

TRACES OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION
AS REFLECTED IN MALE AND FEMALE
RELATIONSHIPS IN D. H. LAWRENCE'S
SONS AND LOVERS

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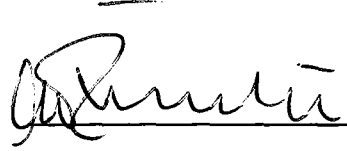
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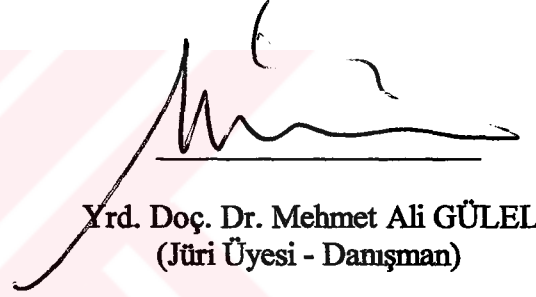


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ABSTRACT

The Industrial Revolution was one of the main events that had affected the whole world, which made many changes not only for the society but also for the individual. The man who wanted to earn much money so as to live became addicted to the machine. Due to the results of the distinctions among the classes, the upper class was always the commander; the working class was always made to work like a slave. The revolution had many positive results such as; use of coal, iron and the changes in textiles, however: it damaged the soul of human being seriously. For this reason, in this dissertation the aim is to visualize the effects of The Industrial Revolution on male-female relationship by analyzing D. H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers*, which was written just after the revolution. Here, it must be noted that the writer had personally experienced the term. The writer was one of those who had first experienced and observed the disastrous changes within his family. He knew that the revolution had alienated from his family and the society, so he ambitiously fought against the revolution.

In Chapter I, the introduction part gives general information about the results of the revolution and what will be analysed within the thesis. It also contains some clues for the reader to which questions he will find out the answers.

In Chapter II, brief information about The Industrial Revolution is being presented. Here, the aim is mostly to show the effects of the revolution on society and more of that, the damages on family life. Although there were great changes in life, the man being drawn into a psychologically depression must be emphasized.

In Chapter III, after given some information about the writer and the novel, it is observed the changing moods of male-female relationship on fictional characters after the revolution in *Sons and Lovers*. Male-female relationship is not practiced only due to the revolution, the novel was written under the influence of the life of the writer, so it has been paid attention to the other changes in this relationship.

Finally, in Chapter IV, some of the results are given as a summary of the thesis: the bibliography, which had been referred to, and the autobiography are being presented.

Seçil ÇAKIR

ÖZET

Tüm dünyayı etkileyen başlıca olaylardan biri olan Sanayi Devrimi, gerek toplum gerek insan hayatında büyük değişimlere neden olmuştur. Hayatını sürdürebilmek için daha fazla para kazanmak zorunda kalan insanoğlu, her geçen gün makinelere daha bağımlı hale gelmiştir. Sınıflar arası farkın da sonucu olarak üst sınıf her zaman hükmetmiş, alt sınıf ise her zaman bir köle gibi çalıştırılmıştır. Sanayi Devrimi, kömür, demir ve tekstil alanındaki gibi insan hayatına olumlu değişiklikler katsa da insanoğlunun ruhunda derin yaralar açılmasına neden olmuştur. Bu çalışmada Sanayi Devrimi'nin kadın-erkek ilişkisi üzerindeki etkisi, D. H. Lawrence'ın *Sons and Lovers* adlı eserindeki karakterler analiz edilerek ortaya konulmaya çalışılmıştır. Roman, devrim sonrası kaleme alındığından yazarın da dönemi yaşayanlardan birisi olduğu göz ardı edilmemelidir. Yazar, bu değişimi ilk önce kendi ailesi içinde yaşayarak, devrimin olumsuz yanlarını gören bir kişilik olmuştur. Onu ailesine ve topluma yabancılaştırmanın devrimin kendisi olduğunu bilmekte ve devrime karşı azimle savaşmaktadır.

Birinci bölümde, devrimin sonuçları ve bu çalışmada nelerin analiz edileceği hakkında genel bir bilgiyle beraber, okuyucunun bu çalışmada hangi sorulara yanıt bulacağı hakkında bazı ipuçları da verilmektedir.

İkinci bölümde, Sanayi Devrimi hakkında genel bilgi sunulmuştur. Burada amaç, devrimin toplum üzerindeki etkilerini ve daha da önemlisi aile yaşamına verdiği zararları göstermektir. Topluma getirdiği yeniliklerin de hiçbir şekilde yadsınmadığı bilinmeli, fakat insanı nasıl bir ruhsal çöküntüye götürdüğü de unutulmamalıdır.

Üçüncü bölümde, yazar ve roman hakkında bilgi verildikten sonra *Sons and Lovers* adlı eserde devrim sonrası roman karakterlerinde değişen kadın-erkek ilişkileri sunulmuştur. Kadın-erkek ilişkisi sadece devrime bağlı kalınarak işlenmemiş, yazarın kendi hayatı örnek alınarak incelendiği için kişinin hayatında olabilecek diğer değişimlere de örnekler verilmiştir.

Son olarak, dördüncü bölümde, yapılan bu çalışmayla varılan bazı sonuçlar özet halinde verilmiş, bu çalışmanın oluşturulmasında yararlanılan kaynaklar ve özgeçmiş sunulmuştur.

Seçil ÇAKIR

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1. 1 THE PRESENTATION OF THE THESIS

During the second half of the 18th century, the world experienced the two revolutions, which drastically changed the life. One was The French Revolution, and the other was The Industrial Revolution. The French Revolution was rather a harsh one and the results of the revolution were very damaging but in the end the feeling of freedom and equality had covered the world.

It was inevitable that both economists and historians looked more closely at The Industrial Revolution. Of all the historical examples, none was more important or more interesting than The Industrial Revolution in England. It was the first industrial revolution; it led to the first example of modern economic growth; it was a growth achieved without external assistance; it was growth accompanied by a social and political revolution, which was achieved by little violence.

The Industrial Revolution was the result of many fundamental changes that transformed agricultural economies into industrial ones. The most immediate changes were in the nature of production: what was produced, as well as where and how. Goods that had traditionally been made at home or in small workshops began to be manufactured in the factory. Productivity and technical efficiency grew dramatically through the systematic, scientific and practical knowledge of a manufacturing process. Efficiency was also enhanced when large groups of business were located within a limited area. The Industrial Revolution led to the growth of cities as people moved from rural areas into urban communities in search of work.

The changes brought by The Industrial Revolution overturned not only traditional economies, but also whole societies. Economic changes caused social

changes, including the movement of people to cities due to the new ways of doing business. Economic development brought by The Industrial Revolution was combined with superior military technology to make the nations of Europe and their cultural offshoots, such as the United States, the most powerful in the world in the 18th and 19th centuries.

With the development of The Industrial Revolution in Britain, coal was the main source of power. Even before the 18th century, some British industries had begun using the country's plentiful coal supply instead of wood. The important advance in iron production followed the process of using coal. People enabled iron which was inexpensive and abundant to be used in various ways such as building heavy machinery, and in the development of railroads which improved transportation. Like iron production, steam engines and some inventions in textile industry found many uses in a variety of other industries. They were other examples of how some changes brought by industrialization led to even more changes in other areas.

The movement of people away from agriculture into industrial cities brought great stresses to many people in the labour force. Women in the households who had earned income from spinning found the new factories taking away their source of income. Traditional weavers could no longer compete with the mechanized production of cloth and skilled labourers sometimes lost their jobs as new machines replaced them.

People had to work long hours under harsh conditions in the factories. In addition to this, factory owners and managers paid the minimum amount for a work, often recruiting women and children to tend the machines because they could be hired for very low wages.

There were strong pressures in society towards a high degree of independence for individuals or family groups. Adolescents and young adults had good work and earning opportunities and could move away from the parental home. There were also strong pressures in the opposite direction. Crises in family life, through the illness of a parent or unemployment of the breadwinner, were frequent. There was no social security for these, only there was a law that existed as a safety net but it enforced the separation of family members. Neighbours could

give help, but at a time of great fluidity people might not be neighbours for long. Thus, The Industrial Revolution shattered all male-female relationship within the family and the society.

Here, the purpose of this dissertation is not to discuss the historical background of The Industrial Revolution, its causes and process. Instead, it is important to note the effects of the revolution on human beings who experienced the change. David Herbert Lawrence was one of those who experienced the period and who witnessed how the difficulties had affected the people thoroughly. Thus, while writing the novel *Sons and Lovers*, Lawrence did not feel uncomfortable when he was creating his characters. The characters were the real members of his family and in fact, he wrote the story as if he was recording the daily life of him and his family. He used his creativity not in creating a new character but in enriching the characters with his artistic view.

David Herbert Lawrence was not very popular as long as he lived. What he made popular was to point out the passionate side of man's nature in his novels and to visualise the events from a different perspective. He wanted to mean that passion and intellect should be balanced in a human being. His third novel, *Sons and Lovers*, written in 1913 was the first great novel of English working class life. What he had put forward in the book was about his suffering after The Industrial Revolution.

Here, the first key letter of this dissertation is The Industrial Revolution. The historians were not able to give the exact date of the revolution, moreover how it affected the world, what kind of changes were observed after this big explosion is more important than the date. The reader can understand Lawrence by analysing the effects of the revolution on human beings.

In *Sons and Lovers*, Lawrence was much dealt with the changes in human being and in order to do so he planned a journey into deep parts of people. He reflected his thoughts by means of male-female relationship and he wanted to give some clues about the traces of the revolution in this relationship, too. He knew that it was hard for people to adapt themselves into a new system but on the other hand, he was aware that the bond between male and female couldn't be damaged in spite of the effects. A male and a female get married so as to begin a new life

together, and this is not an artificial process that brings male and female together, it must be based on real love. And one should keep in mind that each member of the couple is an individual in this process.

The second key letter is Working Class. As the writer was grown up in an atmosphere of a working class, he had confronted with many difficulties. Especially after the revolution the life of Lawrence and his family changed a bit greatly and he observed how the relationships of male and female were affected by this new system.

As the industrialization and urbanization shaped the families, there were some changes in the socio-economic life. The life was so hard for a large family like the Morels so the children had to work at a very young age. In addition to this, Morel had to do an extra work on Sundays to run the family, too. Thus, the family was very careful in spending the money; they did not spend it on luxurious things. But when the eldest son began to work and live away from the parental home, he began to change and alienated himself from the poor life of his parents. But the poor family had to live on its own dark and cold cottage.

The Industrial Revolution drew a strict line between the classes. There were the managers who had everything and the workers who had nothing to do except to use their power in order to increase the profit of the managers. On one side there were the owners and on the other there were the slaves. In this dissertation, this distinction has been viewed, too but more of that the class conflict between the parents has been put forward. One was who had to work like a slave from morning to evening, without having any interest to his family and the other one who was always ashamed of her place within the society and wanted to be in a higher status.

This class conflict grew bigger as time passed and living in the same house for these two people became difficult. They would not be husband and wife in the house; they continued to live like strangers just for the sake of their children. But the children had been greatly affected by this lack of communication. As the father was not at home for the most part of the day so the children resembled their mother and blamed their father for all the difficulties. This drew a wide gap between the father and the children.

The division between the working class father and the refined ambitious mother is not a division between good and bad, though Lawrence thought at the time that he was lauding his mother and damning his father. He later confessed that he had done his father an injustice in not recognizing his genuine vitality and personality. Therefore, any sensitive reader of the novel can see at once that the mother is presented with all her passions and stands in the long run for death, and the father is allowed to play any real part in the novel and stands in his own shabby way for life in a small mining village.

The revolution had many bad effects on human beings and it also destroyed their religion. Under harsh conditions religion was like a safe boat for most people and Mrs. Morel was one of those. But in doing this, she had some problems because her husband's behaviour did not fit with religion. Alcoholism, lying and behaving badly to her and her children made her alienated from him and the relationship between the male and the female was stocked. Alcoholism and lying became serious problems within the most of the families.

The miners worked all day long in mines and after work they wanted to do the same things. Thus, they often went to pubs where they spent the night and had a good time. On the other hand, they spent less time at home and became aliens for the householders. Damning the father gave way to have a close relationship with the mother. But this might not happen in all families, what Lawrence experienced was this in his own life and reflected it in his novel. After his mother's death he became aware of the Oedipal¹ problem. This mother-son relationship will be analysed in this dissertation, too.

This industrialization period increased in the proportion of women in paid work, both inside and outside the home as well as in factories and in workshops. This created the possibilities of greater female status and power. But technological and economic change fostered antagonism between male and female workers in the labour market. It then became much more difficult for women to find employment outside the house. But when the factory managers made up their

¹Sigmund Freud, *The Standard Edition of the Complete Psychological Works of Sigmund Freud*, translated under the General Editorship of James Strachey in collaboration with Anna Freud, London: Hogarth Press and the Institute of Psycho-Analysis, 1958, p. 24.

minds to employ women and children with low payments, the men had to accept the use of working women in the factories.

Working in the factories would be a first step for women but this was not enough for them. A new period had begun for them to find their lost identity in the house. By means of feminism, women fought for themselves in order to declare their presence within the society as individuals. Of course, it was very difficult for men to accept these but nothing could be changed as time passed.

In this point there began a struggle between Lawrence himself and the new modern society. The man began to change and the people had some problems in adapting themselves into the new industrialisation period.

In one of his letters, Lawrence said: "One sheds one's sickness in books, repeats and presents again one's emotions, to be master of them."² By writing this sort of novel the writer thought that he could escape from his pain in his childhood, adulthood, his hatred towards his father, his deep passion towards his mother and his pain after his mother's death. Thus, he was obliged to write this novel.

Therefore if it is to find out what the problem is that the changing moods of the people in contrast with the new coming industrialisation. Lawrence had been disturbed greatly by the results of the revolution and by writing this novel he wanted to share his discomfort with the reader.

Although the novel is formulated under a single character, Paul, that follows him from his childhood to maturity, his mother is the origin of his whole life. She is placed in the most important part of the novel.

If it is to draw some of the aims about this dissertation:

1. How did The Industrial Revolution affect the people economically, socially and psychologically?
2. What were the traces of The Industrial Revolution in male-female relationships?
3. What kind of an effect did the mother have on the members of the family especially on her sons in *Sons and Lovers* due to the traces of The Industrial Revolution?

² Mina Urgan, D. H. Lawrence, İstanbul: Yapı Kredi Yayınları, 1997, p. 17.

As a result of these statements, the hypothesis can be as follows:

People make many changes in their lives as long as they live. Sometimes they have problems in adapting themselves into changes. These changes are sometimes necessary, sometimes not. No matter how these changes affect all the members of the society, an individual has to adapt himself in this new system and with giving much trouble to himself.

In this dissertation the aim is to give some information about the changes after the revolution and to see the traces of it reflected in male-female relationships in *Sons and Lovers*. At this point, it is important to put the limitations of this dissertation. For instance, there is more than one male-female relationship in the novel such as:

- Walter and Gertrude
- Walter and the children
- Gertrude and William
- Gertrude and Paul
- Paul and Miriam
- Paul and Clara

These are some of the examples of the relationships in *Sons and Lovers* but in this dissertation, the relationships that are among the family members are given much importance. Because the main problems appeared within the Morels and these problems affected the other people, too. These relationships are examined from different aspects as: socio-economically, under the effect of class distinction, about the problems in marriage and etc. but in order to understand these relationships the reader has to know much about the changes after The Industrial Revolution and this subject will be held in the following chapter.

CHAPTER II

BRIEF INFORMATION ABOUT THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION

2. 1 DEFINITION, ORIGIN OF THE PHRASE AND HISTORY

Few historians question the fact that 'something' happened in Britain in about 1750, generally called 'The Industrial Revolution'. However, like all other historical events, The Industrial Revolution started when and where it did for a very number of specific reasons. But of all historical examples of growth, none is more important or more interesting than The Industrial Revolution. It was the first industrial revolution and it led to the first example of modern economic growth.

While The Industrial Revolution is often observed as an economic process, it also involved socio cultural changes. It was a turning and starting point of growth, which was accompanied by a social and political revolution. But undoubtedly, The Industrial Revolution was what is now called 'economic growth' and its essential characteristic was an increase in the rate of growth of the output of goods and services.

The phrase ' The Industrial Revolution' is so familiar that it is enshrined in the English language. Most people roughly know what it means, but the exact definition is more difficult. Historians tend to use it up into three different ways. Sometimes it is taken to be the very rapid growth of manufacturing industry, cotton and iron. This usage can be connected with the growth of factories and the use of steam power. Alternatively, it is taken to be the structural change in the economy occurrence over a longer period between the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. And the final meaning attached to the phrase 'Revolution'. It is seen in which the entire economy broke out from a state in which total national income grew only.

As it is generally known Great Britain was the birthplace of The Industrial Revolution because the economic and political conditions were ideal. They had...

1. manpower that men leaving their areas to work in cities
2. capital made on wars and trade for investment
3. a large colonial empire and established trade agreements
4. a perfect leadership to manage the factories
5. materials such as coal, iron and other resources
6. kinds of transportation, such as roads, rails and shipping facilities
7. mind that gifted men with ideas

These improvements played a key role in the development of the revolution as well as the people who knew how to build and run them. In addition, Great Britain's government pursued a hands-off economic policy. This free market approach was made popular through British philosopher and economist Adam Smith. This policy permitted fresh methods and ideas to flourish with little interference or regulation.

Before The Industrial Revolution, England's economy was based on cottage industry. Workers would buy raw materials from merchants, take them back to their cottages and produce the goods at their home. It was usually owned and managed by one or more people who were generally close to each other. And this organization was almost among the family members. They were the bosses and as a result they were happy. They could stop working whenever they wanted. This industry was efficient but the workers' productivity was low, making costs higher. The longer it took one person to manufacture a product, the higher the price was. As a result, the goods were in high price and available only to the wealthy. The poor did not have any money not only for clothing but also food, heating, shelter ...etc.

By the year 1733, the demand for cotton cloth was high, but production was low. This crisis had to be solved so the answer came from a British weaver, John Kay, who invented the flying shuttle that cut weaving time in half. Kay was a pioneer and his invention paved the way for other inventions. At first many workers did not accept machines, but what was inevitable, could not be stopped. The machines had their way to England and nothing could stop them.

The causes of The Industrial Revolution became a focus of interest with the expansion of development economics and policies in the 1950s. Most of the textbooks of the 1950s, 60s and 70s drew up lists of factors for industrialization in Britain. As Hartwell suggested:

“...an increase in the rate of capital formation (either because of low interest rates encouraging investment, or because of profit inflation); an increase in world trade (the natural result of an expanding geographical frontier), in which England gained disproportionately (thus stimulating export industries and finally, general growth); a technological revolution (the result of an autonomous increase in knowledge , the application of which transformed the machinery and organisation of industry making it much more productive); and growth of laissez faire and of a rational ethic towards wealth (the result of changes both in philosophic and religious convictions) which liberalised the context and possibilities of enterprise.”³

The Industrial Revolution had great effects in the aspects of life in the 18th and 19th centuries. But its effects could not be limited within these two ages. Revolution did not burst out all of a sudden. Its germination dates were back in the 14th and 15th centuries. These two ages were much more significant because many sea routes were discovered at this time. Colonization started and new sources of raw materials were found. After the process of many inventions, the rapid growth of new ones and the revolution was unavoidable.

The changes began in Great Britain and spread through regions of Europe and to the United States during the following century. Today mechanized production and modern economic growth continue to spread to new areas of the world.

The Industrial Revolution is called a revolution because it altered the society both significantly and rapidly. All over the human history, there had been another change as important as The Industrial Revolution. This was what

³R. M. Hartwell, *The Industrial Revolution and Economic Growth*, London: Methuen & Co Ltd, 1971, p. 10.

anthropologists called the Neolithic Revolution, which took place in the later part of the Stone Age. In the Neolithic Revolution, people moved from social systems based on hunting and gathering to much more complex communities that depended on agriculture and domestication of animals. This led to the rise of urban civilizations so brought a shift from the agricultural societies created during the Neolithic Age to modern industrial societies.

In the long run, the revolution had brought economic improvement for most people in industrialized societies. Many enjoyed greater prosperity and improved health, especially those in the middle and the upper classes of society. There had been costs, however, in some cases the lower classes of society had suffered economically. Industrialization had brought factory pollutants and greater land use, which harmed the natural environment. Also the application of machinery and science to agriculture had led to greater land use that meant the loss of habitat for animals and plants. Moreover, drastic population growth following the industrialization had contributed to the decline of natural habitats and resources. These factors had caused many species to become extinct or endangered.

2. 2 CHANGES IN INDUSTRY

The interest in science aided innovation and invention. But scientific knowledge was not something that had sprung up in a few years. It had been made up for long years. Not only British but also French scientists played an important role in science. Yet the contacts between the science and industry seemed to have been stronger in Britain. The contact between industrialists and other groups was easier because it was a small country in which the branches of industry had developed earlier. Certainly the period between 1750 and 1830 saw rapid growth in the cotton and iron industries. This same period saw a decline in agriculture's share of the labour force and a growth in manufacturing and mining.

2. 2. 1 Iron and Coal

The important advance in iron production occurred in 1784 when an Englishman Henry Cort invented new techniques for rolling raw iron, a finishing process that shaped iron into the desired size and form. They enabled iron, which was inexpensive and abundant, to be used in many new ways, such as building heavy machinery. Iron was well suited for heavy machinery because of its strength and durability. Because of these new developments iron came to be used in machinery for many industries.

Iron was also vital to the development of railroads, which improved transportation. Better transportation made commerce easier, and with the growth of commerce enabled the economic growth to spread to many regions.

Modern society required power to run its machinery. During the development of the revolution in Britain coal was the main source of power. Even before the 18th century, some British industries had started using the country's plentiful coal supply instead of wood, which was much scarcer. Coal was adopted by the brewing, metalworking and glass and ceramics industries, demonstrating its potential for use in many industrial processes.

A major point in the use of coal occurred in 1709 at Coalbrookdale in the valley of the Severn River. The English industrialist Abraham Darby used coke - a highly converted form of coal- to produce iron ore. After that metal makers discovered ways of using coal and coke to speed up the production of raw iron, bar iron and other metals.

But the industrial work in coal mining was often hazardous. To excavate coal at such depths posed special problems to mine owners and more of that to mine workers. There were no professional mining engineers at that time so they needed miners from Wales and Scotland. Even if how these miners were successful in their works, it was still very hard for them to work underground without any instruments.

There were two big problems in mining coal underground. The first one was no system was present to drain water from the mine and the second; nothing was to ventilate the mine and to provide fresh air to the mines. Furthermore, a

special problem in coalmines was the methane gas that sometimes could catch fire and explode.

Andrew Roy was one of the experts in coalmines who then became a leader of the miners and a leader of their efforts to build a coal mines union. He explained the problem as:

“All mines have water in them. In many drift mines, particularly in those in which the workings extend to the rise of the strata, the water is discharged by agitation. In slopes and shafts natural drainage is impossible, and the waters of the mine must be pumped or lifted out by steam power.”⁴

Under these circumstances it was very difficult to work in mines. The miners were always in danger but nothing could be done because they knew they were unskilful for any other work. Different methods of mining coal were employed in many locations throughout England. All coal mining had one trait in common; the movement of coal was accomplished solely by muscle power—animal, man, woman and child, the latter being the most desirable for their size. The process of removing the coal was obviously as slow as it was dirty. Coal was moved along horizontal tunnels by the basketful and hauled up a vertical shaft to the surface. Later, the underground movement of coal was speeded up by the utilization of ponies and carts on rail.

Improvements in coal mining came in the form of improved tunnel ventilation, improved underground and surface transportation, the use of gunpowder to blast away at the coal seams, and improved tunnel illumination through the use of safety lamps.

2. 2. 2 Steam

If iron were the key metal of The Industrial Revolution, the steam engine would be perhaps the most important machine technology. James Watt made the most significant improvements, allowing the steam engine to be used in many

⁴Andrew Roy, *The Practical Miner's Companion; or Papers and Mining in the Ohio Coal Field*, Columbus: Westbole Printing Company, 1885, p. 97.

industrial settings. After a while Boulton and Watt solved technical problems and spread the solutions to other companies. This type of interaction between companies was important because it reduced the amount of research time and expense that each business had to spend working with its own resources.

After 1785 when a steam engine was installed in a cotton factory, steam began to replace water as power for the new machines. Also the development of steam locomotive and steamship in the early 19th century made it possible to ship the products to distant markets more rapidly and more economically.

2. 2. 3 Textiles

The industry most often associated with The Industrial Revolution is the textile industry. In earlier times the weaving of cloth and other processes occurred at home and most of the work done by people working alone or with family members. This pattern lasted for many centuries.

John Kay created the first important invention in textile production -as it noted before – a flying shuttle. After that James Hargreaves had invented the spinning jenny, a machine that spins a number of threads at once and Richard Arkwright had organized the first production using water-powered spinning. Also Samuel Crompton introduced a machine called the mule, which improved mechanized spinning.

The most attracting results of these changes were enormous increases in the output of goods per worker. This kind of rising productivity was the central economic achievement that made The Industrial Revolution such a milestone in human history.

2. 3 CHANGES IN SOCIETY

The Industrial Revolution also had considerable impact upon the nature of work. It significantly changed the daily lives of ordinary men, women and children in the regions where the revolution grew.

2. 3. 1 Class Distinctions

Class is a complex term, which belongs to the period 1770-1840, when society was reorganized as a result of The Industrial Revolution. The economic changes of that period gave the opportunity for individual social mobility and created awareness that social position could be made rather than inherited. Before the revolution writers spoke of 'ranks', 'orders' and 'degrees' in a hierarchical society shaped like a pyramid, with the 'common people' at the base. Increasing the use of the term 'class' in a new way describes the idea that a change was happening in the relationships between different social groups.

