



## Pessimism in Jaun's Poetry

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**Abstract-** The purpose of this study is to explore pessimism running throughout the poetic works of Jaun Elia. This study uses qualitative methodology of study and close reading technique in its procedural framework. Purposive sampling is used in selection of the poems explored. Moreover, it finds stark pessimism in Jaun's poetry by analyzing some of his selected poems.

**Keywords:** pessimism, qualitative methodology, close reading technique, purposive sampling

### I. INTRODUCTION

The term pessimism in Urdu comes from the English term (PESSIMISM) which is a branch of philosophy. Hopelessness is so dominant that no ray of hope and goodness and light can be seen. No human being in the world, whether he is a benefactor or not, must go through the conditions and events of sorrow and happiness. There is no value and no value of life. In their eyes, grief and sorrow are so abundant that they prefer annihilation to survival. According to Dr. Tanveer Hussain, Qunoot, "When the artist in poetry and literature realizes that this world is the home of misery and life is another name for evil, darkness is darkness, no light can be seen from any day of life, life is defeat, future disappointments what else is there?" The greatest exponent of pessimism was Arthur Schopenhauer, who considered life a mere imprisonment and helplessness. Pessimism is essentially a bent of mind of a poet or writer. It is found in almost entire literature of the world. For example, Thomas Hardy is one of the famous novelist in English literature, who is noted for his pessimism. As some critics are of the view that Hardy always presents the darker side of life, and his most of the characters are victims of the cruel clutches of hostile nature. That's why, different critics dub it differently. As far as the appeal of this novel "The Return of the Native" is concerned, is presented in the words of pessimism and fatalism. Thomas Hardy's novels present his philosophy of life at a very large scale. Being pessimist, he always believes that man is born to suffer and he is fatalistic because he believes that destiny is always hostile to man and that it governs over human life. He is of the firm views that a man is not free or not the master of his fate in this universe. It is very evident from the characters and their ending of the lives of Tess, Clym and Eustasia who could not live and move independently and freely.

### II. LITERATURE REVIEW

In Urdu literature, Fani is a poet whose poetry depends on despair, hopelessness and contempt. After Fani, if this attitude is more prominent in any other poet, it is Jaun Elia. Jaun Elia brought such a nature from eternity. He never had anything to do with happiness. He was always sad and hopeless but never had anything to do with optimism in his life. Where Jaun's personal life was spent in failures and deprivations, he also used his deprivation in poetry in such a way that Jaun and poetry have become one. In English literature, Hardy's vision of life is that life is basically tragic and the chance of escape is very rare or remote. These are accidents or coincidences which always aggravate man's tragedy because nature is not friendly to man forever rather it is a foe to him and is always on the verge of a negative role of destroying him forever. "In the Return of the Native," we always see that tragedy happens due to the weaknesses and faults of the characters themselves. In addition to it, hostile circumstances and forces of nature also play a very integral role in shaping them into very miserable conditions. As far as the case of Clym is considered, it is entirely different because of his soft nature, he likes to serve his fellow human beings by providing education to them. He had not been a materialistic and worldly type of man because he left the fashionable life of Paris and returned to his native place Egdon Heath in order to lead a calm, soothing and natural life. Apart from these good qualities, Clym has also his own shortcomings which are responsible for his unhappiness. It is his inability when he fails to perceive Eustacia's unsuitability as a

