

**T.C.
İSTANBUL AYDIN UNIVERSITY
GRADUATE INSTITUTE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE**



**THE REPRESENTATION OF GENDER IN RELATION TO OEDIPUS
COMPLEX IN D.H.LAWRENCE'S NOVEL ENTITLED SONS AND
LOVERS**

M.A. Thesis

MÜGE SARI

İstanbul, 2014

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SECTION ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1. D.H.LAWRENCE' LIFE

D.H.Lawrence was born in England in 1885. His father was a coal miner and his mother worked in order to support her family. Lawrence had a middle-class family mother; she was well-educated and was deeply interested in literature. The material for his early works stem from his background. His father's footsteps as a miner didn't set him as a good example to follow in voluntarily during his childhood. Being a successful student in his childhood, he was awarded with a scholarship to Nottingham High School which was a first for a boy in Eastwood's history. In the summer of 1901 was the year when young Lawrence found a job as a factory clerk for a Nottingham surgical appliances manufacturer called Haywoods. However, that autumn, his older brother William's sudden sickness and following death put him into grief, resulting in pneumonia for Lawrence. On recovering, he was employed as a student teacher at the British School in Eastwood, in which he met a woman called Jessie Chambers. She became his sincere friend and they talked about the intellectual topics together. Lawrence began poetry and his first drafting novel, which eventually became *The White Peacock* came with the help of Chamber. In 1906, he applied to the University College of Nottingham to gain a certificate in teaching. He won a short story competition for "An Enjoyable Christmas: A Prelude" published in the Nottingham Guardian in 1907. After receiving his teaching certificate, Lawrence took a teaching post at an elementary school in the London suburb of Croydon. In 1909, Jessie Chambers helped him to publish his poems. The publishers were interested in his work. His first works are based on the themes from his childhood such as degenerative marriages and class

divisions. *The Trespasser* was Lawrence's second novel which was related to memories of a teacher who had an affair with a married man who then committed suicide. Meanwhile, Lawrence got engaged to one of his old friends from college. In the spring of 1912 in his visit to an old Nottingham professor, Ernest Weekley, in order to get advice about his situation. Lawrence fell in love with Weekley's wife, Frieda von Richthofen. Following this sudden and deep pain in his heart, Lawrence broke off his engagement, stopped teaching, and tried to earn his life as a writer; he also convinced Frieda into leaving her family by May of that year. The couple ran off to Germany, then to Italy. Lawrence continued to write in his travels with his new love. After publishing his first play, *The Daughter-in-Law* and his first volume of poetry: *Love Poems and Others*, he released his third novel *Sons and Lovers*, in 1913. Many consider the novel as one of the most important works of Lawrence in the 20th century.

July 13, 1914 is marked as the date when D.H. Lawrence and Frieda von Richthofen married after their return to England. That same year, Lawrence published a highly regarded short story collection, *The Prussian Officer*, and in 1915 he published another novel, *The Rainbow*, which was quite sexually explicit for the period. Being denounced by contemporary critics for having for its sexual content, the book was soon banned for obscenity. Due to World War I, he was labeled as a controversial writer by the local government and he was banished from Cornwall in 1917. In spite of all these problems, he succeeded to publish four volumes of poetry: *Amores* (1916), *Look! We Have Come Through!* (1919), *New Poems* (1918) and *Bay: A Book of Poems* (1919).

By the end of war, he left for Italy where he spent two years travelling. *Women in Love* was written in 1920, which he considered the second half of *The Rainbow*. One of his ambitions was to travel to America. In February 1922, Europe became a destination for him. By the end of the year—after staying in both Ceylon (modern day Sri Lanka) and Australia—he stepped into the United States, settling in Taos, New Mexico. While in New Mexico, Lawrence completed *Studies in Classic American Literature*. *Boy in the Bush*

(1924), *St. Mawr* (1925) and *The Plumed Serpent* (1926) are among his works during this time. Having developed tuberculosis, Lawrence had to return to Italy in 1927. In Italy, he wrote *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (1928). In this work, the passionate love of an aristocratic lady and working-class man and their sexual relationship is depicted. The novel was banned in the United States and in England due to its sexual content. His sickness didn't let him produce so much as a writer towards the end of his life. His other masterpieces were *Apocalypse*, a critique of Western religion, and *Last Poems* (1930). D.H. Lawrence died on March 2, 1930, at the age of 44, in Vence, France. (biography.com)

1.2. D.H.LAWRENCE'S SONS&LOVERS

Sons&Lovers (1913) is considered to be a basic autobiographical portrayal of a relationship between a father and mother, a son and a mother and a son and his intimate connections with other women. However, Lawrence is more focused on the relationship between the mother and the son in the story. This inexplicable link is so strong that it prevents the son's ability to mature in a way that he isn't able to have sincere connections with other women in his life. Michael Bell stresses that this novel consists of his 'biographical implications' and Lawrence is successful at distancing devices where the personal implications are introduced without being the 'direct focus' and the central element. Bell also remarks,

"*Sons and Lovers* was the first of Lawrence's novels in which a motive of self-understanding became paramount. In this book Lawrence gave fictional expression to the intense relationship with his own mother which had, in its possessiveness, checked his capacity in early manhood, or before meeting Frieda Weekley, to give himself fully to another woman. As is well known, the figure of Miriam Leivers is closely based on his own girlfriend of adolescence, Jessie Chambers. The invented figure of Clara Dawes

broadens the implication by showing Paul Morel's 'failure' with two quite different women." (Bell, 1991: 37)

Lawrence attaches importance to overwhelming women incidents, in *Sons & Lovers*, the women's ultimate importance of being an individual, self-confident and trustworthy, knowing their own responsibilities and power are emphasized. Figure of a young man so similar to himself in his novels is beneficial in understanding the source of material he derives from. In the opening pages, Lawrence shows the portrayal of the lives of the parents and the house the family lives in and the meeting of Gertrude and Morel. This image is represented by Gertrude's point of view. Therefore, it is easy to understand that the author shows his own mother's ideas of the day she met Arthur Lawrence, finding him to be "soft nonintellectual, warm, a kind of gamboling" (Feinstein, 1993:15). By doing this, his main point is to figure out the female point of view- a notion that Paul Morel generally struggles to be aware of throughout the book. However, it is this foundation of his mother's baits that Lawrence records as a means of explaining much of Gertrude Morel's will to have a desire to arrange her children's lives. As John Worthen declares in his biography *D.H. Lawrence: The Early Years*, "Lydia Lawrence, for one, would probably have said that being 'caught' was exactly how her life and marriage should have been described" (Worthen, 1991:145). Lawrence's fundamental for seeing things from a woman's point of view is based on his mother's suffering in her relationship with her husband.

D. H. Lawrence took his place among the prominent figures of modernist literature, and *Sons & Lovers* appears to be his main contribution to the modernism in the early twenties. The new style he introduces to the readership within this period succeeds to catch attention. His style takes its strength from his effective way of expressing himself, and from the cruciality of the themes he tries to advance. It is a must for him to write this novel to get rid of sorrows in his childhood and adolescence, to forget his grudge against his father and to express his adoration to his mother. The novel opens with Lawrence's typical problems although these problems are not apparent in the end. The problems enlarge, enrich and enlightens the

readers' point of views with its insight and honesty of its vision. Lawrence's basic interest is to explore the psychological and social aspects of life that have profound influence on the individuals' characteristics, in his account. What he believes is that in the novel people are depicted in every situation.

"Novels, like other dramatic art, deal with conflicts of one kind or another- conflicts that are, in the work of the major novelists, drawn from life in the sense that they are representative of real problems in life; and the usual urgency in the novelist is to find the technical means which will afford an ideal resolution of the conflict and solution of a problem is dependent upon the adequacy of his technique." (Ghent,1963: 15)

That's to say, Lawrence deals with the relationships between man and woman and their daily problems in real life. The aim of the novelist is to challenge and expose the constructive and oppressive cultural norms of modern culture.

1.3. ABOUT THE THEME OF GENDER AND ITS SIGNIFICANCE OF IT IN THE REALM OF LITERATURE

It is known that gender has always been the object of attention of many writers in many studies related to literary analysis. There are a number of important writers such as Virginia Woolf, Jane Austin or Oscar Wilde who study the issue of gender by touching on different aspects, and also D.H. Lawrence whom I am going to conduct a literary study regarding his perception of gender and its relation to modernism, as well. It should be noted that although different authors come up with different ideas about this subject of gender, they can be said to have a lot in common as "gender" is such an important theme that it is closely linked to social, economical and even similar matters of differing periods. As Abrams points out,

"The Married Woman's Property Act of 1882 which allowed married women to own property in their own right; the admission of women to the universities at different times during latter part of the century; the fight for

women's suffrage, which was not won until 1918 (and not fully won until 1928)- these events marked a change in the attitude to women and in the part they played in the national life as well as in the relation between the sexes, which is reflected in a variety of ways in the literature of the period.” (Abrams, 1990:2196)

It becomes easy to realize that gender had a leading role in many fields of life on the part of women.

To start with the idea of gender or what it means to many, the first striking element that may come to the minds of many is directly related to the belief in the superiority of men over women. That said, even in different periods of literature, up until the twentieth century, women were considered to be obliged to under the control of men no matter what they believed they had to do. Relevantly, it should also be pointed out the belief referred above led to the emergence of the notion of “patriarchy” which later turned out to be a major problem, especially for the ones who were completely against the idea of men being the rulers. However, the study of this problem by some literary figures like D.H.Lawrence served as a way of raising the reader's awareness about the seriousness of it because in the period of modernism, this notion that men were the organizer of everything started to be repudiated by first some of the distinguished writers and then even common people supporting them. In this respect, Simone de Beauvoir, in her work *The Second Sex* (1949), emphasizes about the importance of the study of gender and the heightened awareness coming with it: “one is not born but rather becomes a woman” (1972:267). According to de Beauvoir:

“Woman has always been man's dependant, if not his slave; the two sexes have never shared the world in equality. And even today woman is heavily handicapped, though her situation is beginning to change. Almost nowhere is her legal status the same as man's and frequently it is much to her disadvantage.” (1972: 10)

Beauvoir asserts that women should realize this matter and try to change this stereotypical concept in minds. That's to say, women should set a goal for themselves to reverse this unfair role, which puts a barrier through

their freedom. She is of the opinion that women should make their voice heard and men and women have equal respect and value. By supporting this, she battled to eradicate the conventional subjects in people's minds.

As to the cultural and economical problems that can be associated with the theme of gender and a closer study of it, the reasons underlying them are very similar to the ones of social problem in that they all stem from the misconception that women should limit their lives only to doing certain tasks like housework, bringing up children which do not contribute a lot to the personal development of themselves. This being the case, especially in the periods during which some novels studying this problem were written, it was considered that women had to be dependent on men in terms of economic condition and they didn't even have a right to vote until the twentieth century. So, it becomes easy to understand that thinking about the women in general in a way which puts them in a lower position in the previous centuries is the major reason why it is worth of being examined so carefully in significant works of literature along with the reality that it has enabled many to re-question themselves about how to tackle with the issue of gender and the promotion of women rights.

What is more, the fact that gender is a subject of a real extensive study should not be overlooked since it is possible to study "gender" with a perspective upon "gender and personal development". In other words, apart from its social, cultural and political based significance, the theme of gender is an indispensable part of one's upbringing which means that it is shaped in accordance with the way of thinking of the family ingrains in a child's mind. To illustrate, patriarchy can be an unquestionable part of a family atmosphere in which a child grows up whereas especially in modern centuries in some family environment in which matriarchy comes to the fore just like in the one vividly presented in *Sons&Lovers* by D.H.Lawrence. To add, in such a family atmosphere referred not only matriarchy but also gender with its varying aspects like sexuality or the basics of a relationship between men and women as the other components of the analysis of the issue of gender as a whole are obviously seen.