Charles More emphasized the class feeling as follows:

“Placing someone in a class can be merely a neutral description of their occupation. This applies to the census authorities’ ‘social classes’, used in presenting government statistics, which are arrived at by using an individual’s occupation as a basis for allocation to a particular social class. If we are interested in a class as a source of solidarity and conflict, and in the meaning that individuals attached to belonging to a class, then we need to make judgements about the classes into which society should be categorised. Most people in the 19th century Britain saw landowners as upper class, the middle class as the section of society ranging from big businessmen and professional people down to clerks and shopkeepers, and the working class as comprised of manual workers.”⁵

The capitalists and the working people being rich or poor are based on the policy of taxation and this part fills a large gap in one country’s economy. There was a big conflict between the capitalists who owned property and the people who did not because capitalism made an increase in the soul-destroying of labour at work and prevented technology from the lives of the workers. Therefore, class was an economic category where capitalism placed one man’s freedom to develop

⁵Charles More, *The Industrial Age: Economy and Society in Britain: 1750-1985*, New York: Longman Inc., 1989, p. 191.

his own faculties. Besides, people were not aware of their exploitation by capitalists. Arriving at this feeling makes the term 'class-consciousness'.

The growth of class-consciousness during The Industrial Revolution was a dominant theme in the literature. According to Perkin:

*"A class society is characterized by class feeling, that it is by the existence of vertical antagonism between a small number of horizontal interest groups, each based on a common source of income. Such vertical antagonism and horizontal solidarity of each class transcend the common source of income which supports them."*⁶

In Perkin's view The Industrial Revolution saw the birth of class in his sense. The groups were articulated around social pyramids representing an economic sector. Different social classes can be distinguished by inequalities such as power, authority, and wealth, working and living conditions, life styles, education, religion and culture.

The Industrial Revolution saw the emergence of three broad classes: the landed aristocracy whose income came from rents, the second class whose income came from profits and the working population who were dependent. These three were in conflict because each could raise its share only at the expense of others. Changes in the structure and organization of industry and agriculture gave new opportunities for antagonism, which resulted in the emergence of class feeling.

Thompson also argued that the period from 1790 to 1830 gave way to the English working class. But apart from Perkin, Thompson made the importance upon class as lived or perceived experience:

"Classes do not exist as separate entities, look around, find an enemy class and then start to struggle. On the contrary, people find themselves in a society structured in determined ways (crucially but not exclusively in productive relations), they experience exploitation (or the need to maintain power over those whom they exploit), they identify points of antagonistic interest, they

⁶H. Perkin, *The Origin of Modern English Society: 1780-1880*, London: Routledge, 1969, p. 176.

commence to struggle around these issues, and in the process of struggle they discover themselves as classes."⁷

As it is emphasized above, nothing could be emerged without any reason. Place and time both prepare the conditions for the event. Because of that classes occur due to the time and place. Most of the English deeply believe in that classes are unavoidable characteristics of an English society. But while classes exist, they also bring the competition and struggle with them. People cannot choose the class they want to be in, they find themselves in a class, which has been made by outer affects. One of the outer affects that Thompson also puts much emphasis on in the creation of class is the economic structure. The better economic conditions mean the better facilities the people will have.

There were many theories of class. For instance the German sociologist Marx Weber questioned the importance of social classes in the political development of modern societies, pointing out religious mores, nationalism and other factors playing as well. According to Karl Marx, he identified three great social classes: "wage labourers, capitalists and landlords"⁸.

Despite different theories of class, there is general agreement among social scientists on the characteristics of the principal social classes. Some specific terms such as upper class, middle class and working (lower, labour) class were come into common usage.

2. 3. 1. 1 Upper Class

Members of the upper class are distinguished by the possession of largely inherited wealth. They are able to develop a distinctive style of life based on cultural pursuits and leisure activities. The class is made up of aristocrats and the gentry. In the case of the aristocrats, the title and the land usually go to the oldest son. They also procure a superior education for their children and have economic opportunities to continue family wealth.

⁷E. P. Thompson, *Eighteenth-Century English Society: Class Struggle without Class*, Social History 3: London: Macmillan, 1978, p. 149.

⁸ Karl Marx, *Capital*, London: 1973, p. 287.

The head of a titled family has responsibilities and privileges. He could not be arrested for debt, and if he were charged with a criminal offence, he would be tried by a jury, made up of other noblemen, in a special court rather than in an ordinary criminal court.

This dominant class controls not only material production but also the production of ideas. It has a control over the political system and has a considerable influence on economic policy. They own everything of importance to human survival and happiness, which gives them a huge amount of power and influence over the lives of the rest of the people. In fact they are the members of the ruling class. They rule over the land and all other things because they own and control them. They sometimes may be rude to the people who work for them.

The upper class became hard to define in the nineteenth century. The definition of a gentleman was not quite at this point. This was because of the success that many people enjoyed from The Industrial Revolution and the wealth that it brought them. Class could no longer just be based on money, and many people became anxious to become gentlemen.

2. 3. 1. 2 Middle Class

The Industrial Revolution did not only affect the economy and industries during the nineteenth century. The development of the factory and the growth of commerce made it necessary to employ managers and clerical staff. New professional groups emerged such as engineers, chemists and other qualified personnel. These groups formed the middle class. The changes brought by the revolution provided more opportunities for the middle class to obtain better jobs and more money.

The middle class was a diverse group that included everyone between the working class and the upper class. It included successful industrialists, bankers, clerks and railway engine drivers. Some working class individuals who earned high wages, own credit cards considered themselves 'middle class' but they forgot the fact that they must work to pay off bills, to run a business and of course in order to survive.

The middle class of the revolution helped to finance railways and overseas investments. They were distinguished by their education, religious affiliation, life style and level of income. At the top of the middle class there were bankers, merchants, engineers, military and naval officers, university professors and businessmen. Their sons were educated at boarding schools and universities. The lower class consisted of shopkeepers, clerical workers, teachers and the lower ranks of professions. To work, they needed to be literate but not a higher education. Their children were kept in school until the age of twelve or fourteen, after that they worked in the family shop.

It is interesting to note this class importance. The lower middle class vote proved to be important during election times, but unfortunately this group always seemed to lack representation in the House of Commons.

The middle class maintained a set of values and ideas even though they had achieved status and income. They valued hard work, sexual morality and individual responsibility. Their education became important so their sons had the chance to go to local grammar or private schools.

Thompson points out that one of the characteristics of the middle class was the "family life"⁹. The working class sent their children to work at a very young age and upper class children were raised by servants and saw little of their parents. But middle class people had the opportunity to be together. Home and family were the centre of their life.

Whether the other classes realized it or not, the middle and its values had the greatest influence on the times and their ideals prevailed throughout this era.

2. 3. 1. 3 Working Class

At a time of having the power in the hands of upper class, no other person had the chance of being free both physically and spiritually. The power was not well balanced so there was the weak, the poor and on the other side there was the strong, the rich.

⁹Christine Rider and Micheal Thompson (ed.), *The Industrial Revolution: In Comparative Perspective*, Florida: Kieger Publishing Company, 2000, p. 78.

First of all, the grazing lands were taken from the villagers or they were forced to sell them. This was all because of the cotton industry. The rich required all land for own benefit. Sülker stated this event as "...at last the sheep ate the man"¹⁰. He meant that the villager became the slave of what he had had before. But this one could not be limited only with the cotton industry; other industries took benefit, too. But it was unavoidable that the poor became the slave of the rich.

The growth of industries produced this distinctive class different from upper and middle class. On the class hierarchy, the working class was the lowest on the ladder. It was this class, which did not fully benefit from the changes of the revolution. Although their jobs were created by this trend, their lives were hard which were controlled by the industry.

Thompson's thesis was that "the period from 1790s to the 1830s saw the making of English working class"¹¹. What characterizes the working class is lack of property and dependence on wages. There are low living standards, restricted to have a higher education and more important that is decision making. They earned just enough to stay alive, they could easily be thrown into poverty by illness or layoffs. They lived primarily in urban centres where their jobs were located.

There was a great diversity within the working class. There was a hierarchy, with highly skilled ones at the top such as cabinetmakers and engine drivers. Below there was a lower class consisted of small shopkeepers. Below them were the workers such as tailors and building tradesmen. And at the bottom there were the labourers and unskilled workmen. Although they were at the bottom, they were many in number but their life was bound to the others above them. Because of that upper class people regarded working class as sunken people.

In order to survive the members of the working class needed more income from other members of the family. Husband continued to work between 12 and 14 hours a day and most of the wives did not have the luxury to stay at home so they

¹⁰Kemal Sülker, *İşçi Sınıfının Doğuşu*, (yazarın çev.), (n.p.): Yenigün Haber Ajansı, Mayıs1998, p. 35.

¹¹E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, Harmondsworth: Penguin, 1968, p. 51.

had to work, too. After the arrival of children, a woman would not continue to work outside but she might have earnings at home. While the children were so small, the family could not escape of poverty.

As the man grew older and the children became adults, girls and boys had to start work at a very early age. In spite of having little schooling, they had to work. When the children were all working, the family could temporarily rise above the poverty level.

Working conditions of the working class especially for the labourers were very bad. A common workday was usually 12 to 14 hours, with very short breaks. They worked 6 days a week whose work needed constant attention. The managers were very strict and some labourers were often fired who were not paying much attention all the time. The factories were dirty, dangerous, had low ceiling or poor lighting and locked windows and doors.

The capital regime destroyed the working class badly. But after the revolution the members of the working class became aware of their being slavery. They reached at a kind of strength that they established their own political parties in many countries. Therefore the laws helped them to attain an appropriate life to live in. The Industrial Revolution made a change in human relations; by the inventions of machines and the discoveries the working class gained more importance.

2. 3. 2 Enclosure Process

Enclosure Process, known in many European countries, by which commonly held or occupied lands or wastelands passed into private ownership. It was the rising of a landlord class that formed for profit rather than for subsistence and it resulted in an increase in agricultural productivity and income.

Before the 17th century much of England's land was the common property of all members of the community on which they could cultivate food, graze animals and build cottages. Most of the private land was divided into parts to enable a single family to support itself by its own labour. The families were

exchanging their different products with one another- for instance my eggs for your milk.

After the revolution the local and national government was in the hands of the landowners. They continuously attempted to increase their social status and political power by enclosing land and buying small properties surrounding their estates. It was always easy for a landlord to harass the small owners till he forced them to sell. The merchants who had accumulated his wealth in cities bought land to acquire power and social recognition, so a new race of landowners occurred.

Finally, the great landowners used their supremacy in Parliament to pass laws to break up the common field system. This resulted with the break-up of the old system of agriculture. In England the work was done by the strong at the expense of the weak. The change from common to individual was economically advantageous but it was carried out in an iniquitous manner and became socially harmful. Great inquiry was done to the poor and they lost their rights in the common lands.

To summarize the movement, it was the political conditions of the age. As a consequence of common land being enclosed there was no employment for the dispossessed farmers. Some people had a cottage with a piece of land on which to keep cows, pigs and sheep. But their rights were being curtailed and the new tendencies were to consolidate smallholdings into large ones. By this event they all lost their independence within a small cottage and a land.

2. 3. 3 Child Labour

A huge population that came with The Industrial Revolution made a big demand for work, so many people were encouraged to move to cities to get jobs. But the working of the parents was not enough. A family would not be able to support itself if the children were not employed so the children were forced by economic conditions to work.

Children of the poorer class started work at a very young age. The conditions in the factories were bad and the working hour was at least 14. Accidents were common and discipline was very strict. Some factories worked

day and night so one shift of children used the beds till the next shift. It was very sad that only for a bare shilling a week these children were doing the work of men. Almost from the day they were born they started to work and they continued to do it until they died.

Many children worked in coalmines, too. Boys were employed in all parts of the country, girls in Scotland, South Wales, Lancashire and Cheshire. They were employed as trappers as to fill the carriages and pushers of the carriages. Often they were harnessed to the carriage, carried the heavy load behind them crawling. At last with the Mines Act in 1842, it eliminated some of the worst aspects of the system and prohibited the employment of women, girls and boys below the age of 10 underground.

During the 1700's, very few children got any formal education. But the 19th century led to advancements and changed in education. The government was concerned about the child labour so they gave more financial aid to the school.

In 1830, children who were between 9 and 13, had to receive two hours of education every day by law. By 1880 Education Act made school compulsory for all children between the ages of 5 and 10. If by the age of 10 they had reached a satisfactory educational standard, they could leave school to work half time in factories. Despite these events, the majority of the factory workers could not read or write. Then technical schools started which increased the ability of children to become skilled industrial workers.

The child employment during The Industrial Revolution there was evidence of the ill treated of children in factories. But it was not a new phenomenon in English history. Brown stated that "Some of English cloth-making regions in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, every child above the age of 5 could earn his living."¹².

Of course it was a very good aim to assist in the economy of the family but these children were at the age of education and they were forced to work unskilled. The work was very hard for them to learn or they did not have enough energy to do the work as the elder. They had to their work without any rejection.

¹²E. H. Phelps Brown, *The Economics of Labour*, the United States, Yale University Press, 1962, p. 110.

Thus the comparison between the children and the slaves was significant in the 19th century England. Children in factories could have been considered as slaves. First of all, they were not protected by law and had no control. Secondly, the working conditions were bad and were not within the power to control or change. Thirdly, the gain from their employment went most to the parent in return for minimum amounts of food, clothing and shelter. Fourthly, parents as investment decisions determined the supply of children. E. P. Thompson claimed that the employment of children in factories was 'one of the most shameful events in our history' and that such employment proved the 'awakening of conscience' to the social problems of industrialization.¹³

All of these characteristics showed their being slavery in society. Most of the parents were not aware of the working conditions of their children. They only thought of the money they would bring and that was all. The children were bred, like cattle, just to be worked for profit.

2. 3. 4 The Transition from Domestic System to Factory System

The Factory System was a new way of organizing labour made necessary by the development of machines. The efficient use of the new machines required that many of them be installed together where they could be driven by the same power source.

As Toynbee stated that before the factory system most goods were produced on the domestic system.¹⁴ Manufacturers were not concentrated in towns and were only partially separated from agriculture. The manufacturer was the man who worked with his own hands in his own cottage. These small manufacturers were independent, having the capital and land of their own. But wages increased greatly at that time and this would lead to the end of domestic system.

The Factory System, which replaced the Domestic System and became the characteristic method of production in modern cities. It began to develop in the

¹³E. P. Thompson, *The Making of the English Working Class*, (n.p.): Vintage, 1966, p. 97.

¹⁴Arnold Toynbee, *The Industrial Revolution*, Boston: The Beacon Press, 1956, p. 123.

late 18th century, when a series of inventions transformed the British textile industry and marked the beginning of The Industrial Revolution. Such inventions mechanized hand processes, made it possible to produce textiles much more quickly and cheaply. Many of the new machines were too large and expensive to be used at home so it became necessary to move production in to factories.

One of the most striking inventions of the revolution was the steam engine. After being installed in factories, the goods were much more quickly produced and everything became economical during this industrialization.

The introduction of the Factory System had a profound effect on social relationships and living conditions. In earlier times the lords and the masters took some responsibility for the serfs, apprentices and journeymen who worked under them. By contrast, the factory owners were considered to have discharged their obligations to employees with the wages. Thus, they took an impersonal attitude those who worked in their factories. The owners of the early factories were interested in hiring a worker rather than any other qualifications. They employed many women and children, who could be hired for lower wages than men. They had to work for as long as 16 hours a day but this had bad results, such as fatal accidents.

N. J. Smelser summarized this system as follows:

“The agitators divide the ‘evils of the factory system’ into the physical and the moral. The former included long hours, early ages, physical hardships of employment, cruelty to children, and bad health. The moral evils included the severance of family ties, the operative’ immorality and drunkenness, the master’s immortality in the mills and the disintegration of education and religion.”¹⁵

Although this system had the significant point in the industry, it disturbed the human lives badly. In order to maximize the productivity, the people were subjected to pressure and even physical punishment. Such a factory would control the life of a worker both on and off the job and it made harmful effects on them.

¹⁵N. J. Smelser, *Social Change in The Industrial Revolution: Application of Theory to the Lancashire Cotton Industry: 1770-1840*, London, Routledge and Kegan Paul, 1959, p. 69

And the long hours of work and low wages kept a labourer from leaving the community so became aliens in this crowded society.

While capitalists were gaining a political power, the workers had no political power or influence. When workers tried to organize the first labour unions, these were outlawed by a government controlled by capitalists. These circumstances encouraged the development of the socialist ideology.

2. 3. 5 Rise of Feminism

While something has to do with feminism, it also has to do with the history of ideas about gender. Gender happens in cultures where gender in cultures where gender configurations undergo changes or shifts. So gender, or masculine and feminine qualities, or male-female social roles, comes up as an area for analysis whenever gender roles are shifting. Gender roles shift in every period of time, wars for instance, so gender is often a major of thought and writing.

Gender, which means the differentiation, usually on the basis of sex, between social roles and functions labelled as masculine and feminine. All societies in all periods of time make some sort of gender distinctions. As a central feature of all cultures, gender seems to have more attention. But when it is talked about gender, the talk is just ended up with feminism. Within these circumstances the definition of feminism would be in three parts:

“1) A “feminist” is someone who is interested in studying and understanding gender as a system of cultural signs or meanings assigned to sexually-dimorphic bodies, and who sees these cultural signs which constitute gender as having a direct effect on how we live our individual lives and how our social institutions operate.

2) Secondly, a “feminist” is someone who sees the gender systems currently in operation as structured by a basic binary opposition – masculine/feminine- in which one term, masculine is always privileged over the other term, and that this privileging has had the direct effect of enabling men to occupy positions of social power more often than women.

3) A "feminist" thinks this (points 1 and 2) is wrong and should be changed."¹⁶

This definition makes feminism into a kind of academic pursuit, where feminists just sit around studying gender relations. This is an important part of feminism, the idea that one studies gender relations that gender exists as a signifying system.

Gender was a matter of public discussion. During the early 1800s, people believed that there was a definite difference in character between the sexes; the man was active, dominant, assertive and materialistic while woman was religious, modest, passive, submissive and domestic. As a result of this an ideal true womanhood was developed, and female character depended on four basic attributes: religion, purity, submissiveness, domesticity.

Religion was a gift of God and this gift helped woman to enlighten the universe. It was believed that woman could purify the lives of men with religion. The woman possessed some virtues as; the faith, simplicity, goodness, self-sacrifice, tenderness, affection, modesty and the source of the strength.

Purity was an essential characteristic of a woman. It was a kind of barrier against the man's cruelty and the other bad virtues. This gave the woman a strength, helped her to come to solutions and to find the best way when confronted with complex situations.

Submissiveness required woman to accept their positions in life willingly and obediently. Thereby God had appointed her to a special position. Upon many years she had been silent under suffering because she had to obey the commands that her husband, father or brother had given. It was a difficult way of living within these circumstances but she was not aware of her suffering. When she became aware of it, she had already known that her struggle would be extremely hard against the manpower.

Domesticity was one of the main characteristic of a woman that she was expected to comfort and cheer, to nurse and support, to manage and oversee all the householders. Housework was to be viewed as a mental and physical exercise

¹⁶ [http:// www. Colorado.edu / English / ENGL2012Klages / 1feminism. Html](http://www.Colorado.edu/English/ENGL2012Klages/1feminism.Html)

and marriage was the proper sphere for a woman. Her life was just inside the walls and it was the only thing that she could only control. She was viewed as a perfect image –the loving wife, the caring mother, the responsible housekeeper. Outside the controller was changed not the woman- the man always had the power. But while social reform movements, industrialization, migration and other social forces made changes in life, these affected the status of the woman in the society.

Women, throughout the world, began to work together for the first time to eliminate the contradictions in the society between their potential as human beings and the roles of servant and sex object that assigned them. The remarkable thing in this movement was that it was without a central organization and without leaders or professional organizers. Yet some groups were being organized. This movement was because women were coming to recognize their problems, which appear to be personal, were the problems they shared with other women.

The strongest movement in Europe emerged in the United Kingdom. Fired by the American examples, English women such as Anne Knight had been an active person. She had founded a Female Political Association in 1847 to demand votes for women. Harriet Taylor Mill emphasized the women's suffrage in an article and her husband, the philosopher John Stuart Mill produced the classic formulation of the liberal feminist case in his essay *The Subjection of Women*.

Basically there were two approaches to advancing the cause of women in the nineteenth century Europe. The first was the individual feminist approach, which viewed equality for women as a right to individual autonomy and self-determination. This was the characteristic of Mill's *The Subjection of Women*. The second approach, the one was much more general and characteristic of feminist groups on the continent of Europe, what was called as "relational feminism"¹⁷. Apart from liberal feminism, which placed the emphasis on women as autonomous individuals, relational feminists stressed the complementary of sexes and women's right as women relative to their social relations with men. According to relational feminists women had a distinctive contribution to make to

¹⁷[http:// www. Colorado.edu / English / ENGL2012Klages / 1feminism. Html.](http://www.Colorado.edu/English/ENGL2012Klages/1feminism.Html)

society as women, and above all as mothers. They identified the family as the basic unit in society rather than the individual.

Feminist movements finally established themselves as significant and permanent features of the European political landscape in the late nineteenth century. New leaders and new organisations appeared; such as the Women's Social and Political Union (WSPU) founded in 1903. With this kind of political unions women became increasingly conscious of the need to campaign for their political rights. They attracted huge attention both at home and internationally.

On the other hand, changes had taken place in women's social situation -in law, in education and in employment opportunities because of the economics and demographic changes. In the United Kingdom they already participated in political process and their presence on the political scene made a great difference.

Thus, The Industrial Revolution in part was fuelled by the economic necessity of many women, single and married, to find waged work outside the home. Women mostly found jobs in domestic service, textile factories and piecework shops. They also worked in the coalmines. For some The Industrial Revolution provided independent wages, mobility and a better standard of living. The Revolution expanding the opportunities for female employment and income earning helped to transform the relationship between men and women within the family. Both the status and the independence of women increased, marriage became a partnership based on individualism. The expansion of female employment had brought great partly between partners in emotional and sexual life as well as in decision-making.

2. 4 RESULTS OF THE REVOLUTION

The Industrial Revolution was a deep and effective action. It destroyed the old communities. It made easier to replace the capitalists instead of feudal chieftain. The capitalists fought against the men of religion and gained power during the revolution. They only thought of money and continued their imperialist outlook. In order to produce a capitalist community, they had the people work for

them, and these formed the working class who was a certain lack of machine or such power, only had nothing to do except hard work.

With the birth and development of the revolution, the working class had to struggle with the disadvantages of life and these all caused social and political results. Under these circumstances the poor and the hungry weavers broke the machines and some of them had burnt the factories. These rebellions were revised throughout the world. In reality the struggle was not against the capitalists, but against the machines.

The machine itself made many changes in life and Sülker listed them as follows:

“The machine increased the exploitation of the labor.

It helped woman and child to take part in the production.

It shortened the production process.

The production process had been much cheaper.

It lengthen the work day.

The wages were lowered.

The number of unemployment had increased.”¹⁸

The machine had made the man a part of himself. When the man became conscious of this, he began to fight against the machine. Thus the working class families had resisted so as to protect their lives and humanity and directed to be organized.

Yet the machine had made life easier, this new invention was not good for the planet. From the time of the revolution started, the factories and industry had increased the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere by two-folds. The planet’s natural resources were being depleted at an alarming rate. Pollution by nuclear waste and other chemicals were also the result of he revolution.

In addition to these negative effects, the labourers were not in good conditions. As Robert Owen stated as “Wherever the machines were being developed, the workers felt worse, the unemployment had increased and the wages had been lowered.”¹⁹. If one was the victim, it was the machine, which

¹⁸Sülker, p. 46.

¹⁹Ibid., p. 53.

made life difficult and hazardous. Owen also believed that the working class could not save by his own power, the independency would have to be with education within the limits of peace.

After all, the wages were not enough for the families so the children started to work for a few shillings. Child labour had some disastrous effects. On one side they did not have the perfect education for themselves and on the other side, they prevented other people to find jobs. Well-qualified staffs were not able to find a job because many children were employed in the factories with small amount of money. Hence, the number of unemployment had increased at high rates.

From the female's point of view, the new system had brought many new things for them. The revolution had created the possibilities of greater female status and power. The awakening of female had destroyed the manpower outside home. Many women liberation groups emerged and they gathered the women under a roof.

Having the financial power in her hand, the woman had based on sound basements and took part in social life more. She started to work so as to take back all the things that had been stolen from her. Certainly this struggle caused some problems between man and woman but the attempt of finding her own personality was unavoidable.

Although The Industrial Revolution was mostly reflected upon economy, its effects on male-female relationship could not be rejected. These alterations had both positive and negative effects. The changing relationship of male-female was also reflected in literature. Lawrence, one of the most successful writers of the period, discussed the problem in many of his works.

2. 5 TRACES OF THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION IN D. H. LAWRENCE AND *SONS AND LOVERS*

The new life differed from the previous one after the revolution and people were forced to make many changes in their lives. Like the Morels, many families moved to bigger cities where there was much work. Lawrence always warns the

reader that he doesn't want to move another place because he likes the house that he was born in, the mud around, the view he will seek in the future and the people whom they got on well with. He remembers his childhood and thought of living with his mother in that house in the future. But as time passed, people formed their life according to the changes come by the industrialization.

Many new mines were opened all over the country after The Industrial Revolution and as Mr. Morel earned his living by working underground, the family had to move to a place that was not far away from the place of work. At this point Lawrence makes a contrast with his new life and the previous one. He always misses the previous one and damns the new one for destroying the familial relationships.

The children began to work at a young age after The Industrial Revolution and much information about this subject was given in the previous pages of this dissertation. When Lawrence was very young, he began to work as a teacher. Although he did not like being a teacher, there was nothing for him except to work. In *Sons and Lovers* William and Paul began to work at a young age, too. As a result of this they became mature so early and could not live their own childhood. Their inner world was destroyed by the chaos outside them and lost their identity in the new system.

Generally, many people lost their identity after the industrialization period and not only William, Paul as Lawrence himself but also other main characters of *Sons and Lovers* such as Gertrude, Walter or Miriam are all unfulfilled, half-people and prisoners of industrialism. The industrialization period corrupted manhood both physically and psychologically and produced nocturnal, selfish animals that continued to live by exploiting other people around them.

Although the characters were all selfish, they were in need of something different from each other. And this showed the reader that the characters were the same on one hand, on the other they were too different. For instance, the writer focuses the reader's attention to class distinctions after The Industrial Revolution. There is a distinction between the educated and the uneducated. Mr. Morel belongs to the last generation to grow up before schooling became compulsory. He is far removed from his class consciousness who belongs to the old pre-

industrial England living close to the world of nature. He is not at home in the daylight world. But Mrs. Morel has to live in this daylight world, doing her best to make a civilised home for her children. The closer she gets to her middle-class standard of living and education, the more her husband appears to be an alien in his primitive world.

