

I. Protagonist's Quest for True Existence in Kipling's *Captains Courageous*

Rudyard Kipling's *Captains Courageous* is about a voyage in which he strives to explain the upheavals of protagonist, Harvey Cheyne. Pampered and indolent son of multimillionaire in America guarantees his life through diligence and sobriety. In doing so, he makes a real freedom to get true existence. He has compulsion to face vivid bars and barriers. Whatever unfriendly circumstances come in front of him, all is the cause of his own choices, decisions and determinations. He desires to go to Europe for his study leaving his parents and wife but his dream does not fulfill after falling into sea. He is rescued by a Portuguese fisherman, Manual. He is so proud and does not show any gratitude to him for saving his life. A captain, Disko Troop from Gloucester, offers him a job as crew member forcing to live from May until the following September aboard the fishing schooner. It is because Harvey tells them to return him back repetitively emphasizing money if they return him to the port. He knows his obsession with father's immense wealth. So, Disko Troop wants to make him realize the value of money, life and hard work. Harvey, with no other choice, his vision of life makes abort because of this circumstance.

It is his compulsion to change the gear of life because of his failure to convince them. It is also his encounter with raw nature, hard work and ordinary men. Then, he accompanying different types of hazards and hardships, pains and sufferings, bars and barriers, becomes devoted to achieve distinct individuality and true existence. He works incessantly during that period into the sea and reaches to achieve distinct existence painstakingly.

So, this present research attempts to show the predicament of protagonist while attaining true existence and development of an offensive and spoiled teenager boy through toil and discipline into an honorable worker: with the forging of self-

importance into self-respect. He becomes an honorable fisherman. While doing so, he becomes able to pass over all kinds of bars and troubles so patiently. The cause of such untold suffering is his choices and decisions. He becomes hinder and torture by different ups and down throughout the novel but he does not give in, rather moves forward with courage to get unique essence in life. So, facing all forthcoming difficulties, he achieves distinct individuality. He begins his career with father's shipping line. Thus, the predicament of protagonist of this novel is researchable issue.

Since its publication, *Captains Courageous* has been responded in manifold ways. Some have looked at novel's moral aspects; others have looked from the postcolonial perspectives. Likewise, some have looked it only the adventure of a boy. At the same token, some have commented from feminist perspectives. Like Donald L. Hill puts his argument in his own words;

He has finally become immensely rich in railroads, lumber, mines, and merchant ships. He represents a new America, whereas Disko Troop represents and older one. But the two eras are closely related still, for Cheyne's spoiled son, Harvey, Jr., learns elementary morality from the old-fashioned Disko and not from his parents, while in return Dan, son of Disko, gets his big chance in Cheyne's fleet of Pacific tea clippers. The new age of the empire builders thus draws for its moral strength and standards and for technical skill also, upon the older generation of hardy, small-scale entrepreneurs. The achievements of Cheyne, Sr., are offered as a fascinating romance, and his character is presented as a tribute to the American cult of hard work and business sagacity. (169)

His criticism makes it clear that this novel represents the moral aspects, especially focusing Harvey who learns from the old- fashioned Disko not his parents. He

becomes engaged to be immensely rich. He represents the American quest for wealth. He has railroads, mines, lumber, ships etc. but does not give any attention to his son's life career. So, Harvey becomes indolent, lazy, pampered and later, he learns morality from Disko only which is the result of running his father after money. In this sense, his father represents a new America, so gives the priority to the American cult of hard work and business sagacity.

Another critic Ruth Bynum says:

Kipling seems, therefore, in *Captains Courageous* to endorse American enterprise, big or little, as a character builder once again to hold up the "American spirit" for admiration. It may be doubted, of course, that *Captains Courageous* provides a perfectly candid record of his attitudes. For one thing, he must have thought it ungrateful to write anti-American criticism into a book which depended so largely on information supplied by Dr. Conland, whose friendship he valued highly and to whom he dedicated the book. For another, it was of course mostly a boy's book, urging the simple view that hard work in the open air will make a boy healthy, keep him out of mischief, and prepare him for a useful manhood. (680)

It unveils the attitudes of him towards the American spirit for admiration. He criticizes that Kipling urges the simple view of hard work in the open air will make a boy healthy, keep him out of mischief and changes into manhood.

Again too, criticizing the same novel, Hugh Brogan states:

A complete critique of *Captains Courageous* would have to consider the last part of the book, which is chiefly concerned with Harvey's father, the railroad magnet: though Kipling makes the good use of

material gathered on his western journeys, it is so inferior to the sea-passages that at the end one can only regret that Harvey is not returning to the Banks instead of to the loving arms of his parents. (45)

He emphasizes to the materialistic aspect in the novel. He says that the last part of the book shows its holistic idea which concerns with Harvey's father who is lean to amass immense wealth through his life. It implies that his father learns the meaning of American dream and becomes in pursuit of it; his attempt to amass huge wealth, engage in work, no time to spend with family and careless about child. At last, it proves the regret feeling of his father because his son tries to be far from his family.

It makes the realization of how far the American dream is true. In the same manner, Jeffery R. Brookes criticizes, "Kipling can no more plot a full-length book than (at this time) he can draw a convincing full-length portrait of a woman, Harvey's mother is a terrible failure" (723). It explores that the main theme concerning with a woman, Harvey's mother as a failure character of this novel. It shows his father as a successful businessman in America and courageous son despite the careless of his father but does not portray Harvey's mother to be command anywhere. So, she becomes failure in American society.

Similarly, another critic Brain Hooker criticizes it, "The casual objection to *Captains Courageous* was that at best it was the adventures of a boy in Gloucester fishing; but the whole point of this boy's story is that it is the story of the making of a man" (726). It focuses only the adventures of a boy in a Gloucester fishing schooner but neglects other aspects.

In this way, different critical responses demonstrate that they have different perspectives towards the novel and its protagonist, Harvey Cheyne. Some of them take it only as adventures of a boy; some take it only celebrations of sea men some

focus only admiration of American spirit, its cult of hard work and business sagacity and some look at it from feminist perspectives. But none of them talked about the existentialist issue in this novel. Those who seem to realize this fact also do not think it necessary to discuss in detail despite the fact they have hinted at this side. That is why, existential predicament of protagonist of *Captains Courageous* is more relevant to make research.

Examining the vivid sufferings and difficulties which the protagonist overcomes, this project tries to present him a successful hero to bring order in life from disorder. The protagonist, Harvey Cheyne himself chooses his course of life. The difficulties he has to face on the way are the consequences of his choices. But he compels to make such choices by situations. He chooses to leave his wife, parents and economic prosperity and makes plan to go to Europe but fails because of falling into the sea. Then, being compelled he chooses to work with crew member. Through his choice, he enjoys freedom. But in course of time, he suffers a lot. Due to intense suffering, sometimes he threatens to captain, Disko and his son, Dan who becomes his friend and even weeps. Anyway, he does not harass because it is not the way to gain true existence. So, hardly, he tries to maintain it. He presents himself as a more hopeful person than in the beginning. So, he struggles incessantly adjusting to other fishermen. He becomes so sad which never occurs in his life before. He does such works with them only for living.

