

SEARCH FOR IDENTITY IN EMMA DONOGHUE'S *ROOM*

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Abstract

This study is devoted to explore the multilayered influence dispensed by imprisonment through illuminating Emma Donoghue characters Jack and Ma. The characters thirst for identity and physical confinement brought about psychological issues, which had mentally and psychologically detained them and kept them away from connecting appropriately to their free world upon their release. Self Identity is the best chance to re-correct our mistakes. Throughout this novel Ma and Jack want to reach an identity in the society. This article exposes a child perspective and feministic psychological analysis of search for identity in Emma Donoghue's novel *Room* which is published in 2010, it is a celebration of silence and love between parent and child through the impact on the lives of Jack and Ma.

Keywords: *Maternity, Existentialism, Isolation, Freedom, Family Ties.*

The spread of world economy and cosmopolitan cultures have resulted in the emergence of different communities and identities. With the result of this immigration and fast growing world the marginalized people are suffers a lot. They do not know who they are? The dominant culture creates a gap between developed and the developing, the dominant and the dominated, the colonizer and the colonized. The dominant people always represent and suppressed the marginalized. The people who are marginalized are not allowed to show their face to the outside world. They always hide their face behind the thoughts of the society. Most of the people in the world are having the zealous to win their life but some of them are search their identity till the end of their life.

The question of Who am I? Is always a problematic question with different types of possible solutions. Now a day's quest for identity and longing for survival is one of the important problematic situations in our country. The problem arises because of too much of migration and immigration of man for their better living. Therefore, they face a lot of difficulties to adopt a new circumstance. It causes the struggle for survival and searches their identity.

Emma Donoghue is an Irish-Canadian writer who is well known for her novel *Room* published in 2010, which expresses the joys and sorrows and traumatic experiences of narrator Jack and his mother. This novel casts light on the overwhelming experience of captivity that the characters "Jack" and "Ma" go through. Donoghue successfully used a global themes and regional views in her fictions. The author is skilled in laying her stories in different parts of the world like the USA, UK and Ireland. She has introduced a new and fresh form of mixing the voice of women in modern fictions which was produced by women. Her novel *Room* expresses her personal view on the traumatic lives of Jack and his mother in captivity. It is a celebration of silence and the love between parent and child.

A People live without an identity is equal to a boat which is swimming on the sea without any supporting handle. Once in the life time every person should have the opportunity to prove their identity Likewise, In *Room* Jack and his Ma suffers a lot to overcome their struggle.

In the beginning itself Jack thinks that he and his mother are the only creators in the world. All that Jack sees in TV and reads in books are the only real things he believes in. Ma's reality is her child Jack and accordingly his reality is Ma. Ma has a high longing she always ponder about her child because, she doesn't need her child live in a limited world, she realize that her child is a shrewd kid Ma needs to save him. Ma makes a plan to escape from room. She helps Jack her kid to practice each day to get away from dark life until they escape from that place. The portrayal makes us roused and propelled, how is it possible that she would make due in the most exceedingly awful condition. She does it single handedly in a limited world.

Women's struggle is an effort undertaken by women to get their identity and equal rights in society. Likewise, Ma is one such character who struggles to survive with her

child Jack, who is lived in a narrow world. Ma has to live in a single *Room* which is a narrow world. She is not allowed to go outside and she did not have the knowledge about outside world. With the help of TV only Ma knows the current affairs about society.

Every night Ma is forced to sleep with the man who broke her life is Old Nick he kidnapped her at the age of nineteen. Not only Ma leads her life in a limited room but also her dream, her goals and her future is also abduct by man for his cruelty. One day Ma burst out of her predicament and vow upon Old Nick

“I swear I’ll never be quiet again. You’ll have to kill me too to shut me up, I just don’t care anymore.” (Room, 170)

This attitude shows Ma as a good mother who is stand by her own legs and struggles a lot to give her son a better life although in other side she has a trauma and depression due to her past.

After they rescue from room Ma and Jack is trying to adopt the outside world. It is very hard for him to accept the new surroundings. Ma teaches her son about the meaning of life and survival. After the escapement they start their new life in outside world. Ma promised to Jack

“We can do anything now”

“Because we are free.” (193)

With grinning face. That line shows the struggle and painful life of Jack and his mother.

Donoghue points out in several ways that women can solve their problems by her own self. Ma can be a great mother to her son, it is a proof that she give birth to a child without any help of others and she grow up him soon in this manner. That’s why Jack reaches an identity by his own self apart from many obstacles.

Through her bestselling novel *Room* Emma Donoghue has reflected the communal problems in our society. And, the novel shows the profound preoccupation with the problems of exile and isolation. Thus *Room* is an awe-inspiring and enthusiastic work and worth to be appreciated. It clearly expresses the life of protagonists who are often busy in

fear of survival and search their way of life unknown to them, and the plight of oppressed in a prominent way.

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