In *Sons&Lovers*, Mr. Morel is shown from Mrs. Morel's point of view regardless of the fact that in many scenes we can realize that his inner points and actions assert more complexity to his character than Gertrude explains. The reader meets a drunken collier who makes his wife and children desperate and abject. Faith Pullin explains this situation as:

“This image, undoubtedly, is the embodying of that opinion of her husband that Lydia Lawrence instilled in her children. Her situation appealed to Lawrence, her sensitive, overly emotional son, making him quite aware of the family's fiscal constrains as well as her displeasure with her marriage.” (Pullin,1978:1)

Lawrence creates his characters to vitalize the real people in his family. Arthur and Lydia disagree on many topics such as money, Arthur's drinking and the children's future. Feinstein says “ Lydia had little hope of doing anything with her own life except protecting and serving her children” (1993:19) She tries to win over her children and by doing this, it was her children subjected to her stories where she was victimized.

In *Sons&Lovers* as well as in his most novels, he focuses on the relationship between men and women showing his purpose to write the novel clearly and gives the reasons of his writings. In a letter dated 2nd May 1913 to Edward Garnett, Lawrence says: “I can only write about what I feel pretty strongly about, and that, at present, is the relations between men and women. After all, it is the problem of today, the establishment of a new relation, of the readjustment of the old one, between men and women” (Walterscheid, 1993:546) To Lawrence, the relation between man and woman is also the greatest relationship for humanity and the new central clue to human life lies in this relation. Being aware of the fact that the society is ill and is full of falsities he wishes to change the world and be away from the troubles for the welfare of the society. Thanks to his writing, to make people peaceful and have proper relationships, he tries to change these falsities. Although he is a modernist author, stream of consciousness in his writings as his contemporaries, Joyce and Woolf do, does not catch the readers' attention. He does not mind changing in the narrative or structure of the

novel, but giving a message, putting emphasis on the link between nature and people and people's relations with each other, and their spiritual and physical lives are his aim. While doing this, he is sure of doing something unprecedented. Thus, Lawrence's works are so unique that they do not include easy definitions. The most important novelty is to include sexual drives, dealing with the psychologies of the characters. We are in the heart of characters; our intuition makes us internalize these characters. Every moment in women, men and in the visible worlds are recorded instantly. Every living thing deserves a wise and delighted answer. (Allen, 1976: 359).

Basing its origin on his childhood experiences, in *Sons & Lovers*, he narrates the story of Paul Morel whose psychological and sexual development are shaped by the different nature of the cross-sex relationships in his family. It is really significant to point out that the writer provides the formation of new viewpoints upon gender through this novel since the reader encounters the story of this young man who grows up under the effect of patriarchy imposed by his mother. It should not be considered a simple family disorder in a particular part of the English midlands in the early years of this century. Indeed, Lawrence enables the people to rethink about the position of the women in the society and the household thereby trying to remove the idea that the only role of the women is to look after the kids or perform the household tasks along with being seen as a second sex. It is self-evident that he is seriously concerned about the question of gender, and he studies the personalities of much more assertive and dominant female figures in his works that are essential parts of modernism at the beginning of the early twentieth century.

As Frank O'Connor pointed out in *The Mirror in the Roadway*, "*Sons & Lovers*, begins like a nineteenth-century realistic novel but turns out to be a twentieth-century exploratory one (O'Connor, 1956). The main concern with moral choices, their significance and their consequences stands in an oblique relation to the central tradition of the English novel. Thanks to the great English novelists- Fielding, Richardson, George Eliot, Jane Austen, Dickens- the compassion and insight how they judge their characters and their actions

are easily noticed. The interaction between characters and standard morality in Lawrence's fiction became more central. Lawrence's fiction came more and more to be concerned not with morality in the ordinary sense but with the psychic ebb and flow within and between characters- 'the flow and recoil of feeling' as he once called it." (Salgado,1982:106)

"Most of Lawrence's writings, both fiction and non-fiction, address the theme of stable equilibrium or balance between opposites. These themes are misleading, however. Lawrence redefines equilibrium. He is not stable in the accepted sense of the word. Instead, it depends on an active, changing, shifting relationship between opposites, a continuous struggle for power." (Holman,1993: 4)

In fact, in his works, it occurs a new balance which is not stable or constant. In contrary, it is a cycle, sometimes the reader assumes that one side carries all the weight, however; suddenly the other side undertakes the power or overthrows the other side. Therefore, reading his works makes the reader astonished and this characteristic makes Lawrence eminent from the other writers.

SECTION 2

“LAWRENCE & GENDER” AND “THE STUDY OF GENDER WITHIN THE FAMILY INTERRELATIONSHIPS OF THE MORELS

In the analysis of *Sons and Lovers*, the importance D. H. Lawrence gives to the issue of gender becomes really explicit, and it manifests itself as the key theme to be studied for a better understanding of the family atmosphere of the Morels. He looks at the “gender” from a different perspective by strengthening the position of women as it will be seen in the case of Gertrude Morel in the story. This section is going to go deep into the reasons behind Lawrence’s choosing the gender as a central theme in his works in general. Additionally, it is going to prove that the interrelationships of the Morel family have a lot to do with the important role “gender” occupies in the work. It should be noted that their relationships like the one between husband and wife are the means for demonstrating that women and men do not have to live in accordance with their gender and with the sex roles assigned to them, all the time.

2.1. THE CONNECTION BETWEEN D.H. LAWRENCE AND THE THEME OF GENDER

Gender and Lawrence are mostly encountered as the inseparable words in the framework of modernism. By putting the gender into the center point of many of his works, he is noted for bringing a new dimension to the role of the male and female kinds in the society of the early twenties. He calls these females as modern females and the men as modern ones, and this new dimension is directed at introducing a woman figure who is ready to defy the unquestionable authority of men like Gertrude Morel illustrates in *Sons & Lovers*. It can be said that Lawrence strives for the realization of attention

that ought to be paid to the position of women since he is obviously unhappy with women always being seen as inferior to men. The family life portrayed by him in *Sons & Lovers* is quite illustrative in that the reader encounters Gertrude who is ready to defy the man's unquestionable power. She is kind of idealized by Lawrence which gives us the clue that Lawrence is against the man forcing women to lead a life of imprisonment. What is meant here with "imprisonment" is women are merely compelled to perform household tasks such as looking after the kids or tidying around but they are considered not to have any right to speak out their problems. However, it is necessary to highlight that he does not completely turn a blind eye to the role of the men in his arguments about gender, but the way he talks about the situation of men makes them less active and fearful of submitting to women domination with the emergence of matriarchy like it is seen in the case of Walter Morel in *Sons & Lovers*. As Bonnie Kime Scott remarks,

"No, the modern young man is not afraid of being petticoat-ruled. His fear lies deeper. He is afraid of being swamped, turned into a mere accessory of bare limbed, swooping woman; swamped by her numbers, swamped by her devouring energy. He talks rather bitterly about rule of women, monstrous regiment of women, and about matriarchy, and rather feebly, about men being master again." (Scott, 1990: 225)

Relevantly, the value Lawrence attaches to the "gender" can be understood better through a close look at his dealing with this subject in general and specifically in *Sons & Lovers* along with the role that he plays in changing the perception of the society about women at the beginning of the twenties. At the very beginning of the first chapter, the reader realizes the first hint of the declining happiness of the Morels' marriage: the children who are alienated from their father, whose personality degenerates slowly since he feels his exclusion; unbearable battle between the mother and the father from different strata, the mother totally dominates her sons' affections, hopes and future plans.

"She hated her husband because, whenever he had an audience, he whined and played for sympathy. William sitting nursing the baby hated him,

with a boy's hatred, for false sentiment, and for the stupid treatment of his mother. Annie had never liked him; she merely avoided him." (Lawrence,2010: 39)

When it is taken into consideration the type of the relationship the husband and wife establishes between themselves with the assertive character of the wife in the novel, it can be claimed that Lawrence is in favour of a woman model like Gertrude who attempts to challenge the authority of men, to a serious extent. Matching with the idealized image of a woman in Lawrence's mind, Gertrude strikes the reader with the attitude she treats her husband. Her attempt to take on the responsibility of looking after her children and raising with her own principles go parallel with what "the concept of matriarchy" introduced by Lawrence aims to demonstrate to the readers of 20th century. Presenting a family atmosphere in which almost everything is organized under a strong matriarchy and without criticizing it, he displays his sensitiveness to the rights of the women in familial management. In addition to that, with the creation of characters like William and Paul who seriously support their mother against their father, he ensures that he wants to make the necessary collaboration between male and female kinds known to the reader of modernist literature. As Michael Bell points out,

"The question of gender in modernism, not just at the level of characterization and overt attitude but at the level of its implicit discursive formations, has now been opened up more explicitly by feminist critics, and Lawrence becomes a significant case in question. His obvious male insecurity, and reactive misogyny, clearly comes from a man with a strong female identification which has creative as well as personal dimensions." (Bell,1991: 187)

That is to say, much of his discussion on gender in this novel is a vehicle for promoting the interests of women who have been ignored by being thought as subservient to males, forever till the late nineteenth century.

Unsurprisingly enough, the question of gender stands as the backbone of literature of the twentieth century, and it is nearly the same within every period of English Literature as a whole, as well. But, the

precedence of “the gender as a theme” over the others in the twenties stems from the fact that it is rendered in a different fashion during this period with the help of the names like D.H. Lawrence. With reference to the section of the present study that elaborates on the place “gender” occupies in the realm of literature in general, what should be re-emphasized is that women present themselves in a way that poses contrast to the one before and makes people re-question about their suppressed feelings and taken rights. This is exactly as the modern figure in Lawrence’s words and this kind of a figure is ready there to challenge men’s dominance that was prevalent in the preceding centuries. Related to this point, when the periods before the twentieth century are analyzed, it is quite easy to see that there is the existence of a certain prejudice against the women’s capability of cultivating themselves in other fields of life apart from daily house tasks they are forced to execute. This one-sided way of perceiving the female kind is prevalent, especially in the early seventeenth century England in which the writers also emphasize the notion of patriarchy and male-oriented organizing of the world. However, this perception remarkably undergoes a change towards the end of the nineteenth century and people begin to question the barrier put between the men and women as the two opposite sexes. Being part of this movement as a writer, Lawrence guides the men to gain a fairer attitude towards the women by introducing the reality of matriarchy to the society. He does not hesitate to be vocal about the significance of women identity compared to that of men, and he almost shares the same ideas with the feminist writers of the times about the relationship between women and men.

All in all, Lawrence is really one of the most noteworthy pioneers of modernism with the introduction of his own unique opinions about the gender in the 20th century. Projecting his ideas on the operation of gender roles in this novel, he makes it an effective vehicle for studying “the gender” in detail.