There's eight of us on the We're Here, an' ef we went back naow-it's more'n a thousand mile-we'd lose the season. The men they wouldn't hev it, allowin' I was agreeable. "but my father would make it all right." "He'd try. I don't doubt he'd try," said Troop; an' you'll be better in your health when you see him in the fall. Go forward an' help

Dan. It's ten an' a half a month, ez I said, an' o' course, all found, same ez the rest o' us." "Do you mean I'm to clean pots and pans and things?" said Harvey. An' other things. You're no call to shout, young feller. I won't! My father will give you enough to buy this dirty little fish kettle-Harvey stamped on the deck-ten times over, if you take me to New York safe; and-and-you're in a hundred and thirty by me, anyhow. (14-5)

Harvey becomes indifferent to this situation. Despite being the son of immense wealth; railroads, mines, lumber and shipping merchant, he has to face such circumstance which is his predicament of life. He does it only for livelihood. So, in his request to take him back, they do not agree with Harvey because they put the argument that a whole season's catch is only for eight men's bread. That is why, Disko orders him to do work with Dan for which they pay only ten and half dollar of a month. Such issues which he has to face, makes him existential hero. Despite the fact of being heir of immense wealth, he accepts that job only to live until return to the port. It is not for to earn money but his life career.

He has to learn something in life and achieve new identity. So, he becomes ready to face this predicament. He does not stop it even getting more trouble both mentally and physically. His physical pain is described as:

Harvey ate, drank, and enlarged on his adventures all in one breath, and when he had a hand free his mother fondled it. His voice was thickened with living in the open, salt air; his palms were rough and hard, his wrists dotted with marks of gurry-sores; and a fine full flavor of codfish hung round rubber boots and blue jersey. (161)

Here too, this novel presents the existential predicament of protagonist. He compels to face physical pain and suffering. That is also the mental anguish. He does it without stopping because he has to bring change himself. That is to say, he gains distinct identity through hard work and hardship. He becomes a more disciplined man to whom captain and other fishermen respect.

This novel also presents Harvey's feelings of isolation, displacement and loneliness. He suffers from this condition throughout his life. It represents as:

Then Harvey sat down by the wheel and sobbed and sobbed as though his heart would break, and a tall woman who had been sitting on a weigh-scale dropped down into the schooner and kissed Dan once on the cheek; for she was his mother, and she had seen the we're Here by the lightning flashes. She took no notice of Harvey till he had recovered himself a little and Disko had told his story. Then they went to Disko's house together as the dawn was breaking; and until the telegraph office was open and he could wire his folk, Harvey Cheyne was perhaps the loneliest boy in all America. But the curious thing was that Disko and Dan seemed to think none the worse of him for crying.

(146)

When he returns to port with other fishermen, feels so much frustration from loneliness. His heart breaks and starts to weep. Dan's mother sits near of him and kisses but she does not take any notice of Harvey till he recovers himself and later Disko gives her information about him. When his friend's mother does not care about him, he thinks that perhaps he is the loneliest boy in all America. He becomes very sober because of the feeling of the isolated being. As a result, he becomes an honest fisherman. "There was that in his voice, too, which seemed to promise that the change

might be permanent, and the new Harvey had come to stay” (161). It explains the personal transformation of Harvey. When he can not return to back to home, promises to do something in life and becomes courageous to exceed all boundaries. And, because of his commitment and affirmation makes, changes his life permanently. So, he succeeds to become a great fisherman.

A boy learns life-changing lessons and the importance of friendship and dignity of labor in his adventure. He appreciates the values of hard work. His determination makes him realize the dignity of identity and individuality among the whole human race. He becomes prestigious man among all fishermen and captains. While doing so, he succeeds to pass over all happenings. Even being a son of wealthy family, he decides to do work. He has to cross different boundaries. So, the forthcoming problematic condition of Harvey becomes the focal point of this novel. He experiences untold sufferings thrown into an incoherent, disordered and chaotic universe. Assimilating all these incoherent incidents, he tries to explore the self.

In this way, this present research work captures the predicament of protagonist. He has freedom to choose. So, he makes different sorts of choices and decisions to make true existence. In his journey of life, he has to face vivid pains, sufferings, frustration, despair, anxieties and absurdities. While making forward the journey of life, he accompanies all these predicaments. In course of time, he suffers a lot even though he becomes successful to surmount all these bars and troubles. While doing so, he gives up his stubborn, pamper, indolent and pride nature and affirms to attain distinct individuality. Then, a life of hardships and hard work, of labor and reward, of adversities and trustworthiness turns an arrogant and rowdy teenager Harvey into an honest young fisherman.

II. Existential predicament of protagonist in *Captains Courageous*

Analyzing the series of hardships and struggles that the hero undergoes, the present research work tries to portray a protagonist, Harvey Cheney, as the existential hero of this novel, *Captains Courageous*. The spoiled son of multimillionaire American businessman tries to attain the distinct individuality, so he starts sea journey to go to Europe and complete his education. Pampered and lazy, fifteen-year-old Harvey falls overboard a ship into the sea and into a new life, the waves of which transform his entire life. He has to struggle more to come out as a rewarding man from his previous status. After falling into the sea, he is rescued by fishermen on the Grand Banks, then, he can neither persuade to take him ashore nor convince them of his father's immense wealth. Being compelled, he chooses to work as a crew, the job offered by the captain of *We're Here, Disko Troop*. A life of hardships and comradeship and trustworthiness, turns an indolent teenager Harvey into an honest man with unique individuality.

He had never thought about life at the age of fifteen, as he chooses to go for his study, the upheavals start in his life. Despite being the son of wealthy man, he wants to spend care-free life which makes him realize of hazards and hardships, pains and sufferings that would be the part of human being. He attempts to comprehend the meaning of life. He, later, gives the greater weight to his career as a prestigious fisherman. He, accompanying ups and down of life, tries hard to exist with unique individuality and essence. As he is trapped in the storm of miseries, knows that he is one among the billions in this world and gives up his pride forsaking his father's so called immense wealth. This is essentially very crucial time in Harvey's life to choose to work which led him an optimistic attitude towards life and he finally succeeds to bring order in his life from disorder.

The hero's assertion of existence can be observed in different areas. This novel *Captains Courageous* uncovers a hidden existential twine of main character Harvey Cheney. Son of wealthy over-indulgent parents, he starts his sea journey from America to Europe to complete his study. It is a sense of freedom. In general "freedom" is a state which knows no barriers and constrains. *Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary* defines it as "the right to do or say what you want without anyone stopping you" (512). It asserts that there is freedom to seek different goals without any hindrances. So, Harvey has also freedom to choose different goals; he chooses to go to Europe to complete his study. There is no lack and scarcity in his life. He could complete his study in America. But he decides to leave his parent and wife for his study. He wants his own distinct identity, thereby leaving his home; he desires to go to Europe. His freedom to choose clarifies the following sentence. "He's going to Europe to finish his education" (12). It reminds us Sartre's proposition that everyone is "condemned to be free" (10). He explains that one is "condemned because he did not create himself, yet, in other respects is free; because, once thrown into the world, he is responsible for everything he does" (*Existentialism and Human Emotions* 10). In the same manner, Harvey is free to choose the course of life and responsible for his actions in life.

Harvey starts his journey for his study but he cannot reach his destination. And his afflictive affirmation makes him fisherman at the end. For that, he is responsible for himself. When Harvey starts his sea journey, he does not care of the happenings and occurrences on the way. He moves freely which these lines exemplify:

Once more the door banged, and a slight, slim-built boy perhaps fifteen years old, a half-smoked cigarette hanging from one corner of his

mouth, leaned in over the high footway. His pasty yellow complexion did not show on a person of his years, and his look was a mixture of irresolution, bravado, and very cheap smartness. (2)

He has freedom to choose. Despite the freedom, he has to care about the forthcoming situation but does not. When he becomes unaware about the dangerous situation of sea, other passengers warn him in such a way, “oh, you’re high-grade machine, with the writing in plain sight,” the Philadelphian yawned. “You’ll blossom into a credit to your country if you don’t care” (4). It makes clear that all other passengers are careful about the happenings on the voyage and make caution to Harvey but he turns the deaf ear towards them.

