

CHAPTER: ONE

Marxist Alienation in J.D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*: An Introduction

This study focuses on J.D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*, first published as two separate stories in the *New Yorker*, with "*Franny*" appearing in the periodical in 1955 and "*Zooey*" in 1957. Indeed both were combined and published as such in 1961. Though some critics might describe *Franny and Zooey* as two linked stories, both episodes feature Franny Glass and both takes place almost immediate chronological order. Thus the continuity of the two stories, as well as their connected and over-arching themes, legitimises the reading of *Franny and Zooey* as a full-fledged Novel.

Franny and Zooey is not only an examination of the Glass family dynamics but also a critique of materialism and Modern American intellectualism. First and foremost it is an exploration of the problem through the perspective of Marxist Alienation. The death of the subject, so frequently associated with the postmodern movements has not occurred, although Salinger seems to be deliberating on the forms of social experience that contribute to the demise of the individual subject, as well as the aesthetic practices necessary for representing this change. While going through the text one can find his main characters struggling with the frustrated desire for singularity and a crisis of communicability that defines their social experience, leading the characters towards frustration and alienation. One can raise the question about the possibilities of singularity, can subjectivity be authentic, and what determine individual experience? Salinger must locate the answers to these questions in post-war America, image culture and the totalizing effects of commodification shattered public and private life, making it seemingly impossible for individual to

define themselves against social type. Thus we find the author standing in between the problematic task of negotiating self and society.

This research will be limited to the application of Marxist approach, particularly the death of the subject to this text. The historical context of the text will be discussed because its discussion will throw light upon the social experience. Due to the economic depression that paralyzed the United States during the decades of forties, relief was brought through the military-industrial development. After the involvement of America in World War II, and the end of the war United States become the leading economy of the world. It had got economic prosperity which reached in its peak during 1950s. Economic boom raised the living standard of middle class Americans and it has given more emphasis to the cultural image with the result college culture developed and many American afford their children in highly expensive schools and colleges. So, the economic boom led to a culture largely based upon consumption and conformity. This is the culture that the character's in Salinger's text laments. They find themselves unable to take the growing mindless materialism.

Due to the commodification in culture and education, the character Franny cannot stand in the hollow and corrupted world of materialism and seeks her solace in spiritual practice. She did not find any meaning in the knowledge received from the college because it has been reduced to a commodity. Education is regarded as the way to wisdom but after its commodification, she did not find any acknowledgement in the college education and take the path of the spiritualism. In the search of peace with the help of the aesthetics practices she had left her college and her profession of acting which was a great deal for her career development. She with the help of the book

named 'A Pilgrim's Progress' seeks her inner peace by forgetting the illusion of the material world and starts reading books but her study causes her nervous breakdown.

Almost, all the setting of the story is the house of the glass family and the characters from the glass family who were alienated from the society due to the growing impact of materialism in post war America. Some critics say the story is about the problem of the glass family. They say that it is a glass family movie which revolves around the problem of that family. But this study is focused on the alienation of the characters and paves way-out from Marxist point of view. *Franny and Zooey*, not only read for its framework, but in order to address the intertextuality that comprises its overall context. Salinger had used a number of references to tell the story, including letters, phone calls, quotations, books, scripts and footnotes in order to represent anxiety of his characters attempt to make meaning in their life. The book is pre-occupied with a kind of crisis of communicability, how to find the language to convey what we feel, to be understood by others, and thus to overcome the isolation.

Marxism tries to find out the root cause of oppression in society and it also paves the way out from that oppression. Marxist alienation is a sub-type of alienation which seeks the oppression and dilemma of people and seeks its resolution from the Marxist point of view. Marxism can be used to help us understand, how economic forces have been manipulated by upper class laws and customs to keep lower economically, politically and socially.

Salinger has faced many difficulties and had faced many disturbances in his personal life. His marriage changed into divorce only after two years. So, he became alienated in his entire life. After reading his novel and stories one can easily know that he was frustrated and alienated in this material world. In his text, he creates the characters that resemble his own life.

Salinger's classical novel *The Catcher in the Rye* originally published for adults became popular with adolescent reader for its theme of teenage confession, angst, alienation and rebellion. It also deals with the complex issues of identity, belonging, connection and alienation.

The thematic aspect as well as the narrative technique is equally strong and complex in the novel. It is written in the first and third person narrative. The most important theme is that, the Glass family members are educated and highly intelligent but they often lapse into slang or ungrammatical speech. The first chapter and most of the second chapter of *Franny and Zooey* is told from the omniscient, third-person point of view that is by a narrator. However, the beginning of the second chapter is narrated in the first person by Buddy Glass.

Salinger's novel *Franny and Zooey* also deals with the subject matter of confusion, angst and alienation. The main theme of his novel is the crisis of the character in order to find out their subject in the capitalist world. All the characters of his writing were rebellious types who rebel against the social norms and value of the society which are the main hindrances beyond their identity and subjectivity. The writing of the Salinger reveals facts of Salinger's mysterious, cynical personalities. All these works indicate Salinger's apparent quest for enlightenment of happiness, his effort to separate religion from egoism in a society, he sees his voluntary withdrawal from the society. His writing also deals with the recurring theme of struggling intellectual youth in the society.

Right from the beginning of the publication *Franny and Zooey* in 1961, different critics viewed *Franny and Zooey* in different perspectives. Some critics see the novel from the perspectives of alienation of the modern world and say that it is the writer's own problem finding out the meaning of his life in the modern world. Some

critics say that the novel is medieval type which is a dialogue between the body and the soul. Likewise some critics viewed that the novel resembles the entire life of Salinger that how bitterly he hates his body. At the same time some critics says that the novel is the experiences of the writer which he tried to express his desire from the mouth-character, Franny in *Franny and Zooey*. However, the Marxist alienation in *Franny and Zooey* is the prominent issue that invites the downfall of the life of different characters. The context of the late 1950s American world is depicted in the novel, like: teenage confusion, angst, rebellion, and alienation that plays the vital role to create alienation even in the novel *Franny and Zooey*.

Regarding this novel, Monika Gehlawat an Assistant Professor of English at the University of Southern Mississippi had given her positive view in “Literary Interpretation Theory.” According to her, the novel is about the quest of the subject in the modern American world. Each and every character has met the stage of meaning in their life. It reflects the conditions of post-war American culture and especially the status of the individual within it. Monika Gehlawat further says:

I argue that Salinger employs certain narrative techniques associated with post-modern fiction and art in order to tell a story that still takes as its primary concern the problem of modern alienation. The “death of the subject” so frequently associated with the post-modern movement has not yet occurred, although Salinger seems to be deliberating on the forms of social experiences that contribute to its demise, as well as the aesthetic practices necessary for representing this change. We find his main characters struggling with the frustrated desire for singularity and a crisis of communicability that defines their social experience, leading

Salinger to pose questions that meet at the crossroads of modernism and postmodernism. (59-60)

Monika Gehlawat focuses on the narrative techniques as the characteristics of the post-modern fiction. She gave more focuses on the problem of the alienation in her writings. She says that the characters in Salinger's fiction are frustrated and alienated because they did not find their meaning in the society because of the different kinds of social norms and values. The main character Franny has not found the meaning of her life so she seeks the ways to come out from her frustrated desires, choose the way of aesthetic practices to represent her change. In the entire novel, Salinger's main characters became the victims of the social experiences and his characters struggle with the frustrated desire for singularity and a crisis of communicability.

Regarding this novel Hilda Kirkwood gives her view in "Canadian Forum" and writes her views regarding the negative effects of capitalism upon the people of America. She further writes:

This is the culture that Franny and Zooey lament; they find themselves unable to happily take on the yoke of mindless materialism. It is why Franny cannot stand the hollow academic culture that surrounds her; she finds that knowledge itself has been reduced to just another commodity- a means to an end, that of securing a good job. Indeed, for many people this was the point of attending college during the 1950s. In such a culture, the novel suggests, people become as unremarkable and interchangeable as the pre-fabricated homes and other standardized factory goods that dominated the 1950s. For instance, Franny cannot remember meeting Lane's friend Wally; he looks and acts like everyone else and is thus eminently forgettable. Salinger's novel is an

overt critique of the conformity and consumer culture of the 1950s.