2.2. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE HUSBAND (WALTER MOREL) AND WIFE (GERTRUDE MOREL) IN SONS & LOVERS

Being quite similar to the subject of gender which is the main objective of the present study in terms of analysis, love shows itself another one to be worthy of being mentioned with the role it has in the realm of literature together with the role it has in the present study, too. Love can be generally defined as the most valued emotion for many outstanding figures in literature like Shakespeare, Wilde, and Dickens who are some of the great literary heroes of different periods. Love is always studied in a way which helps us to believe that it is the underlying reason behind the happy end of leading characters in any piece of literary work. In addition what has been said about the concept of "love and literature", love cannot be described alone. It is only recognized through a relationship between man and woman. When this relationship deepens, they decide on marrying to have an eternal life hand in hand. Of course the expectation for a happy, fulfilling marriage to the person we most deeply love is one of the most holy desires of couples. Peacefully sharing our dreams, hopes, happiness and sadness in the most sincere way becomes our most fulfilling endeavors of all. A happy marriage nourished with a mutual conception and loyalty is the fruitful source of the life. This idealistic and ideal picture is a universal dream for a happy marriage. Generally it is achieved by mutual understanding and respect. Unfortunately, this unity sometimes deteriorated and ends with an unhappy situation. The couple sucks the life energy out of each other and the relationship becomes unbearable for them. In the novel *Sons & Lovers*, the relationship between Gertrude and Morel is presented to us as a suffering marriage. They love each other at the beginning of their marriage; gradually they have some disputes and carry marriage as a burden on their shoulders.

The relationship between Gertrude and Walter Morel stands out as a perfect beginning point for an elaboration on the issue of gender as an illustrative one of the different type of interaction between husband and wife and of its effect on the upbringing of their children. The mother figure "Gertrude Morel" is a really special character around whom the main events circulate in the work. She is the mother of four children (three sons, and one daughter); she comes from a wealthy family with an inherent puritan strength

that makes her look at life from a rather philosophical perspective. Besides, she is a middle-class lady who has been frustrated by her marriage to a miner. Her marriage does not satisfy her because of the fact that Gertrude and Walter belong to different worlds in terms of their distinct classes, different background information and disparate personalities. In accordance with the portrayal of a better woman figure presented by Lawrence, Gertrude gives herself a chance to stand on her own feet. To illustrate, she is of the opinion that her mere affection, care or moral principles are more than enough to set a good example to her children. As a result of this situation referred, they cannot take roles successfully in familial management. Gertrude is exceedingly affectionate towards her children and everybody in general that causes some problems to crop up in her life. As Mark Spilka stresses, "She is warm and lively, for example, with those she loves, for the early months with her husband were the months of passionate fulfillment." (Farr,1970:58) This sentimental side of her is the one which unites her to Walter Morel (the husband) that belongs to lower strata of the society, being a miner and having much more modest expectations from life. It is very significant to note that despite being two different people having two different worldviews, they are just attracted to each other because of their physical appearance, at first. However, it is seen that there are clear incompatibilities between them and these incompatibilities which are chiefly related to the distinct classes and personalities of them are good clues for the reader to make sense of their peculiar representation of manhood and womanhood of the early twenties in the later parts of the novel. It can also be said that the present study makes it necessary to dwell on a little bit about the issue of class as it has been another controversial matter of many literary genres, as well. It can be emphasized that what has made it controversial is its being an obstacle to the relationship styles of opposite genders exemplified in literature. As an integral part of gender, the analysis of class plays a role in the objectives of the present study, but it is still at the center of some problematic relationships just like the relationship between Gertrude and Walter whose essence are even based on matriarchy. Being the main reason

of the discord between them, the most remarkable one of the incompatibilities is certainly the class difference that turns out to be a big obstacle to be overcome in their marriage. With a close look at their social background, it becomes easy to see that they are opposites of one another in terms of their descendants. Coming from a noble family, Gertrude Morel is much more cultivated, intellectual, and an authoritative figure, whereas Walter is a relatively passive, humble, and an uneducated man. When she was twenty-three years old, they met at a Christmas party. Morel was twenty seven years old. He was powerfully built, steep and very handsome. He had wavy black hair with a salient beard that was not shaved. Morel strikes Gertrude as being pleasant with everyone and full of color and animation. In addition to that, he is completely different from her father. In spite of being uneducated and an ordinary man, Gertrude was impressed by his vigorous attitude. On the other hand, she was opposite in terms of having a curious, receptive mind which found pleasure in listening to other people. She was also interested in religious arguments, philosophy or politics with educated men, she was very intellectual. As a result of these characteristics, they are opposites of one another.

“The pity was, she was too much his opposite. She could not be content with the little he might be; she would have him the much that he ought to be. So, in seeking to make him nobler than he could be, she destroyed him. She injured and hurt and scarred herself, but she lost none of her worth. She also had the children.” (Lawrence,2010:16)

Their relationship is built on an imbalance that enables Gertrude to have the assertiveness of a man because of the sophisticated life style she had led. It can be seen that Gertrude makes the bold attempt of shaping Walter's characteristics that calls into question the conventional gender role expectations. Because it is known that in seventeenth century England, a case like this can be condemned since the patriarchy and the power of husband are the decisive factors in a woman's marriage. Yet, in the early twenties during which Lawrence writes this novel, the attitude Gertrude exhibits can be interpreted as how it already should be as the modern

woman figure desires to be equal to men. It is absolutely sure that this man like approach of Gertrude has its roots in her nobility, but ends up with being a serious struggle between her and Walter. As Alastair Niven points out,

“The battle which Lawrence talks of here is basically between two conflicting temperaments. Mrs. Morel has an emotional power far beyond her husband’s, as the verbs Lawrence uses here make clear: “she fought..... she strove..... she tried 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. Serious, productive, Nonconformist, venerating hard work and moral rigor, she stands for an ethic which Walter Morel, in his essentially physical existence, neither wants to observe nor understands.”(Niven,1978: 41)

As said relevant to the matter, Walter and Gertrude’s love is linked to their disparate personalities that mould the essence of their relationship and make them reverse the roles in familial management. It is known well that what shapes relationships is not only related to gender or class, but also to the element of personality to be analyzed. Personality traits of characters within a novel have always been considered to hold a mirror to the real lives of many in both positive and negative terms. Its positive side depends on the harmony and set a good example that a couple has between themselves, however, its negative sides shown by the relationship of Gertrude and Walter cause people to learn a lesson from the disharmony, too. The reversal at work here stems from Gertrude’s being overly possessive, obstinate, and a dutiful woman, while Walter draws the picture of an irresponsible, inadequate husband who cannot be totally assigned masculine attributes. This being the case, Gertrude takes on the role that the husband should take on in the household thereby presenting herself as a very dominant wife throughout the novel. She is considerably alienated from her husband, and there are a number of occasions that are the means for justifying her coldness towards him. In one of the scenes, when Morel is out of money and needs some money to play games with friends, he decides to take a sixpence from Gertrude’s wallet. She looks for money everywhere and understands that her

husband takes it. She is really furious about it owing to the fact that it is all the money she has. Later, at his first attempt, she doesn't confront him because he puts it back into her wallet at the weekend. However, after his second attempt of taking some money from her wallet, he doesn't pay it back. (Lawrence,2010:43) Stealing money from Gertrude's pocket is a shameful act for a decent husband and man.

In that regard, it is right to pinpoint that there emerges a plausible matriarchy in their family atmosphere, but it marks a break with the general assumption on the roles women and men should play for a healthier development of communication. This matriarchy reduces Walter to a passive male figure in their marriage as Dorothy Van Ghent states about the novel, "It has a structure rigorously controlled by an idea: an idea of an organic disturbance in the relationships of men and women- a disturbance of sexual polarities that is first seen in the disaffection of mother (Gertrude) and father (Walter)." (Ghent,1963: 16-7)

The miserable condition in the family atmosphere makes Gertrude take some actions. She was tired of having little money, no house and unpaid bills of the household furniture. In such a poor condition, there began a "fearful, bloody battle" between them. She tries to make him take his responsibilities as "the man" in the family atmosphere and urges him to complete his requirements. However, it is too difficult for him to be conscious of his duties. His characteristics are merely "sensuous" and she tries to make him "moral" and "religious" (Lawrence,2010:16) In other words, she tries to pull him up to her level of manners. However, it is too difficult to change him because of the fact that he has some definite beliefs and different cultural background information. Since he does not take his responsibilities and face things, Gertrude cannot bear his irresponsible attitude. Therefore, this causes a chaos in the family. Due to the fact that they have a different social background to each other, it is clear to see that there is lack of communication between the couple. Generally, Morel listens to Gertrude respectfully without understanding. Although Gertrude is aware of this discord and tries to balance the incompatibility that is a big obstacle to

communicate healthily, it becomes a vain attempt on the grounds that the cliff is so steep that they throw the rocks on their hands despairingly towards each other. Because of the hard life conditions, Morel is unaware of ignoring his wife and this puts Morel in the unenviable position of neglecting his marriage. Gertrude is very tired of doing household chores feeling lonely and Morel's presence at home makes her more agitated due to the fact that she knows her attempt to make him take responsibilities has no end. She thinks that Morel refuses to have everything done to satisfy her desires. Therefore, her effort to reform her husband is destined to be a failure. To have better living conditions, she tries to change him, but she senses that it is of no use and becomes aware that this has no end and change will never occur.

All things considered, at first Gertrude is fascinated by the impression of Walter Morel due to the fact that he promises to fill what she and her father lacks; sentimental and physical expressiveness. However, gradually when he dedicates himself to drinking and spending time at pubs with friends, Gertrude begins to dislike him; her interest or attraction disappears. The battle between the couple occurs when Gertrude becomes conscious of the fact that Walter lies about the unpaid bills and the house which they are living in. Gertrude grows up with the strict puritan religious beliefs, she is of the opinion that lying, drinking and wasting money on unnecessary stuff are against her point of view. Therefore, she cannot endure his irresponsible attitude and tries to shape his behaviors according to her own principles. On the other hand, Walter is aware of the fact that Gertrude is clever and her status is higher than him and her ideals are too high to be accomplished. This being the case, there begins a battle between the couple and Walter disagrees with her. Furthermore, he maltreats her with his reckless actions and irresponsible manners. Therefore, he ignores the family members and gradually began to lose his authority in the house. He gives his attention to drinking and gambling as an escape from the family conflicts. Mark Spilka explains this situation,

“As the book develops, he gradually breaks his own manhood; but this break down coincides with an actual shrinkage in physique, and shrinkage

seems to come from the direct contact between Morel and the forces of nature. Thus , instead of facing his problems at home, Morel loves to slip off with his friends for good times; on one of these drunken sprees he falls asleep in an open field , and then wakens, an hour later, feeling queer-and the physical breakdown begins here, with Morel in the act of denying his own manhood.”(Spilka,1957;43)

Gertrude and Walter struggle not to break off the family bonds and try to return to their happy days but their efforts have no end. When they fail in their marriage, Gertrude focuses on bringing up his children and strengthens her bond with them especially William and Paul. Due to her failed attempt and wasted effort to change her husband, she is driven towards her children to achieve her goals and desires of creating the ideal male and female forms. When she ignores her husband, Walter becomes aggressive and jealous of the children. The initial conflict between couple emerges with the birth of William. When William becomes one year old, Gertrude is pleased with his presence because he is so nice. His white hat “curled with an ostrich feather” makes William so pretty that Gertrude is proud of him with his aristocratic look. One Sunday morning, Morel sits in his armchair hesitatingly. The conversation between the wife and husband clarifies the fact that Gertrude becomes colder toward her husband:

“Mrs. Morel stood still. It was her first baby. She went very white, and was unable to speak.

‘What dost think o’ ‘im?’ Morel laughed uneasily.

She gripped her to fists, lifted them, and came forward. Morel shrank back.

‘I could kill you , I could!’ she said she choked with rage, her two fists uplifted.

‘Yer non want ter make a wench on ‘im,’ Morel said, in a frightened tone, bending his had to shield his eyes from hers. His attempt at laughter had vanished.

The mother looked down at the jagged, close-clipped head of her child. She put her hands on his hair, and stroked and fondled head.