Existential philosophy proves that man is the future of man. Man has no pre-defined essence. When he exists in the world, and he makes his essence own self. In this sense, Sartre says, “Existence precedes essence” (66). He further writes:

What do we mean by saying that existence precedes? We mean that man first of all exists, encounters himself, surges up in the world-and defines himself afterwards. If man as the existentialist sees he is not definable, it is because to begin with he is nothing. He will not be anything until later and then he will be what he makes of himself. Thus there is no human nature, because there is no god to have a conception of it. Man simply is --Man is nothing else that which he makes of himself. That is the first principle of existentialism. (212)

This existentialist thought conveys a more powerful and pervading sense of inescapable reality of human beings. Sartre emphasizes that no individual has a priori essence. So, man is responsible for his actions and determines his true existence. In Harvey’s case, there happens the same thing. While starting the voyage, he does not

think about the fogs, the tides, the gales and dangerous situation of it. Others try to convince him about the occurrences into the sea but he asks, “Who’ll stop me?”(3). His pride and high sounding nature of him brings the disaster in life; he falls into the sea. Then, he falls into the predicaments and succeeds to gain new life. In this sense, it is freedom of Harvey and at the same time it is his choice.

Some existential philosophers like Kierkegaard, Nietzsche, Sartre and Camus emphasize the unconditional quality of human freedom. Just like this, in Harvey’s journey, the unconditional circumstances appear. For the quest of freedom, he leaves family and familial love but it does not fulfill in his life. This is the consequence of his actions. Then the condition is not so; Harvey falls overboard from the ship which brings new twist into his life. That is why, existentialist philosophers opine that, there is no pre-defined structure in the world. This idea of existentialist philosophy undermines the orthodox Platonism. Robert Wicks states:

Plato (427-327 BC) regarded the imagined intellectual plans, forms, structures, definitions, idealizations, and perfections of physical things as timeless essence, ideas or forms. These include numbers and geometrical conceptions as well as morally related ideas such as goodness, beauty, courage and piety. Plato furthermore ascribed an unconditional being to these ideas-one that prevails metaphysically over their perishable instantiations in the world’s many physical items and actions. Within this Platonic vision, the plan definitively characterizes the essence of the anticipated instantiation or outcome, and the ideal instance or outcome would be the perfect realization of the prior plan. (Qtd. in *A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism* 212)

The Platonic view, represented by Robert Wicks dominates the spirit of the western philosophical tradition which assumes that 'essence' precedes 'existence' which is quite contrary to existentialist philosophy.

The existentialist themes like freedom and choice are interrelated with each other. When Harvey fails in his first decision and choice, he decides to choose another goal in his life after rescuing by fishermen. They offer him a job as a crew member. He fails to convince them to take him ashore. He has no money in the pocket which losses it into the sea and blames to Disko Troop in his anxious mood. But at first, he forcibly joins the crew member.

Harvey choked with rage, but Troop went on consolingly: "We are sorry fer you. We're very sorry fer you-an' so young. We won't say no more about the money, I guess." "Course you won't. You stole it." "Suit yourself. We stole it ef it's any comfort to you. "Naow, about goin' back. Allowin' we could do it, which we can't, you ain't in no fit state to go back to your home, an' we've jest come on to the Banks, workin' fer our bread." (13)

They do not agree with him. So, he has freedom to choose to work with them. Sartre mentions, "Of course freedom as the definition of man does not depend on others, but as soon as there is involvement, I am obliged to want others to have freedom at the same time that I want my own freedom. I can take freedom as my goal as well" (*Existentialism and Human Emotions* 15). This represented existentialist opinion of Sartre, accentuates that man doesn't depend on others. Every individual has their own uniqueness. Freedom is also taken as a goal of own self.

Existentialism is a philosophy of freedom and responsibility. Its basic assumption is that it reflects on what we have been doing by standing back from our

lives. But we are as responsible as we are free. In Harvey's sense, he is also as responsible as others as he is free to work. He has other fellow beings; there is also society behind him. He has to do something in life. In the course of time, he befriends with Dan Troop and other crew member in the ship. He wants freedom in each and every step of his life. It explains, "Harvey had never heard Disko's talk so long, and collapsed with burning cheeks; but, as Dan said promptly, a boy could only learn what he was taught at school, and life was too short to keep track of every lie along the coast"(71). Disko Troop wants him to make learn but he never heard his talking. So, Dan comments Harvey that he could only learn what he was taught at his school. But, he has heap to learn in his life but no sufficient time for everything. He neglects Disko's order and Dan's comment because he always in search of freedom and wants it everywhere. Despite his suffering, his intent goal becomes to gain an authentic individuality and essence in his life. He succeeds to grip the essence as a great fisherman from his previous status of an indolent and spoiled teenager boy. So, the repetitive tune of existentialist theme of essence he makes after his existence. First, he exists then performs his activities. To expand this same tune, Robert Wicks qtd. in *A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism* says:

Michael Foucault (1926-84) advanced the non-Platonist style of sociological and historical analysis in the 1970s, opposing the view that historical understanding should proceed typically by searching for a definition or essence to a given situation. Rather, Foucault maintained that the great historical phenomena arise from an intersection of accidental happenings in the absence of any prior plan or meaning. (222)

Though, Foucault's theory is about power but here, he extends his view that socio-political and historical phenomena come from accidental happenings in the society because every occurrences locate in the society. So that, there is no prior plan or pre-defined essential meaning. In this regard, he argues that traditional view of historical understandings proceed searching for a definite meaning to a given situation.

As a self conscious movement, primarily a twentieth century phenomenon, it draws attention to the risk, the void of human reality and admits that the human being is thrown into the world in which pain, suffering, alienation, frustration, isolation, sickness, contempt and death dominate. Harvey, despite these facts, searches the meaning of life. When he leaves home, he feels alone. He does not get familial love. After falling into the sea, he bears pain, suffering, sickness etc. But he even cannot tell it to others. This novel shows his troubles on the following way:

Harvey drank in silence, and the boy handed him a plate full of pieces of crisp fried pork, which he ate ravenously. "I've dried your clothes. Guess they've shrunk some," said the boy. "They ain't our style much—none of 'em. Twist round an' see if you're hurt any." Harvey stretched himself in every condition, but could not report any injuries.

(8)

Not only that, such ethos expressed by "Harvey's knuckles were and bleeding where they had been against the gunwale; his face was purple-blue between excitement and extortion; he dipped with sweat and was half blinded from staring at the circling sunlit ripples about the swiftly moving line" (44). It insists that one must be choose to do something that immediately follows hazards and hardships. As a member of rich family, Harvey's style of ravenously eating and silence drinking are the exposition of his bitter reality of miserable situation. In every condition, he stretches himself but he

could not tell it to others. It also refers Harvey's extreme pain and courage to pass over such difficulties. To sum up, freedom and choice compel Harvey to face this situation. It essentially offers the existential solace because he finally becomes an honest man.