At last Mrs. Morel wins. The children are all her side with her and the father is isolated. Gradually the influence of the middle class drives the old belief and life underground. Although the natural man is placed underground, he certainly cannot be destroyed and nobody demonstrates the truth of this better than Lawrence.

Mrs. Morel's psychological press on male and her unbreakable power give some clues about the movements of women during and after The Industrial Revolution. Married women had no property rights for long years. Husbands had legal power over and responsibility for their wives to the extent that they could imprison or beat them with impunity. Divorce laws favoured men, giving no rights to women. Also many occupations were closed to women and they were paid less than men. They had no means to gain education since no college or university would accept women students. Thus, Lawrence wants to emphasize the inequality between male and female in all his novels. No writer had written about this subject since then so most of the readers could not understand what he meant and he was often called as a strange writer. Many men did not want to accept his thoughts and Lawrence confronted with a great reaction of them. But as time passed, they could understand the new system and could not do anything but to accept. In *Sons and Lovers* Mrs. Morel strives to teach these new thoughts to her husband but it is very difficult for her to teach him. Clara exercises this effort in the following pages of the novel and she proves that a female can live alone, work for her own, and educate herself and more of that she can stand as an individual in society.

Of course, there were many changes in every face of life with the industrialization. But the most important of all is the awakening of women and Lawrence reminds the women's problems indirectly by writing and guides them in order to find the right solutions for themselves.

CHAPTER III
MALE AND FEMALE RELATIONSHIPS in
SONS and LOVERS

3. 1 AN INTRODUCTION TO D. H. LAWRENCE AND *SONS AND LOVERS*

D. H. Lawrence, novelist, short-story writer, poet and essayist, was born in 1885, in the coal-mining village of Eastwood, Nottinghamshire. His father was a coalminer and his mother a schoolteacher. One of five children, Lawrence grew up in an atmosphere ruined by poverty and his father's drunken brutality. From boyhood he shared a close relationship with his mother and grew to hate the debilitating mine work he considered responsible for his father's debased condition. Although in poor health, he managed to obtain an education and he started teaching at an elementary school at the age of eighteen.

Lawrence began to write verses early in his career, encouraged by Jessie Chambers, the real life Miriam in *Sons and Lovers*. This connection enabled him to publish his first novel, *The White Peacock*, in 1911. Although this novel was not very successful, he decided to give up teaching because of his mother's death and turned to writing to earn his living.

Lawrence's works were not generally popular or commercially successful during his lifetime, but a few readers did enjoy them. Lawrence was generally known as the writer of indecent books. Lawrence's life was made more difficult by his love affair with Frieda von Richthofen Weekley, the German wife of a Nottingham professor. They were able to return to England and marry in 1914 when Weekley obtained a divorce. This affair coupled with the sympathy for Germany during the War that he felt under the suppression of his novel *The Rainbow* as indecent, made life for Lawrence even more difficult.

Lawrence wrote of sexual matters because he felt that too much repression and intellectualisation were destroying the instinctual part of man's nature. He stressed the passionate side of man's nature, not because he was obsessed by it, but because he believed that passion and intellect should be balanced in man. It may be regarded as the central message of Lawrence and repeated in various ways.

Lawrence had a brief writing career, which lasted for twenty years. Although he was often ill, he produced fifty volumes and left a good deal of material. Four phases can be recognized in his writing career determined by events in his life and by the type of work he produced.

During his first period, 1909-1912, Lawrence recorded his youth in poems, stories and novels. He completed three novels during this period: *The White Peacock* (1911), *The Trespasser* (1912) and *Sons and Lovers* (1913), which he finished in Italy. These works were early examples of the psychological fiction that he later developed more fully. Lawrence's first major work, the largely autobiographical novel *Sons and Lovers*, contained some of the author's most characteristic themes: the complexity of human relationships, especially that between a mother and son; the experience of first love; and the emotional dominance of one person by another. Many critics noted striking similarities between the personal experiences and emotional dilemmas of the author and his protagonist, Paul Morel.

Lawrence's second period, 1913-1920, he developed material in Italy that he completed in England the novels, *The Rainbow* (1915) and *Women in Love* (1920) which were originally conceived of as a single novel, to be called *The Sisters*, and some continuity was preserved between the novels. In these novels and his poems in *Look! We Have Come Through* (1917), Lawrence moved in a new direction, writing of modern love experience. He also made important psychological explorations into the emotional consciousness.

Lawrence travelled round the Mediterranean and then went to India, Australia and America, during this third period, 1920-1925. In this period he wrote poems as well as travel books. He also completed three novels concerned with the problems of mystical-political leadership: *Aaron's Rod* (1922), *Kangaroo*

(1923) and *The Plumed Serpent* (1926). During this period, his works were more scattered and less cohesive than much of his other work, but they were more richly coloured. Lawrence dealt more extensively with themes of power, dominance, and leadership. He also began to focus in these later works on the relationships that men form with one another, rather than with women.

Lawrence returned to Europe from America in 1925, and began the fourth phase of his writing. The only full-length novel of this period was *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (1928), in which he returned to sexual themes. He was frequently ill during this period and a great deal of his work was bitter especially his poems. Lawrence's short novel, *The Escaped Cock* (1929) and his last book *Apocalypse* had religious themes.

Lawrence's short stories presented a contrast to his novels. They were economical in style and structure, and differed from the novels in that they presented Lawrence's themes in terms of literature and not homily, avoiding the didacticism that pervaded almost all of his novels. Like both his long and short fiction, most of Lawrence's poetry was intensely personal. Lawrence's earliest poetry adhered to traditional poetic forms and is not as highly regarded as his later works in this genre. It was in the free forms of his nature poems, especially those in *Birds, Beasts and Flowers* (1923), that Lawrence achieved his best poetic effects. In addition to his fiction and poetry, Lawrence wrote eight dramas, most of which had never been produced. They were of interest primarily as a reflection of Lawrence's effort to present his basic literary ideas in a different medium than fiction.

Lawrence died in 1930. He was to be regarded as one of the twentieth century's most important novelists. In his innovative use of psychological themes he produced the first, and some critics maintained the finest, modern psychological novels. His works were serious rather than gossip, and demanded close attention, interest in them. Even though his readers might disagree with Lawrence's philosophy, there was always a reward in his power of expression.

The revolution took place before Lawrence was born. Therefore, he did not have a chance to feel the excitement of it at the time of burst. Though he was able to reflect the traces of the revolution in his novels. He was one of the sources

who acknowledged people about the new system and the new period by his writings.

Generally, people are afraid of new things and they cannot overcome the new problems they have confronted with so the society cannot grasp the idea at once. The Industrial Revolution did not happen all of a sudden. It took a long time to acknowledge the society about the new system and to make them believe. After this long process the industrialization began. But people had some problems in understanding everything they were told. So they were in need of people who would help them to cure their brainstorming. Writers, politicians, economists, teachers and etc. were able to help the others and Lawrence, too, was like a guide who helped people to understand the new system by his writings.

It was not very difficult for him to write about the effects of the revolution in his novels because his family was one of the families who experienced the changes. His main source was his real life and his own experiences played an important part in his novels. Especially his mother, Lydia had a strong effect on him. Jessie Chambers was another important person in his novels. Thus, the struggle between Lydia and Jessie was clearly reflected in *Sons and Lovers* as between Gertrude and Miriam. Lawrence's father, Arthur who was a miner was an insignificant character in D. Herbert's life and he was not interested in him as long as he lived. He wrote *Sons and Lovers* feeling the same emotions towards him and blaming him throughout the novel. But he could not understand how his mother affected him in blaming his father till the death of his mother. He could feel his innocence after a long time.

In *Sons and Lovers*, Lawrence aimed at describing an English working class for not only the realistic details of its everyday life but the currents of feeling between man and wife, mother and child, father and children. He also wanted to trace the development of children growing up in this environment, to describe from adolescence to adulthood with its all aspects: mental, physical, social and sexual.

D. H. Lawrence's most conventional novel, *Sons and Lovers*, is already the work of an accomplished writer. With this third novel D. H. Lawrence returns back to a previously introduced theme that he had already mentioned in *The White*

Peacock, but left it there as an unimportant and uncompleted subject. This novel has a fully integrated plot and characters with firm flesh over their analogised bones.

The close relationship of mother and son has been made a primary and central subject of this novel. But in the first two novels the father dies and gets out of the way, in the third novel, being presented as an alien figure, the father outlives the mother. The mother has the strongest influence on the children from their childhood until their youth. Nevertheless, the emotional authority, which she had on the members of the family, cannot be removed after her death. The protagonist, Paul, is caught between the dilemma of his mother's strong love and his two lovers, Miriam and Clara. He leaves both of them, not only because his mother wishes him to do so, but also because he could not find in any of them the desired love that he actually needed. After the death of his mother, he was free to do as he liked but he married neither of them. At the end of the novel he leaves his hometown going towards a new life, carrying the impact of his mother's soul placed in his own.

The novel is the story of a miner's family and their children growing up in the village of Bestwood. Their close relationships within the family and their ties with the other families in the neighbourhood gain importance as the children grow up.

One of the basic tensions in any novel is the conflict between the individual and the society in which he or she has to live. *Sons and Lovers* begins with a historical survey of the mining industry around the village of Bestwood and the change that mining technology brings. Lawrence focuses on the manner of Hell Row that is swept away and replaced by the Bottoms. For the Bottoms the reality is rather different:

"The dwelling-room, the kitchen, was at the back of the house, facing inward between the blocks, looking at a scrubby back garden, and then at the ash-pits. And between the rows, between the long lines of ash-pits, went the alley, where the children played and the women gossiped and the men smoked. So, the actual conditions of living in the Bottoms, that was so well built and that

looked so nice, were quite unsavoury because people must live in the kitchen, and the kitchens opened on to that nasty alley of ash-pits."²⁰

The actual position of the dwelling-rooms and kitchens looking inward onto the scrubby back gardens, the alleys and the ash-pits, determine the environment where human expression, the gossiping, playing and smoking take place. The reader is thus given the sense in the passage of a social organisation where things look decent and civilised. The opposition between the industrial system in which all have to live and work, on one hand, and each individual's hopes and energies, on the other, is central to *Sons and Lovers*. The first half is concerned with Bestwood, with the struggles of Gertrude and Walter placed in the industrialised context in which sees Walter as a typical miner and Gertrude as the exceptional miner's wife.

In a letter to Edward Garnett dated 14th November, 1912 Lawrence presents the outline of the story:

"... a woman of character and refinement goes into the lower class, and has no satisfaction in her own life. She has had a passion for her husband, so the children are born of passion, and have heaps of vitality. But as she grows up, she selects them as lovers –first the eldest, then the second. These sons are urged on and on. But when they come to manhood, they cannot love, because their mother is the strongest power in their lives, and holds them... As soon as the young men come into contact with women there is a split. William gives his sex to a fribble, and his mother holds his soul. But split kills him, because he does not know where he is. The next son gets a woman who fights for his soul –fights his mother. The son loves the mother –all the sons hate and are jealous of the father. The battle goes on between the mother and the girl, with the son as object. The mother gradually proves the stronger, because of the tie of blood. The son decides to leave his soul in his mother's hands, and like his elder brother, go for passion. Then the split

²⁰D. H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, London: Heinemann Educational Books Ltd., 1963, p. 36.

begins to tell again. But almost unconsciously, the mother realizes what is the matter and begins to die. The son casts off his mistress, attends to his mother dying. He is left in the end naked of everything, with the drift towards death."²¹

Bestwood is a mining community and the industrial system and its values determine every aspect of its inhabitants' lives. The first part of the novel is rich with sociological details that demonstrate this fact. The hostility of Paul's mother and father may be extreme; the division of labour within the mining community encourages antagonism between men and women generally. *Sons and Lovers* is very much concerned with the struggle of individuals to free themselves from bonds that are both supportive and limiting.

Mrs. Morel thus deeply disillusioned with her marriage, rejects her husband and transfers her love, first to William, her eldest son, then to Paul, her second son. The novel chiefly concerns Mrs. Morel's relationship with Paul, the two of them behaving more like lovers than mother and son. Lawrence portrays what Freud was to call the Oedipus Complex. The son loves the mother –all the sons hate and are jealous of the father- indicate an Oedipus Complex expressed on emotional terms. The writer's explanations of mother love in his letters to Jessie Chambers and to Louie Burrows –his first and second fiancées- have given the impression that not only Paul but also himself was a victim of Oedipus Complex.

Lawrence's deep attachment to his mother influenced much of his work. In a letter to Louie, he mentioned that it would be awful to write a biography of his mother, because his mother had a bad and devilish married life. His mother was suffering from cancer and near to death as he wrote Louie again:

"I must feel my mother's hand slip out of mine before I can really take yours. She is my first, great love. She was wonderful, rare woman -you do not know; as strong, and steadfast, and generous as the sun. She could be as swift as a white whip-lash and as kind and gentle as warm rain, and as steadfast as the irreducible earth beneath us."²²

²¹James T. Boulton, *The Letters of D.H. Lawrence*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1979, p. 75.

²²Boulton, p. 195.

He explains that his mother was sun, rain and earth to him. She is the only thing that he has and he was being absorbed by this powerful human being. He could not see the other women all around him because he thinks no other woman can match her or can be like her. He is always under the control of his mother but this does not hurt him because she is the perfect woman for him.

Lawrence's mother, Lydia was a small, determined woman, dressed very correctly in dark colours, who carried herself with pride. She spoke with self-confidence, had no trace of the local Nottinghamshire dialect. Her neighbours disliked her superior airs, but they respected her domestic competence and her dedication to the welfare of her family. She was the most powerful figure in the Lawrence household and her perception of events dominated her son David Herbert's thinking for the first half of his life. In *Sons and Lovers* Lawrence imagines, as Mrs. Morel.

Arthur was twenty-seven when he met Lydia at his aunt's home; he was smartly dressed, red-checked and he laughed a great deal. Lydia was very pleased to give up the drudgery of her father's house, although Lawrence does not mention this in the novel. Lydia had married Arthur for his good-natured gaiety. Sadly, everything she later objected in him arose from his spirit, which was so unlike her own. Her disappointment in her marriage and her husband was intense. She had not realised the phrase 'mining contractor' with which Arthur had described his trade on their marriage, meant he went down the mines himself. He could earn a small amount of money to pay for the rent, food, clothes, insurance and doctors.

Lydia had not anticipated the rigours of being a miner's wife; the coal dust Arthur returned home covered in every evening and the lack of fastidiousness which made it possible for him to eat ravenously before he had washed any more than his hands. Thus, she put all her energy to raise her children as well as she could, hoping to increase their chance of living with self-respect. That too became a source of quarrels with her husband.

The enmity between Lydia and Arthur was obvious. They quarrelled nightly, the Morels, and the children upstairs could hear the rows. All through his

childhood Lawrence saw his mother as the victim of a brutal husband, though Arthur remained faithful to his wife and continued to love her passionately.

Early in the marriage, Lydia disapproved of Arthur's drinking. He was never sober, although he enjoyed drinking with his friends in a public house. There was always financial pressure and Lydia always complained because Arthur let money slip through his fingers. She came to feel that Arthur's money was being wasted on drink.

Another factor in their quarrelling was Lydia's interest in Women's Co-operative Guild, which discussed social questions and tried to make women realise the unfairness of their conditions. As Lydia began to find out her deficiencies, she began to cure them and attack Arthur as being an illiterate one.

Lydia never gave in to her husband's opinions. She was not frightened of him either, though he hit her on several occasions and threw things at her when he was drunk. Lawrence always remembers his father's shouting. But the most important way in which Lydia made sure of winning the battle with her husband was by making her story known to the children whom she was working so hard to bring up. They always saw her as the heroic victim of an insensitive and unjust tyrant.

It was the pattern Lawrence was to take for the most important relationship of his life. The parental quarrels of his childhood gave him a conviction of a violent opposition between men and women and this led him to feel most at home when at war in his marriage to Frieda.

In *Sons and Lovers*, although it is the story of a young man, Mrs. Morel is the centre of the novel. She is undoubtedly the strongest influence, and all the major characters are in relation to her. Her first relationship in the novel is the first love affair of the book but as it is known their marriage is a failure.

As Gertrude changes her attention from Walter to her son, William, and on his death, to Paul, two major themes of the novel can be seen: the mother's possessiveness for her sons and the consequences that flow from this and secondly her hostility towards her son's loved ones. The novel is very simple up to William's death because the death reduces Mrs. Morel to the depths of despair but

Paul's illness forces her to adjust to life once more as she nurses him. Her love and hope of the future are transferred to Paul.

For Gertrude, the crisis is twofold; first comes the death of her eldest son; William, then the arrival on the scene of Miriam, Paul's first sweetheart. William is a strong and handsome son, the one who was to do things in the big wide world. He is twenty when he dies of pneumonia in London, his mother arriving too late to save him. She always addresses him as "my son!"²³. When Paul becomes dangerously ill with pneumonia, Mrs. Morel has to nurse him back to health, often lying in bed with him and as she did with William calling him "my son, my son!"²⁴. Paul has now become Paul and William to Mrs. Morel.

Apart from the mother-son relationship, the sons' relationship with the girls is important on the other side. The first phase is William's friendship with Lily, the second is Paul's relationship with Miriam and then Clara. These relationships help the reader to understand the friendship in those times.

When William went to London, to a bigger city, he was soon captivated by this big vital town and he changed a bit more. In the novel it was not noted about his friendship with the girls before he came to London, but as the Bottoms was quite a small place; the relationship with a girl was not as close as it was in bigger cities. Generally, the small towns lack this kind of communication, so William was being lost spiritually in the big city.

Paul's first contact with the girls was when he began to work at Jordan's factory. He was too shy as he was talking to them and did not know how to behave around them. But as time passed he learnt how to talk and treat them, he became very popular among the girls. This would help him to gain his self-confidence in a crowded community.

His friendship with Miriam was different from those in the factory. Thus, the most complex phase of the novel starts with the love affair between Paul and Miriam. The mother is against this relationship as she feels that Miriam will take Paul from her, both body and soul. This complex relationship should be seen not

²³Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 15.

²⁴*Ibid.*, p. 73.

only in the light of Mrs. Morel's view of Paul and Miriam together, but also her relationship with each of them separately.

It is Miriam rather than Walter Morel that is the real threat to the bond. Miriam lives at Willey Farm with her parents and her rather bullying brothers. Miriam's beauty is that of "a shy, wild, quivering sensitive thing"²⁵, and she feels keenly the difference between herself and her brothers. Paul teaches her algebra and gives her books to read, and they discuss both literature and nature in the young manner of young people.

To Miriam, everything seems to be a little different. She wants Paul for some sort of things that she lacks in the life of the farm. Dorbad puts forward these as follows:

*"From the start Miriam fails to see Paul as a separate entity in his own right. She perceives him only in terms of her own insufficiency. Having spent her life in an atmosphere of rural simplicity and religious reverie, she treats Paul as something novel, even extraordinary, a messenger from another world."*²⁶

Paul represents another world that is outside the farm and Miriam finds something different in Paul. Paul is attracted to her, sometimes fascinated by her but he has his doubts. These doubts are fed by Mrs. Morel, who stays up late, and gets angry when Paul spends his evenings with Miriam. Gertrude already knows that she will take him away from her and thus she hates Miriam. Miriam is repeatedly described as spiritual and there is a great deal of emphasis on her soul as well as her passivity and her suffering. Paul's doubts have attacked their relationship. Paul is tormented by his developing sexuality but Miriam longs to establish a spiritual rather than a physical union.

Miriam seems to be rather shy and inexperienced. Her mother has told her that there is one dreadful thing in marriage, which must be borne: sex. At the same time her feeling for Paul is undeniably composed of physical attraction. It is Mrs. Morel who insists on seeing Miriam as a hungry soul rather than a sexual young body. Mrs. Morel has prepared herself for the advent of young, female

²⁵Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 125.

²⁶Leo J. Dorbad, *Sexually Balanced Relationships in the Novels of D. H. Lawrence*, New York: Peter Lang Publishing Inc., 1991, p. 51.

bodies in the life of her son. A young, female body is what she precisely cannot give him. Bodies are, therefore, not important.

But she has not prepared herself for a young woman who will attack her territory. William's fiancée was an empty-headed creature that she would still be allowed access to her son's emotional depths. But Miriam is different and Mrs. Morel sees something of herself in Miriam. And so does Paul. Mrs. Morel thinks that Miriam wants to absorb Paul. So she blames Miriam for Paul's irritation and behaviour. She always hates Miriam because she seems to spoil his ease and naturalness. Therefore, Mrs. Morel makes a cage from love for her sons; she wants to be the only woman in this cage and does not let any girls enter it. And Miriam's error in her relationship with Paul is to believe in the theories of life, not the practice. She can accept no mistakes or weakness in human behaviour.

The next stage of the novel is Paul's affair with Clara. Mrs. Morel is involved but not to a large extent. She does not feel that Clara will make the demands on Paul that Miriam did. She feels that Paul will soon tire of Clara. But Paul's love affair with Clara is overshadowed by Gertrude's illness. Paul returns to his mother, dissatisfied both with Miriam and Clara. After the death of his mother he longs for death but at the end of the novel it is seen that he moves hopefully toward life.

Clara Dawes represents all that Miriam does not. While Miriam preserves her mother's character, Clara Dawes stands freely on unoccupied ground. Miriam wants a complete committed love that is tender and understanding. But Clara is frank with her physical appeal. She does not sacrifice herself in the passive, uninterested manner of Miriam. In this sense Hilary Simpson wants to deny woman that equal partnership and freedom to plunge.²⁷

The nineteenth-century woman was expected to find her strength and meaning of self in her submissive state. As a result of modernization, industrialization and the changes in society women became increasingly more independent. They asserted themselves in the expanding industrial sector. They were then drawn into social, political, religious and literary activities, and became a more visible segment of society.

²⁷Hilary Simpson, ed., *D. H. Lawrence and Feminism*, USA: Northern Illinois Press, 1982, p.82.

Betsky summarizes what kind of a picture Lawrence will draw by means of *The Industrial Revolution* and the life itself in the novel:

*“Lawrence concentrates relentlessly on what makes men men, what makes women women in our industrialized, urbanized, scientifically controlled, moneyed society. He will try to understand the ways in which they are alive or dead-alive in their self-pride, their self-dignity, their capacity for living on the spot...he will examine the traditions and institutions that embody and support them.”*²⁸

Lawrence wants to find out the real human being who was lost in the process of industrialization. While doing this, he wants to remind the reader about the harmful affects of the revolution. In that urbanized, industrialized society he will understand one cannot live with his own capacity and it is made compulsory to live by depending on money and he is in no way seemed to be dead.

In this process Lawrence witnesses the revolution taking his first revenge on the places that the working class live. *Sons and Lovers* is set in the British Midlands, which is highly industrialized. At the beginning of the novel Lawrence gives brief information about the setting:

“The Bottoms’ succeeded to Hell Row. Hell Row was a block of thatched, bulging cottages that stood by the brookside on Greenhill Lane. There lived the colliers who worked in the little gin-pits two fields away. The brook ran under the alder trees, scarcely soiled by these small mines, whose coal was drawn to the surface by donkeys that plodded wearily in a circle round a gin. And all over the countryside were these same pits, some of which had been worked in the time of Charles II, the few colliers and the donkeys burrowing down like ants into the earths making queer mounds and little black places among the corn-fields and the meadows. And the cottages of these coal-miners, in blocks and pairs here and there,

²⁸Seymour Betsky, “Rhythm and Theme: D. H. Lawrence’s *Sons and Lovers*”, *D. H. Lawrence: Critical Assessments*, Ed. David Ellis and Ornella De Zordo, Volume II, East Sussex: Helm Information Ltd., 1992, p. 91.

*together with odd farms and homes of the stockings, straying over the parish, formed the village of Bestwood.”*²⁹

The beginning contains the criticism of industrialism. Lawrence's choice, such names of the places connected with the destruction of industry are very attractive. The place that people live is like 'Hell'. In order to earn their living they live in very bad conditions, the blackness covers everywhere. They are the people who are also at the bottom of this hell but they generally aim at being happy. Like Paul, Lawrence does not like the place. They both want to leave this place and live in better conditions, therefore Lawrence cannot see the beauties of this place.

Before The Industrial Revolution, everything was in harmony and the people did not have serious problems. The mines were small. They were ancient mines. The men, the animals and the mines themselves formed a continuous part of the life of nature. The power was provided by donkeys. The miners were working just like ants, taking the food from the source and bringing it to the main place. Of course, life was monotonous for them. They were like machines but they were not bored. They knew that they had to work for their families' sake.

After this view Lawrence attracts the attention to the houses. The houses that the colliers were living in were scattered in Bestwood. The people liked the way they lived so the surroundings were not important for them. After a while, life changed for them and they began to make comparisons between the life in the past and the time being:

“Then, some sixty years ago, a sudden change took place. The ginpits were elbowed aside by the large mines of the financiers. The coal and iron field of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire was discovered. Carston, Waite and Co. appeared. Amid tremendous excitement, Lord Palmerston formally opened the company's first mine at Spinney Park, on the edge of Sherwood Forest.

²⁹Lawrence, Sons and Lovers, p. 1.

*About this time the notorious Hell Row, which through growing old had acquired an evil reputation, was burned down, and much dirt was cleansed away.*³⁰

After the industrialization, large mines financed by the rich businesses took the place of the small ones. This meant life would not be the same as before and Hell Row began to change. The natural setting was demolished and a new spiritless life began to handle the power.