'Oh-my boy!' she faltered. Her lips trembled, her face broke, and, snatching up the child, she buried her face in his shoulder and cried painfully. She was of those women who cannot cry; whom it hurts as it hurts a man. It was like ripping something out of her, her sobbing.

Morel sat with his elbows on his knees, his hands griped together till the knuckles were white. He gazed in the fire, feeling almost stunned, as if he could not breathe." (Lawrence,2010: 16-17)

This part shows us the conflict between them. Walter tries to take role of being a "father" and he communicates with his sons, but Gertrude's grief is going on. He looks for ways to claim that he is the authoritative figure in the family. A purposeful incident happen to prove this authority. Walter cuts William's hair due to the fact that he believes that Gertrude is making their son pretty and womanly and this mentality is totally against his point of view. This is one of the important events in Gertrude's separation from her husband because she completely depicts a fantasy world in her imagination to make her son distinctive or superior to his father. By this way, she fulfills her middle-class wishes to some extent. Therefore, the conflict between Gertrude and Morel stems from their distinct point of views and different social class matters.

Considering all of these, one can conclude that the relationship of this couple that starts with a passion and ends with hatred shows itself as an important part of the obvious gender issue within the novel. The strong matriarchy of Gertrude makes the reader rethink about the role of a wife and a woman in a marriage, and makes them fall into doubt about the necessity of man-oriented way of organizing things in the world.

2.3. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE FATHER (WALTER MOREL) AND HIS CHILDREN

The relationship Walter establishes between himself and his children becomes a significant part of the total analysis of the gender issue in Sons &

Lovers. It develops under the matriarchy of Gertrude, which prevents the natural closeness of the father to his sons and daughter. There are many ways in which the novel shows up sons' fidelity to their mother and hostility to their father. For instance, when their father was at hospital, they were happy and peaceful, almost to the point of disappointment that he would soon return. Meanwhile, while Gertrude was sorry for his pain and his injury, she was comforted by talking to Paul, who is able to share her troubles. (Lawrence,2010: Chapter 5). What is striking about this relationship is that basing its essence on the negative influence the mother exerts on the sons, there is a clear sense of hatred felt by the kids for Walter, from the very outset. He has a peripheral role as a father and his judgments are given no importance in the family atmosphere. When this situation is analyzed from the perspective of Lawrence on gender, it is right to argue that the inefficiency of the communication between the father and sons can be attributed to the matriarchy of Gertrude together with the personal identity of the father, as well.

The extreme matriarchy of Gertrude accounts for much of the conflict between the father and children since it is obviously sufficient to make Walter seem as a passive character. Influenced by the constant complaints of the mother about the irresponsible nature of Walter, and justifying them, the children regard their mother as the power in the house and reject the authority of the father. A better way of explaining this family originated factor, which removes the respect needing to be paid to Walter by the children, and which also makes the question of gender come to the fore is just how R. W. Cornell says it,

“Cultural and psychological evidence shows a family pattern where the mother is central, the father has little real domestic authority and the mother-son and father-daughter relationships are emphasized more than the same sex identifications. This highlights the importance of femininity and masculinity, and suggests a kind of discontinuity in the history of gender that bears thinking about in other contexts.” (Cornell,1987:124)

It is suitable to point out that Gertrude can be said to be playing with Walter's manhood as she tries to fix him into the ideal man image in her mind. Moreover, the children never question the reasons behind her attitude to the father and display the same one to him, as well. This is partly because the sons under the influence of Oedipus Complex which functions as another significant part of the present study. Their being greatly influenced by the complex referred causes them to be kind of enslaved for the matriarchy of Gertrude. They are ready to internalize what she says about him as always true, and create a family atmosphere in which the mother and sons are like alliances of each other in their battle against Walter. The treatment meted out to him is not different from the one meted out to an enemy as Lawrence states in the novel. In Chapter 4, Walter becomes isolated from other members of the family. The children start to share their problems with their mother and nothing with their father. During their dialogue, it is easy to understand that Walter is seen as an outsider or stranger in his own family. They are happy until the father comes home. After his arrival, everything changed. "He was like the scotch in the smooth, happy machinery of the home." (Lawrence,2010: 72).

This is also illustrated by the example of Paul's prize. He says 'But he would rather have forfeited the prize than have to tell his father' (Lawrence,2010:72) Hence, in terms of gender at stake in the novel, it can be claimed that the relationship between the father and sons is not like a typical same-sex relationship in which the sons see the father as a model for themselves. Furthermore, Paul hated his father. ' Lord, let my father die,' he prayed very often.

The Oedipus Complex together with the acceptance of matriarchy by children at home should not be considered as the only reason of the disharmony in their interrelationships. Being unable to impose the significance of patriarchy in household, Walter makes the reader convinced that there are other factors to elaborate on like the factor of personality. Relevantly, it might be said that personality is like a key element in life and in the essence of many literary works as it does *Sons&Lovers*, too. Walter's

personality presents itself as the other factor to be touched on with its distorting, but determining effects on the communication between him and the children. He assuredly lacks certain qualities to be a proper father, and his failure to impose the patriarchy might make the reader call him not a decent man, too. It is as if he was devoid of some paternal sentiments and his manners at home cannot be differentiated from his manners at work. He is not a decent man since he does not resist the matriarchy of Gertrude, and at the same time, he does nothing to change the way his children sees him in the household. With a close look at the atmosphere in the family, the reader can easily understand the hatred of children towards to the father because of his irresponsible attitude to the family and maltreatment to the mother with his fierce actions. As Lawrence states,

“All the children, but particularly Paul, were peculiarly *against* their father, along with their mother. Morel continued to bully and to drink. He had periods, months at a time, when he made the whole life of the family a misery. Paul never forgot coming home from the Band of Hope one Monday evening and finding his mother with her eye swollen and discolored, his father standing on the heart hug, feet astride, his head down and William, just home from work, glaring at his father.” (Lawrence,2010: 67)

Even the language he uses is indicative of the fact that he is not an appealing figure to the members of his family as Scott Sanders puts it, “The husband’s (Walter’s) Derbyshire dialect has the contrary effect of identifying him with the community.” (Sanders,1973:29) This being the case, he also finds himself incapable of proving his masculinity that forces the sons to see Gertrude as a role model.

“Linguistic discrimination is an area in which Paul is shown voluntary taking his mother’s side. Mr. Morel is shown as entirely limited to a dialect which, though Gertrude found it fascinating in the early days of their courtship, she now underestimate and cannot understand. When Paul communicates with his mother, he is obviously free with words and his language as Salgado points out ‘his language is genteel English of Mrs. Morel, not the rich coarse dialect of his father.’ (Salgado,1982: 103)

As Salgado remarks, 'financial independence' is another area in which Paul has an opportunity to despise his father. When Morel is injured at work and has to go into the hospital, Paul sees himself as 'the man in the house' and 'he used to say to his mother with joy. (Lawrence,2010: 102)

Another example incident can be added as evidence to show Paul's hatred to his father in the part when Paul becomes sick with bronchitis. When Paul retires in bed, the father visits him. He is very polite in this kind of situation because he worries about the well-being of his children. However, Paul asks for Gertrude and is irritated by the presence of the father in his room. When Morel asks about his illness, he persistently wants to learn if his mother comes or not. The father says that she is folding the clothes and tries to comfort him but he doesn't want anything from him and Morel realizes his son sets a barrier between them in order to reduce communicating with him and decides to leave the room. (Lawrence,2010: 77) This incident between Paul and Morel shows us that Morel tries to be closer to his son when he is ill but Paul cannot bear his presence in his room. By asking for the mother all the time, Morel feels the coldness of his son in a tragic manner.

In conclusion, it can be said that the possessiveness of Gertrude and the positive reaction of the children to her lessen the influence of the father, especially on his sons, to the last degree. So, the relationship between the father and children is a distorted one, which is determined by the sons' refusal of the father's domination.

2.4. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE MOTHER (GERTRUDE MOREL) AND THE CHILDREN

When a baby is born, it is basic instinct to care for them deeply and pay attention to the child at every moment. When we think of a naive baby, the first image that we have in our mind is to associate it with its mother. Mothers are the most selfless, caring and loving human beings. Once they have a baby, they answer the call of nature to relinquish their focus on

themselves, and concentrate on doing everything possible to assure their baby's survival and well-being. Normally, this fundamental trait of a mother continues over time until her child tries to take care of himself. It is a big honor for her to meet all needs and dedicate herself to bring up the child neatly. An intense love develops between the mother and the child through bonding. The child feels nurtured and protected in his mother's arms. Mom learns her child's personality and how to respond to his needs. When the baby's needs are immediately met, he learns to feel safe and secure, knowing that he's well cared for. This safe feeling promotes positive social and cognitive development as the baby grows. The child watches every single action of his mother and tries to imitate her. His mother becomes the role model in his life. This relationship or strong bond impacts your child's future mental, physical, social, and emotional health. To some extent, this bond is important for the child's development, however, the mother should not undertake an over-possessive role. It is a big mistake to cling to the child obsessively; this causes the child's unhealthy development in his adulthood. The mother should not get herself confused at the different stages of the child's growth. Because of the fact that the bond between the mother and the child plays a crucial part for the child's relationships in the future, the mother should act with a sequacious and balanced attitude towards the child, especially in his adulthood. The mother's over-oppressive role throughout his development has a negative impact on the child's future emotional, mental and social development, leading to difficulties in learning and forming relationships in later life. As Simone de Beauvoir states, "All oppression creates a state of war". (1972). The overwhelming behavior and keeping the child under close control cause an obstacle that prevents the child from growing a healthier sense of sexuality and deciding on his own ideas freely.

This controversial topic reminds us of the extreme emotions given by the sons and the mother "Gertrude" who has an over-possessive role in the analyzed novel "Sons&Lovers". In the novel, we witness a mother figure that has an enormous impact on the children's emotional and social development. Gertrude Morel's intimacy with her children is a crucial element of the

discussion upon gender within the novel. By nature, it is like the opposite version of the relationship between the father & children in that this one is determined by the sense of a growing love towards the mother. She is the flawless angel in her sons' account and whatever she does is entirely appreciated by the household. Her relationship with her sons represents a made-up one, which means that she tries to console herself by pretending to compensate for the missing pieces in her marriage with her utmost care for these boys.

“In the first instance the son is a substitute husband, a vicarious source of the emotional fulfillment which Mrs Morel cannot find in her marriage. But almost as important is the way in which the son embodies the mother's burning social aspirations, her ideals of respectability, 'getting on' and being looked up to, in all of which her own marriage has so cruelly disappointed her.” (Salgado,1982: 100).

It is suitable to assert that she causes an unhealthy attachment to exist between her and the sons that also calls into question of gender roles issue, here. This unhealthy bond between them can be understood better with a brief explanation of her general attitude to her three sons, especially to William and Paul.

“At last Mrs Morel despised her husband. She turned to the child, she turned from the father. He had begun to neglect her; the novelty of his own home was gone. He had no grit, she said bitterly to herself.” (Lawrence,2010: 16)

Mrs. Morel's attraction to her children makes them alienated from their father and with her devotion herself to the children they feel bondage to the mother, and cannot imagine ever abandoning her or even marrying anyone else. Since Mrs. Morel isn't satisfied with her own life, she constantly urges her children toward “middle-class refinements” and want them to enter white-collar jobs, thereby the children ignore and despise their father, and moreover, they sometimes entertain fantasies of his father's dying. The mother influences the children so deeply that the children confine everything in her, work and live to please her.