Regarding these issues, Albert Camus in "Myth of Sisyphus" undertakes to answer what he considers to be the only question of philosophy that matters: Does the realization of meaninglessness and absurdity of life necessarily require suicide? He posits the answer describing that human life is built on the hope for future and suicide is ultimate enemy. It is not the world that is absurd, not human thought; the absurd arises when human beings meet the unreasonableness of the world. Thus, Camus emphasizes the hard contest of human being. In the novel, despite his adversities of life, he never becomes harassed. He struggles throughout the novel. "Now he knew; and every inch of his body ached with fatigue" (15). Without rest, he continues his work. He is optimistic to gain individual meaning in life. Sometimes, he feels absurd human life because he meets the meaninglessness of the world. Camus presents Sisyphus in the following way:

Who condemns by the gods to push a stone up a mountain only to see it roll back down repeatedly for all eternity. And yet Camus claims to consider Sisyphus happy at the moment he turns to retrieve the rock once more at the base of the hill. Why happy? Because Sisyphus has risen above his fate, not by dull resignation but by deliberate choice.

(48)

Acknowledging the futile work of pushing rock up a mountain, Sisyphus does it repeatedly only to see it at the bottom of the mountain. Camus focuses the necessity of incessant hard work from which man grabs the satisfaction like Sisyphus. Harvey,

in the novel, never stops his attempt. He realizes that his work is futile because he does it only for living although his father amasses more wealth only for his single son. But “Harvey devoted himself to his lines” (88). He dedicates almost all time in the fishing and his commitment makes successful in his life.

The worth noting existentialist point is that man is responsible for himself. There is no pre-foundation of essence. We have to make our decisions. That is why, Harvey lives hardly dripping sweat while toiling with other fishermen. So, “that because we make you fisherman, these days” (66). He is on the way to achieving his goal. By seeing his devotion and honesty, other fishermen also encourage him. In the same manner, novel expresses, “Well, he’s kind o’ supercargo,” was the answer. “We picked him up struck adrift on the Banks. Fell overboard from a liner, he sez. He was a passenger. “He’s by way o’ bein’ a fisherman now” (166). Since there is nobody to guide and no absolute essence to determine an individual, one has to lead one’s life oneself. Thus, it depends on an individual what sort of life one has to live. It rejects the existence of god. There is no pre-existing essence and god doesn’t lead the world. So, nineteenth century German thinker Friedrich Nietzsche drives the rational proves that God is dead which is as the center in *The Gay of Science*.

Have you not heard of that madman who lit a lantern in the bright morning hours, ran to market place, and cried incessantly:” I seek God?”---Do we smell nothing as yet of the divine decomposition? Gods, too, decompose. God is dead. God remains dead. And we have killed him. Here the madman fell silent and looked again at his listeners: and they, too. Were silent and stared at him in astonishment... “I have come too early,” he said then: “my time is not

yet. This tremendous event is still on its way, still wandering: it has not yet reached the ears of men.” (156)

Its synthetic point is human being exists before he defined by any concept. God does not lead the man. So, man is responsible for his every actions and choices. “Man is nothing else but what makes of himself” (Existentialism 14). Sartre and Nietzsche mean essentially the same thing that God does not exist and that we have to face all the consequences of this.

This novel justifies the same idea in the following way:

But the coal-black Celt with the second-sight did not see fit to reply till he had tapped Dan on the shoulder, and for the twentieth time croaked the old, old prophecy in his ear. “Master– man. Man –master,” said he, “You remember, Dan Troop, what I said? On the We’re Here?” “well, I won’t go so far as to deny that it do look like it as things stand at present,” said Dan. (202)

This idea of novel is similar to the idea of Nietzsche and Sartre. Because they emphasize that God does not fix the essence of human being. Man is responsible for himself. He has the whole responsibility to be what he wants. So, Harvey becomes master of Dan but before Dan becomes master of Harvey and helps to learn fishing. Harvey determines his own life through choices as he is free to choose. If he determines his life, then he has to take whole responsibility of what happens throughout life. That is why, his labor and hardship makes him able to achieve master over fishing. He is nothing else but what he makes of himself. So, Nietzsche expresses the idea of death of God.

Existence means to stand out in the universe that is against us. So, the term existentialism is used to describe the version of human condition in the world. Now,

this novel also draws attention to the risk, loneliness and human suffering while stressing on the individual existence, freedom and choice. Existentialists utter that man is free to choose. While choosing to do something, Harvey compels to bear forthcoming occurrences. He also submerges into the same river of existentialist utterance after choosing to work as a crew member. He enters into a new life and experiences the alienation, frustration, sickness, isolation, contempt etc. And, such issues for existentialist are common. Therefore, existentialists really mention the problems of man. It occurs because of their focus on man's concrete existence and his personal freedom of choice. When he does not success to come to the port, he accepts the referred job by fishermen and follows a series of trials embracing the adventures and troubles;

Harvey saw with disgust that there were no sheets on his bed –place. He was lying on a piece of dingy ticking full of lumps and nubbles. Then, too, the boats motion was not that of a steamer. She was neither sliding nor rolling, but rather wriggling herself about in a silly, aimless way, like a colt at the end of the halter. Water noises ran by close to his ear, and beams creaked and whined about him. All these things made him grunt despairingly and think of his mother. (8)

These first two lines expose the pathetic situation of Harvey. Such situations evoke a kind of contempt upon him.

This instantiation is also about his sadness, despair and isolated feeling of Harvey because he is far away from his family and remembers his mother through memory. In fact, she is more grievous about son. He is only one in Cheney's family. That is why, this sort of despondency comes from his inner heart. Thomas R Flynn states:

Nietzsche has spoken eloquently of the loneliness of the individual who has risen above the herd. As is often the case with existentialists, his personal life gave tragic witness to the price often demanded for such nonconformity as he sought in the manner of Socrates to harmonize his life with teaching. (*Existentialism* 25)

He also analyzes the idea of loneliness and human suffering. While searching for authentic individuality, he certainly undergoes the isolation and tragic situation. Similarly, such pathos express in the following way:

The deck was deserted, and he crawled to the extreme end of it, near the flagpole. There he doubled up in limp agony, for the wheeling "stogie" joined with the surge and jar of the screw to sieve out his soul. His head swelled; sparks of fire danced before his eyes; his body seemed to lose weight, while his heels wavered in the breeze. He was fainting from sickness, and a roll of the ship tilted him over the rail onto the smooth lip of turtle-back. (5)

After deserting his deck, he mostly reaches to the end of life. He suffers from limp agony and swelling head. The ship throws him on the turtle-back and becomes seriously seasick. Then only, he recovers and forces to work. In this sense, his condition is not comparable with his previous life. Despite being the heir of a wealthy family in America, he puts forward his desire to grasp the individual meaning in life. That's why, he accompanies with loneliness and tragic circumstances.

Harvey, after drowning into the sea, feels being near of death. But at the same time, he recovers "then a low, grey mother-wave swung out of the fog, tucked Harvey under one arm, so to speak, and pulled him off and away to leeward; the great green

closed over him, and he went quietly to sleep”(5). Then, after sometime, he becomes conscious and tries to remember that who is he? And where is he now?

Slowly he remembered that he was Harvey Cheney, drowned and in mid-ocean, but was too weak to fit things together. A new smell filled his nostrils; wet clammy chills ran down his back, and he was helplessly full of salt water. When he opened his eyes, he perceived that he was still on the top of the sea, for it was running round him in silver-colored hills, and he was lying on a pile of half-dead fish, looking at a broad human back clothed in a blue jersey. “It’s no good,” thought the boy. “I’m dead, sure enough and this thing is in charge.”

(6)

His luxurious days of previous life turn into miseries, when he accidentally falls into the sea. He becomes both physically and mentally sick; he is in helpless condition weights with salt-water and lies on a pile of fish. So, he is in grievous condition and feels that such condition invites death. This is his mourning and predicament of life. In this way, this novel ascertains Harvey’s isolation and suffering.