(190)

Hilda Kirkwood focuses on the negative impact of Capitalism in American society. How the capitalist mode plays the vital role to isolate people from their profession, their society and their education. With the help of characters, Franny and Zooey in this review, Hilda wants to clear us the condition of the people in the post-war American society. After America became the super power in the 1950s the culture and society of America became commodified. Even the educational institutions have been commodified like factory goods. The ethos of individual knowledge, schools and colleges have been reduced to commodity. People attended the college in order to get job and higher position in politics. They regarded education as a means to amass property and they have negative idea about knowledge. So, the character like Franny did not find any charm in order to attend the college because knowledge is completely engulfed by the capitalists. So, she abandoned the college life and started searching peace and meaning of life through aesthetics practice.

Many critics appreciated the writing of Salinger and many had commented on his writings. Critic Donald J. Greiner had compared Salinger's text with the text of his contemporary John Updike. He had said that Salinger did not give any newness to his reader so, that he become unpopular and his position have been taken by his contemporary John Updike. Critic Greiner in "Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction" forwards his views:

If there is an amateur reader still left in the world- or anybody who just reads and runs- I ask him or her with untellable affection and gratitude, to split the dedication of this book four ways with my wife and children. By 1961, many professional commentators and general

readers saw Salinger, as the hope of American fiction and Updike was decidedly not an “unprolific” writer, an “amateur” reader, or “anybody who just reads and runs.” In the span of only two years, he had published four-books: *The Carpentered Hen and Other Tame Creatures*- - poems, 1958- -, *The Poorhouse Fair*- - novel, 1959- - *The Same Door*- - stories, 1959- -, and, most important, *Rabbit Run*- - novel, 1960- -. The latter gave him the recognition necessary to review Salinger’s blockbuster with authority, as well as put him in the public eye to stay. Two years later, he ensured his fame when the 1963 novel *The Centaur* won the National Book Award. Salinger, on the other hand, was hearing the hour of silence. (119)

In the above lines Greiner compares and contrasts between Salinger and Updike and he criticizes the work of Salinger. According to him, he did not find any merit in Salinger’s writing. He further says that writings of Salinger’s were good for the amateur readers and advices to all the readers not to give time to this type of book.

Similarly, another critic Leah Tieger, a freelance writer and editor, writes his views in his “Critical Essay on *Franny and Zooey*.” He appreciates the theme and the subject matter of the book. He appreciates Salinger’s quality of bringing social subject matter in order to justify the actual condition of capitalist society and the suffering of ordinary people in the capitalist society. Forwarding his views, he writes:

Indeed, as dressed up as it is in religious or spiritual garb, the edict itself is rather simple and banal. Notably, it is the banality that incited the book’s cool reception yet the arguments set forth in *Franny and Zooey* are not entirely without merit. Indeed, as a social critique, the book is a success, tackling the problems of conformity,

commodification ego and intellectual bankruptcy. The book also artfully portrays the characters struggle to make art in a meaningful way, one that remains untainted by worldly concerns. (152)

Leah Tieger appreciates the subject matter of the book. Many critics received the book coolly and say that book does not contain any message to the readers. Some say that it only talks about the glass family dynamics. So, it is only a glass family document which revolves round the daily activities of the member of glass family. Tieger does not agree with their view and he appreciates the text. He said that almost many characters of the book were taken from the glass family. He said that the characters did not matter what matters is the subject matter. The subject matter of the text is quite apt for the then capitalist society. According to him the book is fully successful because it has grabbed the problem of consumer conformity, commodification, ego and intellectual bankrupt. The text talks about the condition of the post-war America. It tells us about the intellectual bankruptcy during the post-war period in America. Tieger legitimatizes *Franny and Zooey* as fully successful text.

Another critic, Carl Bode in his review “Wisconsin studies in Contemporary Literature” writes that the novel *Franny and Zooey* has quite medieval subject which talks about the body and soul which is the apt subject matter of the medieval literature. In his review he found that the subject matter is related to body and soul and deals with Salinger’s own life. He further says:

The most remarkable thing about Salinger’s pair of stories is how old they are. They kind is medieval at the very least. “*Franny*” is a Dialogue between Body and Soul, in terms not much changed since the middle ages. The only notable difference is an important one, however. Body and Soul seem here so disassociated that little give and take

results. Though the soul displays a tinge of respect for the expression of its antagonist, to the body the dialogue as dialogue hardly exists at all. This disassociation Salinger makes Profound. It is a matter not of words but of attitudes and actions. Perhaps the very extent of the clearage is what makes the story most modern. The medieval moralist, for instance, could Paint his gat burgher in lurid colors but there is something appealing in his grossness, his triple chin, the sheer gusto of his appetites. Not so in “Franny”. What strides us here is how bitterly Salinger hates the Body. (65)

In the above mentioned lines critic Carl Bode had focused on the changed nature of Salinger’s writing style. Although the novel was written in 1961, the period was regarded as a period of the modernism but what strikes here with the critic is the medieval subject matter of the novel, a dialogue between body and soul. The writing style is not only the matter of words but also of attitudes and of actions. Perhaps, the writing style, narrative techniques make Salinger’s work most modern but what strides here with the critic is how bitterly Salinger hates his body. So, by making Franny as his mouth character in the novel he wants to say us that how much Salinger has been alienated in the world.

Many critics appreciate the work of Salinger because he writes in the issue of frustration, alienation of people living in the industrial world of America. But some critics did not find any charms in his writing. While commenting on Salinger’s works Laser and Fruman in their book *Studies in J.D. Salinger: Reviews, Essays, and Critiques of Catcher in the Rye and other Fiction*. Writes:

Salinger writes briefly - - no need to lug home a big book or something, lord helps us, not available in paperback- -. He demands of

his readers nothing in the way of literary or political interest. Salinger flatters the very ignorance and moral shallowness of his young readers. He suggests to them that formal ignorance, political apathy and a vague tristesse are positive virtues. They open their hearts to mystic intimations of love. This is where his cunning and somewhat shoddy use of Zen comes in. Zen is in fashion. (116)

In the above criticism Laser and Fruman criticize the works of Salinger. They say that Salinger writes to appeal mass audience. His appeal is for the non graduate readers. He only gives fantasy in his work. He flatters the very ignorance and moral shallowness of young. His writings are dedicated specially for the amateur readers not for professionals. So, Salinger is regarded as a common street peddler, unworthy of a superior position in the cultural hierarchy. Salinger is undeserving of this drum beating because he does not seek any encounter with consciousness. So, the critics like Fruman and Laser simultaneously denounces Salinger for being too much interested in consciousness. Salinger writes to his audience, rather than challenging them. Salinger appeals his audience with commodity culture by writing on the loose subject and he appeals his under graduate audience. By appealing the commodity culture, which in turn automatically invalidates his literary merits?

When the novel *Franny and Zooey* got first published, it became an immediate best seller. Since, its publication it has been reviewed and discussed as a whole. *Franny and Zooey* has become an American Classic; among Salinger's works. It is second only to his foremost classic novel, *The Catcher in the Rye*.

In the process of appreciating and commenting critic James E. Bryan in his review of *Franny and Zooey* says:

In the novel-length “*Zooey*”, Franny Glass continues her unresolved spiritual crisis of “Franny” No longer able to face the “hypocrisy” of college life, Franny has come home to suffer what brother Zooey tartly calls “a tenth-rate nervous breakdown”. Zooey recalls for her a time he too was sickened by the crassitude of the world. (227)

In the above mentioned lines, Franny Glass continues her unresolved spiritual crisis. Zooey, brother of the Franny, wants to console his sister but the effort of his consoling has gone in vain. Franny is fed up with the material world and seeks pleasure in the spiritual world because she had seen the material world is corrupt and it has reduced everything even knowledge, wisdom, love and kindness in the mode of commodity.