“The little boy’s impatience to set off the fair even before his mother has got his meal ready aligns him with his father’s appetite for jollity, but it is his mother’s arrival at the Wakes which really crowns his enjoyment- ‘ He was tipful of excitement now she had come’- and it is for her that he has got the egg-cups as prizes. Furthermore, William is proud to be seen with his mother because ‘ no other woman looked such a lady as she did.”(Salgado,1982:101)

William’s attachment to the mother and the powerful desire to uphold her wishes become his duty in life. Gertrude becomes the center of his life. The mother is the major part in his life and controls his mind tightly. He tries to fulfill his mother’s ideals by winning prizes at school and sending her money regularly. His only desire is to make her happy and become the ideal man that she lusts for. However, he is not quite as flawless as his mother desires because some of his characteristics resemble his father. He is big built and has some habits like his father ‘Morel’ and loves dancing and girls. Gertrude doesn’t want William to dance because it reminds her of Morel’s passion to dance. She cannot accept the idea that William looks like his father. She wants to shape his life according to her own point of view and she is of the opinion that he should be shaped by the desires of her and this would be possible to be completely different from his father. All these things cause a tension between Gertrude and William leading to her rudeness to girls he meets at dances. (Salgado,1982:101). Gertrude cannot bear his resembles of the father because of the fact that he is her beloved one and should be shaped by the needs, desires and authority that the mother pleases. She always wants to control William’s every move. For instance, when William finds a job in London, he begins to see Lily who he meets at the dance. Lily put on luxurious dresses and has a cozy life. She deals with money and tend to be offered a splendid life. William is so fascinated by the girl that he expresses his feelings;

“If you saw her, mother, you would know how I feel. Tall and elegant, with the clearest of clear, transparent olive complexions, hair as black as jet, and such grey eyes-bright mocking, like lights on water at night. It is all very

well to be a bit satirical till you see her. And she dresses as well as any woman in London. I tell you your son doesn't half put his head up when she goes walking down Piccadilly with her." (Lawrence,2010: 105)

As we can understand from his emotions, William is impressed by this girl immensely. However, when he sends a photo of her to his mother, Gertrude doesn't like her appearance. She worries about William's future owing to the fact that he can't earn enough money to afford this girl's expectations. She is of the opinion that Lily disappoints him and detaches her from his son. This relation can ruin the bond between the mother and the son. Therefore, she continuously rejects the idea that William has a strong wish for another girl emotionally. However, it does not take long for her to get the news of William's engagement to his girlfriend. When the Christmas comes, he visits his family with his fiancée to meet them. Lily is like a princess for them because she is so vain that she treats Annie and Paul like a maid.

"And yet she was not so grand. For a year now she had been a sort of secretary or clerk in London Office. But while she was with the Morels she queened it. She sat and let Annie or Paul wait on her as if they were her servants. She treated Mrs. Morel with a certain glibness and Morel with patronage." (Lawrence,2010: 138)

As it is understood from this quote, during this visit, she shows her materialistic and insincere behaviors towards the family. It is obvious to see that Lily is not a good partner for William and Gertrude worries about her son's future with this girl. She immediately warns him about the danger if he marries this girl:

"And she wants to get married, and I think myself we might as well get married next year. But at this rate-"

A fine mess of a marriage it would be," replied his mother. "I should consider it again, my boy."

"Oh,well, I've gone too far to break off now," he said, "and so I shall get married as soon as I can."

“Very well, my boy, If you will, you will, and there’s no stopping you; but I tell you, I can’t sleep when I think about it.”

“Oh, she’ll be all right, mother. We shall manage.” (Lawrence,2010: 150-151)

However, their second visit to the family exposes some facts about Lily. William realizes her rude attitude and is fed up with her silly behavior. He understands that Lily has a relationship with William because of her desire for money. He wishes for a sexual satisfaction, but with the weak bond between them makes him realize that the bond is not more than physical attraction. He doesn’t belong to her with his soul. She lacks soul and he is not in love with her deeply. He sees that he doesn’t want to go on with this relationship but he thinks that it is too late to leave her. In Chapter 6, he expresses his feelings hopelessly by indicating the impossibility to give her up. He thinks that it is too late to walk out on her. In addition to this, he cannot imagine his life without her. Gertrude mentions the upcoming dangers with this girl if they get married. She tells her own desperate marriage as an example. If they go further, this will be a disaster for William, she asserts. When William tells her not to give her up, she makes him “remember there are worse wrongs than breaking off an engagement.” (Lawrence,2010: 151)

All things considered, we can easily conclude that William is so desperate that he cannot find a correct way to end this wrong relationship. Mrs. Morel understands that William and Lily belong to distinct worlds. Therefore, she struggles to explain the impossibility of their relationship because she doesn’t want her son to make the same mistake like her. She has a bad marriage and what she can foresee the future of this and believes it will be a total destruction of her son’s life. Also, William is aware of Lily’s pseudo love. He said that if he died, Lily would forget him in three months (Lawrence,2010: 153). Through the passing time, we can see that when he is fatally sick, she doesn’t look after him. Even after his death, she doesn’t visit his grave.

On the other hand, after William’s death, Mrs. Morel feels deeply sorrow and she was destroyed by his death. Nothing was more valuable to

her than her beloved son. However, when Paul becomes badly ill, she feels very guilty for neglecting him and she dedicates herself to him owing to the fact that she has lost her first son and if she neglects him, he might have the same destiny as William has. So, from now on, she is of the opinion that the world should revolve around on him. Paul is presented to us from before his birth following his mother like a shadow, establishing himself an exclusive place in his mother's heart. Everything revolves around her life view. With Paul the victory is hers totally. He shows no resistance to the mother's claims on him and his antipathy to his father is more flaming and more brutal than William's. Throughout the novel, we witness several ways of Paul's fidelity to his mother and hostility to his father as Salgado states below,

“Thus in the early episode where Mrs. Morel is waiting for Morel senior to turn home (Lawrence,2010:Chapter 5), Paul learns to share all his mother's impatience and irritability towards his father. His fearsome private prayer is the direct result of this indoctrination: “Lord, let my father die,’ he prayed very often’.” (Salgado,1982: 103)

Paul wins first-prize awards in an exhibition for students' work in the Castle. This makes his mother very proud of him. She goes to the Castle, wandering down the long room looking at the other works. They were good, but she cannot find a certain something which she desires for satisfaction. Only Paul's work beats her heart. She feels as if it “were printed on her heart”. The mother is so impressed and proud of his son that she wants to share her feelings to her son with the other ladies. This strong bond is described below:

“...she felt a proud woman. When she met well-dressed ladies going home to the Park, she thought to herself:

‘Yes, you look very well- but I wonder if your son had two first prizes in the Castle.’

And she walked on, as proud a little woman as any in Nottingham. And Paul felt he had done something for her, if only a trifle. All his work was hers.” (Lawrence,2010: 213)

The sons cannot associate sexual choice with feelings their mother has adopted. This unbearable dilemma causes William's death. Besides, the nightmare doesn't end with this unfortunate incident, the identical feelings are repeated in the case of Paul, the younger child. After William's death, the mother (Mrs. Morel) has strong influence on Paul's relationships. She projects her longing for William on Paul. The growing intimacy between Paul and Miriam leads Paul to abandon Miriam since he adores his mother intensely. When he feels his mother suffers from this relationship, he suddenly hates Miriam and acts cruel towards her, at the thought of his mother. Because his mother does not like Miriam, he questions this case many times desperately and he feels gloomy and hopeless between them. (Lawrence,2010: 223) His deep love which belongs to his mother wounds his love and he cannot bear it. This causes a constant battle between him and Miriam. His love to the mother does not allow the relationship to deepen. He decides to abandon his affair with Miriam because of the fact that his mother is more important and he returns to his mother's love and understands that he cannot live without his mother and thus leaves his beloved one.

Gertrude lives in the industrial age with the unfavorable conditions of living that force people to endure poverty and the women to be economically dependent on men. Given the environment in which she lives and the object of her struggle, the generalization that Alfred Kazin makes can be specified to the case of Gertrude as Kazin suggests,

“Even working-class mothers in England, in the last of the Victorian age, had aimed at a “higher” standard of culture, and despising their husbands and concentrating on their sons, they had made these sons images of themselves. These mothers had sought a new dignity and even a potential freedom for themselves as women, but holding their sons too close, they robbed them of their necessary wildness and masculine force.”(Farr,1970:74)

At this point, it is easy to say that the direction to which this cross-sex relationship goes might find it stuck in a distortion of gender roles, largely. To illustrate, she treats her sons as if they were female ones by keeping them

under close control, and thinking that what she expects from life should be what they are to expect from it, as well. She shares things with them, which she does not sometimes share with her husband, and the children willingly submit themselves to her authority. As Lawrence notes, "From her the feeling was transmitted to the other children. She never suffered alone any more: the children suffered with her." (Lawrence, 2010:61) Given the gender roles they take on as mothers and sons, it is right to emphasize that the sons are too close to her which even makes them to turn a blind eye to the defining role a father for the boys of their age.

William is the leading actor in the triangular relationship among them since Gertrude spares a huge amount of her affection on him until his sudden death. He always presents himself to be on the side of the mother whenever there emerges a fight between Gertrude and her husband. As Lawrence clarifies, "Almost, he was like her knight who wore her favour in the battle." (Lawrence, 2010: 79) He grows under a profound influence of Gertrude and attaches extreme value to her viewpoints as an individual. When it comes to analyzing her closeness to Paul, nothing is different except for him being the second favorite of the mother after her loss of William. Similarly, she dedicates herself to educating Paul in accordance with her opinions on how an ideal man should be, and Paul responds him quite positively without being aware of the fact that the mother, indeed, does harm to him. As Julian Moynahan maintains,

"Still, it is equally inevitable that she should turn to her sons as they mature toward manhood. They become the channels into which she pours her long dammed up spiritual energy, and she cannot help using them destructively to break a way through the walls separating her from a larger world." (Moynaha,1963: 21)

Also Michael Bell supports this assertion as stated below,

"By the standard of what he values in the mature Lawrence, Littlewood finds Sons and Lovers still too trammelled by personal motive. The outcome includes an idealising of the mother figure which actually obscures her real

strenght and her corresponding significance for the development of her son.”
(Bell,1991: 40)

To conclude, the intimacy between the mother and sons functions like an obstacle that prevents the boys from developing a healthier sense of sexuality and gender roles that make them hover a grudge against their father.

SECTION THREEE

THE CORRELATION BETWEEN “THE GENDER AND THE SPLIT THEORY” IN SONS & LOVERS

“The gender” in *Sons & Lovers* is not only limited to the analysis of the family interrelationships of the Morels by also being related to the “split theory” in question. “Gender” in the novel makes it fairly necessary to dwell on two closely related points: Split theory and Oedipus Complex. What makes them related to each other basically comes from the relationship between Gertrude and her two sons (Paul and William). They both help to elaborate accordingly upon a better analysis of the presentation of gender by Lawrence in the book. The split theory is the name used to describe the split Paul Morel feels to exist between his body and soul because of his love affairs with Miriam Leivers and Clara Dawes along with his strong liking for the mother, as well. The particulars of the relationship among Paul, Gertrude, Miriam, and Clara necessarily call into question the issue of gender with its connection to the split indicated above. To begin with the split theory, it can be said that the theory’s being at the object of attention here is directly linked to the overwhelming effect of Gertrude on her son ‘Paul’. The need for Paul to always stick to his mother especially for his decisions and feelings influences his mentally and causes him to be also in a paradox when it comes to having relationships with the other girls. Relevant to that, this section is going to elaborate on the nature of the relationship between Paul and his mother in detail that has a crucial part to play in developing the sense of split Paul experiences. Then, it is going to shed a light over the significance of Paul’s love for Miriam and Clara since it helps to understand this section better, too.