In the novel, there are not only the negative facts about Harvey but also positive. It mention in the following way:

The answer came back in the deepest voice Harvey had ever heard from a human chest: “quit foolin’, Dan, and send him to me.” Dan sniggered, and threw Harvey his warped bicycle shoes. There was something in the tones on the deck that made the boy dissemble his extreme rage and console himself with the thought of gradually unfolding the tale of his own and his father’s wealth on the voyage

home. This rescue would certainly make him a hero among his friends for life. (9-10)

He gains something in life. He understands the value of work and importance of life and time but it was very difficult to get new life .With the patience and fortitude, he gets the positive results in his life. He says, “I lost some; and I gained some” (183).

Harvey on the one hand, losses many things; he abandons his home, life partner, parent’s love, prosperous and flourishing life and so on. On the other hand, he gains maturity, prestige and order in the life. Thus, high-sounding, pompous and arrogant Harvey transforms into an honest and respected man. In the same way, novel mentions as:

It was a forlorn little gingle; the thick air seemed to pinch it off, and in the pauses Harvey heard the muffled shriek of a liner’s siren, and he knew enough of the Banks to know what that meant. It came to him, with horrible distinctness, now a boy in a cherry-colored jersey-he despised fancy blazers now with all a fishermen’s contempt, how an arrogant, rowdy boy had once said it would be “great” if a fishing boat.” (115)

Again, it reiterates the theme of gaining maturity that a rowdy and ignorant boy comes with great personalities at the end, to whom all fishermen hate in the beginning.

Only bearing this sort of situation, he knows that who he is and others are.

Thus, for his existence the other is inevitable, where Sartre states:

I cannot obtain any truth whatsoever about myself, except through the mediation of another. The other is indispensable to my existence, and equally so to my knowledge I can have of myself. Under these

conditions, the intimate discovery of myself is at the same time the revelation of the other as a freedom which confronts mine, and which cannot think or will without doing so either for or against me. Thus, at once, we find ourselves in a world which is, let us say, that of “inter-subjectivity.” It is in this world that man has to decide what he is and what others are. (868)

Sartre explains that others are necessary for one’s own existence. In the novel also, Harvey has need of other fishermen to be him a great fisherman. So, one is not free for one’s own existence.

Regarding the solitariness, pain and suffering, Harvey being indifference with life, wants to return to New York and he says, “I want to understand that the sooner you take me to New York the better it’ll pay you” (11). But a captain, Disko Troop understands the Harvey’s obsession with his father’s immense wealth and makes him compel to do work. So, he faces all ups and down in his life. He feels the isolation among them. Similarly, he also feels dislocation and displacement. “Ten an’ ha af for second boy on the schooner –an’ all found- for to teach you an’ fer the sake o’ your health. Yes or no? “No” said Harvey. “Take me back to New York or I’ll see you...” (15). It adheres the feeling of displacement and dislocation. He suffers from loneliness and dislocation. That is why, he has no value of money, teaching, and good health but expresses deep desire to return his home town. After rescuing him from the sea, Harvey says, “it was a gale, I was seasick” (9). He feels seasick and the paralyzing of his fate. He is no obedience and never receives any order in his life. But now, he has to face all difficulties.

Like many other unfortunate young people, Harvey had never in all in his life received direct order-never, at least, without long and

sometimes tearful explanation of the obedience and the reasons for the request-never, at least, without long, and some tearful, explanations of the advantages of obedience and the reason for the request. (9)

Heir of the rich family, he faces no difficulties and orders in his previous days. So, he hardly faces such bars and troubles and sometimes weeps.

Whatsoever happens in his life, he becomes optimistic.

Harvey considers affairs, wondered that he was not deathly sick and crawled into his bunk again, as the softest and safest place, while Dan struck up, "I don't want to play in your yard," as accurately as the wild jerks allowed. "How long is this for?" Harvey asked of Manuel. "Till she get a little quiet, and we can row to trawl. Perhaps tonight. Perhaps two days more. You do not like? Eh, wha-at?" "I should have been crazy sick a week ago, but it does not seem to upset me now- much."

(65)

It describes the hope and optimistic vision of life, which is the existentialist noticeable point. That is why, Harvey crawls towards the softest and safest place into the bunk of ship. In spite of the great unhappiness and wretched condition, he seems hopeful. He struggles to achieve something because "man is the future of man" (12). In this regard, Jean Paul Sartre says in his *Existentialism and Human Emotions*, "These are the people who accuse existentialism of being too gloomy, and to such an extent that I wonder whether they are complaining about it, not for its pessimism, but much rather its optimism" (11). He makes clear that it does not talk only the gloomy aspects of human being rather appeals to be optimistic towards life. It is a prime rationale of existentialists at all.

Alienation like other features of existential philosophy occupies a significant place. It is a psychological feeling of alienated person who has been estranging, unfriendly and indifference towards society and culture. He feels the outsider and stranger. That is why, Harvey forces to the fisherman to take him back ashore. Alienation is an individual feeling. He has the feeling of dissociation from his familial love, rootedness, belongingness, society, culture and world at large. It becomes conflicting situation with 'herd' which is the Nietzschean term. Towards the end of the novel, Rudyard Kipling represents:

Harvey announced that he never feel better in his life; but it was not till he saw the We're Here, fresh from the lumper's hand, at wouveman's wharf, that he lost his all overish feeling in a queer mixture of pride an sorrowfulness. Other people-summer boarders and such-like-played about in cat -boats or looked at the sea from pier- heads; but he understood things from the inside-more things than he could begin to think about. (200)

Kipling attempts to throw light upon the solitude of human beings. So, existentialist philosophy deals with the man's disillusionment and despair. Harvey passes the more disastrous days. He understands something in life which is totally different than what he thinks before. He experiences things from the inside which is quite opposite than his previous thinking. Critique of western metaphysics, "Heidegger like other existentialists, interests in the study of 'Dasein', who believes that we have been living in an incomprehensible and indifferent world. The universe is alien to us. We have to choose a goal, with the awareness of certainty of death and meaningless of one's life"(65). Heidegger also expresses the same noticeable point of alienation and indifference. This universe is hostile to us because we have no pre-foundation. So, we

have to choose a goal for our essence even knowing the certainty of death and meaningless life.

One philosophical premise of existentialists is that human reality exists in-situation, primarily Simone de Beauvoir foregrounds it in her *The Second Sex*. This novel also presents Harvey's reality existed in situation. He has not yet thought about his predicament of life. He gets the dichotomy between his real life experiences and logical comprehension of the world. His essence determines after struggling in the situation. It is essential to overcome the situation because in a sense, it is compulsion. He never thinks about the reversal situation of his entire life.

With the idea of locating existential choice and freedom, Jostein Gaarder in *Sophie's World* mentions, "a situation in which each and every man is utterly alone" (316). Human being have to suffer alone in each unfavorable situation is the intention of this line. This situational loneliness of Harvey portrays, "Harvey stretched himself in every direction, but could not report any injuries" (8). Why can not Harvey tell his miseries living among fishermen? It is situation that makes compel to remain there. He does not get any chance to be far away from the working gang of men. So, he also involves with them and he sees no meaning after telling about his injuries. That is why, novel asserts the idea of situational upheavals of man where nobody accompanies with him. So, Sartre says, "This helps us understand what the actual content is of such rather grandiloquent words as anguish, forlornness, despair" (14). This situation of Harvey helps to understand the predicaments like anguish, forlornness, despair etc.