Poverty was very common during the revolution. Because of the changes in social life, people had to move to the places where there was much work. The Morels were one of these families so they had to move to the Bottoms where most of the action would happen. In the novel Mrs. Morel is observed:

*"Mrs. Morel was not anxious to move into the Bottoms, which was already twelve years old and on the downward path, when she descended to it from Bestwood. But it was the best she could do. Moreover, she had an end house on one of the top blocks, and thus had only one neighbour; on the other side an extra strip of garden. And having an end house, she enjoyed a kind of aristocracy among the other women of the 'between' houses, because her rent was five shillings and six pence instead of five shillings a week but this superiority in station was not much consolidation to Mrs. Morel."*³¹

The novel takes place in an end-of-terrace house built for the purpose of accommodating miners close to their place of work. The writer himself lived in an end house larger than the others in the terrace, but the rear opened on a noisy and dirty alley area, which Lawrence's mother disliked. The corner house on 'The Breach', known as Garden Road, was Lawrence's home from 1887 till 1891. In the novel this house is 'The Bottoms'. Living in this house made both Lawrence's mother and Mrs. Morel different from the others around, so they felt a kind of aristocracy.

³⁰Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 1.

³¹*Ibid.*, p. 2.

These opening paragraphs give a negative account of the destruction. Lawrence draws his attention to the new houses that are substantial and very decent. Their front gardens are neat and full of flowers. They give rise to squalid living conditions only because the colliers' wives will not use their front parlours, preferring to make the kitchen the centre of domestic life.

The family consisted of mother, father and two children; a boy of ten and a girl of five. Walter was working hard but everything was more complex after the third child. Economically nothing was enough for them, so others members of the family had to work at an early age.

Walter is the only person who works in the family till the children grow up. Gertrude can also work but she does not. This may be because of two reasons: the first one is that the children are too young to be left at home alone, the second is that she came from a higher class and she thought to work outside discredited herself. It is abundantly clear that the family needs Walter for economic reasons. The children are young and they all depend on him as the breadwinner. The relationship among wife, husband and children is nothing more than economic.

Within the society the man generally has to work and lift all the disadvantages of the life. He is the one who earns so the more he works the more money he will earn, and with the result of this the more opportunities the family will have. But during the revolution life, was hard. As Sülker states working twenty hours a day was not enough for a worker to earn his living so man has to work long hours so as to have a few more shillings.³²

Very early in the novel the reader is made aware of the mine and its importance in the Morels' life. They are dependent on the mine for all their needs. When Mrs. Morel first met her future husband, she expressed surprise that he was a man who had worked underground since the age of ten as it is noted in the book as "... a new tract of life suddenly opened before her. She realized the life of the miner hundreds of them tailing below earth and coming up at evening. He seemed to her noble. He risked his life daily and with gaiety."³³

³²Sülker, p. 30.

³³Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 11.

The reader is constantly reminded of the mine as the writer refers to the wildling gear, the lines of the miners moving to and from the mine and the railways that served to the mines. This place is Mr. Morel's only world, leaving him too tired for anything else, but for his family it was the main source of their daily needs. The mine shapes his entire life, affects his thoughts and feelings. He spends most of his time working underground as the other men. They all have to work more and more to earn a living. A common workday varies usually between 12 and 14 hours with very short breaks. They have to work 6 days a week. They are paid extremely low and wages are made even less if the business is bad. After long hours of work, they feel like machines working non-stop and lose their feelings towards their beloved ones. Thus with the coming of industrialization, one can see the advantages which shaped the human life, and one can see the disadvantages that was harmful to human beings.

The family life is much affected by the revolution. Day by day it becomes so hard in the struggle of existence. This may be more difficult if the family members are great in number. Thus in this period what Gertrude thinks of the coming child is important:

*"But she felt wretched with the coming child. The world seemed a dreary place...she could not afford this third child. She did not want it. The father was serving beer in a public house, swilling himself drunk. She despised him, and was tied to him. This coming child was too much her. If it were not for William and Annie, she was sick of it, the struggle with poverty and ugliness and meanness."*³⁴

They have already had two children and they are too young. Furthermore, the coming child will honestly confuse life. She is tied to her husband and her children and is wretched and depressed especially as her husband drinks heavily. They are poor and she despises her husband. Life will be harder than ever and more money will be needed in order to live. In this case the parents need to be more careful in spending the money.

Niven projects his views about the scene as follows:

³⁴Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 5.

“When Lawrence first introduces her to us she seems to gather to herself all the repression and despair of the thousands of married women who are condemned to rear their children in narrow terraced houses beside squalid alleys and congested ash pits. She is pregnant for the third time with a child she can hardly bear to bring into her miserable world, the sort days of ecstatic married life having long since faded into a permanent evening of household drudgery and stifled hopes.”³⁵

Mrs Morel is being trapped in that terraced house and she knows that nobody can live with the small amount of money that her husband earns. She already knows that this miserable world will harm the coming child and she does not know what to do now but indeed, she can control the money so to have a better life.

While Walter is the one who earns money, Gertrude is the one who decides how to spend the money. Lawrence pays particular attention to Mrs. Morel's financial difficulties, especially at the beginning of the novel. He makes the reader aware of her family's continuing poverty:

“Morel was supposed to give his thirty shillings a week, to provide everything-rent, food, clothes, clubs, insurance, doctors. Occasionally, if he were flush, he gave her thirty-five. But these occasions by no means balanced those when he gave her twenty-five. In winter, with a decent stall, the miner might earn fifty or fifty-five shillings a week...If he earned forty shillings, he kept ten; from thirty-five he kept five; from thirty-two he kept four...”³⁶

These details show, firstly, Mrs. Morel has a very good reason to complain at her allowance and secondly that Lawrence is aware of the economic realities of the working class.

In fact, they may be in comfort within these circumstances. The wage Morel earns from mining is rarely enough to provide for a life above the poverty

³⁵Alastair Niven, *D. H. Lawrence: The Novels*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1978, p. 38.

³⁶Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 17.

line. However the political response generated by the narrative is against the inadequacies of the family wage. This would site the blame directly to Morel.

Gertrude plans how to spend the money. On the other side, she does not have the chance of saving some amount of money. Walter never saves a penny, either. Instead, he always has some debts to pay. The few shillings that he puts aside have always gone on drinking. This really makes Gertrude angry. To Gertrude, with that money he can buy something for the children but he chooses to spend it only for himself. If there was a more democratic arrangement concerning household expenditure or if Walter had given his wife all the money he had earned, life would have been much easier for them.

The economic shock started when they got married. The house where she was living did not belong to her husband as he had led her to believe, but to her mother-in-law. Also the furniture had not been paid for and there was no money left over from their wedding, briefly they were penniless. This may be because of Walter's previous debts and because he does not have the capability in controlling the money.

Alcoholism is another shock. He has a great tendency to drink. He always spends all his money on alcoholic drinks. One day when he is run out of money, he takes some from his wife's purse without permission. He cannot help himself from drinking and this causes him to make mistakes. Economically, the family is bound to Walter and Walter to alcohol.

As the economic conditions were changing, people felt poorer than ever. They could not eat everything they wanted. The families were suffering from poverty. Being aware of the poverty, the Morels want to do something for their own sake:

"While they were so poor, the children were delighted if they could do anything to help economically. Annie and Paul and Arthur went out early in the morning, in summer, looking for mushrooms, hunting through the wet grass, from which the larks were rising... and if they got half a pound they felt exceedingly happy: there was the joy of finding something, the joy of accepting something

straight from the hand of Nature, and the joy of contributing to the family exchequer."³⁷

They are all in need of money, food, and urgent needs. But with the successful house management of Gertrude everybody, except Walter, knows what to do when things go wrong. Thus the children sometimes find such practical help for themselves.

Great difficulties began while Walter was ill and had to stay in bed for weeks. There was no income, nothing to eat and drink. Without the help of the neighbours they would not be able to continue their living:

*"The neighbours were good to her: occasionally some had the children in to meals, occasionally some would do the downstairs work for her, one would mind the baby for a day... And the money was just sufficient. She had seventeen shillings a week from clubs, and every Friday Barker and the other butty put by a portion of the stall's profits for Morel's wife. And the neighbours made broths, and gave eggs, and such invalids' trifles. If they had not helped her so generously in those times, Mrs. Morel would never have pulled through, without incurring debts that would have dragged her down."*³⁸

The writer does not pay much attention to the neighbours but they are always with Morel's family spiritually. In fact they are more or less like the Morels economically. They are all suffering from the same problems. Nobody can understand without being disturbed by the same realities. On the other side, it is obvious that Walter or Gertrude's family does not help them. No information is given about them whether they are alive or dead. The real family for them is their neighbours who give them a hand.

The family has always bad experiences but by means of these they learn how to act and how to fight with the deficiencies of life. Once when Morel had a serious accident at work and had to stay in hospital. They had been given 14 shillings a week from the pit, 10 shillings from the sick club, and 5 from the

³⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 68.

³⁸*Ibid.*, p. 45.

Disability Fund. The butties also brought Mrs. Morel 5 or 7 shillings. They were much happier when their father was in the hospital because Mrs. Morel and the children were psychologically and financially better. Mrs. Morel could control all the things in the house and no money was being spent on alcohol or other unnecessary expenditures. On the other hand, they were trying and learning to live on their own. The future was not clear and they had to adapt themselves to the coming days. They had to be strong and believe in themselves. But they were aware of the necessity of the financial power. Unless the money problem was solved, nothing could be appropriate for them.

Another dramatic scene about the financial deficiency is when Paul and Gertrude went out for marketing. Mrs. Morel, like other women, loved shopping. She saw a beautiful dish, liked it but it was seven pence, expensive for her to buy. After she had finished her shopping she saw the dish was still there. The seller asked her to buy it for five pence. She immediately made up her mind and bought it. Paying five pence instead of seven comforts her because she can save two pence for the other expenditures. On this occasion by drawing a picture of being unselfish, the writer puts the reader on her side and comforts her.

Paul's going to the city with his mother is another example. They found a restaurant that seemed to be cheap. When Gertrude saw the menu, she realized that it was not the right place for them to eat. They waited and waited but the waiters behaved as if nobody was there. Gertrude was so angry but she was aware that the waiters' indifference was because they were so poor. Their appearance and their clothes all showed their lack of money.

With little amount of money, the families are not afford everything they want or food for their children, so the children are weak and unhealthy. They are also very susceptible to illnesses. A family could not support itself if all the members of the family were not employed, including the children.

Lawrence himself was the one who left school at 16 to earn living as a clerk in a surgical appliance factory in Nottingham. Just like Lawrence, William and Paul began to work at a young age. They were locked in the factories during the day, their parents could not watch over them as intently as they used to.

When William was thirteen, his mother got a job in an office. At that time he went to the night school and learned shorthand. When he was sixteen, he was one of the shorthand clerks. He gave all his money to his mother and in return his mother gave him back two for himself. He felt himself as rich as a businessman because it was his money as a result of his earning.

As things went well, William began to be friends with the bourgeois of Bestwood, higher than a clerk in rank. He then made a close relationship with the sons of chemist, schoolmaster and tradesmen. He began to play billiards at rich halls. In reality he wanted to change his class. He thought he did not belong to working class so he began to spend money on luxurious things.

As he was coming home for the first time, he brought many presents to his family. Every penny he had spent on the presents. This gave a sense of overflowing luxury to the house but all the things being realized, he had to save some amount of money for himself and his family.

When he began to work in London, he acted as an extremely different person. He had promised his mother that he would send her some money, but he had given only twice and that was all. He had spent all his money on himself. His environment deeply affected him and made him forget about his life in his mother's house. With no doubt it can be observed that the luxurious living of the town life is ready to take away the growing children from their hometown and from their mother who has suffered poverty.

This is the same for Paul, too. When Paul was fourteen, he began looking for work and found it at a surgical appliance factory as a clerk. Lawrence describes Paul looking out of the window, a prisoner of industrialism. The incident is a carefully placed ironic commentary on the young man's aspirations towards freedom. He spends all his day in the factory and at this point Lawrence crystallizes Paul's realization that freedom is not just a theoretical state that can be attained in a factory. Economic power does not bring him freedom; he becomes one of the slaves of the industrialization.

The other children helped the family recover from poverty. The third child, Arthur won a scholarship for a Grammar School and Annie became a junior

teacher. Annie soon earned 15 shillings a week. There would be a financial peace in the house.

As a consequence, the new system has already begun with The Industrial Revolution and the society has to obey the new rules of life. They have to work more as far as their lives are concerned. The worker is, by the economic and social standard of the time, one who is not his own-master. He is not in control of the conditions, duration or rewards of his labour. Also the product of his effort is not primarily related to his own needs or pleasure. The worker belongs to industry, but within this industrial system he is cut off from his individuality. Not only the worker himself but also his family is under the control of industrialisation. The family members lose their ties in this industrialized and crowded community. They continue their living whether the coming days will bring happiness, comfort, and financial victory or not.

3. 2. 2 Class Tension

A huge population boomed that came with The Industrial Revolution made a big demand for work, so many people were encouraged to move to cities to get jobs. Class structure started to form around occupational groups; the artisans, merchants and the farmers. But then all of a sudden, there were great changes in class structure. Ownership of land was now the greatest distinction between social classes. The new social classes were –the industrial capitalists, the urban middle class and the urban poor. The urban poor was an extremely larger group. But it was very hard for children of that class to move up to higher classes unless they had education, which was even a luxury for the wealthy ones.

These were all the same for Lawrence, too. Fjagesund puts forward the linkage between the life of Lawrence and the working class:

“Lawrence’s birth into the working class was only one in a series of interconnected phenomena which created a sense of being caught in a machinery in which the freedom of the human will was being slowly but surely ground to pieces. Invading the countryside, the rapidly growing cities devoured its human and natural

resources. Human beings were turned into the mechanical ants, tending the conveyor belts of dirty, smoky factories and producing standardized goods....there were some of the external forces which shaped the everyday life and the social behaviour of the early twentieth-century generation, and particularly that of the working class."³⁹

The society is being shaped by inequality and within this system the working class is at the bottom. Lawrence and his family are the people who suffer from poverty in the working class. They are like mechanical ants just working for the sake of others and the men upper in class are capturing their freedom.

It is unavoidable that one group is superior to the others. Although the parents want to prevent the children from the dark side of life, the children cannot understand such things and want to have some opportunities like the children of higher status. The women of the working class are also in need of a better life and all of these cause many problems for families and marriages. If husband and wife see the world from different viewpoints, there occurs huge problems within the family.

The marriage of Paul Morel's parents is one of the most persistent paradigms in Lawrence's writing of the relationship between class and gender. Mr. Morel's masculinity is seen by his son to be instinctive, passionate, sensual, graceful and spontaneous at best; crude and violent at worst. Mrs. Morel appears as the feminisation of bourgeois ambition. She is intelligent and sensitive. Lawrence returns to this pattern again and again, and it is included in "Red Herring" a bitter autobiographical poem written late in his life:

*"My father was a working man
and collier was he,
at six in the morning they turned him down
and they turned him up for tea
My mother was a superior soul
a superior soul was she,*

³⁹Peter Fjagesund, *The Apocalyptic World of D. H. Lawrence*, Oslo: Norwegian University Press, 1991, p. 90.

*cut out to play a superior role
in the god-damn bourgeoisie.*"⁴⁰

The novel *Sons and Lovers* and the poem both provoke considerations of a merging gender and class or a metaphorical reading in which there is an embattled relationship between male and female. The female, as worker's wife, is a manager of the household and its finances seen by the worker, one who is obliged to work, appears like the female personification of the company. When Lawrence was a boy, he could see this conflict between his parents.

Gertrude springs from the bourgeoisie, daughter of a proud citizen of the Victorian culture:

*"Mrs. Morel came of a good old burgher family, famous independents who had fought with Colonel Hutchinson, and who remained stout Congregationalists. Her grandfather had gone bankrupt in the lace-market at a time when so many lace-manufacturers were ruined in Nottingham. Her father, George Coppard, was an engineer – a large, handsome, haughty man, proud of his fair skin and blue eyes, but more proud still of his integrity."*⁴¹

Mrs. Morel feels that she is from the bourgeoisie. She feels her indifference from the working class and her husband. On this occasion Wilson puts forward a theory about her class:

"Actually as a woman in late nineteenth-century patriarchal capitalism, she does not really inhabit any class on her own. If she actually were a member of the bourgeoisie before marriage, she would have pulled her husband up to her class level. However, as a woman, she can never be a class member in her own right, so at marriage she is pulled down into the working class. She resents having been dragged down in class. In many respects, the conflicts between Mr. and Mrs. Morel are the result of the clash of different

⁴⁰Vivian de Sola Pinto and F. Warren Roberts (ed.), *The Complete Poems of D. H. Lawrence*, New York: Viking, 1971, p. 25.

⁴¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 7.

class values. Because Mrs. Morel cannot independently attain a class, and these conflicts turn into sexual ones."⁴²

Although she insists on not belonging to the working class, the hints above show her being present in it. Wilson's theory is worth reading as all the things she has found can be observed in the novel. But if there may appear some questions about her class, it is better to know about her earlier life. Her family life is reflected above but if it is not enough, her friendship with others can be analysed. For instance once she has a friend called John Field: "She used to walk home from chapel with John Field when she was nineteen. He was the son of a well-to-do tradesman, had been to college in London, and was to devote himself to business."⁴³

She chooses friends from middle class who really have power in their hands. She likes people who are literate, open to new ideas and have a wide view. They are not strict to one thing, they can see things thoroughly and Gertrude herself wants to be like them. John has all the qualities that Gertrude lacks. She can learn more by the help of her friend and this enables her to improve herself. But this friendship ends when John's father goes bankrupt. In any case this friendship makes her feel higher than the working class.

Actually, she is attracted to a man who is opposite in every way –lower class and less educated:

*"He was well set-up, erect and very smart. He had wavy black hair that shone again, and a vigorous black beard that had never been shaved. His cheeks were ruddy, and his red, moist mouth was noticeable because he laughed so often and so heartily...Gertrude Coppard had watched him, fascinated. He was so full of colour and animation, his voice ran so easily into comic grotesque, he was so ready and so pleasant with everybody. Her own father had a rich fund of humour, but it was satiric. This man's was different: soft, non-intellectual, warm, a kind of gambolling."*⁴⁴

⁴²Cynthia Lewiecki-Wilson, *Writing Against the Family: Gender in Lawrence and Joyce*, America: Southern Illinois University Press, 1994, p. 73.

⁴³Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 8.

⁴⁴*Ibid.*, p. 9.

The man is attractive to the woman as his diametrical antithesis in class and education. He is so different from her father and the manhood around her that she is so captivated by his difference.

In the meantime Lawrence makes a comparison between the man and the woman:

*“She herself was opposite. She had a curious, receptive mind, which found much pleasure and amusements in listening to other folk. She was clever in leading folk to talk. She loved idea, and was considered very intellectual. What she liked most of all was an argument on religion or philosophy or politics with some educated man.”*⁴⁵

It is clear that they are very different in every way, but she cannot help herself from looking at him. And in some ways she is bored of her life, especially with her father. She always remembers having hated her father’s overbearing manner towards her mother. The most striking effect may be that she wants to leave the house and so she gets married. And on this occasion, meeting with a handsome lad helps her to make up her mind. But her solution will bring her more problems than she had before she was married.

On the other hand, different classes may draw attention. The girl comes from the middle class and the boy from the working class. Their clothes, behaviour and ways of speaking are very different from one another. She does not have a friend like Walter. She is attracted by his appearance first, but then other qualities are considered. Walter has not met such a nice person before. He is charmed by her speech and appearance. Their anxieties towards each other make them become more interested in one another. The differences between them arise as the novel develops.

The contrast of opposite sexes is best exemplified in their speech. Lawrence writes, “...when Gertrude spoke to Walter, it was with a southern pronunciation and a purity of English which thrilled him to hear”⁴⁶. And he notes,

⁴⁵Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 9.

⁴⁶Ibid.

“she had never been ‘thee’d’ and ‘thoud’d’ before”⁴⁷. Initially, she finds his local dialect charming, when he addresses her as “tha mucky little ussy”⁴⁸.

This class conflict appearing in speech reminds the reader of Lawrence’s own parents. His mother spoke King’s English, without an accent and never in her life could imitate a sentence of dialect that his father spoke. This is same for Gertrude and Walter. The way she speaks does not change from the beginning till the end in spite of the time she is quarrelling with Walter. She hates being changed by the environment.

Gertrude is highly educated and intends to be a teacher. But Walter Morel, like Arthur Lawrence, is semi-literate, reading aloud from the newspaper. Walter –an archetypal Lawrence- is the son of a miner and he is in mines when he is ten years old. He is just so simple. This simplicity at first attracts Gertrude but after that she cannot share any of her feelings with this unknown man.

They were too young when they first met. The fire burning within had not been put out and they were anxious to meet new people. By chance life brought these two people face to face. Walter first won the girl by his dancing:

*“She watched him. He danced well, as if it were natural and joyous in him to dance...She watched the young miner as he danced a certain subtle exultation like glamour in his movement and his face the flower of his body, ruddy, with tumbled black hair, and laughing alike whatever partner he bowed above. She thought him rather wonderful, never having met anyone like him. Her father was to her the type of all men...Gertrude herself was rather contemptuous of dancing: ... had never learned even a Roger de Coverely. She was puritan, like her father, high-minded and really stern. Therefore the dusky, golden softness of this man’s sensuous flame of life, that flowed off his flesh like the flame from a candle, not baffled and gripped into incandescence by thought and spirit as her life was, seemed to her something wonderful beyond her.”*⁴⁹

⁴⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 11.

⁴⁸*Ibid.*, p. 15.

⁴⁹*Ibid.*, p. 10.

When they're dancing, she feels herself as if she is like a bird flying in an enduring freedom. This dance changes her life, makes her see from a different point of view. In fact, she cannot have been fascinated only by someone's appearance and way of dancing. She is not an illiterate one; she is one of the literate ones. The thing she lacks is that she does not have enough male friends. The only male for her for a long time is her father and she does not have the chance of recognizing male sex thoroughly. John Field is her only male friend but she cannot spend much time with him because of his business. She is very strong in every way but she is so weak in male-female relationship. Thus, for Gertrude, Walter is the first real man that she has a close contact with. This is another reason that she is captivated by him.

Walter is also attracted by her but it is not mentioned in detail in the novel: "I'm like a pig's tail, I curl because I canna help it."⁵⁰ Within a short time they are tied to each other. This is because they are in need of different qualities that they lack. They find the things that they lack in the other and this makes a bond between them.

This relationship is not the same as the novel develops. The difference between them grows farther and when Gertrude becomes conscious of it, she finds her new solutions. She won't be the same person in the first chapters of the novel. But Walter is the one who does not change and who is in harmony with his environment.

Both Walter and the setting are complementary elements here. "Hell Row", "The Bottoms" all give clues about how the people live and work. Walter is one of the people who spends most of his time working underground and cannot see the real world in his house.

Lawrence's attitude towards the working class, -inseparable from his feelings about his father, is unstable, ambivalent and crucial. He looks like denying any connection with mines and miners and to want to become assimilated into the society of artists and their well-to-do patrons. In other mood, he regrets his social climbing tendencies and looks back on the lives of the colliers with a romantic nostalgia. At one extreme, he argues for a well-organized community in

⁵⁰Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 10.

which people work according to talent and mood, wear colourful clothing and have plenty of time for singing and dancing; at other extreme, he longs for a dictatorship organized according to a strict division of labour, rank and gender. Although he is clearly aware of the importance of the division of labour according to gender, Lawrence is unable to see the conditions of the working class except as they affect both sexes in all aspects of life. He is conscious of the alienation of personality from work within the industrial system. The miner presents his own world within himself and he continues his life by isolation.

When Gertrude first meets Morel, she is terrified by his working underground. She cannot imagine a world that runs below. It seems to her so interesting. But after marriage, this underground world shapes life for her and her children. She then views the retuning miners only as wage earners and supporters of their families, or as she more often sees them as violent, irresponsible threats to the well being of women and children. She seems to have no interest in the mines themselves –in their working conditions in the mines. Neither does she have any feeling of solidarity with them. She then begins to view herself apart from the community. She is a bitter individualist and adversary to her husband: “Gertrude Morel was very ill when the boy was born. Morel was good to her, as good as gold. But she felt very lonely, miles away from her own people. She felt lonely and his presence only made it more intense.”⁵¹ For Gertrude he is so away from her. Although they share the same house and he wants to share something with her and his children, he is not like her. So she is alienated from him day by day.

Why she is so alienated and what explains her lack of consciousness can be answered by the talk between her and Paul:

“ ‘You know’, he said to his mother, ‘I do not want to belong to the well-to-do middle class. I like my own people best. I belong to the common people.’

‘But if anyone else said so, my son, would not you be in a tear. You know you consider yourself equal to any gentleman.’

‘In myself,’ he answered, ‘not in my class or my education or my manners. But in myself I am.’

⁵¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 77.

'Very well, then. Then why talk about the common people?'

'Because –the difference between people is no tin their class, but in themselves. Only from the middle classes one gets ideas, and from the common people –life itself, warmth. You feel their hates and loves.'

'It's all very well, my boy. But, then, why don't you go and talk to your father's pals?'

'But they're rather different.'

*'Not at all. They're the common people. After all, whom do you mix with now –among the common people? Those that exchange ideas, like the middle classes. The rest don't interest you.'*⁵²

This is to argue for Paul's unconscious identification with his father, more generally, for a conflict between his avert and his suppressed feelings about each other. Mrs. Morel identifies herself with the middle class rank and she assigns to her father and Paul concurs. She considers herself better educated, more refined in taste and more ambitious than Morel, and she stands in judgement over him. The mother's social ambitions, as well as Paul's mother-fixation, provide much of the basic conflict. As a rising clerk for a surgical appliance firm, as a promising conventional designer, and as a priggish and "superior" young man shedding his social origins, traditional restrictions, Paul follows his mother's aspirations. His creator has partly gone that route and then rebelled.

Yet Lawrence has constructed Paul's thinking about class by means of a binary opposition that is, middle class equals ideas and working class equals warmth. In the presentation of Morel's positive qualities, the warmth can be seen in his life. When he is mending boots, patching his pit-trousers or making fuses with wheat-straws and gunpowder or a few moments of Morel's life in the mine which he tells stories about are all uniting the children and the man in the work.

Unlike Gertrude, Walter Morel likes the way he lives. He is the member of his own class and proud of it. He is the son of a miner and has spent all his life in mines. He is uneducated, illiterate just a simple one. But Gertrude is always sorry for marrying an uneducated person. Incidentally, she thinks Walter has destroyed

⁵²Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 256.

her prestige in the society. Therefore, from the beginning till the end she hates her husband.