3.1. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN “GENDER” AND “SPLIT THEORY” IN SONS&LOVERS

The study of gender in the present study makes it necessary to touch on the “Split Theory” which gives the reader the chance to have a better insight into the mental and spiritual situation of the main person “Paul Morel”. The theory referred mainly deals with the attitude of Paul and William to opposite gender in their private relationship with their lovers thereby being a means of clarifying the importance of gender issue in the book, as well. In other words, the study of this theory in relation to gender enables us to closely examine the mind of state and emotional worlds of the sons who are governed by the effects of those two important elements. This being the case, having a better understanding of those emotions and their effects is like the first step to be taken for detailing the issue of gender.

The first point where the study of gender makes its importance known to the reader in the story is the family relationships of Morels whose family environment is mainly shaped by the notion of matriarchy. As said before, matriarchy manifests itself as the theme which certifies the relevance of the examination of gender to the book and the split theory to be detailed in this section. Just like the first indicators of the leading role the study of gender plays in the book, the split theory holds a mirror to Paul’s conception of gender issues in his mind to the reader. With the help of his need to satisfy himself through his attraction to his lovers while he is in need of a woman having a mindset just like his mom, Paul projects himself as an object of attention with the split view in his inner world. Centralizing his affairs with his two lovers, the Split Theory is showing us the ways in which he conceptualizes gender, as a whole. At this point, Paul’s relationship with his mother certainly requires to be elaborated as it will be in the next section since it functions as the one that forms the concept of gender for Paul as an individual. As regards to his lovers who cause Paul to be the victim of this split, it can be stressed that his attempt to be closer to them reflects the real “Paul” in him who is in pursuit of a woman figure just like his mother. His

realization of his lovers' negative sides in terms of their affection for Paul, together with the gender conception of him can also be said to be the propelling forces of the main components of the issues of gender and The Split Theory in the book. His deep attachment to his mother causing him to be in dilemma all the time puts Paul in a position where he can do nothing but to give in to the power of his love for her until she dies.

3.2. THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN PAUL AND GERTRUDE MOREL (SON AND MOTHER)

"Paul Morel" being the hero and the second means of manifestation of Gertrude's destructiveness on her sons after William, shows himself at the center of the story with his unusual attachment to his mother. The relationship built between them is a part of the split that divides Paul's body and soul to decide between her and his beloved ones, and he is really like the lover of the mother. As Spilka states,

"William, the first son-lover, has been destroyed; now Paul will take his place in his mother's heart; he will become her second lover, he will in turn be sapped of his vitality, but at the moment he has just become her most beloved son." (Farr, 1970: 60-1)

He suffers from a loss of his vitality in that he faces some difficulties in adapting himself to love other women than his mother. Hence, considerably different than the previous ones explained, the study of the ground on which their relationship is established has to do with two intertwined parts: the characteristics of Paul in brief and the oedipal side of their relationship that makes the split issue come to the surface within the novel.

Gertrude's state of mind that is shaped by the harsh conditions of her living before the birth of Paul is a key for expanding on the reasons behind the great amount of attention the mother pays to his upbringing. She is not on good terms with Walter, at all during this period and she does not want to give birth to Paul that poses a contrast to her later closeness to the child.

Nonetheless, there is the hint of an overpowering love she is to feel for Paul as she reveals how she will rear him on being gotten of the house by drunken Walter, one day:

“Then she got the air into her breast. 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, and each time the brand came down at the same points, till the mark was burnt it, and the pain burnt out, and at last she came to herself.” (Lawrence,2010: 26)

The underlined parts demonstrate that spirituality is to play a major role in the essence of their relationship that makes Paul feel himself as a soul mate of the mother. Paul is sensitive to everything from the early days of his childhood, and he has the tendency to be close to his mother by nature. As Lawrence remarks, “He was so conscious of what other people felt, particularly his mother. When she fretted he understood, and could have no peace. **His soul** always seemed attentive to her.” (Lawrence,2010: 57) It is right to say that Paul is an innocent person and the repetition of the word “soul” proves the different type of their communication as mother and son. In terms of “gender”, it is easy to see that they are too close to each other as two opposite sexes and this determines the way how Paul interacts with women in the future. In other words, this extreme closeness at work causes Paul to be incapable of loving any other lady, and it goes hand in hand with the split he feels to have a place between his body and soul. Thinking that no woman can be completely his soul mate like Gertrude is, and following the shadow of her in his every step, he blurs the way leading to the formation of favorable ideas for getting a proper attitude to the opposite sex.

It is clear that feeling himself attached to the mother to such a serious extent, he prepares his downfall as he is later seen as unable to love other ladies. The root of the split dividing his body and soul initially comes from his love for Gertrude that turns his contact with the opposite sex into something

improper. She is the source of this split that manifests itself practically in Paul's love relationships. That said, he does not come to terms with the idea that he has to share things with other women. The connection between the split and the gender within the novel can be expressed better through what Niven tells about the situation,

“In Paul's case, he is not just a son to his mother, and a lover to Miriam and Clara; the roles can be reversed as he becomes at times almost his mother's beau and seeks from both the other women a kind of substitute maternalism.” (Niven,1978: 49)

Taking into consideration these, what remains to reemphasize is that Paul's unusual closeness to his mother is the main reason behind the problems he faces while trying to adjust himself to loving other women. The sense of the division between his body and soul, especially the soul is first aroused by Gertrude's influence on his upbringing, and then deepens in his love affairs with Miriam and Clara.

3.3. THE TRIANGULAR RELATIONSHIP AMONG PAUL, MIRIAM, AND CLARA

Miriam Leivers is the character who is introduced as the first beloved of Paul throughout his life in the novel. She draws the reader's attention by being the first practical manifestation of the split between the body and soul as she represents “the soul” part after Gertrude Morel. Clara Dawes is the second beloved and she means a lot to him with the potential sexuality she has compared to Miriam. She stands for “the body” part and the relationship built between her and Paul is totally based on Paul's sexual needs as a man that renders him as a dominant figure in a relationship for the first time. The characteristics of these two women do not bear resemblances with one another, at all and they symbolize different things in the analysis of gender in connection with the split theory in *Sons & Lovers*. So, the personal traits of Miriam and Clara together with the parts they obviously represent in the

study of “the split” make them center characters to be touched on in the last part of this section.

The characteristics of Miriam are worthy of being analyzed in the attempt to understand her role as the representative of the soul part in the split theory. Given the time in which she lives, she is remarkably different from the girls of her age due to her great expectations from life. She is interested in social or philosophical subjects and is very critical about the way the male kinds treat the female kinds in general. It is quite interesting that she resembles a lot to Paul’s mother in terms of these sides of her, that’s why she is the real rival of Gertrude in her struggle to possess him spiritually. She is a typical modern female figure who is willing to challenge the authority of men as Lawrence points out, Miriam doesn’t want to be seen as “swine-girl”. She longs for learning and thinking. If she reads some important books such as “Colomba” or the “Voyage autour de ma Chambre” , she has a different point of view and sees the world from a distinct angle. The life becomes meaningful only after she fills herself full with information. She aspires to learn and cannot have a respectful status in society without fulfilling her learning desires. Since Miriam has very strong spiritual and religious beliefs, Paul is attracted by her and they make their connection through sharing or transmitting information. (Lawrence,2010:143) At this point, it becomes easier to predict that the relationship between her and Paul is based on the dominance of woman with the spirituality and the intellect she has. Likewise, as Sanders expresses his view on her personality, “She is an educated Cinderella who resents serving as drudge to her farming menfolk: like Paul she yearns to escape by the one means available to her- her mind.” (Sanders,1973: 45)

When it comes to having a look at the personality of Clara Dawes, it is suitable to say that she is the opposite of Miriam in terms of her conception of life. She is not spiritual, conservative, and intellectual but who attracts attention with the way she uses her sexuality. Compared to Miriam, she is potentially lustful, and quite willing to have sexual intercourse with Paul, from the outset. It should be noted that she is a possessive woman like Gertrude

and Miriam, but her possessiveness comes from her desire to manipulate Paul through her sexual charm. When their relationship is viewed in accordance with the gender roles they take on, it is seen that Clara does not want to fit Paul into an ideal man image, she accepts him as he is. Her authority comes from the ability to use her sexuality effectively, which makes Paul take a sexually active role as a man as Lawrence illustrates,

“The blood flamed up in him. He stood showing his teeth. She drooped sulkily. The lane was dark, quite lonely. He suddenly caught her in his arms, stretched forward, and put his mouth on her face in a kiss of rage. She turned frantically to avoid him. He held her fast. Hard and relentless his mouth came for her. Her breasts hurt against the wall of his chest. Helpless, she went loose in his arms, and he kissed her, and kissed her.” (Lawrence,2010: 327)

The importance of the scene is that it also facilitates the reader’s task of understanding how Clara represents “the body part” by being a sexual object in the split theory.

The distinction between Miriam and Clara certainly influences the type of roles they signify in the study of the split and gender within the novel. Having gone through a childhood process that is mother-oriented like Paul, Miriam is very spiritual, and she does want to take hold of one person’s soul. She is the reason of the split that Paul feels to exist on the part of his soul, and she is a threat to Gertrude who competes with her to conquer Paul spiritually. As Lawrence reports from the mouth of the mother, “She’s not like an ordinary woman, who can leave 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.” (Lawrence,2010: 193) This adequately illustrates the reality that what Miriam means to Paul is limited to her spirituality and authority, while Clara stands out with her sexuality. She causes Paul to fall into doubts about her feelings for Miriam since Clara is a comparatively passionate lover. She does not entertain the idea of making Paul submit to herself and she symbolizes the sexuality of women by appealing to the manly needs of Paul. As to the question of whether Paul chooses Miriam or Clara, it is highly

possible that he will turn to Miriam as she seeks for a substitute mother in a relationship. As Spilka remarks,

“Yet if Miriam lacks warmth, she has strength of will to spare. She endures Paul’s insults, his cruel probings, his wrongheaded arguments; she lets him go, time and again, out of the conviction that she holds the ultimate key to his soul. And she does have the ability to stimulate him in his work, to arouse his own spiritual nature to fever pitch, and to serve as the necessary “threshing floor” for his ideas.” (Farr,1970: 54-5)

In brief, Paul’s relationship with these two women is the direct means for comprehending the seriousness of Gertrude’s impact on his psychology, as well. Symbolizing the body and soul parts in the split theory explained, they are like substitute mothers in his imagination that has a lot to do with the functionality of gender issue within the analysis of the novel.

SECTION FOUR

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN “OEDIPUS COMPLEX” AND “GENDER” IN SONS&LOVERS

“Oedipus Complex” has always been a crucial theory for a great number of studies related to literature and has mostly served the purpose of detailing the theme of “gender” to a serious extent. The proponent of this theory “Sigmund Freud” has also played an equally important role with his help as a contributor to many researchers’ studies in the realm of literature, too. In addition to striking readers of different periods with its relevance to the study of gender in literature, its another main function is to be one of the most significant sources of psychoanalytic studies. The main reason behind the present study’s directing itself toward analyzing and detailing Oedipus Complex is the relationship between Paul and his mother as elaborated in the preceding chapter. The relationship between them exactly stands for the relationship taken as an example by Freud in his explanations of this theory in that Paul starts to be deeply drawn to his mother from a very early phase of his life and organizes all of his expectations from life depending on his extreme love for Gertrude Morel.