Existentialists' focus goes to the individuality for which one's tries to find the individual identity. Most importantly, Kierkegaard talks about individuality. Thomas R Flynn describes as:

Kierkegaard keeps referring to the model as he enables us to see how it instantiates the quality under discussion. So let us follow this path and encounter its literary and historical characters as we progress on the road towards individuality. As one should expect from an existentialist analysis, each stage or sphere will reveal its own relation to temporality that distinguishes it from the others. Again is of essence.

(Existentialism 27)

He sets forth it systematically to make comprehend the roadmap of it towards individuality. And, it makes clear that human beings are fundamentally time bound beings.

In the same manner, Jean Paul Sartre defines existentialism as an attempt to continue life by creating a system in which one realizes “human loneliness” and human “subjectivity” (*Existentialism* 10). He emphasizes subjectivity but says that is not free from others. As Harvey chooses to be great fisherman but he is not free from others. The ‘other’ Sartre states “indispensable to my existence and equally so to any knowledge I can have of myself” (18). So, Harvey works so patiently with other fishermen bearing all bars and troubles.

Existentialists stress to the individual behavior and self-creation to which Danish Christian philosopher Soren Kierkegaard calls ‘subjective inwardness’ and Sartre ‘engagement’. Harvey, in the novel, expresses the individual and subjective feeling in the following way:

That seemed to the boys a very odd idea for man who had never seen a palm in his life. Then, too, regularly at each meal, he would ask Harvey, and Harvey alone, whether the cooking was to his taste; and this always made the “second half” laugh. Yet they had a great respect

for the cook's judgment, and in their hearts considered Harvey something of a mascot by consequence. (97)

His isolation even at the time of taking meal, expresses his personal feeling and attitude. Whatsoever happens, all consider him an able person among them because all consequences indicate him a man with ability to bring good luck.

Likewise, Rudyard Kipling mentions the protagonist's affirmation and commitment to get unique individuality in his life. Commitment always becomes understandable. "He was especially communicative with the boys, and he never withdrew his prophecy that one day Harvey would be Dan's master, and that he would see it"(96). The cook, Nigro boy already tells it to Dan. His prophecy becomes true later. As a friend, Dan makes learn about fishing and other. He works hard continuously. He has commitment to be fisherman. So, Nigro boy guesses that he will be fisherman one day. It is Harvey's subjective matter which has close affinity with his identity. He wants his own distinct identity. Therefore, Kierkegaard discusses that man's essence consists by existential predicament. In *Sophie's World*, Jostein Gaarder acknowledges, "He thought that the idealism of Romanticist and Hegel's "historicism" obscured the individual's responsibility for his own life. Thus, to Kierkegaard, Hegel and romanticists were tarred with the same brush" (377). Therefore, it is obvious that existentialism is opposite of idealism, abstract thinking and also objectivity. "It is also Hegel-who was critical of the individual" (*Sophie's World* 312). For Kierkegaard, both Hegel and the romanticists have same view.

While talking about Harvey, his life turns upside down towards the end of the novel. He tackles the forthcoming predicament of life. He attains 'unique individuality' in life because an aggressive boy merges into an honest fisherman. So, it focuses the subjective point of Harvey. Often, Kierkegaard raises this issue of

subjectivity and individuality in *Sophie's World*: “He certainly had a sharp eye for the significance of the individual. We are more than “children of our time.” And moreover, every single one of us is a unique individual who only lives once” (313). He stresses that every individual have their own ‘unique individuality’.

The novelist focuses on Harvey’s personal activities. He, at first, was very stupid which exemplifies:

When you’re own a boat, said Tom Platt, with severe eyes, “you can walk. Till then, take all orders at the run. Once more-to make sure!”

Harvey was in glow with the exercise, and this last cut warmed him thoroughly. Now he was a singularly smart boy, the son of a man and very sensitive woman, with a fine resolute temper that systematic spoiling had nearly turned to mulish obstinacy. (55)

It portrays Harvey’s individual behavior before leaving his home. But later it completely changes. And he succeeds to attain his own distinct identity. So, novel states, “there is no to be thankful for me!” said Manuel. “How shall I leave you dreeft, dreeft all around the Banks? Now you are a fisherman-eh, wha-at? Ouch!” he bent backward and forward stiffly from the hips to get the kinks out of himself” (26-7). Now, mulish, obstinate, temper and spoiled boy changes him into an honest fisherman by showing positive behavior and hard work among other fishermen.

Individuality and subjectivity accentuates the theme of individual identity. Harvey, in the novel, after rescuing by fishermen, understands his value of life because he has to cross many bars and barriers. At the same time, he understands the value of work. He also wants distinct personality among them, which exposes “Mornin’-Good afternoon, I should say. You’ve nigh slep’ the clock round, young feller,” was the greeting.” “Morning’,” said Harvey. He did not like being called

“young feller”; and, as one rescued from drowning, expected sympathy” (10). Disko asks him ‘young feller’ but he doesn’t like it. In this sense, he wants his own identity. He tries to attain the distinct essence.

When the novel opens, Harvey starts his journey to Europe for his education. His intention is to be holy terror after completing study. But his stubborn and obstinate behaviour makes fail to achieve his goal according to his intention. That is to say; he is not completely bad. He has many good qualities too, but he only later knows about it. “He’ll find out this error a few years from now. Pity, because there’s a heap of good in the boy if you could get at it” (2). In the very beginning, novel shows that he has error but he is not conscious about it. He knows only later. Not only Harvey, his father also internalizes it. After some period, when Harvey comes to the port, his parents come to the Gloucester to meet him. His father feels happy even in the tragic situations of Harvey. Disko says:

I don’t mind ownin’ to you, Mr. Cheney, as I mistruted the boy to be crazy. He talked kinder odd about money.” “So he told me.” “Did he tell ye anything else? Cause I pounded him once.” This with a somewhat anxious glance at Mrs Cheyne.” Oh, yes, “ Cheyne replied.” I should say it probably did him better than anything else in the world.
(168-69)

His father feels delightedness when Disko explains that he pounds him once, because it is a great chance to improve him. If Disko could not try to take him in track, he would be spoil boy all his life.

Harvey does not freely determine his existence but in relation to other. Sartre, in *The Modern Tradition* states:

He does not freely determine himself and his existence in relation to them. And, diverse though man's purposes may be, at least none of them is wholly foreign to me, since every human purpose presents itself as an attempt either to surpass these limitations, or to widen them, or else to deny or to accommodate oneself to them.

Consequently every purpose, however individual it may be, is of universal value. (689)

Sartre makes clear that one can not determine his existence freely. For this, there is involvement of other also. So, there is no possibility of Harvey to determine his true existence. There is a role of other fishermen to be him a great fisherman. He has different goals in life but his behavior moulds his intention. In this same remark, phenomenology of Husserl and Heidegger focuses on the internal role and attitudes of the individual in the production of emotion rather than the external world. So, existential notion of individual can be considered as the systematic growth of the phenomenological concept of intentionality. To support the same view, Kierkegaard says "the choice is reciprocal with the 'self'" (*A Companion to Phenomenology and Existentialism* 22). These all happenings are his predicaments and the subjective reflection which is regarded as the existential choice and freedom.

