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## SYMBOLISM IN D. H. LAWRENCE'S SONS AND LOVERS

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### ABSTRACT

*This paper aims to analyzing the symbolism of the novel Sons and Lover. Lawrence as most modern novelist uses symbols to boost the express of his language . He uses symbols as obvious tools to exemplify his inmost instincts. The researcher highlight on study and analysis of the different symbolic and their significance in the development of the novel as well as the characters. His uses of Symbolism in most of his novels mean to explicate his views on a variety of thoughts which emanate out of his basic philosophy of life.*

**KEY WORDS:** Symbolism, Symbol, D.H. Lawrence, Sons and Lovers

### INTRODUCTION

The term 'symbol' is originally derived from the Greek verb 'Symballein' which means 'to put together' and the related noun 'Symbolon' which means 'mark', 'take', or 'sign' <sup>i</sup>. In other word, the term 'symbol' refers to an object, person, place or action that has a meaning in itself and also stands for something larger than itself, such as a quality, an attitude, a belief, or a value as Lawrence has said:

*You can't give a great symbol a meaning, any more than you can give a cat a 'meaning'. Symbols are organic units of consciousness with a life of their own, and you can never explain them anyway, because their value is dynamic, emotional, belonging to the Sense-consciousness of the body and soul, and not simply mental<sup>ii</sup>....*

Symbolism, refers to a literary movement that originated in France in the last half of the nineteenth century by Rimbaud, Mallarme and others. They used symbols to express a higher invisible world other than the world of concrete phenomena. As Baudelaire, one of the principle forerunners of the movement said:

*Human beings live in a forest of symbols, which results from the fact that the materiality and individuality of the physical world dissolve into the dark and confused unity of the unseen world<sup>iii</sup>*

The movement was a revolt against realism and naturalism. British writers were influenced by the movement later on and it became a dominant force in the twentieth century literature.

In a broadest concept, Symbolism is a study of the incorporation of form with content. It is use by writers to reinforce their writing and give

insight to the reader. It is a literary device used in literature when some things are not to be taken literally. It can be person, events, situation, object, or actions that have a deeper meaning in context. By using the Symbolism a writer feel with freedom through add double levels of meanings to his work. It gives a literary work more richness and color and can make the meaning of the work deeper. In other way, it allows for writers to convey their ideas to their readers indirectly rather than having to say them direct, in which can make texts seem more nuanced and complex. Specially in literature, Symbolism elicit concern in readers cause they find an opportunity to get an insight of the writer's mind on how he views the world and how he thinks of common actions and topics, having wider implications.

### **THE SYMBOLISM IN SONS AND LOVERS**

D. H. Lawrence is a Britain outstanding novelist in the 20th century. He one of the most prominent writers when he inherits the essence of the realism. He is the fourth child of the five children of an illiterate coal miner Arthur John Lawrence and his wife Lydia Lawrence, a former school teacher. His mother had to manual work in a lace factory in order to support her financially unstable family. Sons and Lovers is taken to be one of Lawrence's masterpieces, and which considered to be the most autobiographical novel. He makes an spacious use of symbols in his novel Sons and Lovers. He absorbs nutrition from modernism and make some great developments, one of which is the symbolism. The novel Sons and Lovers is a study of human relationships Gertrude Morel, because of her turbulent and exotic relationship with her husband, ends up developing deep emotional relations with her two eldest sons.

In the novel Sons and Lovers, there are many of symbolic scenes which have a stimulant effect upon the strength of the plot and action in the novel. Lawrence uses symbols in most his novels for some reasons, first to discover the consciousness of each individual character. Second for making a statement about the relations between the classes. Thirdly, to show us the dark depths of human nature. The symbol of the coal-pits in Sons and Lovers is very important symbol cause it has back to support economic in the country. In the story, coal-pits is set against the backdrop of the Nottinghamshire coal country, where the mines form the economic backbone of the community, providing daily life with a kind of natural rhythm, of sleep and awakening, life and death. The life of the pits, though harsh and

unforgiving, still retains a certain rugged honesty, in marked contrast to the faux sophistication of Gertrude's family.