No longer able to face the hypocrisy of college life, Franny left college and came home. According to her, knowledge has been reduced to commodity. She did not find any hint that knowledge can lead to wisdom.

Not only Franny even her brother Zooey also suffered from the stupidity of the world. In the above mentioned lines critic James E. Bryan with the help of the characters wants to say that the works of Salinger want to clarify us the phonies of the world. Salinger had written his novel in order to clarify us that every person becomes victim of this material world.

Paying attention on this text another critic, Donald J. Greiner in “Critique: Studies in Contemporary Fiction” vehemently criticizes the writing style and the subject matter of the text. He says Salinger wants to say one thing but soon he slips to another thing in order to lengthen the text. In that process he further writes:

The contents of Bessie’s pockets in “*Zooey*” and the items crammed into the bathroom medicine chest are well-known examples. Bessie’s

pockets “usually contained two or three packs of Cigarettes, several match folders, a screwdriver, a claw-end hammer, a Boy Scout Knife that had once belonged to one of her sons, and an enamel faucet handle two, plus an assortment of screws, nails, hinges and ball-bearing casters”. The catalogue of the medicine cabinet is even longer a page and a half. The problem is that Salinger abandons his distinctive narrative voice in these lists. Reading through them, the reader is remained more of a hardware store salesman or a pharmaceuticals rep than a short story master. (124)

Donald J. Greiner deals with the lost of narrative voice of Salinger in the text. He shows that the details of the daily-life have value in themselves. They are not expressions of eccentricity but illustrations of life. A variation on Salinger’s interactions with the readers is the tendency to offer detailed lists as a means of insisting on the specifics of a scene. In order to make his narrative lengthy Salinger has described in detail about Glass family members. Bessie's pocket has contained two or three packs of cigarettes, screwdriver and the catalogue of the medicine cabinet is even a longer a page and a half. While reading the text one can imagine himself either he/she was a hardware salesman or he/she was a medical representative than a short story master. So, in the above lines, critic has criticized Salinger’s inability to give distinctive narrative voice in the text.

Since, its publication the text had evoked much criticism. While writing about this text some critics appreciate it and some had criticized. In the process of commenting on the text, a critic Monika Gehlawat in “Literary Interpretation Theory” places her views. She further writes:

Franny and Zooey is a strange book because it has not yet decided to foreclose certain possibilities of textual experimentation or subjective singularity. We learn not only from the plight of its characters, but also from the emphasis on performativity, intertextuality and material culture Salinger uses to dramatize their subjective crisis. Moreover, we must look beyond the pages of the book itself to the socio-historical framework in which it was received in order to apprehend the growing impact of commodification and the image culture in the American Postwar era.(77)

Monika Gehlawat views that the text is the experimentation of certain narrative techniques having the possibilities of the textual experimentation and subjective singularity. Appreciating Salinger's works she says that while reading the text we not only give emphasis in the condition of the character but also narrative techniques. Salinger has applied the postmodernist techniques of writing in order to dramatizing the identity crisis of the character. He had described the socio-historical condition of American world and its impact upon the people. By mixing different ideas from different field he had framed the growing impact of commodification and the image culture of America in the life of the common people.

Salinger is not only presenting his self but also exploring his own problem of alienation and frustration in writing by assiduously watching contemporary phenomenon. His characters often become the spoke person who speaks his frustrated desire of his life. By creating the character that resembles his own personality he wants to convey his inner problem of identity crisis and frustration. The sense of alienation, frustration and estrangement always haunt his writing about his painful past and present in search of a never ending process of relief

for himself. By creating the character Franny he wants to convey his reader his own voice that is how much he was fed up with this phenomenal world. His character Franny wants to seek a pleasure by abandoning the worldly pleasure of this corrupted world. It is not Franny but Salinger himself who wants to seek pleasure from this capitalist world which had only given pain and sorrow in his life. His works are full of pain, sorrow, alienation, frustration and estrangement.

All these views on *Franny and Zooey*, reveal the problem of alienation, estrangement and identity crisis. The book covers the desire of characters in order to search their subjectivity in this world of commodity. Since the characters were always frustrated and alienated from their surroundings and society. All the characters and narrative techniques indicate the fact that all are seeking their subject and identity. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey* thus appears open-ended in terms of reading, analysis or interpretation of meaning. The more we read it, the more the text appeals us to baffle calling for a theoretical base to study it so as to reveal all problems.

This present research paper has been divided into three chapters. The first chapter presents the general introduction of this research including the background, thematic introduction and the criticism related with the subject matter of the text. The second chapter tries to explain the theoretical modality related with the line from the text that is going to be applied to elaborate the lines of the text by using the theoretical modality. It provides the short introduction of the theoretical tool which has been used to elaborate the text dealing with the subject matter of alienation, identity crises and frustration which have been frequently used in this present study. On the basis of the theoretical modality, the second chapter analyzes the text at a considerable length. This second part that textual analysis serves as the core of the research. The third chapter is the conclusion of the entire study. On the basis of the analysis of the text

done in chapter two, it concludes the explanation and arguments put forward in the preceding chapter.

Chapter: Two

Concept of alienation in *Franny and Zooey*

After the publication *Franny and Zooey* 1961, it had received much criticism by different critics and readers. Some critic had appreciated the novel and some had criticized the novel. Regarding this novel *Franny and Zooey*, some critics comment that the novel is about the dilemma of the American middle class in 1950s. Some critics say that the novel is about the search of freedom and identity of characters. Some praise the writing style of Salinger using the post modernist technique of the inter text and the open-endedness of the novel. Although the trend of postmodernist writing was not developed at that time but when a reader reads the text one can found the different elements regarding with the post modernist technique in the novel. In the process of appreciating and commenting about the text some critics comment that the characters of novel were highly educated but they often lapse on the slang language and they also claim that the theme of the novel depicts the frustrated and alienated experience of the writer. So, he had created the character who conveys his own pathos. But whatever they said, this present study differs from all these matters because the main focus of this study is the root cause behind the alienation in the life of different characters from the glass family in J.D. Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*.

The novel *Franny and Zooey* is the description of the problem of glass family especially Franny: who is the younger daughter of glass parents but it also focuses on the problem of other Glass family members and their confusion and lack of communicability. When the novel opens its own setting at the railway station, where most of the people were waiting for their friends among them there was a Lane who was waiting for his friend, Lane holding a cigarette in his hand in the chilly cold

winter waiting for his friend Franny. Franny was youngest child of the Glass family who was coming from the girl dormitory. When she arrived at the railway station Lane had bought a baggage and luggage which was taken in the restaurant by him. When they were sitting in the restaurant, Franny told Lane that she had quit acting and College. She had taken a way of spiritualism and holding the book named 'The Way of the Pilgrim' by which she wanted to find the inner peace. While they were taking their meal Franny responds by excusing herself to go to the bathroom but on her way she faints by the bar. That was the beginning of the frustration and alienation of Franny from this materialistic world which was governed by elitists. The whole story of the novel revolved round the problem created by the Commodified world in the life of Glass family members and it examined the development of individual subject in postwar America by using engagement with material culture. This study focuses on the role of alienated individual in the society and search the way to overcome from materialist world.

The term alienation was used outside philosophy; in everyday life, in the sense of keeping away oneself from friends and society. In different philosophy the concept of alienation is defined differently. "In existentialist philosophy alienation is defined as a concept of bad faith and in authenticity" (From Socrates to Sartre 367). Existentialist believes that the main cause behind the people alienation is in authenticity and to live in the self- deception of bad faith with resulted human conscious being, is to live in alienation from one self. But the concept of alienation, regarded today as one of the central concept of Marxism, widely used by the Marxist and Non-Marxist. According to Marxist philosophy, "objectification of the human value and society leads the people towards alienation" (From Socrates to Sartre 388). Capitalist society had reduced the human value as a commodity by which people

consider themselves as market goods so, they did not find their meanings in the society and feel alienated.

