

THE EXISTENTIAL AGONY OF A BUSINESS MAN IN LOUIS NOWRA'S 'THE BOYCE TRILOGY' - A SOCIOLOGICAL DISCOURSE

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Abstract

Louis Nowra (born 12 December 1950) is an Australian writer, playwright, screenwriter and librettist. He is best known as one of Australia's leading playwrights. His works have been performed by all of Australia's major theatre companies, including Sydney Theatre Company, Melbourne Theatre Company, Queensland Theatre Company, State Theatre Company of South Australia, Belvoir, and many others, and have also had many international productions. His most significant plays are *Cosi*, *Radiance*, *Byzantine Flowers*, *Summer of the Aliens* and *The Golden Age*. In 2006 he completed *The Boyce Trilogy* for Griffin Theatre Company, consisting of *The Woman with Dog's Eyes*, *The Marvellous Boy* and *The Emperor of Sydney*.

His novel *Ice* was shortlisted for the Miles Franklin Award. His script for 1996 movie *Cosi*, which revolves around a group of mentally ill patients who put on a play, won the Australian Film Institute Award that year for Best Adapted Screenplay. Nowra's work as a scriptwriter also includes a credit on the comedy *The Matchmaker* and the Vincent Ward romance *Map of the Human Heart*, which was invited to the Cannes Film Festival. His radio plays include *Albert Names Edward*, *The Song Room*, *The Widows* and the five part *The Divine Hammer*, which aired on the ABC in 2003.

Introduction

Boyce is a group of company which led to build up new building in Sydney. This is a progress company in Sydney. Malcolm is a protagonist of this story. Penny is a wife of him. They have three sons. Their first son name is Keith Boyce and Todd is a middle son of that family. Luke Boyce is a youngest son. This story now starts at Edwardian-era hotel. It has recently in its original style.

It is a big room where they gather to celebrate the marriage anniversary of Malcolm and Penny Boyce. In this room, there is an attached mini bar. Malcolm takes a small cup which is fulfilled with wine. He speaks with Penny. The two members criticize about the hotel and room. A strange man's photo is appeared on the wall. That man has grown long board and moustaches. They ridicule about that photo. Penny says: "The man in the photograph. He must have been the original owner. It must have made them look funny" (5). They tell how this man faces some problems because he never concentrates to share his beard and moustaches. He would not concentrate

to clean his body. Penny explains what her skin has been rubbed raw when they kiss. Malcolm motions to the far end of the room. He goes to take a bottle of whisky. There has a mini bar. Penny also takes a cup of wine. They clink glasses. Penny sips and looks out the window. The snow falls slowly outside of the house.

Penny asks one questions about fairy with Malcolm. He does not believe in this motion. But she believes it. She says one incident which occurs in her childhood age. She describes: "I palled two of my teeth out on purpose so the tooth fairy would come" (6). It denotes the existence of supernatural around her. She believes in it but he does not believe in that action. She is living in conservative life. Malcolm is a business man who did believe in modern life. He never believes damn, fairies. Louis Nowra describes these two characters in paradox. Through she hates him even for petty matters, he loves her very truly. Their two sons lead under father's principle.

In this play, Louis Nowra uses some images. The first image indicates drink the importance of the people of England drink wine as a habit of culture. The Aboriginal people have the habit of drinking the palm wine. Convict people and banished people live in Australia. They corrupt Aboriginals culture, life, food everything. This play portrays the real truth through some characters. Malcolm would want to take a drink. He says: "Took me forever to find the mini bar, it's in the wardrobe" (52). This line expresses the realism of Australians. Malcolm likes to enjoy the anniversary and so he takes a drink. Todd and Keith also do the same. The habit of drinking wine is entirely different from that of Aboriginal people. They belong to convict and banished people.

Malcolm appears as a good business man. Louis Nowra creates him as a sadist and selfish giant. He does not involve in the growth and development of the family. He moves forward in business. As he is totally depended on the culture of modern life, there is no time to taste the blissful mood of life. He likes conquer over the company. His wife is completely opposition to him. She is very conservative. He wants to change the habitual life of Australia. He spends more time with Boyce group and company. He loves job. He wants to go forward in work. Penny spends more time with the family. In wedding anniversary she says: "It's Saturday! This is our anniversary. Stop talking about work" (53). She avoids the conversation of business. They are gathered to celebrate the wedding anniversary. So she is more interested to spend time with her family.

In business life, Malcolm tries to buy everything as a business man. When he takes the Hesperus park project, he bribes some money from politicians and government. He approaches everyone in the illegal way. Louis Nowra describes the mental picture and a clear truth of normal business man. He does not picture to explain these characters as supernatural.

This play talks about the life of Aboriginal people. It teaches that human being must live with a family. Money will meet the needs of a person but it will never bring the joy of pleasure and happiness in one's life. This is a main concept of this play. The Boyce group wants to earn more money. Penny is a role model of that family. She wishes to unite the Boyce group. Louis Nowra takes more attention in the character of

Penny. She is an innocent woman who leads the family in a peaceful way.

This play describes clearly how the house wife struggles against the family. She works like a machine to run the family. The machine is necessary to run every motor cycle. A clever woman knows how to lead the family despite the difficult circumstances. If Penny becomes a business woman she would not able to concentrate on her family and children. She will be focused in earning morning rather than taking care of her family. A conflict and dispute would have arisen between Malcolm and Penny. She would not have obeyed his orders. Louis Nowra describes that life is beautiful and she moulds the family and bring them in one accord in order to lead the family in a prosperous way. Penny appropriates to the character of King Maker in this play.