This novel also dominates the theme of ontological anxiety. This is also called existential angst. Existence of human being is self conscious and autonomous is 'condemned to be free'. So that, human being compels to make future directed choice. These choices bring anxiety and uncertainty into our psyches. These choices come with responsibility. Those who do not choose, that is also an existential choice, but they regard the base of their lives on pre-arranged moral and philosophical systems

are said to be acting in bad faith. When Harvey becomes frustrate, rootless, isolate from society and culture, the being of him experiences the existential angst:

Harvey's eyes were full of tears. "Fine, full flavor." He answered through shut teeth. "Guess we've slowed down a little, haven't we? I'll skip out and see what the log says." "I might if I v has you," said the German. Harvey staggered over the wet decks to the nearest rail. He was very unhappy; but he saw the deck steward lashing chairs together, and since he had boasted before the man that he was never seasick, his pride made him go aft to the second-saloon deck at the stern, which was finished in a turtle-back. The deck was deserted, and he crawled to the extreme end of it. (5)

His being suffers from his circumstances. He weeps time and again and requests to others to take him ashore. He feels isolation and unhappy among the fishermen. This situation creates anxiety in him. He faints from sickness into the sea. He never experiences such types of sufferings, sickness, sadness, indifference before.

Albert Camus believes that anxiety, despair, crime, frustration, and so on have emerged from world wars first and second. He primarily talks about the existential absurdity and angst. He says that human existence is absurd. Like Sartre, Heidegger, Nietzsche, he follows the atheistic belief. So, modern period forces people to realize the dilemma of Sisyphus. He views that anguish comes from when human being long for meaning conveyed by universe but discover only empty. Sisyphus pushes stone towards top only to retrieve it at the bottom. At that moment, he feels happy and even torture. That is also an existential angst. In the same way, while working with fishermen he feels absurdity as:

Harvey smiled at the thought of his ten and half dollars a month and wondered what his mother would say if she could see him hanging over the edge of a fishing dory in mid-ocean. She suffered agonies whenever he went out on Sanaca Lake; and, by the way, Harvey remembered distinctly that he used to laugh in her anxieties. Suddenly the line flashed through his hand stinging even through the “nippers,” the woolen circlets supposed to protect it. (44)

Here, it again retains commonly associated notions of absurdity and feeling of anxiety. Harvey smiles because he gets ten and half dollars salary of a month. It maybe mysterious laughs. It means he smiles with torture experiencing from his inner heart because of remembrances of past days. He is a boy with enough property. But now, he fights with the adversities of life only for ten and half dollar of a month. It makes clear that he works only for his bread. In this extreme tragic situation, he encounters with the memories of his mother corresponding his situation in mid-ocean. Like Sisyphus, he laughs at the anxieties. This certainly makes the noticeable point of existential angst.

Absurd is a theme of this novel *Captains Courageous*, which is based on modern philosophy of existentialism. It can happen in any day of life in any place because it is real problem of human being. Harvey also feels the same problem in his journey of life.

The tubs were full of neatly coiled line carrying a big hook each few feet; and testing and baiting of every single hook with the stowage of the baited line so that it should run clear when shot from the dory, was a scientific business. Dan managed it in the dark, without looking,

while Harvey caught his fingers on the barbs and bewailed his fate.

(60)

The given situation of Harvey signifies the feeling of absurdity. He experiences extreme pain while fishing into the sea with his friends. At the same time, Harvey catches his fingers on the fish-hook and laments and mourns on this fate. This is the condition of man which is absurd and his search for any purpose is meaningless and fruitless. He internalizes that the world does not possess any meaning, value or truth.

M.H Abrams states:

Views a human being as an isolated existent who is cast into an alien universe, to conceive the universe as possessing no inherent truth, value or meaning, and to represent human life- in its fruitless search for purpose and meaning, as it moves from the nothingness whence it came forward the nothingness where it must end-as existence which is both anguished and absurd. (1)

Camus also believes that man makes himself from his own choices. Such choices lead human being towards repetition as there is no meaning in the universe but man always aspires to achieve it. Anyway, man makes his own fate from his own choices. As quoted in *Creation of Knowledge* “like Sisyphus, Camus tells us human make their own fate, their choices and to that extent are in control of their own destinies” (67).

So, Harvey also does hard work to reach his destination.

In the same manner, this novel expresses the anguish and unhappiness of the situation which interrelates with the absurdity. While dealing with it, such unreasonable feeling of Harvey states in the following way:

Here the fiddle went very softly for while by itself, and then:

“Wheat-in-the-ear, my true-love’s posy blowin’;

Wheat-in-the-ear, we're goin' off to sea;
 Wheat-in-the-ear, I left you fit for sowin';
 When I come back a loaf o' bread you'll be!"

That made Harvey almost weeps, though he could not tell why. (72)

When Harvey understands that soft song, a kind of sensation evokes within him. So, his eyes are full of tears. But this is his condition where he cannot give any reason for his weeping. He feels agony without explicit reason which is self-contradictory in itself. It proves that existentialists are more concern with being rather than knowing, which is a rejection of Cartesian dualism.

To elongate the same point, novel represents, "he had been too busy to think much of his family till then" (42). It explores Harvey's feeling of alienated being, with the span of time; he forgets the haunted memory of his lost home. That is the extreme cause of feeling of stranger and absurd.

In this same regard, another existentialist, Albert Camus in his "Myth of Sisyphus" asserts, "in a universe suddenly divested of illusions and lights, man feels an alien, a stranger. His exile is without remedy since he is deprived of the memory of lost home or the hope of Promised Land. This divorce between man and life, the actor and his setting, is properly the feeling of absurdity" (6). Camus, therefore, concludes that man feels alien and stranger in this world adding the cause of divested of lost home. That is the feeling of absurdity. This novel also presents the same things related with Harvey.

As one feels oneself helpless and alienated, the sense of frustration and anxiety enter in the mind. This also arises from when situation always doesn't favor. Man has freedom to choose. With the freedom, his responsibility also comes together. Then, he, voluntarily or forcibly chooses to do something, as soon as entangles with

confusion, despair, isolation, indifference. Because of these situations, human being experiences the feeling of absurdity, anxiety and frustration. Situation comes to opposite of thinking. After that, disappointment arises. So, existentialists say that man gets essence when he comes to face such predicaments of life. Harvey's condition clarifies as:

And off them all four rolled to supper where Harvey stuffed himself to the brim on fish-chowder and fried pies, and fell fast asleep just as Manuel produced from a locker a lovely two-foot model of the Lucy Holmes, his first boat, and was going to show Harvey the ropes. Harvey never even twiddled his fingers as Penn pushed him into his bunk. It must be sad thing-a very sad thing," said Penn, watching the boy's face, for his mother and his father, who think he is dead. To lose a child-to lose a manchild. (62)

It strengthens the idea that man has thousand miles to pass but it is not so easy to overcome the situation because all situations do not favorable. That's why, a kind of indefinable frustration comes in any fixed point of time. Above lines also suggest that Harvey's face signifies the frustration which is noticed by his friends. This also exemplifies, "he threw out his hands with indescribable gestures, while Penn sat down on the house and sobbed at the sheer and pity of it all. Harvey couldn't realize that he had seen death on the open waters, but he felt very sick" (80). Penn and Harvey see the death bodies on water and feel a kind of horror and pity upon them. Not only that, it evokes the frustration upon Harvey and feels sick.

Thus, to elaborate same existential theme in the novel, Rudyard Kipling brings more tragic condition of hero. He expresses anxieties and sorrowful affairs in the following way:

The lashed wheel groaned and kicked softy, the riding-sail slatted a little in the shifts of the light wind, the windlass creaked, and the miserable procession, whimpered, and at last wept outright, while Dan, the words clotting on this tongue, spoke of the beauty of watchfulness and slashed always with the rope's end, punishing the dories as often as he hit Harvey. (38)

This explanation of surrounding environment into the sea symbolizes the character's inner feeling. Harvey expresses dissatisfaction and anxieties. Disko and Dan humiliate him and often hit during fishing period. So Harvey protests, threatens and at last weeps.