Commodity plays vital role in capitalist society to shape human value and social action as marketable goods. People in capitalist society without knowing the bad impact of the commodity run towards it with a belief that commodity is everything for them. The action of thinking of people that commodity is everything is defined as commodity fetishism in Marxist terminology. The word comes from the English word 'fetish' which is a thing people used to tie in their shoulder and throat with believe that it will protect them from the bad evils. The same things happen in the capitalist society as, superstitious people believe in 'fetish' that it is everything for them which can protect them from difficulties. In capitalist system people believe that commodity is a natural process which will provide their personal and social needs but this natural process results in something grotesque in capitalism. To clear the fetish character of the commodity in the capitalist system Georg Lukacs in his book *History and Class Consciousness* writes:

Before tackling the problem itself we must be quite clear in our minds that commodity fetishism is a specific problem of our age, the age of modern capitalism. Commodity exchange and the corresponding subjective and objective commodity relations existed, as we know, when society was still very primitive what is at issue here, however, is the question: how far is commodity exchange together with its structural consequences able to influence the total outer and inner life of society? (84)

In the society people not only produce economic objects like food, shelters and clothing but also produce social relationships and social structures like; culture,

politics and religion. In the modern capitalist system the fetishism of commodities is translated into the concept of reification and begins to reify social structures. Effects of commodities are not only shown in economic object but also in social structures. By using this concept of reification people reify the whole range of social relationships and social structures. Just as people reify commodity and other economic phenomena they do not let to reify religion, culture, politics and other social structures. Marxism can be used to help us understand, “just as the capitalist system continuously produces and reproduces itself economically on higher and higher levels, the structures of reification progressively sinks more deeply, more fatefully and more definitively into the consciousness of man” (Lukacs 93).

Of all the concepts which have emerged to describe the effects of capitalism on the human world, none of them were easily grasped then reification- the process by which people and society are turned into objects. Due to the reifying effect of commodities in the life of human and in social structures people did not found their meaning and thinks that either they are commodity or the human beings. This reified structure of society leads people towards alienation so that people in capitalist society alienated in every aspects of life like: politics, law, the family, morality and religion.

In the past, alienation was defined as the process in which people left their homeland and engaged in the process of estrangement or distancing effect. Nowadays alienation is defined as the process of incapacity to feel a social apathy. In this process of alienation person feels the familiar aspect of present social reality strange.

Alienation can be used to help us understand.

It is not only in religion, but also in other cultural manifestation as well as in actually existing political institution and economic activity, especially because of the worker’s lack of control over the condition of

work that human being lose some of their human nature or essence, that are alienated and thus become incapable of self development and self fulfillment. (Mautner 10)

Alienation is used to understand how people of the present world are controlled over the condition of work. When people become alienated from society, they feel that they have lost their essence and identity in this world. Therefore, the inequality among people in the capitalistic mode of production is the main cause behind the alienation of individual.

Capitalism is the main cause of oppression in the society and one who wants to come out from this mode of oppression, dismantles this capitalistic social system which is the main cause behind human development. Capitalism gives rise to political confusion, dependency, inequality, lack of communicability, estrangement and finally it creates the unhealthy relation between elitist, middle and low class people. By this mode people are treated as commodity in order to fulfill the desire of capitalist. “Capitalism in which labor is treated as a commodity further intensifies that alienation and generalizes it throughout all level of society” (Mautner 258). In the regime of capitalism, the common people especially labors are treated as a personal property by the capitalist who has control over all the means of production. In such situation one can feel themselves alienated from all levels of society. The ethos of general people finds no concern in the regime of capitalism. In the capitalist system, relation between employer and employee is similar to the commodity and its owner. Capitalistic system strongly controls over society. They want to change the social system, institute and human value and ethos according to their will. All the social systems are under the grip of capitalism. Even the education and educational institutions are under their capture which has been reduced to commodity in this system.

Even in the novel *Franny and Zooey*, the main character, Franny is in the role of the object in the capitalistic system. Being the student of college and the actor of drama she quits her study and her acting profession which is a great deal for her life. She leaves her institution because she does not find any wisdom by attending the college, which is reduced as a commodity and is controlled by the giant Capitalist. She regards education as a way to wisdom but finds the educational institute has been controlled by the capitalistic in order to control and manipulate the society and middle and lower class people. In this process she says to her brother:

I don't think it would have all got me quite so down it just once in a while- just once in a while there was at least some polite little perfunctory implication that knowledge should lead to wisdom and that if it doesn't it's just a disgusting waste of time: But there never is! You never ever hear any hints dropped on a campus that wisdom is supposed to be the goal of knowledge. (62)

The aforementioned lines clears that the position of common people and the capitalists in the society. Franny, the main character is in the role of the puppet in the post war period of America. How she and other people are manipulated and controlled by the capitalist in the name of fake educational institute. Education is reduced to commodity and Franny is in the search of real education which only can give knowledge to every individual and leads them to wisdom. But everything is controlled by the capitalist society in post war America and has been reduced to commodity. In the mood of resistance of this capitalistic mode of society Franny has given up her college education which she finds disgusting and to attending this institution she thought as a passing of a time and collapsing her future. Instead of giving the genuine knowledge college is becoming a place for capitalistic property.

Marxists found similarities between bourgeoisie and proletariat as a commodity and ownership in the society. Common people were exploited and alienated in the regime of the capitalist system. On the basis of capitalistic norms and values which were constructed under the economic power and position of the elite group played a prominent role in the life of the grass root people in the society? This system not only controls the ethos and the social institutions but also it creates the negative effect in the life of common people. Common people feel alienated, estrangement, and frustration inside this system because their daily activities such as, economic and social activities are guided by the capitalists. General people are unable to handle their freedom and desire in this mode which results in the alienation and frustration. Their needs and feelings were suppressed because of the control of the capitalists in every aspect and every area of society. They were reduced to the form of property and the feeling and the freedom of general people were reduced as a commodity in the capitalistic system. Therefore, common people were being exploited socially, psychologically and physically. The main cause behind this oppression in the economic system was the law and rule of the society which was framed by capitalistic people.

Franny and Lane eat lunch at Sickler's restaurant which is the symbol of the Capitalism because it is a quite sophisticated where rich and intellectual elite from different part of the America came to enjoy. In this context Salinger writes:

About an hour later the two were sitting at a comparatively isolated table in a restaurant called Sickler's down town a highly favored place among chiefly the intellectual fringe of the students at the college-the same students more or less who had they been Yale or Harvard men

might rather too casually have steered their date away from Mary's or cronies. (4)

Capitalists and the intellectual elites rush to Sickler's restaurant which symbolizes the capitalistic mode of living standards. Without knowing the bad impact of commodities people rush towards the restaurant. Even intellectuals of the society were supporting the capitalist modes following the motives of capitalism. They attend and enjoy their without thinking negative impact of commodity in their life and society.

In the novel, Glass family members became the victim of capitalistic society because of the rise of the capitalism, the family members were separated from each other. Some had gone to earn their living and were isolated from their brothers and sisters. Capitalists use human beings and create psychological and physical problem to people and treat people as they are their own property which they can use for their own personal benefit. Though Marxism focuses on the condition of working class as the slave and master where the master can use slave in his own interest. So the working class can destroy this kind of surrounding and they feel themselves alienated from their surrounding and the society.

The possessing class and the proletarian class represent one and the same human self alienation. But the former feel satisfied and affirmed in this self alienation experiences the alienation as the sign of its power and possessed in the appearance of a human existence. The latter however feels destroyed in this alienation, seeing in its own importance and reality of an inhuman existence. (Robert 133)

Marxism finds capitalist mode of distribution of sources as main hindrance behind the self development of common people. In capitalist regime, capitalist and proletariats

represent that they are the part of alienation but this mode of alienation creates negative effect to the 'have not' group and positive effect to the 'have' group. The so-called people in the society were the main cause behind the deteriorating the condition of common people because they used them for their personal interest. In this novel too the capitalists of America used the Glass member whose name is Walt Glass for their own interest. He was sent to Japan in time of World War II but was killed there in an explosion. He had sacrificed his life not for the benefit of his nation. He was used by the capitalist of America in order to become powerful among others. In the society how capitalist are taking the life of common people for their own benefit. "Walt had been dead just over ten years. He was killed in a freakish explosion while he was with the Army of Occupation on Japan". (24) The life of ordinary people is worth less than a dog in the capitalistic society. They used these people as a ladder to reach to power and govern them. Capitalists did not think about the ethos of people, how much people were lured by their family.

