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**SELECTED THEME (SPIRITUAL ISOLATION AND
ALIENATION) IN CARSON MCCULLERS'S "THE HEART
IS A LONELY HUNTER" AND "THE BALLAD OF THE
SAD CAFÉ"**

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ABSTRACT

The major focus of this article is to present problematic views of isolation and alienation of the selected themes of the writer Carson McCullers. The selected themes focuses on her to works, The Heart is the Lonely Hunter and The ballad of Sad Café. In the survey of these books, the author analysis the problem of human isolation and alienation in the context of social separation in the world. However, while early interpretation of her work focused on the depravity of doomed characters more recent analysis has opened up her work to protective understanding of social change. The author characters are isolated from the rest of society whether by race, human faminity rather than highlighting their own shortcomings. These isolating factors under score a limitation within the social structures and the need for change. It examines McCullers' two novels that have received the United States critical attention . The heart is a Lonely Hunter and The ballad of sad café .

KEY WORDS: Southern literature isolation,

Alienation, human complexity

INTRODUCTION

Literature is a body of written works. The name itself has traditionally been applied to those imaginative works of poetry and prose distinguished by the intentions of the authors and the perceived aesthetic excellence of their execution. Literature has many possible functions. Its main function is its fidelity to its own nature. Literature imitates, depicts, repents, presents, embodies people, objects, societies and ideas. The nature and function of literature are correlative. A good work of art is both individualistic and general.

The United States is one of the most diverse nations in the world today. Literature in the United States is likewise dazzlingly diverse, exciting and evolving, like other literature fields. American literature was shaped by the history of the century that produced it. American writing began with the works of English Adventurers and colonists in the new world chiefly for the benefit of readers in the mother country for at least a century. And a half American was merely a group of colonies scattered along the eastern seaboard of the North America continent colonies. American literature traces the paths of American narrative, fiction, poetry and drama as they move from pre-colonial times into the present through various literary moments such as romanticism, realism and experimentation. The benefits of the colonies are benefitted by both the European and colonist audience. It is likely that no other colonist in the history of the world were as intellectual like Puritans.

Isolation and alienation in Carson McCullers's "The Heart is a lonely hunter" and "The Ballad of the Sad Café"

Carson McCullers Nee Lula Carson Smith born Feb 19, 1917- died Sep 29, 1967. She is a New York American writer of novels and stories that depict the inner lives of lonely people. She is considered to be a member of the "Southern gothic" tradition in American literature, and is often compared to writers of southern literature. Carson McCullers is a talented southern American writer who touched others with her ability to describe human complexity with a touch of poesy. Her first novel, *Creation of a Literacy Sensation*. She voyaged into the depths of the isolation and alienation that underlies the human condition. The novel is the work of a supreme artist. Carson's enduring masterpiece. The monstrous mind of Carson McCullers anyone who has ever read the work would know that the author has a unique way of writing. She wrote an unpublished novel and decided that she was more prone towards writing than music.

Carson McCullers a very strong minded person. Born into a highly respectable family with moderate means, she received an opportunity to play the piano. Her achievement as a writer, a career that

was successfully launched by her first novel, "The Heart is a Lonely Hunter" was the outgrowth of her own character and lonely suffering.

At the center of the novel, the alienation is the unique utilization of a handicap for communication suffered by two characters. Spiro's Antonopoulos & John Singer have both been disabled from everyday discourse with those around them as a result of being mute. The inability to task it by definition creates a certain sense of alienation from a world that is dependent upon language as its primary means of connection. Alienation usually signifies a coincident sense of isolation but McCullers explores the way certain individuals age alienated even when engaging in discourse with and even when surrounded by society.

The Ballad of Sad Café which was first published in Harper's Bazaar in 1943. In this title, she wrote about a triangle love in a small southern town. So it is also considered this to be one of her best ones. This work considered by critics to be the most mature and profound work in the southern gothic McCullers.