Although he is uneducated and illiterate, he is in harmony with his environment. In his limited society, the men do not have enough time to do any other activities. The only thing they can do is to go to the pub and drink. Playing games and taking alcohol make them a bit more relaxed and allow them to be alienated from the problems of life. Walter, too, does the same thing in order to run away from the problems. But he enjoys the life itself because with his friends and his environment it becomes so colourful. Thus, the reader cannot blame Walter for being an illiterate and uneducated person.

Freedom is a gift that is given to all human beings and nobody can interfere with another as to how he or she can use this sense of freedom. Walter, in some way, uses his freedom by drinking and going out with friends. But he is sometimes over the limits and makes his wife angry. He always comes home drunk, shouts at his wife and starts long quarrels. Gertrude is ashamed of his rude behaviour.

Here Lawrence himself is on the side of Gertrude because his own father used to drink a lot and behaved badly towards his mother. He witnessed how she had suffered so he always put the blame on his father and hated him. After a long while he understood how he had wrongly judged his father but it was too late. In many of his interviews he told that if he had had the chance of writing the novel again, he would not have put such blame on the father figure.

Gertrude and Walter are different genders and they respond to different characteristics of a father and a mother in the novel. Unschooling and uninterested in the bourgeoisie, Morel is associated with the natural world:

“He loved the early morning, walking across the fields, looking out for mushrooms... So he appeared at the pit top, often with a stalk from the hedge between his teeth which he chewed all day to keep his mouth moist, down the mine, feeling quite as happy as when he was in the field.”⁵³

⁵³Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 38.

If Morel is aligned with nature, Mrs. Morel stands firmly on the side of culture. She remains at a distance from her husband and neighbours. She strives for the advancement of her children, focusing all her energy on them as if they were products to be successfully traded in the marketplace of life.

The class conflict is not only between Mr. and Mrs. Morel throughout the novel. Of course, because the problems first occur at home, the children are also affected by this negative scene. They do not behave well to their father and he is aware of this:

*“ ‘There’s not a man tries harder for his family!’ he would shout. ‘He does his best for them, and then gets treated like a dog. But I’m not going to stand it, I tell you!’
...As it was, the battle now went on nearly all between father and children, he persisting in his dirty and disgusting ways, just to assert his independence. They loathed him.”⁵⁴*

The children look down on the father figure and see him lower than them. They cannot see the reality, they cannot understand how hard he tries and works because they are under control of the mother. Whatever Walter does or whatever he says does not mean anything for them.

Apart from the problems in the family, the children have some problems in their private lives. The first problem appeared with William’s beginning to work. At work, his friends were from the upper class. He felt their superiority and wanted to be like them. Therefore, his behaviour changed. He began to act like an upper class person. He immediately forgot his previous life and began a richer one.

The other was in his engagement. When William became engaged with Lily, he had bought an expensive ring for her. Although he did not earn much money, he insisted on buying an expensive one. Lily was not aware of how his family was suffering from poverty. She is a typical secretary but she spends the money only for her own sake. She is used to living in luxury and spending money without thinking. William is so blind that he cannot see how they are different from each other.

⁵⁴Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 114.

Their class-consciousness appears when they first visit the Morel's family. Everybody in the house is so interested in Lily. Her clothes are different from theirs and she plays the role of a queen in the house. For example, Annie is like her maid in the house, doing everything for her and even washing her clothes for her.

Lily also treats Mr. Morel coldly. She knows that he is a miner; he is just an ordinary man to her. It is stated as "The young lady evidently did not realise them as people; they were creatures to her for the present."⁵⁵ She takes no notice of the other members of the family except Mrs. Morel. She knows how deeply William loves her mother and only contacts with her in the house.

Other children do not have such problems. Arthur and Annie choose friends that are similar to them and their mother does not interfere with them. But she influences Paul when choosing his friends. She wants him to have a higher status so she always warns him. Paul wants to be in a different place in the society, too but he does not believe in the power of money. He improves himself by reading, writing and meeting with people who deal with this issue. But as the novel develops he looks down on Miriam, because she is not as literate as him and knows that she is in need of him. Nevertheless, he does not approve of his class and as stated before he identifies himself in the middle class like his mother. In reality, Gertrude and Paul have lost their sense of class and they are both lost in that society.

Lawrence views a family whose members are very different from each other. Although there is a family consisting of mother, father and the children, they all belong to different worlds and atmospheres. The way they talk, the way they behave, and the way they see the world do not fit the other. They share the same house and they sometimes come together. They live under the same roof and in some way they are like one another but nobody sees this result. Finally if it is compulsory to find who the guilty is, it may appear that the mother and the father both have drawn this inequality in the family. Their marriage has not brought happiness or any other good things for themselves and the children.

⁵⁵Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 117.

Lawrence believes technology has changed the instincts of human beings. He is against industrialization and modernization. Civilization kills the blood instincts in human beings. If they had been living in a field far from the civilization, all the things will have been different but it is not of course definite. The disastrous power of the industrialization cuts off the family ties and tosses the members to different parts of the society.

The economic realities show their presence in the working class, however Gertrude and the children do not fit in this class. Their speech, clothes and more of that their behaviour is different from Walter's. Walter speaks like the people around him and does not pay attention to formal speech, but Gertrude is not like him. She pays great attention to her speech and behaves like a lady towards other people. Because of having a strong affect on the children, she makes them speak like her. She is deliberately influencing them to be members of the middle class.

3. 2. 3 Marriage Status

Marriage is a kind of status that a male and a female come together so as to form a family life. The man and the woman are now about to start a new life by sharing all the things with one another. The more the sharing is, the happier the family life will be. Thus, the members of this status have to understand each other deeply so that the emotions can complete the system.

A human being is a complex system that cannot be understood fully. The procedures in mind cannot be predicted. Because of this, marriages can sometimes be failure. But, on this occasion, the husband and the wife have to be self-sacrificing. The participants have to be more patient than they are and they have to keep the balance of mind and emotions.

Before marriage the members must have a chance to know each other. It is important to have a dating period before marrying someone. In addition, one should try to know the other physically and psychologically. Besides, knowing the background of one's life may also help to understand him or her better.

In the life of Gertrude and Walter, problems appear before marriage but they are not aware that these problems will affect their lives in one way or another. For example; Gertrude has some problems with her own family:

*"Mrs Morel came of a good old burgher family, famous independents who had fought with Colonel Hutchinson, and who remained stout Congregationalists. Her grandfather had gone bankrupt in the lace-market at a time when so many lace-manufactures were ruined in Nottingham. Her father, George Coppard, was an engineer – a large, handsome, haughty man, proud of his fair skin and blue eyes, but more proud still of his integrity."*⁵⁶

This sense of hatred affects all her life. She does not forgive her father and cannot get rid of her family problems. This love affair with mother and hatred of father influence her own children. When she makes up her mind about her mistake towards her husband and children, she begins to die.

The breakdown of her friendship with John Field is another shock for Gertrude. There appears to be a strong bond between him and her. John is the ideal person that she hopes for; an educated, sympathetic person, knows how to speak and act, etc. when his father has been ruined and has gone as a teacher, their relationship breaks off. She heard that after two years John had got married to a woman of forty who was very rich. She feels sorry for this but does not tell anything to anybody. She is, in some way, being injured by another male after her father. But she does not fully blame John because in the following pages of the novel it is noted that she will keep the Bible John has given her till she dies.

However; the third and the most disastrous shock, marrying Walter is a great excuse for her. Being so disturbed before, here, she wants to control all the outside effects. By doing this she hopes to be happy in her marriage but Walter is not one to be controlled by her. Thus, she begins to take revenge on the male by controlling the householders. At first, she marries for love, but then lives in hate.

As it is observed throughout the novel, Walter is not the only guilty one, in fact, because nobody has forced Gertrude to marry him. It is her choice. But

⁵⁶Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 7.

Lawrence especially sees the events from the point of Gertrude's view and this reminds the reader that the person responsible for the poverty, unhappiness and other difficulties is only Walter. However, he is not as bad as he is viewed. He is so popular in his environment. He gets on well with his workmates and his neighbours.

Schneider states about Walter as follows:

*"... Morel is quick with the quick of life... His spontaneous life energy I most sharply realized when he is working, fulfilling his deep male creative desires. Hammering the glowing iron on his "goose", morel is "jolly". He sings, too, when he mends boots "because of jolly sound of hammering"; he s happy mending he tells stories about the pit, about the horse Taffy and the mice that somehow thrive in the darkness."*⁵⁷

These are some of the best moments in the children's life associated with the father. He has a good time with his children and enters into the intimate activity of the family. There is much emphasis on his physical presence and the details of his usual treatment. He contacts with the people physically. Thus, he is a man of action rather than of thought and emotion.

Although Gertrude wants to contact with him at first, there is no connection between the puritanical bourgeoisie and the miner. Lawrence writes: "Sometimes, when she wearied of love-talk, she frankly tried to open her heart seriously to him. She saw him listen deferentially, but without understanding. This killed her efforts at a finer intimacy, and she had flashes of her."⁵⁸ The marriage of Walter and Gertrude is doomed to failure. Her attempts to change her husband without changing herself is a rare instance. Walter is rather intuitive, but incapable of facing his responsibilities. He is living a life in stupor and indifference.

Gertrude is in need of a different husband and always dissatisfied with his behaviour. While waiting for her husband's return she thinks of a good husband:

"Occasionally a man lurched past, almost as full as he could carry. Sometimes a good husband came along with his family, peacefully."

⁵⁷Daniel J. Schneider, *D.H. Lawrence : The Artist as Psychologist*, USA : University Press of Kansas, 1984, p. 135.

⁵⁸Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 11.

*But usually the women and children were alone. The stay-at-home mothers stood gossiping at the corners of the alley, as the twilight sank, folding their arms under their white aprons.*⁵⁹

The narrator, here, defines a good husband who thinks of his family more than himself. He buys and carries the things the family needs, or he comes along with his family. Gertrude is in need of a husband as it is pictured in the lines. She thinks of a good husband as a man who stays with his wife in the evening and talks to her and discusses the daily problems of the house with her.

It is also noted as “occasionally”. This means that there were not many good husbands, either. Not only Walter but also other men were not interested in their wives and they came home late. The men were alike and they did not want to spend much time at home. That means the women and the children were “usually” alone. The Morels are one of these families in which the mother and the children exist at home without a father figure. The effect of this loneliness among the other families is not clearly known but Lawrence feels this loneliness more than anyone else and he always wants to spend much time with his father. When his father is at home, he is rather tired or sleepy or he is often drunk. Lawrence does not have the chance of sharing something with his father.

In Morels, the children cannot spend much time with their father, either. Walter and Gertrude do not have a fulfilling marriage so Walter comes home as if the house was a pension and does not contact with his children or more of that with his wife. Like Arthur Lawrence, he is rather tired or drunk when he arrives home. Rather than saving the money to support his family and to enable children a happy childhood, he spends all his money on alcohol.

Alcoholism is supposed to be the most dangerous problems of a family life. The chain between the man and the rest of the family is broken off and cannot be repaired in the following years. They become strangers in the house and are not interested in each other. Such a disease cannot emerge all of a sudden. Before confronting with the results, one has to bear in mind the reasons, which enable the man to drink alcohol.

⁵⁹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 25.

Walter is a hardworking miner working from morning to evening. He works under difficult conditions and feels exhausted. After that he does not have the ability to deal with any other work. In fact he is not interested in anything else such as: listening to the radio, going to the cinema or going out with his wife etc. He is an uneducated man so he does not have any desire to deal with any social events. He only thinks about how much he would earn. Therefore, in his spare time he goes to the pub and drinks with his friends. This is his only joy. The best way for him to relax is to chat with his friends, maybe gamble a bit and drink alcohol as much as he wants to.

On the other hand, he does not spend much time in the house when he comes from work. No male stays in the house and helps his wife with the housework. He thinks dealing with the housework is her duty, and earning money is his. He does not want to be a henpecked husband. He wants a male-dominated family. He thinks he is the only power in the house. In fact he is the one who has the least power at home. He hates spending time in the house, so he goes out with his friends and comes home when he is heavily drunk. Being drunk, he thinks his authority in the house increases.

Walter is an introverted person. He does not communicate with the family members as much as he needs to. He likes the children to talk to him but the children are afraid of him and see him as a stranger. For instance; when Paul won a prize in a competition, his mother wanted him to warn his father:

“ ‘I’ve won a prize in a competition, dad,’ he said.

‘Have you, my boy? What sort of a competition?’

‘Oh, nothing-about famous women.’

‘And how much is the prize, then, as you’ve got?’

‘It’s a book.’

‘Oh, indeed!’

‘About birds.’

‘Hm-hm!’

And that was all. Conversation was impossible between the father and any other of the family. He was an outsider.”⁶⁰

⁶⁰Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 63.

Since he does not show his feelings, others think that he is not interested in them. Thus, they portray him as an outsider, or a stranger. Walter is more interested in his wife and children than is thought but he cannot show his love towards them. He lives all the events in his world and does not reveal it to the others. He is, in some way, a shy person. He destroys his shyness by drinking. After drinking a bit, he feels more comfortable and begins to act as a confident man. He then thinks he is much stronger than he is. But this feeling of confidence is temporary. When he enters into the real world in the house, he is again the same alienated, isolated person.

If all the things are being viewed from the part of Walter, he cannot be fully blamed. Bump's notes about Walter's alcoholism are as follows:

*"In order to fully blame Lawrence's mother for the pathology of the family, it is first necessary to excuse, deny, rationalize or minimize the father's drinking. Walter Morel signed the pledge and wore the blue ribbon of a teetotaler but does not identify Morel drinks in order to escape from his wife's disappointment in him."*⁶¹

Why he drinks a lot generally is due to his wife. Because of her behaviour he wants to escape from her disappointment. He then has a tendency to drink more and more. Of course Walter has some deficiencies but Gertrude, too, is the main source that brings his deficiencies to the surface. She always puts all the blame on him and she always scolds him. But she never accepts her guilt.

Anyway, the results of the alcoholism are often harmful for the alcoholic himself and the people in his environment. As the drinking process is lengthened, the number of the problems increases, too.

If the results are to be analysed in the Morels', firstly, the man begins to drink more day by day and it becomes harmful to his health. Thus, Walter Morel often feels sick because of drinking too much and one day Paul goes and gets his money for him. The cashier says: "You should tell him to keep off the drink."⁶² He cannot help himself from drinking too much, as a result he is mostly ill.

⁶¹Jerome Bump, *D. H. Lawrence and Family System Theory*, (n. p.): Renascence, 1991, p. 70.

⁶²Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 70.

Paul is aware of this alcoholism and wants him to be free from this bad habit: “ ‘Make him stop drinking’ he prayed every night. ‘Lord, let my father die’ He prayed very often. ‘Let him not to be killed at pit’, he prayed when, after tea, the father did not come home from work.”⁶³ At first, he thinks of protecting his family from this habit, and the best solution is his father’s death. But when he discovers his mother’s presence, he shares his mother’s anxiety over the father’s non-appearance. In short, he shares his mother ambivalent attitude towards the father. He is then fully ashamed of what he has thought about.

Secondly, a heavily drunken man is weak in controlling his behaviours and acts like a nocturnal animal. He thinks that he is always right and not paying attention to what other people think he begins to quarrel with the people.

This is exactly what Walter has done to Gertrude. When he comes home, he is heavily drunk and cannot control himself. One day he threw the drawer at her and it bumped into her brow:

“As he looked at her, who was cold and impassive as stone, with mouth shut tight, he sickened with feebleness and hopelessness of spirit. He was turning drearily away, when he saw a drop of blood fall from the averted wound into the baby’s fragile, glistening hair. Fascinated, he watched the heavy dark drop hang in the glistening cloud, and pull down the gossamer. Another drop fell. It would soak through to the baby’s scalp. He watched, fascinated, feeling it soak in; then finally, his man hood broke.”⁶⁴

On another occasion, she was pushed by him into the garden and had to spend the night there. After this event he felt fully ashamed of what he had done. But because of his pride he does not apologize to his wife. Gertrude wants him to say something about his mistakes. If he had apologized, she might have forgiven him. But things became more complex as the years passed by and they were not interested in each other anymore.

Being as an alcoholic, both his wife and children do not respect him and do not fall in esteem. He becomes conscious of their behaviour and wants them to

⁶³Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 60.

⁶⁴*Ibid.*, p. 40.

discipline them. When the children were young, it was easy because he only had to struggle with his wife. But when they grew older, all the children were against him and were on the side of their mother. This makes Walter angrier and he begins to live so as to take revenge on them. Also he becomes furious day by day.

On one side the alcoholic becomes angrier, on the other, since he is not controlling his feelings, he becomes jealous of everything. Walter does the same things. Hitting William when he was a baby or cutting his hair like a sheep are examples of those. He wants to show his jealousy by destroying the people around him.

Thirdly, a drunken person begins to tell lies so as to reach his goals. Walter spends all his money on drinks and when he has run out of money, he takes some money from Gertrude's purse secretly. She then asks about the money, but he says he has not taken it. Alcohol makes him a selfish man day by day.

Fourthly; and most important of all, alcoholism makes people alienated from their environment. Walter's alienation process quickens after he begins to drink too much. He comes home just to rest and have something to eat. He gives some of his salary to Gertrude as if it is a fee for resting and eating. Rather than his home, the public house becomes his private place offering both a familiarity and a family intimacy that his household can rarely offer.

By behaving in a cold manner, Mrs. Morel makes him alienated from the family. She tries to educate him, but when she discovers the impossibility of her action, she stops communicating with him. Walter intentionally causes his isolation. As Gertrude cannot understand him, Walter does care about his alienation. Hitting the baby, cutting his hair or eating and drinking more noisily than ever are, in fact, some of his protests against his isolation. He is more intelligent than he is viewed but nobody in his family can discover it. For an outsider, one can think that he is happy with his life but if a reader discovers how he is suffering, it is much to be believed that his wife and children are needed to draw a close attention to him.

Gertrude always sees herself as an intelligent person. If she is as clever as she thinks, she should have noticed his indifference. Then she may have behaved differently to him. Because of not noticing this, she also influences the children so

the children begin to drift away from him. But they are not aware of that he is acting on purpose and as the novel develops he becomes less important in the lives of the family members. As the reader continues to develop, he only thinks about a father figure who is wandering in the house and has no importance. Both for the reader and the family, his presence will not have a value.

Lawrence draws a parental love in one of his books as:

*"Then one parent, usually the mother, is the object of a blind devotion, whilst the other parent, usually the father, is an object of resistance. The child is taught, however, that both parents should be loved, and only loved: and that love, gentleness, pity, charity and all higher emotions, these alone are genuine feelings; all the rest are false, to be rejected."*⁶⁵

Generally the mother is the one who spends much time at home. She is probably the main controller in the house. She can clearly observe what is going right or wrong. She is like a secret gun in the house and can fire whenever she is needed. In this respect, Mrs. Morel must have been such a bond between her husband and her children. The children cannot see him much because of his hard work. But if she has helped both sides so as to know and love each other, the children may have been more interested in their father. Her mistake, here, is that she does not interfere in the relationship between them.

The children are too young to understand everything and they are in dilemma about how to act. In the same book it is noted as follows:

*"But between the parents and children a painfully false relation grows up: a relation of two adults, either of two pure lovers who are trying to bully one another. Instead of leaving the child with its own limited but deep and incomprehensible feelings, the parent hopelessly involved in the sympathetic made of selfless love...and stimulates the child into a consciousness which does not belong to it, on the one plane and its spontaneous consciousness and freedom on the other plane."*⁶⁶

⁶⁵D. H. Lawrence, *Fantasia of the Unconscious*, England: Penguin Books Ltd., 1921, p. 118.

⁶⁶Ibid.

The children cannot understand what is happening around them. The parents can have some problems but the children may not know what to do. On this occasion, one of the parents interprets the events. He or she influences the child and wants him or her to know about how he or she is suffering from the other. Now the child begins to view everything from one side, puts the blame on the other and has the sense of hatred towards the unloved one. And by influencing the child, the parents take the child's freedom from his or her hand and make him or her as a slave of himself or herself.

This is exactly what Gertrude has done to the children. A mother has to protect her children rather than absorb them. Too much suffering affects them and they begin to hate their father. Also Gertrude begins to despise him. For instance, when she was ill, Morel brought her a cup of tea but she was not satisfied with this. She wants more and more. She becomes uninterested in Walter and begins to shape her life due to her children. Lawrence states her battle towards Walter as follows:

“ There began a battle between the husband and wife – a fearful, bloody battle that ended only with the death of one. She fought to make him undertake his own responsibilities, to make him fulfil his obligations. But he was too different from her. His nature was purely sensuous and she strove to make him moral, religious. She tried to force him to face things. He could not endure it – it drove him out of his mind. ”⁶⁷

Personally, her joy is being demolished by his lies about the furniture and the house. She wants to give him a second chance to undertake his responsibilities but he has a stable personality not changing in his mood. Although she tried to force him to change and face things, she has failed. In fact, these compulsions have caused Walter's alienation in their marriage. Her hatred towards him increases after Walter hits the baby. Gertrude has done everything in order to change him, but from now on Walter becomes the guilty person in the house.

Niven confronts this situation as:

⁶⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 14.

“... Mrs. Morel has an emotional power far beyond her husband’s as the verbs Lawrence uses here make clear: ‘She fought...she strove...she tired to force.’ But the clash springs from their class roots, too, for Mrs. Morel tries to give her husband the qualities of the burgher family from which she has come... Walter Morel, neither wants to observe nor understand this. Even small details of rearing a family became crises in the perpetual fight.”⁶⁸

Mrs. Morel always wants to change her husband into a man of bourgeoisie. She wants to see the man in her mind. Thus, she is always in a battle with him. She never accepts him as he is. If she had accepted him, they would have had a better family life.

This conflict carries their marriage and forms a lasting bond between the two, even though Mrs. Morel ceases to love her husband. But she still remembers that she loved him once. This mood is shown by Paul’s words to Miriam later in the novel: “Yes; but my mother, I believe, got real joy and satisfaction out of my father at first. I believe she had a passion for him; that’s why she stayed with him. After all, they were bound to each other.”⁶⁹

Even though Mrs. Morel comes to despise her husband, they do experience a brief period of passion and fulfilment, which is strong enough to last a lifetime. If the first part of the novel is to be reread, the feelings of marriage cannot be described. Thus, Gertrude always remembers that she has loved him once.

When Walter becomes ill, it is Mrs. Morel who nurses him back to health: “In spite of all, and putting aside the fact that he was breadwinner, she never quite wanted him to die. Still there was one part of her wanted him for herself.”⁷⁰ The feelings of a human being cannot be understood. Although she hates her husband, she does not want him to die or divorce him. One part of her hates him but the other part continues to love. But this love won’t be enough for his alienation.

As *Sons and Lovers* is a reflection of Lawrence’s life, Lawrence is unsympathetic to his father as long as his father lives. Certainly Morel’s weakness of spirit follows his violence of temper. This violence affects the children and

⁶⁸Niven, p. 41.

⁶⁹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 386.

⁷⁰*Ibid.*, p. 61.

makes them hate him. In addition to this, the mother continues to destroy her husband in the act of creating the new generation. Morel is helpless before her strength and power and Lawrence's stresses him as a "husk"⁷¹ who "did not seem to ripen with the years"⁷², "an outsider"⁷³. At the beginning of novel Walter Morel is fully attractive but later Lawrence makes a prototype of an animal figure.

Lawrence does not stress Mrs. Morel's part in his destruction, as he is clearly interested only in her as the centre of the novel. There is some sympathy for him, but Lawrence is biased in favour of Mrs. Morel. He is then generally seen in a bad light although there are moments when Morel emerges and there is harmony in the house. He gradually becomes less and less significant in the novel and is made outsider.

Walter is alienated but Mrs. Morel is alienated, too. The cause of her alienation is her condition as a woman, being dependent, a mother with too many children and not enough money, with no life but poverty and childbearing. She is like a robot in the house, doing the housework from morning to evening, going shopping and making meal for the householders. Apart from this, she becomes so interested in the lives of her children.

The wife and the husband are, in some way, strangers to one another from the beginning. Lawrence discovers the estrangement in his own family and wants to criticize it in his novel. Before revealing the problems in the novel, the reader can easily find by noticing the use of the names of the man and the woman. Lawrence uses as 'Mr. Morel' or only 'Morel', rarely 'Walter' and 'Mrs. Morel' or sometimes 'Gertrude'. It is a kind of aristocracy within the house and Lawrence does not use as 'mother' or 'father' or in a sensitive way as 'mom' or 'dad'. There is a bond between the husband and the wife. It is just that they are parents and their surnames are the same. They are like staff members who work in the same department and contact each other only about financial problems. At other times they do not mind the other's absence or presence.

Physically, everything seems to have finished in their marriage, but in their minds something is still missing. There has been something going on and they

⁷¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 62.

⁷²*Ibid.*, p. 142.

⁷³*Ibid.*, p. 82.

cannot stop it. Paul wants to put an end to their relationship after the parents quarrel:

“ ‘Can you go to bed, mother?’

‘Yes, I will come.’

‘Sleep with Annie, mother, not with him.’

‘No, I will sleep in my own bed.’

‘Don’t sleep with him mother.’

‘I will sleep in my own bed.’ ”⁷⁴

Gertrude has quarrelled with Walter badly and then she faints. Paul witnesses his mother’s suffering and does not want her to sleep with his father. Because of feeling sorry for her and because of being jealous, she wants her to cut off her relationship with him. But there is something wrong going between the two that Paul cannot avoid. In the end she goes and sleeps in her bed with her husband.

The marriage reflected in the novel cannot be an everlasting one. At once they loved each other but their love cannot be enough for recovering from problems. This love cannot help them in solving the problems as things become complicated.

Ecker has pointed out the real marriage as follows:

*“Marriage was not only a promise declared in front of the altar but the manifestation of the maturity of body and mind. Therefore it is also concept of a spiritual and bodily alliance between man and woman. To keep the balance of these two components with in oneself as well as towards the other, i.e. the partner, is the constant challenge in a relation.”*⁷⁵

If it is searched in detail, marriage is not as easy as it is viewed. Walter and Gertrude act according to what their body wants. They think their love would overcome all the difficulties. In fact when they get married, they are not mature enough to think about the difficulties. They cannot keep the balance of body and mind and soon, they prepare their end. When they discover their mistakes, it is too

⁷⁴Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 215.