Even in the text, how much Glass parents love their children but they were not in the house because they have been controlled by the capitalists for their interest. Most of the character in the text became victim of commodified world. Among seven sibling of Glass children were not on the same place due to the developed capitalistic mode in society. Seymour had committed suicide. Buddy is at the residence at a women's junior class in upstate New York and have not touch with any member of the family. Boo-Boo a married mother is at her husband house. Walt and Waker who were twins of the Glass family among those Walt was killed in 1945 during the occupation of Japan and walker is a Roman Catholic priest who had also leaved his home. Only two children Franny and Zooey were still living with their parents but they are also haunted by past memory. When they all were at the same place they

enjoy with each other but the development of capitalism in America after the end of the World War II capitalist society did not allow these all sibling of the Glass family live in one place because everyone has to earn for their living. No one were at the same place so, this circumstance creates the alienation in the life of every member in the Glass family. In this regard Bessie says:

I honestly think. I mean this now-I honestly think he keeps hoping to hear all you children. On the radio again, I am serious now. Mrs. Glass took another deep breath. "Every single time your father turn on the radio, I honestly think he expects to tune in an It's a wise child and here all your children one by one, answering question again". She compressed her lips and paused, unconsciously, for additional emphasis. "And I mean all of you." She said, and abruptly straightened her post rive a trifle," that include Seymour and Walt." She took a brisk but voluminous drag on her Cigarette. He lives entirely in the past but entirely he hardly even watches television unless you are on.

(36)

Les Glass father of Glass children, who was alienated in capitalistic society and lived in past in the hope that his children could come and live together and he wanted to see them all in one place, that was in his own house but this was quite impossible in post war America. He lived in the past memories of his children decorating his living room with the memorable things of his children when they all engaged in the radio programme. 'It is a Wise Child'. He listened to the radio in the hope of hearing his children. Les Glass tuned on the radio hoping that he should listen the voice of his all children including Seymour and Walt, who were dead many years before. Les lived entirely in past in the hope that he could listen all children at the same time. He hardly

turned on television because he wanted to watch the programme in the television which was launched by his son Zooney but besides this he turned on the radio in vain hope to listens his children. The main reason behind the Les alienation was the emerging of the capitalism in the post war period of America. Capitalism had engulfed the happiness of Glass family because their son Walt was killed in war which was fought for the sake of capitalist but, Les has still hope that his dead son Walt and Seymour will come on the radio programme and join with other children. So, he all the time keep on listening the radio in the hope that he could listen the voice of his all children.

For Marxist philosopher oppression and reduction of social phenomena is the main cause behind alienation of common people in society. They manipulate and use the common people according to their will which resulted in alienation. It is believed that the common people situation in society is isolated and they are estranged due to the capitalist mode of the society. Marxists see the alienation of labor from the work, self human being and nature. In the same way not only labor, common people in society also feel alienated from capitalist mode in society. Alienation has been taken as ingredients of the literature in the past because people became the victim of alienation but in the present world also it has its own influence in the life of the modern people in the capitalist regime:

Marx emphasizes upon the wage worker as being 'separated' from the means of production becomes in Weber's perspective merely are special case of a universal trend. The modern soldier is equally separated from the means of violence: the scientist from the means of enquiring and civil servant from the means of administration. (qtd. in Seeman 784).

In Capitalistic society every person feels alienated in his/her respective job. Even the soldier, scientist, civil servants are alienated from the surrounding. So, alienation is pervasive in all sectors. The main focus of the Marxist theory is that only a wage worker can feel alienation from his own production but alienation plays vital role in every individual life even they are wage worker or common people.

In the case of Zooey his whole life is pathetic and alienated. In outer appearance he looks as if he has not got any problem but in inner appearance he is also alienated in this world. He is consoling his sister who has got a nervous breakdown and feels alienated in the capitalist society. Zooey wants to console his sister that not only she becomes the victim of the capitalist society but he is also alienated in the home so, he has joined him in a television programme in order to minimize his isolation in this regard he says to Franny:

Why do I go? Zooey said, without looking around. I go mostly because I am tired as hell of getting furious in the morning and going to bed furious at night. I go because I sit in on judgment on every poor, ulcerous bastard I know. Which in itself doesn't bother me to much? At least, I judge and know that I will pay like a hell for any judgment I melt out sooner or later one way or other. That doesn't bother me so much. (59)

In the house he feels alienated before Franny arrived there. So, in order to avoid his alienated mood he had joined the television programme but also he is not satisfied with his job because there he had to meet the so-called elite whom he said bastard, poor and ulcerous people. Because of the presence of these people in the society declined the value of the common people. So even he was engaging in the television

programme but not satisfied by his job because all the economy either it was a communication sector or it was a educational sector all are handed by the capitalist.

In the capitalist social system common people are confined as a property of the capitalist and they presume that grass root people are their own property whom they use as their own will. Elite group have their own ego and pretend that they are the masters of all people and have a proud of their financial position so that they were engage in exploitation of the common people by economically and sexually. They did not care pathos and condition of people but they only think about their so called prestige, position and use people for their own benefit. Even in the novel *Franny and Zooey* Salinger has presented, Wally Campbel as a sophisticated person and the representative character of the capitalist society. By creating Franny as a writer's mouth character he wants to convey the follies of the elite people of society. The writer in the text vehemently criticizes the elite character by using his mouth character and says his inner thought about the elite people of society:

There is an unwritten law that people in a certain social and financial bracket can name drop as much as they like just as long as they say something terribly disparaging about the person as soon as they are dropped his name – that he is a bastard as a nymphomaniac or takes dope all the time or something horrible. “She broke off again.” She was quite for a moment, turning the ashtray in her finger and being careful not to look up and see Lane's expression. “I am sorry.” She said It isn't just Wally Campbel. I am just picking on him because you mentioned him. And because he just look like somebody that spend the summer in Italy or some place. (12)

Lane talks about his Friend Wally Campbell who was the representative of elite class. Franny vehemently criticizes the activities of the elite or capitalist people and say that they were proud of their power and position but the work they did were worth less and they evaluate common people as they had not any sentiment. So she accused them as a nymphomaniac because they hide their actual appearance by their power and position but inside they were corrupt and worthless. By analyzing the above line we can found that how much people hate capitalist and capitalist mode of society.

In the novel Franny and Zooey, the leading character Franny dominated by the capitalist society wants to live freely. She could not found any charm working for the people of the corrupted society and give up her acting profession of drama. She found that working in the drama is also a kind of producing an object in the capitalist society. So that she wanted to live separately from corrupted society. However, she tried best in her profession but she was fed up with this profession so that she rejects capitalist society because she thinks that she will not get success in this society because even people were culturally hegemonies that they cannot found their meaning in this Capitalist regime. "How's the play? Lane asked, attending to his snails. 'I don't know. I'm not in it. I quit.' 'You quit.' Lane looked up. 'I thought you were so mad about the part. What happened? They give it to someone else's?' No they don't. It was all mines. That's nasty oh, that's nasty" (13). Franny did not find any charm in her acting profession because it did not give her solace and freedom. She told Lane that she could not want to be like everyone to serve for capitalist. She thinks that she was kept there in order to satisfy needs of elite people. She thinks that her profession has been reduced as a commodity which can satisfy people of capitalist society. She did not want to become commodity for them and take a decision to quit her job of acting. Franny finds the world is ego infested and controlled by the so called higher

class. She wants her inner peace by rejecting norms and value of capitalist world and takes a path of spiritualism. She had left her college and an acting profession and takes a shelter in spiritual practice. She had taken a holy book which she thinks that the book is helpful to her in order to find solace from the corrupted world. She in order to keeps her far from the materialistic society seeks refuge in spiritual practice.