Alfred Adler explains Oedipus Complex in the following way:

“A boy who is pampered by the mother attaches his sole interest to her, perhaps permanently after and encountering defeat in his tentative and ineffective struggles with outside world. Since he has been accustomed to gratify all his wishes, he will indulge in erotic phantasy and in masturbation beyond the normal degree, thus over- stimulating his developing sexuality. In this respect the excessive kissing and caressing of the pampering mother may be another factor disposing toward sexual excitation. Since he is sexually precocious, his sexual phantasies, on which he dwells, will be directed at the mother. Because he rejects all others, she is expected to gratify all his desires. But here, too, his sexual phantasies and wishes are

subordinated to and in the service of his life-goal: domination and exclusive control by possession of the mother. The sexual pleasure is incidental to the lust for power over the mother, whom he has discovered he can dominate.” (Mullahy,1955:126-7)

It has already been expressed by many scholars that Oedipus Complex presents itself as a period which is inevitably experienced in the lives of almost all the male children. That said, love for the mother as the main component of Oedipus Complex has an influence on both the girls and boys in their upbringing and the mother is mostly seen as the best exemplary figure who helps the development of the children’s personality. As Allport said,

“It’s obvious that the prime factor in the development of any personality is the influence of other personalities. Of all the people who affect this development, in general the parents do so most poignantly. Both boys and girls as a rule have a greater fondness for their mothers.” (Allport 1937: 186-7)

Therefore, it is obvious that not only male children, but also female ones centralize their affection for the mother in family environment and for their plans in the future, as well. However, it should be restated that it is the male children who are profoundly influenced by the love for their mothers and it does not stop being a driving force even when they reach adulthood and when they want to make very serious decisions in their lives. That is to say, it is a kind of love which has a really long-lasting, but destructing effect upon its victims, basically ‘boys’. As Hartacollis emphasizes,

“The secret love culminates in the demand to be loved in the same way as one has been loved as a child by one’s mother. This applies mainly to men, for the authentic “woman” does not love the man but has remained as a rule arrested at the stage of narcissism. Her child, too, she loves narcissistically, as part of her own self.” (Hartacollis,t.y.; 322)

It is destructive since the boys pursue a desire to find partners who bear a resemblance to their mothers in terms of both their mentality and spirituality. At this point, concerning the spirituality alluded, it can be said that

it is in a direct relationship with the sexuality or the split theory detailed in the present study. As it has been said, Paul and William are the characters who feel lost in the difficulties posed by their attachment to their mother. This side of Paul's and William's love for their mother render it quite possible to focus on the element of sexuality in their relationship in a direct accordance with Oedipus Complex, too.

Also, it is generally believed that children do not have such strong desires relating to sexuality, but the case of Paul is the one which may make the reader fall into doubt about the existence of a possibility between sexuality and gender, too. In addition to all the things said about the subject of Oedipus Complex and Gender, Paul's case is exactly like the case Freud had in mind before he proposed his theory because starting from an early age, Paul competes with his father and extremely fond of his mother. His fondness of his mother reaches to a level that leads to his self-destruction, too. At this point, Kingsley Widmer shows Mrs Morel as a destructive character in her sons' lives:

“Her protestant ethos of self-denial, sexual repression, impersonal work, disciplined aspiration, guilt, and yearning for conversion-escape, not only defeats her already industrially victimized coal-miner husband but also contributes to the defeat of several of their sons.” (Widmer, 1985: 115)

The mother is the key reason of this complex and prevents them from having a healthy relationship with women in the future, too. Mrs. Morel is so dominant that when they reach adulthood, it is nearly impossible to take action without her support and they cannot grow healthy relationships with their lovers because of the oppression of the mother. Furthermore, it brings with itself an extreme suffering fastened by the Oedipus Complex and a mentality placing gender issue on a separate and different place as an individual raised under the influence of matriarchy.

4.1. THE PROJECTION OF THE EFFECTS OF OEDIPUS COMPLEX IN THE RELATIONSHIPS OF MORELS FAMILY

The relationship of William and Paul guides the reader in a way that highlights the importance of how powerful Oedipus Complex can be in boys' whole life. Gertrude's trial of being an overly- dominant figure with her children's tendency to comply with her rules creates a family atmosphere in which first William and then Paul are like caged in the prison governed by the rules of the mother and Oedipus Complex coming with it. As Draper shows,

"In Sons and Lovers, Lawrence shows, that mother- wife submissiveness is far from being the quiescent, flowering love of a mature woman, but a deadly form of domination." (Draper, 1958:287)

What should be emphasized in the quote of Draper is his last words "deadly form of domination" since it certainly expresses the extent to which Gertrude Morel has imposed her ideas upon her two sons. In the family atmosphere of Morels, this is observed in the relationship between Gertrude and her sons (William and Paul) who show the reader the seriousness of the dangers coming with a life led with the effects of Oedipus Complex on the part of the first son William and then Paul. The bond between them is more than a mere presentation of love as mother and son, but reaches a destructive stage as illustrated in the book by Lawrence, in Chapter 9, Paul's obsession to his mother goes on to be central. His mother is still the most important woman to him. Her ties are the most powerful ties in life. When Gertrude comes to his mind, the world stops and Miriam "shrank away". He cannot describe his feelings about her because he has "vague" and "unreal" feelings about her. The degree that other incidents in his life can be explained by the ways that they associate with his mother. The safest place in the world is the place where his mother is. The reality which comes far away from his mother doesn't seem to have a meaning for him and it seems to be faint due to the fact that everything seems logical and mysterious with his mother's presence. (Lawrence,2010: 257) What should be shown in this chapter is that Paul follows his mother like a shadow, finding a secure place in his mother's heart. This makes him faithful to her. Everything is dependent on her and turns around her point of view. Whenever he goes, he feels his mother's soul going with him. That is to say, when it comes to touching on

the nature of relationship between Paul and Gertrude in accordance with the aim of exemplifying their situation with the help of their real story, it can be said that after William's death, Paul is like the main target of his mother and she bases all her expectations from life on him. Even at a very early age, Paul leads a childhood life that is totally determined by his mother and is victimized by his complex developed as a result of his passion for his mother figure. As Lawrence says, Paul dedicates his life to his mother and he generally worries about his mother when he plays outside.

"Paul went out to play with the rest. Down in the great tough of twilight, tiny clusters of lights burned where the pits were. A few last colliers straggled up the dim field-path. The lamplighter came along. No more colliers came. Darkness shut down over the valley; work was gone. It was night.

Then Paul ran anxiously into the kitchen. The one candle still burned on the table, the big fire glowed red. Mrs. Morel sat alone. On the hob the saucepan steamed; the dinner-plate lay waiting on the table. All the room was full of the sense of waiting, waiting for the man who was sitting in his pit-dirt, dinnerless, some mile away from home, across the darkness, drinking himself drunk. Paul stood in the doorway.

"Has dad come?" he asked.

"You can see he hasn't" said Mrs. Morel, cross with the futility of the question.

Then the boy dawdled about near his mother. They shared the same anxiety." (Lawrence,2010: 70-71).

As we can easily understand the conversation between Paul and Gertrude, Paul instinctively takes the responsibility of his father who neglects the wife and makes her alone at home all the time. It is interesting that the son thinks his mother like a husband. Therefore, when it comes to the relationship between the father and the son, this is the main reason why Paul hates his father and can't bear his presence at home owing to the fact that Mr. Morel makes his mother suffer and create the tense atmosphere in the house. On top of that, the situation does not change at all when Paul is a

grown-up. To illustrate this idea, I want to share Sander's thoughts about this matter;

"For Paul, dominated by his mother's feelings, the very night seems agitated. ... The encounter between mother and son emerges as a specific instance of what happens on those long winter nights when Morel is late in coming home, a specific instance that sums up a crucial phase in Paul's development, as he drifts away from his father and clings ever more closely to his mother." (Sanders,1973:26)

It even becomes worse in that Paul is not able to produce plausible ideas concerning his attitude to the opposite gender as he always looks for a person just like his mother. The destructiveness of their relationship become really clear at the point where Paul wants to make up his mind about his future with his lover. Unfortunately, having a mentality which is shaped by the so-called truth that matriarchy should be a determining factor for his relationships, he fails to meet his needs in love even as a man.

"Paul was dissatisfied with himself and with everything. The deepest of his love belonged to his mother. When he felt he had hurt her, or wounded his love for her, he could not bear it." (Lawrence,2010: 249)

It is seen that he has extreme difficulty in adapting himself to the relationship he tries to build himself and his lovers. Victimized by Oedipus Complex, he goes astray and he turns into a person whose utmost decisions in life confuses him greatly. This side of Gertrude and Paul's relationship as a mother and son is more than enough for readers to be convinced that Oedipus Complex and gender in the book is closely intertwined with one another. Although it starts as a complex which results in a sympathy towards mother, it gradually evolves into a great problem to be overcome even in adulthood as proven with the life stories of William and Paul Morels.

In addition to what has been said about Morel family and Oedipus Complex effects felt, other example incidents can be added as evidences to the seriousness of the situation in which first William and especially Paul found themselves throughout their lives. To start with, an incident that shows Paul is more than a son to his mother is when he desires to sleep in his mother's

bed. This event proves the fact that he feels a deep desire for the mother and the jealousy for the father during the early ages of boyhood. It precisely corresponds to the situation of Paul since he hates him as if he was a rival of him. Spending most of his time with the mother and even taking delight in sleeping with her, he behaves like the protector of the household. Considering his actions like these, the interpretation of their intimacy in Freudian terms is inevitable as Lawrence says,

“Paul loved to sleep with his mother. Sleep is still most perfect, in spite of hygienists, when it is shared with a beloved. The warmth, the security and peace of soul, the utter comfort from the touch of the other, knits the sleep, so that it takes the body and soul completely in its healing. Paul lay against her and slept, and got better; whilst she, always a bad sleeper, fell later on into a profound sleep that seemed to give her faith.” (Lawrence,2010: 77-78)

On the other hand, Gertrude feels jealous of Miriam when Paul comes home from his walks with Miriam. Paul’s mind is so confused with the ideas of betraying her mother by having a relationship with Miriam that he cannot stand to see his mother’s suffering. So, he thinks that if Miriam causes his mother to feel unhappy, he decidedly has an idea to stop this relationship and feels desperate between them. As Lawrence states,

“...Why was he torn so, almost bewildered, and unable to move? Why did his mother sit at home and suffer? He knew she suffered badly. But why should she? Why did he hate Miriam, and feel so cruel towards her, at the thought of his mother. If Miriam caused his mother suffering, then he hated her- and he easily hated her. Why did she make him feel as if he were uncertain of himself, insecure, an indefinite thing, as if he had not sufficient sheathing to prevent the night and the space breaking into him?” (Lawrence,2010: 223)