THE MEANING OF THE TITLE

In her novel, *The Heart is the Lonely Hunter and The Ballad of Sad Café*, she explores the theme of isolation and alienation search for connection instead of tracing the life of only one major character as traditional novels have done. She mentioned the novel among the live characters, one of whom is the common around which the other circle. John Singer has no motivating ideas of his life.

John seems to be very mute to others. Despite him longing for communication the only person whom he communicates is his mute friend Antonopoulos. He is deeply attached to him other than anyone else. He used to share with him, his feelings but after he leaves John becomes a lover. However, the other characters in the novel seek solace with him for getting a relief from their problems.

Singer is distinct and significant to many other characters despite his own loneliness. He provides a sense of personality and is desperately passive and socially withdrawn. Though his co-characters find a solace when spending time with him, he himself is full pressured by their actions. But for others, John is just a sounding board at whom they speak without being judgmental. His passive nature makes them think being accepted by the other. However they do not realize that he is unable to express and he himself is a troubled man inside.

The only friendship that Singer has is with his other mate Mick Kelly. Mick is a pass mate teenager who loves music. She finds herself reluctant to communicate with anyone. John acts as a comforting partner and confident to Mick. Even though he fights with his own isolations in life, he gives Mick the

needed solace. He turns to Mick for everything and projects his own insecurities and needs only to her. She too understands John's passiveness to be kindness and forgets to empathy with his feeling . She is deeply attracted to Singer but the relationship does not lasts. She finds her path in life after Mick leaves him. He refrains to an allot lifestyle after her. He finds it hands to connect with anyone in a society he sees that the society is totally antagonistic to a deaf-and-mute person without emphasizing their feelings.

The theme of loneliness is evident throughout the novel singer never changes or expresses his feelings to anyone he never ever learns to communicate properly with his co-characters even after meeting new acquaintances after his best friend's death, he lives in the loneliness is repute throughout the novel. He never, ever learns to communicate properly with his co-characters, even after meeting new acquaintances after his best friend's death. He lives in loneliness. This lack of communication in John make his life a lovely tragedy ballad of the sad cafe.

Marvin and the cousin Limon turned everything upside down they broke the piano, set the shack on fire and so on they destroyed all they had been able to. Since then the hunchback never returned to the small town and nobody ever heard of him. That was low miss Amelia remained alone. Though some people meant to help her ,she always refused the inhabitants noticed that laymen's departure was a great sorrow to her. Thereby she began to sell everything in taking care of her parents as well as before. After three days she decided to close the cafe boarding up all the openings.

The life in the town became dull. It was the same as before the arrival of cousin Limon therefore the town scope could neither gather in a café nor being cured as a result. The inhabitants had still only one thing left listening to the "chair-gang". The ideas of obsession connect both of these themes. The characters has reigning obsession which structures her or his life.

The reality becomes distorted when viewed through the lens of an obsession. Other people become instruments for gaining the object of obsession. The poem who is thinking about the lonely and isolated with little hope of escaping. John singer ends by committing suicide when the object of his obsession, Spiros Antonopoulos, dies. His suicide casts the other characters back on themselves, but it doesn't seem to push them in different directions. He loses his obsession with Mick Kelly and the novel ends with him feeling a general kind of love for all the people he might encounter.

CONCLUSION

On the whole the novella looks pretty and pessimistic in life and is made of solitude boredom and violence. The author also draws our attention to

the story which can remind us of rain characters life. It should be born in mind that she had been betrayed by two men like Miss Amelia, the author got married with one man and then fell in love with another eventually. The two men who were attracted by each other went away . What followed was that both Amelia's and Carson lives were quite similar. In other words their lives were pathetic and dismaying.

This feeling of unhappiness is also conveyed by the title. Actually, the words "The ballad of the sad cafe" contain an oxymoron. Indeed the terms "ballad and sad" sound ill-boding and dramatic while "café" usually evokes a crazy atmosphere where people find great pleasure. But even though the cafe refers to joyfulness. This is the table of suffering. The isolation from the characters suffers is a combination of personnel and environmental factors.

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