Franny in search of meaning in life abandons the materialist world and seeks refuge in the spiritual practice in order to search of her meaning in the capitalist world. She found hypocrisy and nausea in the external reality and engaged in reading the book 'The way of a pilgrim' to ease her pain which she got in the material world. In the capitalist regime it seems that all the intellectuals were used by the capitalist for their own sake in order to manipulate the system of the society. While manipulating society it pushes people towards alienation in this regard Dwight G. Dean says:

The concept of alienation rooted deeply in sociology tradition has recently enjoyed the new popularity. Theorist has suggested numerous possible correlate of alienation. Such as apathy authorities, conformity, cynicism, hoboism, political apathy, political hyperactivity or personalization in politics, prejudice, privatization, Psychosis, regression and suicide. (754)

In the text *Franny and Zooey* we can find that intellectual people were used by politician in order to flourish their capitalist motive and this objectification of the intellectual person cannot tolerate by Franny, she did not found any advantages to attend the class runs by the so called intellectual who were serving corrupt politician. To circulate her strong frustration towards those intellectual she showed her rage in the conversation with her brother Zooey and spoke:

In almost four years college- and this is the absolute truth in almost four years of college, the only time I can remember ever even hearing the expression 'wise men' being used was in my freshman year, in political science! And you know how it was used? it was used to reference to some nice old poppy elder state men who'd made a fortune in the stock market then gone to Washington to be an advisor to president Roosevelt.(62)

If we scrutinize the above mentioned lines, somehow we find that Franny was quite frustrated towards so called intellectual, who served corrupted politician of the capitalist society. When she was studying at the college she had listened the word 'wise-men' at that moment she thinks the word 'wise-men' signifies that those men who helps and spreads knowledge to the common people but, after a year she finds that they became the agent of the capitalist who serve as a servant of the capitalist system. While gazing above lines we can find that those people who had made their fortune in the stock market in their younger age were involved to serve as an agent for the capitalist in their old age. In the above lines Franny addresses President Roosevelt as a preserver of the capitalist system and old puppy who flourishes the capitalistic ethos. Franny, found all the environment of society had been controlled by the corrupted person. Either they were intellectual or wise men all were manipulated and used by the interest of capitalist in order to maintain their power and position in society. In past wise-men refers to those person who will give knowledge to the people in order to broaden their mind to serve selflessly in the society but in the capitalist society wise-men were those person who were always engaged in the mode of collecting the finance from the different sector of society so, these wise-men had reduced the value of social system as a commodity by serving for capitalist.

When the story develops we find Zoey Glass, a young man of twenty-five who was sitting in a bathroom and reading a four years old letter which was posted by his brother Buddy. The letter was about the suicide of his brother Seymour when he was vacationing in Florida with his wife. It also describes the difficulties that Buddy had faced during recovering the dead body of Seymour. He had read that letter many times. The main cause behind reading the same letter by Zoey signifies that how much he was alienated and isolated from the family and society and was staying alone in the absence of his siblings. Zoey was only elder among seven siblings of Glass children staying in house but the memory of his brother and sister was still haunting him. He did not give up reading old letter frequently in order to compensate his isolation in house to forget the absence of his brother and sister. His isolated mood can be seen through below mentioned lines:

To resume: the long, type written, four-year-old letter that Zoey had checked into the bathtub with, on this Monday morning in November, 1965, had obviously been taken out of its envelope and unfolded and refolded on too many private occasions during the four years, so that now it not only had an over-all unappetizing appearance but was actually turn in several places mostly along the creases.(25)

If we give a spot light on the above mentioned lines, we can find that how much alienated and frustrated mood Zoey had. Thus, the activities of reading old letter several times in private occasion symbolize the alienated mood of Zoey. Seymour, brother of Zoey had committed suicide because he was also quite alienated from the materialist world. Seymour in order to eradicate him from so called elite society seeks shelter by reading Gita, Upanishad, Jain, Buddhism and other philosophy because these philosophy did not give any priority for the materialist world. Materialistic

world had played a vital role behind his suicide which had controlled every part of society even ethos of people.

In capitalist social system, materialistic power governs daily activities of people. It does not allow people to live in a same place with peace and harmony because people have to go far away from their house and from their loving ones, in order to earn their living. Due to the loss of loving person and relatives creates alienation among the people and this mode of alienation creates frustration in people. When people grew up, capitalist society should not allow them to live together with their family member. The same case of the alienation and frustration had been happened in the life of the Buddy in the text. He was a representative character who became victim of capitalist world. So, in order to stay far away from his house and his siblings he was hunted by memory of his brother, sister, father and mother all the time. He was unable to come and stay with his family member where he had spent several years with them. In the letter which had been posted by him for his brother Zooey, he writes his pain and sorrow living too far from his family members so, he writes:

When I'm in town, I invariably sit talking by with my old friend Yama, the god of Death, and a private phone's a most for our little's. Anyway, please tell her I haven't changed my mind. I love that old phone with a passion. It was the only really private property Seymour and I even had in Bessie's entire Kibbutz (25).

When we keep a glance in above mentioned lines, we can find that how much Buddy was haunted from his childhood memory. At the time, he was far away from his house but feelings of love for his mother and other siblings are still in his mind. He was compelled by the capitalistic society to abandon his family in order to make his living.

He was too much frustrated and alienated in his present living place because he cannot find his brother and sister and also cannot have his old private phone which was shared by him and his brother Seymour in his house. In above lines Buddy had written that he sat with his old friend Yama, who was the god of death in Hindu philosophy. While talking with him he passes hours. The main cause behind his intention to talk with Yama depicts how much he was alienated in the materialistic world. He was in search of his freedom from the capitalistic world by making a friendship to Yama, a god of the death. From his writing one can analyze that he was seeking a peace and pleasure from so called elitist world. He was totally alienated in town because he had no any person to share his feeling so that he had made Yama to his friend. In this way in the text *Franny and Zooey* creating the character like Buddy, Salinger wants to convey reader how much people were alienated and frustrated in capitalist society.

Capitalistic system had devastated harmonious environment of Glass family. Among seven children of Glass family only two were still living in house and one is Franny, the youngest of Glass family member and another is Zooey. Franny had got a nervous breakdown because she cannot find any advantages by attending college so that she seeks a refuge in spiritual practice which resulted her in a nervous breakdown. Zooey was also quite alienated in house because he has no one to talk with and shares his ideas. Due to the pathetic condition of children Bessie Glass, a mother of Glass children was too much confused and alienated in the house. She was a female character who confined in the household work and feels too much alienated from the degraded conditions of her family members. "For women, alienation is not confined within the paid employment and that it is experienced within the family and private life." (Bryson 258) These lines depict that not only male character in text were

alienated and isolated even female character like Bessie who engaged in household work also has been alienated. The mindless materialism has created the same effects of alienation upon the Bessie in text. Bessie Glass, mother of Glass children also became the victim of the mindless materialism of the post war American life. Although she was household woman but also condition of her children's led her towards isolation. The novelist mentions "She gave a great sigh. Then, with a tense expression, she dragged deeply on his cigarette and exhaling the smoke through her nostrils, said- or, rather, erupted- 'oh, I wish I know what I'm supposed to do with that child.' She took a deep breath. 'I am absolutely at the end of my rope'" (35). We can find that Bessie Glass was worried about the condition of her children. She was too much worried about the condition of Franny, who had got nervous breakdown and having a rest in a rest room in house.

Bessie had gone to take an advice from her son Zooey who was only son still in house. She was too much frustrated by the condition of her children and in her tense mood she seeks help of Zooey for the critical condition of Franny, who was alienated and did not want to talk to anyone. The expression that Bessie had expressed that she is at the end of her rope symbolizes that she didn't want to live in the capitalist world where all her happiness had been swallowed and shattered. From her expression we can assume that how much people were alienated in the postwar period of America. Bessie was too much fed up and frustrated from the condition of her children. She had still in her memory happiness of her family where all her children lived in the same house and launched a radio programme 'It's a wise child'. But the time after 1950 was quite difficult in her society because after the emergence of America in capitalist mode it resulted in reifying the culture, society which creates isolation and alienation in the life of the people. To express the loss of family joy and

happiness, Bessie says to Zooey. “Boo Boo won’t be back till the tenth. Waker I’d be afraid to tell about it, even if I knew how to get hold of him. I never show a family like this my entire life. I mean it. You’re all supposed to be showing it intelligent and everything, all you children are down. Not one of you. I’m just a little bit seek of” (36). The absence of the family members in the house was the main cause behind Bessie alienation.