What we can understand from these lines is that Paul seems to swell with the love of his mother and decides to end up his relationship with Miriam. By doing this, he feels like protecting his mother from being hurt or damaged. He takes stock of his life and resigns himself to belonging to his mother during his life. He comes with the idea that his soul should belong to

his mother and this is a must for him to be relieved. So, he goes to Miriam to end up their relationship. He accuses Miriam of not being enough for his sexual desires and totally spiritual to him. At first, Miriam refuses to have a sexual bond with Paul but she loves him so much that there is no way to give her body to Paul and she thinks that this makes them happy and a kind of salvation to have an eternal love with him. They think sexuality will bring happiness or might fulfill the ambiguity in their love, but in fact Paul isn't satisfied and Miriam is disturbed by this experience owing to the fact that she thinks that it is not right to have a sexual relationship with someone before marriage. Therefore, Paul feels a sense of hesitation and doesn't want to marry her and he draws himself from Miriam by engaging in social relationships with friends and spending time with Clara who is a married woman at her thirties. They meet through Miriam. When Paul sees Clara, he is so excited because she strikes Paul as being mysterious, lustful and attractive. She is a free woman who leaves separately from her husband. She earns her own money and completely different from Miriam in terms of personality and physical appearance. She attracts Paul with her sexuality. At the very beginning of their meeting, we can understand that she will complete Paul's desires physically and there will be sexual intercourse between them. At first, Clara isn't interested in him but later they spend more time together and see each other very often because they start to work together. By using her sexuality effectively, Clara manages to impress Paul and he experiences sexuality freely and charmingly. When Paul informs his mother about the relationship with Clara, Mrs. Morel doesn't think she could be a threat for her because she fulfills his sexual desires and is also a married woman. Astonishingly, she gets along well with Clara owing to the fact that she is just like a sexual object which satisfies his son's desires. While they have tea together, Miriam comes to say hello to Clara. Her presence around her son makes Gertrude irritated and whenever she sees her, she is furious. This event shows us Gertrude has a sense of hatred toward Miriam because she seeks ways to capture Paul's soul which completely belong to the mother. She thinks that one day Paul might leave her because of Miriam's love so all

of her effort is to separate her son from this girl. If Miriam merely lusted for Paul's body, Gertrude Morel could bear this relationship. That's the reason why she accepts Clara's presence in Paul's life. The danger of Miriam's love is to suck up Paul's soul and to break off Paul's sincere relation with his mother. Astonishingly, Miriam doesn't feel overcome by the sexual relationship between Paul and Clara because she seizes that it is temporary and cannot disrupt their strong bond with Paul. Paul can only be impressed by her ability to use her sexuality effectively.

It is normal that Paul and Clara cannot have a permanent relationship because they satisfy their sexual desires. It is just a matter a passion. After a while, he feels that there is something wrong with Clara because he cannot love her. She is not the right person to pass his life forever. All things considered, he is unable to have healthy relationships with any woman except to his beloved mother. Both Miriam and Clara cannot complete him overall. While Miriam stands out with her spirituality and possessiveness, Clara merely satisfies his sexual desires. They cannot give him the complete fulfillment that he looks for. One day when Paul talks to Mrs. Morel, he explains the difficulty of loving a woman and says that he "shall never meet the right woman" when his mother lives. (Lawrence,2010: 350).

From these events we can conclude that he tries to adapt himself to the relationships with women; however, in every attempt he fails and he is victimized by Oedipus Complex. The strong bond between the mother and son causes a serious problem for the son's development in his adulthood. The mother's over-possessiveness throughout the children's development has a negative aspect on their mental, emotional and social development, and puts up a barrier to form their relationships with other women.

4.2. GERTRUDE'S DEATH IN CONNECTION WITH THE STUDY OF OEDIPUS COMPLEX

The study of the relationship between Gertrude and Paul throughout the whole novel, especially in Chapter 14 "The Release" makes it necessary to think deeply on the study of Oedipus Complex to a serious extent, too. The reason why the Oedipus Complex shows itself as an important one to analyze is totally related to the way Paul treats her mother before dying. It is the exact point where Paul proves his real intense feelings towards his mother by causing the reader to question about the nature of his affection towards her. What strikes the reader about his treatment or actions is that he wants his mother to die with pleasure that means he kills her by giving an overdose of morphine into her milk to stop all of her pain. It should be highlighted that his plan to kill her believing that she will die without pain demonstrates the extent to which Paul is attached to his mother, which may however be considered as inappropriate by some without a deep analysis in the background. To add, Gertrude plays a leading role in provoking Paul to do such a bad thing which is an evidence of his desire for her and even before dying, she is drown in the dreams related to totally to her past, memories with his son. Her death is like a sexual death which puts an end to the oedipal relationship between them, or, it can be said that it is like a game they play by sharing some certain tasks to do like Gertrude's boosting Paul's love more and more and Paul's doing his best to prove his admiration for her. It should be said that although their end seems catastrophic in terms of the plan Paul makes about her death, it indeed strikes the reader as the collaboration between them formed or fed by their attachment. It is as if Gertrude was feeling ready for such an end when all her behaviors towards Paul are taken into account throughout the whole story. To illustrate, with the feeling of attachment and under the effect of Oedipus Complex for so long supported by Gertrude, Paul can't even come to terms with the fact that there is the possibility of falling in love with a woman and ending his relationship with marriage just like he proved in his relationship with Miriam.

In addition to all the things mentioned about Oedipus Complex in relation to Gertrude's death, what is also equally important is his love affair with Miriam in that she does her best to make him understand she feels

strongly attracted to him, however he doesn't approve of such an idea after Gertrude's death. That is to say, his perception of true love for a woman is formed by his obvious love for Gertrude and he is not open to any other new affair or relationship with the opposite sex. The significance of his trial of separating himself from Miriam is that it is the evidence of his not being able to get Oedipus Complex over even after the loss of his dearest mother. In other words, he limits himself to merely thinking about the memories he has about Gertrude by not even wanting to take pleasure in doing even the most ordinary things or tasks he can easily do just like drawing or going for a short trip to places he visited with Gertrude before. So, he goes to the town to drink something and to chat with any person ("barmaids" or "any woman"). However, whatever he does, there is always darkness around him. He is disillusioned with the absence of his mother. (Lawrence,2010: 472).

"And his soul could not leave her, wherever she was. Now she was gone abroad into the night, and he was with her still. They were together. But yet there was his body, his chest, that leaned against the stile, his hands on the wooden bar." (Lawrence,2010: 484)

As it can be clearly understood from what has been told about Paul and the life he wants to lead after Gertrude's death, their relationship from the beginning to the end is a suitable example of the influence Oedipus Complex exerts on an individual in even his adulthood. Resulting in a failure to adapt himself to be closer to the opposite sex, the life of Paul and his experiences with the other women as a lover say more than enough about the fact that Oedipus Complex manifests itself as a problem that must be disposed of in the later phases of life.

5.CONCLUSION

Taking into account the purpose of the present study, it can be said that the study functions as a great medium for elaborating on the issue of gender as broadly as possible and provides a deep insight into the significance of the issue in the realm of literature, to a serious extent. Through clear and relevant references to D.H. Lawrence's *Sons and Lovers* which is the main component of itself, it sheds a light upon the role family interrelationships play in shaping one's mindset about "gender" as a whole as illustrated in the life of Paul Morel within the narrative.

Focusing a lot on the attachment between the mother and the son (Paul) together with its negative influences upon the life of him, the study serves the purpose of raising an awareness of the reader on the correlation between Oedipus Complex and an individual's perspectives upon sexuality, too. In other words, being a painstaking analysis of the sexual and mental development of Paul Morel depicted effectively by Lawrence, the present study provides ample evidence with the reader regarding the relatedness of family atmosphere of a child to his later approach to the issue of how to tackle with problems encountered in his affairs with the opposite sex. Relevant to this, it should be pointed out the sections, in which the bond between Paul and his mother and his attitude to his lovers are studied, are like the backbone of the present study in that the examples given and explanations made regarding the matter demonstrate that Oedipus Complex, opposite gender relationships and family interactions serve as the key elements of the investigation. That being the said, the study of gender in the present study goes hand in hand with a thorough analysis of the power of patriarchy upon the management of the household of Morels in the story thereby being a vehicle for the reader to be convinced about the fact that the study is also directed at investigating the emerging dominant woman figure in modern literary period, too.

Centralizing around the perspectives of Paul Morel on sexuality whose experiences coming from his relationship with the opposite gender

complement, the purpose of the present study in terms of the examination of “gender” *Sons and Lovers* stands out as the work to be deeply analyzed for a better comprehension of the gender issue as this study has aimed to do. Likewise, taking its strength from the success of the story in exposing the essential place “gender” occupies in the lives of individuals, the present study does not only project the reality that understanding the effect of gender roles on people’s lives requires a deep research, but also enables for the reader to have a mental exercise on the underlying factors that manifest themselves as crucial to dwell on, as well.

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ÖZET

Sarı M. D.H.Lawrence'ın Oğullar ve Sevgililer Adlı Romanında Cinsiyet Kavramının Oedipus Karmaşası ile İlişkili Olarak İncelenmesi. İstanbul Aydın Üniversitesi, Sosyal Bilimler Enstitüsü, İngiliz Dili ve Edebiyatı. İstanbul. 2014

D.H.Lawrence edebiyat alanında 20. Yüzyılın en seçkin yazarlarından biridir. Romanlarında, esas olarak kadın-erkek ilişkilerini ve onların gerçek yaşamdaki günlük problemlerini ele almıştır. Bu çalışmanın amacı, D.H.Lawrence'ın Oğullar ve Sevgililer adlı romanında cinsiyet kavramını Oedipus Karmaşası ile ilişkili olarak analiz etmektir. Bu tez dört ana bölümden oluşur. Çalışmanın giriş bölümünde, D.H.Lawrence'ın biyografisi ve analiz edilen kitap hakkında genel bir bilgi verilir. Ayrıca, cinsiyet konusunda ve konunun edebiyattaki önemi hakkında inceleme yapılır. Tezin ikinci bölümü Lawrence'ın Oğullar ve Sevgililer adlı eserinde cinsiyet konusunu Morel ailesindeki ilişkiler üzerinden nasıl temsil ettiğini esas alır. Tezin üçüncü bölümü roman boyunca cinsiyet rolü konusunun önemli bir parçasını oluşturan Paul Morel'in annesine olan bağlılığı ve sevgilileri Miriam Leivers ve Clara Dawes'e olan aşklarını işler ve bu aşkın kendisinde yarattığı bedensel ve ruhsal bölünmeyi konu alır. Dördüncü bölüm eserdeki karakterleri Oedipus Karmaşası teorisine dayandırarak analiz eder. Sonuç bölümünde, bu tezde çalışılan konunun genel bir değerlendirilmesi yapılır.

Anahtar Kelimeler: D.H.Lawrence, Oğullar ve Sevgililer, Cinsiyet, Cinsiyet rolleri, Oedipus Karmaşası

ABSTRACT

Sarı M. The Representation of Gender in Relation to Oedipus Complex in D.H.Lawrence's novel entitled *Sons and Lovers*. Istanbul Aydın University, Institute of Social Sciences, English Language and Literature. İstanbul. 2014.

D.H.Lawrence is considered as one of the most prominent writers of the 20th century in the realm of literature. In his novels, he mainly deals with the nature of the relationships between man and woman and their daily problems in real life. The aim of this work is to analyze the concept of gender in relation to Oedipus Complex in D.H.Lawrence's novel entitled *Sons and Lovers*. This thesis is made up of four main sections. The introduction part of this study gives general information about D.H.Lawrence's biography and the analyzed novel. Also, it clarifies the theme of gender and its significance of it in literature. The second part of this thesis analyzes Lawrence's specific interest in the theme of gender with its details and shows the representation of gender in *Sons & Lovers* through the interrelationships of the Morel family. The third part of this thesis elaborates the split Paul Morel experiences between his body and soul because of his attachment to his mother and of his love for Miriam Leivers and Clara Dawes that are clearly parts of the analysis of gender role issues throughout the novel, as well. In the forth part, the characters in *Sons&Lovers* are analyzed within the framework of Freud's theory of Oedipus Complex. The conclusion gives an overall evaluation about the purpose of the study.

Key words: D.H.Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*, Gender, Gender roles, Oedipus Complex