⁷⁵Michael Ecker, *The Serpent of The Sun: D.H. Lawrence’s Moral Ego Revisited*, New York: The Edwin Mellen Press, 1995, p. 39.

late to return back to the beginning. Gertrude does not accept the deficiencies and she wants to change Walter thoroughly. She is in a panic to change him and to fulfil her desires but all her efforts are in failure. By behaving as a selfish person, she has wanted to create a person who fits the figure in her mind. But when she's aware of that it is impossible for her to change Walter; she cuts off her relationship with him. Then she finds some new scapegoats for herself. The children are too young and she can easily shape them. When she is shaping them, she thinks she is the controller and the winner. In fact she is the one who has lost everything and when she is conscious of her being loser, she begins to die.

On the other hand, Lawrence generally puts the blame on Walter rather than Gertrude, but he is not only the one who is guilty. If he has been given much importance the reader can evaluate how good he is to his family and how important his family is for him. But he lacks some of the things that a husband has to save. He is not a good partner like Gertrude and he acts only physically. He cannot provide what a marriage fully needs. He is so cold and inactive in the marriage and this leads him to be a scapegoat.

To sum up, the Morels' marriage lacks the partners' maturity both spiritually and physically. They cannot keep the balance of body and mind so they cannot understand each other. They cannot understand what the other needs. Thus, their marriage would never be a fulfilling one. It becomes a demolishing factor for the parents and the children. They do not think of getting divorced because Gertrude, being a conservative person, does not want to bring up children alone and wants them to grow up in the family. If she had divorced or if she had accepted everything as normal, their family life would have been so different from that presented in the story.

3. 2. 4 Religious Bonds

Family is observed in every social group. It is based on natural, legal, social and religious bonds. The religious bonds, for example, by means of high values, may help the family members to understand each other. In some families the religious bond is more important than any other bonds. It has a deep effect

over the family, and by means of it, the family continues to live. In modern society, one who has broken his or her relationship with religion, cannot be happy and cannot adapt himself or herself to the changes in circumstances. Then he or she begins to look for deep thought and religion.

It is important to analyse again the life of D.H. Lawrence because his life is so linked to religion:

“Working upon and through, the Christian Symbolism which he absorbed from his Congregationalist upbringing, Lawrence began from an early age to write his own ‘myth of the birth of the hero’... Lawrence saw himself as a casualty of the modern age, the Age of Love, the New Testament era of abstraction and the industrialism that went hand in hand with the triumph of the free individual consciousness... The son, born of love, is crucified on the contradiction between freedom and necessity. Necessity is embodied in Old Testament Law, the power and irrationality of the Father...This Puritan intensity is implicated in every facet of Lawrence’s life and work.”⁷⁶

Lawrence has been strictly brought up by Christian thought, so its effects can be seen in all his works. He is always thought to be a good and he believes in what has been written in the Holy Bible. As mentioned above, he divides his life as The New Testament and The Old Testament. For this reason he divides people as good and bad, the ugly ones are connected to sin. His characters are always under the control of religion.

As Gertrude comes from a conservative family, she has deep thoughts about religion. Religion has a deep effect on her moods. She always makes up her mind according to what is good and what is sinful. Till she dies, she always has the Bible that John has given her, deeply believes in what is written in the Bible and claims to be a true Christian.

Gertrude is a puritan; the daughter of a person, “who drew near in sympathy only to one man, the Apostle Paul”⁷⁷. The true self, for her, is identified

⁷⁶G. M. Hyde, *Macmillian Modern Novelists: D.H. Lawrence*, London: Macmillian Education Ltd., 1990, p. 5.

⁷⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 14.

with spiritual or intellectual principle: "She loved ideas and was considered very intellectual. What she liked most of all was an argument on religion or philosophy or politics with some educated man."⁷⁸ As the story develops it is seen that her puritan origins are heavier and more moralistic than any other in the family. Thus, Gertrude despises Morel and the gross unspiritual life he represents: "His nature was purely sensuous and she strove to make him moral, religious."⁷⁹ And so life in the Morel household is dominated by the conflict between the spiritual idealism of Gertrude and what she sees as the brutality of the life, which her husband embodies.

But Gertrude is not shut up within the puritan self she has chosen. This darker side of her nature makes itself felt in her attraction to Walter Morel. The conflict between blood-consciousness and mind-consciousness is already taking place in her. It is the puritan in her that attacks Morel and she hates him because he has disturbed the slumber of that part of her with which her chosen identity cannot cope:

*"She was a puritan, like her father, high-minded, and really stern. Therefore the dusky, golden softness of this man's sensuous flame of life, that flowed off his flesh like the flame from a candle, not baffled and gripped into incandescence by thought and spirit as her life was, seemed to her something wonderful, beyond her."*⁸⁰

Gertrude never fully understands the nature of the conflict in her own soul and so can never achieve integrity. She is attracted to the world, which Morel represents; for something in her is a part of it. But the mental consciousness or the cultured self with which she identifies will not accept the other for what it is, and she sins against the only self she is prepared to recognize.

During the marriage, she always has to struggle against Walter. Because he has spiritually destroyed Gertrude once and Gertrude does not want to be destroyed again. As it is cited above, she has lost her sense of religion but then she looks for it and wants to have this sense again.

⁷⁸Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 16.

⁷⁹*Ibid.*, p. 42.

⁸⁰*Ibid.*, p. 10.

At a young age, Gertrude always thought of what is good and what is sin. She is the one who: "Still believed the unequal distribution of wealth was justified by the personal failings of the poor and by economic law. Poverty was intimately connected to sin."⁸¹ She always believes that their poverty is connected with her husband's behaviour. His character is not as stable as hers and he is always making mistakes. He is very rude to his wife and his children. He is never sorry for what he has made and thinks he is right. Sometimes he's aware of his fault but because of his pride he never feels sorry for it.

Walter does not know how to spend the money, either. He is working very hard but spending the money easily. Mrs. Morel is never sinful in the economic sense. She is very careful in spending the money and wants her children to be careful, too. She never spends only for herself but Walter does. He spends the money selfishly and does not think about the future. Of course, he gives some amount of money to his wife for the household expenditures but he does not save any money. Thus, Gertrude thinks God has tortured them. God is punishing by making them poor.

The biggest part that Walter spends his money on is alcohol. During The Industrial Revolution many families were suffering from alcoholism. Many workers were not given enough salaries to continue their living and they began to drink so as to forget the problems for a little while. Including Walter, the working class men spent money on alcohol and made life much more complicated. Gertrude is a strict puritan and she hates people spending money on alcoholic drinks. It is one of the deadly sins for her.

After spending money in the pub, Walter comes home drunk. At nights, Gertrude prepares dinner and waits for him to come from the pub. He comes home in the middle of the night and he often quarrels with his wife. Arthur Lawrence was a heavy drinker, too and David always remembers hating his father's drunkenness. Walter is just the same as Arthur. When he drinks too much, he loses his temper and begins to act like a monster. He is rude to his wife and is not a normal person any more. And when he gets up the next morning, he continues to live as if nothing has happened. His mood makes Gertrude angrier

⁸¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 70.

and she feels more hatred towards him as years pass. The children also begin to hate him for causing their mother to suffer, too.

Lying is another deadly sin for Gertrude. She first confronts this problem early in their marriage. One day when she was brushing his coat, she found some papers in his pocket. They were the bills of the furniture still unpaid: “ ‘Look here,’ she said at night, after he was washed and had had his dinner. ‘I found these in the pocket of your wedding-coat. Have not you settled the bills yet?’ ”⁸² Why he has not paid the bills is unknown, but he might have spent the money on alcohol. He is not like her by taking all the responsibilities; he lives on his own and likes to live for himself. She is learning now how he is insensitive and selfish.

He also lies about the house they live in. Gertrude thinks it belongs Walter but later she learns that he is paying his mother rent. She is again shocked about what she has heard. He is not the perfect man whom she really loved at one time. Day by day she learns more about him and makes up her mind that she has made a big mistake for marrying such a dishonest man.

Once Walter wants to go to the pub but he does not have enough money. He finds his wife’s purse and takes some money out of it. In fact, he is stealing the money from her. She’s aware of it but he never admits it.

“ ‘Did you take sixpence out of my purse last night?’

‘Me!’ he said, looking up in an offended way. ‘No, I didna! I never clapped eyes on your purse.’

But she could detect the lie.

‘Why, you know you did,’ she said quietly.

‘I tell you I didna,’ he shouted. ‘Yer at me again, are yer? I’ve had about enough on’t.’ ”⁸³

To Gertrude, both stealing and lying are other great sins. She can understand that he is lying but Walter does not accept it. Also he does not show any strong reaction to her. If he has reacted, this will reveal that he is the guilty one. After quarrelling about this problem, Walter makes up his mind to leave the house. At first Gertrude feels excited and thinks about what she will do with her

⁸²Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 12.

⁸³*Ibid.*, p. 43.

children. But then she thinks that he cannot go, because he does not have enough money to leave and more of that; he doesn't have a strong enough personality to leave alone.

Even though Gertrude is a strict puritan, Walter is not religious. He tells lies, drinks alcohol and mistreats people around him. He never changes his mood in spite of his wife's suffering. What he has done, how he has acted are all against her religious beliefs. To sum it up, to Gertrude Walter's presence is connected to sin. In any case, she already knows that she has to accept all difficulties. It is noted as: "She still had her high moral sense, inherited from generations of Puritans. It was now a religious instinct, and she was almost a fanatic with him, because she loved him, or had loved him. If he sinned, she tortured him. If he drank, and lied, was often a poltroon, sometimes a knave, she wielded the lash unmercifully."⁸⁴

She has nothing she can do only to continue to live with him. She has to accept him in spite of her puritanical beliefs. She sees that she cannot change him. She then begins to transfer her puritanical outlook to her children.

Her effect upon the children is disastrous. William is the first who suffers and probably he is the first scapegoat. She refuses to allow him to become himself so she does not let him go both physically and spiritually. She wants to see nothing in William, which is not part of her chosen identity for him. When William came home with his fiancée, his mother did not let them be alone in the room: " 'Can't you trust us, mother?' he repeated, rather offended. 'My boy, I tell you I don't believe in leaving two young things like you alone downstairs when everyone else is in bed.' "⁸⁵ Although Lily is his fiancée, Gertrude does not accept their being alone in the same room. She is jealous of Lily and because of being jealous; Gertrude does not leave them alone, either. There are some strict rules in her mind and she wants the people to obey the rules, otherwise they will sin.

It is not mentioned whether Gertrude talks with William about religion or not but she wants to put forward her thoughts by her behaviour. She never says clearly what she thinks about. She thinks William is a clever boy and he can

⁸⁴Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers.*, p. 16.

⁸⁵*Ibid.*, p. 120.

understand what she means. But William is so blind with Lily's love, that he cannot understand his mother.

Gertrude does not want to make mistakes as she made with William so when Paul is growing up, she wants to raise him with a religious belief. When he becomes an adult, they begin to talk about religion:

*"Paul and his mother now had long discussions about life. Religion was fading into the background. He has shoveled away all the beliefs that would hamper him, had cleared the ground, and come more or less to the bedrock of beliefs that one should feel inside oneself for right and wrong, and should have the patience to gradually realize one's god. Now life interested him more."*⁸⁶

As far as it is concerned above, religion forms the background of his character. He is grown up with religious beliefs and he finds the right way by means of his beliefs. Like his mother, he draws a strict line between right and wrong or good and bad. But later, he will have some doubts about what he has been taught. For example, his dilemma appears when he has a close relationship with Miriam and he cannot make up his mind.

Miriam Leivers is another spiritual soul; she is the daughter of the neighbours, the Leivers, the owner of the Willey Farm. Both mothers are friends from the church and their religious beliefs are more or less the same.

Lawrence puts forward the similarities between Miriam and her mother and her thoughts about religion as follows:

"Her great companion was her mother. They were both brown-eyed, and inclined to be mystical, such women as treasure religion inside them, breathe it in their nostrils, and see the whole life in a mist thereof. So to Miriam, Christ and god made one great figure, which she loved tremblingly and passionately when a tremendous sunset burned out the western sky, and Ediths, and Lucys, and Rowenas, Brian de Bois Guilberts, Rob Roys, and Guy

⁸⁶Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 256.

Mannerings, rustled the sunny leaves in the morning, or sat in her bedroom aloft, alone, when it snowed. That was life to her. ⁸⁷

She has a different world in her mind. Religion is the source of her thoughts and it is the sacred place for her. This world is so pure and untouchable. She does not allow anyone to bump into her isolated world.

But her close relationship with Paul changes her world. In fact, she changes the life of Paul thoroughly:

*“Paul fell under Mrs. Leivers’s spell. Everything had a religious and intensified meaning when he was with her. His soul, hurt, highly developed, sought her as if for nourishment. Together they seemed to sift the vital fact from an experience...And she was cut off from ordinary life by her religious intensity which made the world for her either a nunnery garden or a paradise, where sin and knowledge were not, or else an ugly, cruel thing.”*⁸⁸

When they come together, everything changes and they cut off their relationship with the ordinary life. Miriam is not herself; Paul is not himself anymore. But Paul always blames Miriam for doing this.

Miriam is not an ordinary character. She chooses an ideal self whose origins are partly Christian and partly Romantic. She is sensitive, finding the physical side of life somewhat distasteful. Therefore, she leaves an area of her experience ignored and rejected in order to live her ideal of a spiritual existence and in contact with Paul she seeks a relationship, which is entirely platonic. This is the self she has chosen but the other self of the dark forest is always there to threaten:

*“...there was a serpent of Eden. She searched earnestly in herself to see if she wanted Paul Morel. She felt there would be some disgrace in it. Full of twisted feeling, she was afraid she did not want him. She stood self-convicted. Then came an agony of new shame. She shrank within herself in a coil of torture.”*⁸⁹

⁸⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 142.

⁸⁸Ibid., p. 148.

⁸⁹Ibid., p. 202.

She finds in herself that grossness which makes her recoil when she meets it in the outside world or in the conversation of others and her integrity begins to split. But the mental consciousness starts trying to construct a new integrity. Recognizing the threat to her spiritual identity she begins to pray: she asks God to prevent her from loving Paul:

“ ‘O Lord, let me not love Paul Morel. Keep me from loving him, if I ought not to love him’

Something anomalous in the prayer arrested her. She lifted her head and pondered. How could it be wrong to love him? Love was God’s gift. And yet it caused her shame. That was because of him. Paul Morel. But, then, it was not his affair, it was her own, between herself and God’s sacrifice, not Paul Morel’s or her own. After a few minutes she hid her face in the pillow again, and said:

‘But, Lord, if it is Thy will that I should love him make me love him-as Christ would, who died for the souls of men. Make me love him splendidly, because he is Thy son.’ ”⁹⁰

In giving the name ‘love’ to this unhallowed feeling for Paul she transforms it and saves herself. “Love was God’s gift”, perhaps it is God’s wish that, in love, she should sacrifice herself to Paul.

When Miriam realizing that the sexual love threatens to destroy her spiritual self, she attempts to transcend the loss by shifting ground and making it a part of self-sacrifice. For Lawrence, the sex experience is the most potent solution for dissolving the mental consciousness but Miriam will insulate herself from its effects.

Although Paul and Miriam spend most of their times with each other, Paul does not share all his thoughts with her. There is always an estrangement between them and Paul feels something is missing in their friendship. As their friendship grows older, Paul begins to think about the differences:

“At this time he was beginning question the orthodox creed. He was twenty-one, and she was twenty. She was beginning to read the spring: he became so wild, and hurt her so much. All the way he

⁹⁰Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 171.

went cruelly smashing her beliefs. Edgar enjoyed it. He was by nature critical and rather dispassionate. But Miriam suffered exquisite pain, as, with an intellect like a knife, the man she loved examined her religion in which she lived and moved and had her being. But he did not spare her. He was cruel. And when they went alone he was even more fierce, as if he would kill her soul. He bled her beliefs till she almost lost consciousness.”⁹¹

As he generally views their friendship, he points out that his being causes her to suffer. He always directs Miriam about how to behave and act. He thinks she is always wrong. But he cannot think that he is under the control of her mother and he treats Miriam badly, as his mother wants. He, then, feels sorry for what he has done. His dilemma between his mother and Miriam always causes Miriam to suffer.

Above all, Paul is a strict supporter of his mother; he deeply relies on his religious emotions. Lawrence describes him as “setting now full sail towards agnosticism” and “a reaching to something”⁹² which can be described by means of religious experience. Paul believes this ‘something’ cannot be intellectualised through conscious awareness. Thus, for Lawrence, a religious moment must be separated from time or space. Mrs. Morel recognizes this religious belief at a time in a cathedral.

Miriam is so different from him. This girl with Verone’s ‘St. Catherine’ on her wall tries to make of Paul her own private Christ-figure. But Paul strives to escape this suffocating religiosity. “‘I’m so damned with you always!’ he cried... And I do not want to be spiritual’ ”⁹³ “What was, was”⁹⁴ Miriam cannot understand such mysticism. For her, religion involves acts of commitment, demonstrations of faith and prayers for enlightenment. In the letter, which Paul sends her, is written, “see, you are a nun.”⁹⁵ It serves as a sign of her incapacity to understand him. Paul and Miriam are both religious beings but each struggles for knowledge in a separate world.

⁹¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 192.

⁹²Ibid., p. 232.

⁹³Ibid., p. 235.

⁹⁴Ibid., p. 240.

⁹⁵Ibid., p. 252.

In a traditional society, religion has a big effect over families. It is placed in the highest position of all values. But in modern society, religion becomes as an individual process in life. People live with their own privacy and religion places in the life of people individually. The urbanization and such socio-cultural changes happen as The Industrial Revolution comes by and the people begin to pay attention to financial problems rather than religion or mysticism. They forget God and become the slaves of the machines. Therefore, people may have some problems in understanding each other.

This industrialization and modernization are not made on purpose. As time passes, the needs are great in number and people find new solutions for the coming problems. In the process of modernization some parts such as; religion is broken down in modern society, the family is open to new ideas but in contrast, religion has a weak effect and it can be easily destroyed.

The Morels are lucky in some way because Gertrude's coming from a conservative family destroys all the outside effects. But this religious belief is not under the limits. It is more than needed and it becomes disastrous for the members of the family. This is how Gertrude and Miriam attack Paul. They both want to hold the authority by the help of religion, but they fail. By means of Gertrude and Miriam's selfish religious beliefs, Paul cannot make up his mind. They both want to share their thoughts with him but they make the religion more complicated than ever and Paul can hardly find his way. This won't happen till the end of the novel.

3. 2. 5 Psychological Interpretations

Whether male or female, mother is the first love in the lives of human beings. She is the one with whom the first physical relationship and the first intimacy are done and all these intimacies are coloured with her. She is the one who first defines relationship whether positively or by default, defines love. As she handles bodies, so the human beings will handle them, whether with respect or contempt, whether indulgently or punitively. As she feeds her children, so the children deal with their hunger, regarding all their appetites as undemanding or unproblematic accordingly. As she comforts them, so they will deal with their

discomfort or pain. As she talks to them, so they do value language and communication. As she respects their capabilities, their effectiveness, their integrity, so ultimately will they.

The first relationship, for both boys and girls, is with a woman and the first experience is one of what may be called the world of woman. This phrase is a general description of today and Lawrence's childhood. It refers to the everyday domestic world of the family and family relationships and to the community, which is their immediate context. It is a world of order, routine and attention to detail. It is a world of warmth and closeness and emotions, a private world, which at the same time allows little individual privacy. It is a world, especially in working class homes, where women are the teachers, the managers, the bosses.

According to Achsah Brewster's account of what Lawrence had told her of his childhood:

"The mother would gather the children in a row, and they would sit quaking, waiting for their father to return while she would picture his short comings blacker and blacker to their childish horror. At last the father come in softly, taking off his shoes, hoping to escape unnoticed to bed, that was never allowed him. She would burst out upon him, reviling him for a drunken sot, a good-for-nothing father. She would turn to the whimpering children and ask them if they were not disgusted with such a father. He would look at the row of frightened children and say; 'Never mind, my duckies, you needna be afraid of me. I'll do ye na harm.'"⁹⁶

There is a rather more sympathetic portrait of the father as well as a less sympathetic portrait of the mother than those drawn by Lawrence in *Sons and Lovers*. But generally, he is so distant from his father, as he comes home late being drunk. Thus, he has always hated his father. He expresses his feelings in a talk with his friend George Neville:

"I did not ask him to be my father...He took the responsibility of bringing me into the world and is too mean to stand the

⁹⁶Carol Sklenicka, *D. H. Lawrence and The Child*, Columbia: University of Missouri Press, 1991, p. 17.

responsibility for what he has done. What does he want? He wanted me to go to school till I was thirteen and then go out and start to 'bring summat in' no matter whether I was fit for it or not, as so many other colliers' children have to do. He's like all those others. What do they care about their children?''⁹⁷

Starting a new life in the unknown world frightens the child and he wants his father's help. But the father cannot fulfil the child's needs so starts his alienation. Lawrence's hatred of his father is due to his indifference to the child. As cited above, his father is not interested in him, and then Lawrence begins to question why he has brought the infant into the world. Therefore, he stays aloof from his father, from the manhood and feels confident when he is near to the feminine. For this reason Lawrence himself concerns much with the life of a woman and he is generally on the side of feminine sex. He is always with the girls and Smith criticizes this as follows: "From his early childhood Lawrence 'preferred the accompany of girls', as his sister Ada wrote. His school-fellows used to call him 'Mardy', signifying his babyish disposition."⁹⁸

Lawrence was a delicate, sensitive boy of poor health, which made him an outsider in the working class society. In his childhood, women gave him comfort, even as an adult he would seek the nearness of sensual femininity as well as contact with intellectual women with whom he would discuss his views. Thus, his abnormally close relation to his mother haunted him all his life and manifests itself in his writings in various ways.

Sons and Lovers, as the title suggests, depicts an almost unnaturally close relation between the protagonist Paul Morel and his mother. Lawrence calls the projection of adult love onto a child "spiritual incest"⁹⁹ which more or less corresponds to Freud's 'Oedipus Complex' in psychoanalysis.

Lawrence probably first encountered Freudian theory on meeting Frieda Weekly in 1912. He had greatly been influenced by him but did not imitate him. Some critics have formed that *Sons and Lovers* is an Oedipal novel: the young

⁹⁷George H. Neville, *A Memoir of D. H. Lawrence*, ed, Carl Baron, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 1979, p. 60.

⁹⁸Ann Smith, *A New Adam and a New Eve-Lawrence and Woman: A Biographical Overview*, London: Vision, 1978, p. 10.

⁹⁹Lawrence, *Fantasia of the Unconscious*, p. 118.

Paul Morel who sleeps in the same bed as his mother, treats her with the tenderness of a lover and feels strong animosity towards his father, grows up to be the man Morel, unable to sustain a fulfilling relationship with a woman and in the end achieving possible release from this condition by killing his mother in an ambiguous act of love, revenge and self-liberation.

The points that have been put forward are to be true but whether the novel is an Oedipal one or not is not as clear as viewed by Freud. The novel differs from Freud's Oedipus complex in certain aspects. In analysing Oedipus Complex Freud distinguished between two libidinal currents, the 'affectionate' and the 'sensual':

*"The 'affectionate' current goes back to the earliest years of infancy and directs itself in the first instance towards those people who minister to the child's basic needs. It does carry along with it certain 'components of erotic interest' which are, in the case of the male child usually directed towards the mother and is accompanied by hostility towards and fear of the father. This fear represents in the child's mind as the threat of castration and leads to the suppression of the incestuous wishes. The affectionate current is joined by the sensual current, cathecting the object of the primary infantile choice with quatos of libido which are now far stronger, but in the meantime a barrier against incest has been erected...The whole love in such people divided in the two directions as sacred and profane (animal) love."*¹⁰⁰

The theory referred by Freud is the psychological evolution of the emotion of love as finally expressed by a man or a woman towards a member of the other sex, and the problem which Lawrence voices is the struggle of a man to emancipate himself from his maternal allegiance and to transfer his affections to a woman who stands outside of his maternal allegiance and transfer his affections to a woman who stands outside of his family circle. What the writer has seen as a personal problem, the scientist has formulated as a theory.

¹⁰⁰ Anne Fernihough, D. H. Lawrence: Aesthetics and Ideology, Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1993, p. 65.

When Lawrence comes to formulate his ideas, he does not use Freud's distinction between 'affectionate' and 'sensual'. On this sense, he differs from Freud; he explains his version of the Oedipus Complex in terms of child's responses. His categories are spiritual or sexual response. For Freud the child's impulses towards his parents exist from the beginning, for Lawrence the Oedipal situation originates in a kind of invasion. More specifically, it originates in a kind of spiritual incest. Lawrence emphasizes that spiritual incest is a result of an unsatisfactory marriage and considers that spiritual incest is even more dangerous than sensual incest.

In his book he points out that:

"...the unhappy woman beats about her insatiable satisfaction, seeking whom she may devour. And usually, she turns to her child... in her own son, who belongs to her, she seems to find the last perfect response for which she is craving. He is a medium to her, she provokes from him her own answer. So she throws herself into a last great love for her son, a final and a fatal devotion. The husband, irresolute, never accepting his own higher responsibility, bows and accepts."¹⁰¹

This development of maternal love seems to be modelled on the plot in *Sons and Lovers*. Gertrude casts off her husband and turns for love to the children. They give her a feeling of spiritual independence from her husband. In the oldest son William, she sees "a man, young, full of vigour, making the world glow again for her."¹⁰² And of the mother's treatment of Paul, it is told that it "was different from that of the other children."¹⁰³ In fact, all the children ally themselves with their mother, suffer with her and learn to hate their father. William wants to attack him physically, asking his mother:

"Why did not you let me have a go at him?"¹⁰⁴ and Paul concluded his pray "Lord, let my father die"¹⁰⁵. Gertrude's life with a drunken husband has already turned out to be a complete fiasco. He is a sober and bully man whom she

¹⁰¹Lawrence, *Fantasia of the Unconscious*, p. 112.

¹⁰²Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 85.

¹⁰³Ibid., p. 86.

¹⁰⁴Ibid., p. 92.