Capitalist society plays vital role behind shattering the joy and happiness of the Glass family member. If we carefully analyze the pain of Bessie, then we can found pathetic condition of her. Her dissatisfaction towards her family members symbolizes her extremely alienated mood, which was created by the capitalistic society. She was always haunted by future memories when her house was similar to a heaven but at the time it became like a hell. In the past, her all children lived together but now they were far from each other. In the past, she thought that her children were so intelligent but later the intelligence of her children have been swallowed by the capitalist modes of ethos and their activities were like alienated people who did not have a proper communication to each other. Capitalistic tradition did not let their children to stay together and communicates with each other in order to express their inner feelings.

There is no place in materialistic society to express pain and sorrow of people. A person has a compulsion to keep their pain and sorrow inside their heart. Capitalistic society used people as their own benefit, and they did not have any feelings of love towards those people even they sacrifice their life for them. Capitalism creates the problem in the life of people in society same things have been happened in the life of the Bessie Glass. The novelist J.D. Salinger also tries to show pathetic condition of people of 1950s, America with the help of different characters in

the novel. The domination and manipulation of capitalistic mode had decline the life of people. Salinger further explains:

It was a very- and – go business, in 1955, to get a wholly plausible reading from Mrs. Glass’s face, and especially from her enormous blue eyes. Where once, a few years earlier , her eyes alone break the news- - either to people or to bathmats- - that two of her sons were dead, one by suicide- -her favorite ,her must intricately calibrated, her kindest son - -,and one killed in World war II- - her only truly lighthearted son- -. (38-39)

Glass family faced so many ups and downs in their entire life. Capitalistic modes did not let Glass family members to live peacefully and happily. The agent of capitalism had used their son as their own interest. The selfish motive of capitalist makes common people as a ladder of their success in capitalist regime. Capitalism had used son of Glass parents in order to secure their power in capitalist society. But the death of their son makes Glass parents alienated. Les glass, the father of Glass children always lives in past memory that his all children will came together and join with him but, capitalist had already declined his hope and used his children for their own interest.

In the novel *Franny and Zooey*, Salinger wants to say us about the nature of elitist people and their proud behavior about things they have. Elitist had great proud about their possession and their status in society. In the text, Zooey said about the nature of elitist people from the behavior of his elitist friend Lesage, who had great proud about his power and position in the capitalist society. While describing the nature of elitist people from the behavior of his friend he further says:

In a way, I sort like Lesage, too. Everything he owns is the best- his over coat, his two- cabin Cruiser, his son's grades at Harvard, his electric razor, everything. He took me home to dinner once and stopped me in the drive way to ask me if I remembered 'the late Carole Lombard, in the movies.' He warned me I'd get a shock when I met his wife, she was such a dead linger for Carole Lombard. I suppose I'll like him for that till I die. His wife turned out be a really tired bosomy, Persian- looking blonde. (60)

Lesage was very much proud from his position and his elitist mentality can be proved from his living standard. He had very much proud of his possession. The two- cabin Cruiser, his dress and institution where he had admitted his son for learning were the symbol of capitalism. Even he had a great proud for having a wife which he thinks as a famous celebrity. But in real, his wife looks like ugly and bosomy. The examination of elitist people from the perspective of Zoey one can find hollow and corrupted mentality of elitist in period of post war.

In the context of 1950s America, economic boom had led the nation towards capitalist mode of consumption. Capitalist mode of distribution is pervasive in society. Rich people enjoy their power and position whereas, poor has to work for their family from sunshine to sunset. The condition of poor people was very worse because they have a compulsion to live as a ghetto life working all day long. Higher class people have a big bungalow and luxuries vehicles to enjoy where as lower class people have to live in a dilapidated house. Even in the text similar case can be found in living condition of the Glass family and their neighbors. Glass family had got a very old house and was not well furnished but also they were living in that house from many years. When Zoey entered inside the room writer describes pathetic condition

of their house and the surrounding people who live in old huts of the Manhattan city.

While analyzing plights of poor people in the novel, Salinger states:

Behind him and at his left, two curtained windows, with their blinds half down, faced into a court-an unpicturesque brick- and- concrete valley through which cleaning women and grocery boys passed greyly at all hour of the day. The room itself was what might be called the third master bedroom of the apartment, and was, by more or less traditional Manhattan apartment house standards, both unsunny and un-large. (76)

In capitalist social system, distribution of resources and property is not similar. In this system capitalist enjoy comfortable life whereas proletariat faced hellish life.

Proletariats have to work all day for their living whereas bourgeois enjoy their life luxuriously. In the above mentioned lines condition of the house of Glass family and their surrounding symbolizes conditions of the poor people in capitalist regime of the America. Although after emergence of the country in capitalist system, and the end of the World War II America had declared that the country was prosperous and economically strong thinking that all the citizens were enjoying a luxurious life. But the actual condition was different, that is, poor people have to live in worst place and have scarcity of many things and elitist were enjoying their life.

Proletariat people of society have a rebellious mood because property and economy had reduced humanity by side lining the ethos of people. In the text we can examine the various evidences of rage of the people towards economic distribution in the than society. Even in the case of Seymour, while Zooey entered in the room of the Seymour which was left after his death, inside the room he finds diary of Seymour in which Seymour had written his strong desire to end capitalist system? Seymour felt

too much frustrated and had great dissatisfaction towards the then capitalist society.

And in his angry mood he said:

My twenty- first birthday. Presents, presents, presents. Zooey and the baby, as usual, shopped Lower Broadway. They gave me a fine supply of itching power and a box of three stink bombs I'm to drop the bombs in the elevator to Columbia or " some place very crowded" As soon as I get a good chance. (77)

When people became too much frustrated from unequal social system they want to abolish that type of system which creates hierarchy among people. Seymour was frustrated from capitalist society which was a great hindrance behind social development. So that people wanted to become rebel and to revolt against this type of system in order to maintained equality among all people. "The problem of commodities must not be considered in isolation or even regarded as the central problem in economics, but as the central, structural problem of capitalist society" (Lucaks 63). Because commodities did not let to commodify any structure of the society and had its impacts in every aspects of the society.

In the text, *Franny and Zooey* different factors like: losses, poverty, tragedies, lack of belongings, lack of communicability, cultural conformity and creation of unequal class plays a pivotal role creating alienation in every characters of Glass family. They were unable to avoid depression, tension, frustration, estrangement and alienation because of capitalist society, which had shattered their harmonious family relationships. Lack of communicability, cultural conformity was some elements which can directly affect life of characters in the text. Due to different problem created by capitalist society characters of the text became victims of alienation.

In the time of post war period, America had got a success in economy and became the leading economy of the world. It gave rise to cultural conformity, so mindless materialism of the American society is the main cause behind alienation of people. Writing in the first and the second person narrative using so many references, Salinger used certain shift in the language of the characters in order to represent their alienated mood. Most of characters in the novel were from a Glass family having a same problem of uncertainty, frustration and alienation. The capitalist construct of society, lack of communicability of the characters lead them towards alienation. In the novel by using the alienated characters Salinger had presented actual condition of the America in the period of post war.