He experiences the reality that brings anxiety and frustration in the mind. In the same regard, Camus explains in the following way:

Heidegger considers the human condition coldly and announces that that existence is humiliated. The only reality is 'anxiety' in the whole chain of beings. To the man lost in the world and its diversions this anxiety is a brief, fleeting fear. But if that fear becomes conscious of itself, it becomes anguish, the perpetual climate of the lucid man "in whom existence is concentrated. (17)

Heidegger explains that anxiety is the reality of whole beings. Anxiety consists of fear which means anguish. Being has consciousness which brings anguish and concentrates to existence.

In the same way, there are more noticeable points used in the novel which explain Harvey's isolation, loneliness, despair, anguish and anxiety. All are concern with the predicament of him. While attaining essence, he goes alongside with the situations. He has to cross so many bars and troubles. He spends very comfortable life before going to journey. Heir of millions, he compels to face these obstacles. So, Disko Troop says him "luckless heir of thirty millions" (16). It is his predicament of life. He is unlucky man. So that, he has to leave financially prosperous familial life.

This novel presents some words like torture, hurt groan, miserable, despair, sickness, disparately wicked, obstacle, lonesome, forlorn etc are used. These all connect with the obstacles of Harvey. It proves that he has to cross very difficult and unpleasant situation. When he chooses to work to gain individual identity or essence, he understands the importance of life. He not only understands the importance and value of life, but also becomes indifference with life and feels anxiety. Harvey experiences all these anxiety, despair, anguish, forlornness etc. That is why, Heidegger declares that individual has to face the problem of being. His philosophy comes with existential touch while talking about the encounter between Dasein and nothing. Nothing reveals itself as being in the existential angst of the Dasein. Dasein is the existence of human being. In anxiety, it feels thrown into being and remains indifference towards other beings. So, it sees nothingness in life. Thus, Heidegger talks about ontological anxiety or anxiety of being which is related with the predicament of Harvey in this novel.

Summing up, this novel *Captains Courageous* ascertains the existential predicament of main character, Harvey Cheyne by strengthening the major points like ontological anxiety, individuality and subjectivity, loneliness and human suffering and freedom and choice. While bringing the explanation of ontological anxiety, it also

encompasses the existential angst, absurdity, frustration, indifference, displacement, dislocation, isolation, sickness and tragic situation of Harvey. These all issues are inextricably responsible to the upheavals of the protagonist of this novel. His devotion and commitment fulfills his desire to attain true essence in life. In doing so, he overcomes different bars and troubles coming in front of him. He brings change into his life. Briefly, Rudyard Kipling in this novel accentuates the transformation of stubborn, rowdy, pampered and spoiled Harvey into an honest fisherman. It means he becomes success to get true essence.

III. Conclusion: Existential Leap and Distinct Individuality in *Captains*

Courageous

Captains Courageous by Rudyard Kipling attempts to deal with the predicament of protagonist, Harvey Cheyne. He determines his life through his own choices and decisions, thereby, his quest for freedom and true existence invites untold sufferings in life. He is a rowdy, arrogant, pompous son of wealthy man in America, chooses to go to Europe but unfortunately, while crossing the sea washes overboard into the sea which is his entrance into a new life. After being rescued by Manual, a Portuguese fisherman, captain, Disko Troop offers him a job which is his compulsion to choose because of no other chances.

In course of time, Harvey suffers a lot throughout his life in the novel. He feels alien and helpless even among other fishermen. He has to do hard work that he never experiences before. This freedom and choice pushes him towards difficulties. Even not doing any work in his life, he does not surrender before any hazards and hardships for his existence and leaves home and decides freely. He becomes aware about his life and gives high priority to attain distinct individuality.

With the emergence of different kind of miseries in life, he comes to tackle with isolation, pain, suffering and so on. This is the cause of not seeing the surrounding environment friendly and usual. He chooses that job as a risk. He finds himself alienated from his family, society, culture etc. and submerges into the river of suffering. He, thus, frequently requests them to take him ashore for which his father will pay them as compensation. Anyway, he fails to persuade them. He, thus, realizing the ups and down of human beings, affirms to be a great fisherman facing the forthcoming situation. He follows a series of trials and adventures where the boy learns to adjust to his rough new life with the help of a friend, Dan Troop, son of a

captain. While making forward his journey, he falls in anguish. But it does not provoke him to quit his individual quest rather strengthens it. As a crew member, he follows the orders and sometimes threatens laid upon him that were unbearable and unimagined. Overcoming such problems, he succeeds to maintain true existence.

He focuses to individual who has to live through choices and struggles. So, he chooses to struggle in life not to remain passive and later, he makes his carrier from it. He cannot tolerate anything that hinders his freedom, individuality or existence. So, Harvey never cares the orders of Disko and Dan Troop throughout the novel. Not only that, he throws anger in front of Dan and Disko and sometimes threatens and even weeps. At that time, he feels very hard to pass away these days. As it has already been mentioned that the freedom of an individual depends entirely in the freedom of others. Harvey also realizes this truth. In the beginning, he tries to separate himself. But he does not reach his destination. In fact, they all are struggling there only for livelihood. Anyway, he does not associate himself with any group because there collapses individual freedom. Role of other is not primary to determine his life. All the miseries are invited by himself through his choices and decisions. At the end of an hour, Harvey wants terribly to rest but at the same time, realizes that for the first time in his life, he was one of a working gang of men. On the one hand, he begins to take pride in it but on the other, he expresses sorrow about these days while telling with parents after starting his career as a fisherman. So, he says some gains and some losses in his life.

In this sense, existence of human being is self conscious and autonomous. He bears the whole responsibility of what he is. The condition does not fall him accidentally or it does not come from outside. Instead, it is the consequence of his choices, actions, and decisions. He is the combining product of these. So, throughout

his life, he makes different choices. He chooses to leave family and own town, and to go to Europe to be a holy terror after completing his study. In the same manner, he has to mould his decision and chooses to work with the gang of fishermen and then decides to begin his career with his father' shipping line. These all choices push him towards a dark and dangerous life and sometimes revolutionary mood too. In other words, he makes existential choices and determines his existence. There is no predefining essence to govern his life. He is responsible for himself. He is what he makes himself to be. It is all related to the process of gaining true individuality.

Regarding the individuality, his life goes beyond his pre-conceived image of life. His journey becomes the struggling point of his life. While attaining true existence he passes over all kind of bars and barriers coming in front of him. He feels anxiety, frustration, loneliness, isolation etc. Even if, with the help of Dan, he gets master to tackle with dangers of eternal fogs, the tides, the gales and so on. These all sufferings make him believe on his distinct essence.

To conclude, Harvey succeeds to achieve his own individuality and essence. He suffers a lot throughout the novel. In doing so, he undergoes a lot of sufferings to carry out his quest. His choices and freedom welcome to his predicament. By struggling with the forthcoming bars and troubles, he accentuates to getting true or authentic existence in his life. Towards the end of this novel, he becomes a reputed fisherman from spoiled, rowdy and arrogant boy. His strenuous deeds and hard working surmounts all upheavals patiently and starts his life career as a great fisherman. So, existence precedes his essence which is the consequence of freedom and choice along with incessant struggle.

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