wife as she is a girl of naturalism and worldly pleasures and ornaments. There is a huge gulf between the nature and temperament of both. His mother is very right in calling her as “an idle, voluptuous · woman”. He fell in love with her and married her but he had failed to keep her happy and satisfied. The reason being, she is of different nature and wants to lead a fashionable city life of a big city. Clym, being a fellow of simple, sober and noble nature fails to keep a balance between his mother and his wife. It is really his major fault that firstly he is inclined to his wife wholeheartedly and later he becomes inclined towards his mother. This shows that he is a man of uncertain and unbalance nature who is unable to maintain balance between his duties to wife and mother. In short, it can be stated that Clym is indeed as unsuitable for Eustasia as she is for him. As far as the case of Eustasia’s personality is concerned, her own temperament is largely responsible for her tragedy. She always dream of living in the advanced fashionable life in Paris and was firstly impressed by the personality of Clym only by watching his personality who recently came back from the artificial life of Paris. So she chooses Clym for her life partner by thinking and expecting that he would fulfill her desires. First, she claims to live even in hermitage with Clym but being unable to subdue her longing feels miserable on Egdon Heath, a place which is a paradise for Clym to live. She cannot accept Clym’s humble occupation as a furze cutter and she is always inconsistent and fickle-minded. Her weak and unstable nature is revealed to us when she even becomes unfaithful to Clym only by being tempted by Wildeve. She never ever thought of serving her mother-in-law which is her moral duty. Her mother-in-law is a respectable mother but she proves to be a rigid and obstinate type of lady and creates problems for her daughter-in-law and her son. She is also responsible for the tragedy. The even does not take part in the welfare works of Clym. Clym opens a school in Egdon Heath in order to educate the people of the area. Instead of supporting and helping in his humanitarian projects, she starts opposing these educational plans of Clym and in this way she produces a gulf between him and herself. Most of the time, she finds faults and taunts Eustasia who is the beloved wife of Clym. She does not have the least kindness and love of human nature towards Eustasia. As far as the personality of Wildeve is concerned, he proves to be a villain is certainly a character of creating many problems which the various characters face. He is a man of sexual lust and keeps on changing loyalties. Owing to the influence of his evil nature and sexual lust, he cannot maintain the balance between the relations of two women. That’s why he marries one of them but keeps on having relations with the other. He makes the matters complicated when he tries to revive his relations with Eustasia who does not marry him at first. In addition to the characters, the situations are also responsible for the tragedy in “The Return of the Native.” We also observe that it is the difference of opinions between the two major characters of Clym & Eustasia which causes the tragedy. It is the place of Egdon Heath where their true nature and temperaments are revealed to us. Clym loves Egdon Heath by the cores of his heart and considers it as a paradise to live but Eustasia hates this very place the most. This very situation caused of tragedy a lot. There is also another incongruity between Clym and his mother which also aggravates the tragedy. Though both of them love one another very much yet their purposes and views of life are different from one another. It is the death of Clym’s mother which serves as a stamp of antagonism between them and the role which was played by Wildeve, made the tragedy much grimmer and heavy. Now we come towards the very integral and important role of destiny which is always very evident in shaping and reshaping Hardy’s character in the novel. In this novel, we see that the role of destiny makes the tragedy heavier. How the hostility of destiny plays its role in the life of a loving couple who suffers dis adjustment on the account of their different attitudes of life. Apart from this, there are also many accidents and co-incidents which make the tragedy possible. How it is coincident that Clym’s mother happens to come to her son for reconciliation when Wildeve is already there and is talking with Eustasia. Clym who is sleeping in the room and it is also by chance that Eustasia does not attend the knocking of door of Mrs. Yeobright just on thinking that Clym’ is present in the room and would open the door but unfortunately he is sleeping and Mrs. Yeobright could not be attended by them. She goes back in a furious and angry mood, is bitten by an adder and dies but before doing she tells everything to Johnny. How chance plays its role here instead of meeting both, Johnny meets Clym. by chance and tells him all whatever Mrs. Yeobright has said to him. Clym starts quarreling with Eustasia and drives her out. It is once again ill-fate of Clym that he writes a letter to her to come back but the letter is not reached or received by her and miscarried. Clym, who is unaware of this, starts waiting for her knock by sitting alone. As he hears the footsteps, he suddenly and eagerly opens the door and finds Thomiosin there who informs him of Eustasia’s flight with Wildeve and this very flight serves as the end with their death.

### III. INTERPRETATION OF PESSIMISM IN JAUN'S POETRY

A poet or a writer with a quintessential mind often suffers from sadness and frustration for no reason and is dissatisfied with the society and its members who in fact have to run the society on their values and ideas. Like Marx, he wanted to follow his own principles, but later admitted his own failure. Jaun's nature is full of sorrow. He remembers things but forgets good things. Attitudes have become so severe that he did not have confidence in society and in himself. As he says:

There is no reason for me to be angry  
The worst thing is what to do  
I lost my self-confidence  
How many claims did I have?  
All the bad ones remember me  
He forgot what was good

This attitude of Jaun is not only limited to his self, but sometimes he also complains to God and cries out for his destiny, subconsciously weeps over his destiny which has become a place of utter despair, hopelessness and evil. As he says:

This world is bad  
That was possible in such a hurry  
O God (which does not exist anywhere)  
What is written in our destiny

When the spirit of loneliness intensifies, one feels lonely even in crowded places and gatherings. Whether it is the normal life of Jaun or poetry slam, everywhere Jaun only felt himself alone. Silence is also considered a horror rather than tolerance, which is generally considered a symbol of tolerance. As he says:

This is my silence in the association  
There is no tolerance, there is horror

Jaun basically wants to be in love, on the one hand, he doesn't consider it a privilege to be in love, while on the other hand. He regrets what will happen to him even if someone wants him. He is a dejected man whom only one can purify and repent. There will be nothing but a dejected person. As he says:

What did you get in the world of passion and desire?  
If we also meet, you will get dejected man

Man to some extent nurtures hope and lives in the hope and expectation that one day this dark night will end and a ray of hope will be seen but the vanity of Jaun overwhelms him so much that he finds real understanding only in the dark night and considers the light as just a dream because the revolution is brought about by those whose hearts are full of rays of hope but whose heart is full of despair. As he says:

Revolution is a dream, it is a dream  
The world of the heart is bad, so be it  
In this night of arrows always  
Light is a dream, so be it

When a person is frustrated, he is ready to adopt the attitude of annihilation. The attitude of annihilation is either due to social decline or due to personal question. Because of these two attitudes, one

takes the path of Sufism or adopt the guise of monasticism, he longs for annihilation. John has fallen into such a state of decline due to personal failure that he is not persuaded to talk to anyone and considers himself annihilated and seeks escape from survival. As he says:

There will be no more conversations

We were annihilated, we are annihilated

Jaun is not only disappointed with himself and this world, but in his eyes, everyone is meeting him just to go. There is no one to support him here, whether it is his own or someone else. This conscious attitude of Jaun is so great. Intense and emotional is the reason and why not when a man is anxious to meet his wife and children even in the last breaths of life who is lying on the bed of death counting the last breaths of life but still no one has at least fulfill his last wish. Now that Jaun has become such a victim of despair that if his soul is going to go away from him, then what will happen if he does not become a victim of despair? As he says:

Everyone was going to leave me

Even so, you have to leave me

Jaun's frustration has grown to such an extent that if anyone tries to make him laugh, he considers it a reason for him to cry, because now if anyone tries to make his heart laugh, it will be tantamount to crying, not laughing. As he says:

Laughter never makes my heart happy

Or make me laugh or cry

Man always lives in the hope that one day his life which is going through hardships and these hardships will be ended and he works hard day and night for it or those whose life is comfortable is the best. He keeps trying to do this, but for Jaun, these things are not. He has become so obsessed with pessimism that he should repent with the best To live or to have a purpose in life which unfortunately he does not have either of these. As he says:

Better a poor horse than no horse at all

June and search! Repentance

Because the world of search has been ruined:

My world is ruined

The world of search, the world of death is gone

Every normal person feels the weather and its effects and the same weather effects also affect their heart and mind. For the poet, the weather and its effects are very meaningful. Jaun is a abnormal poet who is entangled in the grip of despair that now he has not only forgotten the winds and seasons, but he also does not know which season is for whom and what is the tradition of the season of the heart. So, after Mir, Kazmi and Fani, there is a poet whose poetry and life are full of pessimism in every way. This poem of Jaun expresses both his life and pessimism. As he says:

They forgot that the winds were blowing

What was the tradition of which season of the heart?

June is caught in the trap of a hundred years of dejection that not only does he come down to hide his bodies, but even after death he seems to be so caught up in their calamity as Abu Bakr says Jaun is a corpse that curses even his mourners. That is the extreme of despair and hopelessness.

#### IV. CONCLUSION

Pessimism is a hallmark of Jaun Elia's poetry. Jaun was a dejected, hopeless and pessimistic poet who was not happy with the world as it was for him. He tried to make the world as he wanted but in vain. He was not in a position to bring revolution as he was weary of this world. Moreover, life was humdrum for him, there was no laughter for him. He also suffered from narcissism, wishing to be a beloved of someone, to be loved by someone. In a word, Jaun expressed his stark pessimism in his poetry. This study paves the way for other researchers working to explore Jaun's poetry. Narcissism like pessimism can also be explored in Jaun's poetry.

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