Franny was psychologically broken down due to the cause of capitalist society which had destroyed identity of people by reducing culture, humanity in the mode of commodity. She sought freedom from corrupted society where individual cannot found their meaning. It was difficult to define meaning of self in capitalist society because humanity had been reduced as a commodity in this society. It was difficult task to live in capitalist society without self identity. So, in the novel main cause of Franny's breakdown was not finding her identity in materialistic world of capitalism. The condition of Franny bothered her mother and she wanted to take her to the psychologist but Zooey denied because he knew actual condition about her break down. Zooey was able to play the role of a psychoanalyst to solve the problem of Franny. He wanted to preserve his sister from destroying by acting as a psychoanalyst while, Zooey asked his sister behind dropping her college then, she replied that there is no point to attending college which was controlled by the capitalist and rationality of person was dominated by them. "Bourgeois literature is indeed bourgeois literature but it is not a block or type; it is an immense and varied practical consciousness, at

every level from crude reproduction to permanently important articulation and formation” (William 211). The main motto of bourgeois literature was to teach to flourish their capitalistic ethos in the society.

In the case of Franny the cause behind her breakdown was reducing of culture of educational institution as a commodity which can be sold by anybody in any time. The culture has become a new kind of economic system where people attended a class in order to secure good job and a good position in capitalist society. Culture of society has been guided by the capitalist ideology. Franny in order to give answer to her brother about not attending the classes because she found that education has been degraded as a commodity. So in the response to her brother she said:

It was the worst of all in class though, she said with decision. ‘That was the worst.’ What happened was, I got the ideas in my head: and I could not get it out- that college was just one more dopey, in one place in the world decided to piling of treasure on earth and everything. I mean treasure is treasure, for heaven’s sake. What’s the difference weather treasure is money, or property, or even culture, or even just plain knowledge? (62)

The college environment was the main cause behind the alienation of Franny. She did not find any merit attending college which was controlled by the capitalist. In spite of spreading the knowledge capitalist had changed educational sector into commodity. Franny’s answer proved that after the end of World War II, with the economic success the capitalist society of the America did not let a educational institution to be an independent unit. They had used educational unit in order to acquire treasure. Due to the dirty mentality of capitalist reduced college as a commodity, Franny found disgusting the presence of capitalist in the every sectors of society which makes her

isolated. In order to compensate her isolation she sought the way of spiritual practice to get peace in the materialistic society.

In the conversation between Lane and Franny in restaurant, Lane asked the reason behind leaving the college to Franny. In this response Franny replied:

If it weren't so late and everything. She said, 'and if I hadn't decided like a fool to go out for honors, I think I hadn't dropped English. I don't know.' She tipped her ashes. 'I'm just so sick of pedants and conceited little tearer-downers I could scream.' She looked at Lane. 'I'm sorry. I'll stopped.' I give you my word- - it's just that if I'd had any guts at all, I wouldn't have gone back to college at all this year. I don't know. I mean it's all the most incredible farce. (8)

Franny seems attending institution handled by capitalist is like a disgusting task. Educational institution which is handled by elitist can taught their own language that is domination and inequality. But Lane, friend of Franny, is quite positive towards capitalism and he supports it. He says that there are two great poets in his department who gives knowledge to people. But according to Franny they are not the great poet and they are agent of capitalist society who anthologies their poems and sells them. The actual motives of the Franny saying can be clear by the lines of the Raymond William; "To be 'Creative', to create, means many quite evidently different things. We can consider one central example, where a writer is said to 'create' characters in a play or a novel. At the simplest level this is obviously a kind of production (207)." Production and consumption is the system of capitalist regime so, in capitalist society even a creation of the poem is also a kind of production and consumption. Franny in novel while talking about the intellectual of the capitalist world she further said:

You've got two of the best men in the country in your goddam Department. Manlius, Esposito. God, I wish we had them here. At least, they're poets, for chrissake.'

'They're not, 'Franny said.' That's party what's show awful. I mean they're not real poets. They're just people that write poems that get published and anthologized all over the place, but they're not poets. (8)

Being alienated in capitalist society Franny did not find any merits either attaining the college or to praise the intellectual who works for capitalist. She was fed up with capitalist modes of society where she had unable to find her identity. In the absence of good relations among people relations were governed by people role as agents in the economic process of expansion. "The end of the economic alienation will also mean the abolition of all other forms of men's alienation from his human essence. All human relationship in which men have lived a life of alienation from his human essence will be ended" (Lavin 283). Characters in novel *Franny and Zooey* were feels alienated due to capitalist social system. There is a feeling of the loneliness, frustration and alienation is pervasive in the life of the character in the novel.

In society end of capitalist domination requires end of capitalism from society. Salinger's character did not have a self identity because they had lost their identity in the post-war capitalist world of America. The capitalist society did not respect the co-existence among people so, due to lack of the existence, lack of identity and lack of communication leads characters of the novel towards alienation. To end alienation economic distribution should be equal among every person and the act of mindless materialism and cultural conformity should be stopped. Due to unequal

distribution of power and economy led the characters in the novel towards alienation from their self and society.

Chapter: Three

Conclusion: Position of people in Capitalist Social System

This research attempts to find out the cause behind the alienation, estrangement and frustration of characters in J.D Salinger's novel *Franny and Zooey*. So far as to identify the cause behind the alienation which center on the behavior studies of the characters from Glass family, their activities, behaviors and relationships with others. The forms of social experiences and the concepts of the then society, mindless materiality and cultural conformity are the center issues of this novel. This study examines the different events, problems and conversation of Glass family members who try to prove that capitalist attitudes towards the people in the post war period of America. People were treated as the commodity and the culture has been reduced to commodity, where capitalist handled all cultural institution and used them for their own sake. So that the commoditization of human value and culture make characters alienated in their society. They seek refuge in aesthetic technique in order to get rid from the capitalist society.

Most of the story of the text resembles the problems created by the capitalist society in the life of common people. From the story of Glass family members, Salinger wants to say about follies of post war society of America. Almost all the characters of the narrative are alienated. In this text including other members of Glass family and among them the youngest daughter of Glass family, Franny is totally alienated in every step of her life in order to search her respect and identity in the society. But she could not get success because all the modes of society have been controlled by the capitalist. In order to take herself from the mindless materiality of the then society she takes the shelter of spiritual practice in order to find out peace and

freedom from the society. Franny, the main character of the story, enters into the world of spiritualism by neglecting the materialistic world guided by the giant capitalist. She has abandoned her study and the acting profession because she did not find her identity in the society where culture has been reduced to commodity. The capitalist world is the main cause behind her alienation. Though, the cause behind the alienation of Franny and other characters in the text shows the attitudes of capitalist society.

After neglecting the education institution governed by the network of capitalism, Franny got engaged in the practice of aestheticism in order to find her respect and freedom from the capitalistic world. She is totally indifferent towards the society and her family members in order to search herself in the materialistic world but it results her into mental breakdown and alienation. In her search for freedom, self respect and peaceful future she was engaged reading religious books and practices aesthetic technique in order to find out peace and freedom. But her practice did not give her solace. In order to solve her problem, her brother, Zooey plays the role of the psychoanalyst and told her to live boldly in the capitalist world. In the process of recovering his sister from the nervous breakdown Zooey says that, “with the Jesus prayer, aren’t you trying to lay up some kind of treasure? Something that’s every goddam bit as negotiable as all those other, more material things?” (63). Zooey compensates her by saying either she should engage in religious practice or material practice because both are the activities for collecting the treasure of spiritual or material aspect.

Zooey treats his sister Franny as a psychoanalyst to preserve her from nervous breakdown, he says that everything in the world deserves the love of god either they are good or bad. The main motives behind Zooey saying that either the society is good

or bad, one should not leave one's profession because one has to save one's identity in the society by oneself. In order to change the society we have to change the follies of its social practice. By taking the shelter of religious practice one cannot find his/her identity in the society. So people have to perform their activities in every circumstance. Zooey says, "I don't care where an actor acts. It can be in summer stock, it can be over a radio, it can be over television, it can be in goddam Broadway Theater" (85). For him, everybody has to struggle in the society to make one's own identity.

To sum up, the present project entitled "Alienation in Salinger's *Franny and Zooey*" tries to prove the alienation as well as frustration of the characters from Glass family which is caused by capitalistic concepts, mindless materialism and reified culture which had reduced every culture of society to commodity. All the characters in the novel practice different activities in order to come out from the problem of alienation and make their life meaningful.

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