¹⁰⁵Ibid., p. 98

shares neither intellectual, moral nor religious sympathies. He is reduced to establishing human contact with his children and moreover, his lack of education makes it difficult for him to articulate his feelings. There appears a fact, which further increases the distance between himself and his family. Walter, feeling a kind of emptiness in his soul, accepts his wife's close attachment to the children and yields his place to them.

Gertrude, her name recalling Hamlet's Oedipal attachment to his mother, blocks both sons' love driving them to distraction. Lawrence believed "Oedipus is the finest drama of all time"¹⁰⁶ and his greatest fictional and dramatic works pivot on this maternal devotion. This Oedipal statement is complicated with time, when the initial family romance of mother, father and son interlocks with the romantic love triangle of mother, son and sweetheart. *Sons and Lovers* is generated by the conflict of these twisted triangles and the resolution of its rigidity forms the climax of the story, for the two interlocking triangles create a deadlock that can be dissolved by death.

Weiss develops several parallels between Hamlet and Paul:

- *Their intense Oedipal love for their mothers, both of whom are named Gertrude.*
- *Their projection of incest guilt as hatred of the father, degraded as brutal stepfather whom they request the mother to refrain from sleeping with.*
- *Finally, their use of parental surrogates to resolve issues relating to the 'family romance', with Paul employing Baxter and Clara Dawes as Hamlet employs the player King and Queen for this purpose.*¹⁰⁷

Certainly, for both, Hamlet and Paul, these psychological issues come down to the question of whether "to be or not to be".

This parallelism is coloured by Jessie Chambers's emotional involvement in the situation, as she sees the similarities between Shakespeare and Lawrence. When she and Lawrence read Shakespeare's *Coriolanus*, Jessie felt the play had a

¹⁰⁶Boulton, p. 261.

¹⁰⁷Daniel A. Weiss, *Oedipus in Nottingham: D. H. Lawrence*, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1962, p. 17-67.

special significance for him. “ ‘You see, it’s the mother who counts.’ he said, ‘the wife hardly at all. The mother is everything for him.’ ”¹⁰⁸ After his mother’s death, Lawrence told Jessie “I loved her-like a lover-that’s why I could never have loved you.”¹⁰⁹

It seems that one result of D. H. Lawrence’s relationship with his mother is the complete divorce in his mind and attitude between love and sex. With every woman he has approached, he experiences the same split: he finds himself incapable of loving those women.

Her mother has always kept him only for herself and does not allow him to love another woman. After the death of his mother, he can hardly see the destruction of himself. He has been under the control of her mother and too much love has killed him spiritually. He points out that: “No child should be induced to love too much. It means derangement and death at last.”¹¹⁰

A woman who has never had or who has abandoned the opportunity to work outside, the home is likely the place to find all her hopes in her family. This is what Gertrude has exactly done, but the ultimate problem with devoting her life to her children is that when they grow up, they leave her. She is not aware of this problem so she prepares her own end.

As William grows up, firstly Mrs. Morel’s hope is centred on him. He, she hopes, will compensate for her bitter disappointments. He is much like his mother in intellect. He goes to the night school and becomes one of the best shorthand clerks. She often thinks “...almost he was like her knight who wore her favour in the bottle.”¹¹¹. Yet Mrs. Morel’s emotional involvement with William is bound to result in tension as he goes to dances, of which she disapproves and meets girls, of whom she strongly disapproves.

William’s departure for London is a bitter blow for Mrs. Morel, although William himself in the excitement does not appreciate this: “... as the days drew near for his departure, her heart began to close and grow dreary with despair. She loved him so much! More than that, she hoped in him so much. Almost she lived

¹⁰⁸Jessie Chambers, *D. H. Lawrence: A Personal Record*, New York: Knight Publications, 1936, p. 62.

¹⁰⁹*Ibid*, p. 54.

¹¹⁰Lawrence, *Fantasia of the Unconscious*, p. 97.

¹¹¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 62.

by him... She felt almost as if he were going as well out of her heart."¹¹² William's move to London means that Mrs. Morel will turn increasingly to Paul. Whereas William's relationship with his mother is described, Paul's relationship is shown in far more detail, and is more deeply felt. But William's return home for Christmas shows his mother at her most joyous with him: "Everybody was mad with happiness in the family. Home was home, and they loved it with a passion of love, whatever the suffering had been."¹¹³ With the coming of William, the atmosphere in the house changes. Everybody has missed him so much but this return is very special for Gertrude. One part of her is coming back again. But after a while, he has to go back to his work and Gertrude's pain starts again.

William is attracted to a pretty girl, Lily and he brings her home to meet the family. Lily cannot be to William what his mother is and so the situation is wearing him down. Yet William cannot break with her, as he feels that he is committed to her. Mrs. Morel is sick at heart, because she can see that William is going to have an unsuitable marriage. Also, Gertrude is jealous at her son's attachment to Lily, because "She loved him passionately."¹¹⁴ Torn by the conflict between his mother and his mistress, William dies of brain fever. Gertrude has greatly been demolished by his death: "Her heart was heavy now as it he had never been. Before, with her husband, things had seemed to be breaking down in her, but they did not destroy her power to live. Now her soul felt lamed in itself. It was her hope that was struck"¹¹⁵.

William's death is a tragic blow to Mrs. Morel's hopes for a while; she loses the will to live. She feels alone in the real world and she does not have any attempt to live for. But she is forced back to life with Paul. She turns all her affection to him and this will be the second start such as a second birth for her. Realizing, "I should have watched the living, not the dead"¹¹⁶ the mother transfers her devotion to her second son.

Paul's dilemma actually begins even before his birth with Mrs. Morel's frustrated and incomplete adolescence. Nine months after her marriage to Walter

¹¹²Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 72.

¹¹³*Ibid.*, p. 90.

¹¹⁴*Ibid.*, p. 105.

¹¹⁵*Ibid.*, p. 165.

¹¹⁶*Ibid.*, p. 175.

Morel their relationship has ended and they often quarrel with each other. When she is several months pregnant with her third child, Paul, Morel locks her out of the house:

*"She walked down the garden path, trembling in every limb, while the child boiled within her. For a while she could not control her consciousness; mechanically she went over the last scene, then over it again, certain phrases, certain moments coming each time like a brand red-hot down on her soul; and each time she enacted again the past hour each time the brand came down at the same points, till the mark was burnt in, and the pain burnt out, and at last she came to herself."*¹¹⁷

At last she is capable of her anger but her hatred never disappears. Being pregnant, she can almost imagine her passion and determination is passed through the placenta to the fetus. She is not sure about it but after he grows up, she thinks the bond between him and her has been established before he is born. This might be the first step for their special bond.

The hero, Paul Morel is rather a 'delicate boy, subject to bronchitis', and so from an early age the special object of his mother's attention. From the beginning:

*"She felt strangely towards the infant. Her heart was heavy because of the child, almost as if it were unhealthy, or malformed. Yet it seemed quite well. But she noticed the peculiar knitting of the baby's brows, and the peculiar heaviness of its eyes, as if it were trying to understand something that was pain."*¹¹⁸

She no longer loves her husband and she has not wanted this child. She dreads the coming of another child, conceived unwillingly out of a loveless relationship and at the sight of him, a sense of guilt steals over her. But there he is: fragile, sensitive, alive and somehow special. He cannot be blamed because it is not his choice whether to come into this unloving world. When she looks at him, she begins to cry: "Suddenly, looking at him, the heavy feeling at the

¹¹⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 23.

¹¹⁸Ibid., p. 36.

mother's heart melted into passionate grief. She bowed over him, and a few tears shook swiftly out of her very heart."¹¹⁹ This is like a symbol of holy baptism of innocence. The mother's tears falling into the child gives the reader a feeling of baptism. The special bond is tied between the mother and the infant child.

*"A wave of hot love went over her to the infant. She held it close to her face and breast. With all her force, with all her soul she would make up to it for having brought it into the world unloved. She would love it all the more now it was here; carry it in her love. Its clear, knowing eyes gave her pain and fear. Did it know all about her? When it lay under her heart, had it been listening then."*¹²⁰

Since the mother no longer loves her husband, the infant son has already won the Oedipal rivalry with his father. Although he is an unwanted child, he has been chosen as his mother's favourite. Realizing that escaping from the infant is unavoidable, the mother accepts him and loves him with all her force and with all her soul. Physically, he is more delicate than the other children, so that his illness tends to further her concentration upon him. She has started a new life with his coming, too.

One of the most important ties between the infant and the mother takes place when the parents are quarrelling, as Walter flings the drawer at Gertrude:

*"One of the corners caught her brow as the shallow drawer crashed into the fireplace. She swayed, almost fell stunned from her chair. To her very soul she was sick; she clasped the child tightly to her bosom. A few moments elapsed; then with an effort, she brought herself to. The baby was crying plaintively. Her left brow was bleeding rather profusely. As she glanced down at the child, her brain reeling, some drops of blood soaked into its white shawl; but the baby was at least not hurt."*¹²¹

This one is his baptism of blood. They are bound together as if by an uncut cord. Now nobody can destroy this. The tie, even after his mother's death, will not entirely free him; it is at this point, a source of strength.

¹¹⁹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 36.

¹²⁰*Ibid.*, p. 37.

¹²¹*Ibid.*, p. 39.

Communication between mother and infant is intuitive, but also in fear and pain. Paul sometimes listens to his parents and he continues to do so throughout his childhood. Often he wakes up at night, hearing the shouts coming from downstairs and he waits, sleepless, terrified that his father will hit his mother yet again:

“There was a feeling of horror, a kind of bristling in the darkness, and a sense of blood. The children lay with their hearts in the grip of an intense anguish... And then came the horror of the sudden silence, silence everywhere, outside and downstairs. What was it? Was it silence of blood? What had he (the father) done?”¹²²

Young Paul suffers depression even at the age of three or four. These fits cast a shadow on his mother’s heart and “her treatment of Paul was different from that of other children”¹²³. Paul does not know what is causing his depression but it is of course his mother’s pain. Not only does he share his mother’s pain but also internalises it as his own. And she in turn internalises what has become his pain as her own again. This boundary between the two individuals constitutes a very strong bonding. Paul feels towards his mother a kind of mother-love, that is, a love, which is protective, tender, fierce and possessive, a love that contains both fear and pain.

One of his oedipal fixations is cited in the scene of his sleep with his mother: “In the end she shared everything with him without knowing... She waited for his coming home in the evening, and then she unburdened herself of all she had pondered or of all that had occurred to her during the day. He sat and listened with earnestness. The two shared lives...”¹²⁴

The early relations between the mother and the child are full of a delicate and poetic charm. Paul’s admiration for his mother knows no bounds; her presence is always absorbing. Often his heart contracts with love. Everything he does is for her, the flowers he picks as well as the prizes he has won at school. Thus, mother and son are one, the husband is completely effaced and the father exists as a rival. Gertrude and Paul are like lovers having an adventure and Paul

¹²²Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 52.

¹²³Ibid., p. 40.

¹²⁴Ibid., p. 144.

dreams of living alone with his mother after the death of his father. When his father was ill and had to stay in the hospital, he proclaimed his victory "I'm the man in the house."¹²⁵

He shows adoration for his mother that is far beyond his age and beyond a child's affection. Watching his mother at the ticket office he rejoices in his mother's physical being: "As he saw her hands in their old black kid gloves getting the silver out of the worn purse, his heart contracted with pain of love for her."¹²⁶ When he goes on a holiday with her, he self-confidently takes over the role of his father: "On the whole he stuck to her as if he were her man."¹²⁷ Paul also incorporates into his vocabulary some of the names for his mother, "little woman"¹²⁸, "my dear, little"¹²⁹, "my pigeon and my love"¹³⁰, to address his lover.

For Mrs. Morel the affair is intense. She accepts flowers from Paul as a woman "accepting a love token"¹³¹; sometimes he "roused her, making her sleeping soul lift up its head a moment, surprised"¹³²; and when they are together alone one day, "She was gay, like a sweetheart. Suddenly their eyes met and she smiled at him-a rare, intimate smile, beautiful with brightness and love"¹³³. She tries at first to give Paul only love, keeping her anxiety from him, but he becomes more than a son and a lover. Soon she is relying upon him as a responsible partner, a husband figure.

He even thinks about; "Why can't a man have a young mother? What is she old for?"¹³⁴. As Gertrude becomes the centre of his life; he wants to spend all his time with her. But if she were younger, they would have participated in many things such as; going to dances, to the cinema or anywhere else. Paul hates of the thought of her mother's getting older.

Paul's relationship with his mother keeps him from maturing and from developing love for another woman. Paul's psychologically confining relationship

¹²⁵Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 88.

¹²⁶*Ibid.*, p. 137.

¹²⁷*Ibid.*, p. 228.

¹²⁸*Ibid.*, p. 212.

¹²⁹*Ibid.*, p. 316.

¹³⁰*Ibid.*, p. 460.

¹³¹*Ibid.*, p. 88.

¹³²*Ibid.*, p. 94.

¹³³*Ibid.*, p. 116.

¹³⁴*Ibid.*, p. 242.

with his mother stems from the absence of a positive male role made in Morel's home as well as Mrs. Morel's excessive emotional attachment to her son.

At Jordan's factory Paul is thrown into contact with young girls for the first time. Shyness on his side, giggles on theirs, soon give way to a mutual liking. The adolescent awkwardness he feels at Jordan's makes him conscious of physical qualities and emotional defences that he had never realized in himself before.

Paul, accompanied by his mother, walks to the Leivers' farm and meets a girl aged 14. After this meeting, a new period has begun which Gertrude has hated all her life. It will be the awakening period, which collapses the bond between her and son. Miriam is often seen as a bitter rival to her, the two predators fighting for the soul of their victim.

As Paul begins his relationship with Miriam, his life becomes almost unbearably complicated, because of his mother's attachment and because Miriam too is "her mother's daughter." For both of them, their mother is their closest companion and a strange separation exists between them and their siblings. While Mrs. Morel sleeps with him, and fondles him, Mrs. Leivers teaches her daughter the love of Christ, with the same passion. As a result, Miriam is a sexually frustrated romantic and mystic, living in a fantasy world of heroines "being loved by men with helmets or with plumes in their caps, ...she was something, of a princess turned into a swine-girl in her own imagination."¹³⁵ Like Mrs. Morel, Miriam considers herself middle-class, sophisticated, learned and devout. Also like her, she wants love to be secure and that is best attained if her lover is in some way her inferior and therefore dependent upon her. For this reason, she feels she could be attracted to Paul, because "She would be stronger than he... If she could be mistress of him in his weakness, take care of him, if he could depend on her, if she could as it were, have she could love him!"¹³⁶

Miriam substitutes metaphysics and materialism although at times her sexuality is revealed. She rationalizes her love for Paul by assuring herself that he needs it because she cannot admit her sexuality. She also wants to master him for

¹³⁵Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 177.

¹³⁶*Ibid.*, p. 178.

the desire the rights and independence of manhood. In other words, their relationship is confused by a search for identity. The two lovers are looking for a partner who does not exist in the other person, whom they then try to mould the idealized visions they seek.

Paul can find women with whom he can relate intellectually or sexually, but yearns for a woman who encompasses both. Miriam, on the other hand, seems to be torn between the desire for sex but without the crudity of intimate touch and sensuous spirituality.

Paul tells Clara about his relationship with Miriam:

“ I want a woman to keep me, but in her pocket... She sort of wants me so much that I cannot give myself. ’

‘Wants you how?’

‘Wants the soul out of my body. I cannot help shrinking back from her.’

‘And yet you love her!’

‘No, I do not love her, I never even kiss her.’

‘Why not?’ Clara asked.

‘I don’t know.’

‘I suppose you’re afraid,’ she said.

‘I’m not. Something in me shrinks from her like hell-she so good, when I’m not good.’

‘How do you know what she is?’

‘I do I know she wants a sort of soul union.’

‘But how do I know what she wants?’

‘I have been with her for seven years.’

‘And you have not found out the very first thing about her.’

‘What’s that?’

‘That she does not want any of your soul communion. That’s your own imagination. She wants you.’

He pondered over this. Perhaps he was wrong.

‘But she seems-----’ he began.

*'You've never tried,' she answered.*¹³⁷

The beauty of her nakedness stuns Paul and he loves her, physically at last. But nothing is simple with Paul Morel. He has had the dull pain in his soul. He feels trapped when he is with Miriam. Miriam is like an owner and Paul becomes a servant. Paul is more confused and alienated by the ambiguity of expectations than Miriam. He cannot love her because he cannot identify the nature of their love and thus cannot know her except as a potential sexual object. "He was always thankful in his heart and soul that he had his mother, so sane and wholesome."¹³⁸

Therefore, he will always love his mother more. She is logical, that is, her intellectuality constitutes a synthesis of the intellectual and the mental which he will seek as he matures. Miriam does not understand, nor have the capacity to control her own passion. For Paul, it becomes a force, which he fears; a force that he knows has the potential to overwhelm completely his identity. This is not synthesis; it is two components, the metaphysical and the sexual. Paul begins to hate Miriam in that he hates what he cannot understand; yet he is drawn to her, detached by her abstractions and attracted by her intense eroticism.

There is an important moment in *Sons and Lovers* where the moon appears:

"An enormous orange moon was staring at them from the rim of the sandhills. He stood still, looking at it.

'Ah!' cried Miriam, when she saw it.

He remained perfectly still, staring at the immense and ruddy moon, the only thing in the for-reaching darkness of the level. His heart beat heavily, the muscles of his arms contracted.

'What is it?' murmured Miriam, waiting for him.

He turned and looked at her. She stood beside him, for ever in shadow. Her face covered with the darkness of her hat, was watching him unseen. That was her best state. He was impotent against it. His blood was concentrated like a flame in his chest. But

¹³⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 277.

¹³⁸*Ibid.*, p. 190.

he could not get a cross to her. There were flashes in his blood. Buy somehow she ignored them. She was expecting some religious state in him. Still yearning, she was half aware of his passion and gazed at him, troubled.

'What is it?' she murmured again.

'It is the moon,' he answered, frowning.

'Yes,' she asserted, 'Isn't it wonderful.'

*She was curious about him. The crisis was past.*¹³⁹

This moment is one in which the reader might expect the man to kiss the woman, but nothing happens, because the moon disturbs their relation. The moon symbolizes the mother's face of depression. It has a paralysing effect on Paul Morel. Her mother is always with him and he feels her control over himself. Paul cannot kiss Miriam because this will injure his mother. He does not want to give any harm to her so he does not kiss Miriam. Paul wants to disturb neither his mother nor Miriam but if he has to choose one, this will be his mother and he causes Miriam rather than his mother suffer. Miriam is so curious about him that she wants to burden the linkage between the son and the mother but she is one who fails in this fight.

This moon symbolizes Lawrence's deepest fears about his mother; by her possessive destructiveness she will annihilate him. Significantly, the moon is also powerfully there in the earlier scene when Mrs. Morel is thrown into the garden. The world of flowers in the moonlight seems another world, that the world her son wants to give her, the world of mysterious beauty as in the sexuality of the lilies. Paul thinks as "She is in me," and he cannot live in a fulfilled way because he is still "part of her"¹⁴⁰.

Paul begins to come home late day by day and "Gertrude could feel Paul being drawn by this girl"¹⁴¹. As Miriam is in need of a same kind of close relationship with Paul, she becomes the greatest enemy for Gertrude. She feels about Miriam "She would leave me no room, not a bit of room."¹⁴². Miriam will

¹³⁹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 185.

¹⁴⁰*Ibid.*, p. 187.

¹⁴¹*Ibid.*, p. 160.

¹⁴²*Ibid.*, p. 213.

absorb him and nothing will be left to Gertrude. She's aware of that problem so she has to struggle for her son's sake, otherwise she will lose him.

Gertrude always thinks of how disastrous Miriam is: "She's not like ordinary woman, who can leave me my share in him. She wants to absorb him. She wants to draw him out and absorb him till there is nothing left of him, even for himself. He will never be a man on his own feet-she will suck him up."¹⁴³ Mrs. Morel realizes that both she and Miriam are seeking much the same kind of relationship with Paul so there is continuing tension. Most of the time Paul is torn between his deep love for his mother and his loyalty to Miriam, so his dilemma between his mother and Miriam causes him much to suffer.

The problem is discussed between mother and son:

"'My boy' said his mother, 'all your cleverness, your breaking away from old things, and taking life in your own hands, does not seem to bring you much happiness.'

'What is happiness.' He cried. *'It's nothing to me! How am I to be happy.'*

*'But you could meet some good woman who would make you happy. One ought to be happy, one ought.'*¹⁴⁴

Mrs. Morel thinks he might find a well-educated and intellectual woman who belongs to middle class as she does and that woman will not interrupt her part in Paul. But if it is Miriam, she will destroy the mother and the son.

In church sitting between them, Paul feels at peace, uniting his two loves under the spell of the place of worship. Here, Paul is in a great dilemma whether to choose his mother or Miriam, so he cannot help himself from going to Willey Farm. Something is drawing his soul to Miriam and he cannot resist it. But as he feels how Miriam causes his mother to suffer, he puts the blame on Miriam: "I'm so damned spiritual with you always."¹⁴⁵ He blames her for the humiliating sense of impotence, which he feels. Gertrude hates her, Paul loathes her "If Miriam caused his mother suffering, then he hated her."¹⁴⁶ He hates Miriam for causing

¹⁴³Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 193.

¹⁴⁴Ibid., p. 275.

¹⁴⁵Ibid., p. 280.

¹⁴⁶Ibid., p. 238.

his mother pain, and he also hates himself for causing his mother pain in loving Miriam, but he never consciously hates his mother. It is all Miriam's fault.

At last he has come back to his mother:

*"There was one place in the world that stood solid and did not melt into unreality: the place where his mother was. Everybody else could grow shadowy, almost non-existent to him, but she could not. It was as if the pivot and pole of his life, from which he could not escape, was his mother."*¹⁴⁷

He begins to turn to another woman, Clara Dawes. She is married, but she lives separated from her husband. She exerts a sensual attraction upon him. Her presence has the effect of gradually seducing him away from Miriam without his knowing it. Both Clara and Paul can surrender themselves to the moment both have a capacity for instinctive living that Miriam lacks and they are attracted to each other at this level.

Paul's relationship with Clara is different from his relationship with Miriam's. Paul has achieved a soul union with Miriam but a physical union with Clara. He feels an awakening physical desire for Clara that he has not felt with Miriam before.

Mrs. Morel does not interfere his relationship with Clara because she is not an enemy as Miriam is. Miriam has always wanted to take him from her, but not Clara. Mrs. Morel is not on the side of their relationship but she is not against it, either.

But at some day Clara, like Miriam, is forced to recognize that she will never be able to have a truly satisfying relationship with Paul. He is unable to give himself spiritually, and Clara has to recognize that there is "Some part, big and vital in him, she has no hold over."¹⁴⁸ Soon after this Paul has a fight with Baxter Dawes and he realizes that he is tired of Clara. He is drawn back to his mother when she falls seriously ill, and this is the virtual end of his affair with Clara.

His relationship with the other women are turning points for Paul and he has felt that he cannot have a fulfilling relationship with any women. He tells Mrs.

¹⁴⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 222.

¹⁴⁸*Ibid.*, p. 389.

Morel "I never shall meet the right woman while you live"¹⁴⁹. Lawrence had told Frieda "If my mother had lived, I could never have loved you."¹⁵⁰ The man cannot find the perfect love, which means satisfaction and fulfilment of body and soul as long as his mother lives.

Mrs. Morel takes a long time to die and in doing so draws out her son's suffering as well as her own. It then affects the other women in his life. The situation becomes unbearable and Paul with his sister commit euthanasia to get free of her. Afterward, "They laughed together like two conspiring children. On top of all their horror flicked this little sanity."¹⁵¹ By administering a fatal dose of morphine, he shortens his mother's anguish, but in reality, he also shortens his own. Mrs. Morel is now the baby, Paul the controlling mother figure, but whereas she gave life, he deals her death.

The death of his mother derives him into pessimism. When his mother dies, darkness and death are invested with richer qualities:

*"Everywhere the vastness and terror of the immense night which is roused and stirred for a brief while by the day, but which returns, and will remain at last eternal, holding everything in its silence and its living gloom. There was no Time, only Space. Who could say his mother had lived and did not live? She had been in one place, and was in another: that was all. And his soul could not leave her, wherever she was. Now she has gone abroad into the night, and he was with her still. They were together."*¹⁵²

The passage evokes the inner confusion of Paul himself. Death is seen as the place where he and his mother are together but at the same time, it is the place of 'vastness terror' where everything is held in 'silence' and 'living gloom'. It both attracts the fluctuations between life and death, which are characteristic of Paul in the second half of the book. In spite of his rejection of the darkness in the end and his walk towards "the faintly glowing humming town"¹⁵³, the impression remains of him, as someone still does not know what to do for life.

¹⁴⁹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 350.

¹⁵⁰Frieda Lawrence, *Not I But The Wind*, New York: Viking, 1934, p. 57.

¹⁵¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 394.

¹⁵²*Ibid.*, p. 420.

¹⁵³*Ibid.*

“ ‘Mother!’ he whispered- ‘mother!’ She was only the thing that held him up, himself, amid all this. And she was gone, intermingled herself.”¹⁵⁴ The text does not show that Paul feels forced to join the darkness against his will. His mother shielded him from knowing what exists outside the boundaries of light. The void he feels inside him is the absence of his mother’s embrace. That he sees the darkness for the first time does not mean that he is being forced to join it against his will. He confronts it, feels its size and looks inside himself, suspecting that he will find a void to answer the external darkness. Instead he finds the spark inside which confirms that he lives. “...and yet almost nothing, he could not be extinct”¹⁵⁵ This clearly says that Paul finds that he is something , not anything.

There is a passage at the end of the novel, in which Paul argues with himself: “ ‘You’re alive.’ ‘She’s not.’ ‘She is-in you.’ ”¹⁵⁶ Something of his mother will remain in Paul and something of him will remain in her world, the world of women. Thus, Paul cannot expand towards the universe in the normal activity and form an independent sex interest because for him his mother has become the universe. She stands between him and his life and the other women. He goes to pieces because he can never make the mature sexual decision away from his mother. He can never accomplish the physical and emotional transfer. Paul turns from ‘the darkness’, he associates with his mother and heads alone toward symbolically ambiguous city lights, in what Lawrence calls Paul’s ‘drift towards death’. He cannot escape what he has confronted: the failed ritual of the maternal death. Therefore, Lawrence, like Paul, has never managed to bury his mother as long as he lived.

