devopled in him because of his father, he always with his father on the thetrical tours as his father is the artist or actor. This makes his entry into the theatre feild and gives him insight from the theatre. His entrest give his chance to get admission into the best bording school. The role of his mother and father is so worthy to make him as the dramatist.

Eugene O'Neill's most of the plays are based on the sea life or the sea travel. This might be seen due to his own contribution to work as the member on the ship. Even the selected play of this reserch paper is also based on the same issue of workers on the ship and the treatment workers get form the capitalist owners. O'Neil is the member of the one famous union of the time 'Industrial Workers of the World'. This is also avilable in the selected play named '*The Hairy Ape*'. Eugene is much aware about the trauma of the worker so he wants the

good job and salary for the workers at the feild. In his life he worked for the New London Telegrame as the report writer. The health of O'Neill is becomes worst when he suffers tuberculosis. This incident makes him a real fighter in his life and later he writes many of the famous plays as the full-time writer for literary field. He has very close association with John Reed who is the founder of Communist Labour Party of America. This is the reason that in his life he becomes the member of working class and present them in the literature. In his most of the plays at initial level talks about the prostitution's life from the city and at that time he was the first writer who takes this issue for the writing.

O'Neill writing his last wish is attracting each person in his life that he wants his last play *Long Day's Journey into Night* should be published after his death and that to be after twenty-five years later. This last play gets the mostly acclaimed play of the year and accepted by all the people. There are many famous plays he gives to the world they are *Bread and Butter* (1914), *Servitude* (1914), *Now I ask You* (1916), *Beyond the Horizon* (1918) this has own the Pulitzer Prize in 1920, *Gold* (1920), *Anna Christie* (1920), *The Emperor Jones* (1920), *The fountain* (1923), *Strange Interlude* (1928), *Days Without End* (1933), *A Touch of the Poet* (1942) and many more he adds to the literature and made his name most famous in the drama writing.

The Hairy Ape is the best example for the dehumanising the humanity where all the human being is are not treated equal and the workers are the slave and the owners are the ruler at the work place. The behaviour of the owner is so cruel with worker never get the opportunity to speak with others and to leave in the shabby place to work till the death of their life. The basic right of humanity to leave and take the free breath also not allowed to them. This more worst in the time of modernity that all workers become the victims of modernism and a slave of industrialisation. In the play '*The Hairy Ape*' all the worker of Transatlantic Ocean Liner are the victim of modernity and industrial development. On the day time very few hours' workers get to sit on the desk to enjoy at the same time they are not allowed to use the same place which owners use to sit. The play is the example of existentialism of modern society. The protagonist of the drama Yank is tried to connect to the upper class but fails due to the difference in the society. Yank is the worker at Transatlantic Ocean Liner and get the treatment as the inferior one. But in his life he is unable to understand the world and tries to associate himself with that. In the play many of the places the 'beast' word is used for him. He is only a simple labourer on ship and full of muscularity thinks or makes him a strong worker but that is so negatively seen in the text that he represents the beast community or becomes the beast on the ship.

In the incident on the ship when the daughter of ship owner comes down to see the workers at the base and found the place so filthy and shouts loudly looking at Yank. This incident is the pure attack on the humanity that one person thinks another as the beast. The difference of the people makes them an enemy for each other. The protagonist never gets the good treatment like human in the play. This is also observed in relation with his friends, because they also ill-treat him due to his language and behaviour. The matter of concern as the human is not found in relation with Yank is very rarely presented in the play. Yank always tries to see how can he get connect to the world? This makes the sense of belonging nature in him and he always fails to establish the relation among he and the outside world which has rich owner. The only thing he manages to work forcefully on the ship because he has the masculine power. This physical power is the only source of his behaviour and he keeps himself happy in this thought that he is more powerful than the other males on the ship. He thinks he is responsible to move the ships engine. The real strength of his inner soul goes in vain when a girl of ship owner calls him a filthy beast and hates him through his behaviour that's make him to degrade his morale and goes against the owner community tries to search the identity in the world. In the play O'Neill has the capabilities to show that Yank does not belong to any of the community and tries to establish himself with the people of Manhattan and with the community of workers. He realises with his visit to the places like Manhattan and Fifth avenue that he is not a good human being or people do not treat him one of them, this make the dehumanize human being in the world. In the main incident of Yank's life when the girl from rich family who is the daughter of great industrialist meets him at the basement of the ship and gets afraid to see his face and calls him filthy beast. This is the worst treatment he receives in his life and later his viewpoint changes to see the world and thinks his life is meaningless in the world. This negativity stays with him forever and in the play many time he thinks to kill that girl.