The symbol of swing at Willey Farm is symbolize the rotation relationship between Paul and Miriam. As said David Morrison that "the swing goes up and down, back and forth, just as their relationship does, veering wildly between love and hate"<sup>iv</sup>. It's also notable that Miriam can't achieve the same heights on the swing as Paul, symbolizing the gaping chasm between their respective sex-drives. In the same way, Paul loves Miriam, but this love suddenly changes into antipathy. The hate, too, is momentary and soon gives way to love. Thus the movement of the swing effectively expresses their touch-and-go relationship. Miriam's inability to sit on the swing and give herself over fully to the moment is symbolic of her timidity, and lack of physical courage. This very timidity is further symbolised by the way in which she feeds the hens. Similarly, she has a habit of raising everything to a spiritual intensity, and this habit is symbolised by the incident of the rose bush.<sup>v</sup>

The symbol of the Ash-Tree, Lawrence efficaciously used the symbol of the Ash-Tree to describe the evil and dark aspects of life. It is a complex symbol carrying more than one meaning. Where it is symbol for the dark, ambiguous forces of nature which are the foreboders of tragedy in human-life. It is symbolic of the disharmony that exists between the husband and wife in the Morel family. The persistent bickering of the parents becomes a terror for the children, who lying awake upstairs are unable to coherently apprehend as to what would happen ultimately. The tree becomes a symbol of the inner terror of children who strike and moan inwardly. It also predicts the future doom which is to beset the Morel family.

One of the most symbols in Lawrence's novels is the flower. Lawrence interests in flowers, and he uses the descriptive throughout his novels. Often a flower will take on the power of a symbol. The scene of flower picking is highly symbolic. The keys figures – Paul, Miriam and Clara – pick flowers. Paul picks flowers with love, like a lover; Miriam with false reverence: and Clara does not pick them at all." This suggests that the flower of love between Miriam and Paul will be killed, because Miriam seems to be killing life out of flowers. The way she picks flowers suggests that she has no right to life. When it comes to Clara, she states quite boldly that flowers should not be picked because it kills them, suggesting that she does not want to be picked by any man. Paul picks flowers almost

naturally and spontaneously. This shows his naturalness and impulsive, rather spontaneous flow of life. Thus the flowers symbolise the characters' attitude to life.

The Symbol of the blood tie is also very important symbol in the story. It is between the mother Mrs. Morel and her son Paul. In the first events of the story there happen a quarrel between Mrs. Morel and her husband Mr. Morel, when she has hit him with a drawer which she is sitting on. The hurt bleeds profusely and two drops of blood fall on the hair of Paul who is in the hands of Mrs. Morel at the moment. The blood is not wash out but it gets soaked in to the scalp of Paul. This small incident is symbolic of the disappointed and frustrated relationship between the husband and wife and the later reversal of attitude of Mrs. Morel towards her husband and the substitution of her sons in place of her husband. The scene is also symbolic of the contract of sprit between the mother and son which is sealed with a blood tie.

A symbol is any object, action or character that stands for both itself and for something larger, such as an abstract concept or emotion. For return to the beginning of this novel, we can see that there are plenty of symbols that we can see. Firstly, consider the egg cups that William wins at the fair and then gives to his mother. The egg cups are clearly a symbol of William's love and affection for his mother, and they show the very close bond that lies between these two characters. In the same way, when her husband returns from the bar late on that day, the gingerbread he has brought for the children is a symbol of his love for his family, although he struggles to express it through his actions and words so often. These two symbols give an idea of how to find more in this compelling novel. Moreover, the symbol of burned potatoes which symbolizing Miriam's total absorption in Paul. In which had the charred bread symbolizes Paul's total absorption in Miriam. optimism and trust are symbolized at the end of the novel with the help of the gold phosphorescence of the city. Hence, the symbolism uses in *Sons and Lovers* is quite simple and easy to understand. They are in no way complex but rather help to a better understanding of the novel.

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