Feminism can be used to describe a political, cultural or economic movement aimed at establishing equal rights and legal protection for women. Feminism involves political and sociological theories and philosophies concerned with the issues of gender difference as well as movement that advocate gender equality for women.

This play discusses the theory of feminism. Feminism is not an ordinary word. It gives a powerful meaning to that word. It indicates women are suppressed under the dominance of male family. It pictures the reality of woman. This word binds all women's pain, suffering, oppressed and freedom. They protest to get an equal position in the world. Louis Nowra expresses clearly about feminism through the character in the family. Penny's describe and opinions have been suppressed by Malcolm. He wanted Penny to take care of house hold works as well as to lead the family and children.

The playwright gives a correct example of bad life through Keith's marriage life. He says: "None of you know what it's like. You think Gillian's weak, no she isn't. She wants to have control over me. Something good just has to happen with me and she goes mad" (38). It proves her character. She lives only as a business woman. She likes to win over him. Louis Nowra likes to illustrate this kind of example to the world. Earning money is not a man with life. It is only appropriate to business. A good character must live in peace with each other.

Louis Nowra explains the music scene in this play. The orchestra sings a song. These events explains the enjoy movement of Boyce family. These songs express the

memorable moments of the Boyce family. The orchestra sings a song. The fire work explodes. The snow is falling at that time. All feels into darkness. They are all enjoying at the present time. This play insists human being to live with family. In the twentieth century, People go to work hard. There is no time to like everything in the world. They think that money is an important factor in life. They do work for that reason. This life becomes a machine. Human beings are made of flesh. It senses emotion from the society. When they try to do any work, they are suppressed by the work. They need some relaxation. They must make more time with family. They can listen to hear songs and watch films. Malcolm does this activity through this play. He wants to earn more money and behaves as golden star in business this way is very wrong. Louis Nowra advises people to live life very happy.

In this modern world, people do not care about family. They go forward to earn more money. There is no time to spend more time with family. Owing to earning more money, people could not spend more time with family members, friend and neighbor money is very important to lead the family but it is very little of it. When people earn more money, they have lost happy of life, beautiful movements of family. Louis Nowra teaches the modern people to live with family members and spend more time with them. This play is the best example of modernism and feminism.

This play shows clearly the difference between family and modernism. Penny and Diane are the two appropriate conservative characters. Conservatism secures some rules and rituals of nationality. They teach how people live together with neighbors and family. It symbols of sign to live happy. Modernism breaks the rules and it calls conservatism as barbarism. The modern society does not care about rituals and morals. Malcolm is an apt character to modernism. This play is exhibited the difference between modernism and conservatism.

This play gives important technique how people success in project. Achievement is an important good in business. A good business man never cares on family, customers and neighbors. Their aim is only to achieve the target. Malcolm shows this kind of capacity in this play. When the reader read this play, they feel a beautiful enjoyment of a good business man. Not only they have got a flexible character but also a good talent man. The Boyce Group gets this kind of

quality. Louis Nowra explains the immense problem of business. This exhibits the real conflict of business in society.

In this play, Louis Nowra explains love very paradoxically. This love is compared with Antony and Cleopatra. Antony is older person than Cleopatra. He has come to Egypt to fight against her. He has a son. He is a married man. When he sees her in first sight, he falls in love with her. Cleopatra is married another man even if she loves Antony. In literature, their love is portrayed as very sincere. Louis Nowra compares between Luke and Esther's love with Antony's love. Esther's is very old age person than Luke. They love each other truly.

The playwright exhibits Esther's character very sorrow. This play links the realism life of woman who is very suffered by male domination. This world does not treat woman as human beings. The people behave with them as barbarian. The society could not make a new way to show their great talent. People will see them only as exhibition things. Malcolm deceives Esther and so she tries to break the Boyce group. She loves him truly but he does not marry her. He marries Penny. His second son loves too Esther. Malcolm creates one intelligent accident to dies her. Esther deceives more and more by him. This love is very sorrowful love.

Louis Nowra explains the family life very interestingly. Malcolm loves Keith and Luke. He abhors Todd because he thinks that Todd is not appropriate to lead the Boyce group. Malcolm oppresses him. Penny does not treat Todd like as Malcolm. She believes in him that he is very talent boy. These incidents are happened in real life. Louis Nowra never exhibit myth and epic character through this play. He shows what happens in the present world. Penny is a good supportive character in this play.

This play gives more importance to family. In this present world, men do not give self-respect to women. They think that women are machine. They have no soul and body. This society treats them only for bearing children and lead family. Mother is not an ordinary word. It is very powerful that this play shows the truth. Penny thinks that their sons are very talent. She could not think to split them. Malcolm does the wrong way but she unites all. She is a pillar of Boyce group because she takes a correct decision who is leaded the Boyce group after death of Malcolm. Louis Nowra exhibits the truthful character of woman by Penny in this play.

His plays picture the realism in family and business lives. It also clearly indicates the difference between conservatism and modernism. It discusses feminism, post-modernism, cultural, reality, identity, family and psycho-analyses. In this modern world, people concentrate only on to earn money and they do not care about family and its environments. It shows the real suffering of business man. The Boyce Group is a famous building construction company in Sydney. This play describes the growth and development of the Boyce group. Malcolm is well appropriate with Modernistic character in this play. He always promulgates the ideas to develop this Boyce Group in Sydney. This play insists that money is a main part in life to run the family happily.

Conclusion

Penny is portrayed as epitome of well cultured to cultural woman. Her idea is completely about to secure a joyful family life. Not only she is mother but also a great king maker of the Boyce Family. The researcher has taken up Louis Nowra's The Boyce Trilogy: The Woman with Dog's Eyes, The Marvellous Boy, and The Emperor of Sydney for the analysis.

Works Cited

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