The negative attitude he gets in the play that is actually an effect of modernism on the human life. Yank is the man get depressed due to this behaviour and think that he does not belong to any of the world though the upper and lower. This is another point in his life which takes reader to the identity issue, he lost his identity in the modern world and feels lonely. As far as he thinks that only the physical power is the only weapon he has, but that is also managed by the money and political power. The nature of the rich girl indicate that the worker class is really so inhumanly treated in the period. This indicate the nature of all upper class people towards lower class people. Yank losses his power and feels the mental and physical weakness after the behaviour of rich girl in the basement of ship as his all friend laugh at him for many days and that leaves him unhappy in the life. The language of Yank is the most vital point in the play as writer uses the very wrong language for him, the pronunciations of Yank are totally wrong presented in the play to indicate the nature and uneducated behaviour. The animal state of human being is awoken in the play with the help of character Yank who is the presented so beast due to his education and impact of social lower class worker in the society. In the play many of the places he leaves all his human quality and becomes an animal due to the treatment he receives in the world. He meets the ape in the zoo and plays with it. This the human behaviour that all rich class make him forced to accept that he is not human as well as the power of the social structure make him the victim like animal who is voiceless to suffer for his life.

The impact of industrialisation make the society and the people cripple in the world and this is reflected in the play. The other character like Robert also become the victim of upper group and sufferer's entire life. He spends his whole life as the loyal servant for the capitalist and unable get his mark in the society and always neglected by the upper class. The thought of rebellious nature is always advocated by the many workers like Paddy and others. Paddy thinks that the monopoly of the rich class will be forever and we may not change it. At the same time in the play he finds the rebellious behaviour of Yank and provide support to him to go ahead against the capitalist. in the rebellious awaking Long also helps to Yank at the fifth avenue. The life of Yank at the stokehole at the ship and outside the ship is totally different, at the ship he makes broken dialogue with his friends and at the outside ship tries to mix with people in the country at work labour party. This is the nature of Yank but at the most of the time unable to be with the world and gets disappointed at each step of life. The behaviour of Yank is another reason to get ill treatment in the world but for that also the people ignited him to do the act. The incident at the Fifth Avenue make him again a pure animal when he knowingly disturbs the life of normal people to tries to stop the gentleman to enter in the bus and punches on his face, this make him an inhuman and police takes him in the custody and sends him jail. The thought of disturbing others come in his mind due to the ill treatment he gets in his life. Yank thinks that the jail is the zoo for him and tries to escape form it. Later he realises to join the Industrial Workers of the world and take revenge against the capitalist people. This attempt to join the worker's union to take revenge but in that also he is not successful.

The behaviour of Yank make him liable to take one-month jail punishment that is more commonly associated with the cage for animal. The human Yank is gets the treatment like animal in the drama. The knowledge about IWW make him force to join the group but the nature and talk of Yank make him more dangerous for the worker's union and they felt that Yank belongs the government and throws him out of the union office and he never becomes the member of union again. The union people were very happy to see Yank as the member of them but the thought of his make them think that he does not belong the workers party and throws him out the office. In this situation even the police officers meet him on the road not feel to arrest him and realises him though he finds him disturbed. The nature and behaviour at the place of IWW does not him a good respect and treatment though he is the member of the working class.

The incidents are much big irony on the human nature that though he is the part of them but rejected on the basis of his talk. This is one more minor thing that, he is the first man who come from the vessel work to join the worker's union but unsuccessful in that. The rejection of the society and the people of his own make him more unhuman in his life. The life of his ends when he sees himself as the animal in the zoo. The incident in Yank's life, when he sees the gorilla in the zoo, he feels he is the part of that animal. This is clearer for the reader that the human being are feel more animal than the human being in the modern era. When Yank meets the gorilla in the zoo he sees or sympathises with animal and thinks that he is a part of its. He even tries to more

friendly with the animal and in this situation he gets attacked by the animal gorilla in the zoo and in his gets his rib crushed and he dies in the attack of gorilla. The life of human being is dismantled by the animal and human being even feels he is the part of animal that makes the drama so apt example of dehumanisation of humanity in the modern era. The nature and existence of Yank make him question the humanity and the existential nature of his own as a human. The rebellious nature of Yank becomes the victim of modernity and suffer in his entire life. The nature of Yank where he wants to be belonged anywhere in the world and at the end of the drama, he is successful to associate himself with animal and can't prove himself equal with capitalist people.

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