3. 2. 6 The Impact of Feminism

The Victorian doctrine of womanhood was based on the concept of female innocence, purity and submissiveness to men. A middle-class woman’s respectability was formed by her dependence and fragility. Her weakness and delicacy that were a constant danger to her health distinguished her from the

¹⁵⁴Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 420.

¹⁵⁵Ibid.

¹⁵⁶Ibid., p. 411.

robust condition and stature of the lower-class female. It also caused a natural dependence on men, who granted her protection from the harshness of public life. In response the woman was expected to offer the natural gift of love or as Lynda Nead puts it as "To love is woman's nature-to be beloved, is the consequence of her having properly exercised and controlled that nature. To love is woman's duty-to be beloved, is her reward."¹⁵⁷

Functions and responsibilities of men and women differed from each other within the society. Men were considered responsible for the public sphere of life and women. The home was the place of refuge and women were considered the moral guardians of the nation. Women were granted only reproductive functions, whereas men had a monopoly on production and on political and intellectual life.

In the essay "Do Women Change" Lawrence describes the change of female attitudes under the influence of feminism as follows:

"Women used to see themselves as a softly flowing stream of attraction and desire and beauty, soft quiet rivers of energy and peace. Then suddenly the idea changes. They see themselves as isolated things, independent females, instruments, instruments for love, instruments for work, instruments for pleasure, this, that and other. And as instruments they become pointed and they want everything, even a small child, even love itself, to have a point..."¹⁵⁸

The First World War brought women the right to vote, the struggle which had been the predominant symbol of the feminist enterprise in the pre-war years. But the war also brought more fundamental changes in women's lives. A highly industrialized society needed more manpower and men had no choice but to look for an alternative labour force. The employment of women was the obvious answer. The entry of women into the labour market did not take place overnight and there was considerable hostility to it. But the exceptional requirements of the war economy swept some of the conventional notions about a woman's place in

¹⁵⁷Lynda Nead, *Myths of Sexuality: Representations of Women in Victorian Britain*, New York: Blackwell, 1988, p. 29.

¹⁵⁸David Herbert Lawrence, *Phoenix II: Uncollected, Unpublished and Other Prose Works* by D. H. Lawrence, ed. Warren Roberts and Harry T. Moore, New York: Viking, 1968, p. 541.

society. The movement of women into the jobs proved to be the crucial factor in their changing status during the war. It gave them new social freedoms and a new financial independence.

During the war, Lawrence insisted on the need for women's voices to be heard and for the feminine side of experience to be brought into prominence. It is as if at this time Lawrence suddenly consolidated a new set of attitudes on the relationship between the sexes. What women had proved during the war was that they were capable of doing men's work and of assimilating themselves into the man's world. In the end the woman became an individual, self-responsible, taking her own initiative. Spiritually, she felt stronger and was ready to struggle against manhood and the world.

Living with the money that a man has earned was not enough so some of the women had been busy with handicrafts at their home. In fact, they earned a small amount of money but it was their money that they earned by themselves. One day, Mrs. Morel met Mrs. Anthony who had a heap of stockings over her arm:

" 'I've done ten dozen this week,' she said proudly to Mrs. Morel.

'I don't know how you can find time'

'Eh!' said Mrs. Anthony. 'You can find time if you make time'

'And how much shall you get for those many?' asked Mrs. Morel

'Twopence-ha' penny a dozen,' replied the other.

*'Well,' said Mrs. Morel. 'I'd starve before I'd sit down and seem twenty-four stockings for two pence ha' penny.' "*¹⁵⁹

Here Gertrude means that Mrs. Anthony earns a small amount of money and this is not enough for her in accordance with the time and power she has spent on this work. It is regarded as too little but after the industrialization this situation changed. As women became waged workers and began to work in the factories, they were paid much more money than they had earned by handicrafts. Working outside and earning money were the first steps for women to gain their independence both socially and spiritually. These were the working class women,

¹⁵⁹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 29.

but middle class women did not work and stayed at home as a symbol of their class. Gertrude is one of those who does not work because of her pride.

She has some of the problems that appeal to her feministic issue in the house. Jerry Purdy, a close friend of Walter, hated by Gertrude, is one of those problems. Not being invited to sit down, he unwillingly comes and sits down and this makes her angry. The surface dialogue developing between the two is polite in orientation but the tension in their rejoinders on the subject's of the day's weather signals an implicit political dialogue. At one level Mrs. Morel's dislike of Purdy can be as a result of his disregard for his wife's health. Thus, her hatred is a political reaction. When Purdy sets foot on the threshold, there is no room for any friendliness on Mrs. Morel's part because for this particular woman, every silence, utterance or action represents a tactical manoeuvre. He is there with his sham masculinity and with his anarchic behaviour towards patriarchal conventions. Purdy signifies, therefore, a point of danger and ambivalence to the functional relationship of this conservative household and as importantly, a threat to the public-private balance as lived by Mrs. Morel. He represents a public threat to both her private household security and to all women. It is significant to note, in this respect that when Mrs. Morel joins the Women's Guild, the politics of women's independence

When Mrs. Morel's children were old enough to be left at home, she joined such a club: "It was a little club of women attached to the co-operative Wholesale Society, which met on Monday night in the long room over the grocery shop of the Bestwood 'Co-op'."¹⁶⁰ The women attend those clubs to enlighten others about the developments happening after the revolution. They discuss the benefits to be derived from co-operation and other social questions. It is as though they are the management committee of a large factory and they are doing their business in a very formal way. Because it is their own club which they have established their own victory and in this world they are the only decision makers and they are not bound to the males. The club is a sacred place for them where they can understand and share all the things with each other.

¹⁶⁰Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 51.

When Gertrude is with the other women in the club, she feels comfortable, too. Although she always keeps away from her neighbours and she does not get involved in the act of gossiping, she plays an important part in the club. As the other members do, she takes part in all activities, which would reflect her status. She, even studies at home, spends her time by referring to books, writing and thinking it seems strange to the children that she spends her time with reading and writing but she is doing her work with sincerity.

Some husbands do not deal with such things and that “the guild was called by some hostile husbands, who found their wives too independent the ‘clat-fart’ shop-that is, the gossip-shop.”¹⁶¹ They cannot understand their wives and look down upon them. It seems to be a gossip shop for them but the women, however, talk about themselves there. As they chat, they can observe their faults and it helps them to cure themselves.

Joining such a group represents the first steps of feminist ideas. It is the first step as a freedom working outside the house and as it grows the sexual freedom comes and the sense of freedom will expand to all other fields of life. As the novel develops, Clara Dawes is the one who carries this freedom to further stages: “Clara Dawes was the daughter of an old friend of Mrs. Lievers...But Mrs. Dawes was separated from her husband and had taken up Women’s Right. She was supposed to be clever. It interested Paul.”¹⁶²

Clara seems to be superior to the opposite sex. She feels her superiority over them and she uses her power to control them. She does not allow the man to control her. Her being clever has interested Paul so that he is greatly attracted by her.

The problem with feminism is that it has made Clara unhappy. She has been in the women’s movement for ten years, so she has acquired a fair amount of education. But it has not qualified her for any work other than a job in the spiral department at Jordan’s factory or spinning jobs, which can be done at home with her mother and are paid by the piece.

An interesting talk takes place between Paul, Clara and Clara’s mother:

¹⁶¹Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 51.

¹⁶²*Ibid.*, p. 185.

“ ‘Do you like jennying?’ he asked

‘What can a woman do!’ she replied bitterly.

‘Is it sweated?’

‘More or less. Isn’t all women’s work? That’s another trick the men have played, since we force ourselves into the labour market.’

‘Now then, you shut up about the men,’ said her mother. ‘If the women was not fools, the men would not be bad uns, that’s what I say. No man was ever that bad wi’ me but what he has got it back again. Not but what they’re a lousy lot, there’s no denying it.’

‘But they are all right really, are not they?’ he asked.

‘Well, they’re a bit different from women,’ she answered.’¹⁶³

Clara finds her means of earning a living, and she persists in it, refusing to go back to her husband and the economic security of marriage. Like Paul and Miriam, Clara is a prisoner in these industrial circumstances. She is a woman alone but she is strong enough to stand on her own feet without any help. But there, the mother is angrier at the easy analysis of her daughter than she is about the issue of men. Mrs. Radford’s anger at men has the authentic tone of respect and humour, which is the product of this experienced woman’s battle with men. She is unwilling to avoid admissions of the responsibilities of her female sex. Clara talks rhetorically of ‘markets’ or ‘labour’ while her mother argues that each man and woman remains his or her own fool. She also realizes that the power struggle between the men and women occurs as a one-to-one conflict. She thinks that the men are a bit different from women. Combined with her own implicit acceptance of differences between the sexes, her antagonism is pervasive because of her authority of her history.

In the novel, Lawrence’s purpose is to demonstrate that Clara herself lacks coherence, that is, Clara is unable to accept personal responsibility for the sequence of emotional failures in her life, as she looks with anger at ‘men’ as the primary cause of her discomfort. For instance, a conversation takes place between Paul and Clara about Margaret Bonford, the prominent feminist of the time. The

¹⁶³Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 261.

discussion is a good example in which Paul ignores the implications of feminism and reduces it to a series of personal issues:

" 'I think she's a loveable little woman,' said Paul.

'Margaret Bonford!' exclaimed Clara. 'She's a great deal cleverer than most men.'

'Well, I did not say she was not.' he said, deprecating. 'She is loveable for all that.'

'And of course, that is all that matters,' said Clara witheringly.

'I suppose it matters more than her cleverness,' he said: 'Which after all. Would never get to heaven.'

'It's not heaven she wants to get-it's her fair share on earth.' retorted Clara. She spoke as if he were responsible for some deprivation which Miss. Bonford suffered."¹⁶⁴

Men see women just physically. They are visualized as the sexual materials and they are wanted for the necessity of satisfaction. When men are angry, the women are the source of their anger and they are always beaten. Paul often witnesses his parent's quarrels and hears of his mother's cries after she has been beaten. Clara does not want to put forward herself physically but spiritually. She wants to remind the reader that she is there not because she is a sexual object but because she is one of the members of that society. She is there not with her physical appearance but with her intellectual side. She supports what Miss Bonford says and she wants to warn men that the women exist with their intellectual thoughts. She also wants to pretend that the intellect of a woman is higher than most men. The man is the money-bringer but the woman is the one who controls the family and society. Within society, men's power can be felt much more than women and it is thought that the men are the controllers. In fact, it is the women who control the men. They are secret managers in the society and the men are not aware that they are being controlled by women. The women are adapting themselves to every facet of life. But men always push them into the rear rows of society as they are being trapped by traditions and religious limitations. Keeping the women under control is great pleasure for them. They see the women

¹⁶⁴Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 230.

as robots and their duties are such as; looking after the children, doing the housework and satisfying their husbands. But with The Industrial Revolution, the men have to accept the new system and they have to accept women as intellectual human beings. In fact, they are afraid of these thoughts because they think this will harm their masculinity. Clara seems to be aware of this but she does not want to harm the men, just to inform them about how clever the women are in contrast with the men.

Clara also shares with the reader the belief that the direction of heaven favoured by Paul is an indulgent, impossible goal amid the problems of poverty, chauvinism and cultural deprivation on earth. But the additional lines demonstrate that Paul does not ignore the larger implications of feminism. He simply considers them alarming and evasive. He is visionary enough to consider the sexual part as more important than the demands, ambitions or political complaints articulated by Clara. To Lawrence, heaven becomes a polarized relationship between a man and a woman and Paul argues that Clara avoids the risk in the connection between them.

When Paul and Edgar talk about Clara, Paul criticises Clara's understanding of feminism:

" 'If he looks at a man she says 'Nevermore', and if she looks at herself in the looking-glass she says haughtily 'Nevermore' and if she thinks back she says it in disgust, and if she looks forward she says it cynically. "

'You think she's a man-hater?'

'She thinks she is.' replied Paul.

'But you don't think so?'

'No' replied Paul.

'Wasn't she nice with you, then?'

*'Could you image her nice with anybody?' asked the young man. "*¹⁶⁵

Paul thinks that Clara draws a strict division between men and women. She sees men and women apart from themselves. Paul wants to state the equality

¹⁶⁵Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 231.

of the opposite sexes and no one is allowed to be superior from the other. To Clara, this is not the same; she wants to see the superiority of women over the men.

In order to prove this contribution, being a feminist woman, Clara leaves her husband and earns her own income and starts a new life in which she is free both spiritually and sexually. After five years of marriage and another three years of supporting herself, Clara still shudders at the thought of her husband. "He-sort of degraded me. He wanted to bully me because he had not got me. And then I felt as if I wanted to run, as if I was fastened and bound up."¹⁶⁶ When she fails to respond to Dawes, he finds another woman. Now that Clara has done so, she professes to find life infinitely happier and to be satisfied, to be free and independent.

Everything about Clara proclaims her freedom and independence. She carries her head back as if she has drawn away in contempt from men. Her neck, her arms, her chest are all strong and her shoulders curve gently under her blouse. She is stronger than many men.

Although she is strong, she does not have a close relation with any men. When there is a man around her, she begins to despise him. For instance, at the first meeting with Paul, he does not like her at all and she places herself away from him.

By placing herself away from males, she begins to live in a place, which is one of the worst places in Nottingham. The people living around are very poor and she continues to live with her mother in that mud. She has chosen such a place because she does not want to be discovered by anybody. She draws the lines around her and does not allow anybody to enter in. She lives just seeing the opposite sex as her great enemy. Therefore, she is always ready to attack when somebody interferes her business.

Clara is ready to attack; yet, she cannot escape from being a prisoner in industrialism. Clara and her mother continue to live as prisoners because the money they earn is not enough for them to live so they have to work more just like programmed machines.

¹⁶⁶Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 275.

Paul Morel, who contributes to the conversation between Clara and her mother about work and women, has to remember an earlier conversation with Miriam on a similar subject:

“ ‘What do you want then?’

‘I want to do something. I want a chance like anybody else, why should I, because I’m a girl, be kept at home and not allowed to be anything? What chance have I?’

‘Chance of what?’

‘Of knowing anything-of learning, of doing anything. It’s not fair, because I’m a woman.’

She seemed very bitter. Paul wondered. In his own home Annie was almost glad to be a girl. She had not so much responsibility; things were lighter for her. She never wanted to be other than a girl. But Miriam almost fiercely wished she were a man. And yet she hated men at the same time.

‘But it’s as well to be a woman as a man,’ he said, frowning.

‘Ha! Is it? Men have everything.’

‘I should think women ought to be as glad to be women as men are to be men,’ he answered.

‘No!’-she shook her head-‘no! Everything the men have.’ ”¹⁶⁷

Here Miriam relies on escaping the responsibility of her sexual existence with statements like “men have everything” or “because I’m a woman”. Paul is sensitive to Miriam’s strong desire to succeed and he is aware of the boredom she suffers at home. He also senses that her fierce wishes are fuelled by her displeasure with gender. Miriam almost wishes to be a man. She has been cut off from her course of female sexual passion and sexual self-respect. Paul’s assertion is that men and women should be glad of their own sexuality. But Miriam is not happy in her own mood. Like Clara, Miriam argues that she does not have enough of something for her to enjoy being female but Miriam’s comment ‘men have everything’ is more alarming than Clara’s. She is aware of the things that are

¹⁶⁷Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 154.

going around her but she does not have the power to fight. She is not as strong as Clara.

If Clara and Miriam were in better conditions, whether their thoughts would be the same or not is doubtful here. Clara's living conditions and her experiences from marriage and Miriam's living conditions in the Willey Farm place themselves in different positions. But Clara is stronger than Miriam in every way, and therefore, she becomes a hard-hearted woman who does not tolerate the men.

3. 2. 7 Due To The Title Of The Novel

It is clear that this is the story of Paul Morel, it follows his growth and development from infancy to young manhood in which the narrative becomes increasingly shaped to his life. *Sons and Lovers* is an unusual version of a common form of novel-namely, the education novel where the focus is on the growth to maturity of a young person. *Sons and Lovers* is unusual in that Paul does not appear to have learned much about him by the end of the book.

Lawrence began to write the novel in 1911 titled as "*Paul Morel*". After that when he was with Frieda, he learned something about Freud and the Oedipus complex from her. She led to him recognize that the relationship between Paul and his mother might be unhealthy. This new perspective prompted Lawrence to change the title from the single character's name, "*Paul Morel*" to "*Sons and Lovers*". By leaving some ambiguity about whose sons and whose lovers are concerned, the final title reflects the layered perspectives and relationships that make up the novel.


The 'and' of *Sons and Lovers* announces the book's allegiance to the great achievements of nineteenth-century English realism: *Sense and Sensibility*, *Pride and Prejudice*, *North and South*, and *Wives and Daughters*. The 'and' of these titles registers an initial tension or obstruction, the economic and cultural friction between the split halves of a divided kingdom, North versus South. Lawrence set his English-realist enthusiasms with a wider European perspective. 'And' declares that the totalising ambitions of the realist novel and Lawrence's use of the conjunction in titling his work might thus be taken to imply a view of realism.

Although the novel is about the life of Paul Morel, Gertrude is the base form of the story. She is given much importance because all the events in the story are linked with her. She loves her sons much more than anybody else and she does not want to share them with another female identity. She is so selfish in that sense and she chooses her sons as the lovers of hers. Thus, 'sons' and 'lovers' may mean the same thing for the mother. One of them is the human being that she gives birth to and makes a new life for him, and the other part is her lovers because of being so lonely in her life she sets her sons apart as her lovers. When they are young, they are only children when they grow up, they are being adults as she places herself as if she is the lover of them. Paul is a son and a lover, so although the novel tends to focus more and more on Paul Morel, his problems, his needs and his growth, the family context and the relationship with his mother is never allowed to fade too far. Moreover, the plural form of the title reminds that Paul is one of three sons. Therefore, Lawrence's insistence is that it is the novel as a story of a family and not just Paul's story. This is confirmed by casting an eye over the contents page. It is evident that Part I is family-oriented and ends with the death of William and it is only in Part II that Paul's concerns become dominant.

The novel is thus an intertwining of two stories, two sets of authorial intentions; the son's story and the mother's story. The family's part is much dealt with the mother's itself. It is just the story of her, about her depression and suffering and on the other part it is Paul's life, which is being discovered by himself and the reader. But the larger pattern of the novel is that of his mother's life, as Lawrence believed that she imagined it.

On the other hand, Lawrence shifts the emphasis away from Paul; instead he is drawing the attention to a set of relationships. There are two sets of relationships: one (sons) within the family and another (lovers) outside the family. In this respect another male-female relationship is seen. First, the relationship of William and Lily is being examined, and then Paul's relationships with Miriam and with Clara are witnessed. If the sons are important for the reader, then their relationships with their girlfriends gains more importance. If the mother is more important, then her relationship with her sons is put much emphasis.

Finally, it is important to note using 'and' between the 'Sons' and 'Lovers'. What Lawrence wants to put forward then is the relationship between the sons and the lovers. When a reader just reads the title, he or she only thinks about the boys and their lovers. Here Lawrence does not put emphasis on the mother figure. But when the novel has been read, there may appear some doubts in the minds whether the sons or the mother is important in the novel. Also instead of using 'and' supposing that Lawrence has used 'or' within the title, he may have put forward some hints related to the mother meaning that the mother will choose her sons or her sons' lovers. Definitely she chooses her own sons, not the lovers. But if the title was 'Sons or Lovers', it can be reasonable to think whether the sons or the lovers are the guilty ones who have corrupted the family. For this reason, the title cannot be viewed from one aspect, different aspects can be discussed as long as the minds are used.



CONCLUSION

4. 1 THE SUMMARY OF THE THESIS

The purpose of this dissertation, it is to find out the effects of The Industrial Revolution on fictional characters in *Sons and Lovers* and by means of this to understand the changes in male-female relationship due to the industrialization. Not only the changes are examined but also by analysing the relationships, much information is gained about the characteristics of the author of the novel and also his thoughts about the industrialization. Some results this research are as follows:

The opening pages of the book evoke a brood historical panorama: the slow, steady mining of countryside by donkey-powered gin-pits suddenly disturbed by a new phase of capitalist investment and exploitation. The house in the Bottoms where the Morel family live is not just an inert fictional setting but rather has a massive historical process in which the landscapes and populations are remade, and this social perspective governs the presentation of "The Early Married Life of the Morels"¹⁶⁸. The class conflict between the mother and the father, the economic pressure on the family week after week, the physical pressure on Mr. Morel at the coal mine which he then transmits it in rage and violence to his own family, the complex effects of the community on a younger, better-educated generation, in short, all these events constitute the strength of the novel in which the political and personal, the sociological are fused.

Due to the changes brought by The Industrial Revolution, people had to start a new life in the new industrialized society. New segments emerged and people had to obey the new rules. There were great changes within the community

¹⁶⁸Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, p. 1.

and great differences between the classes arose. There were those who had everything and those who had nothing to do except to work.

There were no problems for the capitalists because they had everything they wanted. They had their economical power. But everything went wrong for the lower classes. The man was the only breadwinner in the house and he had to work hard to earn a better living under harsh conditions for long hours. Although Walter worked hard, the money he had earned was not enough for the whole family. The lack of economical power caused many problems. For instance, when they were ill, they could not visit the doctors or spend money on medicine. That is one of the reasons why William died; he died because of poverty. If they had had enough money, he would not have been sick and he would not have died. And this is why Gertrude protested the system and after she had this bad experience, she wanted other children to move to higher classes. For this reason, life was hard for the working class.

On the other hand, after long hours of work, the breadwinner wanted to relax outside the house and the only place for him was the pub. Generally, the working-class men spent much time at the pubs and they often came home drunk. As a result of alcoholism, the communication between the father and the other members of the family was broken down. Walter prepared his own end by doing this and he became an alien in the house. The mother and the children were bound to the father only for economic reasons and nothing was being shared with Walter.

This lack of communication affected the children and they all cut down their relationship with the father. Then there appeared a close relationship between the mother and the children. This is what is seen in *Sons and Lovers* but this close attraction destroyed both the mother and the child. The child was jealous of the physical affection between his parents and hated his father. But as long as his mother lived, the child could not truly love another woman. Lawrence personally experienced this phenomenon with his own mother and later he stated that the writing of *Sons and Lovers* helped him to resolve these feelings. Anyway, it is clear that family life was damaged more as long as the breadwinner was away from the house.

As the money earned was not enough to live, both women and children began to work in the factories. Many factories were delighted to employ women and children because they were paid less money than the men. William, Paul, Arthur and Annie began to work at a very young age and they earned little. But after starting work, they could not be children any more. They could not live their childhood, becoming adults they were lost in this crowded, polluted community.

For the women, the industrialization period was important. Before industrialization, women were legally dead in the eye of law. They were not allowed to vote and they had to submit to the laws when they had no voice in their formation. They had no property rights and husbands had legal power and responsibility for the wives. Women were not allowed to enter many professions and most occupations were closed to them. They were, in fact, robbed of their self-confidence and self-respect and were made totally dependent on men. Women first began to work in factories and the natural dependence on men was diminished by The Industrial Revolution, This was the first step of feminism. Women believed in equality and liberty so there began a struggle between the sexes. It was very hard for men to accept this but the women had already started this movement.

Mrs. Morel is the first generation in the novel that starts this virtue. She had lost her feelings in the past but she wanted her children not to miss their chance. She repeatedly lamented that her personal dreams had died and could only be fulfilled through her sons. She had put her sons into the world of industry and these men would work out what she had always wanted.

Clara Dawes represents the next generation of women who will agitate for change. The Guild, to which she often went, was a setting where women would exchange intellectual ideas and it served as both an educational centre and a political breeding ground for female activists. The woman found her female identity that was lost in the society and became an independent individual.

Sons and Lovers appears to have the most conventional chronological organization; it is the kind of organization that a naive autobiographical novelist would tend to use. It starts with the marriage of the parents and the birth of the children. The reader learns the daily life of the family while the children are

growing up. Then some emotional pressures became apparent that the children are alienated from their father and the mother more and more completely dominates her sons. Urged by her middle class refinements, they enter white-collar jobs, thus making a distinction between themselves and their father.

The novel does have a clearly defined story, told by means of straightforward narrative and in chronological sequence. But Lawrence is more interested in the relationships between the characters as they react to each other in changing circumstances, and in showing the significance of events in these relationships. For instance, he shows Mrs. Morel's strong emotional attraction to her husband or he traces the significance of Paul's chance meetings with Miriam and then through her, Clara, showing how this meetings led to Paul's growth and changes in outlook.

The success of *Sons and Lovers* lies in Lawrence's ability to recognize the reactions of people as they meet as individuals or as groups. Lawrence tries to investigate the whole personality that gives rise to recognizable emotions and he succeeds in doing this dramatically by placing the events before the reader and allowing the situations to develop.

The novel is composed of two different parts and in these parts there are two successes. The first one is Gertrude's success of gaining her son's souls. This is a success for Gertrude but it is a failure for the boys. This success turns into a failure in the second half of the book as Gertrude's discovering her fault. The second success is that Paul is not drifted towards death after his mother dies but to life without oppression over him.

Lawrence is deeply involved in the novel and his attitude towards situations and characters has certainly been affected by his real life experiences. For instance, he is too harsh towards Mr. Morel, as Lawrence himself hated his father. In this sense it is an autobiographical novel, at least, Lawrence tells the story of his own relations with his mother and father. It is autobiographical in other elements, too; the setting presented with the atmosphere in detail, life in a miner's cottage, the relation between the industrial and agricultural aspects, all helped to present the reality of living at that time. Also comments are necessary

on the early twentieth-century England as well as its relation with the agricultural past and industrial future.

To sum up, The Industrial Revolution was a great success for the world. A new period had already begun, but this new period must be questioned whether it was good or not for the community. Life became easier by the help of the machines but it must be kept in mind that men became the slaves of the machines and this attacked human life. To put it another way, Lawrence concentrated on what made men men, what made women women in the industrialized, moneyed society. He tried to understand the ways in which they were alive or dead. He soon felt the deadness of modern industrial civilization with mechanizing the personality and corruption of the will. The industrialization was very harmful and killed the man without being aware of it.



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